



## Looking Over the Pulpit—Duayne Meyer

JUNE  
2021

*Celebrating  
175 years*

With a little good luck, patience and overcoming vaccine hesitancy, it seems our nation and world may be exiting the worst of the pandemic. Time will tell of course, but I am, like so many, hopeful. As most reading this know, NCC has been closely following CDC and Cook County guidelines while also putting into place additional measures related to air filtration, treatment and increased ventilation. As mentioned, NCC is following CDC guidelines, and is thereby asking those who are not vaccinated to wear a mask when inside the building. We also want to be mindful when we are with children, particularly those under 12 as they do not have a vaccine option. Please consider wearing a mask when with or near children.

55 people attended the “Zoom” Annual Spring meeting on May 20th. At the meeting we heard a report from the Anniversary Committee, the Board of Christian Education and we also elected officers. Among the newly elected is Assistant Moderator, Margaret Weber. Trustees Chairman, Michael Chance, presented possible repairs and improvements to the Sanctuary. Safety, Inclusivity and Community are at the center of the proposal. Crumbling asbestos flooring, HVAC repairs, access to the organ loft and chancel and technology improvements are on the list. Informational sessions will be held in the coming months. If you would like copies of the past two years annual reports and have not yet received one, please contact Lea Jones at [office@northfielducc.org](mailto:office@northfielducc.org) and she will send you pdf copies. Hard copies will be available from the office by mid-June.

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I am hoping more people being in circulation also means the number of church members and friends volunteering around church will also increase. A few volunteers, along with the staff, have borne the burden of keeping things at church going and in good working order. “Many hands make for light work,” is not, as far as I know, written anywhere in the bible, but is surely true. I hope you will feel inspired to help as you can and, when called upon, say “yes” as you can. Better still, if you have some time consider reaching out to staff members Lea Jones, Ronda Bower, Steve Ash, Phyllis Scott or me. Also Jeff Jordan, Deacon Chair or Mike Chance would be happy for some help. I’m betting Bill McKinley, Mission Board Chair and Janet Jesse, Board of Christian Education Chair would also welcome volunteer help.

NCC will be featured in the June edition of Northfield Magazine. While I cannot say exactly what the content of the article will be, I can say the monthly publication is well done. NCC will ask for extra copies for those who live outside of Northfield who want a copy. Those who live in Northfield, please don’t put your magazine in the recycle bin but

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## Looking Over the Pulpit (continued) - Duayne Meyer

rather bring it to NCC so we can pass them along. June 2<sup>nd</sup> marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NCC. As you may recall, 2020 plans included marking the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Peter with an in-person celebration. We hope this will finally happen on November 7<sup>th</sup> celebrating the combined anniversaries. The articles in The Window have been excellent ways of keeping these important milestones before us. Thank you to the Anniversary Committee.

Summer is upon us, or soon will be. I hope you will have opportunities to get some time doing things you enjoy: Ravinia, the zoo, a ball game or that place –or places – that bring you joy, relaxation and renewal. I also hope to see you at NCC, where the Spirit gives us the gifts of fellowship, connection and healing. See you in church! ...

— Duayne



## Phrases from Phyllis –Phyllis Scott

### “Shout For Joy” Commissioned for 75/175 Anniversary June 6th

It was April, 2020. Pandemic! School finally resumed on zoom after 2 weeks off for spring vacation and teacher preparation. When Sarah has a lot of time on her hands, she often sits at the piano and just plays. She arranged a mashup of God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen & Mary Did You Know. She wrote a piano piece that she ended up dancing to at V-Show this year. When Duayne asked how the girls were doing, I mentioned what was keeping Sarah busy. We're looking to commission a song for our anniversary. Why doesn't she compose something?" came out of his mouth. I asked Sarah. She said, "Really? Sure!" And the rest is history. Sarah sat down, looked up Psalm 100 and began writing lyrics... a melody, then harmonization and accompaniment. By fall, she had "Shout For Joy", which will be sung on June 6th at the 10:30 service. Kudos to you Sarah Paige! We look forward to starting our anniversary celebration with your creation.

Thanks,  
- Phyllis

## Ronda's Remarks - Ronda Bower

We are proud to share an article from  
Messy Church USA.

### Congratulations to Northfield Community Church!

We are traveling to the Chicago area to celebrate our May Messy Church of the Month. Ronda Bower, Pastoral Associate for Family and Educational Ministries at Northfield Community Church (NCC), was introduced to Messy Church at a workshop held by the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ in the spring of 2015. NCC held its first Messy Church September 2016. At the request of families, NCC's Messy Church started with a focus each month of a community service project as part of Messy Church. The community service idea expanded into Messy Missions separate from Messy Church allowing Messy Church families and NCC congregation to join together to use their hearts and hands to share God's love and kindness.



*Messy Church of the Month:*  
**NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY**  
IN NORTHFIELD, IL

#### “What do you like best about Messy Church?”

“It allows everyone to learn about God and have fun regardless of how old you are.”

“We get to meet many people – new and old – adult and youth!”

“Our family loves the activities, and we love that our children are learning about our faith and how to help other people.”

“It teaches us lessons and Bible stories in a fun and understandable way.”

“We get to spend time with our church family!”

“I love being able to view the stories from the Bible in many different ways— through games, craft activities, and food creations.”

“I like the community of Messy Church the best, the feeling of everyone together, and seeing faces you don't normally see is something really special.”

“My kids always enjoy the activities and interacting with other kids. I love it because it has taught them valuable lessons about how to be a good person and put others first, and also I love the sense of community that NCC provides to our family.”

“I love the fellowship of a shared meal after the inspiring Messy Church activities. The enticing interactive activities are a powerful Christian experience.”

“I like how different it is (reminds me of church Family Camps as a kid), and the fellowship with other families.”

“What I like best about Messy Church is that the kids own it. It is theirs – even more than Sunday school. The children are able to be part of the story, to choose their own activities and, usually, to direct their parents. It is as though the adult volunteers are the guests of the young participants. It promotes confidence and leadership and helps develop their ownership of their faith.

## Ronda's Remarks (continued) - Messy Church USA

### Favorite Messy Activities at Northfield Community Church

**October Messy Church**—For most Messy Church families, the October Messy Church when we incorporate Trunk or Treat is one of each year's favorite Messy Church events. It is fun to have another time to wear costumes; an easy Messy Church to invite friends to, a great community draw, and a chance for many congregation members to participate with decorated car trunks and introduce them to Messy Church.

Some other favorites according to messy folk

"I love to do the science experiments!"

"My favorite part is making dinner and eating with everybody."

"My favorite is any of the food activities."

"Slime!"

"It is really hard to pick just one. My kids love all the food related activities, but they also really enjoy building and creating different things that we can display in the house. One that stands out was creating a nativity scene with Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus out of little flower pots. My kids loved Baby Jesus! I also thought the sock snowman with I think it was rice inside, which was super adorable. We also love the in person silly activities that involve throwing things and running around."



### What worked well for you when you began your Messy Church?

One thing that helped, before beginning Messy Church, was taking months to introduce Messy Church to the congregation. The new Messy Church team took every opportunity as the congregation gathered in large or small groups to put out books and printed materials, play videos from the Messy Church website, had different people talk about it, and also put articles in every publication. That helped people understand what we wanted to start and share in our excitement. A major concern from congregation members was being able to get enough volunteers each month, but we moved forward in faith, and God has blessed us with so many people who want to volunteer and be a part of Messy Church. Not only has Messy Church been a way to connect with the community around us, but I feel it has connected our congregation in ways I never expected.



### **What challenges did you encounter with your Messy Church and how did you find solutions?**

NCC has realized that Messy Church needs to be tweaked at times, which is a good thing because I feel it means that it is alive and growing. When we first began our Messy Church, we scheduled the celebration time after the meal. Many families left after the meal, missing our wonderful celebration time of bubbles, balloons, and creating worship masterpieces together, etc. We simply switched celebration and the meal so the meal is now at the end of the evening.

We found that the noise and activity at times is difficult for some children so we added a “Quiet Corner” in a place still visible, but out of the way of some of the busyness and noise. There are books and other calming materials for children who need a little quiet time. We also set up a “Little Friends” space with a small tent, floor pillows, and toddler toys and books for parents to hang out with their toddlers who might be too young to be interested in all the other activities.

Our most recent change in our Messy Church was the addition of Messy Missions. Since the beginning of NCC’s Messy Church, at the request of parents, one of our activities each month centers around a way to help others in our congregation or community. Opening up collections for these mission projects, like Easter basket fillers to put together Easter baskets for the food pantry, to NCC’s congregation is a way to connect to Messy Church even if they don’t participate. Before the pandemic, we began Messy Missions where Messy Church participants and NCC’s congregation can join together about every other month (on a different day than Messy Church) to go somewhere, like Feed My Starving Children, work on a project at church, like tying fleece blankets for Project Linus, or finish the projects started at Messy Church.



### **How has your Messy Church adapted during the Pandemic?**

NCC started with prerecorded Messy Church and Messy Church in a bag delivered to homes, but then moved to Zoom with home deliveries of the needed materials for the activities. We experimented with chat room use and found that families could move from one chat room to the other to do activities they wanted like they moved table to table in our fellowship hall. We also worked on staying connected with Messy Church families and give some faith at home help with emailed family Sunday school lessons on the weekends, and Wednesday family faith activities emails. We look forward to June’s Messy Church in person outside in the parking lot!

### **Thank you Northfield Community Church and especially Ronda Bower for sharing your story!**

Northfield, a suburb of northern Chicago is the planned site for the Messy Church USA national conference that has been postponed a second time to the fall of 2022. Ronda, in addition to her position at Northfield, is a Messy Church USA Board of Director, an Ambassador and on the Prayer and Encouragement Team. Thanks for all you do Ronda!!!

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## NCC Day in the Life -

### \*Stories from NCC Parishioners: Bry Schroeder

Bry Schroeder - In last month's Window, the photo of the original chapel jogged a few memories for me, as that's how I remember it from my boyhood when my parents built their first home at 185 Wagner Road in 1954. While not regular church attendees, my parents did insist on my younger brother and I attending Sunday school (usually walking). There may have been a connection with John Hultman as both my father and John worked for CBS Radio then, although in different departments.

My Sunday School teacher was Connie Porteous, the wife of another CBS person, I believe. She was a rather strict task mistress, but at the end of however long the studies were, I recall receiving a small powder-blue ribbon with three pearls glued to it, each representing a year, a session, or perhaps the Holy Trinity. Although I've long ago forgotten the context, the study led to Confirmation in NCC when I was in third grade - and a new Bible with my name embossed thereon. I believe Rev. Webb was the minister in those days.

When ground was broken for the new Sanctuary, I was perhaps in the sixth grade. I remember playing with local kids on the excavation mounds and having dirt-ball fights, seeking both ammunition and shelter therefrom. One would probably be arrested for assault nowadays, but it was just clean (or dirty) innocent fun back then, and there were no injuries other than to pride.

After an interregnum in junior and senior high school spent in Ohio, my family moved back to Northbrook in 1967 and rejoined NCC, by which time Don Minnick was minister as I recall. Between my college absences and my brother's, the Schroeder family was mostly present at church on Christmas Eve and Easter, but always enjoying those services. I do drop in to the Sanctuary far more often than anyone may know to be alone with my thoughts. We now reside in Florida for the winter (in my parents' former home), but do keep up with the newsletters.

Pastor Duayne married me to Linda on May 31, 2003. Who ever heard of a nearly 54-year-old bachelor doing that?! It was a beautiful ceremony with George Williams playing organ - until Duayne asked Linda if she would take me for her wife. She had the rapid presence-of-mind to correct him, which obviously got a laugh from the attendees. It also relaxed me, but I'll never cease to remind him of his faux pas! But that's only because I tease

**Please note:** We would like to share more stories of NCC's past. YOU are invited to write a paragraph or two with *details* about your memory of some event, activity, worship experience, pastor, group you were part of, etc. Please send your story to [jhertelendy19@gmail.com](mailto:jhertelendy19@gmail.com). Thank you!

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## Office Notes

**We are blessed with many volunteers! Thank you to:**

**Tracey Buchman** for creating and maintaining the beautiful flower arrangements outside the church doors.

**Judy Hertelendy** for posting the offerings and preparing the quarterly statements.

**Susan Edgar** for assembling this Window newsletter.

**Margaret Weber** for helping out with the worship service livestreams.

**Charlie Shabica** and **Diana Lord** for the removal of Buckthorn from the property.

**Thank you** to everyone who continues to send in their donations or donate on line! We really appreciate it!

Please note that the **church office hours** are as follows: Mondays: noon - 3:00pm; Tues.-Fri.:10:00am - 3:00pm

The submission deadline for the **August Window** is **Tuesday, July 20th**.  
(We will send out an abbreviated version of the Window Newsletter in July.)

## The Church Family

*Our sympathy is extended to Tom and Barbara Peterson* on the recent passing of their son, **Thomas**. Memorial service arrangements are pending.

*Our sympathy is also extended to Betty Oswald's family, especially Terry and Judy Oswald*. Betty passed away on May 12th, services have been held.

### Celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Pastor Emeritus, The Rev. Donald Minnick

Rev. Minnick and his wife Sue served faithfully and well at NCC for many years. From time-to-time Don has returned to NCC to celebrate some milestone in the life of the congregation or just to stay in touch. Now NCC has occasion to celebrate one of Don's milestones: the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to ministry.

On All Saints Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, Don will be preaching at NCC and helping us celebrate our 75/175 anniversary. So, stay tuned and mark your calendars. Below, please find a brief history of Don's pastorates over the past six decades.

After graduation with a Master of Divinity Degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary, Don Minnick was ordained in the First Congregational Church of Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin on June 18, 1961 by a Council of what was then The Winnebago Association of Congregational Christian Churches. He served as Assistant Minister of the Wisconsin Rapids church from 1961 to 1964 when he was called to be minister of the Congregational Church of Mukwonago, Wisconsin. Following 4 years of ministry in Mukwonago, Don accepted a call to the First Congregational Church of Council Bluffs, Iowa. He was pastor of that congregation from 1969 until 1973 when he was called to be Senior Minister of the Northfield Community Church in Northfield, Illinois. Don served the Northfield church for 27 years until his retirement in 2000. Following official retirement, Don and his late wife Sue moved to Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Don was a regular preacher in the retirement community in Texas where they spent 15 winter seasons. Don also became an active member of Peace United Church of Christ in Stevens Point and often served as a "fill in" preacher. Currently, he is assisting the part time interim minister of Peace Church.

**James Brian Smith** is performing an organ recital on **Sunday, July 18th** at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The recital begins at 3:00 p.m. Flyers for the event are available at the church

*Our prayers are offered for* those who are hospitalized or recovering from illness: David Coleman, David Cyr, Jan Deetjen, Flory Dy, Steven Evenstad, Julie Jewell, and Helena Lathrop. We lift up in prayer those staying close to home: Lois Katarski, Judi & Ray Kennedy, and Carolyn Stockwell, as well as those in assisted living: Siria Behrens, Marge Fairhead, Jay Lorenz, Mike Parker, Bill Schnell, and Pegeen Soare.

### THANK YOU to all who were able to help at the NCC All-Church Workday:

Barbara Balch, Tracey Buchman, Mike Chance, Wendy Chance, Susan Edgar, Carol Goff, Lea Jones, Duayne Meyer, Guy Raymaker, Helen Raymaker, Luke Raymaker, Tim Raymaker, and Phil Reinemann.

There are a few projects still available: Thistle removal from the Butterfly Garden, Clean-up of the property (trash, sticks, debris), Window washing—west windows & narthex, and weed treatment—Youth Room Patio. Sign-up sheets are available at church or you can call the office to sign-up. Thanks!

## Mission Connections “Let us not grow weary of doing good”

Thank you to everyone who donated to One Great Hour of Sharing. The final total collected was \$3,000. We appreciate your generosity!



NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH  
400 WAGNER ROAD  
NORTHFIELD, IL 60093  
Address Correction Requested

## ***First Class***

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# NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH

### **June Events**

- June 9th** Anniversary Committee
- June 13th** Messy Church
- June 14th** Board of Christian Education
- June 15th** Board of Trustees
- June 28th** Church Council

### **The Church Staff**

All of the members of NCC	Ministers
Steve Ash	Business Manager
Eileen Baumgarten	Interim Organist
Ronda Bower	Family & Educational Ministry
Thom Bower	Associate Pastor
Lea Jones	Office Administrator
Duayne R. Meyer	Senior Pastor
Don Minnick	Pastor Emeritus
Phyllis Scott	Interim Choir Director
Warren Wiggins	Minister of Visitation

