



The Northwester

News and Notes

Hunger Walk

It's Hunger Walk time again! The Hunger Walk happens **this Saturday, September 8th**, in Jackson Park.

If you haven't already, **please consider donating to our team. Every cent we raise in the Hunger Walk goes directly to pay for food that we distribute from our food**

pantry. Every dollar helps, and will be put to use 100% to help the food insecure families we already know. [Click here to donate.](#)

Walkers who need a ride to Jackson Park should meet at the church building at 7:15 AM. Thanks for your generosity and support!



Promotion Sunday

Today is Promotion Sunday! New classes are forming for the new school year in our Bible school program. Please see *Dan Allen* with any questions.

Baby Shower

All ladies are invited to a baby shower at the Odums' home for *Robert and Natalie Waters* on Sunday, **September 30th**, at 1 PM. They are registered at www.babylist.com/baby-SweetWaters. Hostesses are Michell Bain, Jan Okey, and Laura Odum.

Unity Service

Our next Unity Service will be **Sunday, September 23rd**, at 9:30 AM. Come for a very special time of worship and fellowship in English, Spanish, and Korean. Though our world tries to separate us based on the ways we're different, as Christians we proclaim a gospel that tears down barriers. Don't miss out on being a part of it!

Furniture Available

We've had a kitchen table and chairs set, a couch, and a rug donated to us. The couch is in the basement. To see the table and chairs and/or rug, see *Patrick*. The furniture is free to whoever can use it.

Gathering Times

Sunday

Worship	9:30 AM
(English, Korean)	
Bible Study (All)	11:00 AM
Worship (Spanish)	12:00 PM
Worship (English)	4:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study (All)	7:30 PM
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Upcoming Events

September

- 8** Hunger Walk (9AM)
- 15** Shults-Lewis Annual Day
- 23** Unity Service (9:30 AM)
- 30** Baby shower for Natalie and Robert Waters (1 PM @ the Odums')

Welcome to Northwest! We're glad you're here today. If you're a visitor, please consider yourself an honored guest.

Please feel free to join in worship this morning to whatever extent you feel comfortable. Please fill out a visitors' card and put it in the offering plate so we can have a record of your visit.

[Sermons are available online.](#)

Servants

Help Wanted!

We need volunteers every Sunday to work in our **food pantry** from 1:00 - 3:30.

[Sign up Here](#)

Winston Manor

9/2/18 Clarence Thrasher

9/9/18 Perry Littrell

9/16/18 Javier Herrera, Rene Torres

Help Wanted - Communion Prep

Can you prepare communion before the 9:30 worship service?

[Sign Up for a Sunday Here](#)

Last Sunday

Sunday School	71
AM Worship	140
PM Worship	14
Wednesday PM	29

Offering	
Regular	\$ 4,026.00

Budget	\$ 5,205.00
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Online Directory

[Click here for the online church directory.](#) See *Patrick* if you need the password.

Worship Gathering

9:30 AM

Singing: Van Wilson

We Worship Together

226 How Great Thou Art

How Great Is Our God

Reading — Job 36:22-26, 32-33

Listen to Our Hearts

669 This Is My Father's World

We Hear the Word of the Lord

Reading: Dan Allen — Luke 8:4-10

Sermon: Patrick Odum — *What Do You Hear?*

345 It Is Well With My Soul

Prayer for the Needs of the Church: Dan Allen

We Come to the Table

How Deep the Father's Love

Communion Meditation: Jim Gunter

Table: Clarence Thrasher, Matt Bain, Wayne Mitchell, Eddie Reed

Offering and Announcements: Dan Allen

We Go Out As Witnesses

826 I'll Be Listening

Prayer: Don Wood

4:00 Worship

Singing: Matt Bain

Opening Prayer: Alan Bain

Meditation: Dan Allen

Closing Prayer: Perry Littrell

Patrick's Points

Be very careful, then, how you live —not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

-Ephesians 5:15-20 (NIV)

My son and I were talking about this hymn tune that we heard in church a few weeks ago: *Sine Nomine*, written by the British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams and used as the tune for the hymn *For All the Saints*. We were kind of thinking we had heard the tune attached to a different hymn, so we did a little internet detecting. Turns out that it was indeed attached to another hymn, but not one I had ever heard.

The tune is used in a work called *The Secular Hymnal*, in which hymn tunes are given new lyrics without overt religious content (or much content at all, as it turns out). The hymnal actually exists, it seems, to allow student choruses to sing "hymns" without violating the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. So it is what its title says: a Secular Hymnal, filled with lyrics that no one would mistake for being religious in any way.

As an example, here's William Walsham How's lyrics for the first verse of *For All the Saints*:

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The lyrics go on to describe how the Lord had been a rock, a fortress, a light for those who confessed him, and how the promise of their glory is an encouragement for us who still struggle to confess him in a world that doesn't seem to know him. Their example makes us strong and brave in our own testimony, and helps us to look forward to the day when "all the saints" — us and those who have gone on before — will stream "through gates of pearl" as "a countless host". Their lyrics are powerful, and they make good use of the anthemic *Sine Nomine*.

In comparison, here's the first verse of the lyrics written for *Sine Nominee* in *The Secular Hymnal*:

This day, this day, I know I'll find a way.
Let come what may, I'll make it through this day.
Tomorrow's fate is not yet on my plate.
But, come what may, I'll make it through this day.

Inspiring, no? I mean, the example of the faithful who have gone before us is lost, as is the promise that the same God who has cared for them in their struggles, and given them rest, can be trusted to do the same for us, to make us courageous in our own testimony and perseverance, and to bring us all together in eternity.

But, hey. You'll make it through *this* day, in a very nonspecific, nonreligious way.

I know, I know. *The Secular Hymnal* was made for a very particular purpose, and I can even understand the reasons for it. I just wonder if it should be called a hymnal at all, with lyrics like that. I mean, isn't a hymn a song of praise, and as such shouldn't it be addressed to *something* — and, preferably, to *someone* who can receive and appreciate such praise?

But I guess maybe *This Day, This Day* is a hymn to someone. Do you see it? Right: it's addressed to the Great God *I*. *I'll find a way. I'll make it through this day.* Those who have come before me are long gone. The God in whom they trusted and placed all their hope means nothing to me. I have what I need. I'll make it on my strength, my intelligence, my wits, my talents, my money, my accomplishments. *I'll find a way.*

But, hey: it's called *The Secular Hymnal*. We shouldn't really expect anything more.

Somewhere along the line, though, I'm afraid the church has decided that singing is all about *I* as well.

I don't mean just the lyrics here. (Though, actually, a fair number of more contemporary praise songs and choruses *do* seem to be written in the first person singular.) What I'm really talking about, though, is the expectation in some churches (surely not *ours*) by some believers (surely not any of *us*) that what I sing in church, and how I sing it, is mostly about making me feel the way I think I should, or singing the songs that I like the best, or checking off God's requirements so I can feel confident that I've obeyed him perfectly. We've made singing about ourselves: we sing because it makes us feel good, or because the songs have sentimental connections, or because it allows us to take pride over those who don't sing in the right way. (I mean, not *us*, or anyone we know; but we've *heard* about people who sing for these reasons, right?)

Tell me, please, how we (they) get that from Ephesians 5. The only one who *isn't* in that text is *I*. Paul says that singing should come from being filled with the Spirit — that's his term for allowing the Spirit's influence to direct the way we live our lives, as opposed to the flesh. Singing's about *God*, not me. We sing best, not when we're giving full vent to our emotions or taking pride in our knowledge, but when we're letting The Holy Spirit call the shots in our lives. How we sing on Sunday should come from a life lived in step with the Spirit Monday through Saturday. That's the only way to sing from our hearts — we hear emotions there, but what Paul is talking about is authenticity. We sing because we really are people who are thankful to God.

Singing's about God, and it's also about *each other*. You may not love that one song, but the person sitting next to you may desperately need to hear it sung. We sing out of the influence of the Spirit in our lives, and we sing *for* one another. I'm sure God likes to hear us praise him from the heart. But we do it *together* because we need to speak to each other.

Maybe it's because we sit in rows facing a stage when we sing, but we need to get out of our heads the idea that singing is about someone entertaining us. If we come to church with the same expectations that we bring with us to a concert, I think we're not quite doing it right. Instead, let's try coming to church with the Spirit guiding our steps, instead of ping-ponging all over the place as our fleshly bodies and minds dictate. Let's try coming to the singing as thankful people who want to sing about what God has done and how grateful we are. And let's think about the people around us a little more, and a little less about our irritation over having to sing that song *again*. If I come away from church evaluating the singing based on how I feel, well, I'm not going to say it's been a waste of time, but it's awfully hard for me to be led by the Spirit and bless my sisters and brothers if all I have is me on my mind.

Make the most of the opportunity to glorify God and speak to one another. Don't be foolish.

I know you'll find a way.

Prayer Requests

New Requests and Updates (Please don't forget to give updates to Diana Allen.)

James Davis, Laura Odum's uncle, passed away last week after an illness. Please pray for comfort for his family and Laura's mom, *Edith Blount*.

Paul LaScola, Patrick Odum's brother-in-law, is still very sick with gastroenteritis.

Perry Littrell asks us to pray for *Gilliane Moore*, the sister of a friend of his who was in a car accident. Her son, *Kohen*, suffered skull fractures and brain trauma in the accident. *Gilliane* is in danger of losing an arm.

Celeste Rucker's mom, *Barbara Konczal*, passed away Friday morning after a battle with cancer. There will be a memorial mass for her next Saturday, September 15th, at 10:30 AM at Immaculate Conception Church.

Ongoing Concerns

Sister *Tomasa Agosto* needs our prayers due to her health issues.

Brother Baker, a resident at Winston Manor, has asked for general prayers for Booker T. Houser and family, the Lotts, the Burns, the Taylors, and the Schafers.

Don Ballarini asks that we pray for his brother, *Ronald*, who is suffering from dementia and other health problems.

Hillary Beata asks that we keep *Rachel*, a member of her parent's church, in our prayers. She is a young mother who was just diagnosed with cancer.

Wilma Brumley is grieving the loss of her son, *Daniel*.

Elida Cano is still fighting cancer.

Richard Cooper has asked that we continue praying for the brethren in Guinea.

Jennifer Duff's sister, *Judy Duff*, is still fighting cancer. Jennifer's mother also has some health concerns.

Carlos Estrada's friend, *Madeline Badea*, has a degenerative bone disease.

Barbara Foucher's cousin, *Jonathan Williams*, has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

Maria Fuentes, who lives at Winston Manor, is dealing with severe pain in her back and side.

Jan Gunter, Jim's wife, needs some radiation therapy.

Darrell Hutchens has moved to Manteno Veterans' Home, Room 423 West, One Veterans Drive, Manteno, IL 60959. Cards are appreciated and visits are welcome.

Irma Rae from Winston Manor asks that we pray for issues in her life.

Cathy Littrell's aunt, *Diane Shabbing*, has colon cancer.

Perry Littrell's brother-in-law, *Joel Dallas*, has three bulging disks in his back.

Martha Lucunza, a dear friend of *Susan Thrasher's*, is going through treatments for bone cancer.

Mary Lynn, friend of a resident at the Oak Park Nursing Home, has a leg that needs healing.

Maria from Winston Manor asks that we pray for her daughter and granddaughter.

Linda McNeal is coping with dizziness and other medical issues.

Linda McNeal's husband has some health problems.

Linda McNeal's nephew, *David*, is beginning chemo for lung cancer.

Maria McNeal, Linda's mother-in-law, broke her hip.

Jay Min asks for prayers regarding his mother's diabetes.

Wayne Mitchell asks that we pray for an improved relationship with his son, *Myles*.

Gus Ramirez, a friend of the *Thrasher* family, has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Marge Reavis' sister has been diagnosed with cancer.

Anabel Rice is dealing with lupus.

Celeste Rucker's father, *Bob Konczal*, is struggling with chronic pain due to scoliosis and arthritis in the lower spine and hip.

Tom Rucker's aunt, *Sally Rucker-Dobbs*, is recovering from a recent stroke.

Tom Rucker's best friend's niece, *Katie Fearer*, has a large mass in her shoulder, lungs, and spine, and is waiting to be admitted to a cancer center in Houston. Her father, *Zane*, was in a bicycle accident and has multiple injuries, which has left him with no use of his arms. Please keep *Katie*, *Zane*, and their family in your prayers during this very difficult time.

Vicki Sebela, *Laura Odum's* cousin, is still recovering from eye surgery, diabetic retinopathy, and breast cancer.

Herb Sherrod, a former member at Northwest, is in the process of obtaining a new kidney so he can go off dialysis.

Mary Smith's cousin, *Jim Thompson*, fell and broke his hip during physical therapy. *Jim's* brother, *Stan Thompson*, had a stroke recently.

Donna Stover, a former Northwest member, is suffering from kidney disease.

Barbara Thomas and *Dolores*, both from the Oak Park Nursing Home, ask for prayers for improved health.

Mike Thrasher needs prayers for continued guidance and direction in his life and with his Tourette's and OCD.

Celina Turman asks that we pray for her mother, who has been in the hospital for blood pressure.

Eugene Urbaszewski, *Celeste Rucker's* uncle, has been diagnosed with a form of liver disease.

Liz Van-Klingerin/Sumner, *Clarence Thrasher's* sister, has a leaky aortic valve and may need surgery.

Johnny Vera asks for prayers for his family, health, and relationship problems.

Cynthia Webster, *Barbara Foucher's* sister, is in rehab recovering from a coronary. She is also dealing with kidney and immune system problems brought on by lupus.

Daniel Williamson, *Miriam Williamson's* husband, needs our prayer for recovery from his health problems.

Willie, a resident of the Winston Manor Nursing Home, has cataracts and glaucoma.

Don Wood's sister-in-law, *Jeanette Wood*, has stage 4 lung cancer and is undergoing radiation treatments.



Shults-Lewis Annual Day

Annual Day on Saturday, **September 15th**, is a chance to find out more about the good works going on at Shults-Lewis. There will be craft and food booths, a rummage sale, and a benefit auction. Find out more [here](#)