



Upcoming Dates

- June 28—Heather's first day at NCPC
- July 11—Heather introduced to the congregation in worship
- July 12-16—Summer Bible Camp!
- July 18—Summer Bible Camp Sunday

To contact Heather and offer her a warm welcome, send greetings to the church office to her attention, or send her an email. Include a photo of you and your family!

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Introducing North Creek's new Director of Children's Ministry

Heather Ingersoll

We are pleased to introduce Heather Ingersoll as our new Director of Children's Ministry. This joyous announcement comes at the conclusion of a five-month search process that included the renewal of vision for Children's Ministry, development of a job descrip-

tion, selection of a search team, publicizing the position, reviewing resumes, and interviewing candidates. Please join me in showing appreciation to all those who with passionate dedication kept our Children's Ministry going strong during this season.

Heather will begin her work with us on Monday, June 28. After taking some time for long-planned vacation in early July, she'll be introduced in Sunday worship services on July 11. The following day she'll get to experience with us the joy of sharing God's love with hundreds of kids at Summer Bible Camp.

This summer, in the midst of the busyness of planning for another great year of ministry with children and their families at NCPC, we'll have the opportunity to get to know Heather and Ryan and offer them a season of welcome as they join with us in Christ's ministry.

- Pastor Kurt Helmcke



Heather Ingersoll & husband Ryan

When God Makes the Match...Testimony of the Search Team

After reading more about Heather on pages 2 & 3, turn to page 4 to read the inspiring testimonies of search team members.

From my position on the search team as supervising pastor, here's my summary of the experience:

Personal faith statement?
Authentic. Resume & cover

letter? Professional. Education? B.A. and M.A. degrees in her field. Experience? The right kind. References? Golden. Interview skills? Exceptional.

The moment I knew God was calling our attention to Heather was when she called me with a question that she needed answered before she would even come out to Mill

Creek for an interview. She asked "Is North Creek the kind of congregation where I can say 'Let's pray about this' when we're facing a tough decision or difficult issue?"

I smiled. And as I shared with Heather about the heart of prayer that North Creek has, I knew that God was making a match.

— Pastor Kurt

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Heather::The Person

I was born in Federal Way, Washington, but spent most of my childhood in Enumclaw with my mom, dad, younger brother and younger sister. Other than school and fun family vacations, I spent a lot of time in middle school and high school playing both soccer and fast pitch. I was also very involved with youth group. After graduating high school, I went to Trinity Lutheran College where I met and married my college sweetheart, Ryan. On June 9th we celebrated our three year anniversary! A year after we got married we moved to Minnesota with our new puppy, Doc. I write this amongst boxes in my apartment, as we prepare to make the journey back to the Northwest, our home. In my free time I love hanging out with my husband and my dog, biking, running, cooking and reading. I always have a long list of skills I want to learn. Currently that list includes playing the guitar, sewing and gardening. I love to travel. Costa Rica and Tanzania are on the list of interesting places I have traveled to, but there are many more places around the globe I want to see.

Heather :: The Professional

The youth director at the church I grew up in was a Trinity Lutheran College graduate and had always encouraged me to attend that school. However, my dad worked for a university and I had my choice of several nice private schools that I could attend for free. I was convinced I wanted to be an elementary teacher and was on the path to attending one of those schools. January of my senior year in high school my dad took another job and I lost my opportunity to get free tuition. I decided attending Trinity for a two-year degree would give me a good Biblical background as I headed off to the "real world." God's providence was at work, and at Trinity, from the help of great professors and mentors, I discovered a passion for working with children and families, a gift for writing curriculum, and an excitement about the idea of working in ministry. I stayed at Trinity for four years and got a BA in Christian Education.

Throughout college and after college I held a wide ranges of positions from running a children's ministry, teaching preschool, nannying, coordinating Sunday School, and supervising a childcare program for preschoolers and kindergartners. Through these many experiences, I grew in my ability to care for children in an age-appropriate way, wrote lots of different curriculum, and planned a number of different children and family events. I also had the privilege to teach in a classroom with special needs children and those who are typically developing. In all these experiences, I came into contact with so many parents searching for help. Some needed help with discipline issues, some dealing with divorce, others with money problems, and even more with being just too busy. I grew a desire to know how to better offer support to strengthen and encourage these families.

That led me to pursue an MA in Human Services-Family Life Education at Concordia University in St. Paul. It also led me to teach Parenting with Love and Logic, and find opportunities to work more directly with parents. It is amazing to see how God has used education, experience, and gifts in different ways to allow me to help children and families and I am excited to see where He will take me on this next step.



Heather :: *The Disciple* ... my story of faith in Jesus Christ and the difference he makes in my life

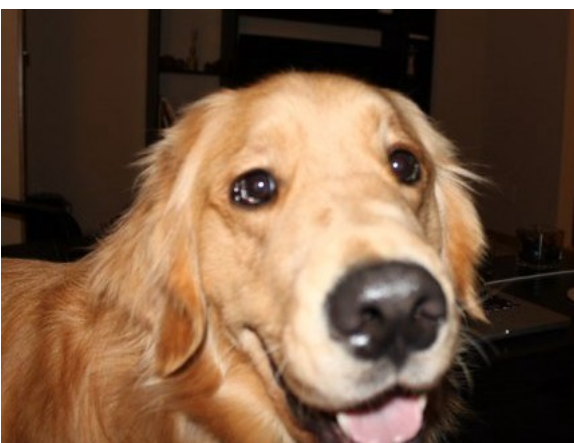
I grew up in the church. Though I wouldn't call my family particularly religious, it was definitely important to my parents that we had experiences in the church when we were young. I was baptized when I was four, and can say that is really when my faith life began. Though I remember the point, when I was in sixth grade, when I had a realization of what it all meant and felt a desire to have my own relationship with Jesus Christ. All I can say is "wow!" God is amazing, and has proven himself to be amazing throughout my life. I have had the joy of being placed in many different situations, with different people, where God worked on particular things in my life to help my relationship with Him grow. One of those situations was when my husband and I moved out to Minnesota almost two years ago. One of our prayers was that God would teach us both how to trust more in him. God definitely answered that prayer, though in a completely different way than I had planned or even hoped. The middle year of our life in Minnesota was lonely, trying, and at times painful. In a time when I wanted to trust more in God, I found myself doubting and questioning God more than ever. As we pack up to move back to the Seattle area, Ryan and I find ourselves reflecting on our time here and why God brought us to this place. I realized, it was not as much about me learning how to trust God more, it was more about God showing me His trustworthiness. God didn't teach me to trust in him more by changing my heart, but he taught me to trust in him more by showing me His heart. That has been one of the greatest lessons I have learned. Now I move on to another phase in my life. I am excited to see what God will teach me in this new place, but also excited to see how He will use me to be a testament to others about His love and faithfulness.



Heather :: *The Director* ... what interests me about the North Creek congregation and my new position

In preparation for our move home, I spent a lot of time praying for a job that was a good fit for my personality and gifts. I wanted to be in a place where my strengths are utilized and my weaknesses challenged. I strongly believe that North Creek was the answer to that prayer. I had the privilege of meeting a small group of people from the congregation and have never been welcomed so graciously. Though I only spent a short time at North Creek I could see that it is a very special community. After attending worship, I am confident that this will not only be a great place to work, but a wonderful faith community for Ryan and I to be a part of.

Not only am I excited about being a part of North Creek, I am so excited about my position. I am passionate about empowering adults to be instrumental in the faith lives of children in the congregation. I look forward to not only finding volunteers, but training and supporting them in the important role they play. I am also excited about partnering with parents to pass on faith, and working with adults to develop strong support systems for families. I will enjoy the opportunities to build relationships with children and adults and collaborate with people of all ages. I also look forward to the opportunity to be creative in writing curriculum, developing programs, and planning events. In my mind, nothing could be better than a position where I get to be instrumental in inspiring adults to encourage faith development in children!



Search Team Testimonies



Heather has a great background that will translate well into her new role with Children's Ministries at NCPC. This includes a Masters in Human Services with a family life emphasis, and solid work experience running a wrap-around childcare program for a public school district as well as Sunday School programs. I also think Heather and her husband Ryan are at a time in their lives where they are feeling God's call for change...including a move back to the Northwest from Minnesota and a desire to expand their ministries. Before I met Heather, I was very impressed by what her references had to say about her...especially her intelligence and integrity. After the search team met, talked, and prayed with Heather, we knew that she was the right person to take on this challenge and opportunity. I'm looking forward to Heather's perspective and direction regarding the various challenges and opportunities within the children's program. How did I see God working in the search process to bring Heather to North Creek? I think sometimes we all feel like we know how a process will or should go. God often has a different perspective for us. In this case, God asked us to be understanding, patient, and faithful. Just when things weren't making sense, God cleared things up. I saw God working through our search team members and our candidates, and that's why this process was ultimately successful. — **Mark Poch**



Being part of the Children's Ministry Search Team has been quite the unexpected blessing. I have gone from being a reluctant recruit -- wrong time to be in the Fellowship Hall (smile)-- to a grateful member of an incredible Holy Spirit-led team. In Heather's cover letter, her opening quote from Matthew 18:3 about becoming like little children immediately triggered a spark of confirmation that she would be a great fit here at North Creek. From her resume and interviews, I sensed a young woman who has a quiet yet firm commitment to who she is in Jesus and what He has called her to do. Her exposure to the Love and Logic parenting program and her ability to inspire adult volunteers to teach, lead and even paint and decorate classrooms has already re-energized my commitment to our kids here at North Creek. In fact, I wish my two sons were young again! (Well, okay, maybe that's going too far.) This past year, Heather has been working with special needs children. At North Creek, we have a growing concern and desire to support these children and their families. So, it's not just a coincidence that Heather came along when she did. It's exciting to present Heather with a well-established, spiritually-grounded children's ministry. The Lord has great things in store for us. Be excited: your lives and the lives of your children are about to be transformed! — In His Service with you all, **Lori Schafer**



Several months ago at a Children's Ministry survey in the Fellowship Hall, I wondered what God would have in store for the NCPC children's program. For me, the qualities that a Children's Director should have were clear: he/she should LOVE the Lord, be a "kid person" and be a good administrator/leader. Our children have been well loved and led, and I felt a deep need to see that continue. During the search team process what surprised me about Heather was that those three things were just the beginning. Her specific areas of knowledge, sensitiveness to children and family issues, and thoughtfulness were icing on the cake. These little bits of information that just matched up with North Creek's needs — some were even things CMT had discussed but the Search team had not brought up in an interview (things I had thought but had not said out loud). When we were finally able to meet Heather, her warm manner, ideas, and experiences made me think she was just the right person for the job!

I am looking forward to watching Heather in the hallways with the joyful mass of Sunday morning children and seeing the content faces of parents as they build trusting relationships with Heather. I look forward to families learning and growing and knowing that NCPC is the right place for their family's spiritual needs to be met, and that they look forward to coming to church! How did I see God working in the search process to bring Heather to North Creek? The search process was like following a maze with only your team members as God watches and encourages you: "watch out, dead end there" — "quick, hold hands and turn right!" — "don't get discouraged, this dead end is close to the outlet!" At the end the candidate is waiting for a reunion and a new career home, and you and the team members have truly had a process of listening and growing with God. — **April Heivilin**

p.s. One thing I thought showed Heather's attention to detail, relationship building, and caring was that she took the time to mail a letter to my daughter. I had delivered to Heather a note Abby had written to her with a tootsie pop attached. Heather mailed Abby a letter back introducing herself, although she was very busy finishing up the school year and preparing to move here. Heather noted in her letter that she loves to play with her dog, Doc, she likes to read, run, play soccer, cook, do crafts and likes berries and chocolates. She doesn't like mopping the floor, dog hair on her clothes and lima beans! For me, this was a special part of the search process that confirmed the qualities that the search team discerned.