



FYI

VOLUME 169

NORTH PARK CHURCH

JULY 2021

**Know therefore
that the Lord your
God is God, the
faithful God who
keeps covenant
and steadfast
love with those
who love him
and keep his
commandments,
to a thousand
generations.**

Deuteronomy 7:9





NORTH PARK CHURCH

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FEATURES

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **Will Fowler** has become a confirmed member of our church and will soon be baptized....that **Bill & Judy Jacobs** own a newspaper from Ulster City NY, dated January 4, 1800 and it features news about Washington's funeral....that in the 80s, Steeler great, **Jon Kolb**, led NPC men's studies at his home and at Three-Rivers Stadium....that Abraham Lincoln had a rose tattoo....that **Joan Castillo** used to be a competitive dancer....that forty years of worship at NPC means 2,087 Sundays....that all porcupines float....that our church is one of the original nine churches to start the Presbytery of the Alleghenies....that **Kate Brown and Ruby Rose (Hopkins)** are both in a maternal way....that **Rick Stauffer** officiated the wedding of **Paige Stitt** to **Brett McBride** on Memorial Day....that the new couple will live in Grove City....that people swallow eight times per hour while sleeping....that **Sam Buirge** is engaged to **Hannah Elder**....that **Anna Lish Kaiser** and her hubby are moving to Erie from Florida....that **Mark Altmeyer** has graduated from Pennsylvania College of Technology, with a degree in Building Automation Engineering....that there are over 1,000 different types of fleas....that **Paige Daly** has graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology and is headed to grad school....that **Matt Knauer** has graduated from Grove City College....that the **Wilkin family** just moved into their new home....that **Todd Murphy** lived for a summer in an Australian rain forest....that certain species of bamboo grow 36 inches per day....that those who read the FYI grow 23% faster than those who don't? Did you know these things? I thought you should.

HISTORY CORNER



Blaise Pascal

Truth is so obscured nowadays and lies so well established that unless we love the truth we shall never recognize it. Man's sensitivity to little things and insensitivity to the greatest things are marks of a strange disorder.

Blaise Pascal

Pensees, 1623-1662

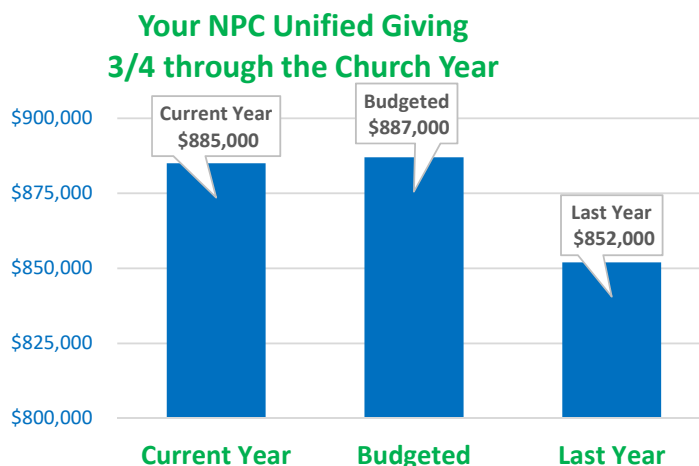
As I discovered all the different roles they have played in the church, a constant theme emerged. They were always serving where needed and always encouraging others to find their role in the Body of Christ.



Andy grew up in Coraopolis with one older sister and Joyce grew up in West Mifflin as the second of six children. They met at I.U.P. when they were seated alphabetically in a freshman science class. Joyce's maiden name was Kish!

Andy's major was accounting and Joyce's was elementary education. Joyce stayed to get her master's degree as a reading specialist and Andy went to work as an Auditor for JC Penny in Pittsburgh and then Buffalo.

GIVING UPDATE



Soon after Joyce began her 25+ year career with Shaler as a reading specialist a fellow teacher invited them to a couples Bible study. They both had grown up Catholic but this was the start of a deeper personal relationship with Christ. Their spiritual and physical relationship continued to grow. They were engaged in 1979 and the two Kishes became one Kish on 6/21/1980.

Their first home was in West View and a couple in the Bible study suggested they try the church Pat and Denise Perry attended, NPC.

It wasn't long after Andy and Joyce joined NPC in 1986 that Joyce became the Sunday School Superintendent. Andy was always involved in men's ministries including the Men's Breakfast. Currently, he is in his third term as an Elder and serves as our Assistant Financial Secretary.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH: KISH

This month's feature family is probably well known to everyone who has attended NPC in the last 35 years. If Sharpnacks or Stauffers could be considered building blocks for NPC, the Kishes could be seen as the cement that holds all the blocks together.

Joyce was the Care Group coordinator. She designed a "Plugged in Ministry" and trained coaches to meet one on one using spiritual gift assessments. Progressive dinners, women's Christmas teas, new member classes, and church retreats followed while she taught 4 women's groups of Gospel Transformation. Besides leading they were also

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

ANDY
Philippians 4:8

JOYCE
Jeremiah 29:11

following. Andy felt he was to follow Roger Woodworth and support our church plant at New Hope. Then Joyce was moved by a sermon encouraging

NPC would do a mission trip to Appalachia, Bay St Louis, or New Orleans usually Andy would take a vacation week and often his kids would accompany him.

When not going on family mission trips the family bonded in a motor home. They camped in Arcadia, San Francisco, Yellowstone, Bryce, Zion, Yosemite, Badlands, and more. As empty nesters they have traveled more in style to Alaska, Ireland, Europe, and Israel. Joyce enjoys quilting, water colors, and pottery. Together they enjoy cross country skiing, kayaking, hiking, and biking. Andy just retired from General Wire Spring last July. He suffered a mild heart attack this May and had a stent put in to correct blockage but as of this writing he is already resuming his busy schedule.

Christians to get out of their comfort zone. Andy and Joyce along with the Van Sickels and several others stepped up and made a commitment to New Hope. They are grateful for this experience because they saw God move and they met wonderful people. Looking back, they can see how it positively impacted their kids Julia, Daniel, and Josh. All became mission minded.

Julia went with Lisa Anderson Umana to Honduras, served in Mexico and Central America and still has a heart for minorities and the underserved. Dan is now an EPC pastor in Alabama and has led many medical mission trips to the Dominican Republic. Josh followed his siblings and went to Kenya and his wife, Julianna, works with the CCO at La Roche. When

Anyone that ever went to NPC in the last 35 years was touched in some way by Andy and Joyce and remains a friend. July 24-25 will be a special time for current members to meet former members upon whose shoulders we stand. History will show how God has used people in and through NPC and we will give God all the glory. Make Andy and Joyce happy by going to www.northparkepc.org right now and registering for either the Saturday picnic or the Sunday dinner. - **Jim Ludwig**



THE REST OF THE STORY

So the mother potato said to her daughter, “You can’t marry Paul Harvey. He’s just a common tater.” Always wanted to use that old joke, so there it is.

Paul Harvey was an iconic, not-so-common, radio personality who finished his daily news-reel digest with an immensely-popular segment called “The Rest of the Story,” which was usually humorous, sometimes poignant, but always a Rockwellesque, real-life imagery of Americana.



Paul Harvey

The story—the real Story; the only Story that matters—is the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is profoundly simple

and complete: Christ died for our sins, taking our punishment upon Himself so we could be restored through faith to an eternal, right relationship with God. There is no “rest” of the story. Except for the rest of the story.

Music is often described as “the space between the notes” (attributed to the French composer Claude Debussy). These spaces are known as rests, periods of silence between the melodies, harmonies, and rhythms. Good musicians are sometimes recognized for the things they don’t play as much as what they do. While living in Cleveland, I was called one time to fill in for an ailing keyboardist who was touring with the Broadway production of *Beauty and the Beast*. I had to absorb a huge amount of difficult music and technological challenges just a few hours before showtime, and the conductor gave me some great advice: “When in doubt, leave it out.” It’s better to play nothing than to play the wrong thing. Rests are important. To tacet is, tacitly, tastefully tactful.



Claude Debussy

So, rests can be beautiful. God has commanded rests amid the rhythms of life; it’s built into the creation narrative. God rested after six days of the greatest creative output in history; he commanded we do likewise with the gift of the sabbath. Israelite fields

were to lie fallow in the seventh year. Every fifty years, the Year of Jubilee was the great reset (though CCO staff may view their annual Jubilee as slightly less than restful).

Sabbath is a day of rest. Preachers and professors take sabbaticals every seven years or so to rest and reset. Jesus even rested in the tomb on the Sabbath after the finished work of redemption on the cross. We rest along with him. Or do we?

Life is busy; we can easily fill up Sundays with work responsibilities, soccer games, exerting great physical and emotional energy participating in that weekly great pagan ritual each fall at Heinz Field. It’s hard to find a space of rest between the to-do notes on our lists. We often fail to take advantage of those moments when they do present themselves, due to that Instagram feed we haven’t checked. But, of greater concern is those of us who aren’t resting in the grace of Jesus, the “Finished Carpenter.” When He said “It is finished,” He spoke for us too. We are to rest in the finished work of Christ on the cross. There’s nothing we can do to improve our chances for heaven.

So as you enjoy the rest of the summer and the rest it affords, remember the rest of the story: relax, trust in Christ, rest in Him, find the rest between the notes, and enjoy the music. As Paul Harvey would say... Good day! - **Brooke Hopkins**

WORSHIP

A TO Z — 2.0

The A to Z Challenge is back! Everyone knows that knowing God’s word is good for us and helpful as we navigate this life. Many of you memorized scripture and completed the A to Z Challenge in 2020. We have new verses for each letter of the alphabet for you to put to memory now too! This year, you’ll have the months of July and August to work on this challenge. As usual, we’ll have prizes for those that are able to master this challenge! See the Children’s Ministry page of the church website to find the verses for this year’s A to Z 2.0. Contact Kelly Laird when you are ready to say all 26 verses out loud!

KIDS' WORSHIP

Kids’ Worship continues throughout the summer with a curriculum that’s helping us to study Freedom in Christ and the Miracles of Jesus. However, in the fall, we are launching a brand-new curriculum. It is called *Explore the Bible: Kids* published by Lifeway. This well-written curriculum will, “help your kids and preschoolers read and study God’s Word book by book in a way that is fun, age-appropriate, and sustainable for a lifetime.”

We are planning to offer Kids' Worship every week starting the week after Labor Day. That means that volunteers will generally serve twice a month or less, depending on the number of volunteers we have.

We are still hammering out all of the details and would love for you to be a part of the fun! If you would like to join our team of volunteers and help to lead Kids' Worship in the fall, please get in touch with Kelly Laird sometime this month.

STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE: Q&A ABOUT STEPHEN MINISTRY

WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Stephen Ministry is a ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised laypeople, called Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Stephen Leaders are the ones who oversee and direct Stephen Ministry. They recruit, select, train, organize, and supervise our Stephen Ministers; identify people in need of care; and match with a Stephen Minister. We have 2 Stephen Leaders: Mark Sharpnack and Susan Meenaghan. Rachel Sharpnack(former Stephen Minister) is receiving training presently to become a Stephen Leader soon.

Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers. They have engaged in high-quality training in Christian caregiving, including topics such as listening, feelings, boundaries and assertiveness. We currently have 5 active Stephen Ministers: Heather Mattson, Mushira Makail, Nancy VanSickel, Jim Ludwig, and Manny Velarde.

Care Receivers are the recipients of Stephen Ministers' care. They are people from our church or community who are experiencing grief, loss of a job, divorce, loneliness, illness or other life difficulties. Stephen Ministers meet with their care receivers once a week for about an hour for as long as the care receiver needs it.

WHAT DO STEPHEN MINISTERS DO?

Stephen Ministers are caring Christians who listen, understand, accept and pray for and with care receivers who are walking through a difficult time in life. They are not counselors; they are trained lay caregivers. Their role is to listen and care, not to give advice. Stephen Ministers are also trained to

recognize when a care receiver's needs fall outside what they are equipped to provide-at which point they help to connect the care receiver with the appropriate outside resource.

HOW CAN SOMEONE RECEIVE CARE FROM A STEPHEN MINISTER?

Mark Sharpnack is our Stephen Leader who coordinates referrals. If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to him, one of our Pastors, or any other Stephen Leader. Any of our Stephen Ministers would also be happy to help you through the process.

Questions? Contact Mark Sharpnack
(marksharpnack@northparkchurchepe.org)



YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

JULY 4

No Youth Group
Due to Independence Day

JULY 10-16

Missions Trip
To Appalachia

JULY 11

Youth Group
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
McKinney's House

JULY 18

Youth Group
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
North Park Church

JULY 25

Youth Group
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
North Park Church

CONNECT

40TH ANNIVERSARY

You still have time to sign up and attend the NPC 40th Anniversary Celebration! There will be something for everyone during NPC's anniversary celebration.

GOLF OUTING

Friday, July 23

12:00 P.M.

North Park Golf Course

PICNIC

Saturday, July 24

3:00 - 7:00 P.M. | NPC

Catered BBQ + Games + Music

VISIT - WORSHIP - LUNCH

Sunday, July 25 | NPC

Visit and hear former

Pastors speak | 9:00 A.M.

Dan Lacich Message | 10:15 A.M.

Catered Lunch | 12:00 P.M.



All members and their families are invited to attend! Please RSVP in the lobby or on the website. Questions? Email Joyce Kish (joycemkish@gmail.com)

SIGN UP DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, JULY 1



WANT TO CONNECT? TRY A CARE GROUP THIS YEAR!

As we come to the end of the pandemic (thank the Lord for that), you might find yourself longing for deeper friendships with other people. After a year of isolation, many people look forward to reconnecting and building relationships with other people. If that is you, we hope you will consider joining one of our Care Groups this fall. Whether you are new to North Park or have been attending for years, we would love to help you CONNECT to other believers through a care group.

What's all involved in being a part of a Care Group? North Park Care Groups vary, but most of our groups meet every other week. We have also intentionally labeled them "Care Groups" because the groups are the first ones to respond when a need or a crisis arises with someone in the group. Thus, you can expect to be cared for and also be closely involved with others to the point that you would want to care for them should a need arise. The meeting time is often spent in building meaningful, honest relationships, praying together, and Bible study.

If you want to connect to a Care Group and discover what it means to belong in a new and fuller way, don't let time get away from you. We have a number of care groups that are looking to add new members and the fall is an easy time to enter an existing group or start off fresh with a new one. If you are interested in joining a care group, email Pastor Ben Burkholder (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).

IMPACT



MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Aaron and Amy Speitelsbach serve the Lord in a remote region of Africa on the border of Ivory Coast and Liberia. Their objective is to reach the Glaro people for Christ who remain an unreached people group. Aaron and Amy have worked for many years to learn the language and are finally at the point where they can begin creating Bible lessons for the Glaro people. Of course, this is no easy task when you are trying to translate the Bible into a language you did not grow up speaking. In fact, the Glaro people are mostly illiterate and part of Amy's role has been teaching them to read and write so one day they could read God's Word in their own language. Your prayers and financial support help advance the kingdom of God in this remote part of the world.

HERE'S HOW TO PRAY FOR AMY AND AARON THIS MONTH:

- Aaron and Amy as they craft and write Bible lessons in Glaro.
- Health—Due to their location, they often deal with bouts of Malaria that keep them from being as productive as they would like to be.
- Spiritual Connection—that they would know God's will and respond to his direction.

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rebecca Arnold
Jane Moore
- 3 Terry Meeneeghan
- 4 Nicole Bright
- 6 Amelia Burkholder
Miles McKinney
- 7 Sam Buirge
Andy Kish
- 11 Maria Allewelt
Evan Bright
Dick Luther
- 13 Isabella Brown
Kim Haytock
- 14 Deborah Furey
- 15 Timothy Craft
- 16 James Ludwig
- 17 Steve Van Oss
- 18 Susan Dean
- 20 Ethan O'Brien
Alison Sanders
Manny Velarde
- 21 Jane Koska
Kevin Sanders
Mark Sharpnack
- 22 Chris Lamperski
Rebecca Leakey
Linda Siger
- 23 Thomas Mycyk
- 26 Kiley Librich
- 28 Kevin Sherwin
- 29 David Arnold
Matthew Satariano
- 30 Deborah McKinney

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Todd & Holly Murphy
- 6 James & Linda Ludwig
- 7 Andrew & Amber Stites
Jodi & Steve Van Oss
- 15 Robert & Taryn VanderWeele
- 25 Jeff & Kayleigh Layden
- 26 Taylor & Kate Brown
- 27 Len & Linda Siger
- 29 Jeff & Kristen Smalley
- 31 Wayne & Yvonne Darville