



FYI

VOLUME 170

NORTH PARK CHURCH

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021

**The fear of the Lord
is the beginning of
wisdom, and the
knowledge of the
Holy One is insight.**
Proverbs 9:10

**Give thanks in all circumstances; for
this is the will of God in Christ Jesus
for you.** *1 Thessalonians 5:18*

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AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1 Natalie Karr	10 Ruth Ponsonby	14 Zachary Stimpson	21 Joey Brown
Eliana McKinney	11 Helen Menhorn	15 Tim Blackburn	Molly Doyle
3 Stacy Tessaro	Brian Osmond	Linda Ludwig	22 Emmett Havener
Mia Wickard	Joanne Rimmel	16 Shannon Bolibruck	23 Phoebe Havener
4 Oliver Havener	12 Chloe Sanders	Ed Hilderhoff	24 Daniel Haytock
Walter Weimann	13 Peggy Anderson	18 Ned Fairfield	26 Cindi Gregory
5 Paige Longmore	Elias Bolibruck	Lydia Miller	27 Joel Morley
6 Bob Arnold	Adam Bright	Samuel Miller	28 Victor Ilnicki
Landon Pinkerton	Luther Hopkins	19 Linnea Fairfield	Evelyn Osmond
7 Moriah Burkholder	14 Brooke Hopkins	Michelle Longmore	30 Allison Gilbert
Kirstin Lukas	Claire McKinney	Andrew Pennington	31 Ian Miller
3 Ryan & Bethany Mitchell	14 Chris & Norma Lamperski		
4 Philip & Nacy Van Sickel	16 Rob & Jessica O'Brien		
9 Adam & Nicole Bright	25 Frank & Kiley Librich		
12 Dick & Nellie Luther	30 Nate & Holly Fairfield		
14 Ben & Jen Burkholder			

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2 Daniel Pennington	10 John Lengel	20 Vivian Miller	27 Elle Whittington
3 Grant McKinney	12 Paul Spangler	22 Johnny Faber	28 Drew Laird
Eliana O'Brien	13 Kelly Stitt	Robert Glancy	29 Olivia Buirge
4 Gayla Hopkins	15 Jonathan Havener	23 Bill Hargest	Jordan Hoover
5 Judah Whittington	James Wilkin	25 Taylor Brown	30 Beth Kuchma
9 Damion Carey	16 Gary Anderson	Hazel McKinney	Lisa Lish
Sandy Garver	Sandy Richardson	26 Abbey Mycyk	
Kayla Murphy	17 Will Arnold	Alexia Walters	
10 Joe Daly	Tobin Longmore	27 Lilian Stites	
1 Dan & Carol Dupee	14 Gary & Peggy Anderson		
James & June Yoder	17 Damion & Megan Carey		
9 Joe & Laura Daly	25 David & Susann Pinkerton		
12 Jeffery & Barb Buirge	30 Bob & Lisa Arnold		

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **Aven Rose Pieltt** was born to **Nick & Rachel** on July 21....that **Brian Altmeyer** has stepped down as an active elder in order to provide needed care for his widowed mother.... that an ear of corn has an even number of rows of kernels.... that **Clint & Lisa Van'tLand** have recently become confirmed members of our church....that Lisa is now on our Womens' Connection leadership team.... that a giraffe's tongue is so long it is used to clean their ears.... that **Annie Dupee** has taken a position with Montreat College in North Carolina....that **Josh Laird's** Eden Christian baseball team made it all the way to the state finals....that a grasshoppers sense of hearing is centered in its front knees....that **Elizabeth Arnold** was a camp counselor at Ligonier this Summer....that BSF starts back live at NPC on September 14 at 7:00 P.M....that 70% of Americans own running shoes, but don't run....that **Maria Allewelt** spent her recent birthday in July hiking in the Austrian Alps....that **Owen Henry Sharpnack**, son of Adam & Abby Sharpnack, was born July 15 in North Carolina....that a coyote can outrun a greyhound....that the entire **Morley family** completed the A-Z challenge....that **Sophie Wilkin** is attending the University of Toronto....that live mice can be shipped via US mail....that those who read the FYI ship 9% fewer mice than those who do not? Did you know these things? I thought you should.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22 | AFTER WORSHIP | SANCTUARY

Plan to stay an extra hour after worship on Sunday August 22 for our annual congregational meeting. Session is recommending that we take a vote on an amended proposal to adjust church voting age to include any of our teens who have completed the membership class and are at least 16 years of age during that calendar year. The previous proposal to lower the age to 15 received over 60% vote, but a 2/3 vote is required.

Other matters to deal with include election of officers, approval of pastors' salaries, and the presentation of the budget. Nursery will stay open during this meeting. Young children and guests are welcomed to attend.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE:

Elder: Dan Dupee, Grant McKinney, and John Holt

Deacon: Hank Lish, Lisa Lish, Stacy Tessaro, Carol Dupee, Larry Satariano, Doug Reed, Kate Shriver, and Lauren Fowler

NORTH PARK ENCOUNTER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 | 5:00 - 8:00 P.M.



**NORTH PARK
ENCOUNTER**

The next opportunity to get a crash course on our church and begin the membership process will be Sunday evening, September 19, as Pastor Hendley offers another North Park ENCOUNTER. The ENCOUNTER will run from 5:00-8:00 P.M., with a free meal provided.

A fast-moving, enjoyable evening is our guarantee. The class is designed for adults 16 and over, but all ages may come. Childcare is provided. For more info or to sign up email Pastor Dan (danhendley@northparkepc.org) or sign up at the Welcome Center in the lobby.

HISTORY CORNER

"The secret of endurance is Christ in you, not you in a different set of circumstances." - Elizabeth Elliott, 1926-2015

FAMILY OF THE MONTH: GLANCY

Meet the Glancys. Both Rob and Diane are lifelong North Hills residents that wouldn't ever consider living on the other side of the "tubes". Diane is the daughter of Tim and Andrea Blackburn whom also attend NPC with her younger sister Lisa. Diane went to Portersville Christian and then Grove City College where she majored in marketing.

Rob has one younger brother. Rob went to North Allegheny and then to Mercyhurst for accounting. He entered the family business, R. A. Glancy and Sons that his grandfather started in Gibsonia 70 years ago. They do all types of commercial construction but specialize in schools and V.A. hospitals.

Diane and Rob met through a business relationship. Diane was working full time for Don's Glass and Mirror, a sub-contractor for Glancy & Sons and the relationship grew into romance and they were married at Phipps years later. Diane still works about 12 hours a week for Don's Glass and Mirror and Grandma Andrea enjoys time with the children when they are not otherwise in school.

I first saw the Glancy family as a competitive unit at the Light of Life dinner and auction (a Compass event at NPC). They bid and won numerous items including my services as a "house plant care consultant." The highlight of the night was watching their children compete with the Morley children in a live auction to purchase a wooden train made by Tim LaBarre and the Highpointe woodworkers. Robert and Andrew, their two oldest children, pooled their resources and won that bidding war with the same generous effort that their parents display so often at NPC events. What others may not have known is that the Glancy children and the Morley children will end up playing with it together when they get together with the Burkholders, Brights, and Mitchells for care group.

Robert (12), the oldest child, loves doing anything outdoors including camping, cutting the grass, and other yard work. If you see Andrew (8) wearing a green polo at church it is because he loves the color green. He also loves math facts and his favorite animal is the raccoon. Autumn (7) is a typical girl who likes to spend time with her girlfriends, especially shopping and baking. Diane also has a stepdaughter from Rob's previous relationship, Katie (23), and has given them a granddaughter, Skye. They live in Altoona.

Diane's favorite scripture is *Isaiah 40:8*. Read it and it might explain why Diane, who is an excellent outdoor gardener, bid on my help for her houseplants. Diane also loves baking and volunteers for the meal ministry. She has helped with Trekkers and VBS and the whole family comes to COMPASS events. Maybe they *have to* with Ben leading their care group.

Rob's favorite verses are the ones you hear read at weddings, *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*. Rob would love to play more golf. I suggest that he be "patient" and "kind," and not "envy" those of us that play more golf. If he "trusts," "hopes," and "perseveres," his time will come. A fun fact about the wisdom of Rob...when R.A. Glancy & Sons is bidding on a school project, he wears the school colors on that day.

As I was interviewing Diane and getting to know their family, I said that their competitiveness reminded me of the Stites family. Both are blessed families that contribute their time and talents to the church, but I don't know if the Stites family can top this story that Diane shared about a competition within their family members. "In the past few years our family started playing a game at Christmas that centers around a gift exchange. The winner is the person with the gift purchased at the highest discounted price. It's a serious competition requiring proof in the form of the sales receipt, still attached price tags, or photographic evidence of the original and sale prices." I hope you find the opportunity to get to know the Glancys even better in the future. - **Jim Ludwig**



WORSHIP

FALL WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY: JUDGES

THE STENCH OF SIN IS NO MATCH FOR THE GRACE OF GOD

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 | 9:15 - 11:15 A.M. | ROOM 307

In October of 2019, our family moved into a new home. Moving tends to be a little chaotic. When half of your possessions are packed and you can't remember which half and you can't find what you need...and there's paperwork and a whole list of to-do's from the township, which our excellent real estate agent, Vic Illnicki, who is a member of NPC, has always taken care of. However, during this move, one of the township's requirements, a dye test, failed inspection on the home we were selling and revealed a block in our sewer line.

Ugh! Yuck! Needless to say, I was feeling a bit of stress and frustration about the delay in the process, but we called a plumber; they snaked the line and it all worked out.

Less than two weeks pass and I walk to the basement of our new home to check the progress of the laundry and see that water is coming up out of the drain in the floor. As the laundry drained from the washer, the puddle on the floor expanded more and more. Our new home's sewer line was also blocked.

Ugh! Yuck! And maybe a tear or two. Really?! Again?!

I wonder if God has ever thought, "Ugh! Yuck! Really?! Again?!" in conjunction to His people and our distrust of Him, our disobedience. Of course, He's never surprised, and in Exodus, He describes

Himself as "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness," but I imagine that His heart still breaks each time we live into the stench of our sin rather than living into the pleasing aroma of trust and obedience.

I wonder if He felt His heart break because of my very own disobedience during these sewage struggles as I worried about and tried to control everything rather than trusting Him. Did I mention that I actually drove to the McCandless township building to ask them to do our failed test again because they must have done it wrong? I worried, then I tried to fix it, then I worried some more.

I'm sure that my own sin has a stench that is even more putrid than I could know or imagine; yours does too. But God is SO GOOD! He doesn't hold His nose and run in the opposite direction. He invites us to draw near. In

fact, He commands us to come to Him, cast our cares upon Him and find relief and rest. He takes our sinful stench, washes us, makes us pure and dresses us in Christ's obedience. And, as if all of that was not enough, He places the Spirit of Jesus within us and promises to NEVER leave us or forsake us. WOW!!! Take that in for a moment. Now consider the book of Judges.

Judges is a book filled with stories of man's inability to keep God's law. It is filled with acts of violence that are hard for us to fathom. The book of Judges is filled with the stench of man's sin. If we focus on those acts of violence and man's heinous heart while reading Judges, it makes us want to hold our nose and run in the opposite direction. But, what if we focus our eyes on God and even fix our eyes on Jesus as we read? Then we will see "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness".



We will recognize our complete inability to keep God's law, our total depravity and dependence upon Him and we will see His patience with and faithfulness to His people. He doesn't give up on His own.

"Time after time you read of (Israel) being in hard captivity for their sins, time after time you read of God delivering them; and yet a few short years and it seems to have been all forgotten. The Lord gave

them judges and kings, and priests and prophets and ministers, and preachings and warnings; and yet their history, with a few exceptions, is a history of unbelief, and backsliding, and transgression, and crime—down to the very day when they crucified the Lord Jesus Christ Himself!" (J.C. Ryle)

Ladies, I invite you to gather with us to marvel at God's mercy and stand in awe of His grace as we study the book of Judges this fall.

We will meet each **Monday morning from 9:15 - 11:15 A.M. in Room 307 starting September 13**. If you would like a copy of the Precept Judges workbook to use during our study, please **sign up online or by contacting me by August 30** so that I can order materials for you. The cost of the workbook is \$15.75. Questions? Email Amber Stites (amberstites@northparkepc.org).
- **Amber Stites**

STUDENT MINISTRY: SUMMER RECAP

The Lord has blessed our youth group with an extremely fun and eventful summer! After a year of cautiousness and social distancing, the student ministry program needed to focus on team building and fellowshiping. We worked through several of the Psalms on Sunday evenings and played a lot of Ultimate Frisbee and kickball. Bruster's and Rita's Italian Ice catered two of our Summer Sundays which helped us endure the hot weather! On top of the Sunday night gatherings, we've gone miniature golfing together and had a blast at Kennywood after service on August 8.



By God's grace, the mission trip to Dunlow, WV was an amazing success that abundantly impacted the ten students and three adult leaders who participated. Bill and Addie Likens founded and continue to run the Dunlow Community Center which focuses on providing food and clothing to the neediest of their area. They are an amazing couple that demonstrates sacrificial love and servant leadership on a daily basis. Every single member of our team was convicted, encouraged, and emboldened by Bill and Addie's example. We partnered with the Likens as well as their usual volunteers to serve hundreds of families in the Dunlow area. Every workday was filled with deep exhaustion but an even deeper sense of joy. May the Lord continue to bless the Dunlow Community Center and our youth group as we both move forward with our separate ministries into the fall season! - **Taylor Brown**

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 5

No Youth Group
Due to Labor Day

SEPTEMBER 15

Small Groups
7:00 - 8:30 P.M.
North Park Church

SEPTEMBER 26

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

SEPTEMBER 12

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

SEPTEMBER 19

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

SEPTEMBER 29

Small Groups
7:00 - 8:30 P.M.
North Park Church



NORTH PARK CHURCH

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATES: A LOT OF NEW GOING ON

This Fall, as children return to school, there will be a lot of new happening! Many kids will go to school - physically - for the first time ever or after a year of online or at home education. For some, they will also return after a very long absence. With new things come new challenges and new excitement! Church is no exception. We've got a lot of new things happening in the Children's Ministry.

NEW CHILD CHECK-IN SYSTEM

You will see very shortly three stations being installed - two in the lobby and one on the first floor near the main entrance. Parents and others with children will learn shortly how to check in their child(ren) using Servant Keeper, a new secure system. Parents will no longer need to register every year. We'll just ask you to verify your information or update us when information changes each year. Keep an eye out for information on how to use this new system soon!



NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Beginning on September 12, kids will be put into classes with teachers who will teach Bible lessons using the Dwell curriculum which, "actively engages kids in God's story using interactive games, reflective wondering, dramatic storytelling, and a whole lot of fun." The Dwell curriculum is based on a rotating model of two years and we will be on Year 2. One thing that is not new is our teachers! All of our

teachers are experienced leaders who choose to work with our children each week. Welcome back Holly Fairfield, Stacy Altmyer, Susan O'Leary, Susan Burke, Joyce Kish, and Kristen Satariano!

KIDS' WORSHIP



We have decided on a new curriculum — this curriculum is packed full of music, games, crafts, and other fun activities to help children remember the bible lesson that they learn each week. Kids' Worship is for kids ages 3 - 2nd grade and they will be divided into two groups. This year, 3-years-old will be welcome to stay in their room the whole church service with safe, friendly caregivers. All of the other kids who come to Kids' Worship will be dismissed part way through the adult worship service as usual. We plan to bring back snacks this year too in Kids' Worship as well as Sunday School at various times.

TREKKERS

This year we have new leaders. We welcome Chad and Beth Morley and Jonathan and Kim Mycyk to our Trekkers leadership team. Trekkers is our junior youth group-like group for 3rd-5th graders. Trekkers meets once a month, this year on the **second** Sunday of each month from 4:30 - 6:00 P.M. It starts in September and runs through May.



The kids will be studying what the Bible has to say about confidence and how we can build a confidence that lasts using Carlos Whittaker's book, "Press Play."



Trekkers has games, prizes, Bible study, prayer and dinner that will be served each month. If you would be interested in making a simple meal for the children one month, please contact Kelly Laird (kellylaird@northparkepc.org). With so many new things going on, I can't wait to see what God has in store for our children this year!

A TO Z CHALLENGE 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! Church, we have a few weeks left 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 by the end of August to schedule a time to say all 26 verses out loud!



VBS RECAP



VBS was back this year and oh, what fun we had! faithLAB went SOOO well! One hundred and ten children came to camp, half NPC kids and half from the community, where they learned about God and how He created the Science we see all around us. We learned about faith and what that looks like in every day life! Our teachers taught all kinds of Science-inspired, Christ-focused lessons and kids and their families were drawn closer to the Lord because of it! We even took the opportunity to do missions.

We collected over \$2,000 to purchase lab equipment for the new Science lab at our Edunations school in Rokassa, Sierra Leone. And, we did local missions by making scripture cards that were tucked into succulents and given to residents at St. Barnabas! Let's celebrate the many good things that happened in June! Thank you to our small army who made it happen! - **Kelly Laird**





CONNECT

NPC SPORTING CLAYS 2021

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 | 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Come join us for a yearly favorite of Men's Ministry, shooting sporting clays. Whether you are a novice or seasoned veteran, come enjoy dusting clays with others from the church. It is also a great time to bring your neighbors and also to introduce your children to the art of shooting. No experience is required as safety and training lessons will be given to all new or inexperienced shooters.

The shoot is open to all men, women, boys, and girls ages 11 and older. It will be held on Saturday, September 25 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Gospel Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Valencia, PA. The cost is \$15 per person (guests are free), which will cover clays, shells, and lunch.

Sign up at the table in the lobby during the month of September or by emailing Ian Miller (ilm44@hotmail.com).



LIGONIER CONFERENCE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2021
WYNDHAM GRAND PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN

Ligonier Ministries is holding its national conference at the Wyndham downtown, Friday and Saturday September 24-25. To find out more or to register, go to the Ligonier website <https://www.ligonier.org/events/2021-pittsburgh-conference/register> or call (800) 435-4343.



IMPACT

TEMPORARY VOLUNTEERS FOR EDUNATIONS NEEDED

Our partner agency that provides education to remote villages in Sierra Leone (EduNations) needs your help contacting current donors and helping them transition to their new giving platform. While the great majority of donors will make this transition on their own, they will need help following up with donors who forget to update their information with the new platform. Maintaining their giving is essential for the long-term health of this partner organization, and we are looking for some North Park people to help out.



At present, we are looking for three or four individuals who would be willing to take on the task of calling about 30 current donors and assisting them in the transition process. You will receive training from EduNations and be given the essential information to walk them through the steps. At present, we anticipate the time window

for this volunteer work occurring at the end of September and for the duration of October. If you are available and would be willing to take on this task, it would be a blessing to them and help them maintain their financial income stream as they do a much needed upgrade to their donor portal.

If you wish to assist, contact Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

In August of 2021, Emily transitioned her ministry to serve in a new region. She is now working in North Africa as an English teacher at a university. The country she works in is predominately Muslim, with an astounding 99% of the population identifying as Muslim. Out of the millions of people in this country, it is estimated there are only 500 indigenous believers, with only 1/3 of those believers attending a church.

As a result, there is a great need in this country, yet many in this country do not understand their need. Through her role as an English teacher, Emily will have unprecedented opportunities to get to know students and speak Truth into their lives. Emily will also live with a team of other teachers who intentionally build relationships with students and demonstrate the love of the Father. The work is necessary, yet it can progress slowly. Be praying for her as our King expands His Kingdom!

The work she is doing is very important. The large majority of this country's population is under the age of 30. History has shown that young people are often the catalyst for change. Therefore, reaching the young people is reaching this nation!



YOU CAN PRAY FOR EMILY IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- To cultivate good relationships with the people despite potential curfews or restrictions.
- For open doors to share Hope and Truth.
- Protection from the Father as she lives in a different culture.
- Unity and strong fellowship with those on her team.

MISSIONS—YEAR IN REVIEW

Thank you for your generosity over the past year. It has allowed us to maintain support for our missionaries throughout a difficult season. In addition, we have been able to invest in our long-term partners in fairly significant ways. For instance, we donated toward a matching campaign to raise money for a new traveling ultrasound to be used in Russia. We gave assistance money to Reflecting God's Grace Ministries (led by Maria Allewelt), which allowed them to support a number of women and children who were financially strained for food and lodging during this season. The CCO position at Gateway was maintained throughout this year, keeping a quality staff person in place for this fall when the church hopes to return to meeting on campus and maximizing its impact with students. We also contributed to a church plant in Haiti in conjunction with Livingstone Reformed Mission, and this is not all that we've done.



Let's not forget the incredible gift of \$40,577 to EduNations to complete a church in Sierra Leone, which continues to be built on pace. Your generosity has been an encouragement to the saints all over the world. Thank you so much!

- **Ben Burkholder**



SOMETHING'S COMING...

This September, we look forward to telling you more about a journey that a number of us have been on for the past year practicing a few simple yet profound disciplines. In some ways, I feel like I have been holding onto a big secret as I have seen others and myself stretch what we thought was possible and found ourselves responding to God's invitations in surprising ways.

What is this secret? It is that practicing the disciplines of prayer, blessing, and living from the vibrant life of Christ, in close community with others, has spurred me to share Christ's love with others in ways that genuinely surprise me.

Before intentionally focusing on these disciplines with a group of peers, I had never bought spontaneous gifts for anyone, though I often admired those who had the knack for buying just the right one. But as we devoted ourselves to praying for opportunities to share Christ's love for others, suddenly options for gift-giving became much more apparent. The neighbor's new dog could use a chew toy. Those leftover Easter Lilies hanging around the church exit would bring cheer to my isolated elderly neighbors. A phone call with a former neighbor seemed to take a meandering turn when he started talking about how much he liked tea with honey instead of coffee. Rather than checking out of the conversation, I started making plans of how to get tea and honey on the next grocery list. Suddenly, it didn't seem so hard to think of fitting gifts for people. When I started praying for such opportunities, they started popping up everywhere.

This is just one example of how I have seen myself change through this journey. I have seen surprising things happen when six of us practiced these together. Imagine what can happen if we implement them as a church? The gates of Hell won't be able to contain it (*Matthew 16:18*). I look forward to hearing your stories in the months to come.

This month, we start with the first step, which is prayer. We start there because without God, all human effort is empty and worthless. The prophet Isaiah called human flesh as good as grass (*Isaiah 40:6*). Without God being in it, all our best efforts will wither like dying flowers. We come to the brokenness, isolation, and pain of our world like the boy pulled from the 5,000 with only five loaves and two fish. We have very little with which to address the hunger of the world, and yet God has the power to multiply it beyond our imaginations. It is God who can use our words to inspire, our gifts to convey love, our meals to extend welcome, and our service to help. Thus, we start with, and never move on from, prayer. As we end September, we are going to invite you to join us in praying proactively for God to use each of us as he sees fit.

Are you curious about what will happen? If our experience is any guide, you'll discover God doing things through you that you never expected, and when that happens I hope you start telling people about it.

- Ben Burkholder

