

Owe no one anything,
except to LOVE each
other, for the one who
loves another has
fulfilled the law.
Romans 13:8

HISTORY CORNER

God in His grace condescends to dwell among sinners. God in His mercy makes it possible for men to dwell with Him. John the Baptist’s message was not, “Repent in order that the kingdom may come,” but “Repent because the kingdom is coming;” it was the settled and searching future fact which gave him a present, urgent message. J.A. Motyer (1924-2016), *The Day of the Lion: The Message of Amos*



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Saturday, December 24
6:00 - 7:00 P.M. ONLY

We’ll attempt one fabulous Christmas Eve service this year. Nursery will be offered for those under three. Pastor Dan will preach and we’ll worship with great traditional Christmas hymnody, ending with a candlelight singing of Silent Night. Please plan to come with your family and bring a friend. Please contact Kelly Laird (kellylaird@northparkepc.org) if you are available to assist in the nursery for Sunday Worship for Sunday, December 26.



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Our Advent Devotionals are ready! Take home a print copy or find this helpful resource on the church website. Each day is written by a different person so it is sure to be an interesting read for people of all ages! This year, we crowd-sourced the needed information from North Park folks! Many thanks to our authors who contributed and made this project great!

- Brian Altmyer

Jane Anzaldi

Gloria Baldauff

Adam Bright

Susan Burke

Ben Burkholder

Jen Burkholder

Dan Dupee

Beth Hendley

Dan Hendley

John Holt

Natalie Karr

Gary Laird
- Jim Ludwig

Grant McKinney

Chad Morley

Laura Osmond

Pat Premick

Diana Rush

Mark Sharpnack

Amber Stites

Andy Stites

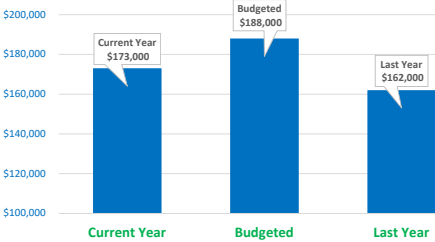
Phil Van Sickle

Bryan Whittington

Jim Yoder

GIVING UPDATE

Your NPC Giving for September & October 2021
Giving thanks always - Ephesians 5:20



After two months - Unified Giving of \$173,000 for our church year is 8% below our budgeted amount and 7% more than last year.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that NPC member, **Helen Menhorn** has turned 100...that **Vanessa Chen** has become a confirmed member of our church...that Vanessa is from Taiwan and is a professor at CMU...that 26% of American adults have never flown...that **Holly Murphy** is a reading specialist...that Todd Murphy recently caused a sensation at his school by donning a Bigfoot costume of his own making...that 39% of Americans list “more money” as their primary need....that **Laura Osmond, Jody Bishop** and **Lisa Lish** were in charge of food for our recent hosting of Presbytery...that **Susann Pinkerton, Barb Buirge** and **Janie Koska** recently provided dishes for the elders and wives dinner in early November...that the main dish was brisket smoked by **Steve Rush**...that 67% of married persons believe their spouse spends more time in the bathroom than they do...that **Dr. Chris Cirucci** is traveling to D.C. on December 1 to stand with other physicians in support of life in the womb...that **Chloe Havener** flew to Montana to make a wedding dress for sister, **Tirzah**...that that 2/3 of stolen cars are found but usually with missing parts...that **Rachael Pielt** is looking for a part-time job...that **Ben Burkholder** is on the board of Grafted Life Ministries and recently attended the national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society in Dallas...that Clarence Odbody is the name of the angel in It’s a Wonderful Life...that former Eagle and Viking quarterback, Randall Cunningham became a pastor...that **Doug and Kim Runyan** both came to faith through Young Life...that Americans spend an average of \$987 on Christmas gifts...that those who read the FYI spend 7% less than those who do not? Did you know these things? I thought you should.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 2
Ladies Christmas Tea
6:00 P.M. | Room 112

December 5
Gingerbread Construction Inc.
3:30 P.M. | Blue Room
House Party Pickup @ 3:00 P.M.

December 19
Christmas Play
9:00 A.M. | Blue Room
Sunday Worship
10:15 A.M. | no Sunday School
Christmas Caroling
2:00 P.M. | Cumberland Crossing Manor

December 24
Christmas Eve Service
6:00 P.M. | Nursery provided

December 26
Sunday Worship
10:15 A.M. | No Sunday School

FAMILY OF THE MONTH: BISHOP

If you have not met Jody and Don Bishop yet, what are you waiting for? They each lived separate lives that included marriages of 37 years (John and Jody Jacobs/Moskal) and 43 years (Don and Barbara Renner/Bishop) full of both joy and sadness. Both spouses died of cancer Barbara in 2013 and John in 2015.

Their favorite scripture verses reveal a common theme. Jody’s is *Hebrew 13:5b* “I will never leave you or forsake you.” Don’s is *Psalms 73*, a Psalm where the writer first thinks that he has unjustly suffered many trials and finally realizes that God is his provider, sustainer, and all that he needs. Hang on while I give you some snippets of their first life and then the new life they are beginning together.

Don grew up in Scranton, PA with good Christian parents and an older sister. He gave his life to Christ at the age of 14. He met his future wife Barbara as a teenager when they went to “Youth for Christ” meetings together. He went to Pinebrook Junior College which was founded by the Bible Fellowship Church his family attended. After being introduced to reformed theology, he did a year at Covenant College, a PCA school, and majored in Philosophy.

Don and Barbara were married 10/30/1970. His first job was with Barbara’s family meat processing business. Don then took a job with a national meat company which took them to Buffalo, NY. While there he served as an elder at a new PCA church in Williamsville.

In 2002, Don’s company joined Acosta Sales, a national food brokerage firm which moved him and Barb to Pittsburgh in 2004. He retired in 2015. Don has one daughter, Aimee who also lives in Pittsburgh.

Jody grew up in Elizabeth, PA with three sisters and one brother. Jody earned an Associate Degree in Applied Science - Medical Secretarial. Jody and John Moskal were married on 5/6/1978. A year and a half later, with Jody reluctantly agreeing, they moved to Fort Lauderdale, FL to advance John’s job with Fred S. James, an insurance brokerage firm.

After 6 years, they moved back to Pittsburgh and joined NPC while Dan Lacich was the pastor. Jody was a part of the choir or worship teams under various music directors. God spoke to Jody and John separately and they answered God’s call to go with Bob and Deb Stauffer to plant Gateway Church in Slippery Rock. It was during their six years at Gateway that John began his fight with cancer.

Two years after John lost his battle with cancer and five years after Barbara’s death from breast cancer, Leanne Mihelic (friend of Don at Christ Church and Jody in CBS leadership) suggested that Jody and Don could be a good match. Their first date was at Bonefish Grill 10/16/2017 where they talked for 5 hours. Things moved fast and they were married in April 2018 because as Jody said, “When you’re old you just know.”

FAST FUN FACTS INCLUDE:

They are the oldest couple Dan and Beth Hendley have ever counseled for marriage. They also received personality testing and counseling from Don’s pastor Barry Mariana at Christ Church. They were married 6 months after meeting on 4/21/2018 at NPC and had their reception in the Blue Room. Both Jody’s and Don’s first marriages were to their high school sweethearts and both were “in sickness or in health, until death do us part.”

Jody and John had a significant spiritual rebirth while attending a church in West Boca Raton, FL that was pastored by Smiley Sturgis who went to school with Dan Hendley. About 40 years later, Jody and Don are a part of Dan Hendley’s Care Group.

The last person John Moskal hired to be part of Aon Insurance Brokerage was Jonathan Mycyk. The same couple that invited Jody and John to NPC also invited the Kishes (Pat and Denise Perry). John and Joyce went to school together and their sons became best friends.

Jody Bishop and Joyce Kish worked together on NPC’s 40th Anniversary Celebration. Don was in the food business all his life. He now serves on the Men’s Committee at Christ Church and directs the food prep for their monthly men’s breakfast. John also directed the men’s breakfast here at NPC for many years.

Jody serves as a Deacon on the Hospitality Team and planned the food for NPC’s 40th Anniversary. John and Jody’s first child was a still born son and Julianne was born exactly one year later. Julianne and Tim have given her 2 grandchildren.

Kevin, her youngest son, married Melissa in 2020 and they are expecting their first child, Jody’s third grandchild. Jody and Don thought about having a child together but as Jody said before “When you’re old you just know...” so they adopted a two-year-old miniature poodle, Bianca.

Don is an all-around handy man. Jody has fun thrifting. Jody is also a long time singer in the Pittsburgh Concert Choral that Sandra Bedford’s husband, Clark founded.

After Don and Jody’s wedding they left in a 1990 red corvette. It has since been replaced by a 1998 red BMW convertible. When I was taking notes to write this article, I was using a pen given to me by Dave Cranston advertising his business. Dave’s wife Joni is the leader of CBS that brought Jody and Leanne together who introduced Jody to Don.

God’s providence for Jody and Don is more than a remarkable coincidence!



Don and Jody Bishop with Bianca

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Patricia Schaefer

2 Natalie Smalley

3 Joan Castillo

4 Daniel Satariano

5 Elaine Longjohn

6 Judy Brooks

7 William Jr. Wickard

8 Nadia Wickard

9 Laura Dzadovsky
- 14 John Holt

15 Scott Dzadovsky

16 Jennie Mycyk

17 Brian Harrer

18 Todd Murphy

19 Frank Librich

20 Jim Baldauff

21 Denny Koska

22 Chad Fairfield
- 23 Jon Gay

24 Aubrey Mitchell

25 Nancy Van Sickle

26 Nicole Hoover

27 Kristin Brown

28 Emily Stimpson

29 Anna Fowler

30 Laura Wiggins
- 11 James & Mary Warmbrodt

12 Bill & Pat Hargest

13 Gary & Kelly Laird

14 Paul & Jane Anzaldi

15 Timothy & Rosemary Craft

16 Chris & Annette Wu

DEAR **Peter Pan** & **CHOOSY MOM**

A column to answer all your PBJ questions...

WHO COUNTS?

Dear Peter Pan & Choosy Mom,
I'm not all that great at prayer in general and often don't take the time I should to pray for those closest to me. Can I practice PBJ within my own family? —**Family Man**

Dear Family Man,
Yes, you can, and in fact I hope you are looking for ways to bless your family too. One of the things on my to do list every day is to think of at least one thing I appreciate about my spouse. It helps even more when you get to tell them what you appreciate about him or her, which is a form of blessing, namely, affirmation. It would be a tragedy if we were great at blessing others outside of our homes and then failing to do so with those with whom we live. Yes, you can pray and ask God for opportunities to bless your family members. I would just encourage you to think about how you can bless others in addition to your family as well.
— **Peter Pan**

Dear Family Man,
Absolutely!!! Yes, it is good to spend time each and every day praying for those closest to you. In *Matthew 25*, Jesus tells the parable of the talents and *Matthew 25:23* says, "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'"

While I'm hesitant to say that being faithful to our family is being faithful over only "a little," I will say that it's a great place to start practicing good, godly habits and disciplines. Consider also, *1 Timothy 3:4-5* which says that an elder "must manage his own family well" for if he "does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?" So if you are not praying for, and blessing, and overflowing the love of Jesus with those in your own family, make it your goal to start there and enter into the joy of your Master.
— **Choosy Mom**

If you have a PBJ question that you would like answered, please send it to PBJ@northparkepc.org



GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONSTRUCTION, INC.
Saturday, December 4
3:30 P.M. | Blue Room

We'll have our annual Gingerbread House Construction Party in the Blue Room. This is a fun evening of refreshments, storytelling, and making gingerbread houses. It's also an opportunity for you to invite your friends and family (especially ones that don't come to our church) to experience a fun family night and celebrate Jesus' coming to earth. This year will look a little different. For those who wish to join the event with other families from the church and community, we will begin at 3:30 P.M. and conclude before 5:00 P.M. For those who feel uncomfortable about doing this in a large group, we are allowing families to sign up for Gingerbread kits and come to pick them up from 3:00-3:30 P.M. If you wish to participate in either option, please sign up in the lobby or email Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org). All people need to bring is one can of vanilla icing per person to serve as the glue and cement for their tasty creations. Other building supplies will be provided by donors. If you'd like to donate candy for the gingerbread houses, see the table in the lobby to sign up for the needed supplies. Finally – Please pray about whom you should invite! Invite cards are available at the table in the lobby. - **Pastor Ben**

HOW WILL YOU **BLESS** THIS DECEMBER?

1. Give someone a compliment
2. Write a letter to a friend
3. Let someone go ahead of you in line
4. Smile at everyone today
5. Visit a neighbor, ask how it's going and practice listening
6. Leave a treat for your mailman
7. Send a thank you card to someone, or hand deliver it
8. Color a picture for an elderly person
9. Send a Christmas card to someone you wouldn't normally send one to
10. Visit someone in a nursing home
11. Send a letter to someone in the military
12. Call someone just to say "hello"
13. Tape change to a Bible verse and leave it on a vending machine
14. Bake cookies and deliver some to neighbors
15. Host a gift wrapping party and invite some neighbors
16. Give someone a compliment
17. Buy a treat and give it to the cashier at a store
18. Invite a neighbor for tea or coffee
19. Offer to babysit for a neighbor to do some last minute shopping or wrapping

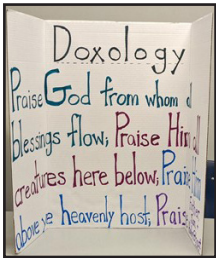


CHRISTMAS CAROLING
Sunday, December 5
2:00 - 3:00 P.M.
Cumberland Crossing

Has Christ's coming to earth brought joy to your life? If so, let's join together to share that joy with others this Christmas season. We'll have the chance to proclaim the wonders of the incarnation to a local assisted living facility. If you'd like to join us, meet us at the entrance to Cumberland Crossing Manor. We'll provide song sheets for the caroling. Due to the protocols the facility is taking, please, be prepared to **wear a mask** for the duration. Sign up by emailing Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org) so we are able to contact you quickly if access should be restricted. - **Pastor Ben**

TREKKERS CHRISTMAS PARTY!
Sunday, December 12
4:30 - 6:00 P.M.

Come ready to celebrate that Christ is the Light of the World! We'll have food, games, and a devotional that you won't want to miss. We will also be having a REPURPOSED White Elephant exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift that is from home, something you are ready to pass on to a friend- not something new! And as usual, friends are welcome too! Enjoy some pictures from last month's Trekkers when we studied Gideon:



CHRISTMAS PLAY
December 19 | 9:00 A.M.
Blue Room

The children and teens of North Park Church will be celebrating Christmas with a new Christmas Play. Join us in the Blue Room for *The Jesus Gift*, a play written by Brooke & Gayla Hopkins that our kids are performing. Enjoy this lighthearted drama that will help us all take away messages about Christmas and its true meaning. Light refreshments will be provided after the show.



COLLEGE & CAREERS KICKOFF!
Wednesday, December 29
7:00 P.M. | Room 112

Calling all college students and twenty-somethings! Join us for a Christmas/New Year get-together. We'll be meeting for food, games, and an optional White Elephant gift exchange. We'll also be spending time discussing future meetings as we launch a reboot of our College & Careers ministry. Contact Gary Laird (thelairdsfive@gmail.com) with any questions. - **Gary Laird**



MORE ADVENT IDEAS
Looking for other ways to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth? Here are a few others to try.

SEEDS
From Pop-up books to read alongs to videos to Nativity sets and music to sing along, Seeds has lots of great resources especially for young families. seedsfamilyworship.com

ILLUSTRATED MINISTRY
This great website offers coloring pages and posters for every church holiday of the year. From Thanksgiving to Christmas to Easter, you can find intricate, almost stained-glass-like coloring sheets for people of all ages to purchase. illustratedministry.com

PROVERBIAL HOMEMAKER
Bloggers more your style? Check out this blog from a great lady who stokes the discussion on a wide range of topics that we Christians, and specifically moms, want to talk about! She also has lots of suggestions on how to lead your family through life, "Focusing on Christ and relationships is what matters most!" Check out Tauna's 5 Steps to Simple and Meaningful Holidays and many other helpful topics and resources by going to proverbialhomemaker.com

STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE: MINISTRY OF LISTENING
Sunday, January 15, 2022

You have an opportunity to participate in a LUNCH & LEARN. Along with lunch, we'll be presenting a brief teaching time and role playing on "listening". It is the "L" in "BAGELS" that Pastor Ben will preach about this month. Listening is an important piece of the "Blessing" part of PBJ as well as a significant part of a Stephen Minister's relationship with his/her Care Receiver. Being a good listener is a way to demonstrate care to others in any relationship. You're invited to consider becoming a Stephen Minister at this LUNCH & LEARN. We think you will be greatly blessed! Perhaps, like Esther in the Bible, God has been preparing you for a moment like this (*Esther 4:14*). God is always at work in people's lives wanting them to grow through serving. Come and see if Stephen Ministry may be where God is calling you next. Please feel free to talk to any of the Stephen Ministry Leaders with any questions - **Mark Sharpnack, Susan Meenaghan, and Rachel Sharpnack**

KIDS' WORSHIP

Here are some more fun facts from Explore the Bible Kids, our Kids' Worship curriculum. Our kids have been enjoying these kind of fun facts along with all of the interesting things they are learning about God and His word! Yay!

- In India, you can show respect by eating with your right hand.
- But if you are in Jordan, show respect by never showing the bottom
- In Bible times, buildings were constructed using iron nails, hammers, chisels, cedar logs, stone, gold, silver and bronze compared to today when we use machines, concrete, rebar, steel, granite, marble and limestone!
- Zechariah's tomb is a MONOLITH—a monument carved out of a single, solid rock. However, it is empty and no one knows where Zechariah was buried.