



FYI

VOLUME 176

NORTH PARK CHURCH

MARCH 2022

Therefore, we are
ambassadors for Christ,
God making His appeal
through us. We implore
you on behalf of Christ, be
reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

WHATS INSIDE

- 2**
Did You Know?
History Corner
Congregational Meeting
Session Report
Giving Update
- 3**
Family of the Month
- 4**
Dear Peter Pan & Choosy Mom
- 5**
Ways To BLESS
Spring Sunday School
- 6**
Children's Ministry News
VBS
- 7**
Youth Group Schedule
Love Through Listening
COMPASS Event
- 8**
Father-Daughter Dance
Birthdays & Anniversaries

NPC FEATURES

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the **HOPKINS** are up to nine grandchildren with the birth of **WINSLOW LOVE** to **KEITH & RUBY**....that 23 couples attended our Valentine's Dinner event, catered by T-Bones....that there is a temple in Sri Lanka dedicated to a tooth of the buddha....that our most recent Alpha course is off to a great start with nearly 20 attendees....that **MARK SHARPNAK** and **DIANA RUSH** are speaking at a meeting of church administrators on building a great staff team....that emus cannot walk backwards....that **JIM WARBRODT** is a gifted painter (artist)....that **GERRY RICHARDSON** recently had cataract surgery....that **TACEY HOPPER** attended church on February 6 in full Islamic burka as part of our Ministry Highlight on missions....that the U.S. government's silver supply is kept at the military academy in West Point.... that **TIM & ROSEMARY CRAFT** were married by Rev. Ronald McDonald.... that **NATE FAIRFIELD** played soccer for Allegheny College....that our eyes are the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing....that those who read the FYI have 12% smaller ears than those who do not? Did you know these things? I thought you should.

HISTORY CORNER

A Bible lesson for today. Ecclesiastes might represent a diary of Solomon's life. The Lord appeared to him twice and gave him wisdom, wealth, and power. He built the most magnificent temple ever constructed and his renown was known throughout the realm. But, he was turned aside to idolatry by the love of his many foreign wives. His wisdom, wealth, and power became disconnected from the Giver of life and truth. Therefore, the Lord raised up adversaries, split the kingdom from his son, and Solomon writes the results in his own dissatisfaction in his diary. He became a testimony of G.K. Chesterton's quip, "Do not be so liberal minded that your brain falls out." God's grace allowed him to return to the fear of the Lord as written in chapter 12. The story is a caution to us in America that the major problems of our time are not political or economic or the pandemic, but rather the wide acceptance of sexual immorality, desecration of God's design for marriage, and allowance for the killing of the unwanted before birth. We should be praying about restoring the spiritual foundation of America more than what appears before our eyes.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 | 9:00 A.M. | ROOM 112

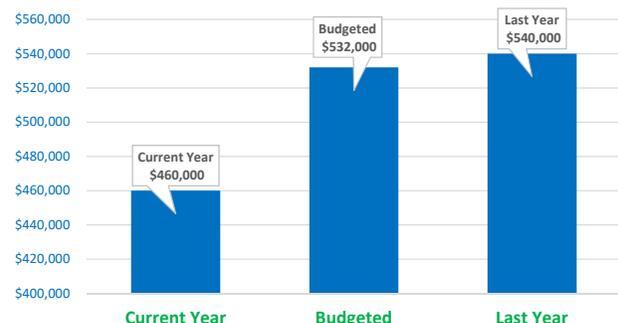
Join us for our Winter Congregational meeting. This year we will be updating you on our financial condition, but the only order of business is to elect a Nominating Committee. Session is putting forward these for approval: Elders Phil Van Sickle and Adam Bright; Deacons - Jody Bishop and Jim Ludwig, with Pastor Hendley as an ex-officio member. The Nominating Committee handles the approved nominations turned in by the congregation and presents them, with explanations to the nominees.

SESSION REPORT

The elders have met now three times since the new year, including a team-building retreat at the Dupee home on Saturday, February 5. We have spent time evaluating our PBJ initiative and considering how to finish the launch and move into maintenance. We have spent some time as well looking at how to minister to those who have been absent most of the last year. Please pray for us about these matters. Your elders have been hit with some notable personal challenges with the deaths of Ben's grandmother, as well as Andy and Pastor Dan's sisters.

NPC GIVING THROUGH 1/31

After five months, Unified Giving of \$46,000 for our church year is 14% below our budgeted amount and 15% below last year.



FAMILY OF THE MONTH: CARROLL

On February 1, 2022, Ruth Carroll took her last breath on this earth. She has been a member of Mellwood/North Park Church for close to 72 years. I knew her as a role model and inspiration for the last 42 years of her life and recently learned some interesting facts about the first 53 years of her life from her son Jack.

Ruth was the oldest child of John and Nancy Clarke who raised Ruth in the Presbyterian traditions they learned from Ireland. She skipped two years and still graduated as valedictorian of her class at Carrick High School and earned a scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh. Between high school and college, she worked for the U.S. Weather Service, helping to compile statistics that would help to determine the D-Day launch of World War II. This accomplished red head with the nickname "Rusty" found her true love, Robert Carroll, who was in medical school at Pitt. She married this devout Catholic in 1948 who shared her passion for helping and serving others and they had 8 children in 12 years.

Their first home together and Bob's medical practice was in the McKnight Road area. Early in his practice Dr. Robert Carroll decided he would provide his services free of charge to those in Christian ministry who were in need. One-day Bob told Ruth about a nice new patient, Dr. Baldinger, the pastor at Mellwood on Babcock Blvd. and suggested she check out his church. Ruth found a home and never left.

Ruth joined the church one year before I was born in 1950. I met Ruth and Bob in 1979 when I started attending Mellwood on Browns Lane. We had an early special connection because twice a year (Christmas and Easter) we would see each other twice on those Sunday mornings. Her husband Bob and my wife Linda were both members of St. Sebastian. It was easy to find them because Bob had a distinctive friendly, joyful, and loud laugh. The four of us also shared a calling to save the lives of the unborn who were vulnerable to possible abortion. Our paths would cross at many events and through service in prolife organizations. Ruth served with me in a "Salt and Light" group at NPC that took a bus to the March for Life in D.C., erected 3,000 crosses on the front lawn of NPC, wrote a monthly article in the church newspaper and even ran a Sunday School class dealing with social issues that drew 50-100 people in the Blue Room for topics like outcome-based education, homosexuality, pornography, gambling, and of course, abortion. Ruth was proper, polite, and dignified but she didn't hide her feelings or compromise her convictions.



When her youngest child started first grade, Ruth started back to school and in 1967 earned her Master of Library Science and worked for both Carlow and Duquesne Universities. She was a Ross Township Commissioner. In her years at NPC she served as Financial Secretary, chaired the Administration and Personnel Committee, sang in the choir, played in the Bell Choir and fittingly was a member of the Long-Range Planning Committee. When we had two services (traditional and contemporary) she always attended the first service, preferring the hymns. Ruth and Bob moved into Vincentian Villa in 2010 when Bob knew he had an incurable cancer so that Ruth would be well cared for in a home that included all maintenance. In 2011 Bob died peacefully after 62 years of marriage. At this point Ruth had begun the slow change from being someone who spent her life caring and helping others to becoming someone who had to learn how to receive and accept help. She became part of a group of recently widowed women at NPC that would go out for lunch after church once

a month and have fun and support each other. Annetta Lang, Thelma Gross, Geil Williams, Marge Stauffer, Lorraine Lippert, Helen Menhorn and Jane Moore were an unofficial care group.

In Ruth's last decade her arthritis and aches and pains increased, her memory got slowly worse, and she suffered a series of strokes. She moved from Vincentian Villa to Vincentian nursing and rehab, back to the Villa, then to a short stay at Atrias, then Passavant Hospital and finally to Caring Heights in Coraopolis. She had the love and support of her children, 17 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Her son Jack would visit every day he was permitted at Caring

Heights but COVID regulations and isolation were hard on Ruth. Frequently no visitors were allowed and most of Ruth's meals were brought to her room, so she never got to go to a dining room and share time with other residents.

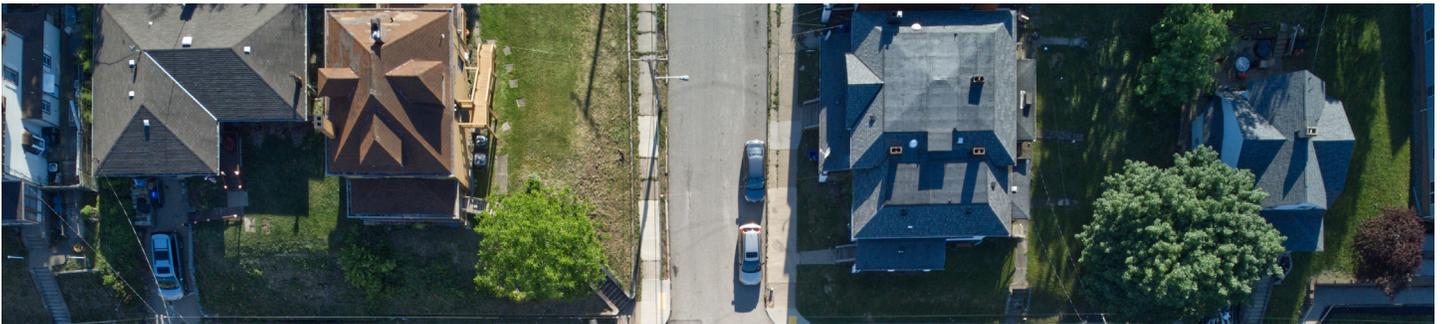
Sometimes we wonder why God allows people to die before we think it is their time and sometimes we wonder why God doesn't grant someone the freedom to be with their loved ones that preceded them to eternity sooner. She outlived her husband, one daughter and one grandson. Ruth modelled for me how to love and give as much as possible for as long as possible and then how to accept dependency and receive it graciously. I am confident that she has now seen God in all His glory and heard Bob's distinctive friendly, joyful and loud laugh and embraced him once again in their restored eternal bodies. Glory to God! — **JIM LUDWIG**

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

A column to answer all your PBJ questions

OVERWHELMED WITH OPPORTUNITIES!

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



DEAR PETER PAN & CHOOSY MOM,

I want to **BLESS** my neighbors, but I'm so busy that I find it overwhelming when I consider adding another task to my to-do list. Do you have any advice for me? — **TOO BUSY TO BLESS**

DEAR TOO BUSY TO BLESS,

I have definitely been in that place where life feels like a whirlwind and my mind is racing on to the next thing. I would encourage you to think of **PBJ** more as how you will do all the things that need done and less about adding another thing to that overflowing list. How can you be blessing others in the course of your daily routines?

We all have to go to the grocery store, for instance. When you are checking out and hear the exasperation in the cashier's voice, can you pause for just a minute to ask what else is going on? Or, maybe you are rushing here and there to make it to your children's sporting events. Maybe you notice that your child's teammate had an excellent game. Why not share that with them as an affirming word when you leave? Acts of blessing can be small. They just need to be intentional.

In the end, instead of thinking of **PBJ** as one more thing to add to your life, think of it as something that shapes what you are already doing. — **PETER PAN**

DEAR TOO BUSY TO BLESS,

So many of us are nodding in agreement with you and experiencing that same overwhelmedness, and maybe even some guilt, as we read your question and feel our own inadequacy to do-it-all. I know that I am.

First, praise God that He does not ask us to do-it-all. That is why we start with PRAYER. Ask God,

- "What are You calling me to do?"
- "What am I doing that You are NOT calling me to do?"
- "Are there any places in my life where I am wasting my time?"

Second, consider how God has created and gifted you. Is there something that you LOVE to do, that fills and restores you when you do it? Could you utilize that in some way to **BLESS** those around you?

Maybe you don't have to add to your to-do list, but rather could utilize what you are already doing to be a blessing. Going to the store? Text a neighbor to see if they need anything. They will likely say no, but will feel blessed to know that they were thought of. — **CHOOSY MOM**

HOW WILL YOU **BLESS** THIS MARCH?

- Tell someone something you appreciate about them
- Text a Bible verse to someone who is hurting
- Invite a neighbor for a game night
- Leave positive feedback on a survey
- Deliver some spring flowers to a neighbor
- Share a link to a sermon with someone you think it would bless
- Give someone a box of chocolates
- Tape a bag of microwave popcorn with a Bible verse to a Redbox machine
- Offer to take a neighbor out to breakfast
- Leave positive messages (Bible verses) on post it notes around a grocery store
- Offer to babysit for someone to go on a date
- Sign up to be a part of NPC's meal ministry
- While out, give someone a genuine compliment
- Invite a friend to Bible study with you
- Pick up a little treat to gift to a neighbor or co-worker — chocolate bar, box of tea, etc.

Remember to pray before, during, and after you **BLESS**. "May the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands!" *Psalm 90:17* because "Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." *Psalm 127:1*
Want a tangible reminder to **BLESS**? You can find these and more ideas on our **BLESS** wall in the sanctuary.

NPC WORSHIP

SPRING 2022 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

GOOD SENSE PARENTING

BRUCE ALLISON

This class will focus on helping parents to better fulfill their role as parents as God has intended. Understanding that we are to model God's love for His children, we will discuss various issues that influence our parenting and simple ways to be more intentional in nurturing our children. We will discover how to show true unconditional love to our children by embracing God's model for us - Love and acceptance on one hand, balanced by rules and limits on the other. Or put another way: "Yes - I love you", and "No - you can't have your own way".

The class is primarily for parents with children ages 10 years and younger.

DEVELOPING GRACE-FILLED CONVERSATIONS

ADAM BRIGHT & KRISTIN BROWN

Blessing people inevitably leads to conversation. In this class we will learn and practice conversation techniques to better **BLESS**, affirm, and listen to everyone we interact with.

JESUS, FOOD, AND THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

BEN BURKHOLDER

We will survey the Gospel of Luke and pay particular attention to the 10 meal scenes throughout the Gospel of Luke. These theologically rich sections tell us about the kind of people with whom Jesus consorted, what Jesus believed his death would do for his followers, and the nature of Christ's resurrected body.

COLLEGE AND CAREERS

GARY LAIRD

Join us for the new and first-of-its-kind College and Careers Sunday School class (*okay, we didn't check the church history book on this one, but it sounds more epic this way!*). If you are past high school and not yet 30, we invite you to check us out. The class will offer a time of fellowship...and coffee. It will also provide a platform to walk through life together, learning how to apply biblical principles to everyday life as you navigate through the 21st century world. The long-term goal of this class is to establish the College and Careers group with an aim to extend it to other events beyond Sunday morning.

TREKKERS

MARCH 13 | 4:30 - 6:00 P.M. | ROOM 112

All 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are invited to join us as we continue reading the book, *Press Play* by Carlos Whitaker and learning how to be confident in our daily lives based on what God says about you! A meal will be provided. Just bring your bible and a friend! In March, we'll talk about staying focused on Jesus.

TYKES LEADER WANTED

Our new curriculum, *Explore the Bible*, offers lessons all the way down to babies and up to adults. We would like to find someone (or a few people) who would be willing to come into the Tykes room each week, read the story to them and then pray with them. Commitment is about 10 minutes each week. This is a very easy way to serve, which requires very little to no prep ahead of time. You would only need the usual requirements to serve in Children's Ministry - clearances and have attended NPC at least six months. Please contact Kelly Laird to get this ball rolling!

KIDS' WORSHIP

One thing we do every week in Kids' Worship is talk about Kadiatu Kamara, the child we sponsor through Eduations. We don't do it boastfully, but to teach the children that we are called to help others, especially the less fortunate and to inspire them to pray for her. We talk about our missionaries and how they have gone into the world, to places far away from home, to tell others about Jesus and what He has done for them.



Since we do this every week, the kids have gotten really good at their geography! Did you know that even our three-year-olds can locate Sierra Leone on a map now? Yes! The tiny country in western Africa is known! Kadiatu is known! Even our littlest ones KNOW and pray for those far, far away. That's worth celebrating!

And in other Kids' Worship news, the 1st & 2nd graders had fun recently saying their monthly memory verse in silly ways. We said it regularly, like a mouse, marching like soldiers, like a robot, biting our tongues, making thilly thounds! How fun!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In our second and third grades Sunday School class recently, Mrs. Kish and Mrs. Burke taught the story from the Old Testament about how God provided the manna and quail for the Israelites. The kids in the class got to act it out with Frosted Flakes and gummy worms! I wonder if they tasted better or worse than the manna and quail? What a great reminder about how God provides for us!

LENT RESOURCE

Lent is a six week time period leading up to and helping Christians prepare for the celebration of Easter. If your family would like to try something new to help remember the events during Jesus last days on earth, so you can rejoice when we celebrate His resurrection, here's a resource for you to try. Designed for families with children, copies of a *Sense of the Resurrection* by Amanda White will be available in the lobby for a few weeks surrounding the start of Lent.



VBS DATES

JUNE 13-17, 2022

Camp Kickoff will be directly after the worship service on June 12, 2022. Pick up your family bag and t-shirts and say hello to your counselor and aide!

CAMPER REGISTRATION FIRM

APRIL 1 - MAY 13

Camp is earlier this year, so we need to secure our volunteers sooner. Please reach out right away if you can help this year!

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

March 13 - April 30

SENIOR CAMP DIRECTOR

Alison Sanders

JUNIOR CAMP DIRECTOR

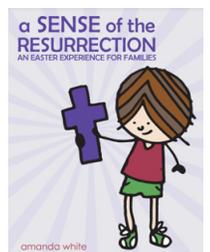
Kim Mycyk

CAMP DIRECTOR

Kelly Laird

GAMES WANTED

Room 206, where we do a lot of babysitting, is in need of some gently used board games. We are looking for games that would serve kids ages 4-10. If you have some and would like to donate, please contact Kelly Laird.



YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

MARCH 2

Small Groups

7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

MARCH 13

Youth Group

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

MARCH 20

Youth Group

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

MARCH 30

Small Groups

7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

MARCH 6

Youth Group

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

MARCH 16

Small Groups

7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

MARCH 27

Youth Group

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

NPC CONNECT



LOVE THROUGH LISTENING

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 | 6:30-8:00 P.M. | ROOM 112

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to LISTEN, slow to speak and slow to become angry.
James 1:19

To answer before LISTENING — that is folly and shame.
Proverbs 18:13

Listening is key to a good conversation and to building a relationship with someone. When someone is a good listener they are able to seek a connection and show empathy or celebrate the positive with that person. It's a great way to **BLESS!**

Stephen Ministry and **PBJ** would like to help you become better equipped at listening. Listening is a skill, an art, that can be improved with training and with practice. We want to provide that for you by offering a "Love through Listening" event.

If you already attended the Lunch & Learn on listening, this is a Part 2; with new information. And, if you were unable to attend the Lunch & Learn, this event will be equally applicable to you.

COMPASS: MISSIONS AND REFUGEES

TUESDAY, MARCH 22 | 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.
BLUE ROOM

Throughout the world people are living in less than ideal conditions because they have been forced from their homelands due to violence, famine, and disease. Yet, God continues to be at work among people in such dire conditions. Want to learn what has been going on? Come hear what God has been doing. We will be hosting one of our recently returned ministry partners, Ryan and Kelly, who have done stellar work among refugees for the past several years. Not only will you enjoy their enthusiasm for the work, but there will be a tactile element to this that your kids will enjoy.

As usual for COMPASS meals, the main course will be provided. We ask attenders to bring something to contribute for the meal based on last name:

- A-G – Desserts
- H-O – Salads
- P-Z – Sides

Childcare is available for those 3 and under. If you want to sign up, you can do so in the lobby or by emailing Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).

You will be **BLESS**ed to learn answers to questions like these:

- How can listening be active?
- What is reflective listening?
- What do nonverbal cues have to do with listening?
- How does listening show care and love?
- Why is listening so important to **BLESS**ing?



FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 19 | 5:30 – 8:30 P.M. | BLUE ROOM

The father-daughter relationship is a precious bond. The Men's Ministry would like to promote this relationship by sponsoring "Love You to the Moon and Back," a Father-Daughter Spring Dinner & Dance. There will be a catered dinner and dancing with a DJ! Fathers decide how old their daughter should be to attend, but elementary through high school-age girls are encouraged to come. No age limit on fathers! We would also encourage you to invite other dads (neighbors, friends, brothers) and their daughters to attend. The cost for the event will be \$40 for members of North Park Church. Guests can attend for FREE. Please sign up at the Information Center by March 13. Please contact Jonathan Mycyk (Jmycyk8@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

*P.S. We are looking for 2 volunteers to help execute the event by taking care of the chocolate fountain and keeping the punch bowl filled so the dads can be **BLESSED** to spend this meaningful evening with their daughters.*



BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Jan Muzyn | 12 | Wayne Darville |
| 2 | Hattie Lukas | 13 | Sarah Kuchma |
| | Elizabeth Satariano | 14 | Jeff Layden |
| 4 | Jen Burkholder | 16 | Larry Satariano |
| | Gary Laird | 18 | Norma Lamperski |
| 6 | Sophie Wilkin | | Emerson Miller |
| 7 | Kristen Wickard | | Cooper Moriconi |
| 8 | Richard Skillen | | Ross Wilkin |
| 9 | Brian Altmyer | 22 | Elise VanderWee |
| | Taryn VanderWee | 28 | Caleb Stites |
| 10 | Anya Wickard | 29 | Amber Stites |
| 11 | Addison Moriconi | 31 | Annetta Lang |
| | Isaiah Whittington | | Pete Longjohn |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Richard & Sandy Skillen
- 5 Rich & Kirstin Lukas