



FYI

VOLUME 179

NORTH PARK CHURCH

JULY/AUGUST 2022

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JULY

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. - Revelation 21:6

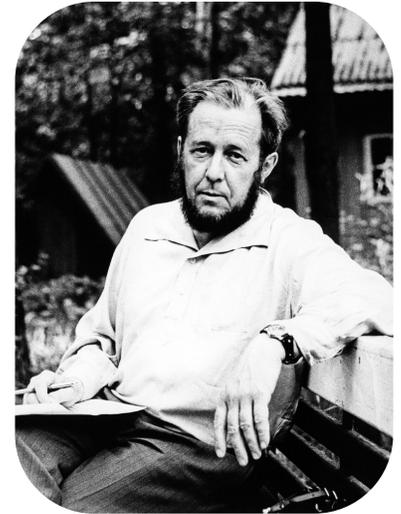
AUGUST

The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor. - Proverbs 15:33

NPC FEATURES

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **ABRYANNA WHITTINGTON**, **ETHAN O'BRIEN**, and **ELIANA O'BRIEN** were recently baptized and received as confirmed members of our church....that **LUKE O'BRIEN** was also baptized....that a major prayer event will be held July 10 at Heinz Field – see <https://pittsburghprays.com>....that the first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin during WWII killed the Berlin's zoo's only elephant....that **KELLY LAIRD** just played volleyball in the National Sr. Games in Ft. Lauderdale....that **KELLY** and **JEAN ROWAN** (swimming) both won silver medals at the games....that Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's, invented the KFC bucket....that **SAM BUIRGE** graduated from Grove City College....that **GRANT MCKINNEY** and **DAWSON HAYTOCK** are Eagle Scouts....that a "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second....that **DAN PENNINGTON** won the 5K run at our May Compass Event to support refugees....that **DAN AND CAROL DUPEE** are fresh-back from a trip to Israel....that Coca-Cola was originally green....that **JANET LOCHNER** has retired from UPMC (nurse) after more than forty years....that **JANET** started as a nurse at UPMC when she was eleven....that all US States claim their test scores in elementary schools are above the national average....that a neighbor (Shelly) has free bedding for a queen bed (shellylipinski@gmail.com)....that **DEANNE ALBERTI** turned 90....that the average life of a federal bill depends on its denomination: \$1 lasts 18 months, \$20 lasts 4 years, \$100 lasts 9 years....that that **JIM LUDWIG** shot his age in 18 holes of golf....that **DAN SHERWIN** got a hole-in-one around the same time....that our Sonshine Ministry has begun holding services at Ashton Commons, the senior's facility just north of our church....that school-year hours begin again September 11....that the inventor of the Pringles can is buried in one....that those who read the FYI are 11% less likely to be buried in a can than those who do not. Did you know these things? I thought you should.



HISTORY CORNER

Mere freedom per se does not in the least solve all of the problems of human life and even adds a number of new ones. Freedom is worth having insofar as its use facilitates our worship of and obedience to God, and not worth having insofar as its use hinders this worship and obedience. Because our freedom and happiness refer primarily to the material world, Westerners are guilty of the same materialistic philosophy which gave birth to Communism.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
1918-2008

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

AUGUST 28

SUNDAY AUGUST 28 | 11:00 P.M. - 12:00 P.M. | SANCTUARY

On the docket: election of officers, approval of Pastors' salaries, and presentation of the budget. Nursery will stay open during meeting. Young children and guests are welcomed to attend. Candidates for office will be published two weeks prior to the meeting.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH: YODER

Most people who meet Jim and June Yoder might guess that they grew up in Christian homes, have been Christians all their life, and have been leaders in NPC for decades. They are certainly mature Christians, now but let me tell you the rest of the story.

Jim is a ruling Elder at NPC, has taught four different adult Sunday School classes, and co-leads a men's Bible study at 6:30 A.M. on Thursdays. June has helped in the nursery and is currently a regular at the Welcome Counter and with counting the offering. They are in a care group with the Wanningers, Brooks, Velardes, Blums, and Rich Hayden. Newcomers may think they have been a part of NPC forever but, it is really only six years.

Jim grew up in LaPorte, TX as the second of four brothers. His mother considered herself a Christian and sent the boys to Sunday school. His dad was a family doctor who often made hospital rounds on Sundays and seemed to work around the clock. As Jim and his brothers got to high school age, they quit going to church and that was fine with their parents. Jim played tennis in high school and some basketball.

June (Stinson) grew up in Pasadena, TX where her father worked in a petro chemical plant for DuPont. June was the youngest of 3 children. She has an older sister and a brother that died at the age of 16. Her family never went to church and she had almost no exposure or knowledge of Christianity. She was an introvert in high school but was on the yearbook staff and played the piano for 12 years. She also worked in an independent flower shop inside a grocery store.

A friend of both mothers would be the person God used to bring Jim and June together. June was a senior in high school and Jim was a freshman at the University of Houston. The friend knew both of their mothers from school years and invited both families to dinner. They were married one year later at 18 and 19.

After three years of college, Jim was accepted to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX. Jim joined the Air Force in his last year of medical school. They went on for 24 year of active duty, specializing in Aerospace Medicine and resulting in 12 changes in duty station. As a Flight Surgeon, Jim would gain experience in a greater variety of aircraft than most pilots, such as the T-37, F-15, F-111, C-130, C-135, B-52, and a variety of helicopters.

While Jim and June were at Wright Patterson Air Force base where he was doing medical research, another physician there



befriended him and invited them to a Bible study in his home (think **PBJ**). Jim was naturally interested to see what made his new friend the person he was. Jim and June were both moved to respond to the call of Christ in the first six to nine months in the Bible study, both in their early 30s at that time with two small children. I don't have the space to tell you all the places they lived and the variety of positions Jim held.

They ended up living on the Andrews Air Force Base for 6 years where he had a variety of assignments and they attended the Grace Brethren Church where June worked in the church school library. They stayed in the Maryland/D.C. area when Jim retired from the Air Force and did 16 more years with the FBI in occupational medicine.

During this interesting life they managed to raise 4 children. Their daughter Jessica died as an infant. Son Jeff lives in San Jose, CA and is a chemist. He and Shelly have given Jim and June 2 grandchildren. Juli lives in Charlotte, NC with her husband Bryan and they have two children. Jeanette lives in Pittsburgh with her husband Greg and their 3 daughters. We can thank them because after Jim retired from the FBI, it was time for June to decide their next move and she chose Pittsburgh to be with the youngest three grandchildren.

June's favorite scripture is *1 John 1:9*. June's interesting little known fact is that this alleged high school introvert traveled with a group of 30-35 young women, the "Bluebonnet Belles", singing and entertaining at military bases.

Jim recited his favorite scripture passage *Col 3:1-17* for me. He also told me that early in his walk he promised God he would hold a noon Bible study wherever he worked and asked God to provide someone to share that time. Think **PBJ** and know that God is faithful and just. - **JIM LUDWIG**

WHAT SHOULD I SAY?

How to talk about Jesus without being (too) awkward.

I was having a conversation with Joe Daly in the lobby after church a few weeks ago and he mentioned how he enjoys chatting with people. He also shared with me some of the ways that he brings up his faith and the topic of Jesus in everyday conversations. Then a few days later (Isn't God so good to arrange the timing of things so perfectly!), Ben mentioned the possibility of having some FYI articles over the next few months about how to bring Jesus and faith into everyday conversations! I was so thankful that God had just brought Joe into my path to share exactly what Ben was asking for!



When I called Joe to ask him to repeat some of the details that I had already forgotten from our lobby conversation (apparently 'a few days' is too long for my memory), he was kind enough to share with me some more stories and methods that he has used over the years. I am delighted to be able to share some of his ideas with you.

First, Joe shared with me a couple of people who have influenced him in regards to witnessing, both in respect to the importance of witnessing, as well as ways to practically do it.

The first person to make an impact on Joe with respect to the need to witness, was Bob Flowers. Bob offered Joe a very simple way to do it.

TIP #1: Ask, **"How is your day going?"** The person you ask will most likely answer in one of two ways:

1. If they are not having a good day, Bob's advice was to say, **"Can I pray for you?"** So often they will say "yes." But then the MOST IMPORTANT PART is to check back with them in a week or two. This step helps Joe to continue developing a deeper relationship with that person.

2. If they answer in a generic way, like "I'm fine," then Joe responds, **"That's good. How's your spiritual life?"** This is just another step to help their relationship go deeper.

Bob has passed onto glory a few years back, but his influence remains!

The second person who has influenced Joe, is the niece of NPC's very own Laura Wiggins, Jen Pepling. Jen works for the Christian Collegian Network to street witness on college campuses. Joe and Jen took a Ray Comfort course and since their training, Joe often uses many of Comfort's tactics and million-dollar bill tracts in his witnessing. If you want to learn more about Comfort's evangelism method called "The Way of the Master", you can find it with a simple Google search. One of Comfort's opening questions is "If you were to die today, would you go to Heaven?" The majority reply by saying, "Yes, because I am a good person."

Of course, Joe has adapted Comfort's method to work for him to fit his own personality and comfort level. Joe does a lot of traveling for work so he's always carrying tracts with him to hand to those he talks with on planes, job sites, lunch meetings, etc.

TIP #2: Joe also places those million-dollar bill tracts in elevators, restaurant menus, on corporate sign-in sheets or he'll give them to his waitress/waiter when tipping them, as well as employees working a drive-thru!

A year ago, Joe was visiting a customer and as usual, he had left a tract in the sign-in book. A year later, Joe was back visiting the same customer and low and behold, there was the tract prominently displayed on the receptionist's desk. He asked the receptionist about it and she said she had found it and kept it. Joe admitted he had put it there a year ago, which then opened the door for him to have a simple conversation with her!

Here are a few more simple ways Joe's conversations have led to the topic of Jesus or helped him seed for the gospel.

TIP #3: Record at the end of your voicemail message, **"May God bless you today."**

TIP #4: Coach your child's sport's team - Before every game, have your child pray (student led) before the start of every game. After a few weeks, then you can ask if someone else would like to pray before the game begins. This is a way to stand for your faith in the community.

TIP #5: Joe often takes customers to lunch and always asks if he could pray before the meal is served. No one has ever turned him down. AFTER 10 YEARS, a customer called Joe with excitement to tell him that he had recently accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and knew Joe would want to hear about it! (PTL!)

TIP #6: Sometimes when Joe sees a person wearing a cross necklace, he asks, **"What does that mean to you?"** Then sometimes he follows up with, **"Where do you go to church?"** If they don't go to church, then sometimes he points to the need for a relationship with Jesus, and that by going to church and reading His Word it helps in developing a relationship with Jesus.

"Are you dating someone or are you married?" If they answer "yes", then it leads Joe to ask **"How would your significant other feel if you only talked with them every 3-6 months?"** The reactions are usually an awakening of their spirit to the importance of spending time with Jesus.

These are just a few of the things that Joe Daly shared with me and I hope it inspires you to talk more about Jesus without being (too) awkward.

But, don't forget: we are called to be holy, set apart, a peculiar people (as it says in *1 Peter 2:9 KJV*), so it is actually okay if you are a little awkward! — **Amber Stites**



NPC WORSHIP

JULY & AUGUST SUMMER SUNDAY YOUTH SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS | 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

For July and August, the youth group will continue the summer tradition of meeting in people's homes rather than at the church, though the church might serve as a backup in case of rain. You can find the addresses for the following houses in your Faithlife Directory (if you don't have access, contact Diana Rush at dianarush@northparkepc.org). We have snacks, games, and a spiritually relevant talk.

JULY 3 | Canceled for July 4th weekend

JULY 10 | Missions Trip

Alternate group meeting at McKinney's House

JULY 17 | Osmond's House

JULY 24 | Glancy's House

JULY 31 | Morley's House

AUGUST 7 | Pinkerton's House

AUGUST 14 | Kennywood Day

AUGUST 21 | Burkholder's House

AUGUST 28 | North Park Church's Upper Lot

STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE:

HOW TO PAVE THE WAY FOR STEPHEN MINISTRY WITH SOMEONE YOU KNOW...

"Paving the Way" is the first step in connecting a friend, neighbor, coworker, relative or congregation member with Stephen Ministry when he or she is going through a difficult time. The process involves sharing basic information about Stephen Ministry and then getting permission to pass the person's name and phone number along to the Stephen Ministry contact person, Mark Sharpnack, (412) 367-5000 ext. 223 or marksharpnack@northparkepc.org.

1. Express your care and concern in a way that feels natural to you. Listen if the person wants to share.
2. Tell the person about Stephen Ministry, saying something like: "Our church has trained caregivers called Stephen Ministers who come alongside people during difficult times. A Stephen Minister meets regularly with a person to listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support. It's high-quality care-and completely confidential."
3. Get permission to pass along the person's name and phone number: "I'd like to connect you with Mark Sharpnack. He can tell you more, answer your questions, and help decide together whether Stephen Ministry is right for you. I think it would be really good for you to talk to Mark. Can I have him give you a call?"
4. If the person agrees, get his or her phone number and pass the information along to the Stephen Ministry contact person (Mark Sharpnack) without delay. SHARING IS CARING! - **Rachel Sharpnack**

WOMEN'S CONNECTION: ROAD TRIP?



LUMINA
women rise together

Ladies, what are your plans for November 3-5, 2022? We would love for you to join us for a trip to the Museum of the Bible in Washington DC to experience Lumina, a new one-day experience at the Museum of the Bible that will equip women of all ages to be deeply rooted in God's Word so they can thrive where they're planted. It will be a day full of engaging speakers, moving musical performances and an exclusive tour of the Museum. For more information, visit <https://newlife.com/lumina>

The cost of the trip will be around \$250, which will cover transportation, lodging, and conference tickets, which include a year long family membership to the museum. There will be limited space on this trip, so if this is something that may interest you, please contact Amber Stites (amberstites@northparkepc.org) ASAP and no later than July 30.

SAVE THE DATES

WOMEN'S INDUCTIVE BIBLE: 1 SAMUEL

Mondays beginning September 12 | 9:15 - 11:15 A.M.

WOMEN'S CONNECTION FALL BONFIRE

Friday, September 23 | 7:00 P.M. | Fire Pit

NPC CONNECT

COMPASS EVENTS



TASTE OF TUNISIA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

6:00 – 8:00 P.M. | NPC

Tunisia – home to both Luke Skywalker and Emily Harrer – is a country that most people have never heard of, much less visited. A stunningly diverse country bordered by the Mediterranean Sea and the Sahara Desert, Tunisia has a strong, long Arabic heritage of which the Tunisian people are immensely proud.

Although you may not have the opportunity to fly to Tunisia this summer, you can drive to North Park Church and experience a taste of Tunisia at the next COMPASS event. There will be Tunisian food, games, music, and pictures to help you imagine what daily life looks like in this unique country. Emily Harrer, who is currently living and teaching in Tunisia, will also share about what life has been like for her as she settles into living and working in this beautiful country.

You can sign up for this in lobby when it becomes available or email Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).



Tunisia was the set for Tatooine - Luke Skywalker's home planet.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

6:00 – 8:00 P.M. | NPC

How good is your beanbag toss? Come test your skills against other North Parkers. Choose a partner and be ready for some friendly competition. Winners will receive North Park 2022 Cornhole trophies to commemorate the accomplishment.

While the tournament is going on, dinner will be served. The COMPASS team will provide the main course, but we do ask attendees to bring something to share based upon last name: A-G: Sides; H-O: Desserts; P-Z: Salads.

Even if you don't want to compete in the tournament, come cheer on others and enjoy their company in this end-of-summer outdoor party. Also, we will need additional cornhole boards for the tournament. If you have regulation sized boards that we can use, please contact Pastor Ben. Sign up at the table in the lobby (once the bulletin starts announcing the event) or email Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).



FATHER-SON CAMPOUT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19 @ 6:00 P.M. –

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 @ 10:00 A.M.

BLUE ROOM & FIREPIT

Calling all fathers and sons! Want to say goodbye to summer with one final campout? Come join us for the final weekend before school starts. Bring your own tent or sleep under the stars in the grassy field behind the church.



We'll grill burgers and hot dogs for dinner and everyone should bring a side to share. We'll roast marshmallows and make s'mores and play games until we turn in for the night. A continental breakfast will be served on Saturday morning as well before we pack up and head home. If you're interested in coming or helping, sign up in the lobby or contact Jonathan Mycyk (jmycyk8@gmail.com) and (412) 932-6380.

JULY

BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

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

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Ryan & Bethany Mitchell
- 4 Philip & Nancy Van Sickel
- 9 Adam & Nicole Bright
- 12 Dick & Nellie Luther
Ian & Pam Miller
- 14 Ben & Jen Burkholder
Chris & Norma Lamperski
- 16 Rob & Jessica O'Brien
- 25 Frank & Kiley Librich
- 30 Nate & Holly Fairfield

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Natalie Karr
Eliana McKinney
- 3 Stacy Tessaro
- 4 Oliver Havener
Sara Holtgraver
Walter Weimann
- 6 Bob Arnold
Landon Pinkerton
- 7 Moriah Burkholder
Kirstin Lukas
- 10 Ruth Ponsonby
- 11 Brian Osmond
Joanne Rimmel
- 12 Chloe Sanders
- 13 Peggy Anderson
Elias Bolibruck
Adam Bright
Luther Hopkins
- 14 Brooke Hopkins
Claire McKinney
Zachary Stimpson
- 15 Tim Blackburn
Linda Ludwig
- 16 Shannon Bolibruck
Ed Hilderhoff
- 18 Ned Fairfield
Samuel Miller
Lydia Miller
- 19 Andrew Pennington
- 21 Joey Brown
Molly Doyle
- 22 Emmett Havener
- 23 Phoebe Havener
- 24 Daniel Haytock
- 27 Joel Morley
- 28 Victor linicki
Evelyn Osmond
- 30 Allison Gilbert
- 31 Ian Miller