



FYI

VOLUME 180

NORTH PARK CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2022

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2** Did You Know?
Giving Update
Service Time Change
History Corner
- 3** Family of the Month
- 4** What Should I Say?
- 5** Listening Tips
VBS Recap
- 6** Nursery
TREKKERS
- 7** Kids' Sunday School
Kids' Worship
Questions For God
- 8** Mission Trip Recap
- 9** Youth Group Fall Update
College & Careers
- 10** Women's Bible Study
Adult Sunday School
- 11** Frisbee 'n Fire
Taste of Alpha
Weekend To Remember
- 12** Sporting Clays
Birthdays & Anniversaries

**For all have
sinned and fall
short of the
glory of God.**
Romans 3:23

NPC FEATURES

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **MATT & ERIN BENDER**, as well as **PAT WHITMER** (wife of **JOHN LENGEL**) have recently become confirmed members of our church....that **DAWSON AND ELIZABETH HAYTOCK** recently spent time in Europe....that confederate general, Stonewall Jackson died at the age of 39 and was a deacon in the Lexington Presbyterian Church....that **DAVE STIMPSON** went on a missions trip to West Virginia....that **SHANNON BOLIBRUCK** now works as a school nurse for University of Pittsburgh....that **CAMERON WILKIN** has graduated college and taken a job in St. Louis....that **NATALIE CAREY** has graduated from the University of South Carolina and is going to grad school to become a PA....that if you had 10 billion in \$1 bills and spent one every second of every day, it would take you 317 years to go broke....that **PHIL VAN SICKEL** did a week-long missions trip to Honduras....that currency paper is composed of 25% linen and 75% cotton....that **JONATHAN AND CHLOE HAVENER** have sold their home and have moved to Montana....that Chloe's sister, **RUBY**, and her husband, **KEITH ROSE** have moved to Hendersonville, NC....that the **HAVENERS** will be living in the Roses' Montana home....that "In God We Trust" has appeared on our currency since 1963....that our fabulous drummer, **VINCE BOGGS**, has retired from the electric company....that we were able to purchase a much-needed new audio-board for the sanctuary....that only 5% of us dream in color....that the PA Walk for Life is in Harrisburg, September 19....that we pick back up in Romans on August 28, starting in 3:21.... that **PAIGE STITT MCBRIDE** has written a devotional book for young women, *Beauty Not Beheld*, that will come out in mid-September....that 96% of Americans, when making a PBJ put the PB on first...that those who read the FYI always do that. Did you know these things? I thought you should.

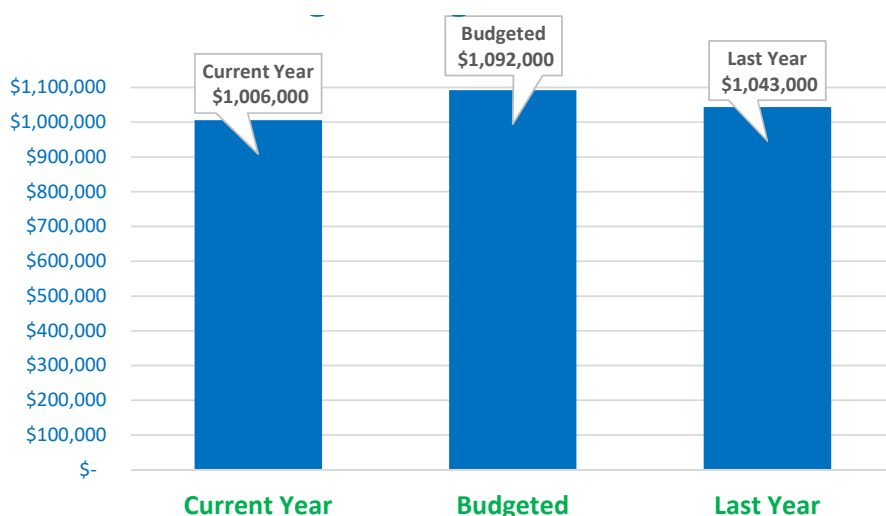


SERVICE TIME CHANGE

SEPTEMBER 11 RETURN TO SCHOOL-YEAR SUNDAYS

We transition back to 9:00 A.M. Sunday School and 10:15 A.M. worship starting Sunday, September 11. Make plans to join up with a Sunday School class and mark your calendars.

NPC GIVING THROUGH 7/31



After 7 months, Unified Giving of \$1,006,000 for our church year is 8% below our budgeted amount and 4% below last year.

HISTORY CORNER



Religious liberty might be supposed to mean that everybody is free to discuss religion. In practice it means that hardly anybody is allowed to mention it. We fear men so much because we fear God so little. One fear cures another. When man's terror scares you, turn your thoughts to the wrath of God. Art, like morality, consists of drawing the line somewhere.

G. K. Chesterton
1874-1936

FAMILY OF THE MONTH:

GERRY RICHARDSON

Barna Research Group says that unbelieving adults age 19 and over have just a 6% probability of becoming Christians. Gerry Richardson was a happy, successful person who never realized there was more to life until his forties.

Gerry graduated from Devry Technical Institute and took his first job with Mine Safety Research in Callery, PA. He found a great wife, Julie, and they had two daughters, Dawn and Robin. Life was good. They joined a local country club and enjoyed golfing together. Gerry got involved in sky diving and began accumulating hours towards getting a pilot's license.

Gerry advanced his career and took a job in sales with Umbaugh Pole Building Company. Construction was a good fit for him and during his 12 years he became a divisional president. During the Carter years and high inflation, the construction business went through some hard times and the Umbaugh Co. was bought by another company. In 1982, Gerry formed his own company with a partner, Jim Heasley and a few other employees from Umbaugh. Hanover Building Systems succeeded for 35 years of ups and downs. During this time, he followed the advice his father had taught him, "You owe your service back to your community from which you drew your profits." He was a Rotary member for 36 years, served 15 years on the board of the Chamber of Commerce, and 8 years on the board of the United Cerebral Palsy.

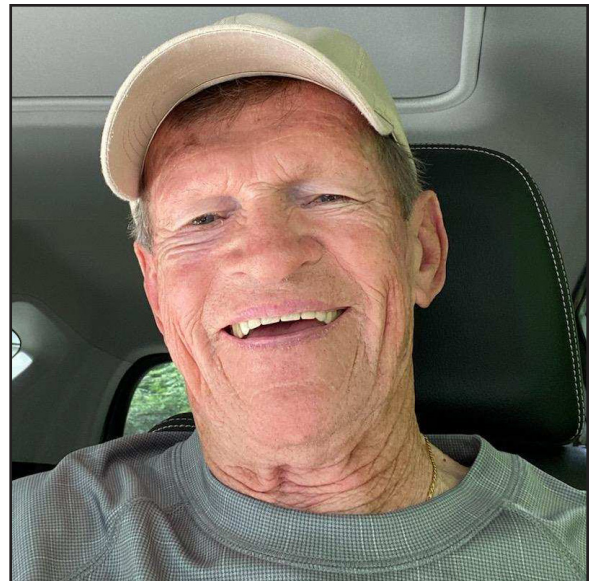
In 1985, the treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce invited Gerry to a CBMC (Christian Business Men's Committee) dinner. God used the speaker that night, whose testimony mirrored Gerry's life without God, to touch his heart and he filled out a card saying that he prayed the sinner's prayer that Thursday night. The following Monday morning at 7:00 A.M. Gordy Stambaugh came into Gerry's office and offered to disciple him in a CBMC training program for the next year. At the age of 44, Gerry beat the odds I mentioned at the start and began his life of service for God. He realized he should find a church. God used a friend to invite Gerry to "Bring a Friend to Church Day." Coincidentally, it was a church that Gerry's company had recently built (Christ American Baptist Church). After a few months of his regular attendance, Julie surprised him and said she would come to church with him. She gave her life to Christ in 1987 and they grew together in that church until she died of lung cancer after four years in and out of remission in 2002.

That Chamber of Commerce whose treasurer invited him to the dinner that changed his life would add another significant chapter to his life. The president of that Chamber, Sandy, who Gerry served under on the board for 15 years would become Gerry's next wife and partner, "till death do us part." Sandy was a gift from God to Gerry in many ways. The American Baptist Church had a mission to plant 1,000 new churches in 10 years. Gerry and Sandy spent two years of Saturdays in a program to train and certify lay pastors to help them towards that goal.

In 2017, Gerry sold his business to his employees and retired so they could spend more time with family. A little voice told him to, "buy two." Sandy bought a house in Lynchburg, VA near her daughter and grandchildren and Gerry bought a house in Ingomar right up the street from his daughter. They would go back and forth spending a month at a time in each house. When they visited NPC, they liked Pastor Dan because of his Biblical messages, the friendly people, and the facility, in that order.

After joining NPC, Gerry and Sandy took part in the Tuesday JOY group and served in the Sonshine Ministry at Stonebrook.

Unfortunately, Gerry experienced the same heartbreaking battle of losing his spouse again as Sandy lost her battle with cancer in October 2021. Gerry is still lonely and grieving, but instead of feeling sorry for himself he went through Stephen Ministry Training and is now ready to help others. He loves his cat, Buddy. His prayer request is for his daughters and sons-in-law to come to know Christ the way he does, and that God will use him to comfort and lead others. If you want to start a conversation with Gerry, ask him what it's like to be a World War II living historian and participate in re-enactments as a chaplain or to fly his own little plane.



"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." - Matthew 6:33

WHAT SHOULD I SAY?

HOW TO TALK ABOUT JESUS WITHOUT BEING (TOO) AWKWARD

In June, Diana, our office manager, had her car in the shop three times in close succession due to some mechanical issues. She went in a fourth time to give the men working there a gift card to treat them to lunch because she was grateful for their help. Then she was back again for another car related issue. Aren't cars fun!

Car rant aside...Diana had been feeling a bit of a nudge to share about Jesus at each of these visits but had not yet done so. After leaving the shop for the fifth time without sharing, the nudge turned into a conviction, so Diana went back to the shop without any car issues – Praise God!

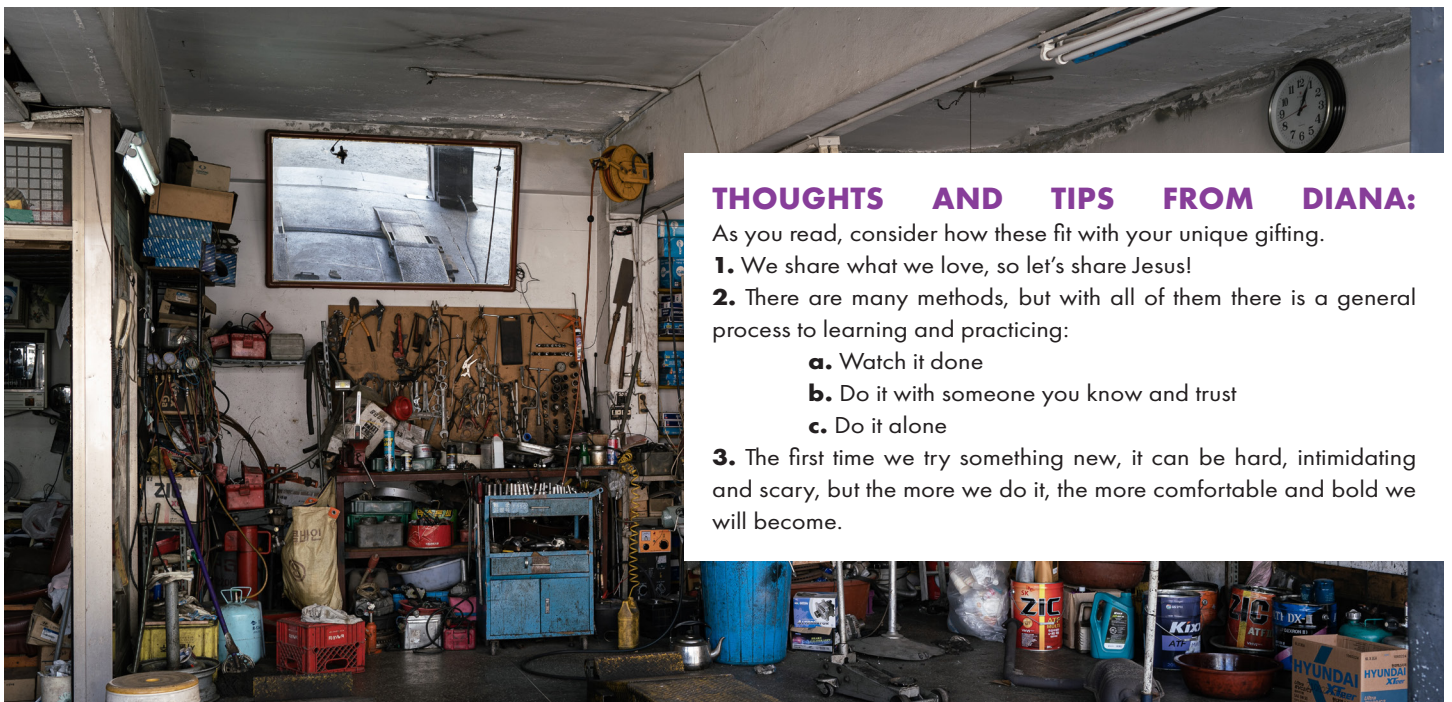
Diana learned a method to share the gospel using something called, "The Soul-Winning Script." Sometimes she sticks to it more closely than others depending on how the Spirit leads her. The method starts by asking, "Has anyone ever told you that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life?"

- If the person answers "yes", she asks a few more questions to confirm and then asks how she can pray for the person. Then she prays with them right then.
- If the person answers "no", she shares some scriptures passages, asks if she can pray for the person, prays and then asks if the person would like to pray to receive Jesus. The final part of the method includes getting a name and information to follow up, an invitation to church and sharing a bible and some discipling resources.

This is what Diana did with the men at the shop. When Diana asked how she could pray for them, one of the men shared that his wife had recently died of cancer and another man shared that his wife was currently battling cancer. Diana took the opportunity to pray right then and there for them and then she invited them to pray with her. One of the men did pray with her and agreed to visit her church. Now we are waiting for God to prompt the man's heart to follow through. So, for the rest of the story, you'll have to check in with Diana. I know she would be thrilled to share it with you! That's just one way to **PBJ**!

I pray that God gives you the opportunity to be a laborer for His harvest WITHOUT having to take your car to the shop on multiple occasions. But, however He does it, we can praise Him for His power and perfect timing!

One last thing: we are called to be holy, set apart, a peculiar people (1 Peter 2:9, KJV), so it is actually okay if you are a little awkward!
- **AMBER STITES**



THOUGHTS AND TIPS FROM DIANA:

As you read, consider how these fit with your unique gifting.

1. We share what we love, so let's share Jesus!
2. There are many methods, but with all of them there is a general process to learning and practicing:
 - a. Watch it done
 - b. Do it with someone you know and trust
 - c. Do it alone
3. The first time we try something new, it can be hard, intimidating and scary, but the more we do it, the more comfortable and bold we will become.

LISTENING TIPS FROM STEPHEN MINISTRY TO BLESS FOR PBJ

Listening is the L in BAGELS as we **BLESS** from **PBJ**. It is a skill all of us can continually sharpen. We can bless others and provide better care for people who are hurting or just need to be heard. To be brief, here are 5 words to be a better Listener.

Be (1.) **INTENTIONAL** (2.) **ATTENTIVE** (3.) **RESPONSIVE** (4.) **NON-JUDGMENTAL** (5.) **TRUSTWORTHY**

For a fuller explanation of these words, go to www.northparkepc/stephen for the full article.

Consistently putting these 5 tips into practice will have a big impact on the effectiveness of your listening. As you continue to hone your listening skills, people you relate to will come away from your conversations with you feeling heard, understood, and cared for. Try to Bless someone today. - **RACHEL SHARPNACK**

NPC WORSHIP

VBS SPARK STUDIOS SPIRITUAL RECAP

VBS is long gone for the summer but so many fun memories remain! Singing great songs, watching goofy skits, making new friends, walking like Jesus, Water Day slip and slides and bounce houses and water balloons bursting...all of these are fantastic things to remember about Spark Studios. But the main reason is to teach kids about God and His love for them. Each year, we offer a Bible class and a Missions rotation for both the senior and junior campers. Take a minute to hear from their leaders, who will tell you a little about their experience at VBS.

BEN BURKHOLDER — SENIOR CAMP BIBLE LEADER

Every time I get to teach the Bible classes for VBS, I feel privileged to be able to articulate the faith not just for NPC kids but also kids from the area. One experience this past VBS captured the importance of this opportunity. It was about half way through the week, and I was teaching a lesson on sin's effects and how God rescues us from sin in the Gospel. Unfortunately, I had more content than time, and I found myself rushing the Gospel section more than I wanted that day. Nevertheless, God was able to use it. I gave my best yet brief explanation of the Gospel from 2 Corinthians 5 and then realized we were out of time as the next group was trying to enter. It was then that a young boy not from our church raised his hand and asked, "Wait, does this mean that God won't strike me?" The way he framed the question caught me off guard. I immediately went over to him and asked him to repeat to make sure I heard it correctly. He reiterated the words with a solemnity that knew sin deserved God's punishment. However, having just learned of God's grace, you could see the reality of the Gospel dawning in this young man's mind. Through the work of Jesus, God had reconciled us to himself, and I was able to affirm that for him (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). Since his group was leaving at that moment, I handed him off to his counselor who was

more than willing to follow up in the squad time they were going to. As I cherished this brief but powerful moment of discovery for him, all of the time and energy invested in preparing those lessons suddenly felt small and insignificant. If one young man discovered God's grace and love as a result of that lesson, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

SUSANN PINKERTON — JUNIOR CAMP MISSIONS CO-LEADER

Diane Glancy and I have served together for the last three years in this role. Every year, after working with her, I rejoice in God's perfect design of his people working collaboratively as the Body of Christ. If I have an idea, she makes it happen. Her creative vision for making our room enticing and inviting always brings such wonder to the kids. She often prefers that I do a lot of the talking, but she isn't afraid to share Biblical wisdom, make suggestions to help me say things more clearly, or act out a scene with me. Through the Holy Spirit's leading, she's set the thematic Bible verse for our room each year which centers our teaching. This year's was 1 John 4:19.

A joy and challenge of working with our littlest campers, ages 4-6, is knowing what new vocabulary words might need to be taught. "The Gospel" was one of our introduced terms. On Tuesday, the children heard a very simple, color-coded, gospel message and learned about the many areas of community service that Hearts of Hope Ukraine performed for orphans, widows, and refugees. On Thursday, we practiced ways to serve our community with hearts filled with love for Jesus (and we actually wore cut out hearts imprinted with the beautiful name of Jesus, and a Crown). Children took turns at kindergarten-style stations where they pretended to give translation services for refugees (another new vocabulary word and favorite station with walkie-talkies); cared for stuffed animals; shopped with empty boxes from Diane's pantry for those in need; shared a meal with others with play-food and dish sets; and cared for "orphans" (another vocabulary word) with baby-dolls. On our last day, we reviewed our



color-coded Gospel message, creating a bracelet for ourselves and one to share while practicing telling the Gospel message: God is holy, we are sinners, Jesus died on the cross, He forgives our sins so that we can be with God, Jesus wants us to grow more like Him. A highlight of the week was that several of our return guests excitedly demonstrated their knowledge of Jesus through their joyful retelling of the Good News.

NANCY VAN SICKEL | JUNIOR CAMP BIBLE LEADER

One of the things that I loved to see this year was so many children from last year. It was so wonderful to see that many of these children did not know the common Bible stories that so many of us know. It was heartwarming to know that God was using VBS to put the truth of scripture into these children's hearts.

Another exciting thing was one of the children made up their own demonstration of what we learned about the Holy Spirit and showed it to the woman he was staying with on Friday. I was amazed that he made his own demonstration for her about how even though you could not see Jesus He was still there. How exciting to see a child make their own visual of what they were learning to show someone else. The thing that really kind of blew my mind is he made up his own completely different demonstration but it was accurate. Never underestimate what God is doing in the minds of the little ones. We can learn from them.

DEBORAH MCKINNEY | SENIOR CAMP MISSIONS CO-LEADER

This year in Senior Missions, Kirstin Lukas and I tag-teamed to answer the questions What is Missions? and What is God's heart for the world? I started off sharing the Latin word 'missio' or sending in the context of 2 Corinthians 5:20: 'We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.' We are God's sent ones!

After we answered those questions we had a few more to look at 1.) How do we know who Christ is? Spoiler: by looking at his life and reading his words and 2.) How do we show the world who Christ is? The same ways he did! By the spoken word, through the gospel, and through action: by love and service to those around us.

We shared more about our camp mission: Hearts of Hope located in Ukraine and Romania and then created our own prayer cards based on verses and requests from the organization and spent time praying for HOH in groups with our cards.

On the second day we created bracelets with the acronym: H.O.P.E. Helping the kids to remember our camp mission Hearts of Hope, and also a phrase to help them put God's mission into action: Helping Other People Everyday. Kirstin set up a time of brainstorming with the kids to have them share ideas for how they could reach people around them in their communities with God's love every day. It was beautiful and encouraging to hear their ideas for how to reach the world with the hope and love of Christ.

NURSERY

We have a group of volunteers who help cover the nursery, led by our solid paid caregivers. We have Hannah Hepner in the Tykes room and on an alternating basis, we have Amari Walker and Kaylin Latkovic in the Infants room.

TREKKERS

This year in Trekkers, we will be kicking off a new curriculum! It is our goal to have a new three-year rotation that focuses on helping equip our 3rd-5th graders to think critically about faith, truth, and worldview. Many of our lessons will be based off the Foundation Worldview curriculum, but we will be pulling lessons from other fantastic sources as well. This year, we will focus on Truth (Examples we will critically explore are: What is truth and its source? Truth is not a feeling, God's Word is our highest authority, Jesus is our ultimate source of truth).

Did you know that critical thinking skills begin developing by mid-elementary school? Or did you know that research suggests that morals are set by age 9? And did you know that research is also suggesting that most salvation experiences happen by age 13, and likewise most worldviews are established by age 13? It is important that we as parents and as a church don't miss these crucial, formative years with our kids! That's why in Trekkers, we desire to take the time to invest, train, teach, and answer questions to help our youth build their very own firm faith foundation!

We are looking forward to critically thinking with your kids all the while doing it in a fun, engaging way! And as always, there will be dinner, games, and prizes!

We could use a few more folks to make dinner for our Trekkers kids. If this sounds like a way you could serve, please contact Kelly Laird as soon as possible. There's a document with meal suggestions and slots where you can sign up to make a meal. - BETH & CHAD MORLEY, KIM & JONATHAN MYCYK, CO LEADERS

TREKKER DATES

September 11

October 9

November 13

December 11

January 8

February 5

March 12

April 16

May 7

KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

| | | | | |
|--|----------|----------------|---|---|
| PRESCHOOL (3 & 4-YEAR-OLDS) | Room 206 | Dwell: Play | Mrs. Holly Fairfield & Mrs. Stacy Altmyer | The curriculum leads children on a joyful discovery of God's love |
| KINDERGARTEN & 1ST GRADE (5 & 6-YEAR-OLDS) | Room 208 | Dwell: Imagine | Ms. Susan O'Leary | Kids and their teacher will spend the year imagining being a part of God's family |
| 2ND & 3RD GRADES | Room 302 | Dwell: Wonder | Mrs. Susan Burke & Mrs. Joyce Kish | In their study of the Gospels, children will spend the year learning of God's amazing plan, Jesus' surprising power, loving care and incredible love and the Holy Spirit's life-changing power. |
| 4TH & 5TH GRADES | Room 301 | Dwell: Marvel | Mrs. Laura Daly and Mr. Mike Stitt | Our 3rd-5th graders will spend half the year in the Gospels and the other half in the book of Acts, learning about God's love, mercy, and protection, and the Holy Spirit's power and work. |

KIDS' WORSHIP

We will take a one week break from Kids' Worship on September 4 and then start up again on the 11th as well as other ministries. We kick off the new school year by talking about lessons taught by the Apostle Paul, with scripture passages from Romans and Ephesians, which will go well with Pastor Dan's series on Romans.

Kids' Worship begins in the Tykes room, where the 2 and 3-year-olds are read a Bible story, explained the meaning of that story and prayed for and with by some capable leaders. In the Tykes room, we have Melanie Nichols, Brian Harrer and Beth Hendley, who would appreciate your prayers, as they lead the little ones in the Tykes room.

Kids' Worship middle level is what we call Preschool. This is for the 3-5-year-olds and kindergarteners. They will also be studying lessons from Paul, on a preschooler's level, while we do fun activities to help solidify the Bible lessons. We teach the kids about our sponsored child and where she lives, as well as collect an offering and pray for her. We are very grateful to these leaders who are serving in there this year: Susann Pinkerton, Lisa Arnold, Kim Mycyk, and Alison Sanders.

Our oldest kids in Kids' Worship are our first and second graders in what we call the Younger Kids' room. These kids also are studying Romans and Ephesians and get a fun video each week by their friend, the silly but always has your heart in mind, Joel. Scripture memorization is part of the older two levels of Kids' Worship, as well as praying for and collecting offering for our sponsored child, Kadiatu Kamara. Leaders working in the Younger Kids' room this year will be: Kristen Smalley, David Pinkerton, Beth Morley and Kim Runyan.

We have a dedicated group of teens who also help regularly with Kids' Worship. Please pray for these kids, that they learn how to serve in a way that is winsome and that their own faith will be developed as they do: Hazel Bender, Caleb Stites, Lily Stites, Elizabeth Haytock, Bethany Osmond, Ellie O'Brien, Moriah Burkholder, Will Smalley, Claire McKinney and Isadora, Iona, Davey and Landon Pinkerton.

One last shout out. We have a solid group of teens that keep an eye on our 3-year-olds before Kids' Worship begins each week, so parents of those toddlers can enjoy the service and know that their child is well cared for. Please pray for these ladies, as they minister to our 3's, for safety, routine, kindness and God's love to ooze out of them each week: Chloe Sanders, Hazel Bender, Anna Shimeall, Elizabeth Haytock, and Claire McKinney.

Remember that some children will be moving to new classes and nursery rooms this fall! Parents should have received a letter in the mail with their child's room assignments for Sunday School and during the worship service. If you have any questions, contact Kelly Laird (kellylaird@northparkepc.org).



KIDS' QUESTIONS FOR GOD

Each week, the Younger Kids class in Kids' Worship get an opportunity to ask God a question. They go off on their own, write it on an index card and then talk to God about it, listening for Him to speak to them, through His Word and to their hearts. Here are some recent questions from our own kids:

- I hope that Ken is OK in the hospital and God, tell him that I love him.
- Please help me to pray more
- God, please help us trust You will all our hearts!
- Where is heaven?
- God, please help me to memorize the Bible verse.
- How do you make my eyes move?
- I pray for Mr. L's family.
- Dear God, How old will I be when I pass...or stay alive? And how old are You, God? And what's life going to be like in 25-45 years? And what's your nickname?



REFLECTIONS ON A WEST VIRGINIA MISSIONS TRIP

In July 2022, our youth served in West Virginia with Praying Pelican Mission. Here is one student's account of what happened on the trip:

I hope you are doing well! I am grateful for this awesome experience to serve in West Virginia, and I am so excited to tell you a little bit about it. On Sunday we went to Liberty Street Church and then helped set up for the Art Camp that we were going to help out with that week. Then we helped out with the youth group there. Some have gone through a lot, whether it was drug abuse or physical or sexual abuse. Some went there just so they could get away from their home life. We got to play and worship with them; it was a beautiful time.

On Monday morning, half of us went to a school and the other half went to a homeless shelter. My group went to the school and did some landscaping work. Then we painted a few rooms inside for a few hours. The other group helped clean and paint at the homeless shelter. In the afternoon we helped out at the Art Camp. We got to sing some songs and help the kids with their art projects. After dinner, we had worship and small group time. We talked about our day and then relaxed. It was a great time to grow closer to my youth group.

On Tuesday, we went back to the school and painted. In the afternoon, we helped out at the Art Camp and then had dinner. The other half that went to the homeless shelter told us stories of families that they met. Some of the kids were very crazy and loud, and others were very quiet and kept to themselves. We also discussed the devotion that we did that morning. An interesting story about the day was how the devotion was connected to a person that we met at the homeless shelter. We all did the same devotion every morning, and that week, we were reading the story about Joseph. That morning we were at the part where Joseph was thrown into prison because he was accused of doing something that he did not do. The group that went to the homeless shelter told us about a man that they met. He was accused of beating his wife and

was kicked out of his home. He came to the shelter just a few days ago. His wife is bipolar and apparently wasn't taking her medicine. She started making things up and imagining things. He was heartbroken that his wife would do something like this. He said the police would come to the house in a few days to check things out. However, until that happens he had to stay at the shelter. It's so fascinating how our devotion that morning was connected with a man at the shelter. What are the odds of that happening on the same day? I believe it was God revealing himself to us. I pray that man will be set free from the accusations and be able to see his wife again someday.

On Wednesday morning, my group went to the school to paint while the other half went to the homeless shelter to finish painting and cleaning. That afternoon we helped out at the Art Camp. It was the last day of camp, and so it was a little sad. I met this little boy named Tanner and we became best friends. He is 10 years old and is very passionate about art. Even though we were only together for three days we grew really close. When it was time to say goodbye, he gave me a hug and said he would be back next year. Sadly, I had to tell him I would not be back, but I promised him that I would never forget about him.

On Thursday morning, we finished painting at the school. And then went exploring in the afternoon as a group. We went to "The Overlook," which was basically a park up on the mountains. The picture above shows a view of the whole city. It was a beautiful view of Parkersburg. Afterwards, we went back to the student youth ministry, and we did an evening of affirmation. We went around in a circle and told each other what we loved about them. It was a beautiful time to just get to know each other and grow closer as a group. On Friday morning we packed and headed back home.

I am so thankful to God for letting me go on this adventure. I believe this trip changed my perspective on life and even on myself. I love to serve others but I never realized how much of a blessing it is. It is so rewarding! When you see a smile from a child that lives in an abusive home, it makes you want to smile a little more. When you hear the words "you're my best friend," from a little boy that you've only been with for three days, makes you want to be a little more thankful. And when a principal who has zero dollars in her budget to help her school but still buys the supplies, paint, mulch, plants (with her own money), it just makes you want to give a little more to the world. It doesn't matter if you're a kid or an adult, serving, listening, even hanging out with someone can not only change their life but also yours. Thank you so much for your prayers and for your support. I hope you have a wonderful summer. God bless you! — **VICKI HARRER**



YOUTH GROUP FALL PLAN & UPDATE

As the search team for the new Student Ministries Director continues its work of reviewing and interviewing applicants, the student ministry here at North Park won't miss a beat. Our amazing adult leaders have jumped in with both feet to fill the gap, making sure all of the beloved facets of youth ministry continue. If you see them, be sure to thank them (Leslie Van Newkirk, Bob & Lisa Arnold, Chad & Beth Morley, and Grant & Deborah McKinney).

SUNDAY EVENING YOUTH GROUP 6:30-8:30 P.M. EVERY SUNDAY

Starting Sunday, September 11, Youth Group will resume meeting at the church on the 3rd floor. We will kick off with "The Amazing Race" that your students will not want to miss. From that point onward, we have a slate of speakers talking about prayer, managing technology, and having courage to face your challenges. Youth Group will meet every Sunday this fall except for September 4, November 27, and December 25.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY | 9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

Starting Sunday, September 11, there will be a combined middle school and high school class going through Ephesians on the 3rd floor. Take advantage of this opportunity for your teen by planning to attend an adult Sunday school yourself.

YOUTH SMALL GROUPS EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY | 7:00-8:30 P.M.

Starting Wednesday, September 14, the small group opportunity for our youth will resume, which is a great discipleship opportunity for youth looking for more personal mentoring. To add some incentive for our students, Chic-Fil-a will be bringing sandwiches for the opening night's snack.

Andy Stites will lead a combined group for the middle school and high school guys. The girls, however, will be split into middle school and high school with the two groups being led by Deborah McKinney and Lisa Arnold.

FALL RETREAT NOVEMBER 4-6

Once again, students will be able to attend the Fall Retreat at Ligonier where they will have some outdoor fun but also meaningful connection with other students. We will be bringing in an outside speaker to speak on the importance of the Gospel. We also hope that students will invite their friends as well, so you can be encouraging them to think about whom they might invite. Stay tuned as you'll be hearing more about this opportunity in the weeks to come but go ahead and block this event out for your student as this is always a critical event that helps students feel more connected at youth group.



CONNECT WITH COLLEGE + CAREERS THIS FALL SUNDAYS | 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. ROOM 110

Go Go Squeeze. PlayStation. Febreze. Photoshop. Tickle Me Elmo. Gender Reveal Parties. What do all these things have in common? They didn't exist 30 years ago!

The world I encountered back in the day is vastly different than the world our college students and young professionals must navigate today. I wouldn't say it was better back then (I couldn't live without music streaming now), but I would say that there are incredibly more distractions today. Survey after survey have indicated that these distractions in our culture have had the greatest effect on those in the 18-to-29 age range. If you are a college student or young professional who desires to follow Jesus today, you have a more difficult path than I did at that age. It seems like today's distractions aren't satisfied to stunt your spiritual growth; they want to draw you away from Jesus completely, to "become ensnared by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction" (1 Timothy 6:9).

The College + Careers group at North Park Church exists to be a space where college students and 20-somethings can gather for fellowship, encouragement, and dialogue grounded in the truth of God's Word as we all navigate together through the spiritual distractions of today's world. Oh, we have fun too! This summer, we've enjoyed some after-church events such as a picnic in North Park and a hangout at someone's house. We have plans for another hangout in the fall, along with a service project and some other calendar events we haven't quite finalized yet. Please join us. You're always welcome! - **GARY LAIRD**

1 Samuel

Women's Bible Study



"He raises up the poor from the dust; He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them He has set the world. He will guard the feet of His faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail."

1 Samuel 2:8-9

NOT BY (MY) MIGHT!

WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDY

1 SAMUEL

MONDAYS, STARTING SEPTEMBER 12

9:15-11:15 A.M. | ROOM 112

I am currently the mother of three teenagers (as well as one 10-year-old). At least weekly, if not daily, I find myself utterly at a loss as to what to do in some situation, or with some attitude that surfaces—and to be clear, sometimes it's my own attitude that puts me at a loss. I have some responsibility and some influence, but not much control over these, who I love fiercely. It's a desperate feeling—love and a good vision for the future without the power to make the vision into reality.

Do you know what is absolutely exhausting? — trying to work it out in my own strength! Ask me how I know. But I've learned a little something...In desperate situations, it is possible to be at rest! I can rest when I remember that, "The Lord is my (AND my children's) rock, fortress and deliverer." - 2 Samuel 22:2

What about you? Have you ever felt desperate? If so, what did you do in those moments of desperation? Where did you find the strength to keep moving forward?

Let us strive together to remember to turn to Jesus, to fix our eyes upon Him, remember His forgiveness, mercy and grace, and seek Him as our FIRST response rather than our last resort. This is what we will endeavor to do throughout our women's bible study of 1 Samuel this fall, and ladies, we would LOVE to have you join us!

Workbook is \$20 • Sign up at northparkepc.org/womens
Questions? Email Amber Stites (amberstites@northparkepc.org)



FALL 2022 ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

STARTS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 | 9:00 A.M.

CHRISTIAN FAITH AND THE HOT ISSUES OF THE DAY | PASTOR DAN | ROOM 112

Many of us feel we are living in a day of rapid cultural transition that challenges our emotional stability, our unity in the church and our ability to respond in ways that honor the Lord and bless our neighbors. This class will address some of those issues and point the way to maintaining a godly focus while seeking to live Christianly in an increasingly hostile and confusing environment.

THE TRINITY IN SCRIPTURE AND THEOLOGY | PASTOR BEN | ROOM 305/307

What does it mean to say God is Three-in-One? We affirm that God is such, but many would prefer to talk about God in the singular rather than try to explain the Trinity. In this class, we are going to explore the biblical basis for believing that God is Triune and then we'll trace the development of Trinitarian doctrine through the early creeds to explain how the historic church arrived at the Nicene Creed.

COLLEGE AND CAREERS (DANIEL) | GARY LAIRD | ROOM 110

For the fall, we'll be continuing our exciting journey through the book of Daniel. Whether you're a college student home on break or a recent graduate starting off your career in the area, we hope you'll join us on Sunday mornings.

NPC CONNECT

FRISBEE 'N FIRE A COMPASS EVENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 | 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Do you like s'mores and telling stories around the camp fire? Or, do you have energetic kids who like playing ultimate frisbee? Maybe your family likes to do both? Well, now you can do it all in one evening!

This event is designed to be a fun evening with several different elements. We'll have burgers and hot dogs for dinner, s'mores by the fire for dessert, and a family-friendly game of ultimate frisbee in the backfield. Even if you don't want to show off your frisbee skills, we'd still like to have you come for the fellowship with everyone else from North Park Church. Don't miss out on this great time to get together in the fall.

If you plan to sit by the fire, bring a lawn chair or use one of the benches in the amphitheater. We'll provide the burgers and hot dogs, but we do ask guests to bring something to share based upon last name: A-G (appetizers), H-O (salads), P-Z (sides). To sign up either email Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org) or sign up in the lobby.



TASTE OF ALPHA COMING IN OCTOBER | 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

Have you heard about Alpha? I hope you've heard about it, but would you know if it is safe enough to invite your friend to it? In October, you'll get the chance to experience Alpha for yourself. On **October 2, 9, 16, and 23**, we are going to offer a sampling of Alpha, and we want everyone in the church to plan to come to at least one of those evenings and hopefully to all of them. We will be offering this concurrently to Youth Group, so parents can plan to attend while their kids are at Youth Group. Childcare will be offered for other ages.

This "Taste of Alpha" experience is designed for our church members, and the purpose is to make sure North Park people experience Alpha firsthand as a safe place so we would be comfortable inviting our friends and neighbors to it. Thus, go ahead and look at your October calendar and plan to be present on at least one or more of those nights from 6:30-8:30 P.M. You'll enjoy good food, great discussions on faith, and learn more about what Alpha is all about.



WEEKEND TO REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 23-25 PITTSBURGH MARRIOTT NORTH

It's here for you this month! One great marriage conference on September 23-25 at the Pittsburgh Marriott North in Cranberry Township. Sign up soon for two reasons. (1) Half price registrations are available from August 29 to September 19 (2) Seats will fill up fast since there is only one conference this year in Pittsburgh. Marriage is a lifelong adventure of growing together through every age and stage of life. The happiest couples are those who commit to learning skills that help them weather difficult seasons and deal confidently with relationship challenges. It's your turn to make a great marriage happen. Sign up by going to northparkepc.org/events or connect with Mark Sharpnack (marksharpnack@northparkepc.org). More information is available at a table in the lobby. Mark or Rachel Sharpnack would love to speak with you more about this opportunity to invest in your marriage. Your spouse is worth it!



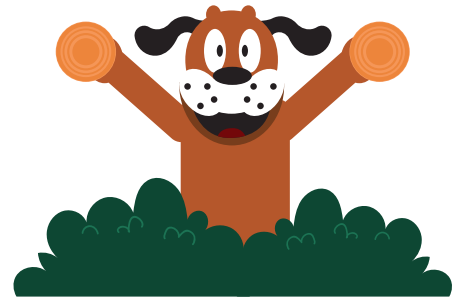
SPORTING CLAYS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 | 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 opportunity is open to all men, women, boys, and girls, ages 11 and older. It will be held on Saturday, September 24 from 10:00 A.M. - 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 starting September 4 or by emailing Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).



BIRTHDAYS

- 2** Daniel Pennington
- 3** Grant McKinney
Eliana O'Brien
- 4** Gayla Hopkins
- 5** Judah Whittington
- 9** Damion Carey
Sandy Garver
Kayla Murphy
- 10** Joe Daly
John Lengel
- 12** Paul Spangler
- 13** Kelly Stitt
- 15** James Wilkin
- 16** Gary Anderson
- 20** Vivian Miller
- 22** Johnny Faber
Robert Glancy
- 23** Bill Hargest
Nicholas Osmond
- 25** Hazel McKinney
- 26** Abbey Mycyk
Alexia Walters
- 27** Lilian Stites
Elle Whittington
- 28** Hazel Bender
Drew Laird
- 29** Jordan Hoover
- 30** Beth Kuchma
Lisa Lish

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1** Dan & Carol Dupee
James & June Yoder
- 9** Joe & Laura Daly
- 12** Jeffery & Barbara Buirge
- 14** Gary & Peggy Anderson
- 17** Damion & Megan Carey
- 25** David & Susann Pinkerton
- 30** Bob & Lisa Arnold

