

NPCFYI

183 | JANUARY 2023

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

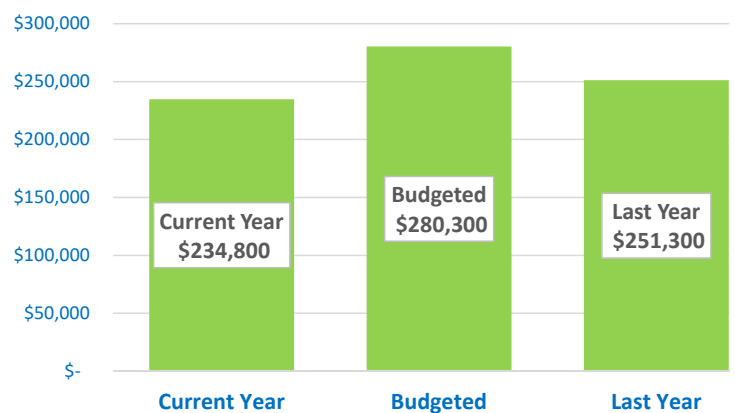
Romans 5:19



HAPPY
New Year



GIVING UPDATE THROUGH 11/30



Unified Giving of \$234,800 for our church year was 7% less than the prior year and 16% below our budgeted amount.



04 Family of the Month

05 Children's Ministry

06 Student Ministry

Winter Sunday School

07 Stephen Ministry Minute

Pray For One, Invite One
Events to invite people to.

COMPASS: Bible Trivia Night

Alpha

GROW Center

08 Birthdays & Anniversaries

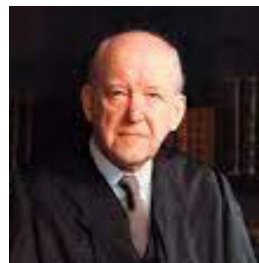


BROOKE IS HOME, IMPROVING, AND MULTIPLYING

We're all rejoicing in the restoration of health for Brooke Hopkins. Brooke collapsed during rehearsal on December 7 with cardiac arrest. EMTs could stabilize the heart, but several days of sedation and intubation were followed by several more days of testing. MRI revealed a genetic condition called a mitral annular disjunction. Brooke received an internal defibrillator and was released on December 23. He is at home rehabbing, and we're waiting to see when he can return to lead us in worship. While all this was happening, daughter Tirzah gave birth to her first, Boone Wesley Brown, in Montana.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **GINGER SULLIVAN** just became a confirmed member of our church....that NPC elder **JOHN HOLT** just turned 60 and runs the Great Awakening Café....that emus and kangaroos cannot walk backwards....that **EVAN KOVACS AND CHRIS BEDFORD** both performed CPR for Brooke....that **KATIE WHITTINGTON** stepped up to lead the provisions of food for the Coffeehouse Christmas....that "Pinocchio" is Italian for "Pine Head"....that **ANDY STITES AND DAN DUPEE** have directed our praise band in Brooke's absence....that **KASSAUNDRA RODRIQUEZ AND DAVID WILLIAMS** are directing our singers in Brooke's absence....that porcupines float in water....that **GERRY RICHARDSON** made a beef brisket for the Tuesday JOY holiday lunch....that your **ELDERS** are retreating January 20-21 in Butler....that whiteout was invented by the mother of Mike Nesmith of the Monkees....that **BRUCE AND JANET ALLISON** live in Zelienople on a property that also houses the families of their two daughters....that **ROSEMARY CRAFT** used to teach the flute....that if you are bitten by a crocodile you may release its grip by pushing your thumbs into its eyeballs....that those who read the FYI are 17% less likely to be bitten by a crocodile. Did you know these things? I thought you should.



HISTORY CORNER

According to the Scriptures happiness is never something that should be sought directly; it is always something that results from seeking something else (*Matthew 5:6*,

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled"). Whenever you put happiness before righteousness, you will be doomed to misery. That is the great message of the Bible from beginning to end. They alone are truly happy who are seeking to be righteous. When the prodigal son was hungry he went to feed upon husks, but when he was starving, he turned to his father. The Christian is one who at one and the same time is hungering and thirsting and yet he is filled. And the more he is filled the more he hungers and thirsts. This is the blessedness of the Christian life. - **Martyn Lloyd-Jones**, 1899-198, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*

NORTH PARK ENCOUNTER

Sunday, January 15 | 5:00 – 8:00 P.M. | Room 107

The next opportunity to get a crash course on our church and begin the membership process will be Sunday evening, January 15, as Pastor Hendley offers another North Park ENCOUNTER. A free meal will be provided. The ENCOUNTER is guaranteed to be a fast-moving, enjoyable evening. The class is designed for adults 15 and over, but all ages may come. Childcare is provided. For more info or to sign up talk to Pastor Dan (danhendley@northparkepc.org).

FAMILY OF THE MONTH: DUPEE



Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. – *Romans 12:1-2*

Let me try to show you what God planned for this very well known and loved feature family at NPC before they were born. It would be slowly revealed to them as they lived their favorite scripture, *Romans 12:1-2*. Dan grew up in Cincinnati, OH as the surprise youngest of four children to a “nominally” Christian family. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan with a BA in History and English. Carol grew up on the other side of the tunnels in Pittsburgh with two younger brothers. Her father was both a nuclear physicist and a Dr. of Theology. Her mother is an attorney. They were a Catholic family that was part of the Cursillo Movement. Carol made her public commitment to follow Christ as a high school freshman on a Campus Life weekend retreat. She went to Penn State and got her undergraduate degree in marketing.

Dan’s brother Dave, who was working with the CCO at Thiel College, was led to invite his younger brother Dan, a freshman in college, to a “Jubilee” in Pittsburgh where Tom Skinner was the main speaker. Dan told me that weekend Tom took apart all the bricks of works theology and put the bricks back together in a way that transformed his life in grace as a living sacrifice. If you haven’t read *Romans 12:1-2* yet do it now! After graduating, God’s plan sends Dan to Penn State where he begins work with the CCO. Remember Carol Korsmeyer?

She is a resident assistant at Penn State and is struggling in her faith because one of the girls on her hall attempted suicide. Carol follows God’s leading and makes an appointment to talk to the CCO leader, Dan, about her issues. Well you know what this leads to...Carol asks Dan to a sorority party. Even though there is only 2 ½ years difference in their ages the CCO has rules about a staff person dating a student. Dan asks his boss Howie Shultz what he should do. Howie and his wife Joanne decide to double date with them and evaluate. The relationship deepens and Carol ends up staying at Penn State after graduation to pursue her Masters in counseling. Nine months after meeting, Dan would propose to Carol in Howie and Joanne’s home. They were married in Heinz Chapel in 1984.

After 3 years with the CCO at Penn State and now happily married to Carol, Dan began his career with his family’s business in Cincinnati, Olsten Staffing Services in 1984. His brother had also left the CCO a year earlier and joined the business. Dan spent 13 years under the leadership of his father and older brother while the business grew from \$12 million to \$33 million and he contributed significantly to that growth in his sales position. Carol was employed in career development at Northern Kentucky University and they both led the college fellowship at their church. Life

changed significantly in 1992 when as Carol says, “Be careful what you pray for”. Their prayers were answered and they had twin boys Jack and Spencer. God was not done and in 1996 they had twin girls Anne and Eliza.

Dan was not meant to be a follower; God was just preparing him to be a leader. The President of the CCO Bob Long, had his eye on grooming Dan to be his successor. (Incidentally my father, Jim Ludwig Sr., was a founding board member of the organization with Bob Long.) In 1997, Dan would accept a position with the CCO as VP of Development and move his family to Pittsburgh. Bob being satisfied with Dan’s trial period promoted him to President in 1999. During the next 17 years the CCO would grow from 46 campuses to 116 and in the last 13 years of his tenure each year they were recognized as one of the best places to work by Best Christian Workplaces Institute. Temporary retirement in 2015 gave him time to write his first book, “It’s Not Too Late.”

Dan and Carol were led to NPC in 1997 because Brian Tome who was a former youth pastor at NPC, was headed to Cincinnati just as Carol and Dan were headed to Pittsburgh and recommended they come. During their 25 years at NPC Carol has worked in the nursery, taught Sunday School, done Summer Celebration, meals for the youth group, and co-led a girls small group with Barb Buirge all while her kids were working their way through NPC. As an empty nester Carol has mentored younger women in the church and become a Deacon serving with the Mercy Team. Meanwhile Dan joined the praise team early on having played keyboard with Tom Jones in a band that played for Jubilee Conferences. Tom had also recommended they follow him to NPC. Dan is currently working through his second set of two consecutive three-year terms as an elder and he has taught 3 excellent adult Sunday School classes.

Dan had begun work on his second book and started leadership coaching business, (including a client who is a priest in Melbourne Australia), when the CCO asked him to become an interim president. With that calling being completed again in June of this year Dan and Carol are pleased to announce God’s latest plan for them. Check it out at www.dupeestrengths.com.

If you think Dan and Carol are special people, please don’t tell them. Instead give God the glory for what He accomplished through two people who were willing to live out *Romans 12:1-2*. - **Jim Ludwig**



SHUT-INS CHRISTMAS CARDS

It has become a tradition that the kids from North Park Church create hand-made Christmas cards each year. So, when the poinsettia plants get delivered, each plant includes a beautiful card from our children too. Take a look at some of the 48 cards that were made this year.

FUN BIBLE LESSONS!

Recently, the 4th and 5th grades Sunday School class were having a lesson about The Great Commission. Mrs. Daly used candles as a way to show the class that Jesus is our light and we too can be the LIGHT to our world! Great visual!



Also recently, the kids in Kids' Worship learned about the angels and what they did to announce and celebrate Jesus' birth. Mrs. Arnold had the kids crafting angels out of Play-Doh and sticky contact paper with lots of glitter and sequins.

QUESTIONS FROM KIDS TO GOD



Did you know that our older Kids' Worship kids are talking to God every week? Every Sunday, we give them time and space to wonder with God, asking Him questions to things on their mind. This develops the practice of prayer, talking to and listening for the voice of God. Here are some recent ponderings:

- How many days did it take to build the ark?
- When are you coming back to Earth?
- Dear God, Please help Granny to get home safely.
- Can you make Earth a peaceful place, please?
- I love You, God!
- Thank you for my dog.
- Dear God, please help (somebody!) to stop taking my camera!
- Thank you for my life.
- How do you make friends?
- I'm thankful for LEGOs. I'm sorry for lying.
- I'm thankful for Jesus. I'm sorry for being rude.
- I'm thankful for my family. I was not nice to my family.
- I hope you forgive my sin.
- What's it like to live in heaven?
- How do you make my heart pump?
- God, what do you look like?



COFFEEHOUSE CHRISTMAS

We tried a new thing last month and had a Coffeehouse Christmas! Fourteen acts performed beautifully while a pretty large crowd gathered to catch up, chat and fellowship in the Blue Room. We heard singing and playing on the guitar, piano, saxophone, flute and trombone! We had lights and beautiful Christmas decorations too. It was a fun morning. Thanks to all who helped to make it a success

AND JESUS CAME AND
SAID TO THEM, "ALL
AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN
AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN
GIVEN TO ME."
MATTHEW 28:18 (ESV)

VBS

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS: JUNE 12-16, 2023



HIGH SCHOOL EPIC WINTER REATREAT

JANUARY 27-29

On the weekend of January 27-29, the high school students will be going to a youth retreat at Ligonier with other churches from our Presbytery. Our adult chaperones for this trip are Bob Arnold and Deborah McKinney. Students who have signed up will leave the church on Friday and return early afternoon on Sunday.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LASER TAG

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 | 2-4:30 P.M. | LASER STORM
7715 MCKNIGHT ROAD, PITTSBURGH, PA 15237

While the high school students are at the retreat, the middle school students will have a special opportunity to go laser tagging on January 28 at Laser Storm on McKnight Road. The **cost is \$20**, which will cover lunch and 3 games of laser tag. You can sign up and pay here: at www.northparkepc.org/student-ministry. Please, plan to drop off and pick up from Laser Storm.



SCHEDULE

1/1
NO YOUTH GROUP

1/8
BEACH PARTY | 6:30 P.M.

1/15
YOUTH GROUP | 6:30 P.M.

1/22
YOUTH GROUP | 6:30 P.M.
featuring Adult Leader Panel

1/29
NO YOUTH GROUP OR
YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOLS



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

JONAH

Jim Yoder | Room 109

The book of Jonah is more than a fish story! Its 48 verses can be leisurely read in less than ten minutes. But it is dense with insights into the nature of prophecy, the prophet, the city, the casting of lots, the power of prayer, the sovereignty of God, and the immeasurable results of God-directed evangelism. So, we hope to have some stimulating discussion, much of which will resonate with our own times.

GENTLE AND LOWLY: THE HEART OF CHRIST FOR SINNERS AND SUFFERERS

Matt Bender, Amber Stites, Andy Stites and Clint Van't Land | Room 111

Would you like to grow in your knowledge and understanding of who Jesus is—not just what He has done, but who is He, what is most natural to Him, what is His heart toward sinners, toward us? Would you like to invigorate your worship and increase in your awe of and devotion to Jesus by beholding Him and becoming more like Him? This is what we will strive to do in our 8 weeks together as we read, reflect, and discuss Dane Ortlund's book, *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers*.

WHY CHRISTIANS NEED TO TALK ABOUT VIRTUES IN CHURCH AND HOME

Ben Burkholder | Room 112

Is the moral life more about doing the right things or about becoming the right kind of people? In this class we will explore the rich history of virtue from a Christian perspective, especially as it regards character growth by means of God's grace. Most importantly, we will discuss what this means for how we personally grow as individuals and parent our children toward being people of character.



"Me, an Evangelist?: Learning to Share Your Faith through Listening & Caring for Others" is the title of an upcoming Sunday School class in 2023. The Stephen Ministry Team is looking forward to sharing with you what we've learned and how this class fits nicely with **PBJ**. The Sunday School class will begin March 12, 2023. It will be a 10-week class with various teachers. This class will teach Christians how to care for others and share their faith compassionately with those around them in ways that fit for them and that others welcome. Christians who long to carry Jesus' message of love to others but just don't know how will find a sensible and caring approach that works. Every age is welcome! Hope to see you in class in the Spring!

Stephen Leader,
Rachel Sharpnack

P-23

As we **PBJ** into this New Year, we have a special focus for the month of January. We want you to pray for one person that they would be receptive to an invitation. Then, after discerning with God, which opportunity might be best, invite them to one of three opportunities.

Worship Service Focused on the Gospel

Sunday, January 15 | 10:15-11:35 A.M.

Alpha

Thursday, January 26 | 6:00-8:15 P.M.

COMPASS: Mystery Dinner Evening

Wednesday, February 22 | 6:00-8:00 P.M.

We'll be talking more about this in the service, but start praying now and asking God who might be a good person to invite.



Do you want to know your Bible better? Or maybe you think you have a pretty good handle on it already? Regardless of how you think you stack up, come enjoy the company of your North Park Church family over a warm dinner and then stick around for some friendly competition where teams will compete to see which table has the best Bible recollection.

The main course will be provided. We ask attending families to bring a side according to last name to contribute to the meal:

A-G: Salads

H-O: Sides

P-Z: Dessert

Sign up in the lobby or email Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).

ALPHA

Thursdays - January 26-March 30 | 6:00-8:00 P.M. | Shriver's Home

Have you ever wanted to watch someone realize their broken past can be forgiven and discover that God's grace and mercy are large enough to include them as well? Alpha is a chance for you to do just that. What is Alpha? Alpha is first and foremost about relationships. Each night begins with a meal that is intentionally focused on cultivating relationships. From there we transition to an engaging video of about 25 minutes or so that discusses some element of the Christian faith. From there, we have open discussion where we don't expect accurate, textbook answers but want people to wrestle honestly and openly. I am always surprised at what people have experienced and the questions they have for God.

Do you want to be a part of Alpha this year? Perhaps you would like to experience it or would like to invite a friend to it? If you're interested in coming or providing a meal or praying for our team, email Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org) or sign up in the lobby.

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY — HELP RENOVATE THE GROW CENTER IN LEBANON

January 22-February 12

For the past several years, North Park Church has partnered with the GROW Center in Lebanon after sending a team to Lebanon to see it operating on the ground. The GROW Center operates with a "missions in reverse" concept where they reach families by reaching children. They concentrate on providing quality, Christian preschool for families of migrant workers, refugees, and others below the poverty threshold. Through showing their children the love of Christ, the families are open to talking with staff and missionaries about their faith who are then plugged into local churches.

At present, the GROW Center is seeking to replicate its design to another location. They have recently purchased a new location and are seeking to renovate it to make it functional and add a floor to combine this missional opportunity with a church plant. They are raising money right now to finish the work and make the new location operational. We are hoping to raise \$5,000 for this project as a church, and if you would like to participate, we will be making this opportunity available from January 22 to February 12. You can write checks out to North Park Church with Lebanon/GROW Center in the memo line and deposit in the box that will be in the lobby for those weeks.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Ed Deboe
 - 2 Jim Yoder
 - 3 Brandon Gilbert
 - 5 Pam Miller
 - 7 Susan Meeneghan
Rob O'Brien
 - 10 Joyce Wanninger
 - 12 Lisa Arnold
Kim Mycyk
Kate Shriver
 - 14 Mike Stitt
 - 15 Kim Zaiser
 - 16 Janet Lochner
 - 18 Alana Stites
 - 21 Aaron Sullivan
 - 22 Amelia Gilbert
 - 24 Rosemary Craft
 - 27 Will Fowler
 - 28 Dawson Haytock
-
- 2 John & Pat (Whitmer) Lengel
 - 8 Jeff & Lauren Fowler

