



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS

**Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

*Experiencing and sharing God's love to transform our homes, community and world.*

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**FROM PASTOR DAVID GARRISON**

**Thank You!**

My family and I would like to thank you all for the incredibly warm welcome you've extended to us. We are overwhelmed with the love and welcome gifts you've shared. Moving to a new community and church is always challenging, but you have made us feel at home. I wish we could give a personal thank you for every gift, but many of them didn't say who they were from, so please accept this note, knowing that the sentiment behind it is far deeper than our words could ever convey.

## **Hurricanes, Floods, and What We Can Do**

As I write this, the rain continues to fall on southeast Texas and the Gulf Coast. The quantities of rain are mind-boggling, and the images and videos are heartbreaking. With the water levels still rising, we don't yet know how bad the damage will be or what relief efforts would look like. While we encourage you to be praying for those who need rescue as well as those doing the rescuing, we also want to be thinking about practical ways we can help. We have posted links to ministries and organizations we support that are already receiving donations to aid their efforts in recovery on our website ([www.npcmh.com](http://www.npcmh.com)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/npcmh](http://www.facebook.com/npcmh)).



## **What does the future hold?**

Isn't that what we all want to know? The truth is that, no matter how much we plan or prepare, no matter what we *think* the future will hold, ultimately only God knows the future. But I know this, I am very excited about what God has done over the past 59 years through Northminster, and I can't wait to see what God has yet to do in and through us over the years to come. From the conversations I've had with many of you, I know you are as excited as I am. While I don't know what the future holds, I know who holds the future. So I invite you to join me in setting our focus on Him, and Him alone.

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."  
(Heb 12:2)

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

- 3 Roger Buchanan
- 10 Dot Stinnett
- 11 Ian Moore I
- 16 Ray Vandall
- 19 Sharon Bryant
- 23 Peggy Wright
- 24 Samantha Work
- 25 Bobbie Garrett
- 27 Tim Wright



**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:**

- 1 Vance & Anne Wilkins, 2007
- 5 Ray & Janet Vandall, 1956
- 10 George & Mickie Brine, 1977
- 10 George & Linda Sievewright, 1977
- 13 David & Kristin Kidd, 2014
- 18 David & Karey Garrison, 1999
- 21 George & Beverly O'Brien, 1974

**SEPTEMBER CHILDCARE**

- 3 Maggie Brockman & Vonnie Rucker
- 10 Sharon & Gerald Bryant
- 17 Anne Wilkins & Linda Lange
- 24 Ernie & Barbara Baker



Dear friends at Northminster:

I want to express my appreciation for your caring thoughts, prayers, emails and cards. It is a comfort to know so many were there for me in response to my mother's death.

What a blessing it is to have the support of a caring community.

*Joan Porter*

Joan's mother, passed away August 5. She lived in an assisted living facility in Oregon.

*I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.*

*Psalm 34:4 NIV*

**Prayer requests:**

**Hurricane victims in Texas.**

**Jenny Loving's sister Dianne** has been back in the hospital with a severe infection. She **and her** husband JC Roberson were in an automobile accident June 26 in Arizona (where they live). JC has greatly improved.

**Andrew Brunson**, a missionary in Turkey, has been falsely imprisoned in that country. We request that you stop at noon each day and pray for Andrew.

**Pauline Kalin** continues her battle with cancer, but has been coming to church recently.

**All active service men and women.**

**Law enforcement personnel, first responders.**

**Missionaries serving Jesus Christ**, particularly those going through persecution.

*Remember others who cannot be with us in church:*

**Bob & Marie France, John Collins, Elizabeth Ogden, Dot Rucker, Dick Collins, Albert & Bobbie Garrett.**



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

***Morning Circle:***

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, September 5 at 10 am. They are beginning a new Bible study, "A Love Worth Giving" by Max Lucado. June Hedrick will have study guides for all participants.

***Evening Circle:***

The evening circle will meet Tuesday, September 12, at 7 p.m. in the NewSong room. Judy Reyburn will be moderating the meeting as the group decides their new Bible study and their new mission for the 2017-18 year.

***Not involved in one of these women's groups?***

Now is a good time to start. Both circles meet monthly (normally) on the first Tuesday. They have separate Bible studies and mission projects. More participants are always welcomed.

**FIRST SUNDAY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

The collection of non-perishables for the food pantry at the First Baptist Church of Monroe takes place on the first Sunday of each month. Paper products, personal hygiene products and child care products are always welcomed.

A receptacle is provided in the entrance foyer. Your monetary gifts are appreciated as well. Their volunteers can buy food from the Food Bank in Lynchburg at a much lower cost than from the grocery store.

**MORNING CIRCLE – 2017-2018****Sept. 5 – 10 a.m.****A New Bible Study****“A Love Worth Giving”****by Max Lucado**

Loving people isn't easy. Sometimes the world in which we live puts us to the test. Whether it be someone breaking in line at the grocery store or getting bumped in a crowd or maybe even a neighbor who says, “Don't tread on my property!”, all of us face situations in which we are tempted to put aside what we know is the Christian thing to do and fall back into the old self and one might say, “We slipped!”.

Lesson One finds us in Luke 7:36-50, which is the story of Jesus anointing the sinful woman. Even though it is a story we may have heard over and over, God shows us new meaning and understanding every time we read His Word. That is what we will be seeking.

Along with the Bible Study, we will be planning our Sunshine Meals which will be resuming in September. If you know of anyone interested in a meal, please let us know.

Bible study materials and books are available. Please contact June Hedrick (846-6447).

A new year is ahead of us. We'd love to see you there.

**WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB****Sat, Sept. 16, 10am - Noon**

The Women's Book Club will meet September 16 at Mary Wilhelm's home at 10 a.m. They are reading *The Prayer Box*, by Lisa Wingate.

Like to read? You are welcome to join them. Please let Mary know if you will attend.

**WHAT IS A BLESSING BAG?**

Days are getting shorter and that means soon the weather will turn cold. It is time to make up a new Blessing Bag for your car.

**What is a Blessing Bag? Why do I need to make one? Who can use a Blessing Bag?**

**“The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'**

**Matthew 25:40**

A **Blessing Bag** is a plastic bag filled with items anyone can use such as:

A Bible or gospel tracts, travel size toothbrushes and toothpaste, mouth wash, lotions, tissues, razor, washcloth and soap, deodorant, antibacterial wipes/ointment, band aids, chap stick, Tylenol, safety pens, travel size sewing kits, applesauce, juice box, chewing gum, peanuts, granola bars, crackers (Nabs), tuna in foil packs, water, **warm socks**, small blankets, a couple of dollars. Just to name a few items. **Remember these items need to be portable.**

We encourage you to have a **Blessing Bag** made up and carry it in our car (not in the trunk). More people than we know are *homeless* or *in need* of a Blessing Bag. When we start looking, we will begin to see people who can use a bag.

We are so fortunate! We live in warm homes and have plenty of food. Which of the least of our brothers or sisters can we help along the way?

*Your Missions, Outreach & Evangelism Committee*

## WHAT CAN A PERSON LEARN FROM A STAGE PLAY ABOUT JONAH?

### Part 2

Last month I told you about a trip Vonnie and I took to Lancaster, PA, where we experienced a wonderful play about the Old Testament prophet Jonah, at the Sight & Sound Theatre. I mentioned that just before the play started, we were told that the theater would add a scene or two NOT included in the Bible, for the purpose of helping the flow of events. But, even then, their goal was to only use “fill in” material that would be consistent with other Biblical truths. Last month I shared one truth I observed from the play, and that was: We offer help to our brothers and sisters simply because they need help. Using the principle taught by Jesus in Matt. 25:40, we don’t need a long list of reasons why we should help people – we simply help people because they need help, and...because it’s what Jesus would want us to do.

This month let me share with you another principle I saw demonstrated in that play.

At the very end of the book of Jonah, Jonah is upset and puzzled, and he is basically asking God, “WHY?” He is essentially asking this: “Who in the world would be merciful to a group of people (the people in the city of Nineveh) who don’t deserve it? Why offer kindness and forgiveness to people who simply don’t deserve it?”. And, the Sight & Sound people answered that by showing God on the stage with Jonah, and God says, in response to Jonah’s question: “***I would.***” So...WHO unilaterally offers forgiveness and extends mercy? Our Lord does. And, we are exhorted by Scripture to do the same, just as Col. 3:13 and Eph. 4:32 tell us. You and I will never be more like Jesus than when we offer forgiveness to people who don’t deserve it, but definitely need it.

☺ – *your friend and brother in Christ – Harry Rucker.*

## RALLY DAY – Sept. 10



RALLY DAY.....can you believe the end of summer is just around the corner? The end of summer means Autumn is near and a new Sunday School year will begin. Our Rally Day will be September 10. Please join us for a new beginning. We will have our children's curriculum available for you to review and talk with your child's Sunday School teacher. Marge Mills will be teaching the younger group with children who are up to the 3rd grade. Sharon Bryant will be teaching the older group, 4th grade and up. As most of you know, these ladies are trained teachers and are wonderful with our children. We are very blessed to have women of their Christian faith and hearts teaching our Sunday School. JOIN US...invite your friends, neighbors and family. As you grow, we will re-evaluate the Sunday School Program with a commitment to always look to GOD for guidance for a program that will only bring glory to HIS name.

We are looking forward to implementing new programs as needed.



### **YOUTH ACTIVITY**

**Sunday, Sept. 10,**

**at 6:00 PM** we will be

establishing a program for

children entering the 5th grade and up.

EXCITEMENT is in the air and we hope you will help us share the news.

Our pastor, David Garrison and his wife, Karey, will be our youth leaders. I can hardly contain myself. Praise GOD for this gift.

I know a lot of you have been praying for a program that will meet the needs of our children as well as the children of our community. We have much to be thankful for and I ask your continued prayer and support for this program.

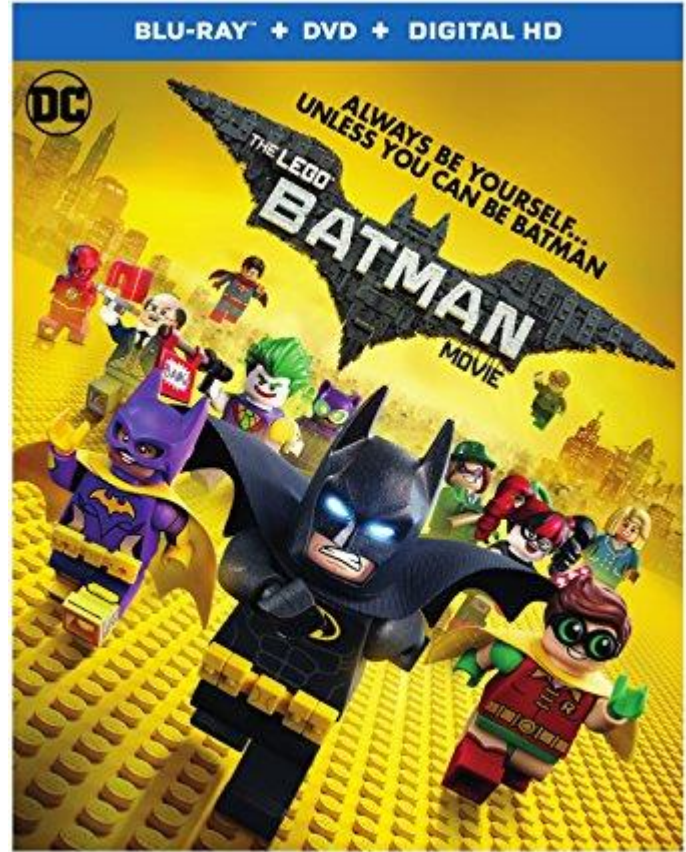
*In His Service, Debbie Irvine, Christian Education*





**MOVIE NIGHT**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8**  
**6:00 PM**

The Mission-Outreach-Evangelism Committee invites you, your family and your friends to join us for our next movie night! We'll be watching The LEGO Batman Movie. One of the most effective ways to share the Gospel with others is to find things in our culture that show the Gospel or God's truth and love. While the creators of The LEGO Batman Movie certainly didn't set out to make a "Christian" movie, there are many opportunities to see the Gospel at work in the story. We'll have a short discussion time afterward to talk about some of those scenes and moments. If you'd like to learn more about the movie, and to help you decide if it's appropriate for your family, please visit <http://www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/lego-batman-movie>. We look forward to seeing you there!



<b>FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT</b>				
	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Pledges to Campaign*</u>	
	<u>July</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Income	11,502	75,356	2,526	32,319
Expense	10,699	59,573		
Balance	+ 803	+15,783		

\*Includes Tatman \$749 \*Campaign is the PCUSA

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**ELDERS**

- Judy Reyburn
- Harry Rucker
- Debbie Irvine, George Brine,
- Ron Reyburn, Clerk

- Bob Mills, *Director of Music*
- Liz Boothe, *Organist*
- Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent of Sunday School*
- Vonnie Rucker, *Secretary/Treas.*