



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS

Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

office@npcmh.com

434/929-2713

www.npcmh.com

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If you give a man a fish he is hungry again in an hour. If you teach him to catch a fish you do him a good turn. — English proverb

But Jesus answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." — Matthew 4:4

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2 Timothy 3:16–17*

Learning to Study the Scriptures

One of the core beliefs we hold as Christians is the authority and importance of the Bible. We believe it is divinely inspired, without error and fully authoritative for us and our lives. We also believe that Christians should regularly study and learn from the Bible. But much of how we do that is through sermons and Sunday school lessons, which usually involve someone (the preacher, for example) reading a passage, telling us (the congregation) what it means, and then how to apply it to our lives. It is, in many respects, a passive learning experience - knowledge and information is given to us to receive and absorb, and hopefully live. But we all learn best by doing ourselves, rather than someone doing the work for us (see the English proverb above).

Getting SOAPy

On Sunday evenings, the youth have started studying the books of the Bible. In doing so, we're seeking to teach them not simply what the Bible says and means, but more importantly how to study the Bible for themselves. I think the technique we're teaching them might be of benefit to you, particularly if you've struggled with how to study the Bible on your own. The method we're teaching is an acronym called SOAP - Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer. Here's how it works:



Scripture

The first step is to identify a Scripture passage for study. It is generally good to Study one or two paragraphs - or about 6-10 verses — at a time. After selecting a passage, it is good to identify what Testament you are in (before or after Christ's birth), and what kind of literature you are reading (history, law, prophets, poetry, gospel, letters). It is helpful to copy the passage or key verses into a journal, as this increases comprehension and sets the stage for learning. Remember: You can Google any book of the Bible for answers to simple questions about that book.

Observation

Observation is taking time to look at the passage and ask questions to learn what it is saying. What are the commands to obey or examples to follow? What are the promises to claim? What does it teach me about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit? Take time to identify questions you may have that will lead to additional study. Write your observations and questions in your journal. Consider using a Bible handbook or simple commentary for further study.

Application

Do not stop with observations; take time to make applications. Ask: How will this truth change me or my family? Where do I fall short and who can help me? What will I change in my attitudes, relationships, and behaviors? What must I do today as a result of this study? How am I strengthened and encouraged by this passage? Record your applications in your journal.

Prayer

Conclude your Bible study with prayer. Ask God to help you apply the passage to life. Where do you need God's help or forgiveness? What are you thankful for in this passage of Scripture? Write the answers to these questions in your journal.

Learning to study the Bible is not difficult, but it takes practice and commitment. Like any good habit, the benefits of practicing regular Bible study, by yourself and in groups, make the effort of cultivating it worthwhile. It is my prayer that using a little SOAP in your study of the Bible will help you know God's Word and its importance for your life.

Blessings, Rev. David Garrison

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Beckett Bryant
- 3 Janel Babcock



FEBRUARY NURSERY ATTENDANTS

- 3 Debbie Irvine, Vonnie Rucker
- 10 George & Mickie Brine
- 17 Gerald & Sharon Bryant
- 24 Marge Mills, Karen Aspengren



More attendants are needed. Please see Sharon Bryant if you can volunteer once every 2 months.

FELLOWSHIP COVERED-DISH LUNCHEON

Missions Sunday, Feb. 17

There will be a Fellowship luncheon after worship on February 17, Missions Sunday. The Fellowship Committee will furnish drinks and everyone is invited to attend and bring a favorite dish to share.

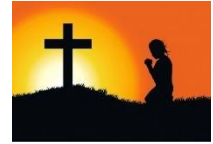
SUNDAY RECEPTIONS

Notice a schedule for February, March and April on the bulletin board for receptions following worship. Our desire for these receptions is to have time to fellowship after church and meet visitors. Hosts are encouraged to keep the receptions simple. There is a list of suggestions/ instructions on the bulletin board if you are unsure about what this entails.

If another date suits you better than the one suggested, feel free to change the date.

Thank You! Your Fellowship Committee

*I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.
Psalm 34:4 NIV*



Prayer requests:

Sandy Stafford's mother, Bessie Gillie, will have a biopsy on spots found in a recent mammogram.

Betty Reed has returned to her home at Valley View Retirement Community. She would love your visits and phone calls.

Sue Burnett continues treatments for lung cancer.

Bobbie Garrett is home after receiving some helpful physical therapy. This is great encouragement to her and Albert!

Julie Lerner had a fall at home and broke her arm.

Will Thomasson is in school in Lima, Ohio to become a mechanic. He is looking for work.

Jennifer Mann is improving from an injury she received in an automobile accident before Christmas.

The Leddens' grandchildren, Keith & Denna Crumrine, and children are in Papua New Guinea.

Law enforcement personnel, first responders.

Remember others who cannot be with us in church:

John and Dick Collins, Dot Stinnett, Leonard Rowe, Margaret Watts, Dot Rucker, Doris Eden, Monyeene Wood, Bob & Marie France.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, February 5 at 10 a.m. in the church Library. June Hedrick is the study leader. They continue their study with Max Lucado's book, ***A Love Worth Giving.***

Evening Circle:

The women's evening circle will meet that same evening, February 5, at 7 pm in the NewSong room. Anne Wilkins is the study facilitator this month as they discuss lesson 4 of ***Pursuing God***, a DVD presentation by author Margaret Feinberg. This 12-session study covers the books of Genesis and the Gospel of John – 6 sessions in each.

DON'T FORGET:

- We have a FAX machine in the church office that is available to members.
- Our church secretary is a notary for the Commonwealth of Virginia. She can notarize your signature at no cost to members of the congregation.
- We have a wonderful Library and you are encouraged to use it. Check out books on the honor system. There are also periodicals in a magazine rack that you are welcomed to use.
- We have a computer in the Library available to you at any time. (It is not set up to print.)
- Contributions are needed for the *Capital Improvement Fund*. These funds are needed for large property improvements and/or repairs.
- We have a Body-Life Fund for the express purpose of helping our own members with emergency financial needs.

We like to use email, our website, our FaceBook page, and One-Call Now to communicate with you. If we don't have your email address or you are not on the calling list, please give us that information in the office.

**FIRST SUNDAY COLLECTION OF
NON-PERISHABLES FOR THE
MONROE BAPTIST FOOD PANTRY**

Can't bring your donations on the first Sunday? Leave your items any time in the receptacle in the foyer area. Monetary contributions are appreciated as well. Monroe Baptist volunteers can purchase food from the Blue Ridge Food Bank at a much lower price than at the grocery stores.

Don't forget, items for children and pets are needed as well.



**GET INVOLVED WITH GLEANING FOR
THE WORLD
NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN 2019**

Gleaning's mission to share God's love at home and around the world means they work year-round to help those in need. During storm seasons they collect emergency supplies at different locations in Lynchburg. Also, Gleaning ships out items such as shoes, stuffed animals, and medical supplies. Recently several people have asked how they can help keep the shelves stocked with items needed for humanitarian aid.

Gleaning has created a list of items to collect all year long. See the poster in the hall. Northminster volunteers at GFTW on the third Monday of each month. If you would like to volunteer contact Don Hedrick (846-6447)

**A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM
DAYSTAR'S HEADMASTER**

Greetings from Daystar School Uganda:

I thank God for the new year, it is a blessing we are still serving the Lord.

Greetings to the entire church at Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church. We love you so much, thank you for the school kitchen support. The kitchen is serving the children very well.

When the children return to school in February we will need to buy food, beans, maize flour/corn flour, rice, and sugar. This food will be used during the first academic term of 2019. We are believing God to set up a school farm where food crops will be grown to help us feed the children. That is our long-term goal because it involves buying acres of land and cultivating them.

*Jude Nyanzi
In God's service*

On Sunday, February 3rd we will take a special offering to help buy food for Daystar Junior School.

**A MESSAGE FROM PAUL AND
REINHILD SYDNOR
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
REFUGEES**

A lot has happened since our last news update. Thank you for your continued prayers and support through a difficult time. We still have a long way to go. The best news is that Reinhild is home and the kids were home for Christmas. Reinhild has been recovering from Trigeminal Neuralgia. The medicine has given pain relief, but the doctors have said it's too early to reduce the drug. She is trying now to find a good doctor in Lille.

I've been meeting with several different groups of refugees. In February, I'll be helping to lead the RHP network meeting in Europe.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB February 23, 2019

The Women's Book Club will meet on February 23, 10 a.m. at the home of Liz Boothe. The group is reading *Upstairs at the White House; My Life with the First Ladies*, by J. B. West.

Like to read? Join this group for fun insights into various genre of books. Please let Liz know if you are coming.



**COMMUNION SUNDAY
February 3**

We observe the Sacrament of communion on the first Sunday of each month.

"This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."
Luke 19b-20

**YOUTH GROUP RESUMES ACTIVITIES
WINTER RETREAT REGISTRATION
DEADLINE: Feb. 3**

Youth Group has started a brand new study, learning how to study the Bible. So if you or your teen hasn't been around in a while, now is a great time to jump in and join us.

The Winter Retreat is coming up, February 8-10 at Eagle Eyrie. Cost is \$100 for the weekend (that includes housing, meals AND all activities). Last year's retreat was pretty awesome, and this year's is going to be even better. The group will leave Northminster at 6 p.m. Friday and return by 12:30 p.m. Sunday.



The youth group will continue to meet throughout February. We are currently learning the SOAP method of bible study (see this month's Pastor's Corner for more about that) as we look into some of the shorter books of the Bible (2 & 3 John, Philemon and Jude). While these letters may be brief in length, they are long in content. If you, or your student, is between 6th and 12th grades, be sure to join us, each Sunday evening, from 6 to 7:15. **Note: Youth Group will not meet Sunday, February 10 due to the winter retreat that weekend.**

EVANGELISM TO THE END OF THE EARTH?

So...just how far does our Evangelism goal reach - personally and as a church? Psalm 2 speaks of the Nations and the Ends Of the Earth being of concern to God. He does not give us permission or the wiggle room to be concerned with only people in our community or our state or even just in our country. Chris Tiegreen reminds us that God has a "Holy Agenda" for the ends of the earth.

Chris goes on to ask these penetrating questions:

- Why can you go to a backwoods village in some far-off country and find icons of Western culture, but no church?
- In many areas of the world, why do the neon signs of soda companies shine brighter than the image of the Cross?
- Why do so many remote citizens of the world know the name of our tennis shoes, but not the name of the Savior?

It *appears* that our quest for a global market has driven us faster and farther than our quest for a global salvation.

Certainly our Enemy, Satan, tries to thwart us in many different ways. And - committing to Christ requires a radical change of heart, whereas being committed to a brand of sneakers or a style of music does not. Even so, there must be more than we can do.

Our Lord's heart extends to the nations. Does ours?

His mission will not let Him rest until every lonely goatherd in every remote valley is reached. Will ours? Corporate executives have found ways to saturate their market. Why haven't we?

A heart that loves the Savior will be passionate about His mission. A heart that loves the Savior will love what He loves and be committed to the same objective that motivated Him to give His life for the lost.

It's been said that the surest way to experience God's blessings is to pursue the same things God has demonstrated are important to Him. Here's praying our good Lord sees that in our lives - individually and as a church - in 2019.

With Christian love and in Christian brotherhood - your friend Harry Rucker

CHURCH CANCELLATION -- IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Sunday Services:

When Sunday services are questionable due to bad weather, we will follow this procedure:

- A decision will be made by 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning
- A telephone message will be sent out to everyone using the church's One-Call Now telephone service.
- We will post the cancellation on the church web-site www.npcmh.com and record a message on the church answering machine.

Programs other than Sunday morning:

Cancellations regarding events other than Sunday morning will be decided as soon as reasonably possible. You will be notified using the church's One-Call Now telephone service.

PER-MEMBER ASKING FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC SUPPORT

The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic of the EPC asks its churches for their financial support in the amount of \$25 per Active Member. They call this the ***EPC Per-Member Asking***. Although this is not mandatory, Northminster has pledged to financially support our denomination, realizing they have expenses just as we have. We have on several occasions reaped benefits from the Presbytery at no charge to us. Active members are asked if they can *voluntarily* give to this fund, beyond their regular tithe, once a year. If you are able to do so, please use a pew envelope or include \$25 in your offering envelope designating "EPC Per-Member Asking".

UPDATE – PCUSA DISMISSAL DEBT

The Officers are pleased to announce that we have paid our 4th annual dismissal payment to the Presbytery of the Peaks. As you know, we held a 3-year pledge campaign in 2015 with plans to hold another 3-year pledge campaign starting in 2019; however due to your faithful giving over the past 3 years, we feel like we can reach our goal within 1 more year. You will see below in the Financial Stewardship Report that we have \$44,288 towards the balance owed (\$60,000). If we are to have the full amount within the next year, we ask everyone who initially contributed toward the PC USA Dismissal Debt to continue to give their same amount for 1 more year.

<u>PC USA DISMISSAL DEBT UPDATE</u>	
Nov. 2015, Original amount:	\$ 89,600
Paid:	29,600
Held in savings as of Jan 15:	<u>44,288</u>
Balance needed:	15,712

<u>FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT</u>				
	<u>General Operating Fun</u>		<u>Campaign/PC USA Debt</u>	
	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total as of 12/31</u>
Income	11,735	129,055	1,296	51,241
Expenses	<u>10,865</u>	<u>139,751</u>	PAID	<u>7,400</u>
Balance	+870	-10,696		43,841

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 Website: www.npcmh.com

DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

ELDERS

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk of Session*

Judy Reyburn, Michael Babcock, George Brine,

John Lange, Sharon Bryant, Anne Wilkins

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent
of Sunday School*

Vonnie Rucker, *Secretary/Treas.*