



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS

**Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

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

[office@npcmh.com](mailto:office@npcmh.com)

434.929.2713

[www.npcmh.com](http://www.npcmh.com)

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## ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, there will be a "Church Vitality" weekend, November 10-12. The Session and I are really excited about this opportunity, and want to share a bit more about it with you. While Friday night is particularly for staff and elders, we are encouraging anyone who is interested to join us Saturday (8:30 am-4:00pm - lunch included!) as we explore how we can more effectively and intentionally live out The Great Commission at Northminster EPC and in Madison Heights and Amherst County. Dr. Ken Priddy from the EPC's Go Center will be joining us for this weekend. In addition to the sessions Friday night and Saturday, Dr. Priddy will also be teaching Sunday school and preaching in worship on November 12.

### Should You Come?

You might be wondering if you should plan to attend on Saturday. If you are wondering how God might be planning to work in and through Northminster in the years to come, then yes, you should come. If you want to be part of how God is going to work in and through Northminster in the years to come, then yes, you should come. If you have been actively involved in Northminster in the past and have been hoping and praying for her future, yes, you should come. I firmly believe that God has some amazing things in store for this congregation in the years to come, and I think we'll start to get a glimpse of that over this weekend.



I know lives are busy, and only getting busier this time of year, but we think this is an important opportunity and hope you'll carve some time out for it. After all, we're providing lunch!

If you can't make it Saturday, be sure to be here for Sunday school and worship on Sunday morning, November 12. It'll be a great opportunity to get a taste of what we talked about on Sunday, as well as being encouraged in knowing that God is still at work in and through us.

### Thank You again,

Thank you all for the wonderful service and reception celebrating my installation as your pastor. My family and I continue to be overwhelmed by the warm and loving welcome you have extended to us. Special thanks go out to Anne Wilkins and all who helped coordinate and decorate the Fellowship Hall. It was an amazing evening!

Blessings, *Rev. David Garrison*

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

- 1 Linda Sievewright
- 3 Janet Vandall
- 5 Lorraine Ledden
- 15 Colin Scruggs
- 15 Anne Wilkins
- 21 Joel Carnefix
- 22 Sandy Stafford
- 30 Meg Garrison
- 30 Sarah Work



**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:**

- 20 Ed & Vera Campbell, 1965
- 25 Joel & Virginia Carnefix, 1964

**NOVEMBER CHILDCARE**

- 5 Andrea Sievewright & Vonnie Rucker
- 12 Linda Lange & Judy Reyburn
- 19 Ron Reyburn & Sandy Stafford
- 26 Ron & Judy Reyburn



*Our Deepest Sympathy*

We extend our Christian love and sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Pauline Kalin**. Pauline passed

away October 13 after a courageous 6-year battle with cancer. Pauline had been a dedicated member of Northminster for a number of years.

We now celebrate 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



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

*Psalm 34:4 NIV*



**Prayer requests:**

**Mary Wilhelm** is receiving physical therapy at home after having broken her arm in September.

**Keith Mann's father, Cary**, has been diagnosed with cancer.

**John Lange's friend, Mike McGann**, has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. Another friend, **Gary Robinette**, has passed away after a long-term battle with cancer.

**Dick Collins** recently fell and broke his kneecap. He is on the mend.

**Elizabeth Ogden** has a serious heart condition.

**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.

**Hurricane victims in this country and other places.**

**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, Dot Rucker, Albert & Bobbie Garrett, Margaret Watts.**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – meeting Nov. 7**

***Morning Circle:***

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, November 7 at 10 am. They began in October 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 the same evening at 7 p.m. in the NewSong room. Judy Reyburn will be moderating the meeting. They have chosen the study, "Sermon on the Mount", a DVD presentation by Jen Wilkin. Participants need to purchase a study book, available in the church office at \$14.

***Looking forward to church events:***

On November 18, all women in the church are invited to a "cookie exchange". [Details on page 4.]

On December 5, we will host the MS Support Group Christmas Dinner. Your help will be needed.

Next spring, we are planning a large yard sale as a fundraiser to support Nyanzi Jude's Christian school in Uganda ([www.daystar.ac.ug](http://www.daystar.ac.ug)).

**MISSIONS – OUTREACH- EVANGELISM OPPORTUNITIES**

The Missions - Outreach - Evangelism Committee has several exciting opportunities in the next two months. Please take time to read and add them to your calendar.

***Our friend Susan May will be at Northminster on Sunday, November 19, during Sunday school and for a Minute for Mission during the worship service. This will be our last Mission Sunday of 2017.***

Susan spent time with the children at Kanura and Ephphatha during her last visit to Burundi. Also, she visited with the Sewing Center Team. They are presenting Health Education Seminars regarding the Ladies kits and have a nurse from the local clinic attending.

The choir visited three churches to share their testimonies and music.

Susan returned home, to Madison Heights, for the fall season and one week after her return celebrated her son's wedding.

Through the wonder of technology she is always in contact with those working diligently in Burundi in His service. "God is so Good"

**Don't forget Sunday, November 19**

***Paul and Reinhild Sydnor will visit Northminster on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 - 6:55 p.m.***

We will begin with a meal and then hear updates of Paul's ministry with the International Association For Refugees.

The refugee crisis in Europe has continued to evolve and Paul will tell all he has been doing since we last talked.

Paul and his family live in northern France. His wife, Reinhild, is from Germany. Their three children, Tessa, Noah, and Luke have been raised in four European countries.

**Mark you calendar for November 29<sup>th</sup>**

***Blessing Bag update***

I am so excited to tell you that Sheriff Viar from Amherst has given permission for the police to carry and give out Blessing Bags. We will start with six bags and add more bags as they are needed. I see God's hand in this mission and outreach to the homeless.

***Can you believe there are only eight more Sundays until Christmas!***

***I will repeat ....8 more Sundays until Christmas!***

We will be ringing the SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE bells at both doors of Madison Heights Walmart on Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 a.m until 2:00 p.m. **Look for the sign up sheet!**

**Red Kettle History**

In 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was disturbed because so many poor people in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season he sought a way provide free Christmas dinners for the destitute and poverty-stricken. He only had one problem....MONEY.

Where would the money come from. He lay awake nights, worrying, thinking, praying about how he could find the funds to fulfill his commitment of feeding 1,000 of the city's poorest on Christmas Day. His thoughts drifted back to his sailor days in Liverpool, England. He remembered how at Stage Landing, where the boats came in, there was a large, iron kettle called "Simpson's Pot" into which passers tossed a coin or two to help the poor. The next day Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry landing at the foot of Market Street. Beside the pot he placed a sign saying "Keep the Pot Boiling"

Six years later as the kettle idea spread from the west coast to the Boston area, 150,000 Christmas dinners for the needy were served.

Today in the United States "The Salvation Army" assists more than four-and-a-half million people during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

**Warm Clothes**



As part of our outreach in our community, we are sponsoring a collection of coats, gloves or mittens, and caps for children and adults. Coats that have been gently used are acceptable.

We will have boxes with designated labels on a table in the entrance foyer of the church beginning the first Sunday of Advent, December 3. We will collect items until after Christmas. The clothes will then be distributed to children in several of Amherst County Elementary schools.



As always, we thank you for your generosity.  
MOE Committee.

**SAMARITAN'S PURSE**

**OPERATION  
CHRISTMAS CHILD**



This wonderful project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse (Billy Graham) brings such joy, not only to the children receiving the gift, but also to our children preparing each box knowing it is going to a child who may receive this one Christmas gift. These boxes represent much, and we are dedicated to making our children aware of God's love for all children throughout the world and the importance of being children of God by sharing our blessings.

The box for items you can donate is located in the front foyer. If you cannot purchase items and would like for us to do so for you, you may make a financial donation, and we will be happy to make your purchase for you. We hope this project brings you joy. We will be working on packing the shoeboxes November 5, hoping to finish up on November 12.

Thank you for your generosity and your support of our children. God Bless each of you during this time of year when we all are thankful for what God has given us and when we look for ways to share these blessings.

**WOMEN'S HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 18**

**1:00 – 3:00 P.M.**

All the women in the church are invited to a "Holiday Cookie Exchange" at Judy Reyburn's home on Saturday, November 18, at 1 p.m.

Please provide 2 dozen of your favorite cookies to share. Also bring the recipe printed on a recipe-size card to be displayed with your cookies. You don't bake cookies? No problem . . . bring a dessert that can be shared.



This is a good fellowship opportunity for any and all of us ladies to get to know each other better. And – you might pick up a cookie or two that will become one of your favorite holiday treats.

Sponsored by the PW Evening Circle

**FIRST SUNDAY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**



On the first Sunday of each month we ask for donations of non-perishables to the Monroe Baptist Church food pantry. Paper products, personal hygiene products and baby-care products are especially welcomed. Your monetary gifts are appreciated as well.

Monroe Baptist pantry operates to serve those in our community qualifying through Amherst County Social Services or recommended by churches. They distribute food on Thursdays.

***More Support for families in need:***

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors** distributes food from their warehouse on Dillard Road each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays from 10 am – noon. Individuals/families will need to qualify when signing up at this location. Most of the food comes from donations from local grocery stores and churches. October 7 NHN served 98 clients! Including family members, this means 293 people in this community were provided food!

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

We will be working with your children during our Children's Church time preparing for a Christmas Program. We will be making announcements regarding the date for the program at a later time. Hopefully, most of the work will take place during Children's Church. We ask that you have your children at church as much as possible during this time so the children can be prepared for the program. We thank you for your support and we pray this will be a time of great joy for all involved.

Thank you! Christian Education Committee

**YOUTH PROGRAM**

Thank you for your support, both by preparing meals and making financial donations. This program continues to be a time for our older children to experience time at church with leaders who will be there to lead the program in a manner in which the children will gain knowledge of God's love and the joy of bonding as Christians. Please invite any and all children you know who are in 5th through 8th grades to join us on Sunday evenings at 6:00. We always start out with a light dinner and lots of great conversation.

**Coming Up @ Youth Group in November**  
**Sundays, 6:00-7:30pm**

If you've been in a relationship, you know it requires sacrifice. In order to grow in closeness with someone else, we're always checking our selfish impulses against what's best for the relationship. It's just part of the deal.

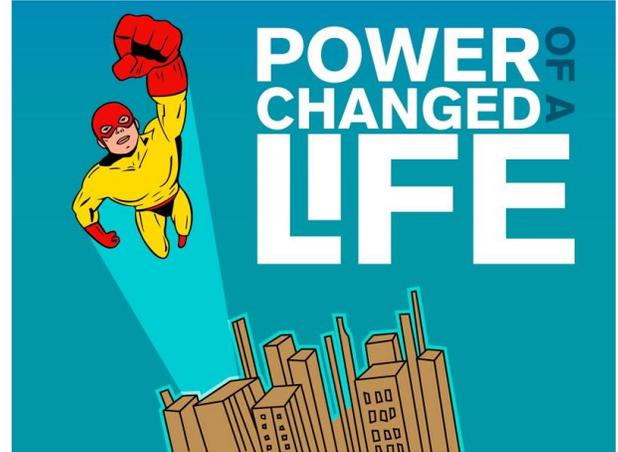
This concept couldn't be clearer than in our relationship with Christ. God, in His omniscience, knows exactly what the perfect relationship looks like. He designed it from day one with Adam and Eve, but mankind chose a different path. So in order to restore that relationship, God made the ultimate sacrifice - Jesus on the cross.

Every day, we're faced with challenges to our relationship with God and choices we must make. And every time we choose a path away from Him, we weaken our relationship, rendering us unable to live a powerful Christian life.

In John 10:10, Christ said, "I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." We believe He means it for our life here

as well as our eternity in heaven. But we have to be willing to die to self so that we can live with the power He promises.

We hope this series will give you some tools and topics to open your eyes to the nature of our relationship with God - both where it is and where it could be.



<b>FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT</b>				
	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Pledges to Campaign*</u>	
	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Income	9,989	95,123	1,211	33,530
Expense	<u>12,706</u>	<u>91,557</u>		
Balance	-2,717	+3,566		

\*Campaign is the PCUSA debt

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*Pastor David Garrison*

**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.*