



# 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)

**JANUARY 2018**

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## **JOIN US FOR TABLE TALK, BEGINNING JANUARY 10!**

We invite you to join us for a new weekly opportunity to fellowship together, explore how culture and God's Word connect, and enjoy a great dinner. Each Wednesday, beginning at 5:30, we'll enjoy a delicious dinner and then have a time of teaching and discussion. Some weeks we'll hear from missions and missionaries we support. Some weeks we'll pray for one another and our community. While exactly what goes on might change, what will be consistent is the opportunity we have to grow as a community and as individual disciples of Christ.



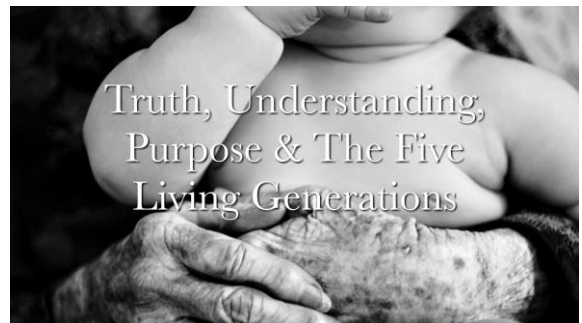
Dinner is \$5 per person, \$15 maximum per family. RSVPs (contact the church office) are appreciated, so we can make sure to have enough food. But don't worry, if you don't RSVP, come anyway, we'll always make sure to have plenty.

We'll wrap up around 6:45 each week, so those in the choir will have plenty of time to get ready.

Our first series will be...

### **Truth, Understanding, Purpose & The Five Living Generations**

For the first time in human history, we have five generations alive, interacting, and shaping our world at the same time. Actually, we have an unprecedented SIX generations, although the oldest is just now entering their teen years. Each of these generations has very different values, priorities, understandings of truth and meaning, and approach life in very different ways. What does that mean for us, individually? What does it mean for us, as a church?



With each passing year, these questions and the challenges these generations face in understanding each other only grows. And yet, we are called to be a people of many generations, and if we want to effectively pass the faith on to the generations to come, we need to build bridges and relationships across generational lines. There is much each generation can learn from the others, and much each generation has to offer the others.

Join us at Table Talk, beginning January 10 at 5:30pm.

Blessings, Rev. David Garrison

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Virginia Carnefix
- 3 Andrea Sievewright
- 4 Jack Thomasson
- 7 Betty Reed,  
Rob Sievewright
- 12 Mason Brine
- 15 Barbara Baker
- 16 IvyElizabeth Mann
- 18 Mandy (Rucker) Newsome
- 19 Mary Wilhelm
- 23 Silas Bryant
- 30 Cheryl Bray
- 31 Karen Aspengren,  
Rodney Meng



**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:**

- 16 Mandy & Christopher Newsome 2016

**JANUARY ATTENDANTS**

- 7 Ron & Judy Reyburn
- 14 Gerald & Sharon Bryant
- 21 Vonnie Rucker & Mickie Brine
- 28 Sandy Stafford & George Brine



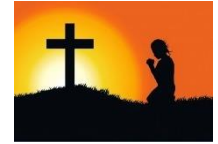
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE:**  
**OFFICERS ELECTED**

In a meeting of the congregation December 17, Sharon Bryant, Anne Wilkins, and John Lange were elected to serve 3-year terms on the session.

Thank you to Debbie Irvine, for your service to this congregation as chair of the Christian Education Committee for the last 3 years. Your dedication, energy, and love for the Lord have been evident. We look forward to whatever area of involvement you pursue in the coming year.

We also thank Joan Porter, who resigned in August, for chairing the Nurture Committee and previously the Worship and Property Committees. Joan's dedication to serving and strengthening this church will be missed.

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



**Prayer requests:**

**Dot Stinnett** is receiving physical therapy at Guggenheimer after fracturing bones in her foot.

**Keith Mann's father, Cary**, is being treated for cancer.

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

**Leonard Rowe** is recovering from gall bladder surgery.

**Peggy Wright** has hurt her back.

**Arlene Horton** is in a back brace due to spine fractures.

**Bobby & Albert Garrett** appreciate your prayers for their health. Being homebound, they look forward to phone calls and visits.

**Sue Burnett** had cataract surgery Jan. 3.

**Ed Campbell** is recovering from a heart attack.

**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.

**All active servicemen 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:*

**John and Dick Collins, Margaret Watts, Elizabeth Ogden, Dot Rucker, Doris Eden, Bob & Marie France.**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**Morning Circle:**

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, January 9 at 10 a.m. Their study is "A Love Worth Giving" by Max Lucado. June Hedrick is the study leader and has the necessary material for participants.

**Evening Circle:**

The women's evening circle met Tuesday evening, January 2 at Vonnie Rucker's home. Their study entitled "Sermon on the Mount" is a DVD presentation by the author, Jen Wilkin, and group discussion from the study book. Anne Wilkins was the discussion leader on Lesson 3. Barbara Baker will lead the lesson in February.

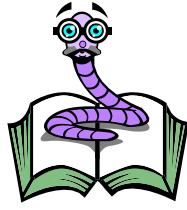
**Notice the article on page 3 concerning the Yard Sale coming in April.**

**Rivermont EPC Women invite the women of our congregation** and other area Evangelical Presbyterian churches to a fellowship brunch Saturday, January 13, at 10 am. If you have not already made reservations, please respond to Linda Paulson at 237-2407 or ghpaulson@verizon.net.

**WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB****Jan. 27, 10 a.m.-Noon**

The Women's Book Club will meet next on Saturday, January 21 at 10 a.m. at Liz Boothe's home. They will be talking about books each one has read since they last met. Do you like to read, enjoy warm fellowship? They guarantee that you will gain insights and develop new friendships as you take part.

Please let Liz know if you will be there.



**YARD SALE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR  
Daystar Junior School  
Kirombe Uganda, Africa  
Sat., April 21**

Last August on a missions Sunday, we heard Nyanzi Jude speak about his Christian school in Uganda, serving children ages 3- approximately 11. Although his school is growing, they still have many needs. Since last fall, the school has been building a larger structure with a new kitchen; however, they still have not finished.

On April 21 we will hold a yard sale to raise money to support Daystar Junior School. We are excited for the possibility of giving these young children a better, healthier environment in which to learn and grow in their Christian faith.

Watch our newsletter and website for more details as we get closer to April 21.

Visit Daystar's website to learn more about the work at Daystar Junior School Kirombe. <http://www.daystar.ac.ug>. Also visit Nyanzi Jude's FaceBook page. This was his first trip to the United States and you can see that he was thrilled to visit Washington DC, Virginia Beach and other areas that are a striking contrast to the poverty in his homeland.

**PERHAPS YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN:**

- 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 FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION**

The collection for the food pantry at the First Baptist Church of Monroe takes place on the first Sunday of each month.

Monetary gifts are welcomed as well. They can purchase certain foods from the Blue Ridge Food Bank at a cheaper price than in the grocery stores.



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**OUR 2018 MISSION – HOW DOES IT MATCH UP WITH CHRIST’S?**

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Jesus made it very clear what His mission was – what He “came for”. In Luke 19:10 Jesus says this: “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” And, from the list of people we see Him drawn to, there’s no question Jesus meant what He said. Writer Chris Tiegreen reminds us that Jesus sought out and was concerned with a dishonest tax collector, a prostitute, a raging, demon-possessed lunatic, an adulteress, beggars, lepers, and just about everyone else who had no legitimate case to make about their own righteousness and well-being.

And so the question is, do we, as individuals and as a church, feel the same passion for these types of people, and do we feel as compelled as Jesus to reach out with God’s message to our community, so that people like these, and just everyone in general, can find out about our Lord’s care for them and His desire to rescue them?

If Christ was so drawn to sinners, and those in general who needed Him, shouldn’t the body of Christ be equally drawn? If our identity is in Jesus, and His Spirit is living in us, we will indeed be drawn to others as He was (and still is). And, if we do feel that way, Chris Tiegreen says that we will be broken-hearted about those who suffer in sinful conditions. When that is true, then the zeal of our search to bring redemption to a lost world will reflect His zeal.

We cannot on our own generate this type of zeal, but the more time we spend with Jesus, the more of His priorities and concerns will “rub off” on us. As James Dobson was fond of saying, lots of things in the Christian life are more “caught” than “taught”.

So...my humble prayer for our church is that we indeed “spend more time with the Lord” by reading His Word, by praying for insight about what His Word is telling us about His priorities and ways, by regularly fellowshiping with other Christians (to encourage them, be encouraged by them, and be held accountable by them), and to spend some regular alone-time just listening for God’s voice and direction (yes – we will need to DILIGENTLY search for this alone-time, because just “hoping” it happens is a fruitless endeavor in a world that will pull us in every direction EXCEPT toward closeness with God).

My further prayer is that, with Jesus’ same passion for the lost, we will examine our programs, activities, and ministries, and make sure we are looking for ways to include our community in those things, and to make sure we are thinking of our community when we decide on what our programs, activities, and ministries will be. If we do, then hopefully, when people in our community think of a church where they will be cared for, ministered to, and loved like Jesus would do, they will think of Northminster.

That is the type of thinking we were encouraged to take on when we were led in our Fall retreat by Ken Priddy, and I pray it’s one we sincerely pursue. To the extent we do that, I do believe we will see our Lord Jesus moving in Northminster in ways we all pray for and hope for. 2018 holds many opportunities for us, and I sincerely believe we will see our Lord work in helpful and exciting ways as we allow His priorities to be ours, and as each one of us involves ourselves in His mission.

With love from your brother in Christ – 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](http://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. We will also put a message on the church answering machine.

In every instance, it would be very helpful if each person would notify someone in the congregation.

**Because of your faithfulness to your pledge to our Campaign to pay off our commitment to the PC USA, we have made our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual payment of \$7,400. We also have a head start on next year's payment. [Notice Pledges to Campaign in the chart below.]**

**Our goal of the "Campaign" when we left the PC USA was to obtain the funding to pay off our indebtedness within 6 years. 2018 will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of this effort. Sometime in the coming year we will be asking you to consider again to pledge for the following 3 years [2019, 2020, 2021] with the goal of eliminating this debt by that time.**

FYI: Original Debt: \$89,600; paid 3 years @ 7,400 = balance \$67,400

<b>2017 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT</b>				
	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Pledges to Campaign</u>	
	<u>November</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Income	8,590	115,651	1,366	37,998
Expense	<u>11,056</u>	<u>115,976</u>		
Balance	- 2,466	-325		

DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

**ELDERS**

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk*

Judy Reyburn, Harry Rucker, George Brine

Elders elect: John Lange, Sharon Bryant, Anne Wilkins

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent*

*of Sunday School*

Vonnie Rucker, *Secretary/Treas.*