



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS

Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

office@npech.com

434/929-2713

www.npech.com

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AFTER THE STORM

Storms are used in fascinating ways in Scripture. Look at Genesis 6-9 (Noah's flood), Psalm 18, and Matthew 8:23-27 (Jesus calms the storm) for a couple of good examples. But my favorite "storm story" is in 1 Kings 19. Elijah has just won a powerful victory over the prophets of Ba'al, but ends up fleeing for his life as Jezebel and Ahab seek vengeance. He hides in a cave on Mount Horeb (also known as Mount Sinai), and God tells him, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." What happens next is incredible:



Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face, went out, and stood at the mouth of the cave.

(1 Kings 19:11-13)

I think most of us would assume that God would've been in the storm, the earthquake or the fire. But He wasn't. God was in the stillness and quiet that came *after* the storm. The same is true with the story of the flood - the rainbow came *after* the waters receded. And when Jesus calmed the waters? That's when the disciples fell down in worship.

"What are you doing here?"

That's the question God asked Elijah in the silence after the storm. Through your tireless acts of love and support, God's presence after the storm has been made real. I have been overwhelmed with the incredible response of our community in the weeks that have followed the tornado in Elon and Lynchburg. You have answered God's question to Elijah with your actions - by faithfully living what Paul calls us to in Galatians 5: "Serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Gal 5:13-14) The cleanup work for those affected has just begun and will continue long after the tornado has left the news cycle. May we continue to be God's hands and feet as we pray without ceasing, give as we are able, and serve as the opportunity presents itself. You can find some helpful suggestions and guides on our website at www.npech.com/blog.

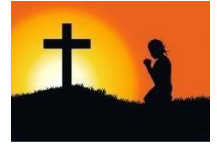
Blessings, Rev. David Garrison

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Pat Callahan
- 5 Michael Babcock
- 7 Grady Mann
- 10 Jeremy Vandevander
- 13 Debbie Moore
- 16 John Lange
- 19 Jay Vandevander Jr.
- 23 Julie Lerner
- 25 Rudy Burnett
Tim Mills
- 27 Emerson Bryant
- 29 Michael Sechler
Luke Sechler



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



Prayer requests:

Bob France is in therapy at Heartland Rehabilitation Center.

Roger Buchanan is waiting for test results concerning his lungs.

Dot Stinnett is at The Elms. She loves hearing from you. Address: 2249 Murrell Rd., Lynchburg.

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

Susan May will return to Burundi May 31.

Andrew Brunson, a missionary in Turkey, was falsely imprisoned in that country 18 months ago. At his trial April 6, he was held over for a hearing in another month. Please pray for his release.

Families in Elon and Lynchburg affected by the recent tornado on April 15.

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, Dot Rucker, Doris Eden, Bob & Marie France.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Rudy & Sue Burnett, 1982



MAY ATTENDANTS

- 6 George & Mickie Brine
- 13 Marge Mills
- 20 Maggie Brockman & Anne Wilkins
- 27 Ron Reyburn & Vonnie Rucker



We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family of **Elizabeth Ogden**. Elizabeth passed away April 1 after a long struggle with heart disease. Elizabeth had been a member at Northminster since 1983 and had been an active member of the choir for much of that time.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The collection for the food pantry at First Baptist Church of Monroe takes place on the first Sunday of each month, or leave your items any time in the receptacle in the foyer area. Your monetary contributions are appreciated as well. The church can purchase many goods from the Blue Ridge Food Bank at a lower price than from local grocery stores.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, May 1 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 will meet that same evening at 7 p.m. in the NewSong classroom. Their study entitled "Sermon on the Mount" is a DVD presentation by the author, Jen Wilkin, and group discussion from the study book. The discussion this month is from Lesson 7.

**YARD SALE TO SUPPORT
Daystar Junior School
Kironde Uganda, Africa
AND
ELON STRONG**



The yard sale originally scheduled to raise money for a Christian school in Uganda has served a 2-fold purpose. After the tornado on April 15 hit our neighbors in the Elon area, we decided the yard sale was a perfect opportunity to provide some support for that community as well as Daystar Jr. School.

At Saturday's Yard Sale, we raised \$1,791. This amount will be split evenly between Daystar School and Elon Strong. On Sunday \$565 more was given to Elon Strong. Therefore, we will be donating \$1,460 to help families in Elon affected by the tornado! Praise God for your generosity.



Combining the money made at the yard sale with other mission funds directed to the Daystar Junior School, we are able to donate \$1,800 to them, allowing them to complete their kitchen

and buy kitchen supplies.

Here is a quote from Nyanzi Jude, the school's director, after learning of the amount of our donation: *"Praise the Lord! God is really amazing and He has surprised us. The glory belongs to Him! I take this opportunity to thank the entire church for the generosity to help the children get a good kitchen. This money will help us even provide stainless saucepans/pans we needed so much. God has really answered our prayer. So excited!"*

**Mission Sunday
IMANA NI NZIZA!
"God is so good!"**

During the Sunday school hour at 9:45 am on May 6 Susan May will bring us an update from Burundi Hope Project - Ripe for Harvest World Outreach.

Susan has been to Northminster several times to share all the exciting things going on in Burundi.

Please set your alarm early on Sunday, May 6 and come to hear everything Susan has to share.

Also, Sunday, May 6 will be the kick-off of the contest to buy uniforms for the children of Maramvya school in Burundi. Each adult class will receive a container and the youth and children's classes combined will have a container. There will be a container for those who attend church as well. The goal is to purchase uniforms so the children can attend school.

***The contest runs from
May 6 - May 27 and
the class raising the
most for uniforms will
receive a special prize.***



Congratulations to Jessica Bennett on her marriage to Jason Martin Saturday, April 21, 2018.



We wish God's blessings on this family.

Jessica is the daughter of Jackie Hodges, niece of Beverly O'Brien and Debbie Irvine.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to have recently received six new members to Northminster and look forward to partnering with them in God’s work at Northminster.

Karey Garrison is the wife of our pastor, David. They moved here from Hendersonville, NC, last August. Karey and David have a son, Peter age 14, and a daughter, Meg age 11. Karey works as a secretary at Monelison Middle School. Although employed full-time, she makes time to be in our choir, teach Sunday School, take part in the women’s evening circle, and volunteer on the Christian Education committee.

Karen Aspengren has been actively involved at Northminster for a number of years. When living in Lynchburg she had moved her membership, but has rejoined us since living in Amherst. Karen says her main interest is reading non-fiction Christian material. For example, her favorites are Sarah Young, Charles Stanley, and Elisabeth Elliot. She enjoys decorating and organizing. She is blessed with two adult children and six grandchild

Caitlin Vera is a senior at Liberty University and will be attending the Seminary at LU next year. Cat’s desire is to become a military chaplain. She is married and the couple make their home in San Diego, California.

Michael and Janel Babcock have lived in Lynchburg for over 20 years with their two children (ages 21 and 19). Michael teaches English and humanities at CVCC; prior to that, he taught for a number of years at LU. Janel is a special education teacher in the Lynchburg City Schools and is studying to be a teacher of the visually impaired. When they get the chance, Michael and Janel love to travel and to experience new cultures and foods.

Julie Lerner moved to the Faulconerville area 5 years ago where she lives with her 4 rescued shelter dogs. Julie writes, “After living in Chicago for 20 years, I dreamed of life in a quiet small town, which ultimately led me here to Amherst County.” Julie retired as Activities Director for senior groups at the Adult Care Center of Central VA. She now runs the Friday morning senior bingo party for Amherst Parks and Rec. Julie says she looks forward to becoming actively involved here at Northminster and getting to know everyone.

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB

Sat, June 16, 10am - Noon



The Women’s Book Club will meet June 16 from 10 a.m. until Noon. (Location TBA.) They are reading *Bathsheba (The Wives of King David)* by Jill Eileen Smith. Like to read? You are welcome to join them.

LION’S CLUB GLASSES COLLECTION



As many of you know, the Lions Club collects outdated eye glasses for reuse. Our church has decided to help in this effort by collecting the old glasses and passing them on to the local Lions Club. A special box has been placed in the central hall of the church for this collection. We will leave it there about six weeks to allow church members the opportunity to easily discard these outdated eye glasses.

The Evangelism and Mission Committee appreciates your support in this vital effort to reach out those in need in our community.



SUNDAYS 6-7:30 pm
Confirmation Class

Beginning Sunday, April 8, all students in 5th-8th grade began a Confirmation Class. The class will run through May 13 with the students joining church on Pentecost Sunday. This year’s Confirmation theme is, “What’s the Point?” What’s the point of being a Christian? Of worship? Of being a disciple? Of serving others? We’ll be exploring these questions, and more, each week. The class will meet during youth group, from 6:00-7:30 each week. We look forward to seeing you there!



AFTER-WORSHIP RECEPTIONS

Our after worship receptions are always an enjoyable time, as they give church members and visitors an opportunity to chat and get to know each other better in a welcoming, relaxed setting. We would like for there to be at least one reception every month. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board, along with suggested dates and themes. For example, in May, men of the church are invited to host a reception in honor of Mother's Day!



If you would like to host a reception on another date than is suggested, you are very welcome to add it on the signup sheet. Often several people will host a reception together. Receptions do not need to be elaborate, and the bulletin board has an information sheet with helpful guidelines and suggestions. Please consider signing up to host an after-worship reception!

The Fellowship
Committee

**Worshiping God in the Hard Places**

Part 3 of the "Worship Is..." series

Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!
Habakkuk 3:17-18

*Are you overwhelmed by the troubles of life?
Are you overwhelmed by your circumstances?*

Then praise and worship God with all your heart. As you press through the heaviness, a transformation will take place. You will begin to see the beauty and greatness of God. Your faith will rise up, and your spirit will begin to sing. But you must take the first step.



"Lord, I choose to praise and worship You today. You know how to break through the difficulties in my life. I choose not to be overwhelmed with circumstances, but instead I choose to say, 'Blessed be Your name'. You are my victorious God. I will praise Your name and proclaim Your salvation day after day. I will declare Your glory among the nations, Your marvelous deeds among all peoples (Psalm 96:1-3). I will sing to the Lord a new song.



May 13

A Mother's Love

There are times when only a mother's love
Can understand our tears,
Can soothe our disappoints
And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a mother's love
Can share the joy we feel
When something we've dreamed about
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a mother's faith
Can help us on life's way
And inspire in us the confidence
We need from day to day.

For a mother's heart and a mother's faith
And a mother's steadfast love
Were fashioned by the angels

And sent from God above.
--Author Unknown

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT
General Operating Fund Campaign/PC USA Debt
March Y-T-D March Total to date
Income 9,954 29,019 1,411 37,070
Expense 10,706 33,640
Balance -752 -4,621

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DAVID GARRISON, Pastor

Bob Mills, Director of Music

ELDERS

Liz Boothe, Organist

Ron Reyburn, Clerk of Session

Sharon Bryant, Superintendent

Judy Reyburn, Harry Rucker, George Brine

of Sunday School

John Lange, Sharon Bryant, Anne Wilkins

Vonnie Rucker, Secretary/Treas.