



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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"Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness." (James 3:18)

Summer doesn't officially end for another month and a half, and given that we live in central Virginia, it won't begin to feel like fall until sometime in October, but with kids going back to school in just a few weeks, it seems like fall is already here. And with the fall comes the harvest season. In our summer sermon series, *Do Something*, we've seen that James uses the image of the harvest a lot throughout his letter.

I've been amazed at the way the flowers and plants in our yard have absolutely blossomed and exploded this year. As much as we'd like to take credit, this isn't really because of anything my wife and I have done. Someone else put these plants in the ground long before we moved in, and last year's incredible rainfall nourished the soil richly over the winter and into the spring. We put a lot of effort into weeding and mulching early on, but haven't done a good job keeping up with it.



"What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." (1 Cor. 3:5–9)

Such it is with our spiritual lives. Often we find that spiritual growth happens, regardless of what we do or don't do. But some simple truths are still central. First, you harvest what you plant. Second, while the seeds grow naturally, there are things we can do to encourage their growth, such as watering, weeding and fertilizing that create an environment conducive to their flourishing.

Much of what we seek to do here at Northminster is help you with those two aspects of your walk with the Lord - planting seeds of faith and spiritual growth, and cultivating the soil of your heart and soul to nourish those seeds. As we head into the harvest season, be on the lookout for opportunities to check the health of the soil of your soul as well as opportunities to "do something" with the growth that God has been doing in you. If there is a particular way you'd like some help in your spiritual growth, be sure to let one of our elders or me know.

Blessings,
Pastor David Garrison

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

- 4 Jade Stewart
- 6 Dick Collins
- 10 Sue Pechmann,
Monyeene Wood
- 11 Tatum Sievwright
- 21 Jackie Hodges,
Bob Mills
- 23 Margaret Watts
- 25 Emmalynn Kidd
- 27 Kristin Kidd
- 29 Vonnie Rucker



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

- 4 John & Linda Lange – 1973



AUGUST ATTENDANTS

- 4 Maggie Brockman,
Anne Wilkins
- 11 Vonnie Rucker, Sandy Stafford
- 18 Barbara & Ernie Baker
- 25 Linda Lange, Judy Reyburn



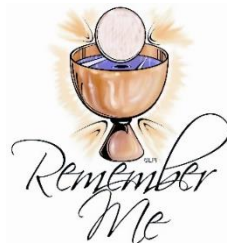
BONNIE WINE HAS MOVED

We regretfully said “goodbye” to our dear friend, Bonnie Wine, when she moved to Staunton July 24. Bonnie had been looking for a home closer to her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. Although we are happy for her, we will miss her. Bonnie’s new address:

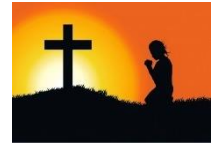
305 Archer Street, Staunton, VA 24401
New phone number is 540-885-0139

**SACRAMENT OF
COMMUNION
August 4**

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



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



Psalm 34:4 NIV

Prayer Requests:

Gerald & Sharon Bryant’s daughter-in-law, Brit, had an accident on her dirt bike and broke her ankle.

Dolores Wright’s son, Jimmy, had heart bypass surgery on June 21 and is home following physical therapy.

Betty Reed has returned to her home at Valley View.

Mary Wilhelm’s son, Stan, has returned home from the National Institute of Health but continues treatments for an immune deficiency. He is showing some improvement.

Sue Burnett’s recent scan showed that her cancer has not spread.

Bobbie Garrett has returned home after a long stay in the rehab center at Liberty Ridge.

All active servicemen and women.

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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

The morning circle will meet August 6 at 1 p.m. Instead of a Bible study, they will be visiting shut-ins. Anyone not currently a circle member, who would like to join them in visiting the shut-ins would be most welcomed.

Evening Circle:

The evening circle does not meet in June, July or August. They will resume meeting in September, continuing their Bible study with Margaret Feinberg’s *Pursuing God*. If you have not been in the evening circle but wish to take part, purchase the study guide online and join us September 3, at 7 pm.

PLASTIC GROCERY STORE BAGS
for
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

VBS participants were asked to bring items to contribute to Neighbors Helping Neighbors during their week here June 23-27. The basket of donations overflowed with various items for the “NHN Store” at the corner of Dillard and Elon Roads. THANK YOU!

Also, THANK YOU for continuing to bring your clean PLASTIC GROCERY STORE bags. Deposit them in the wicker basket found in the entrance foyer of the church



AFTER-WORSHIP RECEPTIONS

Our after-worship receptions 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. If another date works better for you than the date suggested, feel free to change it.

Please consider signing up to host an after-worship reception!

Your Fellowship Committee

NEW MEMBER CLASS
Beginning Aug. 4, 2019

Pastor David is starting a New Member Class Sunday, August 4, during the Sunday school hour. If you are interested in knowing more about the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and more specifically about Northminster, please contact Pastor David: dgarrison@npcmh.com. Come Sunday, August 4, 9:45 a.m. to the Tatman Room.

NEPC STUDENT MINISTRIES NEWS

Things for the youth ministry at Northminster slowed down over the summer, but we’re cranking things back up as we get ready for the fall!

Welcome Rising 6th Graders!

We’re excited to have you join us! You are welcome to join us for Sunday school on Sunday mornings any time! John Lange and Sharon Bryant are our teachers, and they’d love to see you at 9:45 on Sundays.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, August 7, ~6:30 @ Venue Cinemas — We’ll meet at Venue Cinemas around 6:30 to catch a fun summer movie! Which one? No idea - the schedule isn’t out yet. We’ll email the specifics once the schedule is out. Interested? Be sure to let Pastor David know!

Sunday, August 18, 5:30-7:30 — It’s time to bid adieu to summer. Join us at the Garrisons for a fun-filled game night, dinner included. This will be a great way to de-stress after the first two days of school and as you prepare for your first full week. This is also a particularly good event for folks who haven’t been to youth group before to come and meet the other students and get a sense for what we’re all about!

Sunday, September 8, 6:00-7:15pm —

We officially kick off our fall semester and weekly youth group meetings on the 8th. We’ll start the fall with a series called, “Rescued From An Ordinary Life.”



WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB
Sat, August 10, 10 am

The Women’s Book Club will meet August 10 from 10 a.m. until Noon at Sharon Bryant’s home. The group is reading **The Potluck Club: Takes the Cake**, by Linda Evans Shepherd. Please let Sharon know if you will be attending.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Two years ago, Northminster called The Rev. David Garrison to serve as pastor to this congregation.

The Lord has blessed us in numerous ways with the presence and participation of the Garrison family. Pastor David faithfully preaches the Word and faithfully ministers to his "flock". He also has melded into the community by chairing the Amherst Disaster Recovery Group and serving on the board of Amherst County Habitat for Humanity. Karey uses her talents to sing in the choir, teach Sunday school and direct Bible School. Both Peter and Meg participate in the Youth Group and use their creativity and knowledge in numerous ways.

David, Karey, Peter and Meg, your church family looks forward to serving God alongside you for many more years!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
SUN., SEPT. 15 -----5:30 PM

Mark your calendar now to attend the Annual Church Picnic. It will be held on the church grounds, starting with family games at 5:30 p.m. Grilled hot dogs and hamburgers will be served along with other picnic side items.

This is a great opportunity to invite extended family, former members, and someone looking for a church family. The Fellowship committee will provide meats and condiments. Watch for a sign-up sheet to indicate what side dish you can bring to share.



RALLY DAY

August 25 ----- 9:45 A.M.

The Rally Day festivities will be held on Sunday, August 25 during the Sunday school hour, 9:45 - 10:40 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We celebrate a year behind us and a new year ahead.

The new year is a good opportunity to get started into Sunday school if you have not been a part of a SS class before. We have excellent teachers who love the Lord and love serving in this church.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Daryl Funk, son-in-law of Ian & Debbie Moore, for his appointment to judgeship in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of Warren County. Daryl's wife, Noelle, grew up in our church and was an active member here for a number of years. When Daryl, Noelle and daughter Marie are in town, they often worship with us.

God bless you and your family as you serve your community in this honorable capacity.



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

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 the amount accumulated towards the balance owed (\$60,000). Please help us reach our goal of obtaining the full amount owed within this year by continuing your giving to the PC USA Dismissal.

<u>PC USA DISMISSAL DEBT UPDATE</u>	
Nov. 2015, Original amount:	\$ 89,600
Paid:	29,600
Held in savings as of June 28:	<u>52,872</u>
Balance needed:	\$ 7,128

<u>FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT</u>				
	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Campaign/PC USA Debt</u>	
	<u>June</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income	10,916	60,346	1,100	52,872
Expenses	<u>11,598</u>	<u>71,720</u>		
Balance	- 682	-11,374		

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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.*