



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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DO SOMETHING!

*"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?"
(James 2:14)*

One of the central truths of our faith is that we are saved by grace alone, that there is nothing we can *do* to earn or merit our salvation. It is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ. This is the hallmark of the Reformation and essential to what we believe as Reformed, protestant, Presbyterian Christians. It is also the doctrine that separates Christianity from all other religions on earth. Every other religion involves humanity having to earn their salvation. What they *do* determines whether they are saved.



"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." (Gal. 5:22–23)

But that doesn't mean we don't have to *do* anything with our faith. In fact, the things we *do* become even more important. We don't seek to *do* acts of love, mercy, kindness and justice *so that* we can be saved; rather, *because* of the salvation we've been given, we *serve* God and others. Just as the health of a tree is shown in the fruit it bears, our acts of love and service are the fruit of our salvation.

"But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder." (James 2:18–19)

Over the first 400 years or so, the Christian faith grew through a radical and counter-cultural love for others and service to "the least of these." It wasn't "radical" in the sense of being offensive, but a kind of loving others that was so profoundly *different* from what anyone expected. The early Christians sought out the loveless, the rejected, the despised, the hopeless and offered them love, relationship, presence, identity, hope - in short, they offered them Jesus Christ. Those acts of love transformed their communities and the world. Their works, their deeds, proved the real change that salvation by faith through Jesus

Christ brought about in their lives. We might grieve the loss of cultural influence we're experiencing in our time, but it is also an opportunity to get back to the roots of our faith and *do something* to love others in Jesus' name in order to share the hope and life that can only be found through Him.

As we head through the 'dog days of summer,' look for opportunities to love and serve others. It doesn't always have to be something big. Sometimes the greatest act of love we can do for someone else is to give them a glass of cold water on a hot summer day.

Blessings,
Pastor David Garrison

Go to page 5 to read about VBS SonWorld Adventure Park, held June 23-27



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Don Hedrick
- 11 Henry Sechler
- 29 Margie Seal
- 30 John Collins



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Gerald & Sharon Bryant 1976
- 14 Ernie & Barbara Baker 1973
- 27 Michael & Janel Babcock 1997



JULY ATTENDANTS

- 7 Linda Lange, Judy Reyburn
- 14 Debbie Irvine, Vonnie Rucker
- 21 George and Mickie Brine
- 28 Sharon and Gerald Bryant



More nursery attendants are needed. If you can volunteer once every 2 months to serve our children in this important ministry, please contact Sharon Bryant (sharonc.bryant5@gmail.com or 929-0610)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

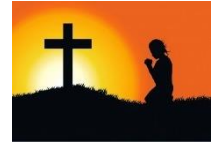
Starting July 2, the morning circle is meeting in June, July and August with a different agenda. The plan is to meet at **1 p.m.** on the first Tuesday and instead of a Bible study, they will be visiting shut-ins. Anyone not currently a circle member, who would like to join them in visiting the shut-ins would be most welcomed.

Evening Circle:

The evening circle does not meet in June, July or August. They will continue their Bible study in September with Margaret Feinberg's study of the Gospel of John.

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

Psalm 34:4 NIV



Prayer Requests:

Dolores Wright's son, Jimmy, had heart bypass surgery on June 21 and is at Liberty Ridge to receive physical therapy.

Betty Reed is improving at Guggenheimer, receiving physical therapy.

Mary Wilhelm's son, Stan, has returned home from the National Institute of Health after receiving treatment for an immune deficiency. Please pray that these treatments will work.

Marge Mills and Sandy Stafford's mother, Bessie Gillie, have finished their radiation treatments for breast cancer.

Sue Burnett continues treatments for lung cancer.

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

Virginia Carnefix is having difficulty recovering from a fall she had at home last month.

All active servicemen and women.

Law enforcement personnel, first responders.

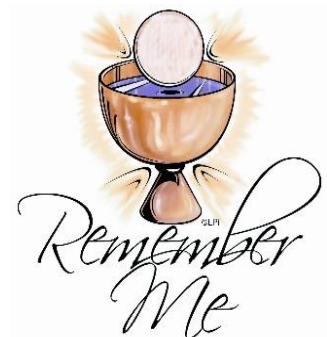
Remember others who cannot be with us in church:

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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

July 7

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 22: 19b-20

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MONROE
FOOD PANTRY - CLOSED

First Baptist Church of Monroe closed its food pantry on June 1. Their church is looking for a way to continue to assist in feeding the hungry in Amherst County. Our church has referred folks to Monroe Baptist over the years as well as donated to their food pantry. We now are looking for other food pantries. We do let people know about Neighbors Helping Neighbors warehouse distribution on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays, but our callers often are in need of food immediately.

**FIFTH-SUNDAY
OFFERING
HELPING HANDS
MINISTRY**



In the months that have a “fifth Sunday” we take an offering to support the Helping Hands Ministry of Amherst County. The Madison Heights Baptist Church administers this program. Their purpose is to assist county residents with emergency financial needs. Helping Hands is funded strictly by donations of churches in the county.

NEW MEMBER CLASS:

Pastor David is planning a New Member Class to begin mid-summer. If you are interested in knowing more about the EPC and more specifically about Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church, please contact Pastor David: dgarrison@npcmh.com.

SAVE YOUR PLASTIC

GROCERY STORE BAGS
for
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

THANK YOU for continuing to bring to church each Sunday your clean PLASTIC GROCERY STORE bags. Deposit them in the wicker basket found underneath the coat rack in the entrance foyer of the church.

NHN said they use at least 1,000 bags each week of their distribution.

Thank you for your participation. And thank you, Don Hedrick for taking these bags to NHN each week.



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

Your Fellowship Committee

June 23-27



Our SonWorld Adventure Park Vacation Bible School was a great success! To God be the glory! Over the span of the week, we had 33 children from our church and community come through our doors and learn of God's love for them. Children were entertained by hilarious skits, taught Bible stories, enjoyed delicious snacks, worshiped through song and burned off some

energy during recreation. Many thanks to all of our volunteers and helpers - 25 to be exact! We would also like to thank the following groups who donated or loaned items for VBS:

- Amelon Elementary School
- Amherst County High School Theatre
- The Floor Show Carpet One



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 that we have accumulated \$52,712 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>52,712</u>
Balance needed:	\$ 7,288

<u>FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT</u>				
	<u>General Operating Fun.</u>		<u>Campaign/PC USA Debt</u>	
	<u>May</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income	11,153	49,430	1,644	51,736
Expenses	<u>12,115</u>	60,122		
Balance	- 962	-10,692		

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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.*