



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS

Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

office@npcmh.com

434/929-2713

www.npcmh.com

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WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES JESUS MAKE IN YOUR LIFE?

Not long ago, I came across an interview with a pastor who said that it wouldn't affect her faith in the least if there were definitive proof that Jesus Christ never existed or wasn't resurrected from the dead and certainly wasn't God. In fact, this pastor argued, such belief takes greater faith than holding to the orthodox beliefs about Jesus (that he is fully God and the second member of the Trinity, born of a virgin, lived a perfect life, died for our sins, was raised from the dead on the third day and is now seated at God's right hand, to name a few). The Apostle Paul has some pretty strong words for such a view:

But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Cor. 15:13–14, 17–19)

Everything we believe and are as Christians hinges on the resurrection of Christ — in this life and the life to come. For a long time, much of Christian hope and faith was placed in the promise of eternal life with God in Heaven. Over the past century or so, however, that focus has shifted toward the benefits of believing in Christ in **this present** life. That, in my opinion, has been a necessary correction. However, now it seems even that is fading away. It seems to me that there are a lot of people who claim to believe in Jesus, but for whom Jesus makes no practical difference in their daily lives whatsoever. I wonder if in losing our focus on the former (our hope for eternal life), we started to lose our focus on the latter (the change in our daily lives).



But think about what Jesus said about why he came: *"I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of."* (John 10:10) Our faith in Christ brings us "real and eternal life." It's absolutely about the life to come. The greatest hope of our eternal life is that we will see God face-to-face. Holding to that hope, through Christ we are able to have "more and better life than we've ever dreamed of" in this present life. How I live my life today is shaped by the sure knowledge that one day, because of Christ, I will see God face-to-face.

There's an old saying that someone is "so heavenly minded, they're no earthly good." We've all known people like that. But that's not how it actually works. If I'm focusing on eternity rightly, then the present is molded and shaped by it. It is that sure and certain hope that enables me to live sacrificially and fully for Christ today. The saying should be more like, "I'm only earthly good because I'm so heavenly minded."

It is my prayer that, because we know we will one day see Him face-to-face, we would all know Jesus so fully and deeply that we can't imagine living a day or a moment without Him.

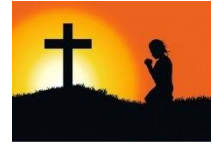
Blessings, *Pastor David Garrison*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 13 Bobby Irvine,
Elizabeth Kidd
- 15 Robi Vandevander
- 16 Alayna Vandevander
- 18 George Brine,
Jonathan Bryant
- 19 Mickie Brine
- 21 Gabbi Scruggs
- 23 Debbie Irvine
- 26 Lois Stewart



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



Prayer Requests:

Lorraine Ledden fell and broke her arm. She is now receiving rehabilitation in Bedford.
Virginia Carnefix was hospitalized with a severe infection but is now receiving physical therapy at Westminster-Canterbury.

Leah Gordon, a former member of David's youth group in NC and a senior at NC State, has been diagnosed with cancer.

Larry Irvine had an accident on his lawn mower, causing cracked ribs.

Linda Lange's brother-in-law is being treated for an infection resulting from another treatment.

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 numerous health problems.

Also pray for Albert as Bobbie's main caretaker.

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.

OCTOBER ATTENDANTS:

- 6 Ernie & Barbara Baker
- 13 Marge Mills
- 20 Linda Lange, Judy Reyburn
- 27 Debbie Irvine, Ron Reyburn



SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

October 6

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 19b-20



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Sat, Oct. 19, 10 am

The Women's Book Club will meet October 19 at Judy Reyburn's home from 10 a.m. until Noon. The group is reading **The Family Nobody Wanted** by Helen Doss. Please let Judy know if you will be attending.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, October 1 at 10 am. Their new Bible Study is "Busyness—Finding God in the Whirlwind." Pick up the study materials from June Hedrick.

Evening Circle:

The evening circle also meets October 1 at 7 p.m. Their Bible study is from the book of John with Margaret Feinberg's DVD presentation, *Pursuing God*. Participants need a study book which can be purchased on line at Barnes & Noble and Amazon (kindle and paperback).

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS
SUNDAYS, 6:00-7:15PM

Join us for our fall series, *Rescued from An Ordinary Life*. What kind of life are you living? You get up, get dressed, grab a pop tart on your way to school. You walk the same halls every day, sit with the same people at lunch, sleep through the same classes over and over. You come home, do some chores, put homework and studying off, watch some TV, annoy your siblings and go to sleep. Then repeat. Edge-of-your-seat stuff, right? You know what's funny? I know a lot of adults who yearn for their high school days to come back - the "best years of your life!" Wow. What a life.

Don't you wonder if there isn't supposed to be more to this life? That we were made for so much more than just eating and breathing? Turns out, you weren't made for ordinary. Jesus said,

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

Want to be rescued from an ordinary life? Then join us on Sundays as we explore this verse and find out just what Jesus meant when he invited us to "have life, and have it to the full." See you there. **Sundays, 6 -7:15 pm.**



PARENTING IN THE PEW
BEGINNING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6
9:45 AM, IN THE TATMAN ROOM

One of the questions we're asked on a regular basis is, "How do I teach my children how to worship? How do we help them understand what the different parts of the worship service mean and why they matter?" These are great questions, so we're offering this new Sunday School class to help find some answers together.

Karey Garrison will be leading a study of the book, *Parenting in the Pew*, by Robbie Castleman. From the back cover:

"Daddy, I'd like you to meet my children." That's Robbie Castleman's attitude about taking her children to church. She believes that Sunday morning isn't a success if she has only managed to keep the kids quiet. And she knows there's more to church for kids than trying out their new coloring books. Children are at church for the same reason as their parents: for the privilege of worshiping God. Worship, Castleman writes, is "the most important thing you can ever train your child to do." So with infectious passion, nitty-gritty advice and a touch of humor, she shows you how to help your children (from toddlers to teenagers) enter into worship.

This class is open to all parents, grandparents and great-grandparents - anyone who would like to help their children, grandchildren or even nieces and nephews learn how to love and worship God with all of their heart, mind, soul and strength. Books cost \$10 each. Please RSVP to the church office if

you plan to attend or would like a book so we order the proper amount.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FALL ACTIVITIES



Fall is upon us and with it comes Operation Shoebox and Trunk - or- Treat!! We will begin collecting items for our shoebox ministry very soon, as the boxes have to be ready around the second week in November. Small toys, school supplies, and health supplies are all good places to start when buying to fill these boxes. Feel free to fill your own shoeboxes with help from your children and grandchildren. We will keep you up to date with any new information as it becomes available.

TRUNK OR TREAT Sun., Oct. 27 @ 5:30

Come join us for our annual Trunk or Treat at NEPC on Sunday, October 27 from 5:30 until 7:30. Decorate your trunk and bring lots of candy to share with the neighborhood ghosts and goblins. If you are a participant, please be at the church by 5:00, so that we can be set up and ready to go by 5:15. Come dressed in your favorite costume as well!! We will also be serving hot dogs, chips and drinks. Come enjoy the fun, even if you are not a trick-or-treater. If you are unable to come, but would still like to be a part of the event, your donation of candy would help those that are participating in the trunk or treat. Sign up on the church bulletin board.



CHOIR NEWS

The choir is beginning to practice for this year's Christmas cantata. If you are not a member of the choir, but would like to take part in the Christmas cantata, we would very much like more voices for this special choral presentation.

The choir practices each Wednesday 7 – 8 p.m. and beginning Oct. 2, will include the cantata music from 8 – 8:30. The cantata is scheduled for December 8, at 4 p.m. If you have questions, please speak with our Director of Music, Bob Mills.

RECENT MISSIONS PRESENTATIONS Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Burundi Hope Project

Do you wonder, “What is it God wants me to do to be salt and light to the world?” Does the Holy Spirit urge you to volunteer at one of the many wonderful non-profit Christian organizations near you? Perhaps He will ask – or already has asked – you to go to some foreign country, or just to one of the areas in the U.S. hit hard by recent hurricanes.

I love the words from the following song. It's an encouragement to us all to say, “Here I am, Lord. Send me.”

I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin – my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

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 since the first of 2016, we feel like we can reach our goal by the end of 2019. 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 to give 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 Sept. 28:	<u>56,941</u>
Balance needed:	\$ 3,059

<u>FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT</u>				
	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Campaign/PC USA Debt</u>	
	<u>August</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income	7,810	78,755	1,732	55,974
Expenses	<u>10,315</u>	<u>93,712</u>		
Balance	-2,505	-14,957		

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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.*