



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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The Fifth Gospel

And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation." (Luke 19:41-44)

This picture is taken from inside the chapel of the *Dominus Fleuit* (Latin for "The Lord wept"). According to Luke, as Jesus came over the Mount of Olives on Palm Sunday and saw the city of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount before him, he wept over it. The chapel is in the shape of a teardrop, and is one of the only catholic chapels to be oriented west-east (most are east-west). It's amazing how well the architecture of the place carries the emotive weight of the location.



If anything becomes clear when visiting the Holy Land, it's how precious this particular place is to the Lord. While "the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1), God has chosen this particular portion of land on the shores of the eastern Mediterranean Sea and made it holy unto Him, and given it to the people He has chosen for Himself. We know that God has worked purposefully and intentionally throughout history, but you see that when you visit these incredible places we've read so much about in our Bibles. Faith comes alive in a visceral way.

As I mentioned in my sermon on July 17 after I returned, "What becomes abundantly clear as you tour the Promised Land is how much the land itself proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, hence why it has earned the name, 'The Fifth Gospel.'" As another pastor friend of mine has said, after visiting the Holy Land, you'll never read your Bible the same again. It really is as transformative an experience as they say.

I hope to pass along as much of my experiences and the things I learned in the weeks and months to come, but mostly I want to encourage you to make plans to visit the Holy Land at least once in your life. My friend, Cameron Smith (who took that picture) is planning a trip for February, and I'm working on putting one together for next July. I promise you, it's worth every penny it costs to go. This land has a special place in God's heart, and it should in ours as well, even as we wait eagerly for the new heavens and new earth to come down with Christ when He returns.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Rev. 21:1-4)

Blessings,
Rev. David Garrison

Missions Outreach and Evangelism

Galatians 6:4-10 - "Pay careful attention to your own work for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are all responsible for our own conduct....those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let us not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone- especially to those in the family of faith."

In the passage from Galatians 6, Paul reminds us that we each have work to do, a roll to play in bringing the kingdom of God to our community. With this reminder comes the promise of satisfaction and the exhortation for patience to wait on God's timing to reap a harvest. "Let us not get tired of doing what is good."

Our fall collection for the Christmas Cheer Boxes will begin in September. Guests from the missions we support will be visiting soon to give us updates on the work we are partnering with them to do.

We packed 7 birthday boxes for Meals on Wheels!

Gleaning for the World – August 18, meet at 8:30 a.m. in the church parking lot
MOE committee meeting August 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Life Together

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

- 11 Tatum Sievewright
- 21 Jackie Hodges
- 21 Bob Mills
- 25 Emmaylnn Kidd
- 27 Kristin Kidd
- 29 Vonnie Rucker



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

Prayer Requests:



Tim Wright will be having knee surgery. Please pray for a successful surgery and a smooth recovery.

Debbie Moore will be having surgery later this summer to address a severe case of carpal tunnel syndrome.

Ray Vandall continues to heal from his hip replacement surgery. Praise the Lord, the surgery went well!

Barbara Baker asks for prayers for her niece, **Sheila Layton**, who is recovering from breast cancer surgery. This was to address a recurrence of the cancer after 26 years.

All medical personnel who have continued serving those with coronavirus in spite of the possibility of getting infected themselves.

Remember others who cannot be with us in church: **Leonard Rowe, Arlene Horton and Peggy Wright.**

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

John & Linda Lange – August 4, 1973

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

GENERAL FUND

	May	Y-T-D
Income	8,611	46,138
Expenses	<u>10,202</u>	<u>60,596</u>
Balance	-1,591	-14,458



The Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet on **Thursday, August 25, at 10 a.m. at Vonnie Rucker's**. They will be reading *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom, an intriguing book about survivors afloat in a lifeboat following an explosion. Desperately in need of help, the survivors find another man floating in the water who claims to be the Lord. It seems that their prayers have been answered, but is he really who he says he is? And will he actually save them? All women are welcome!

Fun in the Sun

By Sharon Bryant

Fourteen people headed down the road to Hilton Head Island on the rainiest Sunday ever, and even though we were a bit damp when we arrived we all made it safely! Seven young ladies, four young men and three adults were all excited to be at Fun in the Sun! It was fun for everyone! They kept us busy but also allowed for some free time to enjoy the beautiful beach we were so fortunate to be at!



A typical day went something like this:

8:00 am - Breakfast in rooms

9:30 am - Quiet Time and Counselor meeting - Students would use this time to pray, read their Bible and write in their journals

10:15 am - 12:00 noon - Morning Program

Noon - Lunch

1:00 pm - recreation and free time

5:30 pm - 6:45 - Dinner

6:45 pm - 7:15 pm - Leader meeting

7:30 pm - Evening program

9:30 pm - Family Time

Midnight - Lights Out



The morning and evening programs were structured very much the same. We started off with these two guys (Billy and Billy) who were so funny! They had us rolling in the aisles with their jokes, games, and songs! If you weren't awake in the morning, these guys would wake you up. After we were all awake, we had a rock band that got things going even more. By the end of the week, we knew all of the songs and many in our group were going to the front of the auditorium

to sing arm in arm with their old friends and new friends. After the band played, we had two speakers - one spoke in the morning and one in the evening! They were both excellent and shared so many meaningful and important thoughts about their faith. The morning speaker included three additional people who shared their journey with Jesus with all of us. The theme of the week was, "A Way in the Wilderness" and there was much talk about our experiences in our own wilderness and how Jesus helped us get through the wilderness!





Family time is when we all got together as our church youth group and talked about our day and the things that stood out to us about our own faith and other people's faith too!

There was so much offered in recreation! You could run a two-mile run, play volleyball, basketball, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, tennis, chess, music trivia, card and board games, build a sandcastle, and bring your instrument and play in a jam session. Our group participated in the volleyball games, soccer, two-mile run, chess, building a sandcastle and the music trivia game!



When we had free time, I think our group enjoyed hanging out at the beach the most and talking with each other!

There were so many positive things about Fun in the Sun! I know our kids all feel closer to one another, I think their faith has been reignited, and we all had a wonderful time! Thanks so much to Northminster for your generous gift of helping send everyone to camp!! You are going to hear more about camp very soon!!

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DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

ELDERS

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk of Session,*

Liz Boothe, Maggie Brockman

Sharon Bryant, John Lange, Judy Reyburn

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Sunday school*

Superintendent