



NORTH PARK CHURCH

VOLUME 129 - FEBRUARY 2018

WORSHIP CONNECT IMPACT



FYI

A PUBLICATION OF NORTH PARK
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February Memory Verse:

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and His Redeemer,
the Lord of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god."

- Isaiah 44:6

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Youth Group Schedule for February

2 WINTER RETREAT

8 7:00 - 8:15 P.M.
Small Group
Middle School Boys
at the Fairfield's House

21 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.
Small Group
High School and Middle
School Girls at the Church

4 NO Youth Group

11 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Youth Group

22 7:00 - 8:15 P.M.
Small Group
Middle School Boys
at the Fairfield's House

7 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.
Small Group
High School and Middle
School Girls at the Church

18 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Youth Group

25 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Youth Group

Did You Know?

Did you know that LEE COSTA, as well as GERRY AND SANDY RICHARDSON have just become confirmed members of our church that GERRY AND SANDY are retired and live half the year in Lynchburg, VA that reindeer's eyes are gold during the summer and blue in winterthat DEANNE ALBERTI was born Dorothyanne but later changed her name to DeAnne to fit on a nametag that RUBY HOPKINS has moved to Montana for a season or more to work as a nanny and writethat China owns all the world's pandas and rents them out for around a million bucks a yearthat JODY MOSKAL is engaged to be married on April 21.... that EMILY STITT is studying in Paris this semester with PSUthat some cats are allergic to humans..... that BRIAN OSMOND has been nominated (one of five) as Cameraman of the Year for his work in Mindhunter, a highly acclaimed Netflix series and will be attending, with Laura, a big event in Hollywood to see if he wins that NICK PIETT and RACHAEL CAREY are engaged to be married at NPC on December 29.... that around one million dogs in the US have been named the primary benefactor of their owner's will.... that Easter and National Atheist's Day fall on the same day this Spring that our Elders Retreat on January 12 was cancelled due to dangerous travel weather.... that the Russians showed up 12 days late for the 1908 Olympics in London because they were using the Julian calendar instead of the Gregorian (bummer!)..... that HOLLY FAIRFIELD supplies cream for the Great Awakening (our coffee cafe).... that KRISTIN BROWN supplies natural honeythat those who partake of the Great Awakening are 11 times more alert for the Worship service than those who do not..... Did you know these things? I thought you should.....

SAVE THE DATE

**One Day All-Church Retreat
May 19, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Questions? Contact Joyce Kish
joycemkish@gmail.com



Camp Lutherlyn
Prospect, PA 16052

PASTOR'S CORNER

by Dan Hendley

How about a Corner with a football theme, huh? Sure!

Here are a few miscellaneous facts and observations for you:

- Our daughters married into “foreign” football families. Hannah’s family in Florida are big Eagle fans since her hubby grew up near Philly, and Sarah’s Houston husband is a rabid Georgia Bulldog who went to the championship game in Atlanta in January.
- Frank Reich, the offensive coordinator of the Eagles is a former president of Reformed Theological Seminary (Charlotte campus) and is famous for leading the greatest comebacks ever in the history of both college and professional football.
- The Alabama freshman QB who subbed in and won the national championship is Tua Tagovailoa. After his amazing win he gave glory to “my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Tua is Samoan, from Hawaii. Samoan culture is highly religious and predominantly Christian. Tua has been known for several years for his personal and public devotion to Christ. So sad he plays for Nick Saban. Perhaps he will take over for Ben R. in 2019. We need a Samoan lefty at North Park Church.
- After his miracle touchdown pass to beat the Saints on January 14, Vikings QB, Case Keenum said, “God is so good. It’s probably the third best day of my life; the day I gave my life to Jesus Christ, the day I married my wife, and probably this one.” Saint’s QB Drew Brees is known as a Christ-follower, but probably did not rate the day so highly as did Keenum.
- I think interference could be called on 80% of NFL passing plays.
- I think I am the only person who believed Tomlin was right to go for the onside kick.



"Storm Clouds Gathering"

By: Debbie Furey

I see the tears of the oppressed
Of those downtrodden and distressed
They have no comforter that sees
They have no hope, no life, and no peace

Where are those that I can send?
Who can help, heal, and defend?
Arise and light your darkened lamp
Call fire from heaven to empower, encamp

I send My wind to fan your soul
Ask for oil to fill your lamps' bowl
Open the door and come join Me
The harvest field lies ripe and ready

A storm is coming there is not much time
For the enemy is working overtime
His storm clouds threaten to destroy
My waiting crop that is My joy

Come join Me now, it's not too late
To lead the lost to heaven's gate
I'll dry their tears and heal their heart
My grace and mercy I'll joyfully impart

*Excerpt used by the permission
of the author from Debbie Furey,
Refresh Me with Apples
(Yorkshire Publishing, 2017).*

We are happy to announce that five people have joined the Stephen Ministry Team: Jim Ludwig, Carla Rooke, Rachel Sharpnack, Nancy Van Sickel, and Manny Velarde. We are thankful to the Lord for leading these saints to serve on this new ministry. Please add them to your prayer list as they will begin the intensive training program February 1 through May 31.

Contact Your Stephen Ministry Leaders

Mark Sharpnack
marksharpnack@npcepc.org

Susan Meenaghan
meenaghans@gmail.com

Denise Velarde
DeniseVelarde.StephenMinistry@gmail.com



BILL ARNSPARGER
(DECEMBER 16, 1926 - JULY 17, 2015)
spent 23 seasons as an NFL coach, with stops in Baltimore, Miami, New York, and San Diego. He then became a Stephen Minister at Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla, California.

During his coaching career, Arnsperger heard about Stephen Ministry several times. "I knew it was important, so I waited until the right time in my life to get involved," Arnsperger says. "The hours I've invested in Stephen Ministry have brought me closer to the Lord and to others in my congregation.

COACH BILL ARNSPARGER | STEPHEN MINISTER
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CHURCH PLANTING IN NORTH KOREA

BY: BEN BURKHOLDER

Our recent news cycles have continued to focus on the nuclear threat that North Korea poses to the United States. Ballistic missile tests and false alerts aside, is God doing more than we are hearing about in the news? He most certainly is. Do you want to know what He has been doing? Then come be informed about how the Kingdom has advanced in the midst of oppression by joining us on Sunday, February 11 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Room 112. Derek from Beyond will be giving us an inside peak at how the believers have seized the opportunity to expand the church in North Korea. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear about more than what our news cycles would ever give you.

Childcare will be available for children 0-3 years.

Questions? Contact Pastor Ben at benburkholder@northparkepc.org



FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION DAY



When we pick up the phone to dial 911, we expect someone nearby to be ready to come to our aid, someone willing to run into a burning building, someone able to give us an IV, or someone capable of stopping an intruder. On Wednesday, February 21 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. we will host a special evening honoring the First Responders in McCandless (police, fire fighters, and EMS) who have made it their occupation to be ready for such spur-of-the-moment emergencies. Featuring a talk by the McCandless Police Chief, David DiSanti Sr., we will corporately show our appreciation for their work and presence in our community.

In order to make this a special evening, we are going to need volunteers to help cook the food, assemble gift bags for the first responders who attend, and set up for the event. If you wish to help out, please sign up at the Information Counter. Questions? Contact Pastor Ben at benburkholder@northparkepc.org. Come join us as we seek to give back to our community a little of what we receive from them.

CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN 0-3 YEARS.

GUESTS ARE ASKED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING BASED UPON THEIR LAST NAMES.

A-L: DESSERTS

M-Z: SALADS

FROM ONE TO ONE

BY: BEN BURKHOLDER

As we enter the month of February, we want to embark on a journey together corporately. The New Testament calls us to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ, and we hope to become more faithful, prayerful ambassadors for the King at North Park Church. Starting in February 2018, we are asking every person in our congregation to pray daily for one unbeliever in their life. This could be a co-worker, a neighbor, a family member, or whomever God brings to mind. Thus, we want you to join us in praying daily for one person in particular, that God would open up his or her eyes to receive the Gospel.

In the months to come, we will take more intentional steps together like deepening the existing relationship with the person you have chosen and taking steps toward sharing your faith and trust in Christ with them. For now, however, we take the most important step, which is prayer. It is only in God's power that we can hope to be faithful witnesses, and it is only through His calling that people respond in faith.

Now, I want to warn you up front. This prayer exercise might seem easy to begin. What I've learned is that this is not quite as easy as it seems. If you find yourself frustrated in a few days, you're not alone. There are days when I get upset that God hasn't answered the prayer in the way I expected. Other times, I get discouraged that I forget to pray all too easily.

Why continue amidst the frustration and discouragement of daily prayer for one person? Let me tell you what God has shown me recently. For the past several months a group of people from North Park have committed together to pray for one person in particular and see where God is present and active. While none of us experienced the shocking conversions of the person for whom we were praying, what we did notice was a deep change in us. We discovered that because we were faithfully praying for God to call a particular person to Himself, we were much more attentive to other conversations and how the other person was expressing a need for Christ without saying as much. I, in particular, found more boldness to turn casual conversations with a neighbor toward what they believed about God. In general, we discovered that God rewarded our prayers with more opportunities to share with our neighbors, friends, and family. It was not always with the person for whom we were praying, but it seemed like God was putting us where He wanted us to be.

I look forward to telling you more about this prayer experiment, but right now I want to invite you into it. You really don't want to miss out on the joy of seeing God at work before your eyes.

Sunday, February 4

Pastor Ben will give detailed information on how to get involved.

Family of the Month

Van Sickel

BY KELLY LAIRD

Phil and Nancy Van Sickel are long-time North Park Church members. Did you know that they have three adult children and a chinchilla? Here's some interesting information on this faithful couple.

Phil and Nancy met at Grove City College. Phil is from Pittsburgh and Nancy grew up in New Jersey. They met in the natatorium, where he was a swimmer and she a timer. Nancy asked Phil out to a sorority spring dance and the following week he asked her to a fraternity party. The rest (thirty-eight years) is history!

The couple came to NPC at the intervention of Phil's mother. As he puts it, "A couple months after we were married my mother called Jim Morison, pastor of Mellwood Presbyterian Church which became North Park Church after leaving PCUSA. She told him she had a son and daughter-in-law not attending church in his neighborhood. She might as well have said 'sic'em' to a dog. Jim was in our home shortly afterwards explaining the gospel. We started attending and going to a Wednesday night Bible study. There was an alter call that spring and both of us went forward with a third of the church. That was 1979-80." As you can see, the Van Sickels have been an integral part of our church for a long time.

The children came shortly thereafter. Joel is oldest at thirty-five. He's an engineer with MathWorks in Michigan. He likes the outdoors, reading, art, and music. Jessica is the middle child at thirty-two. Jess works as a Vet Tech in New Hampshire. She's married to Jon, a mechanical engineer. They both enjoy hiking and reading and Jess likes cooking and crafts. Alyssa is the youngest Van Sickel. She's twenty-eight and lives in Brooklyn, working as a fashion designer. Alyssa likes to be with friends, especially doing outdoor activities.



What does daily life look like for Nancy & Phil, with all three kids grown up and out of the state? Phil works as an Agile Transformation Consultant, so he doesn't have a typical day. He works with large enterprises and teaches them new ways of organizing their work so they can effectively build software solutions and react to market conditions. His primary client is in town, but he does a fair amount of traveling for his job. Nancy tutors at Blackburn Study Center two days a week and attends Bible studies and prayer groups. They also spend time caring for their nineteen-year-old chinchilla. You can see Nancy active in the music and Stephen Ministries as well as Living in Liberty. Phil is an elder, on the Outreach Prayer team, and a Family Guidance mentor. This couple is part of a care group with the Karpiaks. They consider the group an integral part of their own spiritual growth and care. Please pray for their children.

Stay Tuned ... Up

By: Brooke Hopkins

For those of you who may have been unable to attend last year's 5th Annual Bleak Midwinter Worship and Talent Extravaganza (also known as "Tacit for Performers, Audience, and Tech Crew"), which was not advertised, had no planning, and no execution—mainly because, well, we didn't hold the event, due to a bye in the schedule—you are in for a real humdinger of a treat: the 6th Annual Bleak Midwinter Worship and Talent Extravaganza is right around the corner, regardless of what the groundhog says.

We are looking forward to a night of extended worship, prayer, praise, including some food and fellowship, and followed by solo and group performances by our own talented NPC family. And that could include you! Please consider participating in this fun event—if you sing, play, dance, recite, pantomime, emote, act, have a comedic, vaudeville, or slapstick routine, or have any other appropriate, performance-oriented talent, please join us. If you aren't a performer, but enjoy watching others do the above things, we'd love to have you be a part of our audience. You'll be edified by the worship, entertained by our troupe of minstrels, and enticed by an array of edibles during the refreshment break.

This is being considered as a Compass-sponsored event, and we are looking to hold it on or around March 15. Yes, that's right, March 15. What's that, you say? That date is not anywhere NEAR midwinter!? Well, let me just ask this—what's Christmas in July all about? Why is Midsummer's Eve celebrated at the beginning of summer? And, since we are to be like Jesus, and He's not bound by time, then does it really matter? I rest my case. But, for those of our church who like to jot every tittle, maybe there's a more accurate title:

- Bleak Post-Midwinter Worship and Talent Extravaganza
- Not-So-Bleak End of Winter Worship and Talent Extravaganza
- March Mid-ness Worship and Talent Extravaganza
- Spring Break Worship and Talent Extravaganza
- Spring Bleak (!) Worship and Talent Pre-Easter Egg-stravaganza.

Oh, so many good entries here. But the winner (and...ahem...the "Ides" have it)—for this year, and this year only: Please plan to join us at the 6th Annual Bleak Mid-March Worship and Talent Extravaganza.

So, tune up that banjo. Tone up your chops. Practice that tune. Stay tuned.

OPEN TABLE MINISTRY UPDATE

BY DEBBIE FUREY

One of the outreaches North Park Church is involved with is the Open Table ministry. This consists of members of our church reaching out to help someone from outside of our church that has not had the advantages and contacts that we sometimes take for granted. Each Table is composed of a group of volunteers that make a year-long commitment to act—through relationship—as a team of life specialists, encouragers, and advocates. Over the course of a year, the Table works together to set goals, foster accountability, and implement a plan to create change.

The six members of the Open Table are: Kelly Stitt, Bruce Allison, Jim Warmbrodt, Connie Rivero, Adam Bright, and Debbie Furey. We started off at the beginning with an informal dinner at Debbie's home to get to know each other better. The members of each family also came to meet the person we are helping.

The group of people from our church has come along side of a single man from Light of Life mission. He had completed a program there and was looking for a new start in his life. As we met with him to help with job and apartment hunting, we found Light of Life had already been very active in starting with those endeavors. The person we are helping had applied for and eventually got a job as a Port Authority Transit bus driver, and found an apartment on the North Side. Our team came alongside to assist him with health plan selections for his new employment, help him with moving in to his new apartment, and also help him with getting a dependable, very low-cost car. A few of us were able to help him

move in along with some men and a truck from Light of Life. The ladies from our group were cleaning and organizing while the men did the heavy lifting. We were glad to be a part of this new phase in this precious brother's life and to see where he would be living.

As we met each week, we heard about how his bus training was coming along and we also helped with his budget planning. Having recently finished his training he has started full time as a driver with his own route. He likes his new job and the late night hours as he is not a morning person. He seems to enjoy us and our meetings and sees us as friends now. Even though there is less for us to help him with now, he has admitted that he'd like to keep meeting weekly simply because he enjoys our company. He has said he would like to join us for church some Sunday when his schedule changes.

His family is from California, so he has no relatives nearby to help out. One of his goals is to one day save up enough to go and visit them.

Kelly has done a wonderful job leading our group. Each member has been able to contribute his or her talents and gifts to help and encourage. It has been a pleasure to meet each week and form a friendship with our new friend.

Are you interested in serving in this ministry in the future? If so, let Pastor Ben know at benburkholder@northparkepc.org



Women's Luncheon

BY AMBER STITES

Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. Ephesians 5:2 (NLT)

A little over a year ago, we had a women's Sunday School class on the book of Hosea. We were able to sit under the video teaching of Jennifer Rothchild - what a treat! God has gifted her with amazing insight into the book as well as with relevant application for us today. One of the things that I still remember from this class is Jennifer's admonition to REMEMBER that we LAC nothing because we are fully Loved, Accepted and Complete in Christ.

This is such a crucial reminder because it is when we forget this truth that we seek after idols, like Gomer did. When we forget that God, the creator and sustainer of the universe:

- loved us so much that He sent His son
- accepts us as we are and has chosen and adopted us as His own
- because of these truths, we are complete, whole & perfect

When we forget these 3 things, we forget that GOD IS ENOUGH, that we have EVERYTHING we need in Him:

- He is sovereign
- He is good
- He loves me

Wow! That is great news! I confess that I frequently forget this news and need to take time to reflect and remember God's goodness and His promises. How about you? Do you ever need to be reminded?

If so, we would love to have you join us in the Blue Room right after the Worship on February 11 to enjoy lunch as we get to know one another better and spend some time reflecting on God's great love for us. Sign up at the Information Counter in the lobby and plan to bring a salad to share. Soups, rolls, drinks and desserts will be provided.

Come, and be reminded that we are to
live a life filled with love
— so our lives can be
a pleasing aroma to God.

JOIN US: Sunday, February 11 after Worship

WHERE: North Park Church Blue Room

FEBRUARY 2018 BIRTHDAYS

1 Sarah Faber
Beth Morley
Denise Velarde
2 Pat Barber
Jim Childress
3 Kayleigh Layden
4 Jeff Smalley
7 Ann Spangler
Isadora Pinkerton

10 Gloria Baldauff
11 Hope Bolibruck
13 Nancy Cullen
14 Iona Pinkerton
15 Steve Karr
19 Taylor Van Oss

20 Benjamin Haytock
Grace Stitt
James Warmbrodt
21 Doug Reed
23 Benjamin Lish
25 Andrea Blackburn
Rich Lukas
26 Ben Fowler
28 Barry Zaiser
Robby Brown

ANNIVERSARIES

18 Brian & Stacy Altmyer