

The Good News

JULY 2011

The Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends and Church Family,

Tucked away in Paul's letter to the Ephesians are these simple words of wisdom,

Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15,16

For those of us who live in the northern tier of this country, we can understand how important it is to take advantage of the various seasons God has given us. After a long winter and soggy spring, summer is a blessing to be enjoyed. But it is also a time to make the most of every opportunity that comes our way.

The last week of June and the first two weeks of July eight kids will be campers in the Laurel Highlands of western Pennsylvania at the Ligonier Camp & Conference Center. Statistics will bear out that more kids make a commitment to Christ at a camp than from any other venue or experience. Because of this, we feel so strongly about Christian camping that our Mission Committee has for the second year now committed scholarship money to enable every child to attend. Please pray for the kids (and their parents!) for the week or two that they will be having there. Pray not only for kids at camp this month, but also for the kids who have just returned from camp, that what they learned and experienced will be seeds of faith that put down deep roots. Campers are Katie, Heather, and Abby Williamson, Nathan and Julia Geshke, Molly Fenn, Emily Brooks and Zack Miller.

Another place where NPC has invested a great deal of time, money and prayer is Vacation Bible School. In just a week and a half VBS will begin (July 11-15). It was difficult to secure teachers this year. But God has his own timing and purposes for when and who will be placed in the various roles and responsibilities for the program. He provided us with the nec-

essary teachers, so we are excited about the children who will be coming. Three important things left to do before the eleventh: pray for the many preparations and room set-ups to be done in the next several days; Pray for the teachers and other helpers; and Encourage your neighbors, friends, and family members to register their children and grandchildren. I want to extend my thanks to Debbie Brooks and all who have responded to the call to help at this year's VBS ahead of time because this is one of the few "gifts" we give to the community (see other VBS news on page 2).

Later this month we will be doing a hands-on mission project to assist in an ongoing health need. Working with and through World Vision we are going to be preparing AIDS Caregiver Kits. We can't be there physically to care for the AIDS patients, but we can help those who are there to provide comfort for those who are living their last days on earth. You can find more information on this on page 4 of the Good News.

Many thanks for your financial faithfulness. Last month I wrote to tell you that we were running a deficit of over \$9000 at the end of April due to heavy snow plowing, gas and electric costs over the winter. By the end of May we had reduced the deficit by \$3000. So through the summer months we hope to continue to make up some ground. I believe that through God's gracious provision and our faithfulness to Him, the deficit can be erased.

Enjoy the summer months, whether in the garden, in travels, and visits with friends and family far and wide.

In His Grip,

Art Helin



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 11-15, 2011

6:30-8:30 pm

Registration forms in Narthex
or available on our website

INVITE A FRIEND!

Family party on Friday night at 7 p.m.
Bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Thank you to those who stepped up to teach/help:

Directors: Debbie Brooks and Patti Maholm

Teacher Teams:

Joe and Rachelle Geshke

Patty Fenn and Tonya Dowdell (VBC)

Cindy Gallagher and Carol Kreger

Jan Helin and Pauline Enczur

Chris Fenn and Steve Brooks

Crafts: Sharon Oliver, Stacy Harber & Katie Higgins

Snacks: Chris, Kirk, Cory and Connor Louis, Richard Enczur

Registration: Cheryl Emch and Cindy Maxhimer

Music: Zeger Verhage

(we expect other youth & adult helpers and Friday night cookout help. Contact Debbie Brooks if interested in participating in any way)



-2011 VBS Mission Project -

“Birthday Room” Toy Drive
For Laura’s Home



This year our mission project for VBS will focus on the needs of a local Women’s & Children shelter, which is part of The City Mission here in Cleveland. The shelter is called “Laura’s Home”. Laura’s Home is for women and children in need. They are a bridge from homelessness to wholeness. At Laura’s Home, they give them shelter: warm beds, hearty meals, and basic necessities. They help the children to go to school. Most importantly, they offer them hope that the future can be different than the past.

Our VBS Mission is this: Laura’s Home has a “Birthday Room” that allows Mom’s to go in and pick out a present for their child/children to give to them on their birthday. This may not sound like much to us, but to a homeless mom and kids this is truly a *wonderful* blessing. Our goal this year is to collect new toys to give to the Birthday Room.

Everyone was so generous last year with our “Pack the Backpack” mission that we know that this shelter can benefit from our caring and generous families! The shelter has kids from infant to 17 years. If you look at the numbers above, there is a great need for wonderful surprises and I know that our NPC & VBS families can help fill this need. Please pray for these moms and kids; and we know that whatever you choose to give will be treasured! *(They also have a wish list at Target if you would prefer to provide something from the wish list.)*

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

MISSION UPDATE

Galen Johnson
The Seed Company – Wycliffe
May 27, 2011

Today, Jill and I have stepped away from very full schedules to celebrate. The 30th is our 30th Anniversary. Even before we said, “I Do”, we had inquired into ministry overseas. So both our married life and our missionary life have been blessed and satisfying.

Many people speak of life (and ministry) as being a journey. I can concur with this. Along this journey we have experienced “hesitant moments”, “difficult circumstances”, “detours” and “failures”. But even more important are the times of “harmony in God’s will”, “provision in suffering” and “fellowship of fellow travelers”. God’s hand has been clear and his provision abundant.

You, at Northfield, have partnered with us as God’s desire to “speak to the hearts of all peoples” becomes a reality. We recognize the commitment it takes and we hope to faithfully report what God is doing in His time and His way. So thank you for your faithfulness.

See all our mission newsletters on the Mission bulletin board on the main floor stair landing.

Stewardship Report

We appreciate your keeping up with your pledges during the summer months.

June

INCOME: \$ 14,618.00

EXPENSES: \$ 14,674.00

Year to date

INCOME: \$ 98,191

EXPENSES: \$104,847

PANTRY ITEMS CONTINUE TO BE COLLECTED



The Women’s Association will continue to collect food items for the Macedonia Emergency Center. They need dry, boxed nonperishable food items such as: Spaghetti noodles and all other types of pasta either in a box or bags as well as rice, instant potatoes, cereal, hamburger or tuna helper, crackers jellies and Jams.

There is a container in the narthex where church families can drop off their donations on Sundays or any other day they are in the building.

Thank You!



July

Zachary Harber	2-Jul
Jessica Russo	3-Jul
Jack Peters	4-Jul
Cheryl Emch	5-Jul
Eleanor Weisenburg—95th!	6-Jul
Emily Brooks	8-Jul
Joe Russo	8-Jul
Kenzie Tartaglione	15-Jul
Nathan Geshke	17-Jul
Lauren Dusek	25-Jul
Mike Satola	25-Jul
Erin Satola	30-Jul

World Vision

Caregiver Kit event

BUILDING KITS

equip volunteers who are caring
for those living with AIDS

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2011

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

- 33 million people are currently infected with HIV
- 2 million people die each year because of AIDS
- 15 million children right now have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Nearly 12 million are in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Every 2 minutes a child dies because of AIDS

(statistics from World Vision taken from Global AIDS Pandemic UNAIDS 2008)

AIDS is one of the great crises of our time. The caregiver kits are a way we can express Christ's love for those who are suffering and a way to encourage those giving care.

On the evening of July 21st we will:

- Eat an African meal together
- View a short video on this project
- Write notes of encouragement for each kit
- Assemble kits (materials provided)
- Pray together for caregivers and those suffering with AIDS.

If interested, please sign up in the Narthex by July 17th, or call the church office 330-467-4137.

Bring your self, your family, your enthusiasm and your love for mankind!

You can find more information about this program at www.worldvision.org/carekits.

*If you are unable to make it to the event, but would like to write a note(s) of encouragement to a Caregiver, note cards will be available on the Narthex table with the sign up sheet. These should be turned in to the office before the 21st.

Deacon Spotlight Chris Louis

Each month we will be spotlighting a new Elder or Deacon so folks can get to know them and their roll as a leader in our church.



God answers prayer. Not too long after we joined NPC, I felt I wanted to be more involved. My work schedule prohibited me from assisting in the Community Meal and Women's Association. One night with one sentence prayer, I asked God to "Show me where I belong". Gary Anderson called me the next evening and asked if I would like to be a Deacon. Of course I said, "I'm not sure. Let me think about it." I called him back the next day; not sure what I was in for, but I knew in my heart it was right.

This is my second consecutive term as Deacon. As Deacon's we supply and prepare the Communion table, prepare the Sanctuary for service (all the pencils, pens and fellowship pads), schedule ushers, send cards to shut-ins (visit when possible), schedule ushers and, of course, coffee hour (and a host of other things). We have a great time in the process! Our meetings are fun and although there are many things to be accomplished, everyone volunteers for what they can do, with an attitude of "many hands make light work".

It's hard not to love bringing joy to others, preparing for the Lord's Supper, sending boxes of cookies and snacks overseas and to College students to remind them that someone is thinking of them or the simple joy of a cup of coffee and a snack after Church.

After my term is over, I must wait a year before I can be active on the board again. If you are contacted to serve on the Deacon's board, don't let the opportunity pass you by.



July 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9am Fellowship & Prayer 10:15 am Worship 12:30 pm VBC Worship	4	5 7pm Evening Bible Study	6	7 8pm AA	8	9 8am Men's Bible Study 9am VBS Set Up
10 9am Fellowship & Prayer 10:15 am Worship 12:30 pm VBC Worship	11 No Deacon's Meeting 6:30 pm Vacation Bible School	12 6:30 pm Vacation Bible School	13 9:45 am DC Chapel Time 6:30 pm Vacation Bible School	14 No Simple Supper and Prayer this month 6:30 pm Vacation Bible School 8pm AA (outside)	15 6:30 pm Vacation Bible School	16
17 9am Fellowship & Prayer 10:15 am Worship 12:30 pm VBC Worship	18 7pm Session 7pm Boys Scouts	19 7pm Evening Bible Study Fellowship in Hudson tonight only	20 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:45 am DC Chapel Time	21 6:30 pm Caregiver Kit Assembly and Dinner 8pm AA	22	23 8am Men's Bible Study
24 9am Fellowship & Prayer 10:15 am Worship 12:30 pm VBC Worship	25 7pm Boys Scouts	26	27 9:45 am DC Chapel Time 7pm VBC Prayer	28 8pm AA	29 5:30 pm Community Meal	30
31 9am Fellowship & Prayer 10:15 am Worship 12:30 pm VBC Worship 3:30 pm Boy Scout Court of Honor						

Leadership Connection



We are the Northfield Presbyterian church. But it is surprising how many people can't spell "Presbyterian". The name actually identifies more about our organization than it does our theology. The name comes from a Greek word, *presbuteros*, which literally means "old eyes". Your optometrist may have told you that you have "presbyopia" that is your arms aren't long enough to read the small print without reading glasses or bifocals. We see the word translated "elder." We are congregation led and ruled by elders. The concept is an Old Testament one that was suggested to Moses by his father-in-law, Jethro, in Exodus 18.

As most of you are aware, the nominating committee seeks out men and women from the congregation who are willing to serve and lead us in the direction God wants us to go. They present the names to the congregation for election. Then at a later date elders and deacons are ordained (set apart) and installed to serve us in a leadership capacity. Each year we normally have one-third of the Session elected to three-year terms, so that the board usually

has two-thirds of the board continuing in office and one-third new elders to provide continuity to the work of the Session.

Harry Truman said it best, "The buck stops here!" That simply describes the role and responsibility of the Session. This board of elders is ultimately responsible for everything that goes on in a "Presbyterian" church. If they don't do it, they delegate it. That is why they are also known as the ruling arm of the local church.

Here at NPC one of the more visible tasks of the elders is worship leadership. While this is not an absolute requirement of every elder, it is normally part of the responsibilities we take on. And there is training and resources available for every elder in this role. Worship leadership, by the way, is one of the most powerful ways to grow in your faith and understanding of the importance of worship in our lives corporately and individually.



Northfield Presbyterian Church
7755 S. Boyden Rd.
Northfield, OH 44067

npc7755@roadrunner.com
www.northfieldpreschurch.com

