



The Good News

August 2011

A Publication of Northfield Presbyterian Church

The Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends and Church Family,

I was reflecting this morning about our VBS a few weeks ago. We wondered if it would happen for quite awhile. The question was whether we'd have enough teachers. At the "eleventh hour" the Lord provided and we moved ahead and had a great week. Time will tell the impact we had for the Lord. Some results are measurable—the number of kids—and some are intangible—did they understand the stories and desire to know Christ.

One thing is sure; without the teachers and other volunteers we wouldn't have reached any children. It came down to how we are willing to use our time for the Lord.

Last Thursday we gathered in the Fellowship Hall to have an African dinner, watch a video about HIV/AIDS, and to assemble 80 AIDS Caregiver kits. Twenty-four people came out for the event and when we finished assembling the kits and had boxed them up for shipping one of the people asked, "Aren't there any more." Many hands do make light work. Only about ten people were signed up before the previous Sunday's worship service, but with an announcement the number over doubled in size.

Allow me to make some observations concerning these events. In both of these events people stepped up to clean up afterward. Within a short time all the work was done and people headed back to their homes with a smile and some degree of satisfaction and enjoyment under their belts.

In each event I noted that there were people who were new to either the task or the concept. They stepped out of their comfort zones and allowed God to stretch them and provide for their comfort.

And in each event there was the investment of time by the participants. Last month I headlined my column with this scripture,

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

How we use our time determines who and what we can and will become. Some folks use time to learn and grow while others wile it away on frivolous activities. At the end of the day if we learn to manage our time we will realize that we have learned to manage our lives. And a well-managed life God will use to accomplish His work in a "wicked" and broken world.

In His Grip,

Art Helin

Stewardship Report

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

JULY INCOME: \$ 14,497 not including 7/31/11

EXPENSES: \$ 14,597

Mission Spending 2nd Quarter:

Campus Crusade for Christ: David Williams—Akron	\$ 625.00
The Seed Company: Galen Johnson - Africa	\$ 625.00
Globe Ministries: Bob & Melissa Hill- Scotland	\$ 625.00
Gospel for Asia: S.Lakara and B. Munda - India	\$ 375.00
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship: B. Trube - OSU	\$ 625.00
Interlink Ministries: Mary Williams—Cleveland	\$ 500.00
Ligonier Camp 1/2 registration - 7 children	\$1365.00

Congratulations to our 2011NPC Scholarship Recipients: Sarah Hall (Kent), Amber Satola (OSU), Kristyn (Wittenberg) and Brandon Van der Meulen (Musk- ingum)



From the Music Director...

Surfboard in the sand, upbeat music playing in the background, kids everywhere, bumped my head on the big ALOHA sign... No, this is not a vacation in Hawaii but Vacation Bible School at Northfield Presbyterian Church! This was my first time ever being involved in a VBS as a leader, rather than just a drop-off parent. And I hope to be a part of this special week at NPC for many years to come. Truly, a big reward in one's life is being able to plant a spiritual seed in a young child and know by the size of their eyes that this seed has found fertile soil.

I think this line of our VBS song wraps it all up: "Great things happen when we come together. Great things happen when we praise our Savior". My kids are still listening to the VBS CD and I find myself yelling to my kids at the bottom of the stairs: "Come down boys, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!" (finger motions included) Besides some unfortunate hugs by some really muddy creatures (aka our slide-down-the-hill-til-you-hit-the-street teenagers) at the final night, I think this week was an incredible experience and I hope many fellow congregants will join me again next year in sharing the joy of working with these splendid youngsters.

Zeger Verhage

PS: Special thanks to Debbie Brooks who I'm sure popped a few 5-hour energy drinks that week to make VBS go by so smoothly; to Keith Miller for assisting with laptop and wires; and to Tim Maholm for handling a way-too-hot grill on Friday night. You guys rock!

AIDS Caretaker Kit Event is a Success

We had a great evening assembling our Caretaker Kits. Eighty kits or refill packs were created, notes of encouragement were written and prayers were said for the caretakers and those who would receive treatment. Thank you to all who helped. *The following dish was served and was delicious. Many asked for the recipe.*

TIGETEGE Sauce From Burkina Faso, West Africa - Mariam Sonde via Jill Johnson

Fry together:

1 pound beef cut into cubes,	salt and pepper to taste
3 small tomatoes - chopped	½-1 medium onion - chopped/diced
½-1 medium green pepper - chopped/diced	¼ cup oil

Add as frying: 2 T. tomato paste

Add and let cook until meat tender: 1 c. water

Mix in: 1/3 c. natural 100% peanut butter

Mix more water in slowly as peanut butter heats up, careful it doesn't burn, and simmer fairly briskly until the oil in the peanut butter separates forming a few pea-size patches, about 10-15 min. Then add 1-2 c. water

Add these vegetables and cook some more, (cabbage will go limp)

2 c. spinach - cleaned and cut in 1" pieces	1/3 medium head cabbage - cut into 5-6 pieces
1-2 cubes chicken bouillon (depending on saltiness)	

Serve over rice

MEMBER UPDATES:

- Loraine Smith has moved to Bradley Bay Nursing Center, 605 Bradley Rd. Bay Village, OH 44140. Phone 440-348-0737. She'd love to hear from friends.
- Margaret Frost was visited recently by the Halls and sends her love.
- Eleanor Weisenburg's son thanks everyone for sending cards to Eleanor on her 95th birthday. She was overwhelmed!



Session Spotlight - Chris Fenn

During the offertory prayer, many of the worship leaders at NPC talk about giving back to God what He has first given them. One of the most valuable things that everyone has is time. You can not buy more of it, you can not store it, and you can not trade it. Time is a precious commodity that is always fleeing from us. Like all of you, my time seems to slip through my fingers, between family, schools, kids, work, friends and on and on and on - my time just disappears.

Five years ago when I was asked to be an elder and serve on session the excuses flooded through my mind. I have no time, I'm not qualified, I'm not as close to God as others in the church, I can't get up in front of the whole congregation and lead a worship service and on and on they went. Long into the night I was still making excuses to God about how I had no time for Him. Then it hit me. I have no time for God. My Savior had to take a number and get in line, and that is when the light finally clicked on. I was being the Sunday morning Christian who thought the church was only open 1 day a week. God had thrown down a challenge. If I was going to play on His team I would have to get off the bench and get on the field.

I am so glad I took up God's challenge. He has blessed me more than I could have imagined. I have been pushed out of my comfort zone, growing spiritually, and my heart has been filled with joy. The things I thought I would dread have become joyful tasks and have giving me a new view of the church. Being a worship leader is one of these duties. I look forward to being Art's wingman on Sunday morning as he preaches the word. It gives me an appreciation of all the preparation that is needed for the Sunday service.

I encourage you to receive the joy I feel. Get involved with Gods' team and come out onto the field. Community meal, choir, VBS, Sunday school, worship, coffee hour, and on and on, there is always room on the field for one more.

Chris Fenn (The reluctant team player)

Day Care News

It's hard to believe that it is August already and our summer session is winding down. August 19 will be our second annual end of the summer carnival from 6-8 pm in the back drive of the church. If you are available and are hungry for some cotton candy, a hot dog, popcorn or a sno-cone feel free to stop by.

The schoolagers have been busy this summer recycling all the paper in the building. Please don't forget that our recycling bin is by the kitchen door. Our goal is 2 tons of paper every 2 weeks - so we could use your paper! All money earned through this program will be used to assist in schoolager programming for next summer. The schoolagers go on at least one field trip a week during the summer, sometimes two. Because we have to rent a school bus to use for transportation, we would like to use any money earned to help offset the parental cost of the field trips next summer.

August 22 is promotion day here at the daycare and children are eagerly waiting moving to a new classroom (though I'm not so sure the schoolagers are ready to go back to school).

There are some changes coming to our classrooms this fall in terms of the names of the rooms but I don't want to reveal any surprises until promotion day! That's about all the news from our corner of the building!

Sherry

Keith Miller	1-Aug
Shirley Griffith	2-Aug
Cherie White	2-Aug
Keri Forsythe	3-Aug
Amber Satola	4-Aug
Loraine Ellett	5-Aug
Maribelle Rudin	5-Aug
Donna Jackson	7-Aug
Owen Fox	8-Aug
Lilah Smith	8-Aug
Pat Spagnola	9-Aug
Karen Koenig	9-Aug
Steve Brooks	13-Aug
Jean Huyck	18-Aug



August



VBS thanks...

57 kids this year for VBS; that is amazing! A big THANK YOU to our teachers this year –**Joe & Rachelle Geshke, Patty Fenn & Tonya Dowdell** (from VBC), **Cindy Gallagher & Carol Kreger, Jan Helin & Pauline Enczur, and Steve Brooks.**

We had a lot of new teachers to VBS this year and we know that it is a tough job even for the experienced VBS teacher. But when you can share the gospel and your love of God and Jesus with kids who may have never heard of Jesus...that is what it is all about--no matter how crazy the night, or that you have 2 preschoolers going in the opposite direction everyone else is going, or the night when you have 22 in your class, or how tired you are when it is all over each night.



Zeger, you rocked those kids each night! What a great way to start off your VBS career at NPC. It is always so fun to see those kids shaking their hips and moving their arms and singing out loud. **Keith** – if it wasn't for you we couldn't have "rocked it" as much. The kids really enjoyed being able to see the videos of the songs, so thanks for coming in and moving the equipment around so we could sing in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

To our wonderful Craft Coordinator **Sharon Oliver** and her new crew-**Stacy Harber & Katie Kiggins**—you always make it go so smoothly! As for snacks – well, **Mrs. Chris Louis** you out-did it this year! The snacks were very beachy! And to all her help in the kitchen –Thank you for helping pull it all together each night. Our registration ladies-**Cheryl Emch and Cindy Maxhimer** did a wonderful job getting those kids checked in – which is quite chaotic on Monday night! **Cory Louis** thanks for taking pictures of the kids and the activities! **Sherry Pomeroy and Ellen Miller** – thanks for the laminating machine, ordering of supplies and offering the Day Care's goodies, news articles, website info and being there when I vented or called all the time asking about stuff!

To all of our youth helpers this year – we really appreciate your willingness to help where you were needed (we even had helpers that don't attend NPC! - **Emily Brooks, John Bruce, Tre & Janae Dowdell, Alex Enczur, Tyler & Molly Fenn, Tanner Judd, Connor Louis, Dylan Maholm, Megan Tedor, Katie Williamson and Shirley Nowak!**)

To our Friday night cookout cooks and organizers (**Tim Maholm, John Gallagher, Chris Fenn, Kirk Louis, Jonathon Oliver, Keith Miller, Scott & Michelle Williamson** and all the rest of the volunteers who stepped in) A big shout out to you for helping this picnic go off with out a hitch! This is no easy task – Thank you so much!!! If we have missed your name, please forgive us – you were and are appreciated!

Patti, a big hug and thank you for all of your wonderful ideas, for being a sounding board, food coordinator, making name tags for teachers and kids, and for all the things that you handled that saved us so much time and money. The goodie bags are fantastic, as always! You are an amazing person. It was a real pleasure to work with you on this VBS.

The mission project for this year was to help Laura's Home with their Birthday Room and did we ever! We filled the pool with wonderful toys so that moms at this shelter will be able to give their kids a birthday gift that would they would not have been able to give. Thank you so much to all the VBS families and church members who donated these toys!



Even though our VBS draws a lot of kids from other area churches, we still get quite a few families that don't have a church home. We hope, and ask you to pray, that these families saw NPC living out the truths that we taught their kids this past week, and that they feel compelled to give us a chance to be their church home. We know these kids heard God's words and truths this week and we pray that they keep these truths deep in their hearts.

We have said Thank You a lot, but we really appreciate all your work, time, effort and desire to spread the good news about God and His Son, Jesus Christ...**One kid (or family) at a time!**

Sincerely,
Debbie Brooks & Patti Maholm, VBS Coordinators

August 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 ELECTIONS 7pm Tues. Evening Bible Study	3 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Chick Fil A 9:45 am Day Care Chapel Time	4 8pm AA	5	6 8am Men's Bible Study at Chick Fil A
7 9 a.m. Prayer 10:15 am Combined Worship & Communion with VBC 2pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor	8 7:30 pm Deacons 7pm Boy Scouts	9	10 9:45 am Day Care Chapel Time 6:30 pm Simple Supper and Prayer at Helin's 6:30 pm VBC Bible Study and Prayer	11 8pm AA	12	13 7am Session Prayer
14 9am Prayer 10:15 am Worship 12:30 pm VBC Worship	15 7:00 pm Session 7pm Boy Scouts	16 7pm Tues. Evening Bible Study	17 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:45 am Day Care Chapel Time	18 8pm AA	19 6pm Day Care Carnival	20 8am Men's Bible Study at Chick Fil A
21 9am Prayer 10:15 am Worship 12:30 pm VBC Worship	22 7pm Boy Scouts	23	24 9:45 am Day Care Chapel Time 6:30 pm VBC Bible Study and Prayer	25 8pm AA	26 5:30 pm Community Meal	27
28 9am Prayer 10:15 am Worship 12:30 pm VBC Worship	29 7pm Boy Scouts	30 7pm Tues. Evening Bible Study	31 6:30am Men's Bible Study 9:45 am Day Care Chapel Time			

Leadership Connection

Last month I said that the concept of elders came out of the Old Testament and that the Greek word for elder literally means “old eyes”. The implication is that elders are older and presumably wiser because of their years of experience.

But experience without knowledge is a train wreck waiting for a place to derail. Our church leaders need to have a foundation of knowledge upon which to build a solid congregation and ministry. Too many churches and Christian organizations fail because they have ceased to build on a solid knowledge base or more tragically they have set aside the foundation to build on successful models from the business world or the culture of society.

It is interesting to examine some of the business models that have come down through the decades. People are surprised at how many Biblical principles can be found in them only under another name. If it is apparent to the business world gurus, then why have we walked away from the Bible to accept a washed out version?

As church leaders we need to hold fast to and build upon a Scriptural foundation. One of my profs from seminary days reminded us that the Bible is not only God’s *message* book, but it is also his *method* book. Therefore, as elders and deacons the Word of God needs to be built into the fabric of our daily life. It will provide us with all the knowledge we need to lead. But it also must be implemented through prayer and God’s wisdom. Paul reminded a young pastor named Timothy,

All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Every good work includes leading the local church as elders and deacons. So let’s read, study, meditate, and apply God’s Word as our foundation.

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