

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

NORTH PARK CHURCH
FALL 2024. VOL 198



THE CAPACITY TO MINISTER

by Pastor Ken Priddy

2025 will mark forty years of ministry for me, working in, with, and for the local church. The evangelical ministry lane I’ve embraced features commitment to the church’s health, growth, and multiplication. Health is centered on doing the right things, biblical things, well. Growth is centered on congregational gains in spiritual maturity and the number of people impacted by good health. Multiplication occurs when good health and steady growth combine to accelerate the development of more converts, disciples, leaders, and churches.

One of the key factors in a church’s reaching this type of multiplication is that church’s ministry capacity: how much ministry can this church provide, a quantitative consideration, and how well can this church provide ministry, a qualitative consideration. One of the key factors in expanding a church’s ministry capacity is its development of leaders, particularly missional leaders committed to the Great Commandment and Great Commission ministry.

At NPC, the Fall of 2024 is going to be a season of transformation through Missional Leadership Development. On September 8th, I will begin leading a Sunday School class titled Local Church Leadership in the 21st Century. This class will explore the leadership that’s needed in the local church today if a church is truly going to have an impact on its current community. Further, NPC will host a training intensive on October 25-26 called Leaders on Mission. This Friday/Saturday intensive will equip leaders in combining spiritual and strategic elements to position a church to maximize its Great Commission effectiveness, generating health, growth, and multiplication. The EPC Presbytery of the Alleghenies is partnering with us to present this vital training. Details will follow soon.

To current leaders, aspiring leaders, and those simply wanting to learn more about leadership: your participation is crucial. You are encouraged to take advantage of one or both of these fall opportunities. Together, let’s expand our ministry capacity. Your involvement is not just welcomed, it’s essential.

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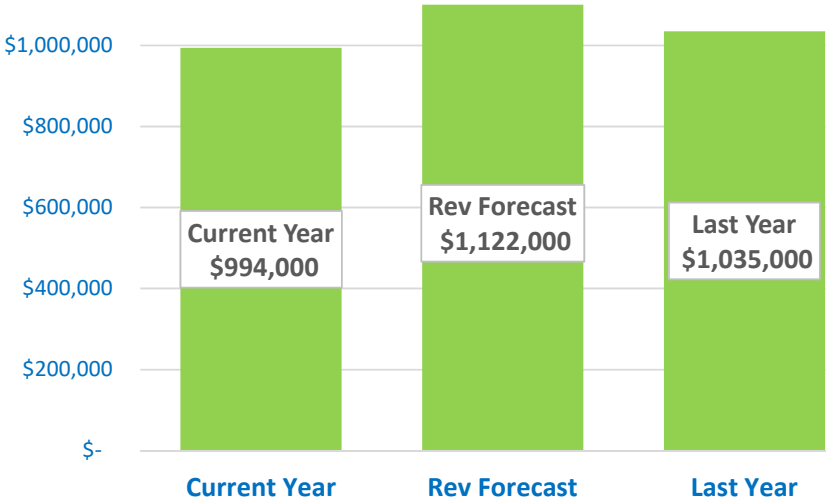
WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

by Heather Schogren

Our media director, Heather Schogren, is working with Digital Congregations to improve our church website. This collaboration is part of our ongoing efforts to serve our congregation and visitors better. The goal is to create a more user-friendly, informative, and engaging online presence that reflects who we are as a church. From navigation improvements to revamped ministry pages, we are committed to ensuring our website serves as a helpful resource for members and visitors.

As we work through this process, certain website pages may be unavailable. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we make these improvements. Please know that every update is made to enhance your online experience and make our website a tool for ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Schogren (heatherschogren@northparkepc.org).

GIVING THROUGH 7/31



Unified Giving of \$994,000 for our church year was 4% less than last year and 11% less than revised forecast

HISTORY CORNER

by James Yoder



Fyodor Dostoevsky

"Be not forgetful of prayer. Every time you pray, if our prayer is sincere, there will be new feeling and new meaning in it, which will give you fresh courage, and you will understand that prayer is an education."

Fyodor Dostoevsky
(1821-1881), *The Brothers Karamazov*

FEATURE FAMILY

WARMBRODTS

by Jim Ludwig

I will start with the current Jim and Mary Warmbrodt that most North Park members know, and then I will go backward and tell you the rest of the story so you can appreciate God's faithfulness in their calling.

Most people see Mary's cheerful persona as a greeter or coffee barista on Sunday mornings. She is also a faithful nursery worker and an offering counter.

Jim is a deacon who serves on the Building and Grounds and on the Safety Team. He taught a Financial Peace University class a while back, following Dave Ramsey's principles. You may have seen them ushering together but you might not know that they served together on NPC's first "Open Table" team.

Before they came to NPC, they were becoming more uncomfortable with the social justice teaching and lack of Bible-based teaching in a local Methodist church they were attending. In January 2010, Mary decided to take a bus to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The bus was mostly Catholics from St. Ursula's, but she met

an engaging couple named Dan and Beth Hendley. After visiting three other churches, they chose to make NPC their home.

Jumping back another decade or so, Jim and Mary met at a CCAC watercolor painting class in 1997. Mary invited Jim to the Methodist church, where she was a Youth Group volunteer.

In 1999, they were married at the ages of 44 and 42. They decided to pursue adoption from China, which took four years. The last step involved two weeks of visiting cultural spots in China and an orphanage before they could finally bring one-year-old Anna back with them to the US.

Anna will turn 21 this November. She lives on campus at Malone University in OH, where she will soon graduate with a degree in nursing.

When I phoned her, she told me that on July 9, 2024, she fully understood the impact of salvation by grace alone. She

had understood that she could not be saved by works, but part of her still thought that correcting bad habits would save her.

As she became more serious in her walk with God, she fully realized the depth of God's love and asked Christ to come into her life as her personal Lord and Savior. She is forever grateful for God's unending grace and mercy. Just like she was adopted into the Warmbrodt family as a child and loved and cared for unconditionally, she has now been adopted into God's family.



Mary, who had attended church most of her life, began to put it all together in her early 40's while listening to Christian evangelists on the radio. She realized that we all have sinned, and Christ paid the price we deserved.

Through prayer, she began to change slowly and see the world differently. Mary's favorite scripture is Isaiah 41:13. The parent-child relationship speaks to her in this verse.

Jim was a part of his church Youth Group during high school but did not attend church growing up. He never really considered himself a Christian until the age of 50.

He credits Mary for being a mentor on his faith journey. She paved the way so that when a guest pastor was giving an altar call at Allison Park Church, he found himself responding with a raised hand. His favorite Bible story is Paul's conversion in Acts and the obedience and total dedication of his life that followed.

Now, to reveal the unknown early parts of Jim and Mary's life before their life together. Jim was a good student who played football and baseball. He also drew from an early age without any classes or training.

He went to a Community College in Rochester, NY, for Criminal Justice for two years,

then transferred to Eastern Kentucky University to complete his 4-year degree. A senior-year research project led to his first job as a researcher for the Kentucky Department of Corrections.

He admired the attorneys he observed and decided to go to law school to become one. Jim has had a 40-year legal career, mainly in consumer debt collection and bankruptcy. He is now an attorney for the Chapter 13 Trustee, part of the bankruptcy court system.

Mary was a cheerleader and part of the Rhythmettes team in high school. She loved her French and art classes. Mary first went to a Tech School to become a medical assistant. While working, she went to Community College at night.

She learned she liked chemistry and got her BS from the University of Missouri. The next stop was getting a stipend that allowed her to go to grad school at Washington University in St Louis, MO, where she earned her PhD in Chemistry.

Mary was recruited to Pittsburgh in 1988, where she had a 30+ year career in the chemical industry, which began with Aristech Chemical Company R&D in Monroeville. The person who recruited her was her conservative boss, who was primarily responsible

for her slow change in world views. Both Mary and Jim were married previously. There were no children from Mary's first marriage, but Jim has a daughter, Taylor, from his previous marriage. Taylor was age 9 when Mary and Jim married. Mary has always considered her to be a daughter.

Taylor and her husband, Anthony, live in Erie and have one daughter, Raegan Margaret. Mary and Jim love to spend time with and spoil their granddaughter.

Finally, interesting bits and pieces: Mary has housebroken four feral cats that she and Jim love. She loves to garden in her spare time. After being laid off from her last chemical industry job during COVID-19, she went to nursing school at age 65 and began a retirement career as a Registered Nurse.

Jim's passion is watercolor painting, and he is a member of the Pittsburgh Watercolors Society, Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, and the Cranberry Artist Network.

He teaches a course at the North Hills Art Center, exhibits his paintings in shows around Western PA, and accepts commissions. Ask him if it is true that he once sat in an electric chair at a maximum-security prison.

The Arabic Christian Church of Pittsburgh

المهرجان الغربي MENA fest Middle East & North Africa Festival

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OCTOBER
5th & 6th 2024

3601 Mount Royal Blvd.
Glenshaw, PA 15116



In our journey through life, we all deeply need true rest and abundant life, which Jesus offers: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). He invites us to find satisfaction in him, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink" (John 7:37). Jesus assures us, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). His invitation is open and welcoming—Jesus waits eagerly to provide the peace and fulfillment we seek.



With
Maher Fayeze
&
Rev. Dr. Redda Ibrahim
ribrahim@accpgh.onmicrosoft.com
4126363042

10/5 Festival 2:00 - 4:30PM
10/5 Maher Fayeze 4:30 - 7:00PM
10/6 Maher Fayeze 3:00 - 6:00PM

MADE POSSIBLE BY GOD

by Julie Harrer

The Bible tells us we are expected to serve others. But have you ever wrestled with how far you might be willing to go out of your comfort zone to do it?

Last fall, I submitted an application to be considered for the Rapid Response Team program that is part of the Billy Graham Evangelical Association (BGRRT). For about five years, I had heard God whispering to me about this program. I started the application a few times but always had a reason not to complete it.

My logic went something like this, “Wasn’t I already serving enough when I factored in my spouse, my kids, and the things I signed up to do at church and in the community? And what about my age and health? After all, I am no spring chick anymore!” The program description was very clear that sometimes, the BGRRT might have to work long hours in tough conditions. Still, God kept finding ways to put it on my radar.

I decided to submit the application “just to get it over with,” meaning I didn’t think I would get accepted, but I could at least say I tried and then move on to something easier. After all, I am no “poster child” for Christians, having come to faith in my 30s with a lot of sin before that and still not always exhibiting Christlike thinking or behavior today. But we are told God uses everyone in their weakness so that He may be glorified.

After spending a few months completing the application and interview process, I got accepted into the BGRRT program. I completed the required training and was assigned to my first “deployment” in Tallahassee, Florida, in July (talk about outside of my comfort zone).

From packing to unpacking and everything in between, I was out of my comfort zone most of the time for eight days.

Things I had to do that were challenging for me included flying, sleeping on the floor in shared quarters, using showers in a trailer, providing encouragement to over 50 Samaritan’s Purse volunteers I had never met, navigating tornado-damaged roads and property while driving a 4-door pickup truck, heat indexes of 100 degrees, bugs that bit me through 2 brands of insect repellent used simultaneously, randomly falling debris on worksites, rushing to meet a variety of time deadlines, and ministering to all types of property owners and people in the



community that were often in varying stages of grief and trauma. I provided spiritual and emotional encouragement to people of all ages and backgrounds that I had never met and shared the gospel in many settings.

I prayed out loud with dozens of others who often didn’t have the inner strength to lift their concerns to Jesus and needed a fellow believer to support them in doing that. Yes, God used me to do all those things!

To say it was stressful and exhausting would be an understatement. However, it was one of the most rewarding things God has ever let me experience. For me, the daily accomplishments were personal miracles. The fact is God met me every morning when I wanted to cry and go home. He met me in my weakness, and when I offered obedience, He gave me strength while using me to accomplish things for His glory that I would have never thought possible.

During a recent group devotion, the presenter said

something that really stuck with me. She stated, “Jesus gave people his precious time, not his spare time.” Her point was that everything Jesus was doing during His earthly life was very important, but He demonstrated a repeated willingness to pause His current activity and help people at times when it might not have been convenient for Him.

When you think of serving, are you analyzing what “spare” time you might have, or are you willing to cut into your precious time? When you think of serving, are you only thinking about what is physically and/or emotionally comfortable for you? Consider asking God to show you opportunities that would allow you to serve in spite of such concerns, enabling Him to show you what He has for you as you walk in obedience to His possibilities.

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE THINGS GOD SHOWED ME THAT I DIDN’T FULLY CONSIDER BEFORE THE DEPLOYMENT:

1. I had a lot of growing to do in the areas of trusting in and being grateful to God. I met people whose lives were bleak before a tornado ruined their home, and they had never doubted God or faltered in their devotion to Him. They had gratitude for God’s protection during the storm and repeatedly acknowledged the many other people in situations worse than theirs. It was very humbling for me to witness such patterns when I considered what I typically spend my days complaining about.
2. There are more believers in our country than I expected. We are told the body of Christ is faltering in the United States, and most believers feel like they have to hide their faith in the current culture. The relief on people’s faces when they knew they were interacting with a Christian believer was noticeable, whether they were saved or not. As Christians, we must get back to being comfortable displaying attributes of faith around others in friendly ways, without being pushy or hostile, but also without hiding the most important aspects of our identity.
3. The most difficult experiences I went through were not physical but emotional. Unfortunately, those challenges were the result of behavior on the part of other believers doing service similar to mine. When Christians decide to serve together, we need to check our motives, increase our humility, and make sure we are being loving toward those serving with us, with the understanding that we are all working to accomplish the same goals.

MERCY MINUTES

MEAL MINISTRY

By Stacy Tessaro

The Mercy deacons of North Park Church delight in facilitating excellent care of our people. One way we care for others is by overseeing the Meal Ministry. This ministry takes a village to perform well. We currently have 41 meal providers and three faithful servants who oversee the ministry: Bethany Mitchell, Diane Glancy, and Katie Whittington. Please thank these ladies for their faithful service, and feel free to join us as we love on our NPC family with meals.

How Does The Meal Ministry Work?

Someone shares a need with one of the three ladies above, perhaps a new baby, surgery, an illness, or a death in a family, whatever is causing that family a difficult time such that providing meals would lighten their load. Bethany or Diane or Katie set up our website with dates and instructions and send an email with a link to providers who live in the neighborhood. Meal providers can choose what day they would like to provide a meal.

How Many Meals Does NPC Provide?

The number varies from year to year and even month to month. Looking at data going back to 2018, NPC provides between 35 and 53 meals per year, or about 44 meals on average per year. So far in 2024, NPC has served 7 families with 35 meals.

How Does This Ministry Bless Attenders And Members?

Steve and Cari Doyle depended on the meals during her recent pregnancy. "When neither Steve nor I had the ability or time to fix basic meals, our church family stepped in to help. It was such a blessing to us, and it helped me personally learn more about the nature of humility in the family of God. We are all one family and called to take care of each other!"

Aaron and Kait Sullivan were also recently blessed by the meal ministry when their son, Andrew, was born. "The team was very organized, generous, and loving in how they took care of our family. The meals were thoughtful and even included dessert! More than just the meal, though, the team would visit when delivering the meal; asking how we were doing, offering to go to the store for us, and praying with us. It truly was a blessing and a great help to have the meal ministry during this busy time in our life." And Bethany Mitchell serves on the meal ministry because she so appreciated meals when Aubrey was born 14 years ago!



How Can You Be A Blessing As Part Of The Meal Ministry?

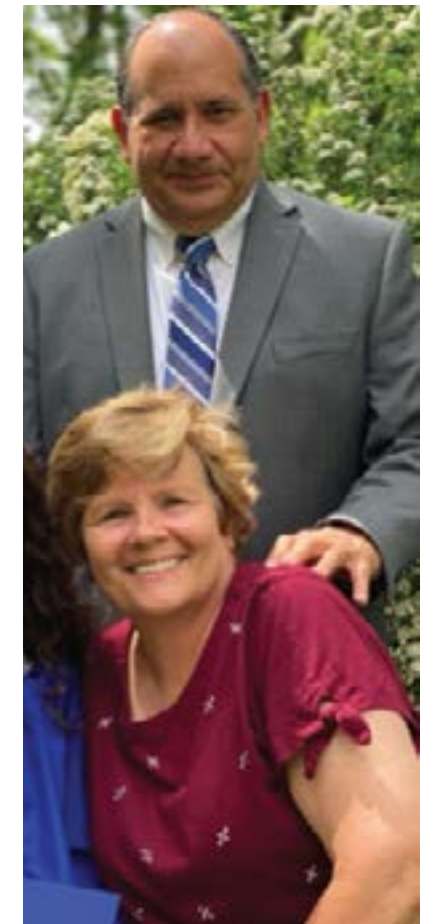
Participants are only asked to provide one or two meals a year, and they can always pass if a request comes at a particularly busy/inopportune time. If you would like to bless others in this way, please contact the Meal Ministry at NPCmealministry@gmail.com. THANK YOU to those of you who faithfully provide meals, making a difference in the lives of those experiencing life's stresses and/or transitions. It is exciting to see how well we care for each other, and I hope that our faithful service to people at NPC encourages you to invite others to be a part of our loving community. May God continue to be glorified and draw others to Himself because of how North Park Church cares for those in our body.

MISSIONS CORNER

MEET LISA ANDERSON-UMAÑA

North Park Church has supported Lisa Anderson-Umaña since the 1980's. Over those four decades, much has changed in her ministry. She first went as a young adult, trying to discern her calling by working at a camp. Today, she is one of the main leaders of Christian Camping International-Latin America. In her role, she has equipped church leaders to lead effective camps.

In Latin America, the Christian camps do not have their own staff who run the programming like we do in the U.S. Instead, the pastors and church leaders are expected to lead the camps. You can imagine that this puts a lot of pressure on church leaders, which is where Lisa's work comes in. For the past few years, she and her team have been developing a team of curriculum writers who produce resources for church leaders to use in leading camps.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS @ 9:00 A.M.
September 8-December 1

For details visit www.northparkepc.org/adults



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Kelly Laird

NURSERY UPGRADE

If you haven't been in the Nursery lately, you may be surprised to see some changes. Earlier this year, we had a team from Rob Glancy's company come in and remove the wall between the Tykes and Toddler rooms. Now, we have a larger room! The kids, caregivers, and volunteers are enjoying the expanded space, which seems much brighter, too. On our all-church Work Day in May, Terry Meeneghan and his crew gave the walls a fresh coat of paint. We have added more trees and woodland creatures decals, and very soon, there will be some sensory toys on the walls, too.

The second phase of our upgrade is adding a Family Resource Center. Thanks go out to Elizabeth Haytock, who is working to complete her Eagle

Scout distinction by creating this new space for us. Elizabeth and her team have designed, crafted, and installed this new addition to the lobby. Feel free to stop by and pursue the products! They are for anyone in our church family to use or share!

The third phase is more security. Following Jeff Layden's lead, we have installed a set of doors further down the second-floor hallway. Those doors, along with our Nursery doors, will be locked starting next month during the Worship service and Sunday School. This added security will go a long way in making our second-floor areas even safer for our kids and their families.

So, next time you see Rob, Terry, Elizabeth, or Jeff, please thank them for upgrading our Children's department!



JUNGLE JOY VBS

Also, this Summer, we continued the VBS fun and offered a mini-camp to the residents over at Ashton Commons. We called it Jungle JOY VBS.

We had three days, and each day, we started with an encouraging word and some good old-fashioned VBS songs (Think: Deep and Wide, Father Abraham, This Little Light of Mine). Residents then played a game involving balloons or balls and had so much fun! One of our volunteers delivered the Bible story for the day. And then we finished the day with a craft.

We had about 25 residents participate over the few days, and most of them told us that their highlight had to be the first day when the Brown kids acted out the story of Sin in the Garden. Overall, our NPC folks received and presented this idea well. Thanks to everyone who participated!



VISIT FROM LISA ANDERSON-UMAÑA AND THE LATINS

If you were around during the middle of July, you were here for a fun Sunday visit from Lisa Anderson Umaña and her Latin friends from Christian Camping International. We enjoyed hearing from Lisa and her team as they updated us on what they've been up to, led worship along with our worship band, helped us sing in English AND Spanish, prayed, and led the kids in their Kids' Worship program for the day.

The kids went out back into the amphitheater area, where they played a fun game of hiding, tried to camouflage one of their teammates, and learned a little about how God uses camouflage to protect us and our creatures.

After the service, we enjoyed a lovely lunch together, with translators at each table for good conversation. We also traveled to four stations, where Lisa's team could show us some of the things they do at camp by having us do them, too! The day was a delight!



KIDS' WORSHIP

Kids' Worship continued over the Summer, with a few new volunteers serving and kids attending when their families were not traveling. Enjoy some pictures from our story, "When God Blocked the Sun."



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

NPC offered another fantastic summer camp for kids this summer. We had 147 kids from several states as well as our community. Over 160 volunteers were part of the fun, from our prayer team to Bible leaders, the VBS band to aides, and the electives leaders. Plans went very smoothly and we also had a few kids come to faith in Jesus! Many were drawn closer to the LORD, including our volunteers and others involved in the camp. God was honored and glorified. It was fun! So, great job, Church! We kept up our long-standing tradition of being one of the best Vacation Bible Schools around!



MONTHLY | SEPTEMBER-MAY

For details visit
www.northparkpec.org/childrens



MONDAYS
@ 9:15 A.M.
 SEPT.8-DEC.9

For details visit
www.northparkpec.org/adults

Check Out Our Website For: —

- Events + Sign Ups
- Sermons
- Bulletin
- Pastor Search Updates
- FYI
- New Testament Study Questions
- and so much more!



www.northparkepc.org



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Making disciples of Jesus who WORSHIP God passionately,
CONNECT with each other in caring community, & IMPACT the
world through word and deed.