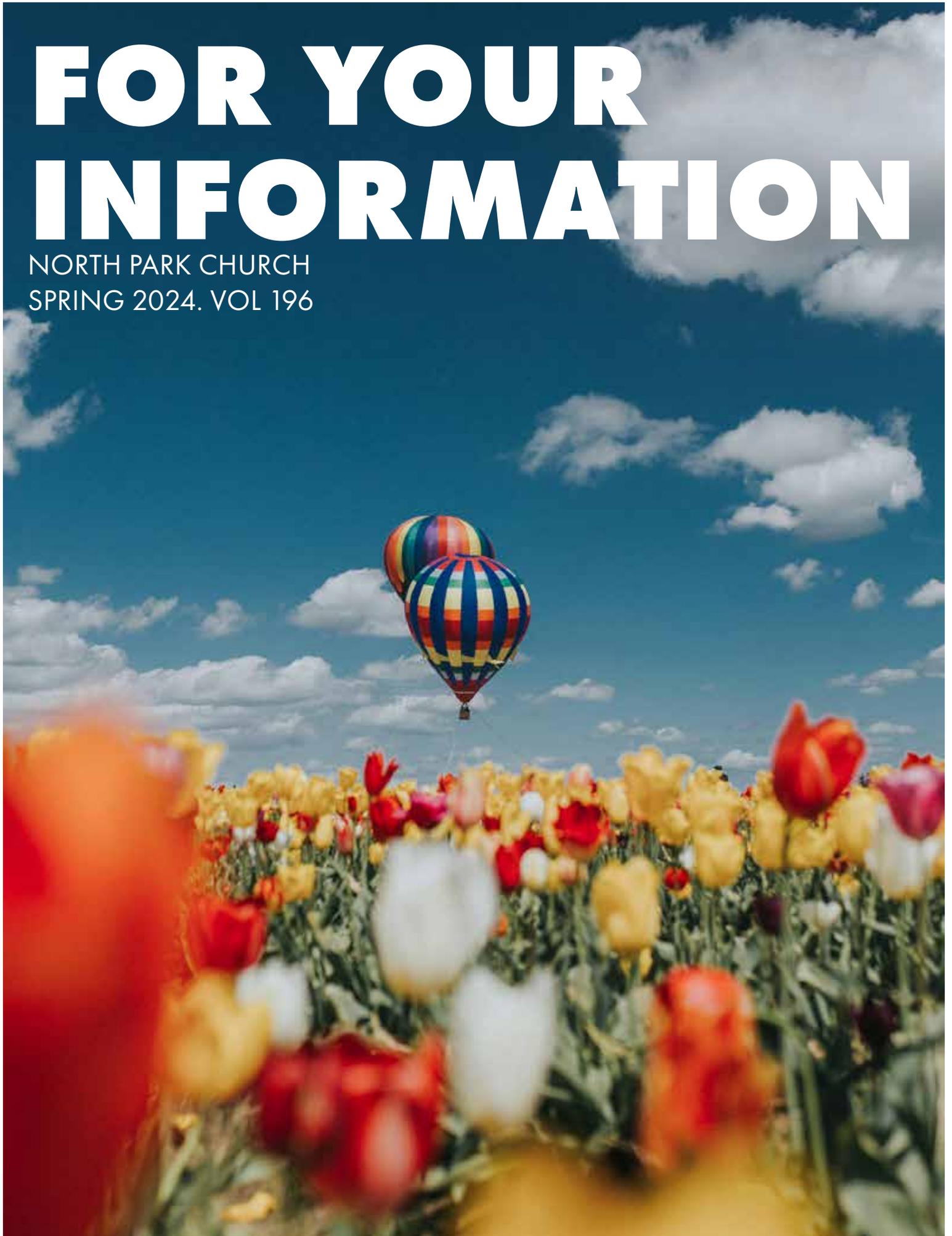


FOR YOUR INFORMATION

NORTH PARK CHURCH
SPRING 2024. VOL 196



A CHURCH ON MISSION

For almost thirty years I've been working with church leaders to bring ministry health and vitality to their churches, often from a posture of long-term plateau or decline. At first, this was a ministry "side-hustle" since I was senior pastor of a revitalizing church, but this has been a full-time pursuit since the summer of 2000.

Coming into my role as transitional senior pastor at NPC, I assumed I'd be doing much the same thing but serving from a pastoral posture instead of as a trainer and consultant. Surprise! I quickly discovered that NPC is a church already bursting with ministry health and vitality. So, my role is not a focus on creating or developing health and vitality but a focus on maximizing the health and vitality that's already here.

The question, of course, is "How?" How can we maximize health and vitality? NPC has a solid mission statement that takes flight from the runway of the Great Commission and encompasses three primary mission elements: "Making disciples of Jesus who (1) **WORSHIP** God passionately, (2) **CONNECT** with each other in caring community, and (3) **IMPACT** the world through word and deed." NPC is a church that is already on mission.

I'm joining NPC on that mission, adding my experience and expertise to the wealth of leadership already at the helm. I'm thankful and excited to be here with you and look forward to what God has in store for us. To God be the glory!

Ken Priddy
Transitional Senior Pastor

CONTENTS

HISTORY CORNER **04**

Charles Spurgeon talks about Easter Sunday.

GIVING UPDATE **04**

The latest North Park Church financial update.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS **05**

Learn more about the officers.

FEATURE FAMILY **06**

Get to know the Barnes/Brown family.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY **08**

Learn what happened in Children's Ministry.

HOLY WEEK EVENTS **11**

Check out our events for Easter 2024.

THE PASSION CONFERENCE **12**

Learn about the awesome experience Travis had in January.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL **13**

Grab your binoculars and don your lifevest!

STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE **14**

Get to know our Stephen Ministry at North Park Church.

MOMS **15**

Learn how the MOMS group helps a community of mothers.

TWILIGHT NIGHT **16**

We had the honor to host a fundraiser for the North Hills Community Outreach.

ANOTHER JUBILEE IN THE BOOKS **17**

CCO hosted their annual Jubilee conference in Pittsburgh.

MISSIONS FUNDRAISING **18**

An update on the four missions projects that we were raising money for.

PURIM CELEBRATION **19**

North Park Church is celebrating Purim this year!

HISTORY CORNER

To set apart an Easter Sunday for special memory of the resurrection is a human device, for which there is no Scriptural command, but to make every Lord's-day an Easter Sunday is due to him who rose early on the first day of the week. We gather together on the first rather than upon the seventh day of the week, because redemption is even a greater work than creation, and more worthy of commemoration, and because the rest which followed creation is far outdone by that which ensues upon the completion of redemption. Like the apostles, we meet on the first day of the week, and hope that Jesus may stand in our midst, and say, "Peace be unto you." Our Lord has lifted the Sabbath from the old and rusted hinges whereon the law had placed it long before, and set it on the new golden hinges which his love has fashioned. He hath placed our rest-day, not at the end of a week of toil, but at the beginning of the rest which remaineth for the people of God. Every first day of the week we should meditate upon the rising of our Lord, and seek to enter into fellowship with him in his risen life. — **Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)**



GIVING THROUGH

1/31

Unified Giving of \$513,000 for our church year was 5% less than last year and 10% below our forecasted amount.





OFFICER NOMINATIONS

OPEN APRIL 7 – MAY 5

Once again, we have the opportunity as a church body to work with the Head of our church to select those who are being called to serve in church office. As Presbyterians we look to elect qualified persons for the office of elder and deacon. Elders are those who govern and shepherd the members of the church. Deacons lead in key areas of service: mercy, maintenance, hospitality, and safety. Scripture describes both positions and the qualifications for each in I Timothy 3. Please read this portion of God's word carefully and pray about those who come to mind as qualified candidates. You do not need to speak with the nominee ahead of time. Just submit your nomination on the appropriate form in the box at the info table. Your Elders will filter the nominations, train potential nominees, interview them carefully, and present a slate for election in late August.

YOUR CURRENT RULING ELDERS (9) ARE: Andy Kish, Chad Morley, Dan Dupee, David Pinkerton, Grant McKinney, John Holt, Phil Van Sickel, Rich Lukas, and Scott Shriver. Grant McKinney and John Holt are serving an expiring term but may be re-nominated and elected in order to continue to serve. Dan Dupee has served six years and will take a mandatory year away. Our Session has determined to limit the active Session to nine ruling elders. This means that going into this election season we have three open spots that may be filled.

YOUR CURRENT DEACONS (14) ARE: Carol Dupee, Doug Reed, Hank Lish, Holly Fairfield, Jeff Layden, Jim Warmbrodt, Kate Shriver, Lauren Fowler, Lisa Lish Michele Moir, Nancy Van Sickel, Rob O'Brian, Stacy Tessaro, and Terry Meeneghan. Of these, Doug Reed, Kate Shriver, Lauren Fowler, and Stacy Tessaro are serving expiring terms. They will rotate off the diaconate unless re-nominated and re-elected. Hank & Lisa Lish and Carol Dupee have served six years and will take a mandatory year away. We enter the nominating season with fourteen deacons, but there is no limit on how many we may have. So, we are open to the addition of new deacons as the Lord leads.

NORTH PARK ELDERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Be engaged in an NPC small group or equivalent both prior to and during his active season as an elder.
2. Have a recognizable area of service in the church prior to becoming an elder.
3. Be available to attend at least two-thirds of anticipated session meetings.
4. Be a male adult member in good standing.

NORTH PARK DEACONS ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Be a male or female adult member in good standing.
2. Have a history of service in the church prior to becoming a deacon.
3. Be available to attend at least two-thirds of anticipated deacon meetings.

FEATURE FAMILY

BARNES/BROWN FAMILY

It is time to learn more about the 5' 2" woman with short hair and an ever-present smile. Look for her in the right front pew, usually with Stacy Tessaro and other young school-age children they attract. Not long ago, she was seen propelling herself around the church on a knee scooter. Kristin Barnes' favorite scripture is *1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18* "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Kristin's father, Joe Barnes, grew up in a Christian home but left his faith while serving as a fighter pilot in Vietnam. Her mother, Victoria, shares Joe's birthday, January 2, but is 11 years younger. They met when Joe was a captain flying for Air Florida, and Victoria was a beautiful young flight attendant. Victoria was a devout Catholic who wanted to become a Nun. Skipping many details... after they married, Victoria met Jesus, and Joe recommitted his life to Christ. However, Florida Air went bankrupt, and they both lost their jobs just before Kristin was born. They learned early to depend on God. Kristin would decide to become part of God's family as a precocious 2-year-old. Before she was 3 years old, she would get a brother, Jonathan, who was born with cerebral palsy and was blind. Kristin and her parents still shower Jonathan with love. When Kristin was 15, her parents modeled more unconditional love by adopting Kristin's younger sister. Amanda was born to a family friend and came to live with Kristin's family when she was 6-weeks-old.

The "Cliff Notes" highlights of Kristin's school years include an ROTC 9th grade culminating as a high school National Honor Society student and concertmaster violinist in the orchestra. She would be awarded two scholarships, one from the State of Florida and one from Florida International University. She started out as a Biology and Chemistry major at F.I.U., expecting to become a doctor. While excelling as a serious student, she also enjoyed fun electives like Judo and sailing and interesting ones like Greek and Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls. In the summer before her junior year, she decided that the life of a doctor was not for her, and she changed her major to Psychology with a minor in Christian Religious studies.

Before long, she was enrolled in a master's program in Marriage/Family Therapy at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, where she also met her husband-to-be, Bobby, on her first day at R.T.S. She completed the 3-year program in 2 years. Bobby proposed to Kristin on her graduation day, and they were married on December 5, 2009. Their first child, Isabella (Belle), was born just before Bobby was deployed in July of 2011 to Kuwait with the National Guard as a chaplain for nine months.

In 2012, Bobby would be hired as an assistant pastor at NPC. Their second child, Robby, was born in 2013 through an emergency C-section. Their third child, Joey, was born in August 2014 after another difficult pregnancy. Unfortunately,



“Be joyful always;
pray continually;
give thanks in all
circumstances,
for this is God’s
will for you in
Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

through no impropriety on Kristin’s part, their marriage disintegrated, and Bobby resigned in the fall of 2014.

Kristin, who “gives thanks in all circumstances,” found herself isolated and depressed. Brian and Stacy Almyer began to bring over weekly meals and eat with Kristin and the kids; they still do almost a decade later. An angel named Stacy Tessaro started to go over to Kristin’s house and help her get the children out of bed and ready for church on Sunday mornings. That friendship has only grown stronger over the years.

Belle is a younger version of Kristin. Now, in 6th grade, she has moved from the violin to the cello. She adores reading and her four cats. She dresses up in colonial-style clothing while doing embroidery and has a brown belt in Karate. Robby is in 5th grade with a purple black belt in Karate, and has a dog. He is credited with coming up with

the idea for the father/son Lego activity at NPC in 2022. Like Belle, he has a creative imagination and is an avid reader. Not to be outdone by his older brother and sister, Joey was the Judo Student of the Year in 2023. He enjoys Zelda, Dr. Pepper, hiking, swimming, bowling, throwing a football, and snuggling his cat.

Now for exciting trivia about Kristin. As a child, she did some “Mommy and me modeling.” She appeared in a movie as Tommy Lee Jones’ daughter. She has a black belt in Karate and works as a dojo where her children learn Judo and Karate. She has a motorcycle and kayak in her garage. She has a hunting rifle and crossbow. She loves reading audiobooks, scuba diving, fishing, and dreaming about living on a boat. Her father was the #1 student at Davis/Mountain Air Force Base in Arizona, training to fly F-16s, where Tom Cruise came to fame as the second-best pilot in Top Gun. — **Jim Ludwig**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

KIDS' WORSHIP

This year, we added singing to Kids' Worship. Kassandra Rodriguez and Katie Burke have been leading the kids in scripture memory songs. Imagine the delight when walking into the room to see the kids KNOWING the scripture passage and joyfully singing the song! That's what we found recently when observing our Kids' Worship kids. Great news!

In the Preschool room, we've got some great leaders doing great things too! Both Susann and Isadora Pinkerton are leaders who use fun activities and games to help the kids grasp concepts. Recently, they both used review questions to help cement understanding in our little ones. The kids could answer questions correctly and with enthusiasm on the stories of the 10 Lepers and Woman with One Coin. Our little ones are learning God's Word.



Funny story — in the older kids' classroom, the kids were also being taught the story of the Woman with One Coin, and the leader asked if the kids knew what mites (another word for small coins) were. One of the kids responded, "Yeah, like ticks and mites" (little insects). Our leader quickly had to explain that he wasn't talking about THOSE mites! Isn't the English language FUN?!?



Also happening in Kids' Worship, our kids have lots of questions, and many of them are questions directly for God. Here are some of our recent ponderings:



- I pray for people who are sick.
- I love you, God!
- My friend isn't a Christian yet.
- I pray for peace on Earth.
- Thank you for my dog.
- I thank you that I could go to my friend's house.
- Dear God, Please help me to become more like you.
- Please bless Christians in other countries.
- I pray that my non-God friend will believe in You.

BAPTISM

Congratulations to **HATTIE ELIZABETH LUKAS**, who decided to make a public profession of faith and get baptized on the last day of 2023. About a year ago, Hattie started asking questions about baptism after someone else was baptized during church. Her parents talked to her about the meaning and the professions that would go along with it. She continued to express an interest, and over that time, her parents felt she was expressing an age-appropriate understanding and faith. She was actually most encouraged when they told her that she didn't need to understand everything fully and that it would be a life-long process. Isn't that true for all of us? Praise God that Hattie made this decision.



VBS VOLUNTEERS

We're gathering our volunteers for VBS and hope for 100% participation across the church! Go to www.northparkepc.org/vbs for details on how to volunteer. Try something new this year, and be a part of the fun! There is also a lot of work to be done **BEFORE** hand to get ready. If you finish school for the summer and would like to get some volunteer hours in, there are lots of jobs for you!



Teens helping Trekkers kids find a scripture passage.



Kids taking time to pray.



Mr. Chad almost stuck under the pews.



Challenging game of Greenlight, Yellowlight, Redlight, STOP!

TREKKERS

Trekkers kids continue to have FUN while learning about our great God and His Word! Recently, we tackled the tough subject of understanding that we have both bodies AND souls and what God's Word has to say about both of them! If you haven't tried Trekkers yet, we invite you to come next month. Go to www.northparkepc.org/childrens for details.

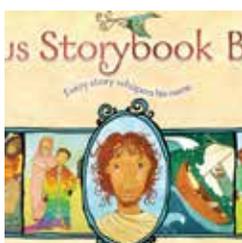
RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND KIDS

Looking for ideas as you parent your children or grandchildren? D6 is a ministry to families based on Deuteronomy chapter 6, which starts with verses 4-7, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." D6 Family now offers the D6 Family App for families on both Android and Apple products. D6 Resources Include Family Fun Questions, SPLINK, Home Connection, Family Fun Night, Foundational Talks, The D6 Podcast, Blog and more!



THE KIDS BIBLE EXPERIENCE APP

Looking for safe apps for your children to play on your phone? The Kids Bible Experience app, designed for kids ages 7-11, is the next level of scripture engagement for kids who have outgrown the Bible App for Kids. This experience features new videos, questions, and scripture verses every day to help pre-teens cultivate daily habits of engaging with God's Word! Check it out!



JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLES

Also, don't you just LOVE the Jesus Storybook Bibles we use in the pews? Have you ever wanted to use them at home? Well, Youtube has the stories online! Watch them in the car, waiting for appointments, at home...any time!



RIGHT NOW MEDIA

RightNow Media is a digital resource that comes with a special selection of video series that are designed to help parents and grandparents disciple the children in your life. They include Bible studies, biblical worldview, scripture memory songs, animated videos for kids and Christian living. You can access these resources here: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/roadmap-kids>. If you don't have an account yet, you can register for one free through the church with this link: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/northparkepc>



LAUNCH INTO THE TEEN YEARS BY FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Be intentional with your preteen this year! Make it a goal to help your 8-12-year-old child answer questions like:

- "Why are my friends acting differently?"
- "How does my body change during puberty?"
- "What's all this 'gender' stuff people are talking about?"
- "When am I allowed to date?"

Be ready for these kinds of conversations before they begin. This can be found on Focus on the Family's website.



PALM SUNDAY
SUNDAY, MARCH 24 @ 10:15 A.M.



**UPPER ROOM
EXPERIENCE**
THURSDAY, MARCH 28 @ 6:30 P.M.



**GOOD FRIDAY
PRAYER WATCH**
FRIDAY, MARCH 29 @ 6:00 P.M.-12:00 A.M.



EASTER SUNDAY
SUNDAY, MARCH 31 @ 10:15 A.M.



**NORTH PARK
CHURCH**

Go to www.northparkepc.org/events for details.

THE PASSION CONFERENCE

ISAIAH 43:21-22 & MATTHEW 9:17



Hello! This is Travis Finley, and this year, I had the amazing opportunity to attend the Passion Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. If you don't know about the Passion Movement, it is a movement started by Louie & Shelly Giglio in their attempt to reach 18-25-year-olds because of the rise of this age range leaving the church. The Passion Conference is a gathering of thousands of these young adults, either Christian or not, to worship, learn, and begin or be encouraged in their faith. For me, it was an opportunity to grow deeper in my relationship with God. I was able to worship and hear from many godly speakers that I look up to, with 55,000 other young adults my age. We heard from Sadie Robertson Huff, Ben Stuart, Jonathan Pokluda, Levi Lusko, Earl McClellan, Louie Giglio, and Christine Caine.

All of their messages were encouraging and challenging to cling to God's Word and who He is, but I gained the most encouragement from Christine Caine and her message about our God who loves New. She says, "We have New Life through a New Covenant. We are told to sing a New Song. God's New Mercies are New every single morning. God makes all things New. He has given us a New Commandment...He loves New." It was a call to remember what God has accomplished, but not putting God in a box because of His past works and restricting how He can actually continue to move and save those He loves. Christine warns not to get caught in looking for the new version of an older saint. There is no next Billy Graham or Tim Keller; they were them, you are you. God is doing a New Thing through a New Person to make them a New Leader.

She concluded with a consideration of Jesus' parable about New Wine, speaking on how the Wine is the Holy Spirit present in a believer and the Wine Skin is the Believer. The New Wineskins are the younger believers receiving God's Spirit and his work in and through their lives. The Old Wineskins are how God has moved and worked in previous generations. Before I go any further, let me add this quote that I found both challenging and humbling: "No one drinks New Wine because it takes time to develop character and skill." If you drink New Wine before it has fermented, it tastes bitter and not very good. But what does New Wine become? Old Wine. And what is Old Wine? Good, refreshing, and it actually tastes good. We are the Wine Skins, a dead animal, but we are made alive by what has been poured into us; the New Wine of the Spirit bringing us to life through Christ (Galatians 2:20). I found this to be a reminder that while I am young (and old), I must be humble before God because of the newness of Wine in me and submit to the Spirit to ferment in my character, integrity, and skill. No one puts value on a Wine Skin because it looks nice or fancy or new or young; it has value because of what is within it, the Wine.

As I heard this message, I thought of the Students and how God is pouring his New Wine into them and fermenting it to grow them into men and women who will be Spirit-filled vessels of God's grace to a hurting world. I look forward to how God will use me and the Wine he has poured into me to do a New Thing in these students so that He may do a New Thing through these students. I pray you do as well. — **Travis Finley**



June 10-14

**REGISTRATION:
MARCH 24-MAY 24**

GO TO WWW.NORTHPARKEPC.ORG/VBS FOR DETAILS.



STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION!

There are times when every one of us experiences difficulties:

- loss of a loved one
- spiritual crisis
- cancer
- hospitalization
- disability
- and many other challenges
- discouragement
- divorce
- rehabilitation
- job loss
- loneliness

God never intended for us to go through these experiences alone. That's why God has brought us together as a congregation and why we have Stephen's Ministry.

Stephen Ministers are men and women from our congregation who have received 50 hours of caregiving training to minister to people going through difficulties.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you- privately and confidentially-on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, support, and remind you of Christ's presence in your life.

If you'd like to learn more about Stephen Ministry for yourself, a family member, or a friend, neighbor, or coworker—inside or outside our congregation—talk with Mark or Rachel Sharpnack. Go to www.northparkepc.org/stephen-ministry for details.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28

MOMS

FIRST & THIRD FRIDAY EACH MONTH
@ 9:30-11:00 A.M. | BLUE ROOM

What's the most overwhelming thing that you've ever done? For me, it's parenting. Parenting continues to be a challenge as I seek to find a balance between controlling and influencing my four children, ages 11-20, but the days are quieter and more stable than they were ten years ago. The other day, I mopped our hardwood floors, and within 15 minutes—I am not exaggerating—they were not very clean anymore. The dog made little paw prints, dripped dribbles of water from there to here, and one child tracked dirty footprints coming in off the back deck, while another (or maybe the same one) made dirty footprints coming in through the front door. It took me back, and I remembered the monotony of days as a stay-at-home mom with three preschoolers when nothing stayed clean for long—5 minutes was a gift.

We often have great intentions in the church as we share advice and teach scriptures. Of course, it is great to be reminded of the ideal and exhorted towards that, but as a young mom, I remember feeling overwhelmed. I wanted to be an excellent wife, to rise in the early hours of the morning while it was still dark, to have a quiet time, and begin my chores for the day. I also desired to love my children in a way that was selfless and be the example that I wanted them to follow. I wanted them to rise up and call me blessed. Well, you can probably guess how many times that happened. And the truth is, I didn't deserve it. I failed and continue to fail at meeting the standard every single day. What's it like to fail every hour of every day to do what I want to do? It feels hard and discouraging.

What did I do with those feelings? I brought them into the community to bible study, MOMS group, and Sunday school. There were many precious

ladies who blessed and encouraged me. There were also peers who were willing to acknowledge their own struggles and shortcomings. All this showed me that I am not alone—Ladies would remind me that God is with me and sees what I'm doing, even if no one else does (because the floors definitely don't stay clean until Andy gets home)! They would also share that they have the same temptations and struggles, so we were able to keep one another accountable, pray for, encourage, and even cry together.

This continues to happen. Many of our young moms gather together every other Friday morning to share life. They meet in the Blue Room with a bouncy house, scooters, crafts, and toys. The kiddos play and release some of their energy while the moms enjoy a warm beverage and honest conversation.

If you are a young mom or know a young mom who would be blessed by a time like this, we would be honored to have you/them join us at MOMS group. Or, if you would like to share with our young moms that you see them and care about what they are doing by providing them with in-person encouragement, cards, or snacks, please do! It will not go unnoticed. What a gift it is to be a part of the family of God and to have such a rich community to come alongside and support one another!

It was an integral part of my sanctification and continues to be such a valuable time for moms, so please consider joining us. Contact Kayleigh Layden (knauerkm@gmail.com) to learn more. We would love to see you there!

— **Amber Stites**



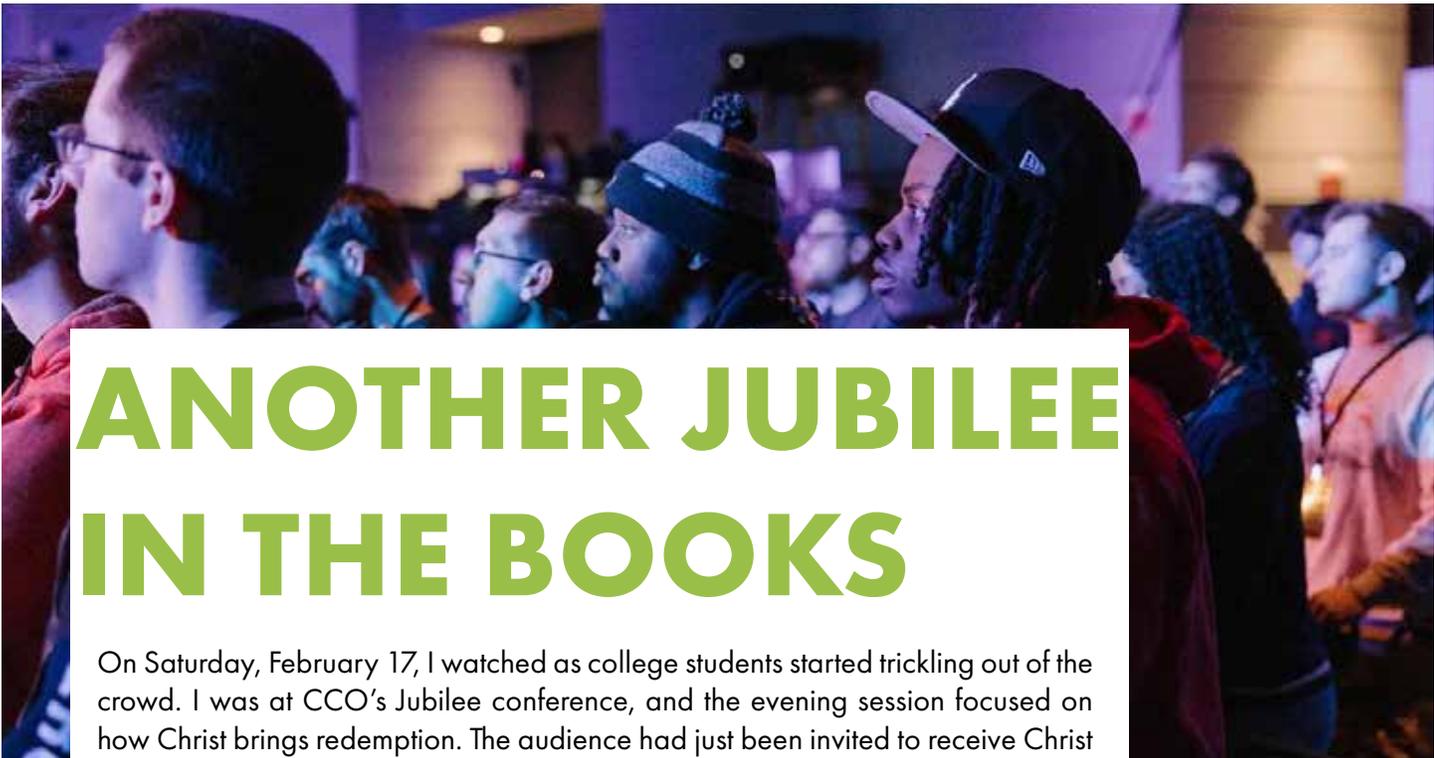
TWILIGHT NIGHT

Were you able to come to see the area’s talented students perform at the North Park Church-sponsored event? It was an evening filled with excitement and energy with an expectation of wonderful performances from students from Eden, Fox Chapel, Hampton, North Allegheny, Northgate, Pine-Richland, Sewickley Academy, and Shaler Area high schools.

With only three weeks of planning, the evening was a success. Together, **we raised \$1,210 for North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) and \$156 for the NPC Youth Group Mission Trip.** Jackie Boggs, Acting Executive Director for NHCO was present to say a few words and thank the audience for coming out to support their local outreach. Travis Finley led a group of nine NPC youth who manned the concession stand, volunteered as a greeter, or directed traffic with the NHCO volunteer, and passed out flyers to our upcoming YG Superbowl Party, Alpha, and VBS. Brooke and his team, Katie Burke, Evan Kovac, Natalie Carey, and Kassandra Rodriguez, were instrumental in the success of the performances. Whether it was their help with sound, getting the performers mic’d up, or as an accompanist, Brooke’s team was stellar.

In addition to the regale, it was wonderful to hear positive feedback from guests, performers, and directors. We even had a teen who said they would never enter a church come for the performances. All to say, it was a great night of outreach to our community with an opportunity to bless NHCO and our own NPC Youth Group. Thank you for coming out and supporting these two worthy causes!

— **Diana Rush**



ANOTHER JUBILEE IN THE BOOKS

On Saturday, February 17, I watched as college students started trickling out of the crowd. I was at CCO's Jubilee conference, and the evening session focused on how Christ brings redemption. The audience had just been invited to receive Christ or rededicate their life to him. When such an invitation is given, there's always the awkward question of whether anyone would come. But come they did, sometimes alone, sometimes in pairs, and sometimes as a group. God was moving and calling people to himself. It was a beautiful moment to witness, and it was also the fruit of several of our supported missionaries along with their colleagues: Stephen Blum, Juliana Kish, and Jen Burkholder, who all work for the CCO.

Before that evening session, though, I was inspired by a story I had heard just hours before at the President's Dinner. The current CCO president interviewed one of the board members who had come to faith at Jubilee in 1994 and had gone on to become the CEO of GE Healthcare in China. It just so happened that he was in that role as the pandemic was first emerging, and he caught the last flight back to China in order to be on the front lines to provide COVID tests and health equipment to save lives. The vision that he had received at Jubilee back in the 90s propelled him headlong into his work in spite of potential negative effects on himself. Listening to the story over dinner, I couldn't help but be amazed at how God had put his servant in place for the right moment.

Then, when I was watching the college students trickle forward later that evening, coming to make Christ their Savior or let him be Lord over more of it, I had to wonder. How many more stories like the one I just heard was God writing right then? What stories of God's grace would we hear in another 30 years?

If you have college students in your family or know some personally, I encourage you to invite them to Jubilee 2025. It's not going anywhere, and it will be in downtown Pittsburgh in February next year. For now, we can celebrate the great work that God has done and is doing through our missionaries with the CCO.

— **Pastor Ben**



Stephen Blum



Juliana Kish



Jen Burkholder



ADULT
SUNDAY
SCHOOL

SUNDAYS @ 9:00 A.M.

Go to www.northparkepc.org/sunday-school
for details.

**Fiesta
for
Christ**

MISSION TRIP
FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

@ 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

TICKETS = \$10/PERSON, \$40/FAMILY
Go to www.northparkepc.org/events for details



MISSIONS FUNDRAISING!

Thank you for your generosity, North Park Church! When we launched the designated giving opportunity in January, I was hopeful that we'd meet our goal and be able to accomplish all of the four projects, but not by much. I was not prepared to raise more than twice what we proposed, which continues to surprise me!

Thanks for furthering God's kingdom through your generosity. The missions committee is looking at how we can best support the missions projects with the excess. There are always plenty of needs, and I just read from one of our project missionaries that inflation has been wreaking havoc on their cost projections. Needless to say, the extra giving will more than handle that. Again, thanks for keeping our missionaries on the front lines equipped with the resources to take the Gospel across the world.

— **Pastor Ben**



PURIM CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 | BLUE ROOM

One of the things that fascinates me about Jewish culture is their frequent celebrations of God's deliverance of their people. Passover is one such festival that commemorates their liberation from Egypt. A lesser-known one among Christians is the feast of Purim, which celebrates God's use of Esther to deliver his people. Though the book of Esther never once mentions God, the unlikely ascent of a young maiden to queen and then the use of her position, at great risk to herself, to preserve her people is a testament to God putting people into position to deliver his people.

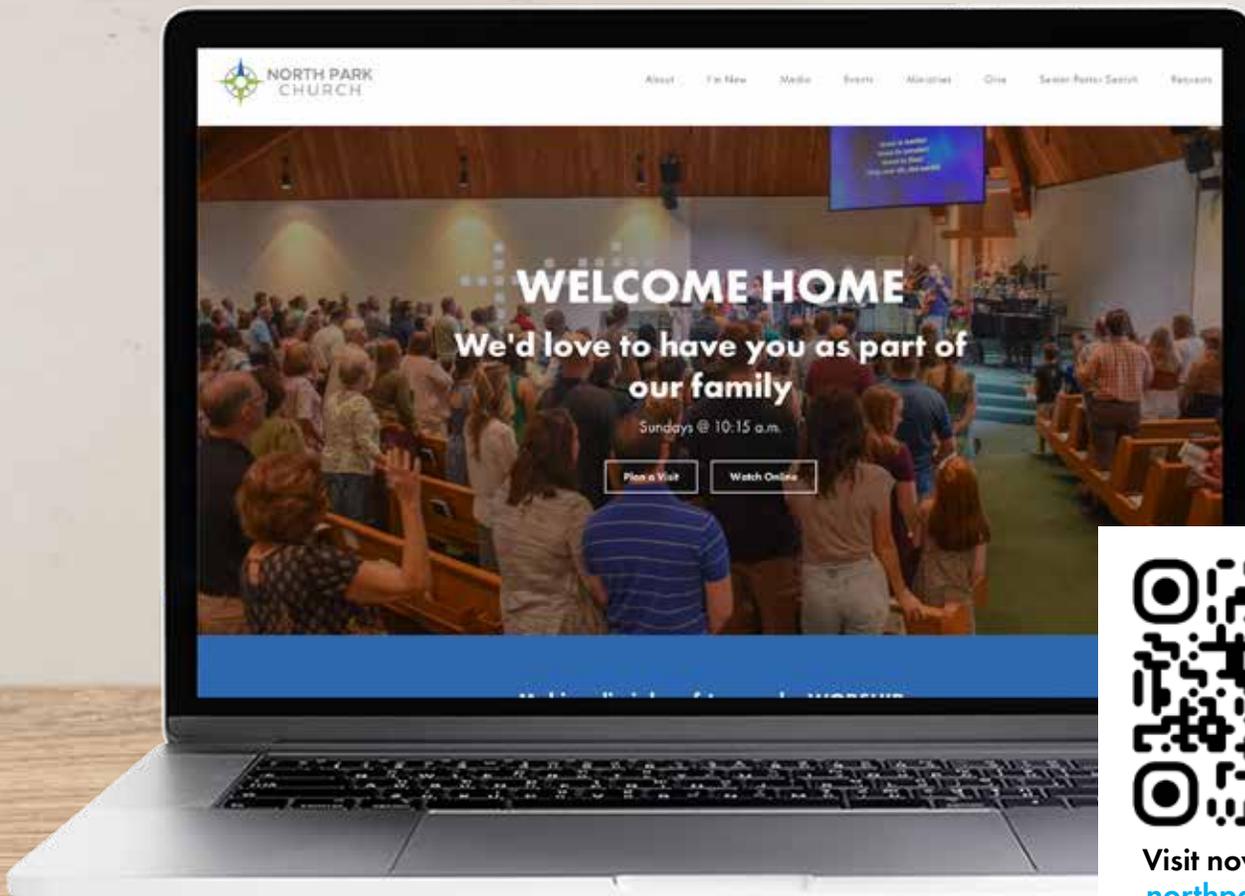
Purim is celebrated by modern Jewish families with a dramatic retelling of Esther. Without telling you too much about it, I want to invite you to learn about Purim firsthand. We will have a local Messianic Jew come and give us a firsthand experience of Purim. You won't want to miss it. The one thing you absolutely need to bring is a noisemaker of some kind. You'll learn what it is for.

For dinner, we'll provide the main course, which will most likely be some form of poultry, but we ask our NPC guests to bring something based on last names: A-G—Sides; H-O—Desserts; and P-Z—Salads. Go to www.northparkepc.org/events for details and to sign up. — **Pastor Ben**



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR:

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



Visit now at www.northparkepc.org
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**NORTH PARK
CHURCH**

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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.