

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

NORTH PARK CHURCH | SUMMER 2025 | VOL 201





PASTOR'S LETTER

BY DAVID O'LEARY, SENIOR PASTOR

Welcome to the summer season at North Park Church! It's always a rush to the finish line with our family as various school-year activities come to a close. But the periodic change in schedule that accompanies the warmer weather brings some relief and rest. Of course, it always brings a different sort of stress. As some things wind down, others begin to take off.

I was talking to a friend recently about the busyness of life. I made some comment about how my family is still in the throes of transition. It feels like a lot, but I attribute some of this to the temporary stage that we're in. My friend reminded me that in terms of how much there is to do *it never gets better*. Now, it's true that things do change, whether by circumstance, capacity, or calling. But there's something to the idea that we are always confronted with a life and world that far exceeds our own limitations.

Whether or not you feel this, Psalm 139 is worthy of meditation. David writes,

"Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it" (verses 4-6).

After reflecting on the fact that wherever he goes he can never move beyond God's presence, and when he's considered even the hidden work of God in forming him in the womb, he exclaims, "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I could count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you" (verses 17-18). At every turn, we ought to be confronted by our own limitations. But it's not so much the burden of our finitude as much as the glory of God's magnitude that overwhelms us.

We should never lose the sense that we face what is too great for us. Yet what frames this is the greatness of our God, the vastness of his knowledge, the pervasiveness of his presence, the depths of his meticulous care.

There's a thrill in the occasional day when we find ourselves one step ahead in life, fully prepared, offering solutions as seamlessly as problems arise. Far better still to see that God is three steps ahead, always greater, always wiser, there before you, remaining where you've just left, seeing where we cannot see, knowing what we have not known. May God give us this sense of his greatness, that our every moment is circumscribed by him and so held and upheld by one who has searched us and known us.

Summer Celebration

July 26 @ North Park Church

SEE BACK COVER FOR DETAILS

HISTORY CORNER

We never know how our lives will touch others. For example, how few of the names of mothers are known to the world, but how different Christian history would have been had their hidden ministry not been exercised. And what Christian man can say how much he owes to his wife? For all Christians, the words are true: "Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (Gal 6:9)

— **Iain H. Murray** (born 1931)

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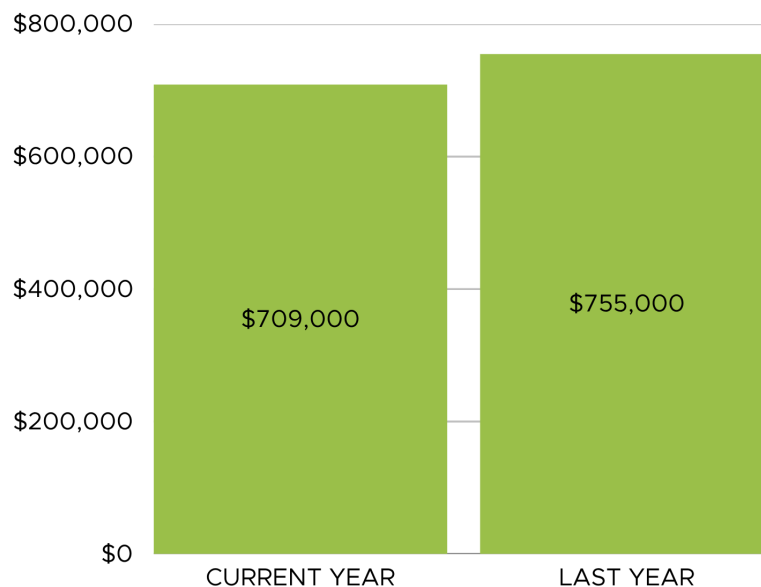
CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

JUNE 21 @ 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Benefits the Student Ministry Detroit Trip

GIVING THROUGH 4/30/25

FINANCE UPDATE



Unified Giving of \$709,000 through our first eight months of our church year was 6% less than last year.

GOD'S GRACE IN SWANNANOA, NC

— Phil Van Sickle

If you're anything like me and appreciate a powerful story, prepare yourself to read about the grace of God in action! I have a few profound testimonies to share from our North Park Church Construction Team, which journeyed back to Swannanoa, North Carolina, this time to restore both a home and hope in a community devastated by a natural disaster.

This trip marked the beginning of what, by the will of God, will be many future reconstruction/rebuilding mission trips to Swannanoa, NC. Just as NPC members once traveled south repeatedly over three years to aid in the reconstruction of Bay St. Louis after Hurricane Katrina, NPC Missions is now setting its sights on breathing life into this badly damaged North Carolina community.

Phil Van Sickle served as Team Leader, accompanied by two new NPC volunteers: Tim Davis and Erik Harless, plus Brad Marshall (an elder at Doug Runyan's old church).

For Erik, the week's highlight unfolded through his daily interactions with Paul, the owner of the house they were restoring. Paul expressed his deep appreciation for the support from the NPC team and other volunteers from across the nation who

came to help rebuild his home after the hurricane's devastation. Despite the adversity, Erik saw that Paul's spirit remained unwavering. With joy and laughter, he shared how the catastrophe had only deepened his and his wife's faith, affirming that God's goodness manifested in the multitude of helping hands.

Phil, too, was moved by Paul's story of how he and his wife, Kathy, were urged by their daughter in Anchorage, Alaska, to evacuate immediately. Paul saw no immediate danger when he went out to view the Swannanoa River, which was less than 100 yards from their house. Their daughter wasn't taking "No" for an answer, so at her insistence, they left their home

for a hotel on higher ground. The next day, they returned to find their home engulfed in mud, three feet high on the exterior and six inches deep within. Everything inside had been ruined by mud



Paul



and waste six inches deep, but praise be to God—they were safe!

Tim's heart was humbled as he surveyed the depth of damage, yet he marveled at how God's providence had rallied the Body of Christ to respond to the community's immense needs. Local churches, such as Valley Hope Church, rose to meet challenges in unprecedented ways, even reaching the Hispanic community as never before. In the face of this catastrophe, God's sovereignty and grace were undeniable.

Finally, one of the most breathtaking accounts came from the construction team's Project Leader, Lindsay. She recounted the story of a father who braved rising waters to carry his three young children to safety from their home just down the street from the

church. When he returned for his wife, who could not swim and was afraid to leave with the children, he watched her get washed away by the rising flood.

The young husband would soon learn how God works in mysterious ways. Yes...The rushing river had carried her away, yet God intervened by sending her a floating U-Haul pod! Miraculously, she clung to it and was delivered safely to the river's shoreline, and she was joyously reunited with her family!

As we look to the future, we remain steadfast in our mission to bring hope and restoration. With God's guidance, we plan to schedule more rebuild trips—perhaps as soon as August. **Will you answer the call to serve?** Reflect on how the Lord may be summoning you to step forth and join us. Keep your heart and ears open for future announcements!

NEXT TRIP: JULY 29-AUGUST 3



Scan to sign up

**Who is Needed?
Men Trained in
General Construction.**

VOLUNTEER

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

— Kelly Laird

KIDS' WORSHIP

Kids' Worship meets every week during the worship service for kids age three through 2nd grade. Once a month, the 3rd-5th graders meet also, so parents can teach their kids most weeks how to participate in the adult service, while getting a kid-focused lesson monthly.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE SUMMER LESSONS

JUNE

Elijah on Mt. Carmel
Elijah and the Small Voice
The Fall of Israel
Uzziah

JULY

Josiah
The Fall of Judah
The Book of Habakkuk
The Book of Zephaniah

JULY

Jesus Called His Disciples
Jesus' First Miracle
Jesus Healed an Official's Son
The Pool of Bethesda

TREKKERS

Trekkers finished the year with a welcome to our 2nd graders and a see ya' later to our 5th graders (who get to move up to Youth Group!) They talked about how important it is to come to church and how they contribute to the body of Christ as an individual. They all had to work as individuals yet together to make the basket stand up and move. Many thanks to Beth & Chad Morley and Kim & Jonathan Mycyk, who led this group of kids this year! Also, thanks to our teen helpers: Claire, Hazel, and Miles McKinney, Phoenix and Hazel Bender, Abryanna Whittington, Amana Morley, April and Chloe Sanders, and Abbey Mycyk.



Kids playing a game where they made a human basket.





NURSERY

The babies and toddlers in the Nursery have a great time each week, playing with fun toys and learning a Bible story. We're grateful for plenty of volunteers and workers to staff our safe and comfortable Nursery!



STUDENT MINISTRY

— Kelly Laird

FIESTA FOR CHRIST

Student Ministry had a hugely successful fundraiser at the Fiesta for Christ. Many thanks to everyone who donated their time, talents, and treasures to make this one fantastico event! The trip costs over \$22,000 and **we raised over \$9,000** at the Fiesta alone! Ole!



You're Invited!

Summer

CELEBRATION

**FOOD & GAMES
LIVE MUSIC
FAMILY FUN**

Saturday, July 26

11:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

at North Park Church

SCAN FOR FULL
DETAILS & UPDATES



**NORTH PARK
CHURCH**

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF COMMUNITY AT NORTH PARK CHURCH

Food Trucks • Open To The Community • FREE Admission, Hot Dogs, & Popcorn
@northparkepc | www.northparkepc.org | 600 Ingomar Road, Wexford, PA 15090