

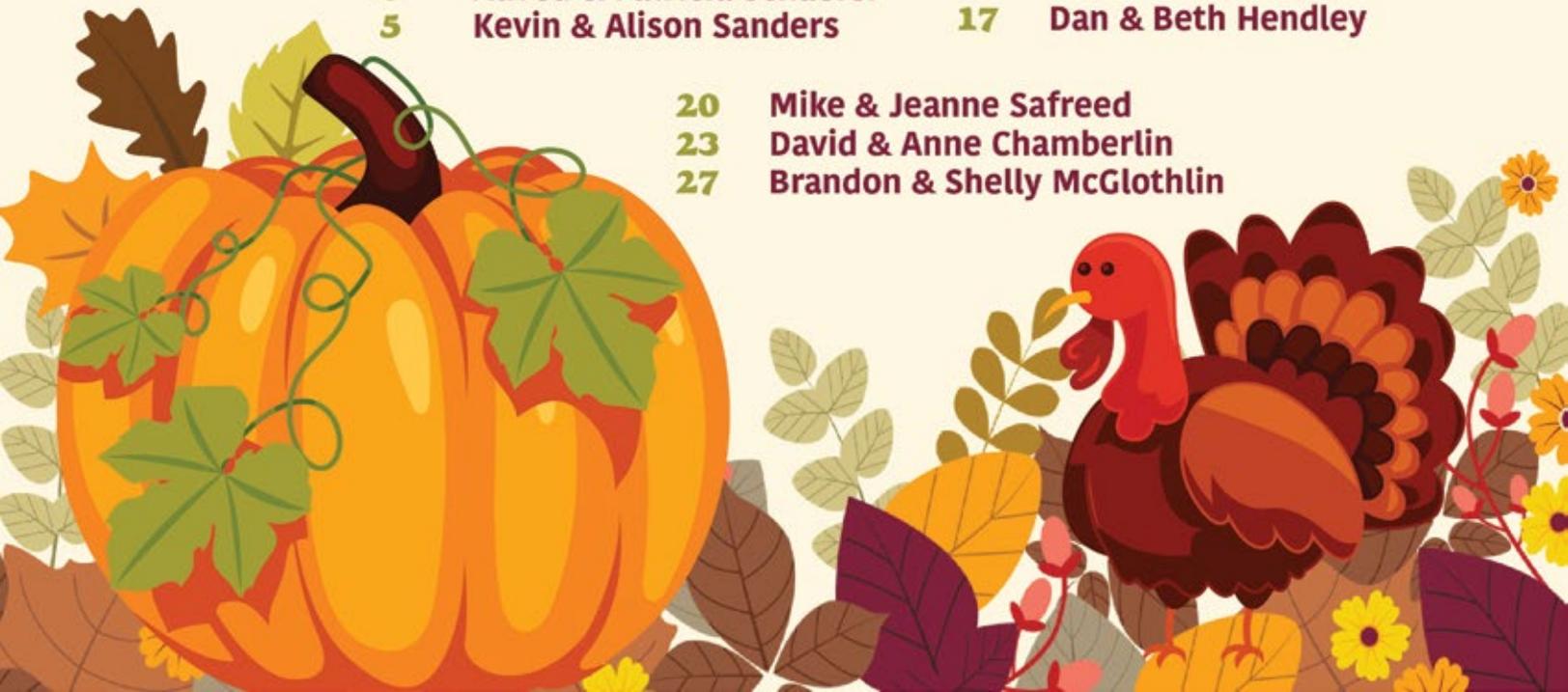


# NOVEMBER 2017 BIRTHDAYS

- |           |  |           |                                |           |   |
|-----------|--|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|---|
| <b>1</b>  | Beth Hendley<br>Mark Munger                        | <b>13</b> | Nellie Luther                  | <b>26</b> | Carl Shoemaker<br>Anna Warmbrodt          |
| <b>2</b>  | Mike Safreed                                       | <b>14</b> | Susann Pinkerton               | <b>27</b> | Edward Muzyn<br>Pat Hargest               |
| <b>3</b>  | Henry Lish   | <b>15</b> | Andrea Gingrich<br>Chad Morley |           | Diane Glancy Blackburn<br>Jessica O'Brien |
| <b>5</b>  | Laura Osmond                                       | <b>16</b> | Diane Grajcar                  | <b>28</b> | Steve Benson                              |
| <b>6</b>  | Grace Wu<br>Luke O'Brien                           | <b>19</b> | Austin Dzadovsky               | <b>29</b> | Rachel Sharpnack<br>Marge Stauffer        |
| <b>8</b>  | Elizabeth Haytock<br>Colin Longmore<br>Jim Gregory | <b>21</b> | Kathy Schadel                  |           | Autumn Elise Glancy<br>Oliver Benson      |
| <b>10</b> | Charles Klenk<br>Davey Pinkerton                   | <b>22</b> | Joshua Laird<br>Mark Altmyer   | <b>30</b> | Carol Dupee<br>Holly Murphy               |
|           |  | <b>24</b> | Kirby Morris                   |           |   |
|           |  | <b>25</b> | Jeffery Buirge                 |           |   |

## ANNIVERSARIES

- |           |                             |           |                      |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| <b>3</b>  | Alfred & Patricia Schaefer  | <b>13</b> | Steve & Natalie Karr |
| <b>5</b>  | Kevin & Alison Sanders      | <b>17</b> | Dan & Beth Hendley   |
| <b>20</b> | Mike & Jeanne Safreed       |           |                      |
| <b>23</b> | David & Anne Chamberlin     |           |                      |
| <b>27</b> | Brandon & Shelly McGlothlin |           |                      |



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# NORTH PARK

C H U R C H

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VOLUME 126 - NOVEMBER 2017

WORSHIP CONNECT IMPACT



Thankful  
&  
grateful

# FYI

**A PUBLICATION OF NORTH PARK  
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## November Memory Verse:

The wicked borrows and does not pay back,  
but the righteous is gracious and gives.

- Psalm 37:21

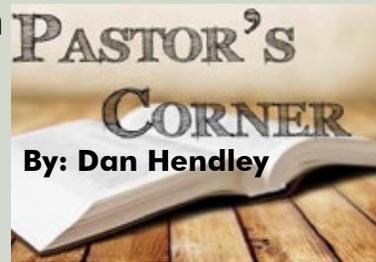
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### BACK PAGE: BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

I recently returned from a rare excursion to the western parts of the USA. Beth and I flew to Las Vegas, then spent several days in Utah, specifically St. George and Zion National Park. This part of the world is lacking in people with lots of open space and nobody in it; lacking in moisture with less than 9 inches of rain per year, few trees and little grass, making it a desert; and lacking in Biblical churches – the Mormons are everywhere. Utah, however, is not lacking in beauty. We walked in some fabulous places with majestic scenery.



The purpose of the trip can be summed up in 4 Bs:

- Basketball -- I came to play in a national senior sporting event, the Huntsman Senior Games. My sport was basketball for 60 year old men and older. The competition was stiff. The team I was asked to play on was far from competitive. Personally, I played well and even had some moments of glory before I pulled a hamstring in my third game. Ugh! At least there were three other Bs
- Books -- since basketball was only a couple hours for two days, I spent much of my days, researching and reading for my doctoral paper. Good progress was made. No injuries
- Beauty - Zion was spectacular and we also enjoyed Valley of Fire near Las Vegas
- Bride - I loved being with Beth and we counted this our 38th anniversary adventure

Unfortunately, two days after I tweaked my leg, she injured her back. Together we hobbled home, two cripples, more in love than ever and grateful to know that in Jesus, His purposes are always good.

## Youth Group Schedule for November

**1** 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.  
**Small Group**  
High School and Middle  
School Girls at the Church

**5** 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
**Youth Group**

**9** 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.  
**Small Group**  
Middle School Boys  
at the Fairfield's House

**12** 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
**Youth Group**

**15** 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.  
**Small Group**  
High School and Middle  
School Girls at the Church

**19** 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
**Youth Group**

**26** No Youth Group

# Did You Know?

*Did you know that DEB FUREY has published a book of her poems called, Refresh Me with Apples ..... that we filled all vacant positions on our Children & Worship teams ..... that Irishman Alan Linton could swallow four 27 inch swords at one time.....that ERIN DALY, a music student at Indiana Wesleyan, landed the lead role of Rosalinde in Die Fledermaus..... that JONATHAN MYCYK is now leading his care group.....that JONATHAN was a college baseball pitcher.....that TIM LABARRE, DICK LUTHER, MILES MCKINNEY, CALEB STITES and JOE WANNINGER have all helped out around the church in Tom Loar's absence in October.....that the longest recorded fast was by Angus Barbieri who lived on liquids only for 382 days and lost 294 pounds.....that MELODY GELB, YVONNE DARVILLE, and HOLLY FAIRFIELD are all new employees of Chik-fil-A...that former NPC Associate Pastor JONATHAN SHIRK recently preached at chapel for Grove City College..... that OLIVIA BUIRGE was just chosen Homecoming Queen at Grove City College..... that the world record for holding breath under water belongs to Robert Foster who stayed under for 13 minutes and 42 seconds.....that CHARLIE KLENK was a Chemical Engineer.... that JANE MOORE was a school librarian..... that BRIAN ALTMYER has put in countless hours installing the new HVAC units at NPC in order to save us major dollars...that our new receptionist, KIM HEPNER, has lived in Germany, the Netherlands and the Philippines with her Air Force husband, BRENT...that PAIGE DALY plays on the volleyball team at Rochester Institute of Technology... that the longest animal ever recorded was a jellyfish that had tentacles 120 feet long, giving it a total length of 245 feet....that those who read the FYI are 7% longer than those who do not?..... Did you know these things? I thought you should.....*

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## HEART AND TREASURE 2017

These first few weeks of November will be devoted to a major initiative designed to renew dedication of our members and friends to the particular work God has given us at NPC. A major part of that will involve a challenge to increase financial support well beyond current levels – thus the appellation Heart and Treasure after the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:21 where He told us that a man's heart will go where his treasure goes and vice versa.

Please be in prayer for Pastor Dan as he teaches on stewardship, for our staff and elders as they plan the details of this initiative and for the entire body as each member seeks to hear from God and respond in faith. Most importantly, pray for a heart ready to respond to the Lord of the church for the church.



# Women's Christmas Tea 2017

## LIGHT OF THE WORLD

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Join us as we anticipate and celebrate the season Jesus came as a light to a dark and sinful world. We will share and be encouraged by how Jesus is a light in our lives, and how we can share that same light, joy and kindness with others. We hope that this event will help to ignite something in your own heart as we challenge you to shine a little brighter this Christmas Season.

Date: Friday, December 1

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Blue Room

Please bring your own tea cup and an appetizer or dessert to serve 12. Last name starts with:

A-K: bring an appetizer

L-Z: bring a dessert

This is a great event to invite your family, friends and neighbors to enjoy with you. Please pick-up invitations and sign-up at the Information Counter or call the Church Office at 412-367-5000 by Sunday, November 26.

# New Hope Christmas Store Tree

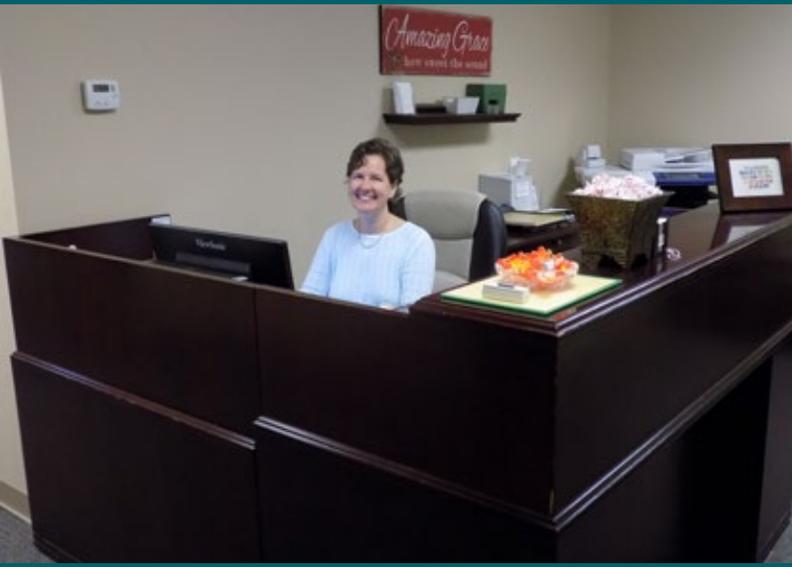
BY: BEN BURKHOLDER

It is our privilege once again to partner with our former church plant, New Hope Church, located on the North Side in the New Hope Christmas Store. Through our church's donations, low-income families on the North Side are able to afford presents for their children that they would not be able to purchase otherwise.

Starting on Sunday, November 19, the New Hope Christmas tree will be in the lobby. Those wishing to donate can take an ornament marked with the age and gender of a child and purchase an appropriate gift. Donations will need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 10. If you are unable to grab an ornament, gift cards and cash donations can also be given along with hats, gloves, and scarves for winter weather. In addition to collecting gifts, we would also like at least two people from North Park Church to assist with the event itself on Saturday, December 16.

If you wish to assist with the delivery of the gifts or help out with the store, please contact Nellie Luther at [naluther724@yahoo.com](mailto:naluther724@yahoo.com).

# Meet NPC's New Receptionist



## Who is the new face in the front office?

My name is Kim Hepner. My family moved to Pittsburgh 5 years ago after my husband, Brent, retired from the Air Force. We have 2 children. My son, Nathanael, is a junior at Geneva College and my daughter, Rebekah, is a freshman at Hampton High School. We worship at Stoneridge Covenant Church in Shaler, and I love working with multiple church families to see the Lord reach our area. Thank you all for coming in to introduce yourselves and hopefully I can quickly associate the names with the faces. It is a pleasure serving the Lord with you.

## EVENTS AND UPDATES

## Gingerbread House Construction

On **Saturday, December 9**, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room, we will have our 7th Annual Gingerbread House Construction Party. This is a fun evening of refreshments, storytelling, and making gingerbread houses. This is an opportunity for you to invite an unchurched family to experience a fun family night and celebrate Jesus' coming to earth. To get more information and see how you can assist, contact Holly Murphy at [hollyeward@gmail.com](mailto:hollyeward@gmail.com). There will be sign-ups and invitations available in mid-November.



## Hanging of the Greens

Believe it or not, it's that time of year again! Our annual Hanging of the Greens will be on Tuesday, November 21 at 9:00 a.m. Come get in the Christmas spirit as we decorate the sanctuary for the celebration of our Savior's birth. A light breakfast and coffee will be provided. Child care can be provided. Please sign up at the Information Counter and indicate your request for child care. Contact Kim Haytock at [khaytock@yahoo.com](mailto:khaytock@yahoo.com) for more information.

# From Wentz Cometh My Help

BY: BROOKE HOPKINS

I don't know about you, but I'm struggling a bit with the NFL. Not because the local boys haven't been the complete package as expected, although I am tempted to emotionally detach myself and jump off the bandwagon when they play like chumps instead of champs. More of a die-quick than a die-hard fan, but unlike Mussolini's abandoning Hitler and joining the Allies, I just can't bring myself to root for anyone else.

No, my struggle is with the whole anthem protest thing. When our team decided to stay in the tunnel so as not to make a statement, thereby making a statement, and one guy comes out because of his angst over his allegiances, and then THIS becomes the source of everyone's news stories and talk shows, while North Korea, hurricanes and wildfires surround us like wolves circling a herd of bickering sheep—then I have a problem. When the anthem is suddenly televised so we can watch the circus on the sidelines, and these protests based on media misrepresentations and allow it to become so politicized, then methinks the NFL has become far too overvalued.

We live in a world where entertainment, instead of providing a diversion from life, has become the center of life. We are indeed *Amusing Ourselves to Death* (Neil Postman's great book). Celebrities are revered as Socrates, having all wisdom in all things when in reality they may do one or two things well, and have made a fortune from it. Pop stars might have great voices, but that doesn't make them a voice of reason on, say, foreign



policy. Those in the limelight receive far too much attention, idolization, and adoration. Sounds like worship.

There is something happening in the NFL, though, that is pretty exciting. The Philadelphia Eagles are not only winning games, but also winning souls. A spiritual awakening began among the team in 2016, and continues into this season. Players are coming to faith and receiving baptism, and finding unity in their newfound trust. The revival crosses racial lines, and speaks of a different sort of demonstration—one of God's grace and power at work, and His ability to heal, draw all people unto Himself, and make us one in Christ. Carson Wentz, their rookie quarterback, is very outspoken about his relationship with Jesus, and his passion to play for an Audience of One. This helps encourage my troubled heart! Hence the title!

Here are some of my takeaways; almost as many as the Jags had a few weeks ago. Ahem. There is an interminable temptation to be more enthralled with the world of entertainment than with the kingdom of God. I should identify with the Savior rather than the Stillers. I should wait on the Lord, and have my strength renewed, and mount up on wings—like—the Eagles! Players, all, should stand for the anthem, because of what others have done to win our freedom. We, all, should kneel at the Cross, because of what Christ has done to win our eternity!



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

## SPONSORED BY TREKKERS

October has come and gone quickly, but it brought some exciting Trekkers learning, and it leaves us eagerly anticipating our November meeting.

First, Sunday, October 15 highlighted the Breastplate of Righteousness. We exchanged our used, dirty, stained napkins for a shiny new penny to get kids thinking about the exchange of our filthy sin for Christ's righteousness. Pastor Ben's lesson from the church service provided a fantastic foundation for this lesson, as most of our Trekkers had been present to hear the sermon. We enjoyed making connections and digging deeper into God's word, specifically Philippians 6:7-9. In addition to this, we practiced Bible verse sword drills to locate scripture, and we worked on part of our memory verse: Ephesians 6:13-14. Finally, we spent some fun game time "fleeing from unrighteousness" as we modified some familiar games to match our topic.

This month we will put on our Gospel shoes by sending Operation Christmas Child boxes. These boxes share not only the practical necessities and fun extras, but also the love of Christ in the Gospel message. Boxes will be packed by Trekkers on Sunday, November 19 at our regular meeting time from 4:30-6:30 p.m. We excitedly partner with the congregation of our church to prepare for this packing night. Here are some ways to get involved:



- Purchase items for us to pack: Stop at the Christmas tree in the lobby to take an ornament with suggested items for purchase. Ornaments are doubled, so you take one as a reminder, and we keep one for our records. If you'd rather just shop and see what you find, that's ok, too! We'll accept any and all appropriate donations. Keep in mind that toothpaste and candy are now on the "do-not-pack" list, along with all liquid soap and shampoo items.
- Donate shipping money: If you would like to make a monetary contribution to this ministry, Trekkers will accept funds to help pay the \$9.00 shipping per box.
- Pray with us: Pray over this ministry opportunity, including the children packing these boxes and the children receiving these boxes. There are prayer bookmarks at the table in the lobby to remind you and guide your prayers.

If your family has a box packing tradition separate from our Trekkers ministry, feel free to drop your filled box with label and shipping payment to us by Sunday, November 19. This is a hard deadline, as the boxes must be dropped at a designated location by Monday, November 20 to make this year's distribution. There are pamphlets with box labels and a spot to place your shipping money on the table in the lobby.

Thank you, in advance, for partnering with us to make this ministry possible!

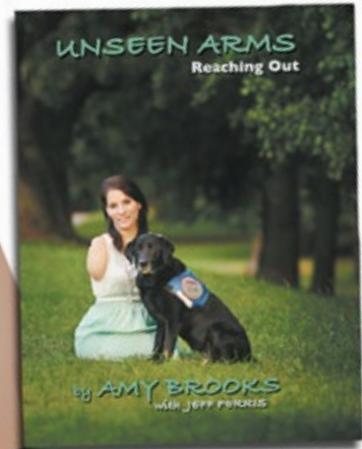
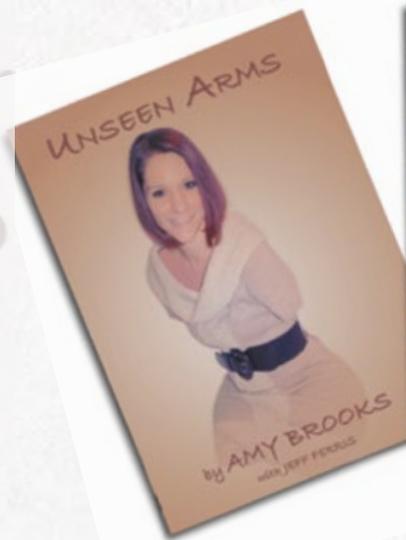
Our Trekkers enjoy packing these boxes, and it provides a perfect example of putting on Gospel shoes.

# “You See Disability, I See Blessing”

BY BEN BURKHOLDER

When you think of "disability" what comes to your mind? Often, we think of disabilities as limitations that keep someone from reaching their highest potential. What exactly is that potential? Amy Brooks, who has no arms and legs, is an author, artist and public speaker. On Monday, November 13 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. she will be sharing her inspirational story with us, telling us about what allowed her to rise above the challenges that she has faced. If you come, you'll most certainly leave with a new paradigm for viewing disabilities. However, don't keep this event to yourself. We hope that you will see this as an opportunity to reach out and invite others to this event, especially those that have family members with disabilities.

*The meal will be a Thanksgiving style dinner made by willing volunteers. If you wish to help with the food, please sign up at the table in the lobby where more directions will be given. The event will be held in the Blue Room. Childcare will be available for those under three and an optional, age appropriate, activity will be held for those ages 4 years old-2nd grade. Contact Ben Burkholder at [benburkholder@northparkepc.org](mailto:benburkholder@northparkepc.org) for more information.*



**JOIN US:** Monday, November 13

**WHERE:** North Park Church in the Blue Room

**COMPASS**

**Upcoming Compass Events:**

12/9: Gingerbread House Construction

1/18: David Snoke

"Cosmic Fine-Tuning & God's Existence"

# What does "B.C." Stand For?

**BIG CHOIR?!**  
**BEHEMOTH CHORUS?!**  
**BEAUTIFUL CAROLS?!**  
**BEFORE CHRISTMAS?!**  
**BELLOWING CHORISTERS?!**



Come join the choir for a special anthem to be performed during worship on Sunday, December 17. This "Big Choir" will rehearse the three Thursdays prior (November 30, December 7 & 14), and a fourth rehearsal will occur prior to worship on December 17. Also, we'd love to have you sing with us on Christmas Eve for our single 6:00 p.m. service. Please contact Brooke Hopkins at [brookehopkins@northparkepc.org](mailto:brookehopkins@northparkepc.org) for more details.

## The North Park Children's Choir is back!

Rehearsals for the upcoming Christmas season will begin November 12 in the choir room immediately after worship, lasting about 30 minutes. You won't want to miss this opportunity to participate in our Sunday worship, as well as a special Nativity drama. All children in grades K-8 are welcome.

For more information, please contact the church office at (412) 367-5000 or email: [brookehopkins@northparkepc.org](mailto:brookehopkins@northparkepc.org).



You have heard the name, maybe even prayed for the ministry, when North Park Church sent three folks to an intensive training at the end of July, but what exactly will this program do for North Park Church and how will it impact you?

### WHAT WE HAVE DONE?

Three NPC leaders went to a 50 hour training course in August. Since that time, Susan Meeneghan, Mark Sharpnack and Denise Velarde have been praying, planning and seeking God's direction to implement Stephen Ministry at NPC.

### WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM DO?

Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one, high-quality care-giving ministry that provides Christian care to those in and outside of a church body who are experiencing loss or are in a time of crisis such as the loss of a loved one, marital struggles, divorce. They listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship usually involves a weekly meeting and may last as long as the care receiver is in need.

### WHAT NEXT? Get Involved –

- Pray as we seek the Holy Spirit's direction for each step we take to implement this ministry at NPC
- Pray that many will seek God's direction whether to serve as a Stephen Minister. This requires a two year commitment of service and completion of the 50 hour training course that will run from February to May of 2018
- Plan to attend our informational meeting on November 19 after Worship
- Bring your questions and if the Lord has touched your heart to become a Stephen's Minister, you can complete the application
- If you feel you need to receive care from one of our Stephen Ministers contact a leader

**Mark Sharpnack**

*Marksharpnack@npcepc.org (412) 584-8849*

**Susan Meeneghan**

*Meeneghans@gmail.com (412) 364-1840*

**Denise Velarde**

*DeniseVelarde.StephenMinistry@gmail.com  
(210) 771-2079*

***Informational Meeting: Sunday,  
November 19 after Worship in Room 112***

# And the Survey Says...

BY BEN BURKHOLDER

In September, we invited North Park Church regulars to participate in an outreach survey to help us assess a number of things like the current habits and practices of our church members and identify how people would like to be equipped along with what people mean by terms like evangelism, missions, and outreach. Altogether, we had 113 responses to the survey, and we are grateful for everyone who participated.

Here are some of the key takeaways!

**First**, people who indicated they prayed more frequently for non-Christians (i.e. within the last week) were more likely to see outreach not just as an act of service but as a means to build a relationship with someone else to share Christ explicitly. To put this another way, by being intentional in prayer, these same people were more likely to be intentional in how they engaged other people. In addition, the people who indicated praying more frequently were far less likely to cite internal insecurities as a barrier to sharing their faith (41% of people who prayed in the last week cited insecurity as a barrier to evangelism compared to 87.5% for those who indicated they did not have a habit of praying for non-Christians). It would seem that habits of prayer are important to help us overcome our internal insecurities.

**Second**, younger members were less likely to have prayed in the last week for someone to become a follower of Jesus (35% of 26-35 year olds had prayed in this way in the past week) compared to older generations for whom the averages ranged from 65% to 71%. Not surprisingly, this also correlated with less frequent interactions with non-Christian friends and less frequent sharing of one's faith with others. Thirty percent of 26-35 year olds, 17% of 36-45 year olds, and 29% of 46-55 year olds reported sharing their faith in the past month with someone else compared to 50% for those 56-75 years of age.

**Third**, of the hurdles that keep us as a community from sharing our faith, the following were the top three: 53% of people indicated that they worried about how the other person would perceive or react to them, 44% indicated that they didn't know how to change casual conversations toward issues like personal faith, and 38% said that they had not made evangelism a way of life that impacted their relationships with others. While we can all grow in our boldness in these areas, we hope to continue speaking to and helping our church body grow in these areas so we can become more effective witnesses. In 2018, we look to invite our church to be more intentional in prayer and in building relationships with unbelievers.