



# The Exciter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH EAST  
25 West Main Street • North East PA 16428 • (814) 725-8641

No. 568

Summer 2017



## THE PASTOR'S PEN

Once upon a time there was a roofer who was hired to repair a high and steep roof. Worse still, the shingles were made of old slate which, over the course of time, had become slippery because moss had grown over much of it. The roofer put his satchel of tools over his back and then, step by step, ascended the ladder onto the roof. At the top of the ladder he grabbed hold of the gutter and pulled his body onto the roof. He then crawled to the top of the roof and, once there, decided to try and stand so that he could survey the damage that needed repairing. Carefully, he kneeled. Then he started to stand. Without realizing it, however, he'd planted his foot on a patch of slimy moss which suddenly gave way. In that split second, he fell face first and sped quickly down the roof on his stomach! He extended his arms and hands quickly to try and grab hold of something – anything – in a desperate effort to save himself from falling off the roof, but he could find nothing to grasp. The speed of his slide only increased. Then, at the very last moment, with his legs and torso already off the roof and on their way to the pavement below, he made one last desperate attempt to reach for the roof. As he did, the tips of his fingers found the rain gutter. He hung on for dear life, and that was when he said, "This is the part of the job I hate."

Well, this is the part of the job I hate. This is the part where I need to speak with you about money and the ways in which you are called by God to financially support the work of our congregation's ministry. This month's article is the fourth in a series regarding some of the critical needs in the life of our congregation. In previous months, we've addressed topics such as the need for consistent worship attendance and personal involvement in the many ministry opportunities of our congregation. Today, however, we need to talk dollars and cents.

**Every member is called to make a joyous and generous financial commitment to our congregation.** Every member should participate financially according to the Bible's instruction. *God commands that we give 10% of our income.* Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse [the Temple]..." Jesus assumed that his followers would tithe. The practice of some members of the earliest church was to hold all of their wealth in common! (That verse from Acts scares me a little!)

**Here's the reality of our situation:** The majority of our members make no financial pledge commitment at all. Of those who do give, the average amount is about 1% of their income. [The Presbyterian Church (USA) average is 2%]. **The typical member in our congregation gives considerably less than 1% of their income.**

It's not a matter of how much you make. Cash is tight for everyone! Just be faithful. God promises to meet all your needs. We can all give just one dollar out of every ten we make. Should we do so, the doors will open for us to carry out some astonishing mission and caregiving activities in Jesus' name. Also, if you need help in planning your finances we will be offering Financial Peace University again this year.

I am told that the great Reformer Martin Luther once said, "There are three conversions necessary [for the Christian life]: the conversion of the heart, the mind, and the purse." I ask you to show your faith with your money and be obedient to God. He will bless you richly if you do!

Pastor Gregg



Pastor Gregg D. Townsend

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# THE PRAYER CHAIN

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, speak with Pastor Gregg, call Patti in the church office (814-725-8641), or email our prayer chain (jlivingston@neo.rr.com OR office@fpcne.org). Email us if you'd like to be added to our email prayer chain.

## SUMMER WORSHIP

Join us for summer worship each Sunday at 9:30 A.M. from June 4 – September 3. Traditional hymns, contemporary praise songs and musical arrangements will be included in this worship service.

This is an exciting opportunity to worship and fellowship with members of our church family whom we may have missed because they were attending "the other" service!

Also, as is our tradition at the last worship service of this summer time period, we plan on worshipping in Gibson Park on September 3. This is pending borough approval and status of the renovations in the Park.



### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY SUMMER SCHEDULING

Starting in June, Men's Group will meet at 8:30 A.M. Men, feel free to join us on all or any of these Sundays for good Christian fellowship.

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, phone calls and offers to help while I was in the hospital. It meant so very much to me to know that my church family is there for me when I need them the most.

Thank you, Pastor Gregg, for coming to the hospital to see me.

May God bless you all.

*Jean Bahm*



### North East Preschool Graduation



On Thursday and Friday, June 1 and 2, our sanctuary will be filled with proud parents and eager children graduating from our Three and Four year old Preschool programs. Please keep our teachers and preschoolers in your prayers and give thanks for the young minds and hearts that are taught with such professional and loving care as our school year comes to a close.



## Teacher Recognition Day

Many members joined the Christian Education Committee on Sunday, May 21, during our 11:00 A.M. worship service, as we honored the hard work and dedication of our Sunday School and Bible Study teachers, facilitators and substitutes. We celebrated and recognized all of their hard work and devotion they have given each Sunday to both the Christian Education program and our students over the past year. Those celebrated included: Beth and Steve Seymour, Billie Blosser, Becky Oyler, Kitty Hurlburt, Judy Schenker, Bev and Al Walz, Tom and Jenn McClure, Katie Gallagher, Andy and Cheri Bartlett, Gregg Townsend, Doty Wagner, Jean Bahm, Dianne Tyler and Patti Kuna. Be sure to keep them in your prayers as they complete their classes to make disciples out of our participating children, young people and adults.

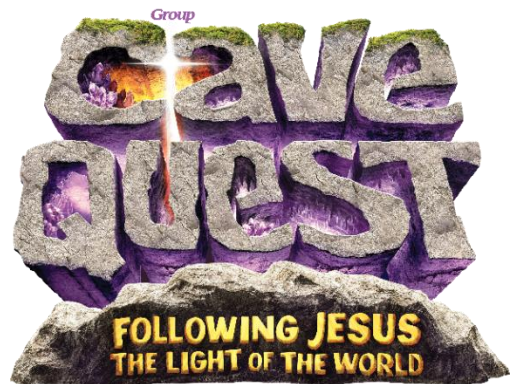


## EXPLORE WITH US IN A “CAVE QUEST”

### AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JUNE 26 – 30, 2017

Get ready to Find the Light as we explore together in a “Cave Quest”! In our spelunking, kids will discover that “Jesus is the Light of the World!”

We will begin our Exploration beginning on June 26 at 9:00 A.M. and continue until Noon each day. All kids from age three (3) through Sixth Grade are welcome to join in the discovery with us. Register early so we can have your t-shirt ready to go for our journey into the Caves.



#### There are three (3) ways to register:

1. Register on our website ([www.fpcne.org](http://www.fpcne.org)), OR
2. Turn in a completed paper registration (available in the Assembly room or office), OR
3. Call the church directly (814-725-8641).

Each day will begin with a large-group music experience, a fun skit and a dollop of zaniness! Then, kids will be introduced to a specific Bible story. After experiencing the other activities of the day, kids will regroup to review, be encouraged and be motivated to serve others! Other activities will include:

- ✓ Exploring selected Bible stories in a variety of interactive ways
- ✓ Learning about applying the story by completing the “It’s Your Serve” service challenge
- ✓ Creating crafts
- ✓ Taking part in fun and games
- ✓ Recharging with an interactive snack time

All of these fun activities connect to the Bible story, Bible memory verse and the Life Focus of the day.

The staff will be enthusiastically anticipating all the kids who are ready for an exciting adventure! Come join us and help us “Look for His Light in the Caves!”

If you have any questions, please see our Head Spelunkerer, Donna Banks.

## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR 2017 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Speaking of Vacation Bible School, we wouldn’t be able to provide such an amazing experience for the children and youth of our church and community without our wonderful volunteers. Soooooooooooooo, consider this the call for your services! We are looking for volunteers to help set up, tear down and experience the week.



This year’s VBS will begin on Monday, June 26, with set-up on Sunday, June 25 and take-down on Sunday, July 2.. Remember, there are jobs for anyone and everyone! Come experience the “experience of a lifetime!” Join us for VBS!!!

Please use the volunteer sign-up sheet in the Assembly Room or see Donna Banks





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS CONTINUED...

### KIDS' CHOIR UPDATE

The Kids' Choir wrapped up the year with a final worshipful undertaking on Sunday, April 23, in honor of Youth Sunday. The kids raised their voices to the Lord with two songs, which included a precious, meaningful rendition of "It's a Happy Day," and their "favorite," "All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises." The kids sang with their

voices but in reality from their hearts in worship to our Lord.

Stay tuned this summer for News Flashes on the start-up of Kids' Choir for next year. In the meantime a huge THANK YOU goes out to our dedicated Kids' Choir Director, Jenn McClure, for sharing her gift of music with our children.

### EASTER SEASON REFLECTIONS

The Sunday School children and youth of our church participated in the Procession of the Palms at the 11:00 A.M. worship service on Palm Sunday, April 9. In addition, during the 11:00 A.M. service, the children were able to enjoy a special Easter Puppet Show entitled, "Why God Gave Us Easter," which was followed

by a fun and "egg-citing" Easter Egg Hunt. More than 30 children from preschool age through Fifth Grade attend this fun-filled, blessed event. A HUGE Easter Egg Thank You goes out to the Middle/High School Youth Sunday School class for their involvement.

## A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

I am reminded daily of the many blessings the Lord has provided me through the people I work with and the joy they (and our kids) bring. This year's Youth Sunday/Senior Lunch was yet another reminder of the blessings and love that overflows from my own heart (through the gifts of so many).



This year's Youth Sunday Service, as well as the Youth/Senior luncheon was extremely successful and joy-filled day, as we chose to celebrate both high school graduates and our youth. None of it could have happened without the dedicated and talented youth from our church. We acknowledged and celebrated the graduating seniors, including Nate Carlson, Zach Rogers and Mark Townsend. Both the service and the luncheon were enjoyed by youth and adults of all ages.

The service was filled with many delightful surprises and gifts, beginning with the "musical" message in our hearts preached by Zach Rogers and Mark Townsend. In addition, many of our youth participated by showcasing their reading skills and musical talent. Readers included: Makayla Albney, McCoy and McKyle Albney, Emma Hirneisen, Tommy Hartner, Maddie Hartner, John McClure and Marissa Kelly. In addition, there was a flute performance by Sophie Tyler with accompaniment by Jane Livingston and two special pieces by our own Kids' Choir. Finally, staying with the theme of "Youth Sunday," other youth participated by greeting, ushering and/or singing included Nate Carlson, Brooks Townsend, Garrett Connors and Sparrow and Charlotte Magill.

Lunch was provided by the Christian Education Committee, along with some delightful cooks from the congregation. Once again, blessings and offerings were overflowing. As a think back, I need to restate how my plate abundantly overflows with the love, joy and blessings of all of those who continue to give of their Gifts.

I would like to especially thank Jane Livingston for her dedication and help with the music and program. Also, a huge thank you to all who helped set up for our lunch, put together the meal and program including Jenn and Tom McClure, Don and Dianne Tyler, Fred and Dianne Lucore, Beth Seymour, Tracy and Scott Connors and all of those many helping hands who helped make the day a joyful and memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

Donna Banks  
Director of Christian Education



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# MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

While our Chancel and Bell Choirs are on a much-deserved hiatus during the summer months, we hope that you will prayerfully consider joining one of our choirs this fall. We have a core group of very dedicated members but we'd love to add some new folks this year. As you read below, we have many holes to fill due to college and moving.

We are also losing three of our worship team members, so we are looking for a drummer, bass player, and vocalist for our worship team too!

We have a variety of ways you can get involved in the FPCNE Music Ministry to serve the church and glorify God through music. Come join in the fun! Speak with our Director of Music Ministry Jane Livingston for more information.



## SING IN THE CHANCEL CHOIR



Joining the Chancel Choir is a fun and rewarding way to serve the church. We practice on Thursday evenings at 7:30 P.M. We are always looking for new members, and welcome our youth from Grade 7 and up to sing with us. The Chancel Choir sings about two to three times per month. Speak with any choir members — they are great ambassadors and can give you many reasons to join the choir! We are especially in need of sopranos and basses. Chancel Choir practice will resume on September 7 at 7:30 P.M.

## RING IN THE BELL CHOIR



We are very fortunate at FPCNE to have a talented Bell Choir. But, it's difficult to play bell selections without enough ringers. We are really in need of additional members. We will teach you everything you need to know, and we'll start you out with the "easy" bells. It takes a little practice but you'll soon get the hang of it. The entire choir will help you out! They are great teachers. The Bell Choir rings about once per month. Bell Choir practice will resume on September 7 at 6:00 P.M.

## KIDS' CHOIR

We are making a few changes with our Kids' Choir this fall. Stay tuned for more information as details are worked out.

## JOIN THE WORSHIP TEAM

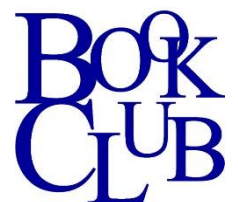
Do you like to sing contemporary Christian music? Do you play drums, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, electric guitar or other instruments? We need to find a new drummer and bass player and would also like to add a vocalist or two to our Worship Team. Beginning in September, the Worship Team practices on Sunday mornings at 9:30 A.M. We will also be playing off and on during the summer 9:30 A.M. worship service, so if you'd like to give it a try, the summer would be a great time to do so.

## HELP WITH THE SOUND/AV TEAM

If you can follow a few instructions and have some computer knowledge, you can be on our Sound/AV Team. We have about four dedicated members who run the sound and audiovisual equipment at our two worship services, but it would be helpful to have more people trained. We invite men and women, age 16 and older, to join our team. You are typically only scheduled about once per month so it's not time consuming. Speak with Jenn McClure or Jane Livingston for more information.

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Presbyterian Women's Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, June 8 at 2 P.M. in the conference room next to the Pastor's study. We will be discussing *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel Brown. If you are a woman of the church, you are invited to join us!



# SUMMER BIRTHDAYS

Send some unexpected birthday love this summer to our beloved members.

June 3	Charlie Fink
June 7	Frank Ziek
June 20	Marge Campbell
August 3	Dave Randall
August 7	Shirely Hamilton
August 13	Marth Randall



If you or a loved one would like to be included, please forward the pertinent information to the church office at: 814-725-8641 or [office@fpcne.org](mailto:office@fpcne.org). Thank you!

**BRING IN YOUR GARDEN FLOWERS.** As spring and summer flowers begin to bloom, please consider signing up to bring in a FRESH CUT BOUQUET from your garden to add the beauty of God's creation to our sanctuary. We have lots of vases on hand. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the office.



**COFFEE HOUR GOODIES NEEDED** We are in need of snacks and goodies for our Coffee Hour. As you are able, please consider bringing any kind of cookies, quick breads, cupcakes, donuts, pies, coffee cake, etc. Also, please consider hosting the coffee hour. The signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside of the church office. Speak with Patti in the office if you have questions. Thank you in advance!



SERVICE SCHEDULES			
DATE	USHERS	READER	NURSERY
June 4	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Char Manison	Donna Banks
June 11	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern	Steve Seymour	Judy Schenker and Kitty Hurlburt
June 18	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Jeff Hinman	Steve & Beth Seymour
June 25	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Fred Lucore	Beth & David Poor
July 2	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Tom McClure	Doty Wagner and Jessica Albney
July 9	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern	Barb Zorzie	Bev & Al Walz
July 16	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Bob Murray	Carol Orton and Vivian Daughrity
July 23	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Vivian Daughrity	Dianne Tyler and Sophie
July 30	Jerry Weinheimer, Bob Murray, Tom Schenker, Evelyn Daughrity	David Poor	Jenny Haas and Gracie
August 6	Dave Meehl, John Wilcox, Roger Meehl, Dianne Tyler, Sophie Tyler	Becky Oyler	Peggy Walsh and Logan
August 13	Bob & Sandy Nelson, Ron Blosser, Al Mohnkern	Wanda Cochrane	Kathy Peterson and Terri Andrews
August 20	Vern & Kitty Hurlburt, Joe & Sue Spacht, Garrett Connors	Beth Poor	Katie Gallagher and Ali Nagle
August 27	Kathy & Lynn Peterson, Barb Blount, Steve Seymour, Cole Elkin	Evelyn Daughrity	Tom and Cathy McClure





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