



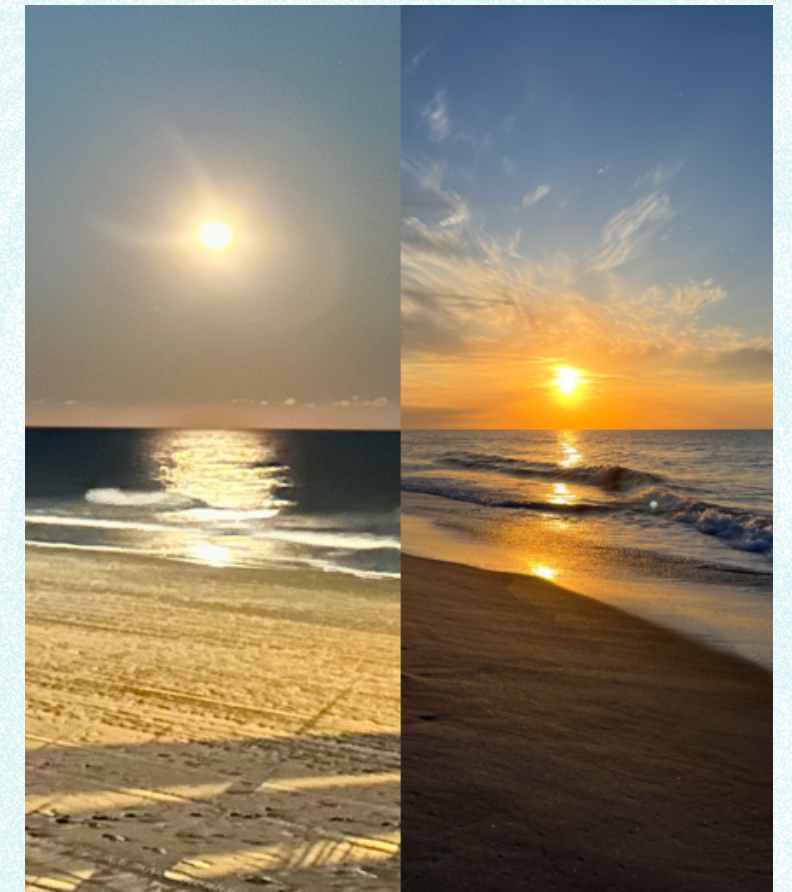
PASTOR'S CORNER — A Reflection or The Real Thing?

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. — 2 Corinthians 3:18

Last Friday was a full moon. I am always amazed to look outside in the middle of a clear night and see how bright it is during a full moon. The moon shines so brightly, it's hard to see the other stars in the sky, and sometimes it's almost bright enough to read a book. A few months ago, I was at the beach for the full moon and it almost looked like the sunrise (pictured on the left). The moon is glorious in its own right, but it is ultimately lacking and inadequate.

The light of a full moon pushes back the darkness of the night, but only partially. The light of the moon does not provide warmth, or life, or health. It might be enough to see by, but just barely. This is because the moon doesn't have any light of its own; it is not the source of its light. The light the moon provides is but a reflection of the real thing. An amazing reflection, a brilliant reflection, but a reflection nonetheless. I love the light of a full moon, but it doesn't compare to the real thing.

The sun, on the other hand, is the source of the light the moon reflects. When the sun rises, the dark is banished for as long as the sun is in the sky. It is the light of the sun that warms the earth, that enables plants and life to grow, that provides nutrients and vitamins that are essential for our health. Even the sunrise itself



Moonrise (left) and sunrise (right).
Photo credit: D.Garrison (left), M. Garrison (right)

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is degrees of beauty above and beyond that of the moonrise. One can look at a full moon, but to look upon the sun is to risk severe damage to your eyes. The glory of the sun is far beyond that of the moon. The light of the moon is pretty neat, but it's no substitute for the real thing.

There are many things that claim to be able to replace the light of the presence of God in our lives. Money, possessions, people, things, and much more. Some of those things are good and provide a pretty good reflection of God, but most of those things are cheap imitations that don't actually reflect God at all. Sometimes, because trying to look at the glory of God is as painful as trying to look directly at the sun, we'd rather have the reflection than the real thing. It's easier for me to look at what I believe *about* God rather than seek to be present *with* God. But, even if my beliefs and theology are perfect, they are a mere reflection of the glory of God. They cannot sustain, nourish, feed or warm my soul. Only

God can do that. Imagine how much more harmful it is for us to choose the false reflections, the idols that claim to be able to replace God in our lives. It's like trying to replace the sun with a flashlight.

This morning I sat outside on our deck reading my Bible and praying as the sun rose over my neighbor's house. A cool, almost chilly morning was instantly warmed, the dew almost immediately evaporating. I was struck by how often I choose the things of God instead of the presence of God, let alone the false idols that claim to imitate and reflect the warmth of God's presence over the real thing. Jesus Christ came and died so that we could behold the glory of the Lord directly. Don't settle for a poor imitation or reflection when the real thing is available to you. Seek the presence of the Lord and behold His glory, so that you may be transformed by Him.

Blessings,
Rev. David Garrison

Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

JULY 2024 MISSION FOCUS: DAYSTAR JUNIOR SCHOOL

We all know how important it is to invest in the next generation, and Daystar Junior School is doing just that. This school for children ages 3 to 15 years is located in the slum areas of Kirombe Uganda, East Africa. It is fully registered with the Ministry of Education Sports as a nursery and primary day school.

Founded in 2014, it opened its doors on February 2, 2015, with the vision "Raising children who are good examples." The school's mission is "To help our children discover, develop, release and maximize their potentials in God."

Our contact with the school is Jude Nyanzi, the school's founder and principal who is a man full of vision and determination. He often sends us pictures of the school and occasionally joins us

through the YouTube worship service, as well as in person to let us know how the school is thriving. Our donations from here in Central Virginia have helped to purchase uniforms for the students and provide materials so that they can build new desks.

We are excited to see the ways that God continues to use Daystar in the lives of these precious children, and we feel privileged to be able to help the school in their vital mission of raising children who "maximize their potential" for the Kingdom of God.

Construction of the "Northminster Wing" is well under way, but they need more support to finish the building. You'll find an update on construction progress later in the newsletter. All donations for Daystar will go toward completing this project.

Klothes 4 Kids

Northminster has been given the opportunity to help low income families in our area purchase affordable back-to-school clothing for their children. This is the 32nd year for this ministry and the first year that Northminster will be participating.

Families in need are referred to by elementary school principals in Lynchburg City and some Campbell, Amherst and Bedford County Schools. Over the past 31 years, new clothing has been provided to 9,762 children through this program.

In July invitations are sent to the families whose names have been provided through elementary school principals, guidance counselors and other area agencies. Parents must call back and set up an appointment time to "shop" for their children's clothes. This "sale" charges families \$5.00 per child which entitles them to purchase two sets of clothing for each of their elementary school children, which included two shirts, two pairs of jeans, socks, underwear, a backpack and school supplies. A small fee is charged for two reasons: 1) to help preserve the dignity of families by not perpetuating the prevalent "something for nothing" attitude (however, no family is turned away because they cannot afford the fee) and 2) to assist with the purchase of additional clothing.

All the clothes sold each year are provided by the members of local churches in Amherst Co., Bedford Co. and Lynchburg City. Each church is responsible for providing new clothing for a specific gender and size. Participating churches will drop off the clothing collected in their church at the sale site two weeks before the sale. During the two weeks that follow, clothing is sorted and prepared for the sale. Volunteers from area churches, both youth and adults, assist with the sale. Clothing is arranged on racks and tables, much like a regular department store.

All 6 elementary schools from Amherst County are included in this and individual families have been selected and notified if they are eligible. Randolph Memorial is the church that will be hosting the shopping spree for Amherst County during the first weekend in August.

Since this is our first year, we are only expected to bring five pairs of boys (size 10) jeans or joggers and 10 (size 10) underwear. I think donations will be the best way to handle this and then I will purchase the jeans/joggers and underwear. All of the clothing has to be turned in by Sunday, July 21st.

Thanks for your interest and monetary donations.



Congratulations, Class of 2024!

Your NEPC Family loves you and will be praying for you!

L to R – David Garrison, Brinna Midgley,
Dani Caplinger, Hunter Brightwell,
Jackson Moore, Karey Garrison
Not pictured – Cole Chapman, Colin Scruggs

HISTORIC FOUNDATIONS AND NEW SITUATIONS

By Rev. Bob Mills

A couple weeks ago, Marge and I spent a few days in Williamsburg with my brothers and their wives. The first morning, our first stop was the Capitol. It was early and the crowds were light, so it was just the six of us on the tour. Before we stepped inside, our guide asked: Is this the original building, or is it a reconstruction? My sisters-in-law immediately offered opposing answers. One of them was wrong. It's a reconstruction.

The present building is the third Capitol to stand on this site. The first two, completed in 1705 and 1753 respectively, were destroyed by fire. The one we toured opened to the public in 1934. It was an early part of the restoration efforts that resulted in what we now call Colonial Williamsburg.

As we were led through the various rooms and learned the purposes they had served, I was intrigued by the idea of constructing a new building on an old foundation. Even though we live in an age when recycling resembles a religion, I don't think I'd ever thought about erecting a new structure on an historic foundation. I quickly learned that others had.

The New Testament uses both the literal and figurative senses of the word "foundation." Jesus uses it literally in speaking of the wise man who laid the foundation of his house on a rock (Luke 6:48). Physically illustrating a spiritual truth, Paul writes:

For we [Paul and Apollos] are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 3:9-11)

You may remember these verses from our recent sermon series on I Corinthians. Here Paul is addressing immature Christians who already are ignoring the foundation of their congregation, "which is Jesus Christ." For reasons rooted and grounded in pride, they had begun ranking their importance in the ecclesiastical hierarchy by identifying themselves with one or another individual who had built on that foundation. They were effectively reducing the First Church of Corinth to the new wing on the education building; to the homeless shelter they had built a few blocks down and over from the sanctuary; to the mission projects they had funded in strange and foreign lands such as Ephesus and Galatia.

As I thought about Williamsburg and Corinth, about historic foundations and new situations, I also thought about Northminster. Folks in Williamsburg who had seen the Capitol's foundation laid in 1701, must have mourned its destruction in 1747. In 1753, when the new Capitol was completed on the original foundation, it served the same function as had its predecessor – but for only 17 years. In 1780, Governor Thomas Jefferson moved Virginia's capital to Richmond. He wanted to be sure the British navy couldn't blockade Virginia's capital city as it earlier had done with Boston, the capital of the Massachusetts Colony.

After the capital moved, the courtroom in Williamsburg's Capitol was used by the College of William and Mary to train students in its law school. I doubt that's what the 1701 builders had in mind. But I don't think teaching those who later would make and interpret the Commonwealth's laws is all that far removed from the founders original intent. And in its current incarnation, the newest Capitol continues to educate learners and future leaders.

Historic foundations. New situations.

Now and in the years to come, may you and I continue to pray for that which God, through his servants, will continue to build on the foundation we now call Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church.



LIFE TOGETHER

Keeping in touch with one another

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

7 Don Hedrick
11 Henry Sechler
29 Margie Seal



JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

Gerald & Sharon Bryant, July 10, 1976
Ernie & Barbara Baker, July 14, 1973

PRAYER REQUESTS

*I sought the Lord, and He answered me;
He delivered me from all my fears.*

– Psalm 34:4

Several members have asked for prayers for needs that they'd prefer not to share publicly. Please lift up these prayers, knowing that God knows for whom you pray and what they need.

Karey Garrison is healing from outpatient surgery last month.

Remember others who cannot be with us in church: Pat Callahan, Arlene Horton, Margie Seal, Dot Stinnett, and Dolores Wright.

All active servicemen and women, law enforcement personnel, first responders.

Women's Book Club

Thursday, July 18, 11 AM @ Depot Grill

The Northminster Book Club will meet on Thursday, July 18th at 11:00 a.m. at Depot Grille in Lynchburg. We will enjoy lunch there and discuss the book, "Ellie and the Harpmaker" by Hazel Prior.

"Ellie and the Harpmaker" is a rich, heartwarming and charming novel that reminds us that sometimes we find love in the most unexpected places.

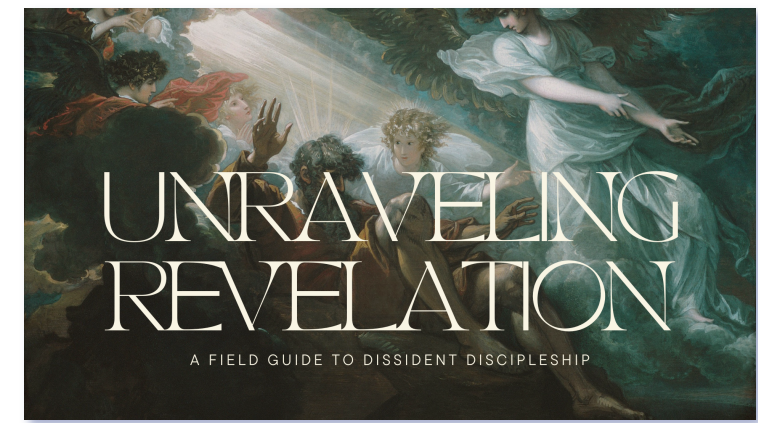
Dan Hollis lives a happy, solitary life carving exquisite Celtic harps in his barn in the countryside of the English moors. He can be himself, away from social situations he doesn't get right or completely understand.

On the anniversary of her beloved father's death, Ellie Jacobs takes a walk in the woods and comes across Dan's barn. She is

enchanted by his collection. Dan gives her a harp made of cherrywood to match her cherry socks. He stores it for her and offers her lessons whenever she is able to come.

Ellie begins visiting Dan almost daily and quickly learns that he is not like other people. He makes her sandwiches, precisely cut into triangles and repeatedly counts the seventeen steps of the wooden staircase to the upstairs practice room. Ellie soon realizes that Dan isn't just different; in many ways, his world is better, and he gives her a fresh perspective on her own life.

Read this delightful book and join us at Depot Grille on July 18th.

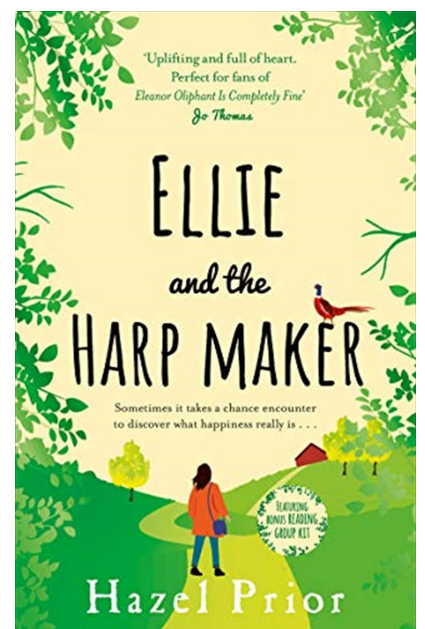


Sunday Mornings, 9 AM

If there's one book of the Bible that people have questions about or don't understand, it's the very last book, the Book of Revelation. It many respects, it is one of the most unique books in the entire Bible, bringing together all sorts of unusual imagery and confusing language. It's become quite popular to read it in such a way as to try to unlock the secrets to the future, but doing so actually robs the book of its true power and import. Revelation isn't so much about the future as it is a field guide to dissident discipleship in the here and now. Join us for Sunday School as we seek to Unravel Revelation.

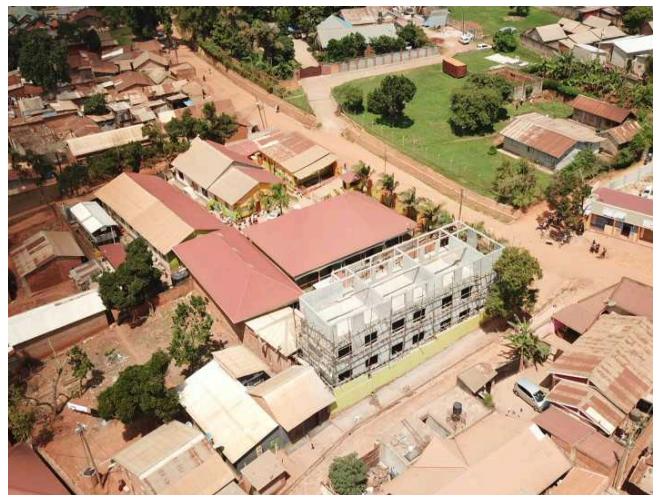
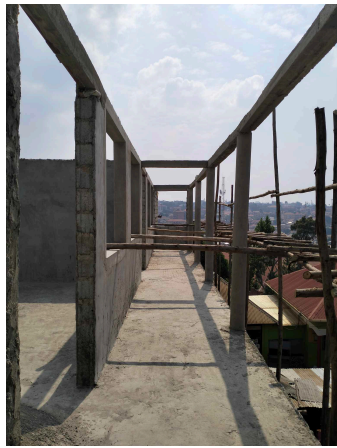
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2024 GENERAL FUND

	May	Year To Date
Income	\$8,976	\$51,732
Expenses	\$9,853	\$58,102
Balance	\$ -877	\$ -6,370



An Update on Construction at Daystar Junior School

Thanks to your donations last year, Daystar Junior School has begun construction on a new classroom building to be called the "Northminster Wing." Here are some pictures of the progress they are making.



Online Worship & Giving

Northminster has worked hard to take advantage of various online resources to help us stay connected. Our efforts have primarily focusing on helping you join us for worship on Sunday mornings through live-streaming the service, and providing ways for you to make your donations to church online. Here's a basic tutorial for these services.

Worshipping With Us Through YouTube

On a Phone or Computer

On any internet-connected device, go to www.npcmh.com/live to find our worship service. You *do not* need a Facebook account to access this. If you don't see the Live feed, refresh your browser to reload the page. We usually start the live stream about 5 minutes before the service begins, but we might be a little bit late every once in a while. You can also find it on YouTube by searching for "@npcmh".

If You Have a YouTube/Google Account

Make sure you subscribe to our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@npcmh) and set it to notify you whenever we go live, and YouTube will send you a notification when the service starts.

We do encourage you to watch the service on the largest screen you have available, to help give the sense of "being there." Many modern TVs allow you to "send" a video from your phone or laptop directly to the TV.

On A "Smart" TV, Roku device or Apple TV

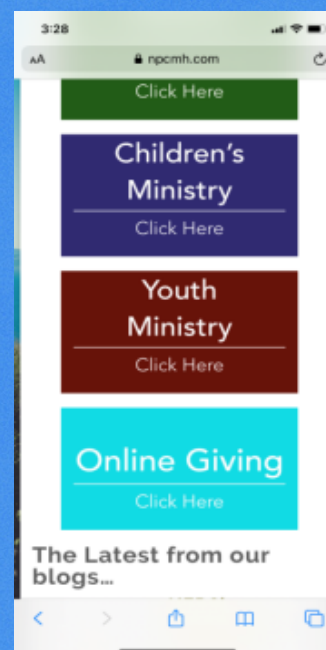
If you've purchased a TV in the past 5 years or so, most likely it is a "smart" TV that includes a variety of streaming services and apps. On those TVs, or if you have a Roku or Apple TV, you can open the YouTube app. You don't need a YouTube or Google account to use these apps, but it can make finding the service easier. If you need to search for it, go to the search tab and enter "npcmh."

Find the Bulletin Online Each Week

To assist your worship, the bulletin will be available on our website at www.npcmh.com/online-order-of-worship. This is formatted to work well on a computer, phone or tablet.

Donate Online Through tithe.ly

You can now make donations online! You can do this on a computer, phone or tablet. Simply go to our homepage, www.npcmh.com, and scroll down until you see the blue "Online Giving" button (pictured on the left). Tapping or clicking on it will send you to a secure donation page. Once there, you can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation. There is a small processing fee for each transaction, and you can choose to include those fees in your donation if you would like (otherwise the church absorbs those fees).



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