



January Grow Guide

THE NORTH CARROLL COOPERATIVE PARISH

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www.nccpumc.com

Order of Worship

January 7, 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(PSALM 98:2)

Leader: The Lord has declared victory,

People: **and has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations**

OPENING SONG(S)

"Holy Spirit, Come, Confirm Us"

UMH #331

*9: Song Set

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

CHILDREN'S TIME

ACT OF PRAISE

SCRIPTURE Acts 8:4-13

*11: Gloria Patri

UMH #70

MESSAGE

HOLY COMMUNION

UMH#12

OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

UMH #95

Text To Give: Grace: 443-292-5827 > GMount: 240-392-6990 > SJ: 240-696-8402

First time? text word "give" to number above - all others simply the amount to the number above

CLOSING SONG

"Become to Us the Living Bread" UMH #630

*9: Praise Song

SENDING PRAYER

Gracious God give us courage to follow the Holy Spirit's promptings to include ever widening circles of people. Open our eyes to see-and seize-opportunities to converse with people who have questions about life, faith and the Bible, and that we can use their questions to tell the good news. Amen.

BLESSING

*9:45 "Spirit Song"

UMH #347

January 7

Scripture and Questions

PRAYER

Gracious God give us courage to follow the Holy Spirit's promptings to include ever widening circles of people. Open our eyes to see-and seize-opportunities to converse with people who have questions about life, faith and the Bible, and that we can use their questions to tell the good news. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 8:4-13

Those who had been scattered moved on, preaching the good news along the way. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and began to preach Christ to them. 6 The crowds were united by what they heard Philip say and the signs they saw him perform, and they gave him their undivided attention. 7 With loud shrieks, unclean spirits came out of many people, and many who were paralyzed or crippled were healed. 8 There was great rejoicing in that city. 9 Before Philip's arrival, a certain man named Simon had practiced sorcery in that city and baffled the people of Samaria.

He claimed to be a great person. 10 Everyone, from the least to the greatest, gave him their undivided attention and referred to him as “the power of God called Great.” 11 He had their attention because he had baffled them with sorcery for a long time. 12 After they came to believe Philip, who preached the good news about God’s kingdom and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. 13 Even Simon himself came to believe and was baptized. Afterward, he became one of Philip’s supporters. As he saw firsthand the signs and great miracles that were happening, he was astonished.

Resource

Wright, N.T. *Acts (24 Studies for Individuals and Groups)*, 2011.

N.T. Wright’s book above is a great resource available in paperback and Kindle. The January Grow Guide includes some of his study questions and was used as a resource to develop our sending prayers. Check it out!

GROW QUESTIONS

Q1: What different circles or networks of people are you part of, and how did you become connected to them?

Q2: Samaria, the hilly part of the country between Judea and Galilee, was home to people whom the Jews on either side regarded with deep suspicion and hostility. The Samaritans kept to a form of Judaism but with significant elements changed. Given this background, what is remarkable about Philip's preaching and the response?

Q3: Why is Simon especially captivated by certain aspects of Philip's activity?

Q4: What additional circles or networks of people that you aren't already a part of (interest groups, ethnic groups, social groups, geographic groups, etc.) could you or your Christian community touch with the good news?

Order of Worship

January 14, 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(ISAIAH 60:1)

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come,

People: **and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.**

OPENING SONG

"I Surrender All"

UMH #354

*9: Song Set

CHILDREN'S TIME

ACT OF PRAISE

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

SONG OF PREPARATION

"Lord, I Want to be a Christian"

UMH #402

*9: Praise Song - *following message*

SCRIPTURE Acts 13:13-25

*11: Gloria Patri UMH #70

MESSAGE

OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

#UMH #95

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CLOSING SONG

"Go Forth For God" UMH #670

*9: Praise Song

SENDING PRAYER

Gracious God grant us wisdom to find ways to respond creatively to the cafeteria of spiritual options available to people these days. Show us how we can encourage each other to welcome new groups of people into our fellowship. Amen.

BLESSING

*9:45 "Spirit Song"

UMH #347

January 14

Scripture & Questions

PRAYER

Gracious God grant us wisdom to find ways to respond creatively to the cafeteria of spiritual options available to people these days. Show us how we can encourage each other to welcome new groups of people into our fellowship. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 13:13-25

Paul and his companions sailed from Paphos to Perga in Pamphylia. John deserted them there and returned to Jerusalem. 14 They went on from Perga and arrived at Antioch in Pisidia. On the Sabbath, they entered and found seats in the synagogue there. 15 After the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue leaders invited them, "Brothers, if one of you has a sermon for the people, please speak." 16 Standing up, Paul gestured with his hand and said, "Fellow Israelites and Gentile God-worshippers, please listen to me. 17 The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors. God made them a great people while they lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. With his great power, he led them out of that country. 18 For about forty years, God put up with them in the wilderness. 19 God conquered seven nations in the land of Canaan and gave the Israelites their land as an

inheritance. 20 This happened over a period of about four hundred fifty years. "After this, he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. 21 The Israelites requested a king, so God gave them Saul, Kish's son, from the tribe of Benjamin, and he served as their king for forty years. 22 After God removed him, he raised up David to be their king. God testified concerning him, 'I have found David, Jesse's son, a man who shares my desires. Whatever my will is, he will do.' 23 From this man's descendants, God brought to Israel a savior, Jesus, just as he promised. 24 Before Jesus' appearance, John proclaimed to all the Israelites a baptism to show they were changing their hearts and lives. 25 As John was completing his mission, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I'm not the one you think I am, but he is coming after me. I'm not worthy to loosen his sandals.'

GROW QUESTIONS:

Q1: It was customary in synagogue, following the reading of the law and the prophets, to allow visitors to give a fresh word of exhortation. The instant fellowship of Jewish people around the world and the ready acceptance of previously unknown visitors to public worship provided a natural context for Paul to announce the good news. How does Paul stress with these Jews the continuity of the story of Israel with the coming of Jesus?

Q2. Why might your church or Christian community resist including other groups that haven't been part of your fellowship before? What can be done to increase a spirit of openness?

Order of Worship

January 21, 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(John 1:14)

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

People: **and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

OPENING SONG

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

UMH #158

*9: Song Set

CHILDREN'S TIME

ACT OF PRAISE

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

SONG OF PREPARATION

"Spirit Song" UMH #347

* 9: Praise Song - *following message*

SCRIPTURE Acts 15:1-11

*11: Gloria Patri UMH #70

MESSAGE

OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

#UMH #95

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CLOSING SONG

"Here I Am, Lord" UMH #593

*9: Praise Song

SENDING PRAYER

Gracious God, we pray for grace and wisdom in settling arguments, whether ones we are directly involved or ones in which we are called to play the role of mediator. We pray for anyone with whom we are in conflict. AMEN.

BLESSING

*9:45 "Spirit Song"

UMH #347

January 21

Scripture & Questions

PRAYER

Gracious God, we pray for grace and wisdom in settling arguments, whether ones we are directly involved or ones in which we are called to play the role of mediator. We pray for anyone with whom we are in conflict. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 15:1-11

Some people came down from Judea teaching the family of believers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom we've received from Moses, you can't be saved." 2 Paul and Barnabas took sides against these Judeans and argued strongly against their position. The church at Antioch appointed Paul, Barnabas, and several others from Antioch to go up to Jerusalem to set this question before the apostles and the elders. 3 The church sent this delegation on their way. They traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, telling stories about the conversion of the Gentiles to everyone. Their reports thrilled the brothers and sisters. 4 When they arrived in Jerusalem, the church, the apostles, and the elders all welcomed them. They gave a full

report of what God had accomplished through their activity. 5 Some believers from among the Pharisees stood up and claimed, "The Gentiles must be circumcised. They must be required to keep the Law from Moses." 6 The apostles and the elders gathered to consider this matter. 7 After much debate, Peter stood and addressed them, "Fellow believers, you know that, early on, God chose me from among you as the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and come to believe. 8 God, who knows people's deepest thoughts and desires, confirmed this by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. 9 He made no distinction between us and them, but purified their deepest thoughts and desires through faith. 10 Why then are you now challenging God by placing a burden on the shoulders of these disciples that neither we nor our ancestors could bear? 11 On the contrary, we believe that we and they are saved in the same way, by the grace of the Lord Jesus."

GROW QUESTIONS

Q1: When have you seen a dispute among Christians settled in a Christlike way?

Q2: What is at stake in the Acts 15 controversy? What approach do the believers in Antioch decide to take to solve the issue? How does Peter present the case for his viewpoint (vv. 6-11)?

Q3: When you are Sharing Life, you will be tempted to get off track. What strategies could you use to limit distractions?

Order of Worship

January 28, 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(2 CORINTHIANS 4:6)

Leader: For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"
who has shone in our hearts

People: **to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ**

OPENING SONG

"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" UMH #462

*9: Song Set

CHILDREN'S TIME

ACT OF PRAISE

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

SONG OF PREPARATION

"Nothing Between" UMH #373

*9: Praise Song - *following message*

SCRIPTURE Acts 17:1-9

*11: Gloria Patri UMH #70

MESSAGE

OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

#UMH #95

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CLOSING SONG

"Freely, Freely" UMH #389

*9: Praise Song

SENDING PRAYER

Gracious God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will use us to be a channel for the knowledge of Christ. AMEN.

BLESSING

*9:45 "Spirit Song"

UMH #347

January 28

Scripture & Questions

PRAYER

Gracious God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will use us to be a channel for the knowledge of Christ. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 17:1-9

Paul and Silas journeyed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, then came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2 As was Paul's custom, he entered the synagogue and for three Sabbaths interacted with them on the basis of the scriptures. 3 Through his interpretation of the scriptures, he demonstrated that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. He declared, "This Jesus whom I proclaim to you is the Christ." 4 Some were convinced and joined Paul and Silas, including a larger number of Greek God-worshippers and quite a few prominent women. 5 But the Jews became jealous and brought along some thugs who were hanging out in the marketplace. They formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They attacked Jason's house, intending to bring Paul and Silas before the people. 6 When they didn't find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city officials. They were shouting, "These people who have been disturbing the

peace throughout the empire have also come here. 7 What is more, Jason has welcomed them into his home. Every one of them does what is contrary to Caesar's decrees by naming someone else as king: Jesus." 8 This provoked the crowd and the city officials even more. 9 After Jason and the others posted bail, they released them.

GROW QUESTIONS:

Q1: How would you describe the prevailing philosophy of the people around you? Or in the larger society?

Q2: Paul follows his normal practice in going to the synagogue, where he expounded the Scriptures. But this time there is a new note. Luke says that Paul was interpreting and explaining that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise again from the dead. What are the mixed results of Paul's preaching?

Order of Worship

February 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

(EPHESIANS 2:17-18, ALT.)

Leader: So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off
and peace to those who were near;

People: **for through him all of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.**

OPENING SONG

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" UMH #57

*9: Song Set

CHILDREN'S TIME

ACT OF PRAISE

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

SCRIPTURE Acts 26:24-29

*11: Gloria Patri UMH #70

MESSAGE

HOLY COMMUNION

UMH#12

OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

#UMH #95

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CLOSING SONG

"Turn My Eyes Upon Jesus" UMH #349

*9: Praise Song

SENDING PRAYER

Gracious God, we pray that our hearts will always be open to the Lord, that our ears and eyes will never be closed to you, and that he will be proclaimed openly as we live from day to day. Amen.

BLESSING

*9:45 "Spirit Song"

UMH #347

February 4

Scripture & Questions

PRAYER

Gracious God, we pray that our hearts will always be open to the Lord, that our ears and eyes will never be closed to you, and that he will be proclaimed openly as we live from day to day. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 26:24-29

At this point in Paul's defense, Festus declared with a loud voice, "You've lost your mind, Paul! Too much learning is driving you mad!" 25 But Paul replied, "I'm not mad, most honorable Festus! I'm speaking what is sound and true. 26 King Agrippa knows about these things, and I have been speaking openly to him. I'm certain that none of these things have escaped his attention. This didn't happen secretly or in some out-of-the-way place. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do." 28 Agrippa said to Paul, "Are you trying to convince me that, in such a short time, you've made me a Christian?" 29 Paul responded, "Whether it is a short or a long time, I pray to God that not only you but also all who are listening to me today will become like me, except for these chains."

GROW QUESTIONS:

Q1: As you have set about answering God's call and doing his will, what difficulties or obstacles have gotten in the way?

Q2: Some Christians have been taught that once they have faith everything thing ought to flow smoothly. What would Acts have to tell us about that?

Q3: How has God sustained and encouraged you in difficult times?

Q4: What are some opportunities for service which you might be overlooking looking right now?

Sharing Life - My 5



1. Write the names of the five people in your "neighborhood". If you're not sure what their names are, add a simple descriptor to distinguish them from the rest of your 5.
2. Add some relevant information about them. Include information about their occupations, hometowns, and favorite hobbies – anything to help you remember.
3. Keep your My 5 handy for a daily reminder to engage with your neighbors.
4. Use these **BLESS** practices and explore how you and your family can make a difference in the lives of your "neighbors":

Begin with prayer

Listen to your neighbors when you interact with them

Eat a meal together

Serve them during times of need

Story – Learn their story and share yours

5. As you get to know your neighbors, update your My Five with information that will help you BLESS them uniquely. Lifechange starts at your front door. Don't worry about being the "right" person to BLESS your neighbors – God has you where you are for a reason. That's the only qualification you need to begin living a life intent on answering God's call to love your neighbors as yourself.

NCCP At a Glance

- Confirmation Class; Jan 13, 15 and 27
- Retired & Wired; Jan 12; 10 a.m.
- Lunch Bunch; January 17; 1:30 p.m. at Pizza Hut, Hampstead
- Book Club; January 22; 10 a.m.
- Chili Cook-Off; January 28; 5 p.m. at Greenmount

Prayer Hotline

If you are in need of a prayer, contact the Care Hotline right away via phone or web

410-374-9400

nccpumc.com/care.

Electronic Giving

Visit www.nccpumc.com/give to learn about online, text and giving via our app. Its easy and secure.

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Location Specific Information

Grace

Volunteers for January

- Greeter: TBA
- Trustee: TBA
- Altar Flowers: TBA
- Readers: Youth

Lunch Bunch: Wednesday, January 17 at Pizza Hut, Hampstead

Greenmount

Readers:

- Jan 7: June Archibald
- Jan 14: Leonard Hanson
- Jan 21: June Miller
- Jan 28: Linda Broadfoot
- Feb 4: June Archibald

St. John's

Readers:

- Jan 7: 9 Keith Johnson; 11 Ken Paulin
- Jan 14: 9 Jimmy Thompson; 11 Karen Lord
- Jan 21: 9 Paul Gordon; 11 Linda Raver
- Jan 28: 7 Janet Vizkelety; 11 Ron Frankland
- Feb 4: TBA

Greeters:

- Jan 7: 9 Keith & Lois Johnson; 11 Ken Paulin
- Jan 14: 9 Jimmy and Shannon Thompson; 11 Karen Lord & Winnie Meredith
- Jan 21: 9 Gordon Family; 11 Janet Griffith
- Jan 28: 7 Janet & Shawn Vizkelety; 11 Judy Kelly
- Feb 4: TBA

**If you have info for the Weekend Update (Bulletin) please email to admin@nccpumc.com by Wednesday*

