

# GREENSTONE GAZETTE

Nottingham Presbyterian Church PC (USA)  
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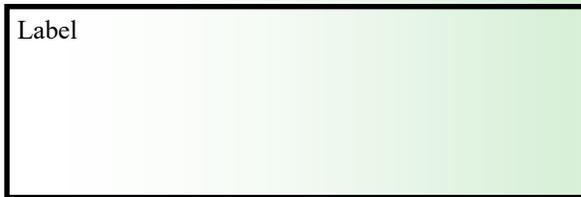
## July 2019

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We the people of Nottingham Presbyterian Church strive to be Christ-centered, friendly and faithful followers of Jesus Christ. We are called to surrender our individual desires in order to do God's will. We are led by God to be a light in this world by: • Bringing the love of Jesus to our community with an accepting, nurturing and compassionate environment. • Expanding our missions and worship experiences to meet the needs of the community and the world. • Passionately and enthusiastically developing opportunities for personal and spiritual growth. • Seeking to develop partnerships with local and global organizations in pursuit of God's vision.



Ordinary Time on the church calendar is the time not in other church “seasons” (like Advent or Lent) or days (such as Epiphany or Pentecost). Ordinary comes from the same root as “ordinal” meaning to count. In some Christian faiths these weeks are counted. In contrast to how we use ordinary in our daily language (as different from special) Ordinary Time in the church calendar is time when we can explore the mystery of God's gift of Jesus Christ in its fullest, rather than focusing on a particular aspect of God's revelation (such as the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection or the bestowing of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost). The color of ordinary time is green. The green reminds us to grow. Grow in our relationship to our Savior, grow in our church, grow in our response to God's call. In some traditions (including in some publications of the PCUSA) the term Ordinary Time has been changed to Sundays after Pentecost. To the modern mind, this solves the problem of suggesting any Sunday is less than special or as ordinary. Using the term Sunday after Pentecost reminds us that Pentecost is an ongoing season – we live in the season of Pentecost, the season of growing in the Spirit. Both terms have messages of hope and challenge and are equally applicable!



Bill Moore sharing his gift of song with John Steele, organist, during a recent worship service.

**Worship at 10am Sundays**

**Come and invite a friend!**

# Nottingham Presbyterian Church GREENSTONE GAZETTE

## July 2019 Pastoral Letter

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are having an interesting time in our garden this year. In May, I planted seeds from a packet that said I would be enjoying zucchini later in the summer. The picture on the package showed deep green zucchinis. The plants have been growing very well. Blossoms have been appearing. Now fruit has begun to form. Only the fruit is not long and thin. It is bulbous – and looks a lot like yellow squash! Now to some, squash is squash. However, I had looked forward to zucchini bread, grilled zucchini, fresh zucchini in salad, and the joy of passing along some zucchini to the local food bank! I know some of my friends may be thankful that they won't have to dodge me and my zucchini (I had plans that didn't include zucchini bombing!). I still don't know what happened – whether the packing plant made a mistake or I did. However, I am now looking up yellow squash recipes!



This did make me think about life – how so many things do not turn out to be what we expected. Sometimes we may wonder if someone switched the packages of the life we thought we were supposed to have. Life may be better, harder, or just somehow different from what we envisioned. We have a choice when that happens. We can spend our time lamenting that what we had planned did not occur, or we can seek God's help in learning how to deal with what is happening. If things are better, how do we share that blessing? If things are harder, how do we trust God to help us through, and what can we learn that will help us help others? If things are different, where are the sparks of creativity that inspire us to use the difference for God's glory?

The other interesting thing happening in our garden is that our blackberry patch. I had been bemoaning the small size of our blackberries the past couple of years. Our neighbor said just one word, "water." He then elaborated by saying blackberries need a lot of water. The blackberries I picked when I was a child in Florida apparently were of a different sort. They grew in the woods. They grew in the rocks near the train tracks. Neither place had an abundance of water. However, I started watering the patch twice a day (morning and evening). Lo and behold, our berries are getting bigger!

Sometimes we think something that worked in one place will automatically work in another. Sometimes it does, but often it does not. The soil is different; the climate is different; the bushes are different. We need to listen to one another to find out what might work best in any given situation – whether it is in the church, at work, at school, at home, in the community or the world. We need to turn to God for inspiration, for nurturing and feeding, for hope and vision. It is not enough to think we have learned about the faith and are now complete. The world changes and we change. Our amazing, creative God is steadfast in love and grace, but meets us where we are, in our need, so that we might become one with God. Lo and behold, we continue to grow in faith and understanding!

Let us be grateful that the Divine Gardener prunes, waters, and feeds us so that we can grow in relationship with God and with one another! God calls us to care for one another with the same divine tenderness. This is true whether or not the other is who we expected the person to be, whether the situations in which they or we find ourselves are ideal, whether rules are always followed. Let us build one another up, feed the hungry, bring good news to the poor, share water with the thirsty, and hope for the hopeless. Lo and behold, God's kingdom will grow!

In Christ's love, Merritt



The latest Church Directory is out. If you haven't picked one up, there should be one with your name on it.

***Nottingham Presbyterian Church -Expanding our missions and worship experiences to meet the needs of the community and the world.***

# Nottingham Presbyterian Church GREENSTONE GAZETTE

## July Volunteers

### Readers:

7 Bill Moore  
14 Dar Gray  
21 Gerry Davis  
28 Lizzy Dewees

### Greeters:

7 Roger and Kay Moran  
14 John and Marlene Lloyd  
21 Kim and Ed Squires  
28 John and Anna Durban

### Deacon of the month:

Dave Pohlig

### Communion Servers:

#### July 7

Dave Pohlig  
Ruth Ann Sumner  
Jerry Jackson  
Becky Reiber

### Communion Prep Team:

Joyce and Jerry Jackson



Food drive for Devine Sent Food Cupboard is mid July to August. Remember sugar free and low sugar items. Deacons are also asking for snacks, crackers, juice boxes, fruit snacks in addition to the usual staples.



**Above:** Martk Roney getting chicken packed.

**Below:** Belle Squires packing take out trays.  
Great Chicken BBQ!



## FROM The Presbytery of **DONEGAL**

Do you like to hammer or paint, or do other fix-it jobs? The Presbytery of Donegal has accepted a proposal from Mike Wills, elder at Donegal Presbyterian Church to look into the possibility of creating a construction/rehab team for doing repairs for persons who cannot do them for themselves or who do not have the funds to do them. Mike has been part of a program from Donegal PC which has sent teams to upstate New York for years doing this kind of work. Donegal PC will continue that mission but realized that there are people within our presbytery bounds who might also need this kind assistance. If you interested, especially if you can help create the necessary structure for making this ministry sustainable, call Mike Wills at 717-439-6393 or email him at



Pastor Merritt was among many Teaching Elders (Pastors) recognized for years of service. She celebrates 35 years of Ordination on July 1. Congratulations Merritt!!

## Community Happenings:

### Oxford Movies in the Park:

Friday July 19 "Incredibles 2"  
Oxford Memorial Park 8:30pm—10:30pm  
Friday August 16 "Coco"

### Connective Festival—August 3 10a-10p

The Connective Festival is a fundraising benefit for Oxford Mainstreet and the Oxford Arts Alliance. Funds raised will go to support the revitalization efforts in Downtown Oxford and help support art and music classes for over 160 students weekly. The festival is for all ages. Tickets **at the event** are \$10 (kids under 5 free) which gives you access to all festival activities and performances. <https://www.connectivefestival.org> for more information about events at the festival.

### Pancake and Omelet Breakfast

By our friends at Shiloh  
Presbyterian Church  
Saturday July 13  
8:30—10am  
At their Community  
Outreach Center  
Tickets at the door:  
Adults—\$7  
Child (4-11) - \$5  
3 and under free

**Our Website: Nottinghampc.org**

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## In case you missed it:

We don't usually put sermons in the newsletter, they're printed out for our shut-ins and those that want a copy. The copies quickly disappeared June 2<sup>nd</sup> after Pastor Merritt shared this guidance and prayer during her sermon. I thought I'd share it with all of you – Nina Hansen

From the sermon:

The way forward will not always be easy. It may be difficult at times to see God at work. We will find it hard to focus on going in God's direction when we cannot always see the end. But there is hope!

This prayer by Thomas Merton may help:

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me, I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will, does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You, does in fact please You. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. And I know that if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, although I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and will never leave me to face my perils alone." (Taken from Meditation prayers, Northumbrian Community, words by Thomas Merton)

## Deacons Doings

- The Deacons raised \$903 from the Chicken BBQ!
- Thanks for the Fathers' Day gifts!
- Next food drive—Mid July to August



**Thank you to our Sunday School Teachers!**  
Connie Lewis, Tenille Dewees and Ruth Ann Sumner during teacher appreciation June 2.

*Bringing the love of Jesus to our community with an accepting, nurturing and compassionate environment.*

## Back to School Fair News!

The Back to School Fair is the biggest mission Nottingham Presbyterian Church organizes. We put together about 950 backpacks for Oxford School District, distributed free for students in need.

## You are invited to participate in this mission! Ways to help:

Work at Oxford's First Friday in July and August to raise awareness of the fair.—see Tenille Dewees

Help with stuffing backpacks August 17 at the church

- [Backpack stuffing sign up here](#)

Help with set up of the fair, August 23

- [Set up sign up here](#)

Help with the fair August 24

[Fair volunteer sign up here](#)

Help with consignment sale

[Consignment volunteer sign up here](#)

## There is NO Stuff the Bus date this year:

In past years, we have set up a "bus" in front of Walmart to gather donations of school supplies and get the word out about the Back to School Fair. This year there wasn't a date that fit. **We have to gather supplies in addition to getting the word out to our families that benefit from the fair.** Consider using your networking contacts to help us (friends, clubs, etc)

