

The Quarterly Journal



The Mids: The Hotel California of Newnan Presbyterian Church

by Greg Shivers

Launched in 2021 as a young adults' group, The Mids (affectionately known as "The Hotel California of NPC") has evolved into a unique and inclusive community for those navigating life between high school graduation and senior adulthood. Unlike traditional groups that are geared specifically toward various demographics or interests, The Mids is designed to meet people where they are: whether that's single, married, child-free, parenting, newly relocated, or figuring out what's next.

This group isn't defined by a specific life stage or checklist. Instead, we come together around shared values: friendship, faith, laughter, and a sense of belonging. Some of us are flying solo, others are raising kids, and some are somewhere in between. What we have in common is a desire for connection.

We gather on the last Tuesday of each month at rotating locations around town. Our time together includes fellowship, Bible study, and a variety of fun, casual activities tailored to the group's interests. There's no pressure, no perfect attendance required, just real people who want to do life together.

As the song Hotel California says, "You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave." Our "Hotel California" group captures the idea of a space that feels warm, inviting, and almost charmingly inescapable. It signals that once you become part of our group, you'll feel at home. So, if you've ever felt like you're in a transitional or undefined phase of life and want a place to grow in faith while sharing laughs and making friends, this is the group for you. Come join us for faith, fun, and friendship. For more information, please contact the Church Office at npcadmin@newnanpres.org.

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NPC Life Events

Marriages:

Catharine Williams & Brennon Cox, married May 24, 2025

Dan Davis & Reagan Herring, married May 28, 2025

Anniversaries:

Jane & Bill Berry celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May of 2025

Melanie & Ed Atkinson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July of 2025

Births:

Robert Stephen (Bo) Liebe, born June 22, 2025 to Leanne & Chris Liebe

Olivia Kathy Kantorczyk, born July 26, 2025 to Andrea & Nicholas Kantorczyk

Deaths:

Charles Wadsworth died May 29, 2025

New Members



New members Carlos
& Sonja Heard



New members Danielle &
Steffan Langhoff



New member Patti Kearns

Not pictured: New member Cheryl Peak

Reflections on Guatemala

The NPC team arrived in Guatemala on June 13 with open hands and hopeful hearts. We mixed cement, carried blocks, and built more than just walls - we built a lasting connection with some of the sweetest people you could ever meet. These journal entries offer glimpses of the team's journey.

Guatemalans treat all people like equals. They love their babies like they love their elderly. Teachers and textile workers, pastors and pastry makers - they are all the same in the eyes of Guatemalans. They love like Jesus loves.
— Ana Gascón Ivey

God's love is present for everyone here and the power of family and community is strong. The people here always find the good in everything.
— Jessie Davis

All women wear the typical (traditional) dress. In Chichi we saw young girls, teenagers, middle-aged women, and grandmothers all dressed in beautiful colors.
— Melanie Smith

Love your neighbor means having compassion even if your neighbor is in another country.
— Owen Davis

Guatemalan women carry their children everywhere. There's always a baby or toddler on their backs. The men don't carry children. ¡Las chicas gobiernan! (Chicks rule!)
— Laney Jones

Guatemalans are smart, creative, hard-working, and able to do so many things - from creating beautiful fabrics with homemade looms to building houses. They love to celebrate with music and fireworks. You can feel their love and joy!
— Dr. Kay Crosby

You know you're in Guatemala when ... the work is accomplished without words, understanding arrives across the language barrier.
— Rev. David Jones

Outreach: Faith in Action

A Legacy of Love & Service at NPC

by Dale Bowers, Outreach Elder

As I conclude my tenure as the Outreach Elder for Newnan Presbyterian Church, my heart is full of gratitude and immense pride for the extraordinary community we have fostered within our church – a community that tirelessly supports the broader Newnan area. Stepping into this role post-pandemic, the call to revitalize, rejuvenate, and rebuild our Outreach program was clear. It was a time to re-evaluate our purpose and amplify our impact.

Drawing upon my background as a nurse, I found a powerful framework in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. This foundational psychological theory posits a five-tier model of human needs, with the most basic physiological requirements at the bottom. Only when these foundational needs are met can individuals progress to higher-level pursuits. These needs, from bottom to top, are physiological needs (food, water, shelter), safety needs (security, health), love and belonging needs (friendship, family), esteem needs (self-worth, achievement), and finally, self-actualization needs (reaching one's full potential).

This model became our compass. By understanding the fundamental needs of our community, and recognizing the deep involvement of our own congregational members in various local non-profits, we strategically focused our outreach efforts on nine vital organizations. These partnerships represent a holistic approach to community well-being, addressing needs across Maslow's hierarchy.

Nourishing the Foundation: Physiological Needs

At the very base of Maslow's pyramid are physiological needs. Bridging the Gap and One Roof stand as pillars in our community, providing essential food and resources to those facing hunger and insecurity. Our church's commitment to these fundamental needs is evident every Wednesday, when a dedicated group of our members meticulously prepares grocery bags, which are then distributed, again by our members, to families in need of groceries for the week. This hands-on involvement ensures that our community members have access to the most basic necessities for survival.

During the summer months, school is out and the usual safety net for many children is not available, the summer lunch program steps in. Congregants joyfully, and sometimes playfully, gather to make sack lunches, then head to CJ Smith Park to distribute them. This vital initiative ensures that children who rely on school lunches during the academic year do not go hungry when school is out.

Ensuring Well-being: Safety Needs

Moving up the hierarchy, safety needs encompass health and security. The Coweta Samaritan Clinic (now including a much-needed dental clinic) and Coweta FORCE are cornerstones of our community's healthcare safety net. By serving the underinsured, these clinics make essential medical, dental care, and addiction services accessible to everyone, ensuring that healthcare is not a privilege but a right. Our church's support for these organizations reflects our commitment to the well-being and security of all our neighbors.

Cultivating Connection & Care: Love & Belonging Needs

Love and belonging are intrinsic to human flourishing. Angel's House provides emergency shelter to girls in foster care, offering a safe haven and a sense of family when it is most needed. Hope Global provides invaluable after-school programs, creating a safe and enriching environment for children in our Chalk community. They are dedicated to inspiring, equipping, and empowering underserved families to develop their own solutions to the challenges they face. These organizations foster a sense of community and belonging, crucial for healthy development.

Furthermore, the Newnan Coweta Humane Society and CORRAL address the unique needs of families with furry members and individuals with disabilities. Anyone who has loved a pet understands the profound bond and healing power they can offer, especially during difficult times. The Newnan Coweta Humane Society not only works tirelessly to protect the less fortunate among our pet population but also provides food and other pet needs to those struggling to care for their animal companions. CORRAL extends this compassionate outreach to those with disabilities, further enriching our community's web of support.

I vividly recall a time when our Coweta County Pound was tragically located at the local dump – a dire situation that underscored the urgent need for advocacy and action. Through the tireless support and dedicated members of our community, our Humane Society has become a strong and vital force, continuously advocating for the pet population of our community. This transformation is a testament to the power of God-centered, dedicated, loving, and devoted groups and individuals working to make our community a better place.

Building Self-Worth: Esteem Needs

The act of giving and serving also cultivates esteem, both for those receiving help and for those providing it. At Christmas, our youth engage in a truly impactful activity: they shop for a family selected by the Christmas in Coweta program, a family in need of a bit of help during the holiday season. This experience teaches our youth not only how to stretch a dollar and be responsible consumers, but also instills a profound sense of mindfulness – appreciating what we have and understanding what we truly need. This hands-on service builds self-worth and compassion within our youngest members.

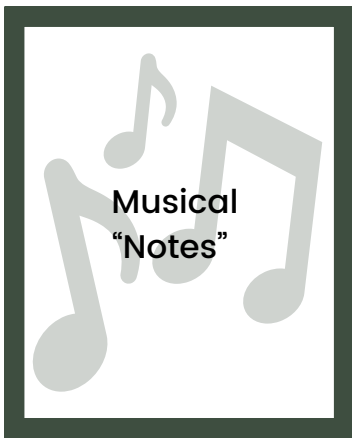
Reaching Full Potential: Self-Actualization Needs

While perhaps less direct, the collective impact of all these efforts ultimately paves the way for self-actualization. When basic needs are met, and individuals feel safe, loved, and valued, they are empowered to pursue their potential. Our support of these non-profits creates an environment where more individuals have the opportunity to thrive and reach their fullest capabilities.

A Church Leading the Way: Faith in Action

These non-profit organizations are undeniably vital to our community, and they simply cannot function without the unwavering help of donations and volunteers. As a church, Newnan Presbyterian is not just participating; we are leading the way in our community, embodying what it truly means to be a servant, putting our faith into tangible action.

Our church community does not hesitate to show up and provide whatever is needed to help those in need. This deep-rooted commitment to service reflects our core beliefs and a testament to the incredible spirit of our congregation. It is through these acts of love and compassion that we continue to do God's work, building a stronger, more supportive, and more compassionate community for all. As I conclude my time as Outreach Elder, I am filled with hope and confidence that this legacy of faith in action will continue to flourish at Newnan Presbyterian Church for generations to come.



Montreat Music & Worship 2025

by Cliff Brock

The Montreat Music and Worship Conference 2025 was a great success. First off, I'd like to thank the NPC Endowment Grant and the Theron Welch Music Fund for allowing 5 of us from NPC to attend the conference. This paid our tuition, housing in the dorms, and all our meals.

Cliff: This was my 3rd pilgrimage to Montreat. Of all the classes and experiences, I would have to say my favorite aspect of the conference were the Worship Services, which were held Monday through Friday at 11:00 am. It's quite a thing to simply listen to nearly 1000 people singing hymns in that rich acoustic environment. Tom Trenney, the guest musician, is also one of the most creative and talented organists I've ever encountered. He literally shook the rafters. He's also a deeply calm and spiritual person who often cites Mr. Rogers as a primary influence. The Routley Lecturer this year was Ana Hernandez. She's a composer and musician from New York City and creates simple, but achingly beautiful chants. She's also just one of those people who has a "presence", both calming and provocative, in a good way.

Lastly, I love being in the mountains of Western North Carolina. The landscape is rich with unique plants, gushing streams, and plenty of cardio

opportunities, like climbing hills! Our accommodations in the dorms were austere, no frills, but I actually liked it a lot. I think it's rejuvenating to strip away luxuries and comforts, and just live, for a while, with the bare essentials.

Beginning on September 7 with "Prayer for Humanity" the bell choir will play special music once a month. In January, we have planned a piece that will accompany soloist Taj Stephens, who has often contributed to our worship with his beautiful voice.

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Sonja: This was my first time attending the Music and Worship Conference at Montreat. I also really enjoyed the worship services. Our schedules were a bit hectic, but I found daily worship to be quite restorative. Our guest choir director was very strict and rigid, and words like "Dragon Lady" and "Cruella" were mentioned. But by midweek, the spirit of the place got to her and she mellowed out. If given the opportunity, I'd attend again!

Lalla: The Worship and Music conference at Montreat never fails to exceed my expectations, and

Praise Through Music

by Lalla McGee

- 3 Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
- 4 Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
- 5 Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
- 6 Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord! (Psalm 150: 3-6 NRSV)

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 6 from 5:30-6:30 and will continue through May.

If you can read music and are interested in possibly learning to ring, please reach out to Lalla, Cliff, or anyone in the choir, or feel free to visit a rehearsal. We will welcome you with open arms!



NPC Montreat Music & Worship Participants: Lalla McGee, Sonja Heard, Jennifer Pike, Kristine Pike, & Cliff Brock

the 2025 second week was no exception. My primary purpose for attending is to learn more about handbells, and this year was absolutely great. Brenda Austin was the clinician, and the music she chose was both challenging and beautiful. Her technique instructions during each session were really good. We learned that she provides online training for different handbell techniques, and I will make use of those for our ringers.

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I also thoroughly enjoyed the Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs sessions provided by Nancy Graham, who actually wove Erik Routley into most of her discussions. I have very strong opinions about hymns, and she helped me think a bit differently. And since I'm also a singer, the 5 days of the "Vocal Skills for Choral Singers" sessions, presented by Elizabeth Arnold, were interesting and helpful to me. Newnan Presbyterian should plan to send musicians to this conference every year and put funding in the music budget for it. I will be able to use everything I learned while at the conference in my role at NPC.

Jennifer: Music has always been a balm for my soul. No matter how weary or tired, music heals me in a way. The theme for our week at Montreat was *Clothed in Love*. Everywhere we went the theme of being clothed in love was shining through. Wednesday was probably the most memorable day for me. The week fell over a difficult time for me. The theme for the day was *Clothed in Humility*. They had a little momento you could add to your person based on the daily theme. For that particular day it was a bandaid for Healing and Wholeness. Wednesday fell on the anniversary of the loss of a friend, so I was feeling raw and unbalanced. I had the opportunity to participate in worship with Dance. For me, that day, dancing to *Shall We Gather At The River* was a prayer. We (the dancers) carried and danced with fabric (a Visual for a river) before leaving it for the congregation to place prayers in. My soul was aching. The whole service left me feeling so much more whole and seen. My second favorite thing about the week was a song writing and poetry class I had the pleasure of taking. We were asked to write a praise poem about ourselves. It took me quite some time to write something that felt like both a representation of myself and my feelings. I have so many things I could say, but I will end it here with my poem:

"There was Silence, stillness, and tears.
Rivers of colors swirling around.

The sound of leaves, the sound of rain.
The sound of laughter and of pain.
A river rushing through the heart.
A road going ever, ever on.

Strong and tall I stand.
Ever changing as the sea.
With joy and pain I grow.
I am the path walked and unexplored.
I am strong."
(Untitled)

Kristine: I've attended music-related conferences before, but not as an adult and not with the Presbyterian church, so our week at Montreat for the PAM Worship & Music Conference was a mixture of new experiences and nostalgia. Not only did I get to explore beautiful Montreat for the first time, but we also had the opportunity to learn more about the traditions of our faith through classes and workshops, to sing in a mass choir, and to participate in daily worship. The theme "*Clothed in Love*" could have been more tangibly communicated, as all week long we were surrounded by sacred music and fellow musicians of every age and from every walk of life. That many people together, all joining in song at one time and in one space, is one of the most powerful spiritual experiences I know, and I left creatively inspired, spiritually enriched, and musically fulfilled. In short, this week was exactly what I didn't know I needed, and I'm already looking forward to next year!



Honoring Our History, Planning for the Future by the Strategic Planning Ministry

In 2028, Newnan Presbyterian Church will celebrate its bicentennial. As we approach that milestone, we will be moving forward with repairs from the 2021 tornado and with projects identified by the property ministry prior to that time. Recently, the church received an insurance settlement of \$410,447.29 for tornado damage. This is estimated to be about a third of the total needed to make those repairs -- including major roof work and restoration of plaster work in the sanctuary.

Projects identified prior to the tornado were:

- making changes to the chancel that will focus on accessibility and functionality while retaining the chancel's majestic beauty. The changes will enable more Newnan Presbyterian members to participate in various aspects of worship.
- repairing the stained glass windows, which will add 30 percent more clarity and brightness to the sanctuary.
- repairing the 15-bell chimes that have been in the church tower since 1924.
- replacing the organ.
- other projects including some painting and repairs, work on the audio system, refinishing of the pews and flooring in the sanctuary and replacement of the pew cushions.

In addition, the Session made a decision to tithe pledges to this project. A total of \$134,000 is committed to Coweta Samaritan Clinic as part of this overall effort. If you have questions, ideas or concerns, please contact Bob Coggin, Chair of the Strategic Planning Ministry; John McGee, Chair of the Property Ministry; or Jacob Story, Clerk of the Session.

Newnan Presbyterian School's Biggest Cheerleader Retires as Board Chair

by Janet Flanigan

When we decided to move to Newnan almost 30 years ago, I made sure I enrolled our sons Keegan and Sean in the Newnan Presbyterian Preschool (now Newnan Presbyterian School) because I heard it was the BEST. We had not even purchased our farm yet, but there was a waiting list and I knew we wanted our boys to be educated there.

In fact, Sean was taught in pre-K 2's our own Ms. Barbara Kookogey, who has been the Director of Newnan Presbyterian School for 25 years now (34 years with the school). She brought NPS from a preschool to a Pre-K through 5th grade school, through the desire and request of parents during the public-school shutdowns of the COVID years. Our school continues to be voted "Coweta's Best" by the readers of Newnan Coweta Magazine year-after-year.

I have always had such a happy feeling walking in to Newnan Presbyterian School, remembering the wonderful education that our boys received at the school and its affiliation with our church home. When Pastor David and Barbara approached me over three years ago about heading up the Board of Directors for the school, I chuckle at the recollection. As David put it at the time "We need a cheerleader for the school." They could not have found a better one than in me. However, I heard "cheerleader," not "chairman." To me, those were two different things!

I am full of cheer, yet do not always see myself as the business leader, as in "head of the table," banging the gavel. But God showed me the way, only with the assistance of an INCREDIBLE Board of Directors. For the first time in many years, Barbara and the school were truly supported by our church and board. We brought on a Deacon and an Elder to work with the supplies to students. Our board attended school functions. We have had church members volunteer at the school. Pastor David, Andrea, and Cliff are ministering to our students as never before. We are providing outreach to our families and providing Christian love in the truest sense.

When our family attended NPP, the school was primarily made up of NPC member families. Now, the opposite is true. The Board, church and school strive to provide the most solid educational experience in a loving, Christian environment while offering an opportunity for families to come experience worship with us at NPC. It has been an honor to serve as the Board Chairman. As I pass the Chairmanship to the much more capable hands of Marianne Richardson, I thank you for entrusting me with this opportunity.



Mark your calendars for the
10th annual Tour of Homes!
December 5, 2025, 4-9pm

by Jill Green

The Newnan Christmas Tour of Homes was started many years ago as a fundraiser for the Women's Auxiliary of Newnan Hospital. In 2016, the Hospital Auxiliary decided to move in a different fundraising direction and Newnan Presbyterian School took over the much-loved event and Christmas tradition. The Newnan Christmas Tour of Homes is a once-a-year event where residents open their beautiful homes all decked out in their Christmas finest for guests to tour and enjoy.

The tour showcases different historic home styles as well as modern ways to reside downtown such as townhomes off the square, condos like the Newnan Views, in addition to local Airbnb's. Each year Newnan Presbyterian School pairs with a local non-profit sharing 10% of the tour proceeds with the non-profit recipient. Some past non-profit tour partners are Can't Never Could, Angel's House, Child Connect Museum, and the Newnan History Center.

2025 celebrates the 10th anniversary of Newnan Presbyterian School hosting the Newnan Christmas Tour of Homes. This year's event will take place on Friday, December 5, 2025, from 4:00pm-9:00pm featuring homes in Newnan's College-Temple Historic District. Headquarters is located in Barrow Hall at Newnan Presbyterian Church where guests will find will call, ticket sales, and refreshments. Complimentary shuttles are available to transport guests to and from headquarters to the homes in the College-Temple District. This year Newnan Presbyterian School is proud to partner with Coweta Force as our local non-profit recipient. The Newnan Presbyterian School administration and staff along with our parents, church and community members, and local high school students, making up our 200+ volunteers, invite you to join us on December 5th as you tour Newnan's beautiful historic homes to kick off your family's Christmas Season.

CARE Group Alert: Women's Evening Bible Study Launches in September

One of our monthly CARE Groups is rebranding! The Women's Evening Bible Study, formerly known as Sisters of Service Circle, will begin September 9, meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Hannah Fellowship Classroom (unless otherwise noted.)

This group of adult women will undertake the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study entitled, "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." (Books are available from the Church Office.) The class will dive into finding resilience and joy in the midst of stressful life circumstances. By reconnecting to our spirituality, following women in the Bible, and studying Jesus' witness, we can discover a path that helps us fully embrace and celebrate who we are as faithful disciples. Gwyn Kozma facilitates the group.

For more information, contact the Church Office at npcadmin@newnanpres.org.

New Sunday School Class

Please join us in welcoming our newest addition to the Sunday School hour - the Young Adult Class! This class is led by Andrew Moody, and meets weekly in Barrow Hall at 9:00am on Sundays. For more information, please contact the Church Office at npcadmin@newnanpres.org



Looking Ahead to Advent

Advent 1: November 30 | Worship 10:00 am
 Advent 2: December 7 | Worship 10:00 am
 Advent 3: December 14 | Joy Gift Service (10:00 am) & Luncheon (11:15 am)
 December 17 | 6:00 pm | Service of Healing
 Advent 4: December 21 | 10:00 am
 Christmas Eve Services | 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm



New Member Sunday & 5th Sunday Lunch | August 31

As is our new custom, we will receive new members into the fellowship of Newnan Presbyterian Church on Sunday, August 31. If you are interested in joining, please contact the Church Office. Following worship this Sunday, we will gather for lunch in Barrow Hall at 11:15 am. Lunch is provided!