



NEW RIDGE FELLOWSHIP

QUARTERLY

September - November 2024

Issue 2

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A KENNEDY CENTER EXPERIENCE

- Pastor Daniel Mojica (Danielm@newridgefellowship.com)

"There is no place where our Lord cannot take us." On a weekly basis, our choir members experience the bond of community and bringing alive the word of the Psalmist who stated, "Sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord" (Psalms 96.) Every Thursday, they gather to practice and pray that their songs will bring comfort and conviction to everyone who hears the singing of our choir and our church families. We gather every week to practice and dig into the word. Our work brings us into the throne room where we experience the presence of Jesus. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we pray and bond. It is truly a team atmosphere where everyone understands their roles. It is humbling and rewarding to watch the group bond as they grow in faith and service.



"It was an amazing and God-filled experience for me." - Laura Turner

"The Kennedy Experience was a day I will never forget. As much as we try to tell those who couldn't experience it, we just can't do it justice. Watching the reaction of the audience, the presence of God was clearly apparent. The appreciation for the service given by our veterans and the love for this great country filled that room. All praise and glory to our great God."

- Linda Gramling

The Lord has made it abundantly clear that New Ridge Fellowship is not bound by the geographical location of its building. Our church and choir continue to honor the calling of the Lord. With the love of Jesus, we travel to share the message that the Lord placed on our hearts. We have traveled as far as Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center to share the love of God. We have lifted our voices because the Lord wants us to impact those who have never heard about God.

This past summer was a milestone for the history of our church. Our choir members performed at the Kennedy Center to honor our veterans. Sandy Patty and Jimmy Fortune sang with the choir, as they honored our veterans with songs of faith and country. They even included some sing-alongs. What a wonderful and joyous sound to the Lord.

"Words can't express my gratitude for everything New Ridge choir has done for all of us. The Kennedy Center was amazing, and I am still thanking God every day for how He makes all things possible. He answers our prayers for sure."

- Dolly Adams

If you would like to be a part of these events, feel free to reach out to me. And I ask you to please continue to pray for our church, leadership, and choir. May the Lord reveal the next path for his faithful followers.

One of the most profound benefits of VBS is the joy it brings to both participants and volunteers. For children, VBS offers an engaging, fun-filled environment where they learn about faith through creative activities, songs, and stories. This excitement isn't just limited to the children; it permeates the entire church community.

Volunteers from various age groups and backgrounds come together with a common purpose, to share their love of faith and support the next generation. Beyond the immediate joy and exploration, VBS also plays a crucial role in building lasting relationships within our church community.

The friendships and connections formed during VBS can have a ripple effect, strengthening the overall fabric of our church. For many, the bonds created during VBS have become a foundation for deeper relationships and ongoing involvement in church activities.

This summer SCUBA was much more than a summer event; it was a powerful catalyst for unity, joy, and exploration within our church. It brought individuals of all ages in a shared experience of faith and fun, SCUBA strengthened our community, deepened spiritual connections, and cultivated a sense of togetherness.

Thanks God.



Vacation Bible School (VBS) holds a cherished place in the life of our church community. Its significance extends far beyond the temporary excitement it generates among children and volunteers. At its core, VBS serves as a vital tool for fostering unity and joy within the church body, creating lasting bonds and shared experiences that enrich the entire congregation.

Our Preschool and Daycare is the result of a survey given to the congregation before our church was constructed. These survey results brought four people together who began developing a dream of a small, intimate, and nurturing environment that would provide age-appropriate activities centered around God for children ages 3, 4, and 5.

Little did they know when they first opened their doors in 1994 that what began as three small classrooms would grow to ten! Our faith-based center continues to thrive and help the community by providing a safe environment for children in Preschool through 5th grade.

A heartfelt thank you to our original founders for seeing a need, developing a plan, and helping it come to fruition. Pastor Dave Lewis, Mark Garbarino, Joan Johnston, and Karen Whiston we the community, are forever grateful for you acting on the call from God to create and begin Creative Moments.



Our family was lucky enough to experience the half-day preschool, full day daycare and Kindergarten enrichment programs. Our kids grew so much with each experience. They came out of CM with **confidence, academic knowledge** and **interpersonal skills** that really helped them succeed in elementary school. Our children felt **loved and cared for**; it was like dropping them off with family. The Grandparents lunches, Christmas programs and graduation ceremonies are some of our favorite memories. We are blessed to be having a third child and can't wait to have the opportunity to experience it all over again!

- The Salansky Family

DID YOU KNOW?

Creative Moments opened in 1994, making it one of the first ministries that began in our church.



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE!

Our worship service on November 17 will feature a special Preschool Sunday at 9:00 AM to celebrate this wonderful 30 year milestone.



2024 Graduation



2013 Summer Camp

NEW RIDGE STUDENTS

A SUMMER SERVING OTHERS

by Brynn Schmidt brynn@newridgefellowship.com

Summers for New Ridge Students are jam packed with trips! This summer, our high school students traveled to Boston and our middle school students served locally in Pottstown on their mission trips. We spent two weeks at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference in New Jersey.

These weeks are always full of awesome memories, fun times, and strengthened friendships. The sheer joy and excitement on the faces of students is heartwarming to witness. However, the best part to come out of these trips this summer was a collective desire to live differently after these trips ended.

There were countless conversations throughout the week from many students asking how they can take the things that they learn at camp and apply them to their daily lives at home. These summer trips are so important for beginning these conversations and providing a foundation to build upon throughout the year at youth group. The students have spent their summer growing together on trips and are ready to work on pursuing Christ in their daily lives.



Boston Mission



Boston Mission



Harvey Cedars Bible Camp - HS



Boston Mission



Pottstown Mission



Harvey Cedars Bible Camp - MS

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO DISCIPLE

By Jonathan Vining

Three years ago, the Lord put a family in our lives that had given up everything to follow the Lord and His calling. Little did we know but this family would be very important in our lives as friends, ministry partners, and disciples.

For the past few years, we have been with this family helping them through difficult times. They had a 16-year-old daughter who ran away from home and was feared to never be seen again. When the daughter finally came home safe and sound, we were able to walk with them through this time.

We helped them process what was going on as well as speak words of wisdom in their lives from the Lord. This impacted us very deeply. In our hearts we questioned how we would react if this happened to us. We also saw the need to have continual conversations with our children so that they know that we love them, and that God loves them even more.

This family that we have been discipling has struggled with the feeling of abandonment. We have encouraged them that Father God will never abandon them. We have come alongside them to encourage them in their ministry and to help them in ways that demonstrate the love of God. In times where we as a family struggle here on the mission's field, this was always a good reminder to us as well.

Now, this family that we have been discipling has come full circle. They have been ordained as pastors of our church. We could not be happier for them. We always rejoice when the Lord promotes those people He has put in our lives. Now, this family that we have been discipling is now discipling others through pastoral roles in the local church. Thank you, Jesus, for your model of discipleship that we are called to follow.



Ian (L) and Jonathon Vining (R)



Amanda Vining (L) and Jess (R)

KIDSIT CELEBRATES 10 YEARS!

by Kelli Rokita (kellirokita@gmail.com)

I vividly remember driving in my car, telling God that there was no way I had time to start a program to help families with special needs. I have learned that God can be persistent! He wouldn't let it go. So, I finally gave in, and I said to him, "If you want me to do this so badly provide the time, the volunteers, and the kids." Wouldn't you know it, God absolutely provided all those pieces for the KidSit ministry.



For 10 years, KidSit has given three hours of free childcare on the first Friday of each month for families who have at least one child with special needs. I absolutely love when parents provide the program feedback and share success stories. It is a blessing to hear the effect this program has had on families.



Parents share stories about the excitement of their children when they attend KidSit. At our last KidSit, I had two parents express that 5:30 could not have come soon enough because their children were bugging them the entire day asking, "When is it time for KidSit???"

KidSit is a "reciprocal" program; the parents are given three hours of stress-free time together. Additionally, the KidSit volunteers get to have their "buckets filled." What a true blessing it is when you are greeted with a warm hug from a KidSit child. They missed us and we missed them. It is the purest definition of fellowship and a blessing to all.



If you want more information or would enjoy volunteering your time, send me an email. Praise God!

NEW RIDGE MEN

PICNIC RECAP

by David Snyder

On Saturday August 24th, the weather and the allure of food brought out about 30 men for a picnic. We converged on North Campus to enjoy fellowship and barbeque. Our celebrity grill master was none other than Pastor Ricky. He manned the grill and flipped those burgers and hot dogs! There was an abundance of food. No one left hungry. Did I mention the delicious desserts of watermelon, brownies, and cookies? A feast fitting New Ridge Men.

It was a great time for fellowship under beautiful skies and fantastic weather. We were treated to a wonderful testimony by David Reppert and then a preview to the upcoming men's events.

Men of New Ridge Fellowship do not pass up any future events! For more information visit the groups page on our website.

RESPONSE CREW PUTS IN A BUSY SUMMER by Jay Kratz

In June, the Response Crew celebrated its 250th project. Since then, it has been a very busy summer, we are now over 275 projects. Those projects include: Tornado clean ups in Bethlehem, Harrisburg, and New York; Construction of a wheelchair ramp, a few property cleanups and a trailer load of food and supplies to flood victims in northern PA. We can always use more volunteers. Please join the Response Crew to become part of this great ministry. Information can be found on our website responsecrew.org.



CELEBRATE RECOVERY by David Stone (dave.stone1929@gmail.com)

By the time you are reading this, Celebrate Recovery will be coming off a successful night of worship. This event occurred on September 21st at 7:00 pm. It was called "It is finished." If you attended, my prayer is that you received a special blessing. If you missed it, don't fret as we will be planning future events.

Over the past four months, our journey has been challenging and inspiring. We are experiencing an increase in attendance. We have "celebrated" some incredible times of fellowship, including a memorable night at the Reading Phillies and a refreshing outdoor gathering.

More importantly, we've witnessed numerous lives being transformed. God is at work in powerful ways, bringing healing and renewal to our community through Celebrate Recovery. I encourage everyone to pray for God's presence and healing for not only this group but also for our church and community. If you would like more information or just would like to talk about our program, reach out to me by email.

Do not pass-up a blessing from the Lord!

MISSIONS TEAM RECAP OF UGANDA

by David Snyder



In early June, New Ridge Fellowship dispatched a mission's team to Uganda. The team's journey would last eight days as they planned to spend time at the Children Alive Ministries in Mikono, Uganda. Children Alive Ministries (CALM) was the recipient of our 2023 Christmas offering. They were planning to build an addition with the funds. Our team had an opportunity to offer prayers, meet students, help teachers, and witness the construction.

The students were attending the summer session of school. New Ridge Fellowship Mission's team provided gifts of books and school supplies. Of special note, they were appreciative of the desktop pencil sharpeners. Some classes used little handheld sharpeners, or they even used a knife!

When classes were in full swing, we had the privilege of spending time in each class and interacting with the students. This was a very uplifting experience. We observed the love for the Lord as we attended classes from Pre-K through 6. There were so many great examples of the love of Jesus Christ. We witnessed the high level of learning and observed their attentiveness in class.

The students hung-out with us, and many relationships were formed. During breaktime, we played games and did crafts. We even served lunch. On the last day, we participated in the dedication of the building. We learned interesting Uganda culture. The Pastor that dedicated the building was given a gift of a baby goat! The director of CALM said we were there eight days, so normally the gift should be a cow!

It was sad to say goodbye and we hope, God willing, to return in a few years. We are thankful for our safe return, and we ask for prayers for CALM and blessings for our new friends. Finally, thank you to our New Ridge Fellowship supporters for faithfully answering God's call.

EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 20 Baptism and Membership Sunday
- 27 Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Collection Begins

NOVEMBER

- 2 Holiday Craft Show
- 4 Prayer Service
- 6 Surviving the Holidays
- 6 NR Students Testimony Night
- 9 Mens Breakfast
- 10 Veterans Day Recognition
- 13 NR Students Testimony Night
- 25 NR Choir Performs at Carnegie Hall

DECEMBER

- 7 NR Kids Jingle Bell Bash
- 10-11 NR Students Christmas Party
- 14-15 Christmas Spectacular
- 18 Hope for the Holidays
- 23-24 Christmas Eve Services

JANUARY

- 24 Women's Winter Pajama Party

FEBRUARY

- 1 NR Kids "Matt Addams, Illusionist & Evangelist"
- 28 Women's Retreat to Sandy Cove

MARCH

- 2 Family Sunday
- 5 Ash Wednesday

APRIL

- 13 Palm Sunday
- 20 Easter Sunday

For more information on these events, please visit our website newridgefellowship.com/events

OUR MISSION

PURSUE CHRIST

Our church's center point is Christ. We consistently pursue Him in all we do. No program, service, or person can transform the hearts of those who are broken...only Jesus.

GROW TOGETHER

As a church community, we want to establish a different culture: one of radical hospitality and togetherness. Life is simply better together. In all we do, we hope to establish deep connections within and outside the four walls of our church.

IMPACT THE WORLD

If we can relentlessly pursue Christ and intentionally grow in deep community together, we believe that we can impact the world here in our local community and on a global scale.

OUR VISION IS CLEAR

THAT EVERY
PERSON
WILL LIVE A LIFE
TRANSFORMED BY
CHRIST

INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH

Inviting others to New Ridge is an opportunity to extend a welcome, offer support, and share the love of Christ with others. By inviting friends, family, and neighbors to church, we open the door for them to experience a community where they can grow spiritually. Together, we can create a space where everyone feels accepted, valued, and inspired to live out their faith journey.

New Ridge Fellowship offers new guests the opportunity to sign up and receive a special message from one of our staff members and if they're bringing kids, it will prepare them for our secure kids check-in. This is a great why to ease some of the nerves of visiting a new place!

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Share this QR code or visit newridgefellowship.com/planyourvisit.



There's a place for you here!