

NEW RIDGE FELLOWSHIP

QUARTERLY

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STUDENT MISSION TRIP TO NORTH CAROLINA

By Brynn Heverly



There are some trips that you know are going to stick with you for a while. Our high school mission trip to Asheville, North Carolina this summer was one of those trips. Before last summer's trips were even over, I knew where God was calling us to serve on our next mission trip. A devastating hurricane hit the

mountainous city of Asheville in the fall of 2024 leaving behind extreme devastation and trauma in it's wake. Though our summer trips were already planned for 2025, it was evident that Asheville would be rebuilding for a long time to come. As soon as we could get a team of high schoolers out there, we were going to. Finally, this summer we were able to send 20 students and a group of adults down to help in the continued repair efforts.

What stands out most about the trip is the ways that hope in the midst of so much hurt showed up time and time again. Throughout the week, we had the opportunity to serve in a few different locations around the city. We worked with some nonprofits, churches, and different organizations dedicated to helping those in need or those still recovering from the storm. Through these projects we served, worked alongside, and cared for many different people. A lot of those people were very kind in sharing what their experiences during the storm had been like. Each story was heart breaking in its own unique way. But what was also evident was that God was working despite the tragedy in each story as well. God showed up in the way that he provided resources to those looking for



ways to care for their neighbors, God showed up in the ways that entire communities banded together to lift each other's spirits on the darkest days, and most of all God provided hope through teams of volunteers, just like us, who stepped in for a short period of time to help wherever we could. We may not have accomplished much in the grand scheme of things, but those students prayed for people and they gave them meals and they reflected Christ to everyone they met.



My heart still hurts when I think of some of the people we met and the struggles they face every day. Though we can grieve the storm and what it took from

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that beautiful city, we also can cling to hope because God did not abandon the people of Asheville for one second. He's been with them since that storm and I am thankful for the ways in which he was able to use a small team from Pennsylvania

to bring prayer, laughter, joy, and hope to people who needed it.

A REFLECTION ON EMBU, KENYA NEW RIDGE FELLOWSHIP MISSIONS

By Noelle Marshall

On August 2nd, a ten-person team was sent out as an extension of NRF on a one-week assignment. Their purpose was to assist Pastor Jim Mureithi and his staff at Youth Promise Center in Embu, Kenya. Team members: Bob Carle, Maria Benedict, Ana Gallardo, Scott Hamrick, Sandy Kopp, Laura Mack, Debbie Madden, Carl Marshall, Noelle Marshall, and Jessica Smith co-facilitated a medical clinic, supported the youth camp classes and activities, and met with Christian leaders in the region.

On one side of the world, a woman folded clothes into a suitcase with trembling hands, her heart swelling with expectation. "Forty years I've waited. Just like Moses, it's taken forty years to see God fulfill His promise." Every fold, every neatly placed item carried the weight of decades of prayer. She was preparing to step onto soil she had interceded for since her youth—never imagining how deeply this journey would reshape her, how profoundly it would mark her life forever.

Four days later, on the other side of the world, that same woman sat among a circle of Christian leaders, a gathering that felt like the African tribal councils she had once read about in missionary stories. One pastor leaned forward, urgency in his voice. "Why not hold it closer to us? Our people need help, too. Can we host another camp so those in other areas can receive treatment?" As I looked around the room, I saw his burden mirrored in every face. These men carried the weight of entire communities—needs so vast they pressed heavier than their shoulders could bear. Though they celebrated the success of the medical camp held at Youth Promise the day before, their hearts ached for the countless others still waiting for care.

The previous day, our team supported and co-facilitated that medical camp. Nearly 250 people came—more than double what was expected—yet even that number barely grazed the need. They arrived one by one, walking miles under the sun. Some balanced on bicycles, some leaned on canes, and one man was carried in the arms of another. His friend lifted him through every station, determined that he would receive help.



A mother, far too young to bear such sorrow, walked quietly with her two children. The pain of her husband's abandonment was etched into her face. A teenage girl approached with downcast eyes, whispering in shame her request for new underwear, soap, and a washcloth so she could clean herself properly. Another girl's eyes brimmed with tears when a bag of reusable feminine products was placed in her hands—she had cried when she missed receiving one at school, and now she could not contain her joy.

For forty years, the unfulfilled promise had stretched across my heart like a desert. Why had God given me such a deep love for the people of Africa yet withheld the chance to go? But in August 2026, as I stood with tears in my eyes, the Spirit whispered the ending words of my life verse: "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name" (Exodus 33:17). In that moment, I understood—God had been pleased with every prayer, every tear, every longing. None of it had been forgotten.



There is not enough space to capture the fullness of God's presence woven through each of these stories. But I can proclaim this with certainty: I have witnessed the power and faithfulness of God to keep His promises. Every person I met in Kenya was an echo of that faithfulness. Our God does not forget His people, and He does not forget His promises.

He is faithful to His people in Embu, Kenya.

He is faithful to His church in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania.

He is faithful to me.

And whatever you are facing, He will be faithful to you.



A LASTING IMPACT AT VBS

By Amy Dilabio

This year's Rainforest Falls VBS was a tremendous success! Nearly 250 children and volunteers gathered for a week filled with worship, Bible stories, games, crafts, laughter, and meaningful relationships. Each evening, children discovered more about God's true nature and were reminded that He is present and active in their lives.

The success of VBS is measured by more than attendance or well-planned activities. It is seen in children singing about God, asking thoughtful questions, forming friendships, and experiencing the care of trusted adults and student leaders. Every conversation, encouraging word, shared laugh, and moment of prayer has the potential to leave a lasting impression.

Thank you to everyone who helped create a week that our children will remember, and that God can use for years to come.



We may not always see the full impact of the time invested, but God can use even the smallest interaction to help a child feel known, valued, and loved. The seeds of faith planted during VBS can continue growing long after the decorations are packed away.





CHURCH-WIDE JOURNEY BEGINS THIS FALL! By Debi Coutts

As summer winds down, we're looking ahead with excitement to a new season of connecting, growing, and studying God's Word together.

This fall, our entire church family will be embarking on a church-wide journey through the book of Philippians. Each Sunday, Pastor Ricky's messages will lead us through the book verse by verse, and throughout the week our Life Groups will gather to continue the conversation using short video teaching segments and guided discussion. It's a wonderful opportunity for our church to be united around the same Scripture—learning, encouraging one another, and discovering together what God has for us through His Word.

Whether you've been part of a Life Group for years or have never joined one before, this is the perfect time to jump in. Our Philippians Meet & Greet begins the week of September 13, giving each group an opportunity to get acquainted before beginning the study

together. The following week, groups will begin six weeks of exploring the book of Philippians, discovering what it means to experience joy, humility, unity, and contentment in Christ regardless of our circumstances.

We would love for you to be part of this church-wide experience. Whether you're returning to your Life Group or joining one for the first time, we believe you'll find meaningful friendships, encouraging conversations, and a deeper understanding of God's Word as we journey through Philippians together.

"My Group has become more than just a Bible study. It's a place where I'm known, encouraged, challenged, and reminded that I'm not meant to follow Jesus alone."

Save the Date! Life Group sign-ups for the Philippians study will be available in the church foyer on Sunday, August 30, and Sunday, September 6.

A MORNING OF IDEAS, CONNECTION, AND POSSIBILITY

By Barbara Akins



I had no idea what Bubbling Up was going to be about when I signed up. But I figured I could handle a 3-hour commitment and free breakfast was a plus. What a fabulous experience!

Bubbles were blowing and literally “bubbling up” outside as I entered the North Campus lobby. I knew I was going to be in for a real treat! The room upstairs was laid out and decorated so nicely. The perfect set up for the number of attendees. I sat at a table with all women. I recognized some of them but did not really know any of them. The Consultant did a wonderful job leading us through each step.

Throughout the morning each table came up with thoughts/brainstorming into three categories. Things we thought New Ridge Fellowship was doing a great job at; things we thought was missing or could be improved at New Ridge

Fellowship and lastly, things we were passionate about for New Ridge Fellowship. The Holy Spirit was working in the room. People were talking, discussing, and sharing.

After each step, a Table Representative walked up front on stage and presented their table's results. It was encouraging to hear some of the same thoughts/suggestions from other tables. I was our Table Representative and was surprisingly not afraid to talk in front of 75+ people. It was a safe environment. Everyone was there with the intention of making New Ridge Fellowship better. The Consultant was asking for our thoughts with total anonymity.

New Ridge Fellowship isn't a building, it's the people in the building. I can't wait to hear what the Consultants gathered from all the ideas that bubbled up. I am glad that I was able to be a part of it.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY: A PLACE FOR HOPE

No one should have to face their pain alone.

At New Ridge Fellowship, Celebrate Recovery is creating a safe, grace-filled community where people can be honest about their hurts, habits, and hang-ups and discover that God meets us right where we are. It's a place where people can stop pretending, share their stories, build genuine friendships, and take meaningful steps toward healing and freedom.

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, biblically based ministry, but it's not just for people struggling with addiction. It's for everyone. Whether you're carrying past hurts, facing unhealthy patterns, navigating difficult relationships, struggling with

fear or anger, or simply longing for greater freedom in your life, Celebrate Recovery offers a place to be known, accepted, and encouraged.

Through biblical principles, honest conversations, worship, and community, participants learn to recognize the ways pain has shaped their lives, discover new and healthy truths, and develop life-giving habits. And for many, the result is life-changing.

One participant shared, “Celebrate Recovery is where I stop pretending, even to myself, and build real friendships with people who want to love me. It's a place where God meets

us, where I can speak out loud the things I was afraid to admit alone and learn that I am not alone."

Others describe Celebrate Recovery as a place of compassion, safety, forgiveness, friendship, and freedom. One participant shared that the ministry has helped keep anxiety in check, reduced fear, and helped them better manage anger. Another described it simply as "being part of a family."

These stories are reminders that recovery is not just about overcoming something. It's about discovering who we are in Christ, experiencing His grace, and realizing that transformation happens as we walk together.

Whether you're currently part of Celebrate Recovery, are curious about what the ministry is all about, or simply need an evening of encouragement and hope, this night is for you. Come expecting to be encouraged, refreshed, and reminded that we are stronger when we worship and walk together. Most importantly, come ready to celebrate the truth that no matter where we are in our story, God is still at work.

A Night to Celebrate What God Has Done



That spirit of hope and transformation will come together at an upcoming Celebrate Recovery Night of Praise & Worship at New Ridge Fellowship. The evening will be an opportunity to gather, lift our voices in worship, hear powerful stories of lives transformed by God's grace, and celebrate all that He has done. Along with live music, the night will include a powerful testimony and time to connect with friends, family, and fellow believers.

"Celebrate Recovery is where I stop pretending, even to myself, and build real friendships with people who want to love me. It's a place where God meets us, where I can speak out loud the things I was afraid to admit alone and learn that I am not alone."

Celebrate Recovery meets every Tuesday from 7:00–9:00 PM at Main Campus. Whether you're taking your first step or continuing your journey, there's a place for you here.

SPOTLIGHT: THE STORY BEHIND THE NEW RIDGE GOLF CART

By Rick Drumheller

Earlier this summer, a new arrival appeared at New Ridge Fellowship. It wasn't a new guest during worship and doesn't need to meet with the pastors. It's a brand-new golf cart! So why does our church need a golf cart? Allow me to explain...

At first glance, a golf cart might seem like an unusual addition to a church campus. But at New Ridge, it's about much more than getting from one place to another. It's about safety, accessibility, service, and caring for one another.

New Ridge has a large campus, and on Sundays and special events, our parking lots can fill quickly. What a blessing! But a full campus also means our Safety Team has a lot of ground to cover. The golf cart allows them to patrol the property more efficiently and respond quickly when needed. It will also carry important safety supplies, including first-aid kits and fire extinguishers.

The golf cart will also help make worship more accessible. Not everyone is able to walk long distances, and finding a close parking space isn't always possible on a busy Sunday. The cart will provide car-to-door service for those who need a little extra help getting to the building.

The golf cart wasn't part of this year's budget, but as conversations continued about safety and accessibility, the need became clear. And then God provided.

A New Ridge family heard about the need and offered to purchase the golf cart themselves. They asked for no recognition and simply wanted to serve their church family.

What a beautiful picture of what it means to Pursue Christ, Grow Together, Impact the World. Ministry doesn't always happen



from a stage. Sometimes it looks like quietly meeting a need because you care about the people around you.

So, if you need a ride from your car to the building, don't hesitate to flag down a member of the Safety Team!

We are grateful for this generous gift and excited to see the many ways it will help New Ridge care for, protect, and serve our church family. What a wonderful reminder that God often provides exactly what we need through the willing hearts of His people.

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Platter with Chatter
- 2 Prayer Service
- 2 GriefShare Begins
- 5 Classic Car and Bike Show
- 6 NR Kids "Pop Up" Sunday
- 8/9 NR Students Fall Kick Off
- 13 Coffee with Pastors
- 18-20 NR Women's Retreat
- 19 Men's Breakfast
- Praise and Worship Night Hosted by Celebrate Recovery
- 26 NR Students Middle School Adventure
- 27 Essentials Class

OCTOBER

- 3 Blessing of the Animals
- 7 Platter with Chatter
- 7 Prayer Service
- 23 NR Night of Worship
- 24 NR Kids Fireside & Fellowship
- 25 Pick-up Operation Christmas Child Boxes
- 27/28 NR Students Halloween Party

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints Day
- 4 Student Testimony Night
- 7 Holiday Craft Show
- 8 Veterans Day
- 9 Prayer Service
- 18 Grief Share: Surviving the Holidays
- 22 Return Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

DECEMBER

- 5 NR Kids Christmas Experience
- 8/9 NR Students Christmas Parties
- 12/13 Christmas Spectacular
- 16 Hope for Holidays
- 23/24 Christmas Eve Services

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