Welcome to the garden... where it is trowel and error!
What does living a generous life at NRUMC mean to you?

Welcome to another season of living a Generous Life at North Raleigh United Methodist Church!

This issue of Compass Magazine will lead you to discover how the essence of Generosity permeates every sector of our lives. In these pages, may you be blessed by witnessing the Generous Lives of members of our congregation as they put their giving and caring nature into every facet of their lives.

Celebrate with the young people as they collect Casa Coins to expand the giving to the folks in Reynosa, Mexico! Watch and delight in the Vacation Bible School children as they find inventive ways to support the ZOE ministry! Witness and applaud the women’s groups (UMW) and men’s groups (UMM) as they creatively and deliciously raise funds to support over 50 missions and ministries!

Be like the proud parent or grandparent to the youth of North Raleigh as they define Generosity through prayerful consideration, through their mission trips such as Appalachian Service Project (ASP) and Camp Tekoa, and their involvement in creating and sustaining community ministries on a weekly basis.

Generosity is alive and well at North Raleigh United Methodist Church! We give because we were first given to–out of God’s great generosity. Every day, the members of NRUMC uphold and esteem the vows of membership in the United Methodist Church—“We faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness that in everything, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.”

Turn the pages slowly, ponder and absorb the pictures, read and re-read the words of your fellow congregants, reflect on your own Generous Life and lift up the Generous Lives of those around you.

This is your issue of Compass magazine. It’s all about you, your Generosity and your Generous Life. Please enjoy

May you...
Be inspired.
Be grateful.
Be Generous.

In Faith and Peace,

Janet Striegel
Generosity Team Chair

Living a Generous Life
What does “living a generous life at NRUMC” mean to you?
by Janet Striegel

Generosity from the Beginning
NRUMC began with generosity in its core being.
by Brenda McLean

What does Living a Generous Life Mean to You?
This special section of this issue of Compass highlights quotes, memories, experiences, and testimonies from several of our members.

Robert & Brenda Payne
Vicki Cilley
Bob Smith
David Baas
Sardi Goham
Haywood Poole
Mary Scott Honbarrier
The NRUMC Youth
Barbara Bays

Mike Groom
Rick Emerick
Scott Mooneyham
Ellie Mosley
Kemp Mosley
Russ Davison
Melissa Auten
Josh Taylor
Johnny Binkley

Generosity: An Update for 2018
Where does our giving go?
by Ken Black

Starting Point Sunday
On August 26, the new year officially starts for NRUMC!
by Lawrence Stewart

Growing with Christ!
How will you grow with Christ this coming year?
by Alan Felton

An Executive Staff Change
NRUMC welcomes Reverend Alan Felton to the staff.

pg. 27
HELLO
my name is
ALAN
North Raleigh UMC has been a generous church since its beginning. The charter members gave of themselves unselfishly with their time, multiple talents, generous gifts, and tireless service. These 97 people gave to help establish a new church in north Raleigh to further the Kingdom of God. Actually in 1973, less than two years after being established, our church was named “Conference Church of the Year.” One of our earliest accomplishments was holding the record for having the highest percentage of families in the Ten Dollar Club—a Conference Club that assisted new and struggling churches.

From the beginning, a high priority has been serving others, for example, with Meals on Wheels and CROPWALK, to name two of eight outreach ministries adopted in the first years. We adopted a missionary couple who lived in Zaire in 1973. We were one of the organizing churches for the Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network (WIHN), now Family Promise of Wake County. The list of mission projects our church continues to support is lengthy, but to name a few: Habitat for Humanity, Angel Tree, Hearts & Hammers, and Garden Ministry. Our missions have an appeal to every type of interest and individual. Our missions beyond our community include trips to Mexico, Peru, Uganda, and Appalachia. We have truly been a church “called to mission.”

Our members were especially called to be generous during our building campaign for our current sanctuary. This majestic sanctuary was erected just 35 years from the church’s founding. Members gave sacrificially by donating over and above their building pledge to purchase altar furniture, chancel floor, light fixtures, paraments, and even the pews. The stained glass windows, which our building architect warned could/would take many years to complete, were in fact completed in one year—because of the overwhelming generosity of our members.

Another exciting example of Christian generosity is the six existing scholarships afforded to the youth of NRUUMC. They have been established by various church families.

The charter members gave of themselves unselfishly with their time, multiple talents, generous gifts, and untiring service.

Our Stephen Ministry program is an outstanding example of giving of time and service to assist individuals in need. There are 32 active Stephen Ministers at North Raleigh.

Another example of devoted giving of time, talent, and service is our outstanding music program. Our choir members and ringers and all adults who assist in children’s music groups are dedicated volunteers. None of these wonderful programs offered at our church would be possible without the unselfish ongoing generosity of so very many members.

It is a marvelous responsibility to be part of this caring, serving church. We have been truly blessed and will continue to be blessed as we continue to lead a generous life at North Raleigh UMC.

Brenda McLean
To us the concept of generosity is not limited to supporting the church with money only, but also how we participate in the activities and leadership of the church. When we joined the UMC many years ago, our pledge and commitment was our promise to be faithful in our witness, in our prayers, in our presence, in our gifts and in our service. This has been what we strive to do every year.

Generosity comes from the heart as a result of faith in our Lord and has to be demonstrated by how we live our lives within the church and the community. It has been our goal and intention to meet each of the commitments in our pledge, because of our belief in what our Lord taught us when he said, "to go into all the world." Also, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:35-36.

We know we cannot do all of these things alone, but through generosity and support, the church can and does all of these.

Grace and peace,

Robert & Brenda Payne

God has blessed me more than I could ever imagine!

And being a part of North Raleigh United Methodist Church is a large part of that blessing. This church has changed my life! Through Bible study, worship, and serving in our church, my life has become richer and more complete in every way. It is in this place that I see true believers of Jesus Christ living out their commitment to "love your neighbor as yourself." It's where I discovered my own "spiritual gifts" and received loving support as I began to use those gifts to serve our church and to fulfill God's plan for me.

In giving back to God a portion of the blessings he so freely gives to me, I am comforted in the knowledge that I am doing my part to support this church, our talented and faithful staff, and to spread the love of Jesus Christ through missions and ministries near and far.

In His Name,

Vicki Cilley

Vicki Cilley, UMW Food Drive Coordinator, and Mary Fran Parkman, UMW President, present the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina with a check for $10,315, tripled by a corporate benefactor to $30,946!

"I was hungry and you gave me food..."
My primary thought about being generous is a financial one. While I have read about and understood the concept of tithing for many years, I have always found it challenging to implement. As I read Chip Ingram’s book, The Genius of Generosity, several of the key points he made really hit home for me and helped advance my thinking and actions:

To be smart, spend carefully.
To be wise, save regularly.
To be genius, give extravagantly.

Generous givers make God and His purposes their highest priority.

Enjoy God’s generosity to you... then share it with others.

Living a generous life means giving freely of all that I’ve been given—time, talent, and finances. That starts with holding on loosely to all these things—so I can let go of them easily as the Holy Spirit moves. It means adopting a stance of non-resistance—where I stop trying to control my time, talent, and finances and allow God to use them. It means my default answer is “yes” to God’s leading, whatever the cost. It means I follow the self-emptying love of the Trinity by giving myself in love as completely as I can to others through the church and through any other ways that God leads me toward.

—DAVID BASS

David Bass pours another load of concrete as another house in Reynosa, Mexico goes up!
Sandi Gorham writes, “Thank you so much for encouraging me to think about generosity. I have often wondered if the things I am doing make much of an impact. While pondering this, I came across a quote that says more than I could write. Credit is given to Stephen Grellet, a Quaker missionary:

“I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again.”

I have been a member of NRUMC for over eight years. It has been my experience that the Church has been far more generous to me than I have been to the Church. It seems that the more involved in church activities that my wife and I become, the more we experience the spiritual gifts multiplying in our lives.

Through the generosity of monetary gifts to the church, the infrastructure of NRUMC is assured as well as the staff and programs to carry out our mission; however, a church is much more than its physical facility.

It has been through becoming involved in the activities and programs offered at NRUMC that my life has been so enriched. My first involvement with generosity was through the Boy Scouts. Our two sons went from Tiger Cubs to Eagle Scouts through the Scouting program at NRUMC. Our involvement over those thirteen years made me realize that this church gives far more than it takes. We were not members of the church during those years, but NRUMC opened its heart and its doors to us, a generosity that my wife and I and our two sons will always remember and cherish.

Since becoming members of the family of faith at NRUMC, we have been blessed in countless ways. I realize that generosity comes in many forms. It seems to me that whatever way I choose to give of my time and talent, I am always blessed to receive much more than I give. We are all busy working, raising a family, caring for aging parents, dealing with health issues, or any other drain on our time and energy. To me living a generous life at NRUMC is giving what you can, when you can, in any form that you can. No matter how large or small the “generosity” may be, each of us doing what we are able in order to support the Church and each other will bring us the generous gifts that Christ intends for us all to have.

Haywood Poole
He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

— 2 Corinthians 9: 6-7

The ministries of our church would not be possible if it were not for the generosity of our members with their time and their gifts. I have seen over and over again that the more we give, the more we ourselves receive back and the more our missions, whether within our church, our community or globally benefit from this generosity. I need to share a story that illustrates this. It is a story that I never tire of telling because it means so much to me. One of my gifts to NRUMC is the time in which I participate in our First-Time Visitor Visitation program. It’s not a huge commitment. It requires that once a quarter, I visit the people who have attended our worship service on that Sunday for the very first time.

Sunday, December 11th, twelve years ago, my husband Roger had just finished his twelfth and final chemotherapy treatment for colon cancer. It was also the Sunday of our Christmas Cantata. I was exhausted from caring for Roger, the rehearsals and the three performances of the Cantata. When I realized it was my Sunday to visit, I wondered how I would be able to muster the energy to make these visits. Several church members that knew my situation offered to make the visits for me. Knowing that when I finished this job, it usually left me uplifted and feeling better, I declined their offers.

One of the visitors had made sure he had emphatically checked the box that said “please contact me.” I rarely see that and something inside told me this man really wanted to be visited. When I arrived at his house, imagine my disappointment when no one was home. I reluctantly left the welcome bag on his front porch with my phone number in case he had any questions.

The next evening, the phone rang. The man on the other end was the man I had tried to visit on Sunday. He began the conversation with, "I am sorry I am just now calling you back. My wife suffers from colon cancer and we have been busy preparing for the surgery that she will be having tomorrow. No one seems to understand just how hard dealing with this type of illness is on the spouse." I said to him, "Have I got a story to tell you." We compared notes concerning our spouses’ conditions and treatments. Roger, who was only hearing my side of the conversation, kept walking by, giving me funny looks wondering who this person was that I was sharing all the intimate details of our lives. As this man and I compared notes, the similarities were eerie. It turns out that they had the same oncologist, the same oncology navigator and the same surgeons. She had been seeing the oncologist every Tuesday since July and we had been seeing the oncologist every Wednesday since June. She went to Meredith as did I and he went to NC State as did Roger. We both are longtime season ticket holders to the NC State basketball and football games. We actually sat directly across from each other at the games.

The next morning, I went to the hospital and sat with this man during his wife’s surgery. It was as if we had known each other for years. They had just moved to Raleigh when she was diagnosed. I shared with him that we would not have survived this illness without the support we received from our church family and that they needed a church family, specifically this church family, to get through their ordeal. They joined almost six months later when she was well enough to attend. Our entire church prayed for her. Everywhere I went, people would ask me how she was doing and they would tell me that she was in their prayers. Both our families together anxiously awaited the results of the never-ending cycle of CT scans and bloodwork. It never got easy but we were there for each other.

There is so much to say about how God put me in the right place at the right time. He knew this couple needed someone and a church to care for them. He also knew that finally I was in a position to be there since Roger was finished with his chemo and would soon start feeling better. It was divine intervention in the best way. That two-hour commitment once a quarter that I had made blessed me more than I could have ever hoped for. Now I approach this commitment each quarter just hoping that I will meet another couple that will bless me as much as they did.

I participate in many things in this church. Too many things as my husband and friends would probably say. When they ask me when I am going to learn to say NO to the many things I am asked to do around this church, I just ignore them. I love this church. I think it is the best church ever. So why would I say NO to something when I know that when I say yes, I will receive so much more in return than I could ever hope to give. Surely somewhere in the Bible it says “Generosity begets Generosity.”

Mary Scott Honbergen

Volunteers with the First-Time Visitors Visitation program deliver welcome bags like the one at the left to first-time visitors to NRUMC. The bags include a pen, pieces of candy, a Discipleship booklet, and a copy of Compass magazine.
Generous life
What does living a Generous Life at NRUMC mean to our youth?

...to see money and resources as a tool
...to think of others first
...to have faith we can make a difference
...giving back to help others
...giving no matter what
...being generous in time, finances, and spirit
...answering God’s call to care for others

...to not worry about how much we have
...to be creative in meeting needs
...being selfless
...helping however you can

...recognizing your own blessings and being compelled to share
...putting needs of others as priority
...to give without worry
...growing faith in God through giving
...giving from your time, talents, and all you have
...giving freely without recognition or reward
...being selfless and trusting God to provide
...recognizing your own blessings and being compelled to share
[GENEROSITY] means giving my time, talents and resources to make a difference towards a better understanding of Christ’s message in this world. I believe the life everlasting is about more than “life after death” in heaven. It includes inspiration to leave something of lasting good through my life and to do so with my faith in Christ as the reason.

—BARBARA BAYS

...we make monetary contributions each month and that helps pay the church’s bills. But I believe that living a generous life at NRUMC does not involve a dollar sign. It involves an extended hand, every chance you get.

Mike Goom

My idea of living a generous life at NRUMC is to emulate the passion and commitment for Christ that my father embodied.

He was a lower middle-class worker employed by the local electric utility company with humble upbringings as an adopted child. During World War II, he served for a period as a drill instructor for the United States Marines and embodied all the toughness normally associated with that job. He carried many of those traits throughout his life, but he never veered from his commitment to God. A strange example of his nature for caring for others came to light during my mother’s funeral (which was over 20 years after his death). The presiding pastor related a story about my father, who had occupied the same seat in the sanctuary every Sunday for many years. He explained that on one Monday after a normal Sunday service, he received a telephone call from my father at his home. The discussion was brief, and my father simply asked the pastor to meet him on a specific street corner in town the following morning. The pastor agreed and out of concern and curiosity met my father the next morning at the appointed place.

My father immediately walked the pastor into a nearby shoe store where he bought the pastor two pairs of dress shoes, one black and one brown. He explained that no pastor should have to serve his congregation with holes in the soles of his shoes (which my father had apparently detected during the Sunday service). He wished the pastor a good day and went back to work. The story was true and no one else ever knew about it except my mother and me until the revelation at her funeral.

I want to live my life inside and outside of NRUMC with that kind of unpretentious caring for others and willingness to take an action to try to resolve whatever situations I encounter. I’m a long way from that goal, but that would be my idea of living a generous life at NRUMC.

Rick Emerick
LIVING A GENEROUS LIFE AT NRUMC

is a multi-faceted journey. The joy of seeing my daughters grow theologically are due to the generous gifts (financial and teaching) from the many generous members at NRUMC. One daughter has devoted her career to college campus ministry and one daughter has devoted her career to helping children by providing occupational therapy services in public schools.

While my family has benefited from the NRUMC congregation, my family has also benefited from giving our time, talents and resources to NRUMC. We have been blessed, and seeing NRUMC provide for the many missions is a joy and testament to “God is Alive.”

The lyrics from a Luke Bryan song remind me of a generous life at NRUMC:

“I believe that days go slow and years go fast And every breath’s a gift, the first one to the last I believe most people are good I believe this world ain’t half as bad as it looks I believe most people are good.”

I believe the congregation at NRUMC is “generous” and “good” and living with NRUMC is “good.”

Scott Mooneyham

“Living a Generous Life at NRUMC” mean to you?

What does “living a Generous Life at NRUMC” mean to you?

It means if people don’t have anything to eat or to drink we always give them something. Or, if they don’t have toys, we can share our toys with them. And, we read Bible book stories and do what God says.

Ellie Mosley (age 4)

“I believe that days go slow and years go fast And every breath’s a gift, the first one to the last I believe most people are good I believe this world ain’t half as bad as it looks I believe most people are good.”

I believe the congregation at NRUMC is “generous”, and “good” and living with NRUMC is “good.”

Scott Mooneyham

“Jesus Christ came to this Earth, in order that all who believe in Him may live life and live it more abundantly. Living a generous life, to me, means being good stewards of the abundant life that we have been blessed to receive and sharing that abundance with others. We may do that by spreading the Gospel, by helping others through hard times, by sharing any God-given talents that we may have, or by supporting worthy causes with the resources we have.

However, as Christians, no matter how we share the abundant life with others, we do so recognizing that nothing we have is truly our own or even of our own making. Instead, all of our “possessions” – our supportive families and close friends, our talents, our assets, and even our time – are a temporary gift or loan, of sorts, from God. We cannot take them with us when we leave this Earth, and we are called to use those things to promote God’s will. When we are able to keep this in mind, living generous lives simply comes naturally. Nothing is truly ours, and our beliefs require us to use the abundance that we have, in whatever form it may be, to move ourselves, our families, and others closer to God.

Kemp Mosley
is an intentional decision to put God first in everything you do. You have the comfort and assurance God will take care of all your needs if you put your trust in Him.

Living generously becomes a lifestyle. Once you’ve committed yourself to be generous with the gifts God has provided, you actively look for ways to share your riches with others. You want to help others and don’t shy away from the opportunity to give.

Giving generously means giving your money along with your time and your talents. One of my favorite ministry opportunities is involvement with Family Promise. Whether it is spending the night at the church or preparing a meal for these families, I definitely feel God is calling me to serve these families. What greater way can you share the Gospel than by providing food and shelter for those in need?

Another way I give of myself at NRUMC is through the serving of communion. Serving the holy sacraments to my church family is spiritually rewarding and brings me closer to God.

The key for me to living generously is to place the needs of others above myself. Every time I feel sorry for myself or feel in need of something, I have to remind myself how there are so many people who have nothing. It is my Christian obligation to help those who can’t help themselves.

Russ Davison

I feel living a generous life is where one realizes how blessed they have been by God that, in return, they live a life trying to be just as great of a blessing in his name to others.

–Joshua Taylor
Freely you have received; freely give.

–Matthew 10:8

By definition, a generous person is one who gives more of something, especially time and money, than is usually expected or necessary. To me, living a generous life at NRUMC means giving generously of my time and my money, not because I have to or am expected to, but it is something I want to do. I have been blessed and now that I have the time and financial resources to give, I want to help others who might be less fortunate. And I know of no better way than generously supporting NRUMC and all the many ministries, missions, projects, programs, and people that it serves and supports.

Johnny Binkley

Generosity

AN UPDATE FOR 2018

The reflections shared in this issue of Compass illustrate the story of how our church is thinking outside of our walls and using our resources to make a difference in the lives of others. Consider all we are doing and think of how, through our ministries, so many more lives can be impacted, as we live into a Generous Life through our witness and stewardship of everything that we have been given.

God has blessed us all abundantly. What greater way to thank God than to give generously to His work, so that others share in the blessings of Christ as well!

When we live through our vision, our generosity impacts lives.

- Discipleship 16%
- Outreach 19%
- Worship & Music 16%
- Care & Connections 10%
- Facilities & Operating Costs 15%
- Administrative Ministries 12%
- Building Payments 11%

2018 Ministry Budget

Staff salaries and ministry support are allocated through each ministry area as appropriate.

The 2018 Ministry Budget forecast is $1,848,632.
Can you believe that summer is practically over? School is about to start back, and shopping for school supplies, new clothes, and everything that it entails is high priority in everyone’s minds. Here at NRUMC, we will soon start our new year of discipleship classes, special events, outreach, opportunities, music groups, and worship. To help us do that, Starting Point Sunday is on August 26. Our children will be promoted to new classes, and we will be called to Live a Generous Life throughout the year as we seek to make our world better through outreach, giving, and discipleship.

Ministry Opportunities
From 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., tables will be set up under the large tent displaying the many mission and ministry opportunities here at NRUMC, including small groups, Bible studies, Sunday School classes, children’s and youth groups, music ministry opportunities, and so much more! If you’re looking for ways to grow at North Raleigh, make sure to be here that morning!

Backpack Blessing
During the 11:15 a.m. worship service, we invite students, teachers, and school personnel to bring your backpack or lunch boxes for our annual Backpack Blessing. It will be a special time to lift up students of all ages, along with teachers and parents, dedicating them to God’s glory as we begin a new school year. During this worship service, we will celebrate our school partnership with Baileywick Elementary. Everyone is encouraged to bring school supplies to be given to Baileywick for students in need. Boxes for Baileywick, our annual school supplies drive, is running through Starting Point Sunday, so be sure to drop supplies off in one of the boxes in the Atrium, lobby, or near the church office. Visit nrumc.org for a list of supplies needed or see the poster in the Atrium or lobby.

Church Cookout
Beginning at noon, you are invited to a church cookout featuring hot dogs and hamburgers provided by our United Methodist Men and Women. There will be dining tables set up in the Fellowship Hall for sharing and social gathering, and you will still be able to browse the ministry tables as well.

Living a Generous Life in this new season of study, worship and mission, we can only imagine the extraordinary places God will take us! Join us on Sunday, August 26 and find your place to grow and serve as we follow Him.

Contact the church office (info@nrumc.org or 919.847.1536) for more information.
We are excited to bring you the 2018/19 Discipleship offerings. Within the pages of this booklet, you will find a year’s worth of opportunities for all ages and interests designed to feed your spirit as we live into being disciples of Jesus Christ. Nearly 300 years ago, Methodism’s founder, John Wesley, organized small covenant discipleship groups in which people prayed for one another, provided mutual encouragement, and studied the Bible in light of daily experiences, recognizing that these practices stirred up believers to love God and do good works.

Here at North Raleigh, our classes are a part of that time-tested tradition and provide the same kind of covenant relationship for learning, growth, and discovering ways to live a life of generosity in community with one another.

Whether you are looking for a study focused on a basic understanding of the Bible or wanting to go more in depth on a particular part of scripture, seeking time to fellowship with your church family, discovering long or short-term enrichment classes, or simply wanting a way to serve others through mission and outreach, we have many opportunities that will challenge you and help you as we together seek to be the church God desires us to be.

The 2018/19 Discipleship booklet is available now in the lobby, Atrium, or near the church office entrance. Pick up one at Starting Point Sunday and get a head-start on growing with Christ!