

... serving others in Christ ... making disciples ... growing in faith together

NORTHMINSTER

Life

A newsletter for members, visitors, and friends of Northminster Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 9

www.northminstermacon.org

SEPTEMBER 2019

VISITING MISSIONARIES, DRs. LES & CINDY MORGAN, RETURN TO NORTHMINSTER



Sunday, September 15th, we will welcome Drs. Les and Cindy Morgan back to our church to lead the sermon and join us for a salad lunch in the fellowship hall following. During our Sunday School hour that morning, they will share photos and information about their ministry.

Northminster has joyfully and humbly supported the missions work of Les & Cindy in Bangladesh for 30 years. Throughout those years, they have touched the lives of countless people not only in Bangladesh, but right here within our congregation. Their medical missions to help heal the hearts, bodies, and spirits of those hurting in an overcrowded and under-cared-for population are inspirational reminders of what we are all called to do as children of God - to love and care for one another. Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us for the 10:30am worship service with the

Morgans and bring a salad to share. You can indicate your plans to attend and share food on your weekly blue response sheet in each bulletin until their visit.

MUSIC NOTES

Labor Day is this weekend, and it seems to signal the end of summer and beginning of fall, although in our area the temps remain hot for several more weeks. However, once Labor Day is behind us, it seems like a new beginning, and we are ready to get back into our routine. Bell and choir rehearsals are resuming Wednesday, September 4th at 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. respectively and we would love to have you join us.



But first, I want to say a huge "Thank You" to all who have participated in our "walk-up, hymns only" choir for the month of August. We had a god turn out each week, and welcomed some folks who don't sing with us regularly. It was so good to have them and we will continue for one more week, this Sunday, September 1st. We would also like to continue our "Friends and Family" choir throughout the month of September, so please join us in the choir room at 10:00 a.m. to prepare the day's anthem. It is an easy way to experience leading in worship through song and praise without making a huge commitment.

Our annual Lessons and Carols service is scheduled for December 8th, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend that special worship service. And, consider bringing someone with you. It is a great way to share Northminster with the community.

Happy Fall, Y'all!

SUNDAY SCHOOL - SEPTEMBER

Join us September 8th as we kick off our new season of Sunday School. We will study and fellowship with one another throughout the month of September as one intergenerational class, meeting every Sunday morning at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. Our focus will be on missions. Light breakfast refreshments will be provided.



Inside this Issue

Pg 2: Letter from your Pastor
Pg 3: Outreach News
Pg 4: Upcoming Events

Pg 5: Youth; Thank you church family; Session Highlights
Pg 6: September Calendar

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

September is shaping up to be an exciting month for us here at Northminster. Here's my shepherd-bird's eye view of how this busy month will unfold for our worship, learning, and fellowship:

-- On September 1, we welcome back to our pulpit Dr. Bryan Whitfield, religion professor at Mercer University. Over the past year Bryan has become a wonderful friend and colleague for me, and many of you have mentioned how you appreciate his preaching. I hope we can find a time this year for him to come and teach a more in-depth study beyond a sermon. (I will be away this Sunday for the last time for awhile. Ella and I are grateful to attend a weekend retreat held by our Flint River Presbytery for its newer pastors. We'll be at the beach with four other clergy families.)

-- On September 8 at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall, we begin four fun weeks of intergenerational Sunday School. All ages -- from Middle School all the way to our oldest adults -- are encouraged to join Pastor Ralph and guests each week for a deeper dive into the themes of Christian mission local and abroad. We'll hear a report on the Thornwell trip this summer, hear from three different missionaries, and explore some relevant scriptures together -- all in a fun, multi-generational setting. Beginning October 6, Sunday School will return to normal age groupings for the rest of the fall.

-- In worship on September 8, we will reveal a beautiful new gift to our congregation, intended to enhance our weekly worship of God. I am confident you will love this one! I will give you a hint: bigger than a matchbox but smaller than a semi-truck.

-- On September 15, we are delighted to host your good friends and faithful missionaries the Morgans. Les and Cindy are retiring after many years of ministry in Bangladesh, and they will join us both in Sunday School and worship to share more about their experience and to challenge us in mission here in Macon. I myself am looking forward to meeting them in person for the first time. You won't want to miss their presentations and preaching. (And my beloved Ella turns 15 that Sunday! A great day all around.)

-- On Thursday, September 19, our Men's Ministry launches a new monthly lunch gathering. Men of all ages: Mark your calendars now for noon on the third Thursday of each month and we'll be letting you know soon about our first location. The invitation: Bring \$20 cash for lunch. We'll pay for our meal as a group and then what is left over after the bill we'll pool together month to month as a mission offering. Later this year, we'll select a local mission doing holy work with men in Macon and contribute our accumulated monies as men of our church. Good times.

-- On September 22 after worship, we'll hold our annual congregational meeting to elect our next group of Ruling Elders to join our Session in leading the congregation forward. Your Nominating committee has completed its holy work and, frankly, I could not be more grateful and excited about their slate. We are blessed here at Northminster with a rich pool of spiritual gifts for leadership and service. Also that Sunday, we'll reveal an entirely new logo and look for all of the publications and publicity of our congregation. Our Communications committee has worked with a local designer to develop a new logo and look for the next 5 or more years. The session is excited about this and we cannot wait to reveal it to you.

-- On Wednesday, September 25, another morning (10am) Women's Bible Study series begins. All women are invited to join Pastor Ralph for a 9-week tour of Romans chapter 8 in the New Testament. Interested in such a study but cannot attend in the mornings? Speak to me about building a group to meet one weeknight each week for the same study. If there is interest, we'll do it! Romans 8 is one of my favorite chapters in all the Bible. So much there to learn and live.

-- Finally, on September 29, I am so pleased in both Sunday School and worship to welcome my dear friend and mission colleague Marilyn Borst. A Presbyterian elder, Marilyn is based in Atlanta and works with the Outreach Foundation, a Presbyterian non-profit that works to connect American congregations with Presbyterian churches and missions around the world, especially in difficult and vulnerable contexts. I call Marilyn "the best non-preacher preacher I have ever heard." She tells important and sacred stories about what God is up to around the world through the witness of often small congregations in challenging contexts. I think she will be a great friend and resource for us going forward. And she's one of the funniest people I know. Good times ahead!

Phew! That's plenty for one month. And with the Holy Spirit's blessing, all of this activity will root us more deeply in that ancient blessed line from the Creed: We believe in "one holy catholic and apostolic church." Indeed we do. I'm honored to profess and practice that gift alongside you, each and every week. Know that I remain,

your friend and pastor,
RWH

Outreach

LOAVES & FISHES

A number of Macon Presbyterians (Northminster and St. Andrews) attended a recent volunteer appreciation event for the Loaves and Fishes ministry downtown. Heartfelt thanks to the whole congregation for all the ways you support Loaves and Fishes — with time, talent, and treasure.



Loaves and Fishes is getting a facelift! We have painted the front of the building and hung our new sign. A new awning is going up as I write this article and the front door will be painted cottage red. Next time you are downtown make sure you drive past 651 MLK Jr. Blvd and see our new look. A big thank you to Northway Church for the painting crew, The Sign Store, Warno-cam Paint Company, and Macon Awning and Canvas Products for helping us afford these much needed improvements!



As always our summer needs include razors travel size soap and shampoo, and deodorant. September food requests for our pantry are soup, stews, chili, canned meals and crackers.

Save the date! November 7, 2019 is our 3rd Annual Foodie Fundraiser! Raise money for Loaves and Fishes by eating at one of our participating restaurants any time that day. Go to www.foodiefundraiser.org for the list of restaurants and sponsors.

GOOD SAM



The scripture tells us to "love your neighbor as yourself." What better way could you love your neighbor than helping them in times of need. The Good Samaritan Offering does this for the needs in our community and for the needs of our congregation. **In July, Centenary used some of our contributions to help an individual with his medications. His mother had been helping him but she couldn't this month because she had surgery.** Thank you for your generous support of the needy people in our community!

UPCOMING SPECIAL OFFERING

On Sunday, October 6 we will be receiving gifts for the Peace & Global Offering.

A gift to this offering promotes the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations retain 25% to connect with the global witness of Christ Peace. Mid council retains 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency for peace and justices in cultures of violence. A special envelope will be provided for your gift.



MEN'S GROUP PROJECT - OCTOBER 5

The Northminster Men's ministry will be cleaning up our church playground Saturday, October 5th. All men are invited to join us for this much-needed work day. Breakfast will be provided. If you are unable to help with the manual labor but would like to help by providing tools or equipment for this project, please let Sam Alderman know.

Mark Your Calendars!



Congregational Meeting

Election of 2020 Elders

Sunday, September 22nd, we will hold a congregational meeting immediately following the service for the purpose of electing next year's elders. The nominees include: Emily Brown, Lynn Denny, Beau Kitchens, Charlotte Nolan, and Sandra Ridgeway.

Women of Northminster:

Pastor Ralph will be leading a 9-week Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study this fall, beginning Wednesday, September 25, at 10am in the Community Room. We will take a gentle stroll through the 8th chapter of Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome — a rich and important passage that prompts discussion about trust, struggle, providence, and confidence in God's promises.

Interested in a Women's Bible Study but unable to attend on a Wednesday morning? Ralph would be glad to lead the same study one evening each week. Speak to him in person or send an email and he'll gladly respond to interest. (pastorhawkins@northminstermacon.org)



MEN'S MINISTRY LUNCH

Men of all ages invited

Thursday, September 19 at 12:00pm
Location: TBA

Bring \$20 cash for lunch and mission offering

Men of Northminster:

The NPC Men's Ministry is organizing a men's lunch, for the third Thursday of each month. Location will vary and men of all ages are invited to attend. Our first lunch will be Thursday, September 10th. Keep an eye on your bulletin and weekly email for this month's location.

This gathering will double as an outreach ministry. Each man in attendance is asked to bring \$20 cash. This will cover your meal, while all remaining money will be pooled together to be given to an outreach ministry chosen by you.

Church-wide Picnic

Sunday, October 20, 2019

at Amerson River Park

Details coming soon!

We will have our annual church-wide picnic immediately following the 10:30 worship service on October 20th. Come to the service dressed casually and join us at Amerson River Park with your sides & desserts to share. More details will be coming in your bulletin, weekly email, and response sheet.

September 22...

unveiling of the new Northminster logo

A graphic featuring three large, white question marks with black outlines, set against a background of green and blue brushstrokes.

THANK YOU, CHURCH FAMILY

Dear Friends,
Belonging to such an awesome community of believers is a tremendous blessing. Once again you have showered us with so many acts of love and friendship. These past months have been difficult but you all have helped us to make our way toward our emotional and physical recoveries.
Thank you, Suzann Smith



YOUTH - SEPTMEBER EVENTS



The youth have enjoyed a busy summer and are all back into school activities now. We have 8 confirmands working hard with their mentors to be ready to officially join the church on November 24, Christ the King Sunday. Those 11 youths that went to Thornwell invite you to the first Sunday of our intergenerational Sunday School for this year on September 8 when they will share with you their experiences at Thornwell in July. We will also participate in the gatherings for the Morgans on September 15. The month will end with 2 evening meetings at the church.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Elder Nominating Committee** will present a slate of elders for the 2020 class at the **September 22** congregational meeting. **Corporate business** will also be conducted at that time.
- Mission Focus** – Important dates
- September Sunday School gatherings will be intergenerational, focusing on missions.
- September 15:** Les and Cindy Morgan, our medical missionaries to Bangladesh will join us to celebrate their life-long ministry. A church-wide salad lunch will follow the service.
- September 29:** Our sermon will be delivered by Marilyn Borst, Associate Director for Partnership Development, assisting US churches with global outreach. She is a member of Peachtree Presbyterian Church.
- Fellowship Opportunities** – Important dates
 - **October 20:** Church Picnic
 - **November 10:** NPC Thanksgiving Lunch
- Northminster's exciting **new logo** will be unveiled at the **September 22** service!
- Eight NPC youth are halfway through their confirmation classes. The youth, mentors, and prayer partners are discerning God's will in their lives.
- Take time to notice the landscaping improvements on the church property!



SEPTEMBER LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch is a Dutch treat group that gets together on the first Tuesday of the month. The group is open to anyone who likes to eat out and have fellowship time with members and friends of the church. The Lunch Bunch will dine Tuesday, September 3rd at La Parrilla at 12:00.

Northminster Silly Section

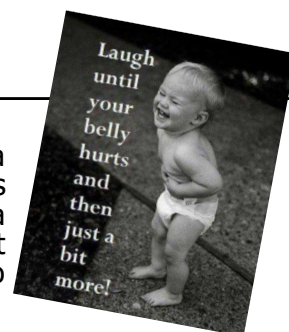
A Joyful Heart is Good Medicine... -Proverbs 17:22a

Chocolate Calories

A good piece of chocolate has about 200 calories. As I enjoy 2 servings per night, and a few more on weekends - I consume 3,500 calories of chocolate in a week, which equals one pound of weight per week. Therefore... In the last 3 1/2 years, I have had a chocolate caloric intake of about 180 pounds, and I only weigh 165, so without chocolate, I would have wasted away to nothing about 3 months ago! I owe my life to chocolate!

Pulling Hair

Jack's mother ran into the bedroom when she heard him scream and found his 2-year-old sister pulling his hair. She gently released the little girl's grip and said comfortingly to Jack, "It's okay, She didn't mean it. She doesn't know that hurts." She was barely out of the room when the little girl screamed. Rushing back in, she asked, "What happened?" "She knows now," Jack replied.





September Birthdays

- 1) James Watwood
- 4) Ben Shurford
- 6) Abigail Gleaton
- 7) Edward Gleaton
- 9) Brent Gunn;
Suzann Smith
- 12) Tim McCord
- 13) Sanbo Alderman
- 14) Annette Hutto
- 15) Ella Hawkins;
Les Morgan
- 17) Josh Denny
- 18) Ann R. Smith
- 20) Sam Alderman, III
- 22) Tom Jones

Happy Birthdays!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1) Communion Sunday Guest Speaker: Dr. Bryan Whitfield 10:30 Worship	2) Labor Day - Staff Holiday	3) 12:00 Lunch Bunch at La Parilla	4) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	5)	6)	7)
8) Ralph Hawkins' anniversary Sunday at NPC 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 4:00 Yoga	9)	10)	11) 10:00 Macon Service League Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	12)	13)	14)
15) 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 11:30 Lunch with the Morgans 4:00 Yoga	16) 6:30 Session Meeting	17) 7:00 Fore (In)Sight Meeting	18) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	19) 10:00 Prayer Group 12:00 Men's Lunch 1:30 Communion at Carlyle Place	20)	21)
22) 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregational Meeting (Elder Elections) 4:00 Yoga	23)	24)	25) 10:00 Women's Fall Bible Study 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	26)	27)	28)
29) 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 4:00 Yoga	30)					