



FEBRUARY 2020

VOLUME 24

NUMBER 2

# NORTHMINSTER *Life*

## *Hope: A Vision for 2020*

A FESTIVAL OF HYMNS

Sunday, February 2 at 3:00 p.m.  
Northminster Presbyterian Church  
565 Wimbish Rd. Macon, GA 31210

Led by organist, pianist and director, Tom Granum

In partnership with Mulberry Street UMC, and led by member Tom Granum, we will be hosting a hymn festival next Sunday, February 2. Join us for an afternoon of scripture and music, with an opportunity at the end of the program to give toward the annual Souper Bowl of Caring ministry.

All are also welcome to stay for a reception, including light refreshments,

in the fellowship hall. Interested in singing with the choir? Meet at Northminster at 2:00pm and contact Tom to let him know you'll be there. (tgranum@mulberrymethodist.org) We can't wait to see you there!

### MUSIC NOTES

Youth music will be starting rehearsals soon for their Easter anthem, and we welcome all children, ages 18 and under, to participate. The rehearsals will be February 9th, 16th, and 23rd, from 5:00-5:30 before youth group. March rehearsals will be March 1st, 15th, 29th from 5:00-5:30. Contact Maddy Schwab for more info.



Choir rehearsals are underway, and if you would like to make a short-term commitment to sing with the choir for Lent and Easter, we welcome you. You will find inspiration in the music we sing and fellowship among the other members of the choir as we celebrate life and music together, and bear each other's burdens. Don't ever feel as though you have nothing to offer -- we can lean on each other as we worship through song. It is possible in choir to reach greater heights of musicality than we can reach by ourselves. "O sing to the Lord a New Song!"

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## 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 the month of January, Centenary used some of our contributions to assist 6 different families with their utility bills and one family with their meds.**

## NPC YOUTH MINISTRY

During the holidays the youth enjoyed several social activities and learning opportunities. As January came and went there were discussions/lessons as well as volleyball, games, and time around the dinner table. Thanks to all adults who helped with these various activities.

In February we will continue the discussion of various religions as well as a discussion of finances and even learning to cook! That is a lot of "heavy stuff" but will be lightened by the Super Bowl party at 5:30 p.m. on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the home of Dan and Amy Maley. Thanks for hosting for the second year in a row!

Thanks to all of you for signing up to prepare a supper for the youth. This is very important as we continue to develop the wonderful intergenerational activity in our congregation. A person who is not cooking any longer asked me if they could just give some money for a youth fund instead and, of

## JOINING NORTHMINSTER

Interested in Joining Northminster?

The Membership Engagement Committee is looking forward to welcoming a wonderful group of people who are becoming active members of Northminster very soon! If you are interested in joining along with them or have any questions about the process, please see Pastor Ralph or Emily Brown (478-320-7659; [ebrown@mountdesales.net](mailto:ebrown@mountdesales.net)).

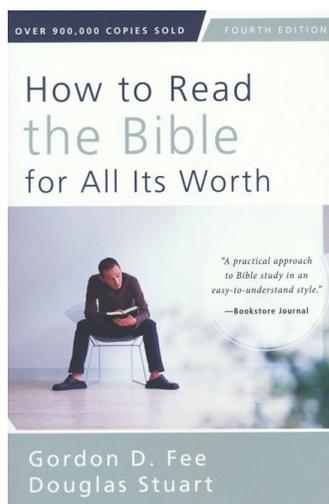
## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



If you are willing to furnish dinner for the UKirk Ministry students (10-15 people) on one of the following Monday nights during this spring semester,

please let us know by emailing the church office at [admin@northminstermacon.org](mailto:admin@northminstermacon.org) or you can note your preferred date on the weekly response sheet in your bulletin Sunday: February 17, February 24; March 9; April 6; April 20 If you reply in the affirmative, you WILL be contacted.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



Join Pastor Ralph at 9:30am each Sunday morning in the Community Room downstairs at church as he leads a teaching series based on the popular book "How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth." Think of this as Bible 101 if you are not yet comfortable with engaging scripture. Think of it as a Bible Refresher if you have been reading the Bible for years. Ralph will offer lots of practical tips and tricks for

finding your way through the massive holy collection that is inspired scripture.

## LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

At the top of every paper agenda for our monthly session meetings are printed these words:

"The session shall have responsibility for governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness."

That's a line from the *Book of Order*, our Presbyterian constitution to which we elders are bound, and we place those words at the top of our meeting dockets to remind ourselves exactly why we are meeting and what we are called to do.

Your session is made up of 10 Ruling Elders you have annually elected, plus a clerk whom the session itself elects, plus your Teaching Elder you have called and the Presbytery of Flint River has installed as your pastor. I serve your session as its moderator, which includes at least three functions: 1. guiding us through our meeting and through our discernment, 2. grounding our work in the witness of scripture, and 3. representing the wider church beyond Wimbish by virtue of my membership in a regional presbytery.

But more interesting than my roles are those of your Ruling Elders. In this issue of our newsletter, you'll find a summary of their deployment for 2020 in various leadership roles across the ministry of our congregation. The areas range from the most experimental (like fresh efforts to help us reach out to our neighborhood here along Wimbish Road) to the most foundational (like being stewards of our building and our finances). In between, of course, is a whole range of ministry callings involving youth, adults, worship, learning, and outreach.

In every instance, it is the work of your session collectively and each elder individually to "govern and to guide" our common life as a congregation. I very much appreciate those elegant verbs: to govern and to guide. It is not the job of a Ruling Elder to DO all the ministry there is to be done, to take care of everything that needs to happen in order for our church to be the Church. Rather, it is the burden and blessing of elders to LEAD us all in ministry; to PROVIDE spaces for worship, fellowship, learning, and mission; and to GUIDE Northminster toward the word and way of Jesus.

In this respect, a Presbyterian session is unlike many of the boards that govern other kinds of churches and most non-profits. Our elders do not meet simply to offer advice and consent, like a board of directors, their work done until the next meeting. In fact, in many ways the adjournment of our meetings is the commencement of our ministry, as we regularly look for ways to invite, include, instruct, and encourage our members and non-members in the way of Jesus. And it my great joy to partner with each of your elders in leading and serving each area of our ministry. That is the Presbyterian way: shared governing, shared guiding, and a shared gospel.

The goal? "That the congregation is and becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness." We exist here on Wimbish for no more and no less than this sacred calling.

Do take some minutes and study our 2020 session deployment. Pray for your elders as they govern and guide us this year. Encourage them in their respective roles, especially those newly ordained. Talk with them about your hopes, dreams, and ideas for our congregation in this season. Let them know how you would like to remain or get involved in their respective areas of ministry.

After all, as followers of Jesus in this Presbyterian way, we are truly all in this movement together. RWH

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 2

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will hold a brief congregational meeting immediately following our worship service. This meeting will be held for the purpose of presenting and voting on the 2020 Terms of Call for our pastor.

### JANUARY LUNCH BUNCH - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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, February 4th at Red Lobster at 12:00.

### MEN'S LUNCH - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20



#### MEN'S MINISTRY LUNCH

The Men's Ministry Lunch is a monthly opportunity for men to fellowship and support local missions. This month, men will meet January 16th at noon at Glory Days Grill (3933 Arkwright Rd, Macon, GA 31210).

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



### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

### PANCAKE SUPPER - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

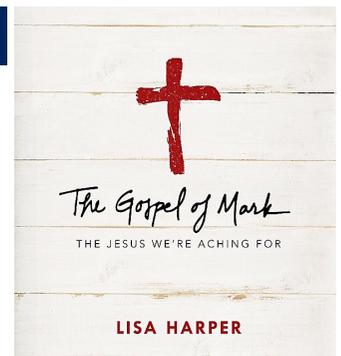
Join us Tuesday, February 25th at 5:30pm in the fellowship hall for a breakfast feast as we celebrate the incredible gifts of abundance God has given and prepare our hearts and minds for the coming Ash Wednesday, and beginning of the Lenten season.

If you are able to help prepare the meal, please contact Jennifer in the church office ([admin@northminstermacon.org](mailto:admin@northminstermacon.org) or 477-6646).

### SPRING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - MARCH 4TH

Beginning March 4th at 10:00am in the community room, our weekly Spring Bible study will follow the video teaching of Lisa Harper as she works through the Gospel of Mark.

In *The Gospel of Mark*, you'll follow Jesus through His days of early ministry to the cross and discover what it means to be the recipients of His overflowing compassion and the very reason for His all-consuming passion.



### CHILI COOKOFF - SUNDAY, MARCH 8



#### Chili Cookoff & Dessert Auction

ANNUAL YOUTH BENEFIT

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 8th! You don't want to miss this fun annual event, hosted by our youth. Bring your favorite chili or Brunswick stew recipe to enter in the competition. Don't forget the desserts! We'll be auctioning off your donated goodies by our one-and-only greatest emcee & auctioneer, Minor Vernon!

## YOUR 2020 ELDER LEADERSHIP

### **NEIGHBORHOOD – Lynn Denny**

ltdenny@yahoo.com – 478-731-4849

- discerning ministry needs
- developing a presence
- fostering hospitality

### **OUTREACH & MISSION – Judy Hill**

rolandjudy@hotmail.com - 478-731-7941

- directing budget giving
- providing ministry opportunities
- planning special mission offerings

### **ADULT DISCIPLESHIP – Charlotte Nolan**

nolancd@bellsouth.net - 478-973-0586

- directing adult Sunday School
- planning adult Bible studies

### **YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP – Ann Weaver**

ann.weaver1147@att.net – 478-361-4610

- providing for youth group
- directing children and youth Sunday School

### **CONGREGATIONAL CARE – Sandra Ridgeway**

sway502@bellsouth.net – 478-361-1806

- supporting persons and families in times of

### **MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT - Emily Brown**

ebrown@mountdesales.net - 478-320-7659

- integrating new members
- utilizing time and talents
- directing stewardship emphasis

### **WORSHIP – Sam Alderman**

sgaiii@bellsouth.net - 478-361-5805

- providing for worship, music, preaching,

### **FINANCE – Boyd Ellison**

ebellison@cox.net – 478-477-7243

- directing annual budget

### **PROPERTY – Beau Kitchens**

beau@mingledorffs.com – 478-954-2612

- planning for short and long-term needs

### **PERSONNEL – Ricky Smith**

rcsjr327@gmail.com – 478-718-1019

- directing & supporting paid staff

### **PLANNED GIVING – Sam McDuffie**

duff661@bellsouth.net – 478-405-0924

- overseeing endowment fund

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

1. Our new elders were warmly welcomed, and committee roles were approved for the entire Session. (See above for committee moderator assignments)
2. The 2020 NPC budget of \$477,054.48 was unanimously approved.
3. Karen Jones was elected Clerk of the Session for 2020.
4. Northminster Presbyterian Church currently has 195 members.
5. A congregational meeting will be held on February 2 after the service to discuss the Terms of Call for our pastor, as required by the Book of Order.
6. After the retirement of our longtime medical missionaries, NPC is ready to explore new possibilities for mission. This Spring Natalie and Minor Vernon, along with Ella and Ralph Hawkins will join other Presbyterians and Methodists on a trip to the Dominican Republic where they will provide medical assistance, help with building projects, and assist with Bible School.

### **Looking Ahead**

**February 2 - A congregational meeting** will be held after the service to discuss the Terms of Call for our pastor, as required by the Book of Order.

**March 8 – Youth Chili Cookoff to benefit their Montreat trip**

**March 29 – Fifth Sunday**

**April 11 – NPC/Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt**



# February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>February Birthdays</b>						
2) Anna Roddenberry; 11) Ella Cole Alderman; 14) Joe Watwood; 17) Rachel Putzke & John John Putzke; 21) Kathy Wheeler; Lynn Southerland; 28) José Maley						
2) 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregational Meeting 3:00 Hymn Festival 4:00 Yoga Youth Super Bowl Party	3)	4) 12:00 Lunch Bunch @ Red Lobster	5) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	6)	7)	8) 9:00 Pat McGill's Strings Group Meeting
9) 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 4:00 Yoga 5:30 Youth Dinner & Lesson	10)	11)	12) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	13)	14)	15)
16) 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship - Bell Choir Playing 11:30 Youth Lunch	17) 6:30 Session Meeting	18) 7:00 Fore (In)Sight Meeting	19) 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	20) 10:00 Prayer Group 12:00 Men's Lunch @ Glory Days Grill 1:30 Communion at	21)	22)
23) 9:30 Connections 10:30 Worship 4:00 Yoga 5:30 Youth Dinner & Lesson	24)	25) <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 5:30 Pancake Supper	26) <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir	27)	28)	29)