



SEPTEMBER 2021

VOLUME 25

NUMBER 9

NORTHMINSTER *Life*



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Over the years, we have supported our local Loaves & Fishes Ministry of Macon through volunteering of time and donations, both in-kind and monetary. We are excited to take an extra step of faith to support this ministry in a huge way. The Loaves & Fishes building downtown does not have an adequate outdoor meeting space. Inside is limited as well, so they are seeking the opportunity to build a covered space that will allow people to gather for weekly Bible study, waiting for laundry and food services, and simply staying sheltered in bad weather. Please consider joining us to help Loaves & Fishes raise the roof. You can give online at northminstermacon.org/give, by mail, or Sunday mornings.



Sunday, September 12, we will join Flint River Presbyteries and sister churches in a special donation specifically for the campus ministry outreach. Ministries throughout our region are reaching out to students on local college campuses to provide students with a small-group church away from home. From Bible Studies and group discussions to meals and movie nights, these ministries help students transitioning to life on their own. You are asked to prayerfully consider giving to the Flint River Campus Ministry Endowment fund, the UKirk Mercer campus ministry, or both!



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 July, Centenary used some of our contributions to assist four families with their utility bills. One of these families suffered a house fire in April and has been living in a hotel. They are now in a home and needed help with their utilities. Assistance was also given to five other families with their rent. The unemployment check was ended for one of these families. She is starting a new job; going to school and her baby is due in February. She has always paid her rent on time since May 2020 except this month.** Thank you for your generous support of the needy people in our community!

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2: Letter from your pastor; Suggestions
Page 3: Music Notes; Women's Retreat; Train Trip; Birthdays
Page 4: Special offerings; Silly Page
Insert: Women's retreat (to share!)



WORDS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Back in June, three of us from Northminster sat in Jake Ferro's office downtown on MLK Boulevard. Jake is the ever-so-positive director of Loaves & Fishes, the ministry to homeless persons and the working poor that Northminster and many other Macon churches have cared about since its inception.

Kari Alderman and I were there with your session's unanimous blessing, presenting to Jake our sense of call to raise mission money for some capital improvements to the property that would enhance the ministry during this ongoing pandemic. Kari has elsewhere told the beautiful story of how our offer to raise \$30,000 through a mission challenge came just hours after Jake learned he did not get a much-anticipated grant ... for the same amount of money. God is good.

The story I want to tell here happened out on the sidewalk, after our meeting. I brought our summer intern Brandon Davis to the appointment, who listened as we told Jake how our elders had approved using income from our invested endowment to match our member's offerings. Out on the curb, on our way back to the car, Brandon offered an off-handed but beautiful observation: "You know what I love about this plan? I love how the Northminster of the past will join with Northminster of the present to bless this place."

That way of putting it, that way of understanding the role of a church's endowment, that landed squarely on my pastor's heart. In all my years of working with churches, a presbytery, and their endowments, it had never once occurred to me to call such income from investments on past giving "the church of the past doing mission in the present." But once he said it, I could not un-hear it. God is good.

I so appreciate elder Kari Alderman and our Outreach committee for leading us in this short but sacred campaign. And I so appreciate our session's approval of using our endowment income to double our giving. What's more, one of our members has generously offered to match our giving a second time, adding a third \$10,000 to the mix and moving us that much closer to our 30k goal. God is good.

Personally, I see all of this as a way for us to give tangible thanks to God for seeing us through this pandemic thus far. I also love how many of you have already responded with enthusiasm. One member indicated to me this week his intention to give, adding "I have such a place in my heart for Loaves & Fishes. I am excited to give." That is the church of Jesus in the present, joining forces with the church that gone on before us, to love our neighbors in a specific and practical way.

And what will these thirty-thousand George Washingtons do? They will finish the funding needed for a permanent overhead shelter immediately behind the Loaves & Fishes building, as well as a new concrete pad under foot. Heaters for the winter and fans for the summer will not only furnish a hospitable place for folks to rest during the day, but will also provide a safe and dedicated space for Bible study, outdoor worship, food distribution, and the like.

God is indeed good, saints. That truth is why it is a blessing, and not a burden, to give of ourselves and our treasure in order to bless God's world and God's persons therein. Thanks for all you do with your time, talent and treasure to Raise the Roof: here at Northminster, in your daily living, and — with this campaign — downtown. You are loved.

RWH

IDEA & SUGGESTION SUBMISSIONS

We are very excited to things carefully returning to normal. As we begin preparations for the upcoming year and years ahead, we ask that you submit your ideas and suggestions for events, activities, studies, and other gatherings to the office. Your session will take joy in using these to help with future planning. We love our family and want to hear from you! Send your ideas to admin@northminstermacon.org or mail them in.

MUSIC NOTES

If you have ever thought about singing in the choir, but just cannot make a weekly commitment, now is a great time to try it out. Just show up in the loft at 10:20 any Sunday you are in town, wearing a mask, and sing some hymns. You don't have to bring anything with you; hymn sheets and bulletins are provided in your chairs.

If you want more, we are planning to have a picnic lunch immediately following the service on September 19th in the fellowship hall. Bring your own lunch, enjoy some fellowship, sing a few simple anthems, and still be home in time for your Sunday afternoon nap! Spouses are welcome!

Our Bell choir will be making their fall debut on September 19th as well. You don't want to miss hearing them... we have added a few new members to the group, and have already had several great rehearsals!

Our Annual Lessons/Carols service is planned for Sunday, December 5th, at 10:30 am. The string quartet with Pat McCall, leader, will play. Mark your calendars and plan to join us that Sunday, either live or via livestream. Invite someone to join you. It always starts the holiday season off on the right Note!



WOMEN'S RETREAT WITH DR. LISA NICHOLS HICKMAN

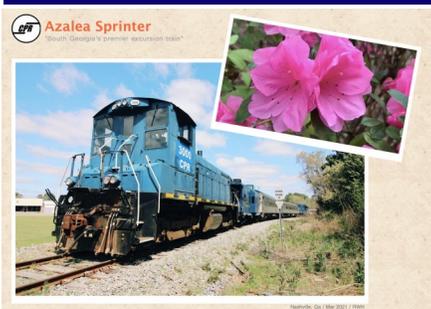
Praying the Life Cycle:

Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

Northminster will host its first Women's retreat here at our church. Noted author, Dr. Lisa Hickman will be with us Friday evening, November 12th from 6pm -8:30pm and Saturday (the 13th) from 9am-2pm to lead this women's retreat at Northminster. Meals will be provided; this will not be an overnight

event. Plan to bring your daughters and granddaughters, or your moms and grandmothers, and friends. Women from sister churches and those throughout our community, ages 13 and up, are invited to attend. The cost is \$20 per person before Sept 15, \$25 until Nov 7. You may register online by visiting our website. Scroll down to the Women's Retreat announcement on the right of the screen and click "register now." You may also register by calling the church office or mailing in your check with "Retreat" in them memo line.

OCTOBER 9TH TRAIN TRIP



We still have seats for the October 9th train tour in Nashville, GA. Join us for a day of fun and fellowship on the Azalea Sprinter tourist train. A bus will leave Northminster at 9:00am, arrive in Nashville where we will enjoy a bring-your-own picnic lunch, then return to Northminster around 5:30pm after a beautiful day of touring on the train together. The cost is \$25 per individual, \$45 for two people, or \$60 for three. You may register online at northminstermacon.org/train or call the church office at 478-477-6646.

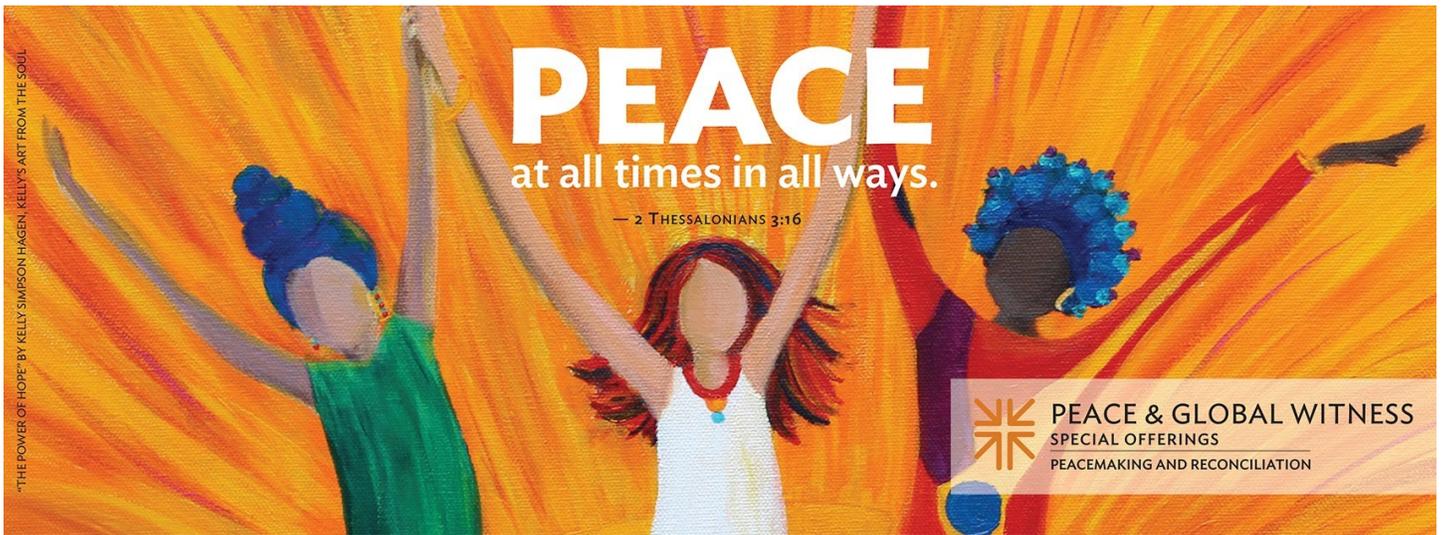
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

As our newsletters included pre-covid, we have begun including our member's and friend's birthday in our monthly editions once again. Please let Jennifer, in the church office, know if you have a birthday this month that is not listed.

Sept 4 - Ben Shuford
Sept 9 - Brent Gunn
Sept 13 - Sambo Alderman
Sept 17 - Josh Denny
Sept 21 - Jennifer Whitehead
Sept 22 - Don Hendrix

Sept 6 - Abigail Gleaton
Sept 9 - Suzann Smith
Sept 14 - Annette Hutto
Sept 18 - Ann Smith
Sept 22 - David Preyna
Sept 22 - Tom Jones

Sept 7 - Edward Gleaton
Sept 12 - Tim McCord
Sept 15 - Ella Hawkins
Sept 20 - Sam Alderman
Sept 22 - Andrew Preyna



The Peace and Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do this work well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and nurturing reconciliation and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere. This offering will be taken up Sunday, October 3.

SILLY SECTION

The Tate Family

Do you have any idea how many members of the Tate family belong to your congregation? There is old man Dic Tate who wants to run everything, while uncle Ro Tate tries to change everything. Their sister, Agi Tate, stirs up plenty of trouble with help from her husband, Irri Tate. Whenever new projects are suggested, Hesi Tate and his wife Vegi Tate want to wait until next year. Brother Facili Tate is quite helpful in church business. Cousins Cogi Tate and Medi Tate always think things over and lend a helpful steady hand. And, of course, there is bad see in the family, Ampu Tate, who has cut himself off completely from the Body of Christ.

Baby Baptism

The Johnson family with their five-year-old daughter sat close to the front at church so little Annie could see the whole service. Since they were attending an Episcopal Church, on the particular Sunday the minister was baptizing a tiny infant.

Annie Johnson was quite taken with the ritual, especially when the minister poured water over the baby's head. With a quizzical look, the little girl turned to her father and with a loud voice asked, "Daddy, why are they brainwashing that baby?"

An Order of Ribs

In Miss Lilie's kindergarten Sunday school class, she was teaching how everything in the world was created by God, including human beings. Little Georgie was particularly interested in how Eve was created out of Adam's rib.

Later in the week, the five-year-old's mother found him lying down as though he were ill. She asked him, "Georgie, what's the matter?"

To which Georgie replied, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Water Baptism

A drought in Georgia began to affect how the churches in many communities had to conduct baptisms. The Baptists took up sprinkling, the Methodists used damp cloths, and the Presbyterians gave out rain checks.

NORTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

invites WOMEN of all ages to a weekend retreat



Praying the **Life Cycle**: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow

with noted pastor and author

Dr. Lisa Nichols Hickman

Women of all ages: Come join us at Northminster Presbyterian Church for a conversation and reflection on the different ages and stages of our lives. Life Cycle Theory helps us pay attention to questions of meaning, purpose, and formation during those different ages. As a community of Christian faith, learning more about the life cycle invites new opportunities for connection, community, and commitment to prayer as we discover new strength for today and deeper hope for tomorrow both for ourselves and for our neighbors.

November 12-13, 2021

Friday evening 6-8:30pm and Saturday morning 9am-2pm. Meals included.

Early registration by September 15 is **\$20**
Regular registration until November 7 is **\$25**

Register online at www.northminstermacon.org or call 478-477-6646



Dr. Lisa Nichols Hickman is a Presbyterian pastor and author. She currently serves at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, as an Associate Pastor for Children and Families. Her books include: *Writing in the Margins: Connecting with God on the Pages of Your Bible*, *Mercy and Melons: Praying the Alphabet*, and *The Worshiping Life: Meditations on the Order of Worship*.