



NOVEMBER 2021

VOLUME 25

NUMBER 11
ANNUAL UPDATES

NORTHMINSTER *Life*

ALL ABOARD!



PRESBYTERIANS RIDE THE RAILS

Back in October, more than three dozen Northminster members took to the rails in south Georgia for a special train excursion hosted by the Azalea Sprinter: Georgia's newest tourist line. Pastor Ralph's friends at CaterParrott Railnet put on the trip at very little cost to our church, so a donation to Loaves & Fishes Ministry was made in honor of Chris Parrott, one of the line's owners. A great time was had by all! Perhaps a train ride together is a new Northminster annual tradition? (Pastor Ralph and Ella say yes!)

Congregational Meeting

We will have a congregational meeting with the intention of electing new elders following the service Sunday, November 7th. Those on the ballot include Barbara Fatkin, Jinny McDuffie, Ray Mosely, Michael Napier and Ginny Whitaker.

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ADULT MINISTRY

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

-Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Our Adult Ministry is passionate about connection. Through Bible Studies and events like Men's lunches, Women's retreats, and group outings, we connect with God and with each other. Throughout these nearly two years of social distancing and health-conscious gathering, we have adapted the way we connect to ensure everyone's safety. We are thankful to have begun returning to group gatherings and look forward to connecting with each other face-to-face as much as possible and via online services when it isn't possible. If you are interested in hosting, leading, or assisting with any adult group gatherings, such as Bible Study, a group outing, a meal, or anything else you have missed or longed for during this time, please reach out to our current Adult Ministry elder, Charlotte Nolan (478-973-0586) to learn more about ways you can help continue and grow this ministry within our church. We look forward to all that 2022 will hold!

WOMEN'S RETREAT WITH DR. LISA NICHOLS HICKMAN



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

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 to pay attention to questions of meaning, purpose, and formation during those different ages and stages. 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.

\$25 Registration is ongoing

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*.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ. -Galatians 6:2

The congregational care committee is an amazing group of volunteers dedicated to making sure our church family is never lost or alone.

Thus far this year, they have:

- Mail 80+ assorted cards to members (celebrations, get well, condolences, etc)
- Provided 8 gift cards to members
- Taken meals to members
- Held two funeral receptions
- Mailed 20 copies of "These Days" devotionals to homebound members every quarter
- Visited and/or called members after various surgeries, illness, or injuries

The congregational care committee is essential to being the church within the church. Showing Christ's love to those already in God's family is a blessed reminder of His love, presence, and desire for us to have loving friendships through all life's celebrations and struggles. If you would like to make a homebound member smile with a phone call, brighten someone's day with a quarterly goody-bag, take a meal to a hurting member, write cards of congratulations or condolence, help set up for receptions, or anything in between, please contact elder Sandra Ridgeway (478-841-4034).

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND RESURRECTION OF OUR MEMBERS



Mary Ann Ellis
February 14, 2021

Safe in God's Keeping

I am home in Heaven, dear ones,
Oh! So happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this Everlasting Light.

All the pain and grief are over,
Every restless yearning past;
I am now at peace forever,
Safely home in Heaven at last.

-Unknown Author



Doris Vann
August 7, 2021



Edward "Jack" Gleaton, Jr.
August 14, 2021



Joseph "Beau" Kitchens
September 13, 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Nov 1 - Larry Smallwood
Nov 10 - Charlotte Nolan
Nov 14 - Kathy Smallwood
Nov 22 - Jewell James

Nov 4 - Ryden Aiello
Nov 11 - Kathy McCord
Nov 18 - Ron Wolfe
Nov 26 - Diane Frank

Nov 9 - Donna Shuford
Nov 13 - Virginia Hall
Nov 20 - Susan Simpson
Nov 28 - Kaye Mosely

OUTREACH

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

-Philippians 2:4

Outreach is a huge part of our mission and this committee is the embodiment of a servant's heart. From support of our new missionaries abroad, to serving ministries like Thornwell, Loaves & Fishes, Habitat for Humanity, and Presbyterian Giving, we are blessed with incredible ways to serve and share our faith. If this is an area to which you feel called to serve, please contact elder Kari Alderman (kalderman@mountdesales.net)

LOAVES & FISHES MINISTRY



SAVE THE DATE

FOR OUR

5TH ANNUAL

FOODIE FUNDRAISER!

EAT AT A PARTICIPATING RESTAURANT AND THEY

WILL DONATE 5% OF YOUR MEAL PRICE!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

FOODIEFUNDRAISER.ORG

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

Back Burner	Kudzu Seafood
Bear's Den	LBV Italian Kitchen
Barberitos	Longhorn Steakhouse
Bianca's Grill	Marble Slab Creamery
Brasserie Circa	Miramar
Dawson's Kitchen	Northside Cheers
De'Lani Delights	Ocmulgee Brewpub
El Sombrero	Parish Louisiana Grille
Famous Mikes	Roly Poly
Fatty's Pizza	S&S Cafeteria
Greek Corner Pizza	Sid's Sandwich Shop
Grey Goose Player's Club	Southern Vegan Soul Cafe
Grits Cafe (Forsyth)	Texas Border Grill
Ingleside Pizza	Tropical Smoothie Cafe
Jags Pizzeria & Pub	Your Pie
Jim Shaw's Seafood Grill	
Jonah's on Johnston (Forsyth)	

Loaves & Fishes Ministry invites you to take part in the
5th Annual Foodie Fundraiser Thursday, November 4th

Presented by Alex's PC Solutions and Burgess Pigments

Dine at a participating restaurant, listed above, on Thursday, November 4th, and that restaurant will donate 5% of your tab to the Loaves and Fishes Ministry of Macon.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

The annual Alternative Christmas Fair is a unique way to give a gift that "gives" twice. By giving a donation in any amount to any or all of the supported ministries, you will be given a card to gift to a friend or family member, letting them know you have given a donation in their honor.

Join us immediately following the Lessons & Carols service on Sunday, December 5th for this wonderful event. You may also give by mail or online.

**Thornwell
Loaves & Fishes
Habitat for Humanity**

NEIGHBORHOOD

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, generous and willing to share.

-1 Timothy 6:18

The Neighborhood committee diligently seeks to extend the hand of Christ into our local community. Our church continues to provide assistance through Good Sam's Centenary Community funds and the Rosa Taylor backpack ministry, delivering 20 food bags each week to children who may have little to eat over the weekend. If you have a heart for serving the local community, please contact Lynn Denny (ltdenny@yahoo.com).



GOOD SAMARITAN

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 September, Centenary used some of our contributions to assist three families with their rent. One of these renters works through door dash and her car broke down. Because of car repairs she was short on rent due. Three other families needed help with their utilities. One of these families needed help with her power, water and phone bills. She is deaf and works part time at Kroger and her SSDI was terminated because she made too much money in 2020. She is appealing this decision. She was also given a bus pass.** Thank you for your generous support of the needy people in our community!



GLOVES FOR THE HOMELESS

Fall is here and that means it is time for our annual tradition of providing **GLOVES FOR THE HOMELESS** members of our community. Each year Northminster provides 500 pairs of gloves, half of which are given to the attendees of the Christmas Party for the Homeless and the other half to Loaves and Fishes. The Outreach Committee has already purchased the gloves in bulk from a wholesaler and would appreciate your help in paying for them. Every \$10 donation pays for 6 pairs of gloves. You may donate with a check to Northminster with "gloves #2237" in the memo line or give online at northminstermacon.org/give. This is a wonderful way to provide some Christmas warmth for our homeless brothers and sisters, and we thank you for your part in it.

YOUTH

Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him. -Psalm 127:3

We are blessed to have a wonderful, strong youth group here at Northminster, along with amazing leaders. This year, our youth have met as much as possible to participate in meals, service activities, crafts, games, and lessons. We are thankful for our intergenerational congregation and if you feel led to help any with our 6th-12th graders or if you have a student and would like to receive event emails, please let Melissa McDougald know (juragal@gmail.com).



Mark your calendars for the following and be sure to invite your friends:

Sunday Nov 7:

Time and location: At Northminster after church in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. The boy's activity: Service project TBA
The girl's activity: Making sand dollar ornaments for the teachers at Rosa Taylor Elementary for Teacher Appreciation Day.

Saturday Nov 20:

Movie & Game Night at Northminster! Dinner provided Time: 6pm - 11pm. If anyone needs a ride home no worries! It will be a late night.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 5th
at 10:30am

Join us for our annual Lessons & Carols service as we celebrate the Advent season with song and scripture.

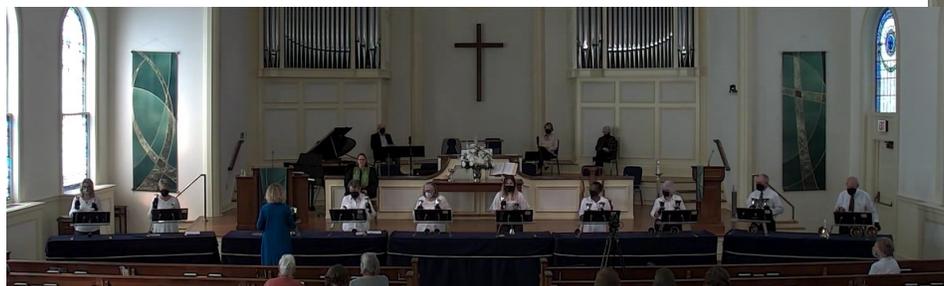
MUSIC NOTES

It is hard to believe but the holiday season is upon us, and with Thanksgiving right around the corner, I would like to give thanks for all the musicians who share their time and talents to make the music ministry at Northminster successful. Adult choir, Handbell choir, Brass ensemble, violinist, Pat McCall, so many people bless us each week as we gather to praise our Lord. Thank you to each and everyone!!



Our annual Lessons and Carols service will be held on December 5th. We will enjoy hearing the adult choir, string quartet, handbell choir, and Edward Clark on saxophone, play and sing for this service. I hope you will plan to come and bring someone with you. And enjoy sharing this service via livestream with all your family and friends. They will be blessed and it will start the holiday season on the right note.

If you would like to participate in this service, a short rehearsal will be held in the choir loft on November 7th, immediately following the worship service, and again on Wednesday, Dec 1st at 6:00 pm. The music is very simple and can be learned quite easily. No commitment required, just come. Give yourself the gift of music this year. You will be glad you did!
Happy Holidays!



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

God has given us an amazing space for Sunday worship services and a beautiful congregation of people who provide a welcoming, peace-filled, blessed atmosphere for all in attendance. The worship committee is the behind-the-scenes team that helps beautify the space with flowers, advent décor and more as well as preparing communion and making sure that overall, your worship experience can be focused on God and not the little details that keep the cogs turning. If you would like to be a part of this team, please contact Jan Hirsh (478-952-6480) to learn more about ways you can help.

simply

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free.
Till by turning, turning we come round right.



STEWARDSHIP

In what could surely be a larger conversation for another day, I'll start this brief November blurb with this observation: I'm not normally a believer in the oft-used maxim, "Everything happens for a reason." Theologically speaking, some things very much happen without a reason, which is what makes them contrary to God's plans and purposes. Randomness, chaos, disorder: on their own, these are no friends of God. God ... who orders the days, the day and the night, and calls them all "good." (Genesis 1)

That said, I do believe that nothing is beyond the grip of God's grace. Nothing reason-less can escape God's good providence. Nothing (and no-one!) is beyond the reach of the Good Shepherd who goes searching for the 1 lost sheep, fostering reunion with the 99. Or put yet another way — in the words of the Apostle Paul — "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God ..." (Romans 8:28). What's important about that verse (indeed, the entire blessed chapter) is the prior affirmation that not all things are good. Some things seem to happen for no reason. But — and this is the good news of a crucifixion-turned-resurrection faith like ours — all things will, in God's good time, be worked into something good. Again ... a larger precious conversation for another blessed day.

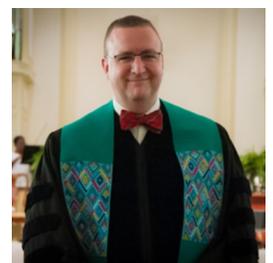
For now, let me just observe that it is in this light that I hold our experience of COVID-19. It is not good, in and of itself, left to its own random devices. A virus is a creature which has lost its reason. Pandemics threaten the fundamental goodness of God's creation, precisely by showing us just how beautifully fragile and delicately holy everything turns out to be. But — and again, this is the good news — even a pandemic can be used for good. In the spirit of Romans 8, followers of Jesus learn to 1. call a spade a spade and 2. look for silver linings. Cross and then resurrection. No-reason brought back to reason. Chaos subdued and salved by just the right touch of divine order.

In this way, can we not say together that one of the silver linings of COVID-19 has been a new spirit of simplicity forced upon most of us? When you cannot do for a time what you have been used to doing throughout all your time, one learns to appreciate again just how blessed it all is. Touch. Visitation. Comforting crowds. Freedom to come and go. Fellowship. Hugs. Health. Family. Friends. Breathing freely. Conversation unmediated by technology. Et cetera, et cetera. What else has this season taught you to cherish? What else is being worked for good from bad in your life in this time in light of God's love?

In this spirit, we once again take up a Stewardship Season this month. This year, let us hear again Jesus' call to a life marked by blessed SIMPLICITY. In prayer. In thought. In our homes. In our church. Simply stewardship: the not-so-complicated opportunity to receive this life as a gift from God, and continually to turn (and turn and turn) until — in the words of the old Shaker hymn — we "come round right" back toward God. We keep turning (and trusting) because we are learning to believe that, indeed, "all things [will] work together for good for those who love God."

COVID 19: not good. Taking a step back and turning to appreciate the Simple Gifts: very good. And of God.

RWH



FINANCE COMMITTEE

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH			
FINANCIAL SUMMARY		Sep-21	
RESTRICTED FUNDS		\$	153,495.65
OPERATING FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$	211,108.17
ENDOWMENT NET ASSET VALUE	6/30/2021	\$	700,500.89
TOTAL ASSETS		\$	1,065,104.71

Year-to-date Giving and Expenses

Pledges Given	Expected Pledges	Surplus/Deficit	
\$ 333,676.70	\$ 306,735.03	\$	26,941.67

Loose Offerings	Expected Offerings	Surplus/Deficit	
\$ 14,594.50	\$ 28,500.03	\$	(13,905.53)

Other Income	\$	22,654.50
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Total	Budgeted	Surplus/Deficit	
Expenses	Expenses		
\$ 370,932.12	\$ 361,986.51	\$	(8,945.61)

Total	Surplus/Deficit	
Expenses	Total Income	
\$ 370,932.12	\$ 370,925.70	\$ (6.42)

SEPTEMBER 2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of September 30, Northminster has received \$333,676.70 in pledges, which is \$26,941.67 more than the \$306,735.03 expected so far this year.

We have received \$14,594.50 in loose offerings, which is \$13,905.53 less than the \$28,500.03 expected so far this year.

We have received \$22,654.50 in offerings for unbudgeted and outreach programs.

We have spent \$370,932.12 which is \$8,945.61 more than the \$361,986.51 that was planned to be spent so far this year.

In summary, we have received \$370,932.12 in total income and spent a total of \$370,925.70, which leaves us with a current deficit of \$6.42.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Our building and grounds are a beautiful display of God's blessings on our church. Taking care of our facility is an act of honor to God and our property committee does a wonderful job of this. Committee moderator, Beau Kitchens, was dedicated to every aspect of our building, maintaining everything from the central heat & air systems to plumbing, electrical, and grounds work. Although he is no longer with us, his committee has done an incredible job stepping up to make sure the work he did is continued. If you are willing to help this committee in any way, whether by being a key-holder, helping oversee repair or maintenance projects, making phone calls or more, please contact the church office so your information can be passed along to the committee as a whole.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The personnel committee blesses our employees by being there to assist whenever needed. This year, the committee stepped up to help ensure our beloved sexton, Benjamin Gail, transitioned into life at home after his years of dedicated service. This committee creates, maintains, and adjusts personnel policies to the needs of both the congregation and the employees as well as making sure those needs are met. If you would like to be part of this committee, please contact Roland Hill at 478-361-1998.

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Our members are the best part of our church. We are a family and we love seeing our family grow! As part of this committee, you can help in many ways through events and activities focused on helping our church family bond and grow. If you would like to participate in this committee as a member or volunteering to assist with individual events, including publications, providing meals, set-up or clean-up, planning, and more, please contact Emily Brown (Emily.brown@mountdesales.net)