



MAY 2022
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NORTHMINSTER *Life*

MEN'S RETREAT - MAY 20-21

SPRING MEN'S SUMMIT

May 20-21, 2022 ❖ Friday evening and Saturday morning

“STRENGTHEN THE TESTIMONY!”

Conversations with men about the walk of Christian faith

Our Featured Guests



JOSH BOWER
Pastor, First Presbyterian
Church of Albany Ga



JOHN DUNAWAY
Professor Emeritus, Mercer
University; community leader



JAKE FERRO
Director, Loaves and
Fishes Ministry

Summit begins Friday evening with dinner at 6pm and ends Saturday after lunch.

\$20 per man.

Young men under 20 years old are free.

Register with Jennifer at admin@northminstermacon.org or (478) 318-7911.

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NOTES FROM YOUR PASTOR

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS

Phew ... what a month, April. Remember the old B. J. Thomas hit, "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head"? Well, that title proved literal for us last month, as our former steeple left its tower open to the sky and punched ugly gashes in the roof over our offices. What a mess. And yet, from those showers have already bloomed some lovely flowers. First, we thank God for good insurance. Second, your pastor and elders thank God for a flexible and resilient staff. Third, I thank God for calm and wise Ruling Elders. Fourth, we all give thanks for attentive and efficient clean up contractors. Fifth: thank God for electrical power! Sixth, we bless the better angels of Providence that our precious light-filled sanctuary was not damaged — not one square inch — that fateful Tuesday. And seventh, no one was hurt ... everything is repairable ... and the church is not (only) its building. Instead of B. J. Thomas, we are singing the Doxology these days. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Now, time to look ahead. MEN: Elder Michael Napier and I have a wonderful weekend planned for you. See the details on the front cover of this newsletter. Come join us. Our women enjoyed a fabulous gathering in the fall; now it is our turn. Interesting speakers. Fun and games. Plenty of man food. Fellowship across the ages, from 9 to 99. You won't want to miss this. Friday evening and Saturday morning. All in the Fellowship Hall. You can only make the evening or the morning? No worries. Come on anyway, when you can. You'll enjoy it either way.

I'm excited — in this and a dozen other ways this summer — to get back to the holy business of being Jesus' church ... steeple or not.

You are loved. RWH

MUSIC NOTES

Adult choir and Bell choir will be taking a well deserved break for the next few summer months. They have done a tremendous job over the past 2 years of the COVID pandemic as we have sought new paths of making worship music in a safe way. Thank you to all our singers and ringers! I appreciate each one of you so very much! Your prayers, support and flexibility throughout these trying months have meant so much to me personally and to our church family. Enjoy making music in the pews each week with your family and friends, and we will look forward to the fall when we come together again in the choir loft. Blessings! -Sandy



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - MAY 15

We will have an important Congregational Meeting immediately following worship. Items of business include a. the election of our next Nominating Committee to search for Ruling Elders, and b. a matter regarding an offer to purchase lots we own that are adjacent to our main property. We will also take some time in this meeting to update everyone on plans for repairing our building from recent tornado damage.

SUNDAY MORNING STUDY!



Missing Sunday School lately? Join Pastor Ralph each Sunday in May at 9:30am in the church library for a deep dive into the Biblical references that shape our Presbyterians Brief Statement of Faith, which we often recite during worship. It begins, "In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve."

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK



Our energetic Neighborhood committee (elder Barbara Fatkin, chair) blessed our teacher and administrative friends at Rosa Taylor Elementary this week with Z Beans coffee and Chick-fil-A biscuits for breakfast. We appreciate our Rosa Taylor neighbors!



COMMUNION AT CARLYLE



Communion at Carlyle will be served the first Sunday of each month (as it is in the worship service schedule) at 2:30pm. This worship service is open to all who would like to join. If you are an elder, past or present, who would like to assist with communion at Carlyle, please contact Genny Whitaker at 478-731-5248 or ggwhit@cox.net.

NORTHMINSTER'S SENIOR CLASS OF 2022

We will be honoring, during worship on May 15, our two beloved High School graduates:

Benjamin Shuford is graduating from Jones County High School and plans to attend University of North Georgia in the fall. Ben is the son of Donna & Jimmy Shuford and the grandson of Ann & Andy Weaver.

Ann Putzke is graduating from Stratford Academy and will attend the University of Georgia in the fall. Annie is the daughter of Virginia Hall and John Putzke and the granddaughter of Buz and Ann Hall and Jim and Lorainne Putzke.

INVITATION FROM ROSIE MILES



Member Rosie Miles would like to invite the congregation to the following play, by her drama club students:

Ridge Road Elementary School Drama Club presents Seussical Jr.! May 12 & 13 @ 5:00 in the RRE cafeteria. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5. If you have any questions please let Rosie Miles know! Address to the school: 285 Ridge Rd, Sandersville, GA 31082

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 5 - Boyd Ellison
May 11 - Martha Hopkins
May 14 - Ella Smith
May 23 - Rex Tidwell
May 31 - Martha Thomas

May 10 - Betty Barlow
May 11 - Ken Mayhew
May 15 - Virginia Cowsert
May 26 - Sarah Morrow

May 10 - Harvey Roddenberry
May 14 - Melissa McDougald
May 19 - Amanda Smith
May 26 - Kari Alderman

DEATH OF MEMBER, LES PEEK

Member, Les Peek, passed away in his home in late April. Arrangements have not yet been determined. Please pray for peace and strength for Les' extended family.

LIFTING MEMBER, TOM JONES, UP IN PRAYER

Congregation — Our member Tom Jones is asking us to join him in prayer for his health. He has a number of important consultations coming up that will determine future treatment options, etc. As such, I asked Tom to offer us all a summary of his situation so we can pray for him with wisdom and understanding. Ralph

“In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be known to God.” Philippians 4:6

To my fellow Christians of Northminster Presbyterian Church—
This is a long letter, a full report if you will— please bear with me.

As many of you may know, because of following doctors' orders for the last 40 years and not knowing the side effects of the best medicines available to treat another illness, my kidneys have substantially stopped functioning. I am now classified as being in “End Stage Renal (Kidney) Failure.” As a further result, I was put on in-center dialysis starting last August. What this involves is sitting in a rather uncomfortable, antiquated reclining chair for around three and a half hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings with two large needles stuck in my left arm to circulate my blood through a large filtering dialysis machine. I am unable to freely move that arm for the duration of the treatment. I am at the center for about an additional hour to insert the needles, wait for the bleeding to stop from removing the needles, and bandage the wounds.

Not much fun to say the least, but I have managed to make the best of a challenging situation by doing some desk work with my right hand and making large numbers of phone calls to friends and relatives. Thanks to all who have been on the receiving end of these calls. They are life savers. The Price is Right and WMAZ noon news are also fun!

Thank you also to the MANY members who gave Karen a break from transportation requirements for the first six months of this process. It was good for her and good for me both when I was able to have some quality time with old friends. It helped make the difficult more bearable. I am now able to safely drive myself to and from the dialysis center on Hemlock Street by Navicent Health by myself. The startup food care packages were also greatly appreciated. MANY THANKS!!!

I now have two better options for dialysis treatment on the near-term horizon- a full kidney transplant and doing dialysis on myself using a self-contained miniaturized dialyzer. Both require passing rather stringent physical, social, and mental hurdles. I think from all indications that currently the major hurdle is passing the physical portions of these exams. Most of the rest of the most difficult challenges are behind me, I hope.

I request your fervent prayers that I successfully pass the physical portions of these tests in the next month or so.

Karen & I will be travelling to Emory University Hospital on May 24 for a second evaluation by a new nephrologist (kidney doctor). After the first assessment they turned me down for consideration primarily based on physical insufficiency I believe. I appealed, renewed my physical exercise program of Pilates, and they agreed to give me a second chance.

It is vital to my long-term prognosis and ability to carry on a more normal lifestyle that I successfully pass this new examination.

Then the search for a suitable donor will start! I have been told that the average wait for a donor is five years. Sometimes it is less, sometimes substantially so; please pray for the latter.

Within the next few weeks, I also will be examined by the surgeon who will place a pigtail catheter in my stomach which will allow me to perform home dialysis. Passing this physical exam also is vital as this type of dialysis is easier on the heart and other internal organs. It will allow me to dialyze myself privately in a comfortable home setting until a suitable kidney donor is found rather than travel to the dialysis center every week for treatment. This is a much better option, a step up if you will.

For these reasons and for the emotional and physical strains that these medical conditions put on our lives, I ask for your continuing and faithful prayers for us.

This currently is a request for personal congregational prayer, NOT sympathy, financial, or other forms of material or public assistance. I hope that you will pray for us and not treat us differently because of the information contained in this appeal, as difficult as that may sound. Please maintain my privacy as best you can despite this being a public appeal for your prayers. Thank you in advance.

This congregation has been a vital part of our spiritual and social lives over the past thirty years. We are facing substantial challenges from the illness described above. Karen and I hope we will be with you in work and worship for the foreseeable future despite these obstacles.

May we *all* live in peace and pray for each one of us at this time.

Your brother in Christ,

Tom Jones

