



NORTHMINSTER *Life*

BACKPACK MINISTRY



BENEFITING NORTHMINSTER PC'S BACKPACK MINISTRY
FOR ROSA TAYLOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Thank you so much for your generosity! Your giving to the Backpack Ministry's Christmas in July campaign totaled over \$2700. These funds are used to help make sure teachers and students have materials and supplies needed to teach and learn throughout the year. These funds also help provide over 900 bags of food distributed throughout the year to children in need.



Your contributions are making a huge impact and neighborhood committee members, Barbara Fatkin, Carol Holt, Jinny McDuffie, and Judy Hill have been hard at work obtaining a partnership with the Middle Georgia Community Food bank that will allow this ministry to purchase a bulk of its food supplies through the food bank at a fraction of the cost! As this committee prayerfully works to be good stewards of your generous giving, they are able to bless more of those within our community, specifically at Rosa Taylor Elementary School.

OUTREACH MINISTRY



Last month members of our Outreach committee visited New American Pathways in Atlanta, a ministry which helps refugees from around the world settle into the Atlanta area. Our group delivered more than a hundred school backpacks full of supplies donated by several churches in our Flint River Presbytery. Our Outreach committee is considering ways Northminster might be involved with this ministry.

You can learn more at <https://newamericanpathways.org>

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VISIT FROM OUR MISSIONARIES



Sunday, July 17, we were blessed to have missionaries, George and Jeanne Haugen, visit our congregation to tell us more about their mission and ministry overseas. Our church is blessed to support George & Jeanne financially every month. Individual donations are welcomed. If you would like to learn more about the Haugens, their mission, and updates from their ministry, please contact Jennifer in the church office at admin@northminstermacon.org.



MACON RECOVERS

Our dedicated neighborhood ministry continues to make monthly deliveries of goodie bags to our neighbors, Macon Recovers, assisting those struggling with addiction and seeking the help they need on their journey to recovery. These bags include a small devotional, Chick-fil-a gift card, toiletries and more. We pray these touch the lives of each individual receiving them. Last month, baby Amelia Grace made the latest deliveries with the help of mom, Helene!

NOTABLE DATES FOR FALL

We have several upcoming dates for your calendar. More information about upcoming events will be announced in your bulletin, weekly email, and coming newsletters.

August 13 - Flint River presbytery meeting online (please contact Elizabeth Cantrell at ecantrell@flintriverpresbytery.org for login information).

September 4 - 2023 Stewardship Season begins

September 7, 10am - Women's Bible Study: Seven Sisters of Jesus, will meet in the community room and will continue for seven weeks every Wednesday.

September 11, 6pm - Men's dinner and fellowship at Northminster

October 1 - TENTATIVE: Northminster Express train excursion on SAM Shortline in Cordele

October 2 - Stewardship Dedication Sunday and Rise Against Hunger mission event

October 15 - Flint River presbytery meeting

November 11-12 - Second Annual Fall Women's Retreat



FAREWELLS TO ELLISONS

Thank you to all who were able to bid our members of 50 years, a loving farewell. Boyd and Mary Wain Ellison are getting settled in their new home in North Carolina and are thankful to be close to their daughter.

LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR



To speak of "clouds" is more often than not to invoke a negative image. Clouds above hint at possible rain on your parade. Ideas that are "cloudy" need more time to clarify. And who wants cloudy tap water when it is time to make more summer lemonade?

But not all clouds are pejorative. The book of Hebrews in our New Testament celebrates what it dubs "the great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). Here the early church writer boldly imagines the contemporary church always "surrounded" by all the "witnesses" of the church-gone-before-us. This hovering host of ordinary saints offers encouragement rooted in God's past in order to push us onward into God's future. Because of this great cloud of witnesses, insists Hebrews, we "run with perseverance the race that is set before us." They are clouds we welcome whenever we are gathered again for worship and witness.

I've been thinking a lot about Hebrews 12:1 this summer, as week by week we work our way around the room for a STAINED GLASS SUMMER. Our light-filled sanctuary is adored with 10 colorful stained-glass seals, one at the top of each of our side-wall windows. These windows predate our 1980 sanctuary by nearly a century, having been moved from a Presbyterian church building in the Carolinas whose congregation came to the end of its common life. Each window brought to Macon a colorful symbol illuminating one key theme of our Biblical faith. Each Sunday we have considered one of them, the role that theme plays in shaping our contemporary discipleship.

Those seals literally surround our worship, and I like to think of them as a part of that "great cloud of witnesses" about which Hebrews speaks. I like to think of each theme as the teaching of those saints who have gone before us in this Reformed faith, generations now gone on to God who continue to remind us of what is central and saving in the Biblical witness. Each time we gather there, the "cloud" seems to say, "Remember these things. Let these symbols guide you in the way of Jesus your Christ."

It ought to be noted that these stained-glass symbols are peripheral to the room, and not central. They surround us in worship; they themselves are not the objects of our worship. They are there to teach us, not to demand our reverence. Christian churches — especially those today dubbed "traditional" — are always tempted to worship tradition itself, rather than the One to whom the best of our traditions point. It was the great church historian Jaroslav Pelikan who rightly observed: "Tradition is the living faith of the dead. Traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. And, I suppose I should add, it is traditionalism that gives tradition such a bad name." So let us agree: Woe to the worshippers who worship their windows (traditionalism).

But blessed is the congregation that allows the living faith of God's saints (tradition) shine forth in the hear and now. Each stained-glass Sunday, let your eyes study each round seal ... and let your ears hear the Church Triumphant encouraging us on in the race. "Remember these things," they seem to say. "Let these windows illuminate your path along the way of Jesus your Christ." "Onward and upward," they beckon.

Your friend and pastor, RWH

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, August 6 at 11:30am, our youth, family and friends are invited to lake day at the home of Al & Barbara Fatkin. If your youth and/or family members plan to attend and for address information, please contact Donna Shuford at dwshuford@yahoo.com.



This June, 8 youth members of Northminster along with 2 chaperones and others from Flint River Presbyterian churches, gathered for worship and fellowship at Montreat, celebrating a week of fun and learning with Presbyterian youth from far and near. We thank you for your donations and support, ensuring these youth were able to attend this retreat.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Ladies, mark your calendars - Beginning Wednesday, September 7 and 10am, Ralph will lead Bible Study: Seven Sisters of Jesus. We'll do a deep dive on 7 women in the gospels who interact with Jesus during his ministry. We will meet downstairs in the community room and can't wait to see you there.

DEATH OF MEMBER, JANET KELLY AND THANKS FROM FAMILY



Beloved member, Janet Kelly, passed away July 12, 2022. We praise God that she and Gene are already reunited in heaven and extend our prayers and condolences to their family.

Note of Thanks from the Kelly Family

Dear Congregation of Northminster Presbyterian, Our family would like to express our gratitude for the outpouring of love to our family with the death of our beloved parents, Gene M. Kelly, Sr and Janet Kelly. Your cards, prayers, acts of kindness, and hosting of his funeral and reception following were a sweet balm to our weary souls. Dad's unexpected passing was a jolt to us all, but your congregation continued your steadfast care for our family. May God bless you all as you live out the love of God through your remarkable church. We will be forever grateful to you. Grace and peace, The Gene M. Kelly, Sr. Family: Gene, (Jr), Tricia, Marion and all

MUSIC NOTES

We extend a special thanks to all of our guest musicians through this summer: Pat McCall, Generation Fusion quartet, Ed Clark, Colony IV Brass, NPC brass, and Florence Snyder. Thank you to Rebecca Layfield and Rosie Miles for leading our hymns over these weeks. Your generous gifts to the special musician fund make it possible for us to welcome these amazing musicians to our worship. If you have an interest in joining the music team or have suggestions for guest musicians, please let music director, Sandy Smith, know.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Aug 3 - Emily Brown
Aug 12 - Ann Hall
Aug 15 - Ed Clark
Aug 19 - Kenny Walker

Aug 8 - Bob Brandler
Aug 12 - Jackson Gleaton
Aug 16 - Amy Vogt
Aug 19 - Mary Beth Shuford

Aug 9 - Ricky Smith
Aug 13 - Scott Emener
Aug 18 - Kim Emener
Aug 30 - Jeff Denny