



NOVEMBER 2022

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NORTHMINSTER *Life*

BABY NAPIER BAPTISM

Sunday, October 16, the Northminster family was blessed to share in the baptism of Michael Kennard Napier, III, lovingly known as "M3." We are blessed to come together with Michael, Chloe, and their extended family to be lights of Christ, giving love and support to baby Michael through his life.



MUSIC NOTES & WELCOME

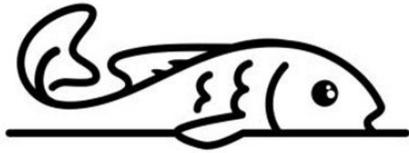


The session is delighted to welcome to our church staff, Gunner Chancey, as our new Music Director. Gunner is a graduate of Valdosta State and is currently in the masters program at Mercer studying choral conducting, collaborative piano, and organ. Gunner began leading worship with us Sunday, October 16th. We are excited to welcome him into our common life.

Gunner invites all who are interested in participating to choir rehearsals Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the choir room downstairs. Our time of prayer through hymns and other music on Sunday mornings is such a blessed part of worship. We thank all who are able to participate.

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Wild Alaska Night

A fundraising dinner for the UKirk Campus Ministry featuring salmon caught in Alaska by Boyd Ellison.

November 18, 6:00PM
at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Macon.

Please see Jeff Denny, Sam McDuffie, or Emory Whitaker for tickets, priced at \$30 each.



ECUMENICAL WORSHIP NOVEMBER 18TH



Visit Facebook @Flint River Ecumenical
Worship to Volunteer & Learn More

A Partnership of:
Flint River Presbytery
Young Adult Ministry

UKirk-Episcopal Fellowship
@ Mercer

November 18th @ 7 PM

Northminster Presbyterian Church
565 Wimbish Rd, Macon, GA 31210



Community Choir Practice Times

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 5TH
9:30 AM-10:30 AM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER
13TH
4:00-5:00PM
DAY OF SERVICE:
NOVEMBER 18TH
5:00-5:45PM**

All are welcome!

Northminster Presbyterian Church 565 Wimbish Rd, Macon, GA 31210



LOAVES & FISHES ANNUAL FOODIE FUNDRAISER

The Loaves & Fishes Ministry of Macon will hold their annual foodie fundraiser Thursday, November 3rd. Simply dine at a participating restaurant and they will donate 5% of your meal cost! For details and participating restaurants, go to foodiefundraiser.org.

GLOVES FOR THE HOMELESS

Northminster will once again be donating warm gloves for the Mentor's Christmas Party for the homeless population of Macon and our friends at Loaves & Fishes. Each year we donate 250 pairs of gloves to each organization. We will be collecting donations throughout this month for the purchase of these gloves. Donate online or in the collection plate (please add "gloves" to the memo line of your check). Thank you!



Glove Sale
for the Homeless



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 seven different families with their power bill. One client has lupus and had to have her fingers amputated and she can't work right now. She is waiting for child support from the children's father to pay bill; another client who had just started working got COVID which caused her to be out of work and unable to pay her bill.

Two other families needed help with their water bill. One client needed help because he had been off work but now has been cleared by his doctor to return to work; another client who works as at housekeeper for a nursing home had too many bills to pay this month and got behind on her water bill.

Also, during the past several months your contributions have helped us buy buss passes for the people needing transportation who are clients at Loaves & Fishes.

Thank you for your generous support of the needy people in our community!

Join us in Macon a Difference this winter

Winter COAT DRIVE

SCARVES
GLOVES
COATS
SOCKS
HATS

OCTOBER 1ST
through
NOVEMBER 30TH

DROP OFF GENTLY USED ITEMS
TUES - SAT 11 AM - 7 PM
AT MACON RECOVERS

MACON RECOVERS 595 WIMBISH ROAD MACON, GA 478.803.7661



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 9th, a congregational meeting was held. The motion to elect the following members to serve as elders for the 2023-2024 session: Jeff Denny, Nita McCord, and Donna Shuford, was passed.

NORTHMINSTER EXPRESS

Friends and family of Northminster had a wonderful time on our 2nd annual Northminster Express train excursion. This year, attendees traveled by bus Saturday, October 1st to Cordele to board the SAM Shortline and spend the day in fellowship together. Be sure to keep your eyes open next fall when we ride the rails again!



COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Sunday, October 2, we celebrated God's blessings on our church as a collective body and to each of us as individuals with a beautiful afternoon of food and fellowship at the Commitment Sunday Picnic. Thank you to all who were able to submit your Time & Talent sheets along with your pledge cards for 2023.



RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Sunday, October 2, immediately following our picnic on the lawn, several Northminster saints met with others in our Flint River Presbytery at First Presbyterian in Warner Robins to pack bags filled with nutritious food which will be sent around the world to the hungry in need.



THE ROOF HAS RISEN

Sunday, October 23rd, our congregation gathered under the very roof that they helped fund at Loaves and Fishes of Macon. This new covered pavilion is providing an outdoor space, safe from the elements, for meal and grocery pick-up, Bible studies, and more. We are thankful to be part of this wonderful project and pray that it serves its purpose well for many years to come.



YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 6 after worship, youth will gather for lunch and an afternoon of painting. See Melissa McDougald or Donna Shuford if you would like to be added to the youth email or facebook messages.



Sunday, November 20, the church will be providing a pizza lunch for the youth while they work together to put up the sanctuary Christmas tree.

Bottled Water Drive: The youth have learned of a need for bottled water for the Loaves & Fishes Ministry, as they go through 45 cases a month! Even with cooler months coming, the need continues. We will be collecting bottled water from now through November 27th. Youth will be available to bring the waters from your car into the church, or a monetary donation is welcome. Simply put "water" in the check memo line or on your offering envelope. See Donna Shuford if you have any questions.

SUNDAY, DEC. 4TH AT 5PM

The Christmas Season can host a world of joy and wonder, but also reminders of hurt and heartbreak. Whether the holidays are a difficult reminder of loved ones lost or struggles current, we all need to be reminded that there is blessing and hope in the season. Northminster is holding a Blue Christmas worship service Sunday, December 4th at 5pm in our sanctuary. Beautiful in its simplicity, this service is designed for all of those who struggle to find peace and hope this time of year. Everyone is welcome.



2023 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Throughout the Advent season, we ask all members and friends to stop in the activity room before or after worship to have your picture updated for the 2023 church directory. All contact information will also be reviewed, so even if you prefer we use your 2019 photo, we will still need you to verify your name spelling, address, phone number, and email. Thank you!



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 service on Sunday, December 4th for this wonderful event. You may also give by mail or online.

**Thornwell
Loaves & Fishes
Habitat for Humanity**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Nov 1—Larry Smallwood
Nov 10—Charlotte Nolan
Nov 14—Kathy Smallwood
Nov 28—Kaye Mosely

Nov 4—Ryden Aiello
Nov 11—Kathy McCord
Nov 18—Ron Wolfe

Nov 9—Donna Shuford
Nov 13—Virginia Hall
Nov 20—Susan Simpson

September 2022 Year-to-Date Financial Summary:

- NPC has received \$319,952.66 in pledges, which is \$21,407.63 more than the \$298,545.03 expected so far this year.
- NPC has received \$21,242.00 from regular (no pledge) givers, which is \$1,258.00 less than the \$22,500.00 expected so far this year.
- NPC has received \$6,570.11 in loose offerings, which is \$12,179.86 less than the \$18,749.97 expected so far this year.
- NPC has received \$11,958.32 in offerings for unbudgeted and outreach programs.
- NPC has spent \$349,896.25 which is \$11,783.71 more than the \$338,112.54 that was planned to be spent so far this year.
- NPC has received \$359,723.09 in total income and has spent a total of \$349,896.25, which leaves us with a surplus of \$9,826.84.



Updates on Building Repairs

Your Property Committee knows that many have been asking about the status of our building repairs. The questions are completely understandable, given that no work has transpired onsite for many weeks. Here's a thorough update on the status of our restoration from the spring storm:

On the positive side:

We are assured that a steeple is being constructed out of state and is on schedule to be delivered and erected on our tower in December. The steeple is to be a close match to our previous structure in size, color, and style.

The committee has chosen a durable but attractive flooring for the main hallway and the Fellowship Hall, to be installed near the end of the overall repair work. Paint colors have also been selected for the office areas. Plans are developing to update and improve the Ministry Assistant's (church secretary) office, including new furniture.

On the challenging side:

The rebuilding of the large roof structure over our offices, severely damaged by the steeple wreckage, has been delayed much longer than our general contractor had anticipated. The sluggish pace is due to a number of factors, but the primary issue is the slowness of communication and action between three primary players: the Macon-Bibb County permitting office, an independent structural engineer, and Church Mutual Insurance's adjuster. Plans, permits, and paperwork have gone around and around among these parties for several months.

Two recent examples will illustrate the challenges: The county required a fire alarm inspection before our building permit would be issued, but the subcontractor licensed to do the inspection took more than a month to get onsite. Other subs in the area had no availability whatsoever before the end of the year. Another example is the independent structural engineer's technical drawing of the massive roof trusses, documents required by the county and by our insurance: Despite frequent inquiries by our general contractor to the engineer, weeks have gone by waiting for these documents and their amendments.

Our situation is challenging in that the 25 trusses spanning from the front to rear of our central building are massive and expensive to replace. As such, there has been debate between structural engineers and our insurance about the extent to which they can be repaired or must be completely replaced. The difference between those approaches pushes the total replacement cost of our repairs closer to \$750,000, so you can imagine there is a lot of back and forth about honoring replacement coverage while also controlling costs.

We believe our general contractor, Paul Davis Co., is doing everything they can to move these sluggish external processes along. Members of our committee meet monthly in person with Paul Davis staff, and information flows by email and phone in between those meetings. Paul Davis people are as anxious to get started on the office area and roof as we are. They assure us that work will commence almost immediately after all these matters are settled.

We continue to ask for your patience as these issues are resolved and work commences sooner than later on the central structure. And we are all looking forward to the arrival of a new steeple before Christmas.

Indeed, in a world too full of suffering, let us give thanks that these temporary matters are, for now, our biggest shared burden.

Your Property Committee,

Ray Mosely, chair - Sarah Morrow - Doug Holt - Mark Brown - Ralph Hawkins, pastor