



NORTHMINSTER *Life*

SEPTEMBER 2023

VOLUME 27

NUMBER 9

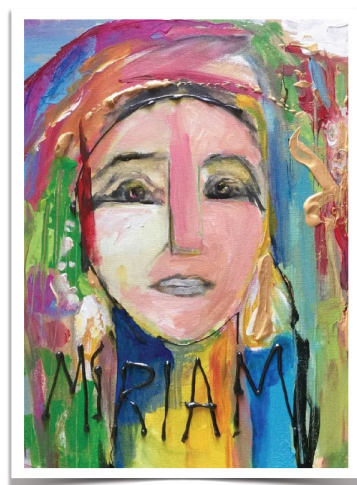


Simply Coffee & Conversation

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

You're missing wonderful conversation and fellowship if you haven't been coming to the coffee hour at 9:30 on Sunday mornings before the worship service. It's worth getting here a bit earlier to greet old friends and maybe make new friends. Please join us!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Miriam, the bold sister of Moses — painting by Diane Voyentzie

Seven Sisters of Moses

Pastor Ralph Hawkins, will once again be leading a women's Bible study this fall. It will be a 7 week series entitled "The Seven Sisters of Moses." It will be on Wednesdays at either 10:00 AM or 6:00 PM beginning on September 20 and ending on November 1. We will have coffee at our morning study and dinner at the evening study. Don't worry if you can't make it every week or if you need to alternate between morning and evening studies! You are always welcome. It promises to be just as informative and fun as last fall's Seven Sisters of Jesus. Come and bring a friend!

Sep 20	Miriam	Exodus 14 and 15
Sep 27	Yocheved	Exodus 1 and 2
Oct 4	Daughters of Tzlofhad	Numbers 27:1-11
Oct 11	Esther	Esther 2
Oct 18	Hagar	Genesis 16 and 21
Oct 25	Dina	Genesis 34
Nov 1	Hannah	First Samuel 1 and 2

Eve, Miriam, Esther. Naomi, Ruth, Rebecca. These names and those of the many other women of the Old Testament resonate in our imaginations. But how much do we really know about our biblical foremothers? Their stories are briefly told in the original text and are shrouded in questions. How did Eve navigate the journey to wisdom? What enabled Hagar to sustain herself and her son, Ishmael, in the wilderness? How did Miriam inspire hope in the refugees escaping from Egypt? Most important, what enduring lessons can these women share with us today? — *Dr. Vanessa L. Ochs*

FROM OUR PASTOR

Beloved Northminster Saints --

I offer you my heartfelt thanks for all your love and support for Deb and me in our recent wedding vows, embedded in the worship of the August presbytery meeting. So many of you pitched in to help get our building ready to host nearly 300 presbytery participants and wedding guests, and so many of you came out to share in our Flint River worship. Thank you!

Likewise, let me/us thank you for the generous monetary gift you collected for us as a wedding present. The true gift you have given both of us is your love and encouragement of us as a couple in recent years, but your bountiful offering took our breath away. There are not enough words to thank you for this beautiful, tangible blessing.

In addition to conveying our great gratitude for all your recent spiritual and tangible expressions of love, this new season in my life is a good time also to share with you a few practical matters:

-- Our new shared mailing address is 527 Grove Lane, Kathleen GA 31047

-- Please continue to use my cell phone number for all contact with me: 478-250-3355. In addition to email, this is my one-stop shop for all your calls, texts, and voicemails. It is never not with me. Because we have simplified our phone system at church (much cheaper, too), I will no longer have an office voicemail. No need for two!

-- Although I now have a little commute between home and church, I promise that in all the ways that matter not much will change in the patterns of each week as your pastor (especially since I have not had an office for more than a year!) Ordinarily, I will work from home on Mondays (worship, preaching, and teaching preparation), be in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and continue to take Fridays off.

-- I remain committed to office hours, but remember that the best way to secure time with me is always for you to reach out by call, text, or email so we can get something solid on both of our calendars. Our time together is precious to me, and I want to be sure we are connecting at a mutual moment.

I find it hard to believe that five years have already gone by in our shared life and ministry. So many blessings, and some challenges. I remain honored and grateful to be your Teaching Elder and your friend in faith. May God continue to bless on our journey together in worship and ministry.

RWH



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY INTERNSHIP

The session is proud to celebrate the recent work of our own Emma Brown, who recently completed one of our presbytery's Young Adult Ministry Internships. Emma invited Flint River congregations to collect items needed to create "Blessing Bags" for the homeless and those in distress. On August 6, a group gathered with Emma in our Fellowship Hall to assemble 350 such bags! Church members are invited to keep a few bags in their car for distribution whenever a need is discovered in the community. Way to go Emma!



RISE AGAINST HUNGER PACKING EVENT



You are invited to join our sister Flint River Presbytery Churches for our annual Rise Against Hunger packing event. **Sunday, October 1st at 2pm**, we will be helping to pack bags of nutrient dense dry foods to be shipped to areas of great need around the world. This year's event will be held **at St. Andrews Presbyterian**.



LOAVES & FISHES FOODIE FUNDRAISER

This is one of our favorite fundraisers! Simply dine (or take-out) at one of the participating restaurants on November 16th and that restaurant will donate 5% of sales for that day to the Loaves and Fishes Ministry of Macon. Some of the restaurants include El Sazon, Grey Goose, O Honey, Ingleside Village Pizza, Dawson's Kitchen, El Sombrero, Sid's, Jonahs on Johnston, Bears Den, and Texas Border Grill.

Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

OCTOBER 27 @ 6PM

TICKETS: \$30

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
565 WIMBISH RD.
MACON, GA 31210

JKDENNY@GMAIL.COM



This annual UKirk Campus Ministry fundraising dinner will be held right here at Northminster. See Jeff Denny, Sam McDuffie, or Kim Emener for tickets.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

EXPLORING AND EXPANDING OUR IMAGES OF GOD

Please set aside Friday November 3 and Saturday November 4 for our second Women's Retreat, "*Exploring and Expanding our Images of God*". We will convene Friday evening for our first session and share a meal together. For Saturday we will have a continental breakfast before the morning session. After lunch, we will have a short session to wrap up our time together, and we will be finished by 2:00. Our leader/facilitator will be Martha Moore-Keish who is the J.B. Green Professor of Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta.

Who is this God we worship, whom we have called Maker, Redeemer, Friend, Lover, Rock, Light, Life—and Father, Son, Spirit? What images of God do we carry, and how have those been shaped by art, stories, and song? How do these images help us—and how might they hinder us—in our relationship to the God who is beyond all our imagining? In this retreat we will explore images of God, old and new, as we seek deeper living relationship to the Holy Three in One.

All this and three meals for a mere \$25.00. Please plan on joining us and bring a daughter, mother, grandmother, sister or friend. You may register by calling Jennifer at 478-318-7911, by email at admin@northminstermacon.org, or by signing up on your blue response sheet. Payments can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. If paying by check, please write "Women's Retreat" in the memo line.

FLINT RIVER YOUTH RETREAT



The Youth Collective:
**Scaling the Presbytery and
the Little Grand Canyon**



HELPING OTHERS



MAKING MEMORIES

REGISTER TODAY!

Mark your calendars for a super-unique Presbytery-wide youth trip. Join us on **Saturday, October 7-Sunday, October 8** as we "scale" the Presbytery and travel to various churches to perform small service projects, make cards for members, and pray with congregations. As we travel, we will meet youth at various access point locations, so wherever you are in the presbytery, there will be a meeting location suitable for you!

We stay overnight at First Presbyterian Church of Americus. While there, we will enjoy a meal, Bible study, some games, and a good night's rest before heading out to Providence Canyon (The Little Grand Canyon) the next day. **This trip costs absolutely NOTHING! That's right, youth! This trip is courtesy of Flint River Presbytery and it's absolutely FREE!** Wanna know something else that's really cool? Your assistance with the churches counts toward community service hours, and an adult will be happy to sign off on it for you, so be sure to bring your paperwork!

You can email Jennifer for the registration link. After registering, be on the lookout for an email from Brittany DiGiammarino to the address you provided at registration that will include important details such as where your access point location will be, an itinerary, an overnight item list, etc. We're looking forward to spending this time of fun, fellowship, and learning with YOU!

BUILDING UPDATES



With the office area of our building now 99% returned to service, our focus has shifted to the replacement of the steeple. The new steeple itself has been constructed (see photos taken in a warehouse in Kentucky), and as of September 1 masons are making repairs to the brickwork at the top of our steeple tower in order to receive the new steel base (which has been in our yard for a month) and the steeple. The new steeple structure will arrive in one piece via a tractor-trailer truck. We plan to have a Steeple Raising Party when the day for installation comes. You'll be the first to know when that takes place!



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. Financial hardships are abounding in our community for people who have spent their lives taking one step forward and two steps back, and people who have experienced unforeseen hardships. **This month, along with our monthly commitment to Centenary Community Ministries and bus passes for Loaves & Fishes clients, your gifts are helping ministry assistant, Jennifer Whitehead's, sister and family. Jennifer's brother-in-law has been hospitalized at Emory with acute leukemia. Your gifts will help their family with gas for travel to and from Atlanta as they navigate finances with one part-time income. Prayers for Eric, Lisa, and their four children are also coveted during this time.**

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sep 4 - Ben Shuford
Sep 9 - Suzann Smith
Sep 13 - Sambo Alderman
Sep 17 - Josh Denny
Sep 22 - Don Hendrix

Sep 6 - Abigail Gleaton
Sep 9 - Brent (Gunn) Grindler
Sep 14 - Annette Hutto
Sep 18 - Ann Smith
Sep 22 - David Preyna

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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - JULY 2023

As of July 31, NPC has:

- Received \$228,258.04 in pledges
- Received \$28,295.00 from regular (no pledge) givers
- Received \$11,611.48 in loose offerings
- Received \$11,019.46 for outreach programs
- Spent \$268,382.80 on budgeted and outreach expenses

*Summary: NPC has received \$279,183.98 in total income and has spent a total of \$268,382.80 which leaves us with a surplus of \$10,801.18

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					¹ 8 ^{AM} -12 ^{PM} Veritas	²
³ 9:30 ^{AM} Coffee Hour 10:30 ^{AM} Worship Communion Sunday	⁴ Happy Labor Day Staff Holiday	⁵ 8 ^{AM} -2 ^{PM} Veritas	⁶	⁷ 8 ^{AM} -2 ^{PM} Veritas	⁸ 8 ^{AM} -12 ^{PM} Veritas	⁹
¹⁰ 9:30 ^{AM} Coffee Hour 10:30 ^{AM} Worship	¹¹	¹² 8 ^{AM} -2 ^{PM} Veritas	¹³ 10:00 ^{AM} Macon Service League Mtg	¹⁴ 8 ^{AM} -2 ^{PM} Veritas	¹⁵ 8 ^{AM} -12 ^{PM} Veritas	¹⁶
¹⁷ 9:30 ^{AM} Coffee Hour 10:30 ^{AM} Worship	¹⁸ 6:00 ^{PM} Stated Session Meeting	¹⁹ 8 ^{AM} -2 ^{PM} Veritas	²⁰ 10:00 ^{AM} Women's Bible Study 6:00 ^{PM} Women's Bible Study	²¹ 8 ^{AM} -2 ^{PM} Veritas	²² 8 ^{AM} -12 ^{PM} Veritas	²³
²⁴ 9:30 ^{AM} Coffee Hour 10:30 ^{AM} Worship	²⁵	²⁶ 8 ^{AM} -2 ^{PM} Veritas	²⁷ 10:00 ^{AM} Women's Bible Study 10:30 ^{AM} Macon Service League Board Mtg 6:00 ^{PM} Women's Bible Study	²⁸ 8 ^{AM} -2 ^{PM} Veritas	²⁹ 8 ^{AM} -12 ^{PM} Veritas	³⁰