



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

We seek to be an open, diverse congregation, reaching out
so that hearts and lives are nurtured and transformed
through the power of God's amazing love.

Northminster News

February 2012

Minister's Musings

Last night, we had a wonderful workshop to explore how to write devotions for Lent. It was amazing to see how many ideas emerged by simply listening to the biblical text and identifying where it speaks to us. We connected memories and songs and books and quotes with the text and began to see how we might be able to write a reflection for Lent. I cannot wait to see what folks offer, and I hope more of you will consider writing something as well. I think those who were here for the workshop discovered that it is much more manageable than they might have originally thought. And it might even offer a chance to gain a good spiritual practice in the process.

In just a few weeks, we will begin the season of Lent. This season of preparation for the celebration of Easter gives each of us an opportunity to be still in the presence of God – to allow for a bit of space for silence and listening, as we reflect on our lives and our relationship with God. Too often, we associate this season with guilt and confession and penitential sacrifice. But that is not what it is about at all. If we find that we are able to better listen to God by clearing out some of the clutter and distractions in our lives, then that is fine. But the point is to begin this process of reflection and listening to God. “Lent need not be a time to live in guilt and shame. Instead it may be a time when we find ourselves in the place where we pay attention to our stirrings—in that place of deep stillness where the hunger of our souls and the heart of God meet.” (<http://www.explorefaith.org/lent06/intro.html>)

It is my hope and my prayer that this season will be one in which you take time and make space to pay attention to your stirrings. We will be creating some of this space in our worship during Lent. And we will be offering a chance for reflection, stillness and prayer on Wednesday nights during this season as well. I hope you will join us. So many wonderful things are already going on here at Northminster, and I am continually amazed at the depth of relationships and faith development that I see at work here. May Lent provide us all with a chance to go deeper – to explore who we are and whose we are – as we walk through this life of faith together.

Peace,
Laura

Lenten Prayer and Worship Offerings

Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, February 22, 6:00 p.m. — Sanctuary

This service of worship and repentance marks the beginning of the Lenten season. This service includes the imposition of ashes as a symbol of our mortality and our desire to turn again toward God.

Wednesday night Soup Supper and Prayer Service, Wednesdays (Feb. 29-April 4), 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a simple meal of soup and bread followed by a time of prayer, quiet reflection, scripture reading, singing and prayer around the cross. Supper will be in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30. Prayer will begin in the Frances Room at 6 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service, April 5, 6:00 p.m. – Sanctuary

Community Good Friday Service, Friday, April 6, noon — Coolidge Park

Easter Resurrection Celebration — Sunday, April 8

- Laura will be at Columbia Theological Seminary for a continuing education event the evening of February 13 through the 15th. Please contact an elder if there are any pastoral care needs while she is away.

All You Can Eat Pancake and Sausage Dinner

Rivermont Presbyterian Church, in the Commons
 Tuesday, February 21, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
 Adults \$5 Children \$3

You can come at any time during those two hours. Proceeds are for Rivermont Youth to go to Montreat Youth conference. Theme is Mardi Gras/ New Orleans. Lots of fun!

Northminster Calendar

Wednesday, February 1	7:00	Choir (every Wednesday)
Thursday, February 2	6:00	Valamont Women's Club
Saturday, February 4		Girl Scouts
Sunday, February 5	9:45	Sunday School (every Sunday)
	11:00	Worship (every Sunday)
		Communion
	12:00	Food 'n Fellowship (every Sunday)
Monday, February 6	12:30	Lectionary Bible Study (every Monday)
	7:30	AA (every Monday)
Tuesday, February 7	7:00	Caduceus (every Tuesday)
Wednesday, February 8	6:00	Lenten Devotion Writers' Workshop (brown bag)
Saturday, February 11		Presbytery of East Tennessee —Westminster Presbyterian, Knoxville
Thursday, February 16	6:30	Open Table dinner at Mellow Mushroom (Hamilton Place)
Tuesday, February 21	4:30-6:30	Pancake and Sausage Supper, Rivermont Presbyterian
Wednesday, February 22	6:00	Ash Wednesday Service
Friday, February 24	6:00	Brotherhood/Sisterhood Shabbat, B'nai Zion
Saturday, February 25	9:00	Session Retreat and Meeting
Monday, February 27	7:00	Mothers of Multiples
Wednesday, February 29	5:30	Soup Supper
	6:00	Prayer Around the Cross
<u>Looking Ahead</u>		
Tuesday, March 6	6:30	Open Table Bowling at Pin Strikes
Saturday, May 19	9:00	Interfaith Homeless Network 5K Race to End Family Homelessness

Open Table Events
(Gatherings for Chattanooga-area Young Adults, supported in part by the Presbytery of East TN)

Thursday, February 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Dinner at the NEW Mellow Mushroom near Hamilton Place (2318 Lifestyle Way, Chattanooga)
*free child care will be at New Hope Presbyterian Church

Tuesday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.

Bowling at Pin Strikes (6241 Perimeter Dr., Chattanooga, TN 37421) *Bring the whole family for this one!
They have 2 for Tuesdays:

- \$2 Bowling Games
- \$2 Shoe Rental
- \$2 Laser Tag (single game)
- \$2 Bumper Cars
- \$2 Large Soda with 1 refill
- \$2 Hot Dog and FF Combo
- \$2 Balladium

Gifts have been received in memory of

Bill Swan

from
Steve and Patty Thompson

and in memory of

Mayme Hampton

from
Steve and Patty Thompson
Joe and Polly Farned

Dear Northminster,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, words of condolences, hugs, e-mails, and Facebook contacts that have been received since the death of our mother and grandmother, Mayme Hampton. Our family appreciates your thoughtfulness and kindness. The memorial service was a great celebration of her life. The visitation and reception were wonderful and special as we fellowshiped and ate around the table telling "Mayme stories"! We are grateful to all who contributed to the service and reception...there were many.

With your help and support, the sadness of the day was transformed into a celebration. We feel very special to be surrounded by this wonderful community of faith.

Love,
Opie Lee and Mike Anderson
Mark, Rhonda, Allister, Jay,
and Mayme Kay Banasiak

Interfaith Week

Many thanks to all those who helped during Northminster's Interfaith host week, January 15-22. Forty-one volunteers from 3 churches (25 were from Northminster) gave over 285 hours before and during the week. Our guests were 3 families—three moms and a total of 11 children, ages 1-13 years. One of the mothers got a job while she was here, and two of the families moved closer to permanent housing. Sabrina, Izabella, Izaiah, Starr, Gracelyn, Krysta, Tylin and Alayna said "Thank you Northminster!"

Thanks to Bill McDonald and Luther Shockley, who constructed the bench around the 50th anniversary tree on the lawn of the church. The bench is dedicated to the memory of Louis Brannan, who was a loyal and hard-working member of the Mow Squad and one of the famous Northminster breakfast cooks.

If you or a member of your family is ill, hospitalized, or in need of prayer for any reason, please notify our Pastor, Laura Becker, 894-3773; your Pastoral Partner; or any member of the Session.

Keep in your prayers:

- Thanksgiving for the new life of Cooper Smith, born to Jennifer and Jeremy Smith; sisters are Morgan and Laney; grandparents are Mary and Dale Robertson
- Barbara Bittner, Janet Giddings' mother, who had a successful heart procedure last week
- Jack McCalister, father of Lonnie, who had a stroke last week
- Those expecting babies: Amy and Matt Smith
- Mayme Kay Banasiak and her family
- The Brannan family
- Lina Hart, recovering from surgery
- Family and friends of Jeff Ligon upon his death
- Carolyn Grand, diagnosed with breast cancer and having surgery
- Janice Hiland, working with the CDC in Mozambique and Egypt until Feb. 7
- Stephen, seeking a church to serve
- Ashley Pollak
- Kim McDuffie
- Mary Allen
- Sue Hamison
- Dot Sertel
- Chris, just moved to Chattanooga with a new job
- The Presbytery as it considers the proposal for Mercy Junction, a new church development in the Southside
- Interfaith Homeless Network families as they make transitions; thanksgiving that our guest Sabrina got a job and that she and Starr got good news about permanent housing; thanksgiving that all their children are much better after strep infections
- Thanksgiving for those who volunteered during IHN week
- Diane Marrs, sad about the death of her dog
- Joy Dean
- Peace for the Middle East and the safety of our troops
- People who live where there is violence and unrest
- Those suffering with mental illness and/or addictions; those struggling financially; those seeking employment; those in abusive situations; those at a crossroads in life
- Those dealing with cancer and treatments: David Blackwell, Skip Brannan, Donna Brazelton, Amal Brown, Katherine Brown, Meredith Gaile, Constance Gaines, Bill Harless, Kristen Hayse, Tony Henson, James, Larissa Jenkins, Mark H., Lonna Lee, Kim McAllister, Curtis Smith, Steve, Kristi Topping
- Continuing prayers for: Nancy and Ben Beasley, Barbara Becker, Peggy Cole, Sydney Craven, Asher Giddings, Claudette Gladden, Steve Heron, Ellen Kendall, Martine Kendall, Charles and Clara McArthur, Margie McCalister, Miranda, Aprille Quinn, Jim Robinson, Emily Rizzo, Susan Rogers, Ruth Roop, Susan and Lenny Simpson, Mae Swan
- Those who are homebound: Ernestine Boaz, Janette Crawley, Mack Crawley, Lois Gault, Margaret Kimbro, Martha Russell, Sue Watts, Katherine White, Waymon Wilson

Happy Birthday!

Faye Shelton	February 5
Steve Thompson	February 7
Ron Feldman	February 15
Clay Martin	February 26
Barbara Davis	February 27

Loaves and Fishes: *Food for the Soul*

March 16-17, Maryville College Clayton Center

It's not too late to register at the discount price of \$30 (until February 15). Pick up a brochure at church or go to www.presbyteryeasttn.org.

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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www.northminsterchatt.org

Pastor: Rev. Laura Becker

Music Director: Dr. Lonnie McCalister

Pianist: Allie Stafford

Clerk of Session: Janet Giddings

Session Members: Mayme Kay Banasiak (2012), Kevin Brown (2014),
Dana Feldman (2012), Janet Giddings (2013), Susan Martin (2013),
Bill McDonald (2013), Tim Miller (2014), Mary Robertson (2014), Luther Shockley (2012)