

PROCLAIM

A publication of Northminster Presbyterian Church

Summer 2021

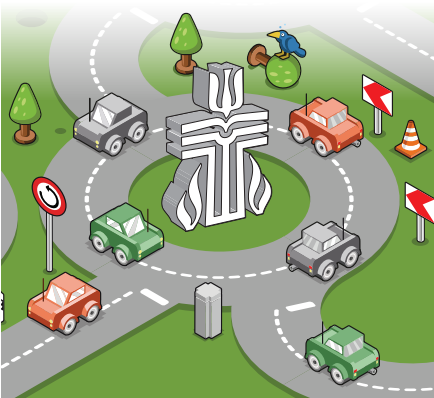


STEWARDSHIP

Honoring the Past, Welcoming the Future

Honoring the Past – Welcoming the Future

Northminster Church is entering a new intersection at the end of this summer. Or, to localize the metaphor, entering a new roundabout in which NPC's history intersects with a renewed anticipation of its future. We will honor the past with the 75th Plus One anniversary celebration shortly after a leadership planning event creates a vision to guide the church's future mission and ministry. The energy in the circle will be sustained as the Pastor Nominating Committee begin their work, the ministries to youth and families are strengthened in their rebuilding process, and a new worship schedule is implemented.



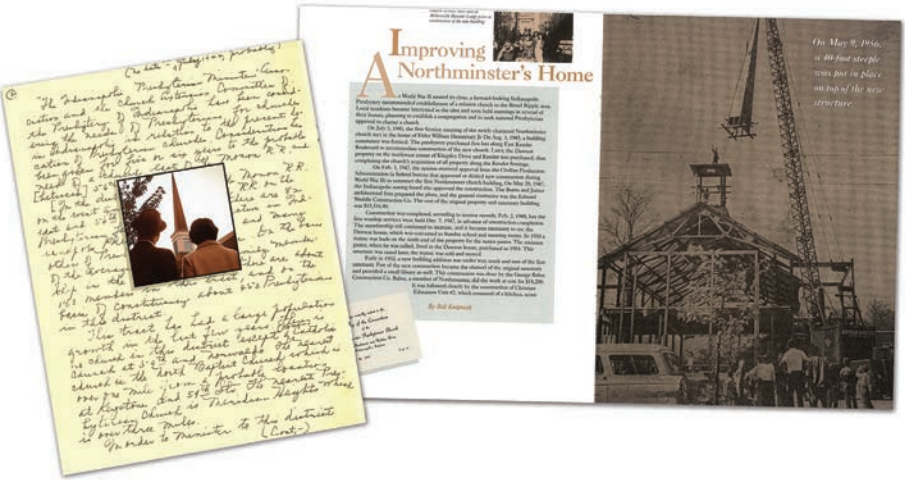
A significant piece of this illustration for the church is that it places Christ at the center of this circle of faith, which frees the congregation to eagerly look forward and helps dissipate concerns about who or what might need to yield in the process. Remaining steadfast in its commitment to yield to its center, Northminster will continue to be known by Christ's love and compassion within and outside its walls.

NPC's history is a result of the commitment and sacrifice of those who have gone before. It is important to be able to celebrate and honor that history. But now that work is placed in our hands. It has been passed on as a sacred trust. Its future is dependent on our willingness, individually and collectively, to commit and sacrifice whatever it takes to ensure that the message of Christ remains central to and through NPC's mission and ministry.

A heavily traveled traffic circle can be unnerving. Once entered, it requires commitment, cooperation and, sometimes, sacrifice to safely continue on one's way. So it is with a circle built on faith. Relying on our center, may we faithfully honor what has brought us to this moment and welcome what is yet to come. ✦



Interim Pastor Dave Smazik.



“Let everyone regard himself as the steward of God in all things which he possesses.”
– John Calvin

Bring It On

Funny story. I told my husband John a while back that I had been having a conversation with one of the choir's section leaders, a young man who drove a long way every Wednesday and Sunday from Terre Haute to sing with us. I told my husband how funny it must seem to a young man like that to be engaging in casual, first-name-basis conversations with a middle-aged woman.

“Maureen,” my husband said. “You forget we’ve been visiting the Social Security Office recently. You are a ‘middle-aged woman’ if you plan to live until you’re 136.”

The fact that I indeed plan to live that long is beside the point, and the bearded long-haired gentleman I live with knows it.

Truly one of the best aspects of our congregational life are the interactions and relationships formed among the generations. I may be a glutton for punishment (re: “plan to live until you’re 136”) but I think it’s interesting to see what each generation brings to the table — what new problems, what new solutions. I also believe in knowing our history and who made it.

I sat down recently with two good friends from the famous generation known as Baby Boomers, Barbara Stayton and Sally Gray. Almost five years ago (2016) the torch was passed to them to tell our church story as we reached our 75th anniversary. Between the pandemic, staff changes and calendar wars, their original plans to have monthly events featuring how we Seek, Serve and Embrace were pretty much crushed. There went a few years of research, recruiting and coordinating, and worse, COVID-19 forced them to mourn the loss in quarantine. This was to be a big event in the life of our church as Barb and Sally spent countless hours diving into boxes of old bulletins, tracking down Session reports or other



Long-time friends, Sally Gray and Barbara Stayton.

papers that documented significant events in the life of our church over the last 25 years, (the first fifty had already been well-documented) and begging for short stories of memories from church members. They noted the most fun was reconnecting with former pastors Don Durrett, Larry Moslener, Donna Wells and others. Luckily, the postponement provided them with an even catchier theme. “The Spirit of 76!” honors the past and welcomes the future. The long-time church and community volunteers talked about all they’ve done over the years for Northminster and the list is very impressive.

Barb came to the church while still in junior high school and was confirmed here. She married Tom in our sanctuary fifty years ago, the same year Sally married Jerry at her home church, Fairview Presbyterian. Their children, Ryan and Megan Stayton and Jeremy Gray and Abby Auer were baptized at Northminster. Old friends from Broad Ripple High School, Barb and Sally both had careers in teaching, business and community service. They will not like my saying it, but their combined years of

membership add up to about 100 years! That’s a lot of time involved in VBS, Youth Group trips, serving in leadership positions with Deacons, Elders, Trustees, creating and inspiring such events as the Alternative Christmas and Back to School Extravaganza, and enjoying the fellowship opportunities through Circle 3, PWCN, and Striders.

As we talked, these leaders noted the changes over the last 75 years that coincided with the changes in society, its horrors and its triumphs, its punches and its prizes, and know the next generation will face the same. If you want to know how it’s done, look to the spiritual leaders like Barb and Sally, the familiar and the constant, the ones who say “yes.”

I can’t wait to tell this story again as part of our sesquicentennial celebration. ✦

We have renamed our celebration!

THE SPIRIT OF 76, celebrating Northminster's 75 + 1 years.

The Spirit of 76 (75 + 1)



Celebrating the Past: Sun. Sept. 5

–10am worship with Rev. Don Durrett preaching
–Slideshow and memorabilia on display

Welcoming the Future: Sun. Sept. 12

–10am worship with Rev. Dave Smazik preaching
–After worship indoor/outdoor celebration lunch catered by Illinois St. Food Emporium

One Spirit, Many Gifts

Want to know how Northminster supports its mission and vision? Wondering how your gifts help our church be the heart, hands, and feet of God's love?

These questions are all about support and stewardship, which begins with your gifts. As I Corinthians, Chapter 12: 4-6, 12, says:

Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are a variety of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone ... For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

In this article, you'll find out how your generous gifts of time, talent, and money work together to support our church, its members, and our surrounding community.



“The only right stewardship is that which is tested by the rule of love.”
— John Calvin



Stewardship begins with your generosity

Each of you shares your time, talent, and money with the church through these acts of generosity:

- Volunteering to support the church or a community mission project
- Giving to the general fund through the Sunday offering during worship or an annual pledge
- Making a special donation to the Northminster Foundation or a designated fund

Northminster's Support team

At Northminster, the Support team has a special role in using these gifts to take care of the church and help it fulfill our mission and vision.

How does the Support team work?

The Support team volunteers many hours of time and expertise to the work of four subgroups:

- The **Buildings and Grounds team** stays up to date on all the needs for the building and property. This includes projects such as the steeple repair and window replacement, as well as things like properly decommissioning the old elevator by the sanctuary and researching the type of air filtration system the building has for the Reopening Committee.



- The **Personnel team** helps ensure the needs of current staff are met and has been working extra hard to help Northminster hire new staff as we continue to navigate major changes. This group was responsible for hiring Interim Pastor Dave Smazik and worked with the Christian Education team to hire Nancy Fortenberry, Director of Youth and Family Ministries.



- The **Stewardship team** raises money and thanks members. This team plans the annual stewardship campaign, communicates about the church's finances, and thanks donors for their gifts. Looking ahead, the team is working on developing stewardship programming and micro-campaigns. This team also collaborates with Church Business Administrator Lori Schlabach to track and communicate the outcomes of fundraising efforts to the Session (which is like the board for the church) and the church as a whole.



- The **Finance team** helps the Session understand and vote on the church's annual budget and analyzes monthly financial statements to ensure the church manages its money within budget. The Finance team led the church's effort to secure a PPP loan, which helped us pay the preschool teachers while the school was shut down due to COVID-19. Finance also works with teams and Lori Schlabach to make sure their budgets don't exceed annual giving to the church, to forecast budgets appropriately, and to ensure the church meets its tax, annual reporting, and debt obligations.



To help everyone communicate and plan throughout the year, these teams meet regularly:

- **Team nights:** Each subgroup meets as a team once per month. These meetings are usually an hour and help the group members receive information from the Session and plan and prioritize its work.
- **Session meetings:** The chair(s) of each subgroup are members of the Session, which also meets once per month.
- **Monthly collaboration:** In 2021, the Support team chairs and a representative of Northminster's Foundation started meeting monthly to help all the groups collaborate more effectively. The group has four key goals for these meetings:
 - Manage policies
 - Take a more proactive role in financial matters
 - Develop a 2-3 year vision for the church
 - Communicate the team's ongoing work with the church as a whole

Continued on page 6

Giving in many ways



Nancy Flamme and Don Craft give their time sprucing up at Dayspring Center.



Gifts of clothing are gathered for children in Africa.



Nancy Sala volunteers, reading Cat in the Hat to the preschool class.

One Spirit, Many Gifts (continued)

Where does the church's funding come from?

At Northminster, the church budget comes mostly from your annual pledges to the church. Other resources also help the church offer special programs and other opportunities to learn and grow in God's love. Here's an overview of these financial resources:

- **General fund:** Annual pledges and the worship offering go to the general fund. If someone leaves money to Northminster as part of their estate planning, that money goes to the general fund unless it's designated for a special purpose via the terms of the will or trust.
- **Designated and Restricted funds:** These funds were given to the church or set aside by Session for a specific purpose, such as the Peacemaking Offering for Pentecost, the Merriman Bible fund that provides Bibles to third graders, or the Sound & Spirit Fund. In all, Northminster has about 48 of these smaller funds, which totaled about \$315,171 at the beginning of 2021. Restricted money cannot be used for other purposes. For example, money given specifically for Christian education cannot be used to maintain the building.

- **Capital campaign funds:** Similar to the smaller restricted funds, capital campaign funds are raised for a specific purpose. For example, Northminster had a capital campaign in 2007 to raise money for construction and updates to the building. A capital campaign in 2016 raised money to pay off the construction loan, buy a new organ, and fund mission projects. The building and organ funds have been spent. The mission fund from this campaign had \$385,000 dollars invested as of the beginning of 2021. Earnings from this fund supported the Umoja project in 2020 and School On Wheels in 2021.
- **Other special funds:** Northminster has a few other funds that have special purposes: the McGaughey Family Fund, which supports a variety of community and education initiatives and guest preachers; the Columbarium Fund that maintains the columbarium; and the Deacons Fund that holds money raised by the Deacons to support their benevolence activities.
- **Northminster Foundation:** The Foundation manages a \$2.4 million endowment for the benefit of the church. The Foundation contributes 5% of the endowment's value each year to the church's general fund operating budget. In addition, the Foundation manages the investments for the church's McGaughey and Mission funds.

How does the Support team manage Northminster's budget?

Support team volunteers have all these meetings to understand what Northminster leadership — including the head pastor and teams represented at the Session — wants to do, and to analyze how those ideas and goals work with the funds our church has. The budgeting process looks like this:

1. At the end of the calendar year, each team shares the budget it would like to request for the upcoming year.
2. The Stewardship team works on finalizing the annual stewardship campaign so that the Finance team can help other teams submit a realistic budget.
3. The Session meets to discuss the team budgets, determine the church's financial priorities, and approve the budget for the upcoming year.
4. Throughout the year, the Support team works to determine if donations and expenses are following the proposed budget. If not, these teams discuss with the Session whether the church needs to make budget cuts or raise more funds.
5. Based on the actual budget as well as any special projected building expenses for the upcoming year, the Support team determines a goal for the annual stewardship campaign and the budgeting cycle begins again.

In this way, Northminster works together to follow our mission to seek, serve, and embrace and develops a vision for the immediate future. As we celebrate our past and welcome our future, your commitment to volunteering and donating to our church helps the church use its budget with faith and love for God and His creation. ♦

NORTHMINSTER FUNDING SOURCES

GENERAL FUND

Offerings, pledges, trusts, etc.

DESIGNATED AND RESTRICTED FUNDS

Gifts received for specified purposes

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS

Money received for a specific church campaign

SPECIAL FUNDS

Contributions to named church funds

NORTHMINSTER FOUNDATION

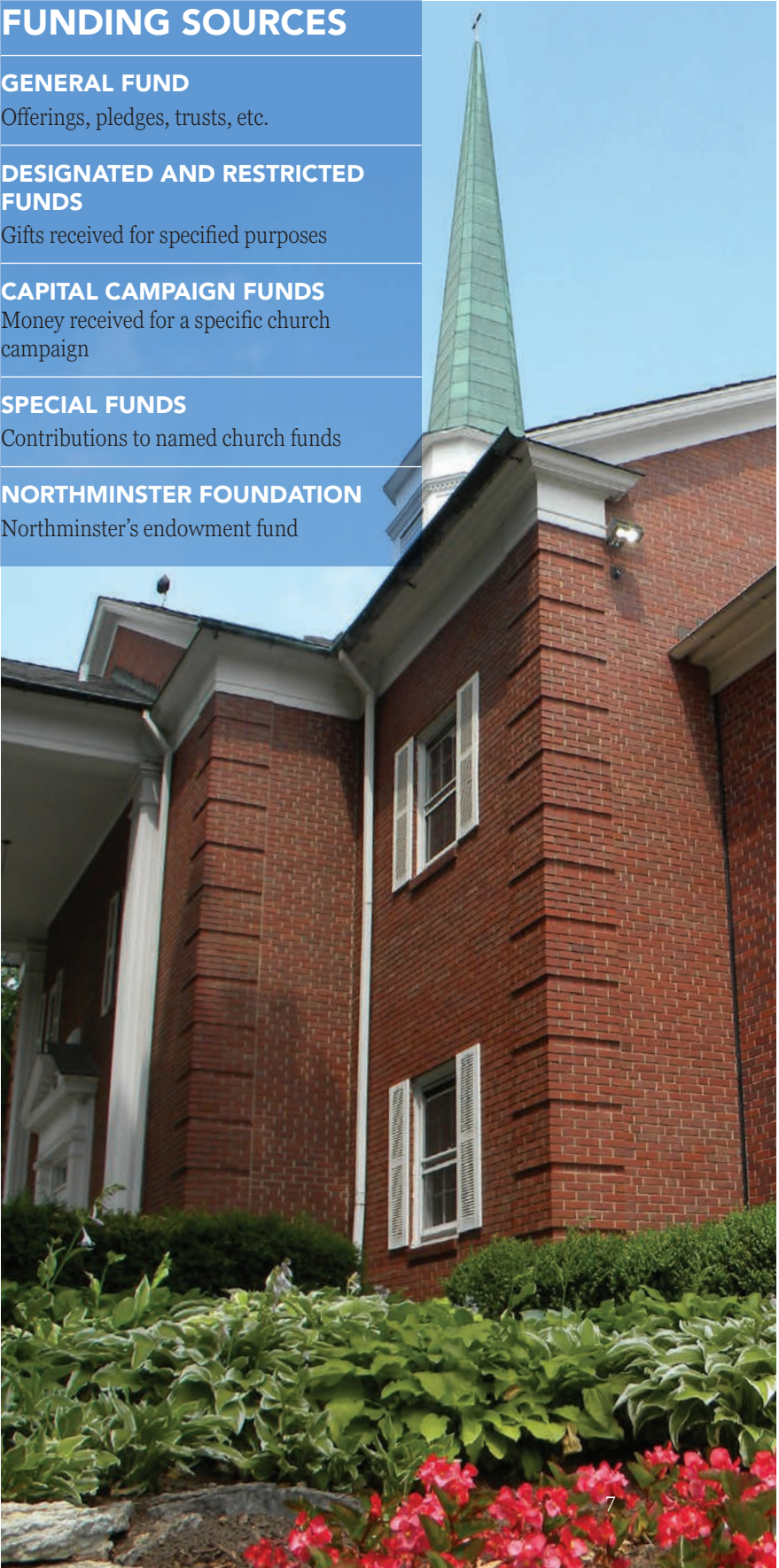
Northminster's endowment fund

Giving in many ways

Contributions to Northminster come in many forms and reflect the many ways people generously give to the church and its mission. On pages 8-9, John Purcell presents us with a fun challenge to explore and take note of some of the many ways contributions have been recognized throughout the church building and grounds.

Answers to the Halls/Walls quiz (pages 8-9)

A	6	PC(USA) Insignia/Gray
B	21	Board Room/Ashby
C	13	Choir Room/Williams
D	15	PC (USA) Window/Pickering
E	1	Kuba Mask/MacAllister
F	9	Sacristy/Angotti
G	12	Garden/Jean Reynolds
H	14	Jesus & Children Sculpture/Belschwender
I	19	Granite Bench/Schmidt
J	8	Celtic Cross/McDonald
K	5	Jesus & Children Quilt/Presbyterian Women
L	17	Memorial Plaque/Mathias
M	3	Jesus Wall/Flamme
N	10	Maori Painting/Dynes
O	20	Kessler Sign Wall/King
P	16	Narthex Entrance/Mattson
Q	11	Prodigal Son Painting/Nichols
R	4	Library/Lord
S	2	Jesus & Children Tapestry/Deaconesses
T	18	Flagpole/Burgard
U	7	Columbarium Bench/Smith



Down the Halls and On the Walls

As we return to Northminster after our long COVID exile, we might just have some “with fresh eyes” moments—seeing things that had grown too familiar to notice pre-pandemic. Consider, for example, the memorial plaques and other commemorative items that are scattered around the church—down the halls, on the walls and beyond.

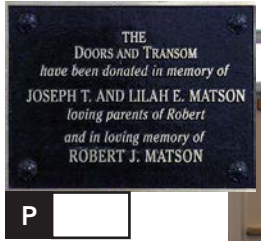
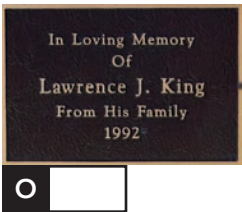
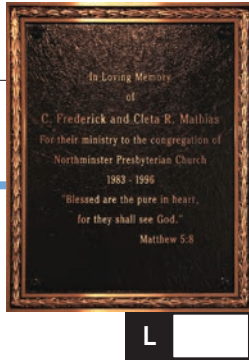
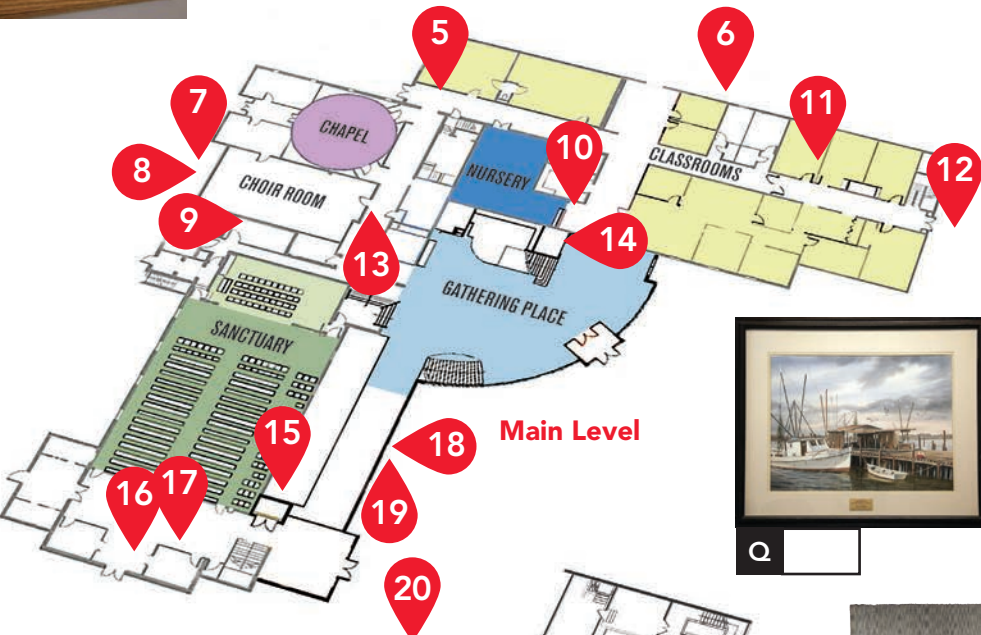
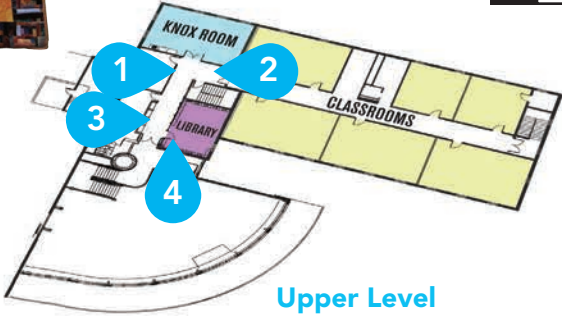
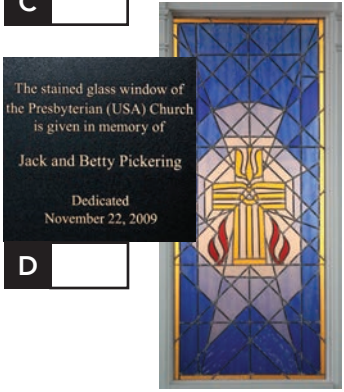
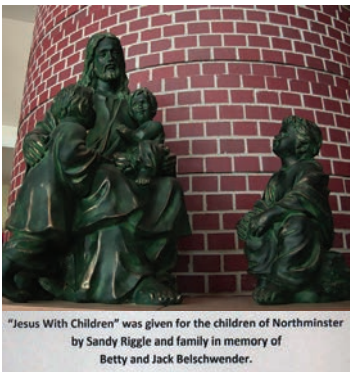
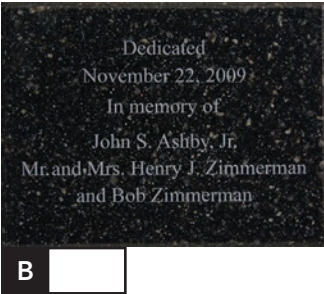
Some of them have recognized specific donations, in cash and in kind. Some have been financed by undesignated contributions accumulated in Northminster’s memorial fund. Others have honored special contributions of nonfinancial kinds. Whatever the contribution form, the recognition items reflect Northminster people who have cared about the church and its mission and have given generously of their talent and treasure. Of course, our stories of generosity and dedicated service go far, far beyond those that are identified and displayed. But the plaques give us an opportunity to pause and reflect, to remember people who have been important to us and the importance Northminster has had for them, and to be inspired by their example.

As Pastor Ruth Moore summarized, “We want people to know how important memorial and other special contributions are in providing things that are beautiful and help our church function better and that, sometimes, we couldn’t otherwise afford.” Often made in honor of others, at death or retirement or other special occasions, those donations of artwork, fresh facilities, and opportunities for quiet meditation “help enrich the life of the church.”

Here’s a brief pop quiz

The photos on these pages picture some, but by no means all, of our commemorative pieces (identified by upper-case letters), along with three church-level floor plans that note their approximate locations (identified by numbers). The number for each upper-level location is shown in blue; for each main-level location, in red; and for each lower-level location, in green. Can you match the lettered pieces with the numbered locations? Some are pretty obvious; others, not so much. Quiz answers appear on page 7.

Pass or fail, the next time you’re at Northminster, take a few minutes to walk a hall, inspect a wall, and think on these things that both honor the past and welcome the future. ♦



Attitude of Gratitude

To turn a phrase, 2020 wasn't a particularly "banner" year for Mary Boris and Lisa Longo, the superheroine team responsible for Northminster's many flags, banners, and window art. The two women have been bringing their creative and faith-driven spirit to the forefront for the past decade, with assistance from numerous other congregants, including Julie Shannon, Krista Wright, Jill De La Salas, and the occasional "construction specialist" contribution of Mike Boris.

Sitting down for a chat with Mary and Lisa on a recent summer morning, one gets the impression this is one of the few times they actually sit and contemplate their projects. There's a lot of laughing, and definitely a great deal of acknowledgment to the Worship, Stewardship, and other committees.

They also have an abundance of gratitude for Northminster's support and involvement with the Montreat Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) Worship and Music conference each summer. It is there, nestled in the Blue Ridge mountains of North Carolina, where Mary and Lisa get their inspiration both artistically and spiritually. Perhaps it's the clean mountain air or being lifted up a little higher literally and figuratively. Whatever the source, both return home with fresh ideas and new techniques along with a renewed sense of faith and confidence.

Then germination time begins. "Theoretically," laughs Lisa, "We like to say we plan a few months—3-6—out. But—"

Mary finishes Lisa's thought. "And sometimes, we're working up to that last minute."

"Yes, Saturday night before Sunday church!"

Both giggle.

"Done is better than perfect," one announces.

As if answering to a call-and-response,



Mary Boris and Lisa Longo

comes, "Distance is our friend."

More laughter perfectly synchronized.

When asked about how they determine the dimensions of pieces, such as the sanctuary banners that always fit perfectly into the space, the question starts another round of merriment.

"Oh, that's because Mary's dining room table is four feet by eight feet."

"Yeah, that's our limit, the dining room table."

Both would love to see more involvement and input from the congregation, whether it's hands-on participation or ideas. They would like to get the youth groups involved and perhaps organize another workshop similar to the Advent silk-dye workshop in 2019. Someone with a graphic arts background would be most welcome. (It was revelatory to this interviewer that neither has a formal arts education.) And they are looking forward to the upcoming planning meetings coordinated by the pastors and worship staff involving all aspects of worship. What comes out of those meetings form the worship art ideas for Advent and Lent, which can lead to projects when additional help is needed, such as the large paper-cut project this past Advent.

In a rare moment of solemnity, Mary attempts to define the goal of their work.

"A lot of times, people ask us what an image means, what it's 'supposed' to represent. And while we may pull from the Scriptures a particular lesson or listen to a specific sermon, we really want people to think about what *they* see."

So, the next time, you're at Northminster, be it in the Gathering Place, the Sanctuary, the Landing, or a "hidden space," look around. Look up. What do *you* see? ♦



Northminster's flags, banners and window art begin as raw materials and inspiration on Mary Boris' dining room table.



Northminster members share their time and talent in a variety of ways. Stewardship takes many forms!

Members of Spiritual Striders Bible study group, Stephen Ministers, and Northminster's Mission Team gathered for a day of yard work at the home of Debbie Grush.

▼ Many hands make light work on special church work days. (Below top) Linda Furness and Debbie Everett cleaning and reorganizing the kitchen. (Below middle) Gary Ryan and Bob Gudgel patching concrete near the patio. (Below bottom) Bill Lord and Don Craft replacing light bulbs in the sanctuary chandelier.



NOTE: Anyone with an idea or who is interested in volunteering on a worship art project, please contact Lisa Longo (llongo@att.net) or Mary Boris (murrus@comcast.net).



▼ Northminster members partnered with Dayspring Center where we planted mums, cleaned up their playground area, and completed various yard projects. (Below top left) Kaitlyn Boller and Nancy Flamme stain a bench. (Below, top right) Bo Walker and Andy Longo work on the playground. (Below bottom) Beth Cornelius and Carrie Savage Zimmerman brighten up the Four Square court.



In Tune with Our Past, Present and Future

The Vital Role of Music at Northminster

In all its forms, music can enhance worship, inspire and comfort us, and even help reach those beyond our walls. I connected with John Wright, director of music ministries, for a look back at our music program over the years. Having recently celebrated 20 years of service, John shared his perspective on how music has emerged as a cornerstone of the Northminster experience both for members and for the broader community.



Music Director, John Wright, with Johann Sebastian Bach

How has the music program evolved since you arrived?

Children’s/youth choirs didn’t exist in 2000. We began with three children (Emma Moore was one!) and over time we expanded to two children’s choirs and one youth choir. With *Sound & Spirit*, I was asked about taking on a new arts series, and a group of six helped found this new outlet, eventually offering 4-6 free concerts per year. The series is international, featuring a variety of musical genres, including classical, jazz, Celtic, and bluegrass. Of course, the success of this series is due to the generous gifts of Northminster members and supporters.

Our adult choral program has expanded both in quality and membership. In addition to Sunday worship musical offerings, our Chancel Choir offers 3-4 annual concerts with ISO musicians. In 2001 we formed the Chamber Ensemble, which sings mostly a cappella Renaissance and 21st century music. These choirs have sung major works such as Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, Faure’s *Requiem*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Bach cantatas, and Haydn masses. We also tackle works by living composers including Guarnaccia’s *Celtic Mass for Peace*, Levin’s edition of Mozart’s *Requiem*, Runestad’s *A Silence Haunts Me*, and Cohen’s *Alzheimer’s Stories*.

We have made modest acoustical improvements to the choir room, procured two excellent pianos, replaced our 25-year-old digital keyboard, and installing our new Fisk pipe organ is a huge enhancement. The changes we’ve made to the chancel to accommodate the organ drastically improved the sensory experience, allowing for better reading, praying, listening, and singing!

Northminster is known for high-quality music offerings. What’s the formula for keeping things interesting and fresh?

I think it’s simply being aware that every soul responds differently to each piece of music. One person’s Bach cantata is another person’s *Rock of Ages*. Music in worship should express the rich cultural and historical diversity of the church, including a witness to the expressions of faith shared among our brothers and sisters around the world. The congregation sings and hears a variety of music so that the entire body of Christ may be moved into communion with God.

Looking back, what are some memorable accomplishments?

I’m proud that Northminster continues to offer a place where children can learn to sing and participate in worship. And a few concerts stand out:

- 1) Durufle’s *Requiem* in 2003
- 2) Bach’s *St. John Passion* in 2014 (the skills one learns in singing Bach teach one to sing almost any repertoire!)
- 3) Two African American spiritual concerts, as we sang songs that arose from such human suffering
- 4) Cohen’s *Alzheimer’s Stories* — this I will long cherish.

Chancel Choir and orchestra in Mozart’s *Solemn Vespers*



A particularly special memory was that magical sunny Sunday in 2020 when the truck with the Fisk pipe organ arrived. The congregation and visitors helped unload parts of the organ, with a constant line of folks – of all ages – awaiting a turn to carry in this instrument that will bring us much joy for years to come.



Big news!

Northminster’s new organ and our church will be featured in an upcoming issue of The American Organist, the most widely read journal devoted to organ and choral music in the world. It’s the official journal of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America (APOBA).

How about COVID-19’s impact? And thoughts on the future?

The pandemic taught us that it’s possible to worship without being physically present in the building, so we appreciate more than ever the need for quality recorded/streamed services. And I can’t overstate the importance of choirs and congregational singing.

The new organ symbolizes our commitment to the Word, liturgy, and music, and it will serve as an evangelism tool for worship and for those in the community who attend concerts and special music events.

Looking ahead, we’re interested in expanding our Music Academy with quality instructors and by adding new students. It would be wonderful for Northminster to become a safe, welcoming place where students can receive outstanding instruction in voice and on multiple musical instruments. I also would like to see us embrace art exhibits in our facility. ♦



(Clockwise from top left) Doug Johnson conducts John Rutter’s *Magnificat*, Dec. 2018; guest Counter Tenor Michael Walker in rehearsal; and Northminster’s youngest choir — the Celebration Choir.

As of this writing, John hopes to resume our choirs in late August and have them participate in worship in September. He looks forward to our choral program growing in quality and membership as we embrace our improved chancel and organ, and as this church moves forward with new leadership. We continue to watch health guidelines in preparation to resume Sound & Spirit concerts.

Answer to Find the Hidden Message on page 15: “Honor the Past, Welcome the Future” is the theme of Northminster’s 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Looking For a Good Book to Read?

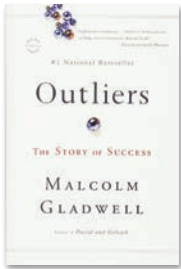
Outliers: The Story of Success

by Malcolm Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell believes outliers are people who do things out of the ordinary. Usually when we look at highly successful people, we want to know about their personalities, intelligence and talents. Gladwell believes that outliers benefit from extraordinary opportunities and cultural advantages that allow them to make sense of the world in ways that the rest of us cannot.

One of Gladwell’s basic ideas is that outliers, using their intelligence and talents (whatever they may be), must work for ten thousand hours on their specialty. That means toiling in obscurity for a long time. A classic case is Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft and sometimes richest man in the world. In 1968 there was a computer at Gates’ school which was connected to a mainframe in downtown Seattle. Gates got to do real-time programming as an eighth grader. As a teenager he was writing code at the University of Washington and for TRW. By the time he got to Harvard, he had amassed far more than the necessary ten thousand hours.

Outliers is provocative and eye-opening. Through outstanding anecdotes the book illuminates secret patterns behind everyday phenomena. Intended for a general audience, *Outliers* will please students, teachers, business people and, yes, even anxious parents.



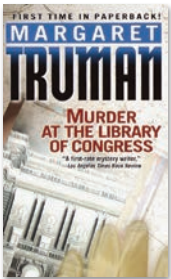
Murder at the Library of Congress

by Margaret Truman

Margaret Truman combines intrigue, suspense, and skulduggery in *Murder at the Library of Congress*. The LC — as it’s called — is a venerable institution housing 115 million items (books, photos, recordings, maps, manuscripts) on 532 miles of stacks including 2500 volumes once owned by Thomas Jefferson.

Annabelle Ried-Smith, a researcher and owner of a pre-Columbian art gallery, has come to the LC to write an article on the Las Casas diaries and map. Bartolomé Las Casas was a friend and companion of Christopher Columbus on his first three trips to the New World. Over the past 500 years, historians have speculated on the existence of the Las Casas diaries and map and hoped to discover what they might reveal about Columbus’ journeys and possible buried treasure. Ried-Smith was assigned a carrel in the upper gallery of the Hispanic and Portuguese reading room.

Ried-Smith finds the body of Michele Paul, a brilliant scholar and specialist on the Las Casas documents. Universally disliked by the LC staff, he had been hit on the head with a lead brick, one of several used as paperweights at the LC. The addition to the plot of a high-powered newswoman, a couple of seemingly unrelated murders, a stalker who makes questionable phone calls to LC staffers, and the ticklish problem of how the LC might pay for the Las Casas diaries and map (if they indeed exist) makes for a captivating read.



The Wright Brothers

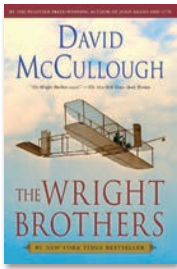
by David McCullough

The airplane is one of the most important inventions of the 20th Century, and David McCullough does a masterful job of telling the Wright brothers’ story: their painstaking study of others who had attempted to fly, how they designed parts for their invention, and how they doggedly tested their plane at Dayton, Ohio, and Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, until it worked.

McCullough writes convincingly about the Wright family, including their father, the Rev Milton Wright, a leader in the United Brethren Church, their mother, Susan Wright, affectionate, intelligent and known to be very mechanically inclined, and their younger sister Katherine, a Latin teacher, who was in charge of domestic details in the brothers’ adult years. People of considerable character, the Wrights were readers and letter-writers of note.

Wilbur and Orville Wright’s place of business was a bicycle shop in downtown Dayton. They spent every spare minute upstairs working on their flying machine and achieved manned flight at Kitty Hawk on December 17, 1903. There were four flights that day of 120 feet, 175 feet, 200 feet, and 852 feet. The total cost of materials and travel to and from Kitty Hawk was a little less than \$1000 taken from the modest profits of the bicycle shop.

The Wright Brothers is a fine, detailed story of an invention and a family. The illustrations are a wonder of aviation history.



The Language of God

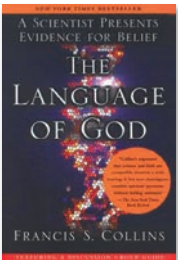
by Frances Collins

In *The Language of God*, Dr. Francis Collins, longtime director of the National Institutes of Health and eminent scientist who headed the project that decoded the human genome, sets forth his argument that faith and science are compatible. Doctor Collins is Dr. Anthony Fauci’s boss.

In his faith journey Dr. Collins traveled from atheism to agnosticism. He was amazed when, as a young physician, he observed the calm and strength of his ill and dying patients who were believers. One of his life goals is to address the tension between evangelicals and rigorous science. He considers science a form of worship and a glimpse of God.

Dr. Collins supports The Big Bang Theory, the assertion that the universe was created in a single momentous explosion about 14 billion years ago. Collins thinks that The Big Bang cries out for a theological explanation and that nature had a defined beginning.

Doctor Collins refutes the ideas of creationism and intelligent design because they are at odds with science. He believes that God created the universe and had a specific plan for the evolution of humankind as well as a strong desire for a personal relationship with each of those humans. According to Collins, some scientists are uneasy with their spiritual views, and church leaders seem out of step with new scientific findings. That leads him to quote Proverbs 19:2; “It is not good to have zeal without knowledge.”



Find the Hidden Message

Like an archaeologist carefully brushing away sand to see what artifacts are revealed, find the hidden message in the puzzle below.

On the chart below:

- a) Cross off the names of American cities.
- b) Cross off the names of fruits.
- c) Cross off the names of rivers.
- d) Arrange the remaining words into the hidden message.

Find the solution of this puzzle on the bottom of page 13.

Volga	Potomac	future	orange	Dallas
welcome	Madison	Memphis	Nile	Detroit
Austin	melon	Rhine	the	banana
past	Denver	Thames	Phoenix	apple
pear	the	grapes	honor	Amazon



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Re-living the Moment

Sydney and Mike Green were married at NPC on April 10, 1976. Sydney grew up in this church.

Mike and Sydney returned to the sanctuary on April 10, 2021 to spend some quiet time alone, remembering and celebrating the years they have shared together. After a few photos to recapture their original wedding photo in the sanctuary, they were able to spend time alone so that Mike could read to Sydney words that he prepared for this special occasion.

Northminster is blessed to host precious moments like these.



Proclaim is a quarterly publication of Northminster Presbyterian Church celebrating the stories, people and work of our church. It features more human interest than timely information. Let us all *Proclaim* the good news! Please send interesting story ideas and photos to sglant@northminster-indy.org. We cannot guarantee publication of all submissions, but we appreciate recommendations. Thank you for reading and for all you do to support Northminster.

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