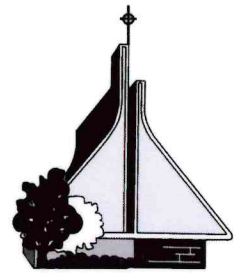
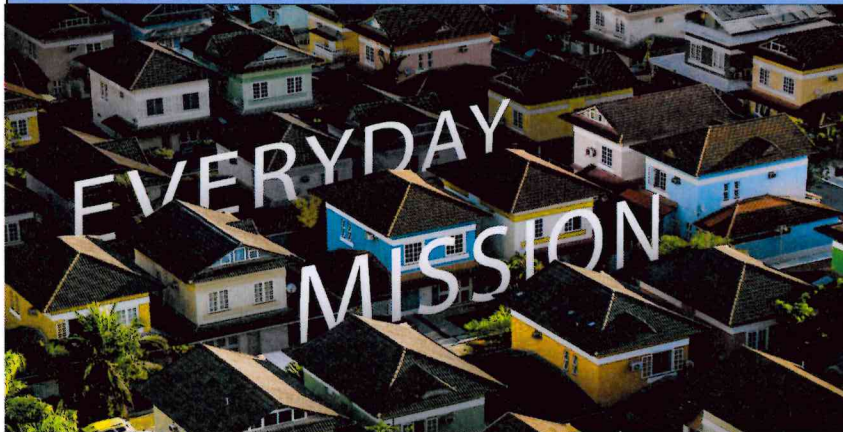


NORTHMINSTER NEWS



VOLUME 68, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2024



Deadline for May articles is April 22nd. Articles received by the deadline will be included in the following month's edition. All articles are welcomed and encouraged, but may be edited for length and clarity.

Northminster Presbyterian Church
3235 Pope Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95821
(916) 487-5192

E-mail: mailnorthminster@yahoo.com
Website: northminsteronline.org

Worship Service 10:00 AM & Online

SERMON LINE UP FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

April 7— “The Hope of Resurrection”

April 14— Guest Preacher TBA

April 21— Series Everyday Mission “Everyday, Everywhere, to Every Person

April 28— Series Everyday Mission “Love Begets Love”

Join us Sunday mornings at 10 AM!

Northminster Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Tony Stiff	Interim Children's Director: Debbie Smith
Office Manager: Debbie Smith	Custodian: Clint Murphy
Treasurer: Kerry Banks	Organist: Open Position
Financial Secretary: Carol Stanhope	Choir & Bells: Alexander Grambow
Sunday Custodians: Clint Murphy	Sound Engineer: Shirly Wright & Merlyn Van Regenmorter
Camera Operator: Aidan Brown	Youth Director: Open Opportunity
Orchestra Conductor: Mary Balkow	

In This Issue:

- Mission
- Interim Rev. Dr. Tony Stiff
- Christian Education
- Membership
- Financial & Birthdays

Mission Opportunities

THANK YOU COFFEE HOUR WITH GOODIES

To thank the Congregation for all their support in our Mission Projects, we will be hosting Coffee Hour after worship on April 7, 2024 with some goodies and an information board showing our accomplishments of 2023 and what is to come. We hope you will plan to stay and join us!

HUNGER COMMITTEE

As we look forward to spring gardens and lots of fresh fruit and vegetables please remember to share your extra bounty with the Hunger Committee Harvest Table each week.

Thanks to all those who continue to share their Oranges and other fruits for the Harvest Table this winter. All extra produce that is not used by the congregation is donated to one of the local food closets in the area.

The committee has started planning for the 65 Christmas bags for the Dyer Kelly School, more details will be in your May newsletter as how you can help with this project.

Anyone interested in helping with the Harvest Table or working on the Hunger Committee please contact Opal Collins, Tyanne Keeton, or Shirley Ross

The Hunger Committee

“Set Out To Sea,” Rev. Dr. Tony Stiff

In the months of April and May we will be in a sermon series called “Everyday Mission” designed to invite you to consider afresh what it means to be a good neighbor to your neighbors TODAY. Too often well-meaning



churches believe they have all the answers to what they think they need in the future to once again become flourishing communities, but those same churches have not stopped to actually ask their current neighbors what their questions are. Even within the PCUSA, we have processes like the Mission Study that we just completed, that focus on asking those inside the church what they believe

they need for their future without speaking to those outside the church. Without asking those in the neighborhood what they need in a faith community. As one urban missionary quipped in the early 1980s, “If Jesus is the answer, what are the questions?” And I would add, “Who gets to shape the real questions?” The Mission Study we completed is deeply helpful in that it empowers us to listen to ourselves, but it should be treated as one tool among many. A place to begin but not a place to end the work of transition, of discerning the next season of the church’s life. The Mission Study is not intended to replace the work of listening to those around us.

What it would mean to be the Good Samaritan today to those in need? To not only have the spiritual answers but to have a grasp on the present needs of those along the roadside of life. To hear in their own words what their struggles, their fears, their concerns, and their deepest longings are. We can spend so much time perfecting our faith, that we forget to step outside and embrace the everyday mission field the Lord has placed us within.

There is an allegory about the modern church’s struggle to share its faith told by a street evangelist who later became a pastor. His name is Jack Miller. I served within one of Jack’s church plants in the greater Philadelphia area in the early 2000s. I was mentored by those who were closest to Jack. Here is Jack’s allegory.

(Continued on next page)

Once upon a time there was a splendid fishing trawler docked at an Atlantic seaport near some of the world's richest fishing grounds. The large boat was well equipped with everything necessary for netting, landing and preserving fish. Nets were in excellent repair, and the hull gleamed with fresh paint.

Yet the trawler was secured to the dock with heavy lines that were never released, and the powerful engines never roared into life.

On a regular basis the officers and crew gathered for instruction in fishing theory. Afterwards they discussed with zeal and intelligence the various approaches to fishing. Some maintained that the only way to fish was to anchor and pray that the Lord would send the fish into the nets. Several argued for friendship fishing, noting that fish are easily frightened. Others held to the position that it is best to seek out the young ones, before they have opportunity to swim out into the deep.

In the meantime, day after day the other fishing boats went out early in the morning to the fishing grounds and regularly returned at evening loaded down with fish. The officers and crew upon occasion noted the hauls of fish, but shrugged off the matter by saying: "Mostly culls, easy catches of surface fish."

Yet the trawler was still secured to the dock by heavy lines. The engines never roared into life.

One day a young man was called before the captain and the crew for having questioned the value of caring for equipment that was never used, and doubted whether the instruction in fishing theory had anything to do with fishing. He admitted the truth of the charges. He was challenged, "Do you not understand that you are threatening our whole tradition of fine fishing inherited from the fathers?"

The youth stammered his reply, growing in boldness as he progressed. "You—you are all so much older and wiser than I am. And—you all seem so sure of yourselves. But why do we always sit here tied to the dock?"

Do we study fishing theory without going out into the deep and putting down the nets? Why watch others fish and never fish ourselves? Are we really afraid of the great ocean?"

Some officers and men wanted to fire the lad right away on the grounds of a dangerous activism. But cooler heads prevailed. Perhaps things were not altogether in balance. Someone even reported a rumor that at one time the fathers had put out to sea and landed great catches of fish. Therefore it was decided to set up a committee to study the whole matter. So far, there has been no report from the committee, but rumor has it that the committee meets on shore and has not yet been able to come to any conclusions.

Jack's allegory of the fishing trawler is meant to dramatize the problem of passivity concerning sharing our faith. The fishing boat is not going anywhere. It is safe from any storms, but it is also firmly secured to the dock.

My friends, Northminster Presbyterian Church has a rich sea around it, teeming with life. People from all over the world now call Arden-Arcade home. There are so many unique, beautiful stories, so many gifts ready to be received, shared, and celebrated. The fishing trawler doesn't have to be perfect, it simply has to set out to sea. To listen to their questions, rather than assume the answers. To be curious about the sea.

³⁶ *"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"*

³⁷ *The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."*

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:36-37

ADULT EDUCATION

NOW (Northminster On Wednesdays):

Join us on Wednesday, **April 10**, for the N.O.W. program. Lunch at Noon and then we will be watching the 6th Episode of **"The Chosen"** with discussion to follow.

On **April 24th**, the **Rev. Rick Hull** will be joining us again for part 2 of his mission work in Africa. If you attended his talk last year, you know, this is a must attend event! Again, join us for lunch at Noon and the program will begin at 12:30PM/



WORKING WOMENS BIBLE STUDY

(A.K.A. Not Yo Mama's Bible Study)

Friday, April 19th at 6:30pm @ the Smith House

We invite all women of all ages to attend!

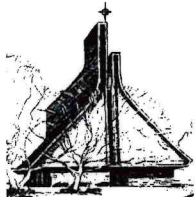
The new study is "Luke, Gut-Level Compassion" by Lisa Harper

This month our lesson is called "A Most Radical Restoration"

Please call Debbie Smith if you are interested in joining this Bible Study.

MEMBERSHIP

Pictorial Directory Distribution



Directory of Members & Friends

Hard Copy or Digital



Everyone who is on the Church Office E-Mail list will receive a Digital Copy of the Pictorial Directory.

Please respond **no later than April 7th** to request a Hard Copy by calling Darlene, 916-514-8494 or E-Mail darlene5601@comcast.net or see me after worship. Thank you in advance for responding!

-Darlene and the Membership Committee

FINANCIALS

Financial Results for February 2024.

Giving:

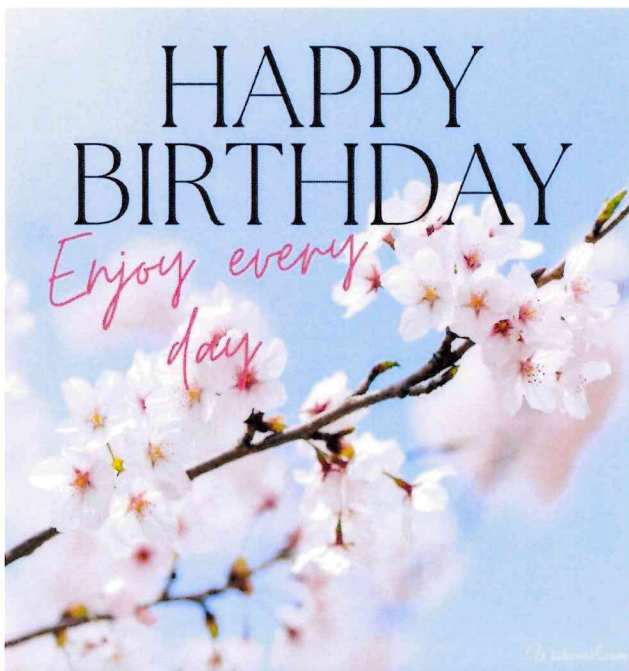
	11/30/2023	12/31/2023	1/31/2024	2/29/2024
• General gifts	31,957	38,152	30,324	23,009
• Miscellaneous Receipts	1,119	1,339	3,145	997
• Total Giving	33,076	39,491	33,468	24,006

Expenses:

• less Expenses	21,989	27,311	23,604	23,310
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Net Surplus:

• (loss) Surplus	11,087	12,180	9,864	696
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Edward Gibson	April 2
Mary Janvier	April 23
Aidan Brown	April 26
Mildred Hassebrock	April 27
Karla Cave	April 30
Nancy Wolford-Landers	April 30

