

April 28, 2010

**A Word from the Associate Pastor**



Even as some of our school year programs wind down, May is a big month for the youth ministry programs here at Southminster!

On Sunday, May 16, our youth will lead both Sunday worship services. They will not only be speaking and leading prayers, but they also have written all the liturgy for our bulletin. At the 11 a.m. service, our seniors will be recognized as they prepare to transition to life after high school. We ask for your prayers for them as they make decisions about jobs and colleges in these next few months. Between the services and after the 11 a.m. service, the youth headed to Montreat this summer are offering a car wash in the back parking lot. If you can, please take a moment to come by and make a donation to support them.



*The Window*

The following Sunday, May 23, we will recognize our confirmands, the eighth-grade students who have completed the confirmation course and have chosen to join Southminster. Our confirmation class has worked very hard this year, memorizing Scripture verses and studying theology and polity. They have explored questions like "Why do evil and sin exist?" and "How do we understand what happened on the cross?" We are blessed as a congregation to have these outstanding teenagers.



Over the summer, the activities continue, including teacher recognition in June, Montreat for high schoolers in July, and a mission week for youth in July. If you are an adult who has an interest in working with our youth, take a minute now to e-mail or call me. In just one hour a week, you can not only have a great time with some outstanding students but also make a difference in their lives as they walk with God and with one another.

In Christ's Service,  
Megan Collins



Dear Southminster Members,

The Finance Committee wants to thank everyone for your generous support. Enclosed is the first 3 month report for 2010. Despite organ unbudgeted organ repair, the church is in good financial position.

	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Receipts	\$174,984	\$173,735	\$ 1,249
Disbursements	\$174,793	\$185,722	\$10,929
Net Excess (Deficit)\$	192	(\$ 11,987)	\$12,178

The Finance Committee thanks all of our members who have paid their Per Capita in the special blue envelope. Your generous gifts allow the church to move forward serving Christ.

Sincerely,

Chad Johnson  
Finance Committee Chair

## The Path of Learning



### Vacation Bible School

**Save these dates for Southminster's Vacation Bible School: August 2-6 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.** We will have two separate programs, one for elementary-age children (kindergarten through fifth grade) and one for preschool children (ages three and toilet trained through age five). Leadership is needed for both programs. Call Jeanne McIver at the Church or Mary Stahley at 433.8059.

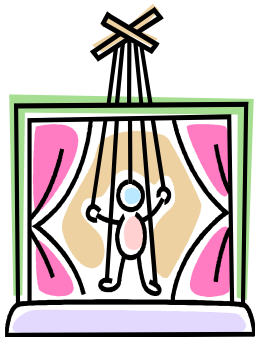


### New Children's Program

**Children and Worship has grown**, and we find that we need to provide another program for our older children. Children in grades four and five will have a lesson about worship in the Computer Lab with Barbara Dettenmayer following the Word with the Children at the 11 a.m. service. The curriculum will be *Worship for Life*, which we have used in our summer program and will use again this year. Young children who worship at 11 a.m. will attend Children and Worship following the Word with the Children. All children worshipping at the 8:30 service will be excused to Children and Worship after the Word with the Children. All programs which dismiss children during worship are designed to help children worship and to learn to worship God.

### PB & J Puppets

We are privileged to have an excellent puppet ministry at Southminster headed by Liz and Mark Ferguson. In March, the leaders and puppeteers attended workshops and performances in Pittsburgh, where they received a commendation for their performance. They came back from that performance and presented an excellent show for Southminster at the Easter event. In May, they have been invited to perform



at College Hill Community Church. If you know a child (older than second grade) who might be interested in being a puppeteer, contact Liz or Mark Ferguson at 435.5029 or Jeanne McIver at the Church. Thank you, all puppeteers!

### Kirkmont Summer Program

There are Kirkmont brochures on the Learning table in the Narthex. We already have several children and grandparents signed up to attend camps this summer. Elementary-age children, think about Adventure Camp with other children from Southminster or choose Sports Camp or Kid's Camp or Grandparents Weekend Camp. Campers as young as kindergarten and all adults have a place at Kirkmont. This is a ministry of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley. You will find a camp schedule in this issue of *The Window*. Contact Jeanne McIver or the Kirkmont Center website (<http://www.kirkmontcenter.com/>) for more information.

### Learning Resource Center

Please notice the bulletin board outside the Learning Resource Center. New resources are featured on the bulletin board. Currently featured is a series of DVDs called NOOMA produced by The Rev. Rob Bell. If you are looking for a spiritual lesson, check out these new presentations. The youth of Southminster have been using them in their worship service from time to time, and I believe you will enjoy them at home as well. Four NOOMA DVDs will be featured as a summer adult education class in June.



### General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) meets in July in Minneapolis. Barbara Dettenmayer will be taking a class on Polity and on Program and Mission during the sessions of GA. Perhaps you would like to talk to her before she goes or when she returns. If you would like to know more about the denomination and this meeting, go to the website of the PCUSA; there is a link from [www.sminster.com](http://www.sminster.com). Follow the moderator of the Church through [http://depandwid.ning/profile/bruce\\_reyes-chow](http://depandwid.ning/profile/bruce_reyes-chow).

**Please remember the deadline for the newsletter is always the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

## Youth Ministry at Southminster



**Youth Sunday and Senior Recognition** are May 16. The youth will be leading worship at both services, and the seniors will be recognized at the 11 a.m. service. If you are a youth and want to help out with the services, let Megan know!

**Confirmation** is May 23. Join us at the 11 a.m. service as we recognize our confirmands.

Have you signed up for **Montreat**? We are going July 11-17, and all students who have finished grades eight through 12 are invited to attend. College students are eligible to attend as leaders. Let Megan know if you can come.



**Mark your summer calendars** for the week of July 26. We will do a different mission project each day that week, including Habitat for Humanity, River of Hope, and Target Dayton!



**Get your sponges and buckets** and come wash cars for Montreat on Sunday, May 16, after both worship services, in the back parking lot.

**If you are new to our church** and want more information about youth ministry at Southminster, friend "Pastor Megan" on Facebook to keep up with the latest activities. We would love to have you come join us!

## Becoming the Parent God Wants You to Be

As summertime approaches, you may be planning a vacation in which long hours of travel will be necessary. Why not turn off the radio, the CD player, the I-pod, cell phones, Blackberries, or DVD players and try a few family-bonding games? The time you spend together in your car may be the most important because you have nowhere else to go; and those confined moments may be some of the most defining moments of your child's life.



I heard a story about a family traveling together. The kids were beginning to get restless and kept asking the proverbial question, "Are we there yet?" Very calmly, the mother pulled out "treat bags" for each of the children. Each bag contained small items such as crayons, coloring books, a pack of cards, and a snack. This mom knew the value of planning ahead and was able to make her family's car trip much more manageable. Her children will look back on their childhood car trips and remember how their mother made "treat bags" for them, which was her way of showing how much she cared for them by providing something in each bag that was unique for each child. In addition to preparing a "treat bag" for your children, here are a few games you might want to consider to ease the long trip ahead of you. Just remember that spending time together talking, playing games, or just sharing ideas is what creates a family bond that is more powerful and long lasting than any hand-held electronic device.

- **50 License Plates.** As you begin your journey, keep a record of all the license plates you can find. (We have been doing this for a while and have found license plates from even Hawaii and Alaska right here in Dayton.)
- **Travel Bingo.** You can purchase ready-made travel cards, or you can make your own cards with either pictures or words (for example, a cow, a tour bus, a highway patrol car, etc.). Keep track on your card of each item you see; once you have found all the items in a horizontal, a vertical, or a diagonal line, you are the winner.
- **Would You Rather. . .?** This may be a good game for your older children. You can ask questions such as, "Would you rather hike the Appalachian Trail or surf in Hawaii? You can

make the questions as simple or as crazy as you want. Just use your imagination. Then have your children ask you questions too.

- **I Went to the Store.** . . . Perhaps you have a favorite place to shop. You might say, “I went to Kroger and bought an apple.” The next person would say, “I went to Kroger and bought an apple and a banana.” The next person would add another item, starting with the letter c and so on, keeping the list in alphabetical order. It will be fun to see if each person can remember all the items that have been listed. By the time you get to the letter q, it could be quite interesting!

These are just a few ideas to keep the fun and laughter alive during your vacation time together. You will be building memories that will last a lifetime in the minds of your children. Years from now, you will all be sitting together at a Thanksgiving Day dinner; and your children will start reminiscing about your travels. The conversation might go something like this, “Do you remember the time we traveled to . . . and . . . happened? Laughter will fill the air, and your heart will swell with gladness that your children have happy memories about their vacation times.

“And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” -- Galatians 6:9

Happy traveling!  
Priscilla Stapleton



## **M M: R & R (Men’s Message: Read and Reflect)**



Jeremiah 31:25, NRSV

God can take your trouble and change it into treasure. Your sorrow can be exchanged for joy—not just a momentary smile but a deep new joy. It will be a bubbling experience of new hope that brings brightness to your eyes and a song to your heart. In the midst of the darkness, you will learn lessons you might never have learned in the day. We have all seen dreams turn to ashes—ugly things, hopeless and heartbreaking—but beauty for ashes is God’s exchange.

Tears and sorrow come, but each time God will be there to remind you that he cares. Romans 8:28 means that God causes all things in our lives to work together for good. Flowers can grow on dung hills, and compost makes great gardens. God is offering himself to you daily, and the rate of exchange is fixed. It is your sins for his forgiveness, your tragedy and hurt for his balm of healing, and your sorrow for his joy.

Life isn’t always what we want, but it’s what we’ve got. So, with God’s help, we can choose joy!

Don Dameron

## The Path of Worship



**MORNING WORSHIP**

**8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship Services**

### Sermon and Liturgical Schedule

- May 2** Scottish Heritage Sunday and Communion  
Pastor Megan preaching  
Theme: *Becoming a Good Samaritan: Honoring the Poor*
- May 9** Mother's Day  
Pastor Eric preaching  
Theme: *Becoming a Good Samaritan: Tending to God's Creation*
- May 16** Youth Sunday and Senior Recognition  
Youth preaching  
Theme: *Becoming a Good Samaritan: Loving the Forsaken*
- May 23** Pentecost and Confirmation  
Pastor Eric preaching  
Theme: *Still Babbling After All These Years*  
Genesis 11:1-9 and Acts 2:1-21
- May 30** Trinity Sunday and Memorial Day Weekend  
Pastor Eric preaching  
Theme: *Searching for Truth*  
Proverbs 8:1-4 and 22-31 and John 16:12-15

### Home Communion

This important ministry is growing, and the Path of Worship is seeking additional currently serving or other elders and deacons to administer the Sacrament of Holy Communion to our members who cannot come to worship services. Contact Bill Boyko, [sb.boyko@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sb.boyko@sbcglobal.net) or 433.8263, to indicate your interest or for more information.



## The Path of Stewardship

### Minutes of Session Meetings

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Book of Order provides that members of the congregation elect Ruling Elders, who together work as a Session and are responsible for the mission and government of the individual church. The work of the Session of Southminster is documented in minutes, which are available on a current basis in the Church office and on the Stewardship table in the Narthex. Please pick up a copy and learn more about the work of your Session and of its six Councils (Community, Invitation, Learning, Service, Stewardship, and Worship).

### Jerry's Corner

You know that commercial on TV where the silly-looking guy is looking at stuff on a shelf and yells, "Wow, that's a low price!"? I know some of you have said, "Wow, the grounds at Southminster look great!"

The Building and Grounds Committee had the first of two "cleanup days" on Saturday, April 10; and, with the great weather, a lot was accomplished, as you can see. The beauty started last fall when Don Snyder donated hundreds of spring bulbs to the Church and volunteers Gretchen Cleaves, Marge Gentis, and Shirley Oglesbee planted them in the front gardens. And what a difference the Building and Grounds chair Steve Campbell made! Steve showed up that Saturday morning with a dump truck full of mulch and a trailer full of equipment (from Essential Landscaping) that made the jobs go ten times faster. The right tools make a huge difference! And a big thank you to all the Building and Grounds members (and wives) and others who helped!

Grounds  
Committee



Pastor Sue will soon be having a service honoring the memory of those for whom trees have been planted. Keep an eye on the Sunday bulletin for more information.

Enjoy the nice weather. Jerry

**P.S.** There is still Posey Power available. Call the office.

## The Path of Community

Remember in your prayers...



Sue Blank, Pat Custer, Jim Custer, Margaret Foster, Robert Gaddis (Robyn Kleinschmidt's father - AZ), Dee Gillespie, Bob and Martha Kienzle, Debby Kirby, Jim Landsiedel, Jackie Lindsey, Adele and Jim Pitsinger, Dorothy Shumaker, Lucille Van Oss (Pat Van Oss's mother) and Ralph and Janice Young.

**Military:** Bobby Alexander—Afghanistan (Rick Blank's friend), Jeff Amos- Iraq (Jim and Gay Amos' nephew), Pat Ernsberger – Afghanistan, Allen Eslinger – Iraq (Bob and Tammi Eslinger's son), Joanna Fisher - Qatar (daughter of Jim and Joyce Fisher), Jason Nilsen –Korea (friend of Robyn Kleinschmidt), Brian Vaughn—Germany (Charlotte Mort's son) and Sean Leibrock – Okinawa (Kevin and Patricia Lawler's son).

**Living with cancer:** Margaret Barclay, Roger Carlyle (Jackie Lindsey's father), Carl Day, Joe Pasanchin (Eric Pasanchin's father), and Blake Williams (Kathy Johns' brother-in-law).

### With heartfelt sympathy:

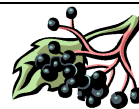
To Joyce Fisher and family in the death of Joyce's husband, Jim, who died on April 2. A funeral service was held at Southminster on April 8 with Pastors Sue Hamilton and Eric Pasanchin officiating.

To the family of Jay Coe, who died on April 11. The funeral was held at Routsong Funeral Home on April 15.

To Bill and Terri Witters and family in the loss of Bill's mother, Ruth Witters, who died on April 11.

### Coffee Corner... Help Needed

**Opportunities** for making the Coffee Corner a continued success are available! The following dates are **open:** July 4 and 11 and September 19 and 26. Families, small groups, friends, and even your Lenten study group can provide cookies and fellowship for the Church. There is an informative manual to guide you, and I can also help set up and make the coffee for you. Please call Pam Snyder at 439.9869 to volunteer. Thanks in advance!



Elderberries

**DATE:** May 7

**TIME:** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**PROGRAM**

*"Scams & Identity Theft"*  
By speaker Steven Pope

**LUNCH MENU:** Sweet and Sour Meatballs, Rice, Broccoli and Cauliflower Mix, Fruit Cup and Cookies

Cost \$5.00

RSVP by Tuesday, May 4

Please sign up in the narthex or by calling the church office.



### Thank You

Starting last summer I've been on a journey---but I haven't taken it alone. Ever since I was told I probably had cancer, through my extensive chemotherapy in the fall, and in the days surrounding my surgery, I've been accompanied by the prayers, kind words, and support of many Southminster members. The pastoral staff has been marvelous in strengthening my spirit. Martha, Carl, and other family members have always been at my side. They, too, have been lifted up by your prayers.

To be surrounded by such "Clouds of Witnesses" is a great gift. It has deepened my faith and enriched my soul. I will never be able to thank the Southminster community except by keeping all of you in my prayers as we walk together in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Martha joins me in these words of Thanksgiving,  
Bob Kienzle



## Grief Support Group

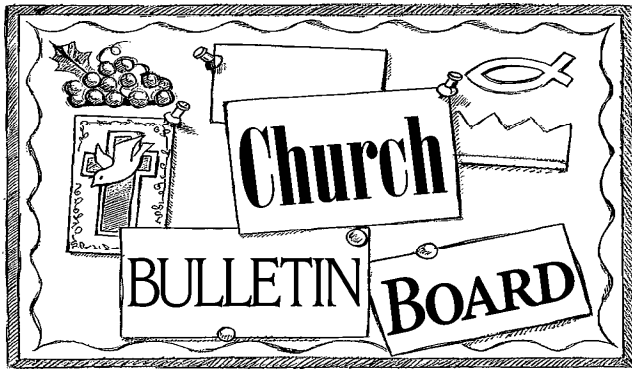
Finding healing through loss and grief is a difficult journey but one that finds support and encouragement in community. At Southminster, we desire to help. A grief support group gathers on the second Thursday of each month to offer such support. If you are experiencing the challenges of loss, we hope you will consider joining us. Our next gathering is Thursday, May 13, at 10 a.m. in the Coffee Corner. For more information, please contact Jane Hancock at 433.0972.

## Kitchen Helpers Needed for Elderberries



## Kitchen Help

"Too many cooks spoil the broth," but "many hands make light work"! If you like to cook and enjoy working with others in the kitchen, please consider volunteering to be a member of a team that prepares lunch for Elderberries, Southminster's monthly senior lunch and program. Each team is responsible for the meal three or four times a year. Call Jean Clements at 545.3286 or e-mail [bjclements@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bjclements@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



## Southminster Annual Blood Drive

Make a difference in our community, and save a life by donating blood. **Southminster will host our annual blood drive on Saturday, May 1, from 8:30 until 11:30 a.m.** Donors must be 17 years old (or 16 with parent's permission) and may not give more frequently than every 56 days. For more specific requirements, visit [www.cbcccts.org](http://www.cbcccts.org). Please register in advance in the Narthex or online at [www.donortime.com](http://www.donortime.com). Everyone is encouraged to come and share in giving to others. And, of course, come for the cookies, too! For questions, please contact Ellen Ireland at 299.6118.

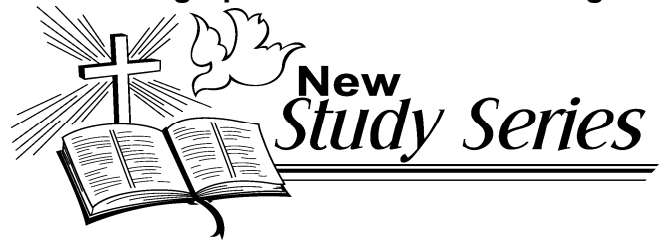
## Summer Prayer-Walking 2010!

Get ready to put on your walking shoes, and join in a prayer-walk this summer. The benefits of prayer-walking are many. A prayer-walk can be a means of exercise, a time to share in thoughtful conversation with a friend, an opportunity to reflect on life situations or upcoming decisions, a chance to ponder Scripture or other significant reading, or a time to pray for the needs of family and friends and our world. Perhaps most importantly, prayer-walking is an invitation to slow down and appreciate **the wonder of God revealed in creation.** The 2010 prayer walk dates will be published in the June newsletter. If you would consider being one of our guides who greets walkers and gathers the group for prayer and a short devotional, please contact Sue Hamilton.



Health and Wellness Committee

## Brown Bag Special: Summer Reading



The Brown Bag Tuesday lunch group will meet for six weeks this summer and discuss the book Compass Points: Meeting God Every Day at Every Turn. In this book, best-selling Ignatian spirituality author Margaret Silf enables us to see God beyond the grandiose and introduces us to the Divine in our daily lives. Through short-but-powerful meditations and vignettes based on her own authentic spiritual experiences, Silf reveals the interior process of the mindfulness of Saint Ignatius—of which a core tenet is that God can be found in all things. By joining Silf on her journey through real life in the real world, our eyes, minds, and hearts are opened to the Divine experience; and we come to recognize God's active presence in everything that we see and do. Brown Bag will meet at noon on Tuesdays, June 15, 22, and 29 and July 13, 20, and 27, in the Community Room. The cost for the book is \$13. Books will be available in the latter part of May. For more information, please contact Pastor Sue.

