

April 26, 2011

A Word from Pastor Eric

The Personnel Committee and the pastoral staff have been hard at work during the past several months to develop a plan for continuing a strong ministry of learning after the retirement of Jeanne McIver, our Director of Christian Education, on June 15, 2011. If you value the role of learning and education in our life as a Church, I'm sure you may have wondered about what will happen.

The Personnel Committee, the Stewardship Council, and the Session have all discussed and tentatively endorsed a plan along the outlines of what follows: Pastor Jackie Nowak will assume staff responsibility for both the Board of Deacons (the Path of Community) and the Path of Learning, effective June 16. Jackie is well qualified for this work, having a demonstrated ability in care ministry, as well as being a Certified Christian Educator and having a doctorate in children's spirituality. For Pastor Megan's part, she will pick up the Invitation Council in addition to her current work with the Service Council. She will also continue her focus on youth ministry but will no longer serve as staff to the Learning Council. As for me, I will relinquish staffing responsibility with the Invitation Council and focus primarily on the Stewardship Council and the Worship Council. With this shift in responsibilities, each pastor will staff two councils. Nevertheless, Jeanne's departure will leave a hole in our staffing plan, and the fact that Jackie can only work thirty hours a week requires that she have some assistance. In order to make the transition happen as smoothly as possible, we intend to hire an Interim Educator for 20 hours a week from July 1 through December 31. This person will assist Jackie with the Learning ministry while she continues to get up to speed with the Board of Deacons. As the Interim Educator's time comes to an end, Jackie will assume full staff responsibility for the Learning Council.

At that point, we will hire a pastor to work part-time (20-hours-per-week) to assist Jackie in her responsibilities with the Deacons and care ministry. While this plan may seem somewhat complicated, it is based on what we feel is necessary to help us through the transition as Jackie assumes responsibility for both the Deacons and the Learning Council. It is also in line with what we believe to be the most realistic staff recruitment strategy. That is to say, we can find an Interim Educator; but an ongoing one would have been much harder to find – plus Jackie is already fully qualified for that work. Meanwhile, it will be much easier to find a longer-term part-time Pastor to assist with the Deacons and care ministry.

I am confident that this plan will allow us to weather the coming transitions in the best possible way and that our staff will do everything they can to make this as seamless a process as it can be. Of course, change is never easy; and there will surely be some bumps in the road. Nevertheless, I invite you to adopt a spirit of adventure as we wait to see what God does among us as we adapt to changing circumstances. We can trust that God goes with us through all things and that all things shall be well.

Meanwhile, let me also invite you to show your gratitude to Jeanne for all that she has done for us during the four years she has served at Southminster. Our Learning Council has prospered under her leadership, and we have made some major strides in our educational ministry. We will recognize Jeanne's work in worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 12. There will also be a luncheon afterwards. You will receive more information about this in next month's *Window*.

While I know that very few of us enjoy change or transition, these things are an inevitable part of life. The good thing is this: We can enter into the process with confidence in God and with the knowledge that our Church leadership has been hard at work to navigate these changes in a purposeful, prayerful way that allows for continuity in the midst of change. May God bless and guide us as we embrace this next phase of our life together.

With hope for the future and confidence in God,

Pastor Eric

The Path of Worship



Worship Schedule

8:30 and 11 a.m. through May 22
10 a.m. beginning May 29

Sunday School for all ages,
9:45 to 10:45 a.m. through May 22

Sermon and Liturgical Schedule



Celebrate Our Heritage

May 1 **Presbyterian Heritage Sunday**
Miami Valley Pipes and Drums
Pastor Megan preaching
Communion
12 noon Ceilidh in the CFC

May 8 **Mother's Day**
God Is Like a Mother Hen
Pastor Jackie preaching



May 15 **Teacher Recognition Sunday**
Built on a Solid Foundation
1 Peter 2:2-20
John 14:1-14
Pastor Eric preaching



11 a.m. Youth Worship
in the Community Room

May 22 **Confirmation and Youth Sunday**
Pastor Megan coordinating

May 29 **Memorial Day Weekend**
Summer schedule begins
Words to Live By: Ten Commandments:
First Commandment: Have No Other Gods
Pastor Eric preaching



On May 29, Southminster returns to the summer schedule, with one worship service, at 10 a.m. Children and Worship and special workshops for children will continue to be offered during the summer worship hour.

Steps on The Path of Worship

Did you know that parts of each week's worship service, including the sermon, can be viewed on-line via Southminster's Facebook page? So, whether you are out of town for a weekend, for a season (such as snowbirds), or away at college for the school year, you can watch/hear all of the sermons at Southminster. Join Facebook, and look for us under *Southminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton, Ohio*.

Your Southminster Fortune Cookie: Volunteers don't necessarily have the time. They just have the heart. - Anonymous

The Path of Learning



Adult Education Classes, May 1, 8, 15, and 22

Pastor Eric will lead a class for four Sundays in May at 9:45 a.m. titled **Saving Jesus**, a part of



New Classes the Living the Questions series. The class, to be held in the Hospitality Room, is a small group based on the exploration of the relevance of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. The format will be a conversation around the readings, a 20-minute video segment, and a guided discussion. Included in the video segment are Christian writers and professors such as Marcus Borg, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, James Forbes, and a host of others. Join Pastor Eric in this study of Jesus.

Pastor Megan and Laura Torres will lead a class titled **Mission in Mexico and More**. On May 1, come to the Community Room kitchen to learn how to make traditional Mexican food. Then we'll move to the Adult Lounge for the remaining sessions. On May 8, pick up a few dance steps and hear about Mexican music and dance. Learn a few things about cultural influences in Mexico and do a craft on May 15. On May 22, learn a few Spanish phrases and hear about our sister Presbyterian Church in Mexico. **Bonus:** On May 29, grab your coffee and stop in to hear about the local mission ministries of Southminster and get details on how you can join one of our teams!

Final Day for Sunday School Is May 22

We have had a successful nine months of Sunday School, which began in early September. During the year, there have been classes for all ages on Sundays between services from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. We know that the children have learned many Bible stories and explored relationships with their Church family. Adult classes have brought us closer to one another and have helped us grow as Christians.

Recognition of Teachers and Leaders, Sunday, May 15



The many teachers and leaders in education at Southminster will be recognized at both worship services on May 15. They are encouraged to be present in worship and will be honored at a special coffee hour at 9:45 a.m.

Summer Learning Program for Children

Beginning May 29 and throughout the summer, children who are age four through first grade will go to Children and Worship, just as they do during the fall, winter, and spring. Children who are second grade through fifth grade will go to a workshop following the Word with the Children which will help them explore the same themes as in worship. Workshops will be in art, computer, cooking, music, and more. Teachers and shepherds are needed for this program--**one** Sunday for the summer per volunteer. Contact Jill Parker or Jeanne McIver to say "Yes!"



Children and Worship Teachers Meeting and Training, May 22

All people who want to learn more about the Children and Worship program at Southminster and all current teachers and greeters in the program are invited to lunch and a time of exploring the Children and Worship classes offered at Southminster. The lunch and a time of learning will begin at 12 noon. Please let us know that you will attend by calling Jeanne McIver at the Church Office.



Vacation Bible School, August 1 to 5



Jill Parker is the director of the elementary program, and Megan Collins will direct the pre-school program. The theme for this year is *Shake It Up Café*. Learn about the feasts in the Bible.

Computer Basics Class

Want to open and send attachments, use your e-mail, and surf the Web more easily? This summer, if there is enough interest, Barbara Dettenmayer and Helen Davis will teach these computer skills. Contact Pastor Jackie at the Church (433.1810 or Jackie@sminster.com) to register your interest; call Barbara (433.8269) or Helen (885.0574) to ask questions about the class.



Youth Ministry

May 22 is **Youth Sunday!** The youth will lead both worship services, which will include the recognition of our graduating seniors and a welcome of our confirmands into Church membership. There will also be a bake sale in the Narthex, to raise money for Montreat.

And **Montreat** is coming: July 10-16! This annual conference at Montreat College in North Carolina brings together high school students from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. It's open to entering freshmen through graduating seniors. Sign up with Pastor Megan today!

Becoming the Parent God Wants You to Be



Becoming the Parent God Wants You to Be

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. - Proverbs 31:25-30.

These words by Lemuel, king of Massa, are words which his mother taught him. (I love that: ". . . his mother taught him.") As I was preparing for this month's article, I decided that mothers need to be affirmed in all that they do; for, without mothers, we would not exist. Mothers are the sustainers of the family; a mother's love and support are undeniable.

The Proverbs 31 woman is the ultimate in motherhood: *She is worth far more than rubies.* - Proverbs 31:10. Her husband is blessed by her goodness: *Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.* - Proverbs 31:11-12. She is a hard worker: *She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family. . .* - Proverbs 31:15. She has an entrepreneurial spirit: *She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable. . .* - Proverbs 31:17-18. Her compassion and kindness is known to all: *She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.* - Proverbs 31:20. This is one of my favorite parts of the Proverbs 31 woman: *Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.* - Proverbs 31:23. Her husband is known not only for what he has done but also for who his wife is and for what she has done in the community. And he is proud of what his wife has accomplished as a wife, a mother, an entrepreneur, a volunteer in the community, a beautiful woman, and a woman of beauty who loves the Lord—and it shows through everything that she does.

Now perhaps you are thinking, Oh, that's all well and good; but I don't possess all those qualities. That might be true; however, you are a woman, a mother of great pride to your husband and family. Just think: Your family could not be the family it is without your motherly guidance. You possess more than you know. Take a moment to think about all you do for your family—and you will be surprised to learn that you offer so much. I encourage you to continue on. On this Mother's Day, celebrate your wonderful life and family.

Happy Mother's Day,

Priscilla Stapleton

M M: R & R (Men's Message: Read and Reflect)



Dreams. . . . What's the purpose of life, anyway? Only to eat, drink, work, and play? Or do you have a brain designed to dream dreams? Think of this: The human being is the only creature in the universe that has the capacity for exercising creative imagination. The divine quality of dreaming what you want to be, where you want to go, what you'd love to do, goals you'd like to reach—all of this makes you the most unique creature in all creation!

You really are "made in the image" of the Creator—God! So you are fulfilling your destiny as a child of God in human flesh when you start dreaming the beautiful dreams God himself is inspiring in your mind.

Faith is dreaming God's dreams!

Don Dameron

Please remember the deadline for the newsletter is always the 15th of the month.

The Path of Community

Remember in your prayers...

Our sympathy

To Patricia and Rev. Kevin Lawler and family in the death of Patricia's father, Eugene Furderer, who passed away on April 11.



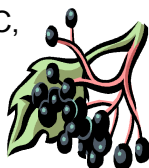
To Robert and Gladys Jones' in the death of their daughter, Cheryl Griffin, who died on April 13. A private memorial service was held at Schlientz and Moore Funeral Home on April 18 with Pastor Jackie officiating.

To Liz Taylor and family in the death of her husband, Gordon Taylor, who died April 20. A memorial service is pending.

Military: Jeff Amos (Germany; Jim and Gay Amos' nephew), Ben Barlow (Qatar; Jerry and Mary Stahley's son-in-law), Sean Leibrock (Afghanistan; Pastor Kevin and Patricia Lawler's son), Brian Vaughn (Germany; Charlotte Mort's son)

Elderberries

On Friday, May 6, at 11:30 a.m. in the CFC, Elderberries will have lunch, followed by Pastor Eric's words on *Practicing Simplicity*. He will provide an overview of the three steps which the Session has adopted as Southminster's process and purpose statement: *Inviting to Worship – Learning in Community – Serving as Stewards*. Come for this learning opportunity, a great meal, and good fellowship.



Home Communion

Wanda Tapp has ably taken over the responsibility of Home Communion delivery. We give thanks to Bill Boyko for his years of service in this ministry. In Home Communion, elders and deacons administer the Sacrament of Holy Communion to members who are unable to attend worship services. If you know anyone who is in need of this ministry, please contact Wanda Tapp or Pastor Jackie.

Share Your Garden

The Share Your Perennials event will be held on May 1 and May 8 before and after both services. Thin out your gardens, and help feed the hungry. Please bring perennials in pots or plastic bags, tagged with the information outlined below. A picture of the mature plant from your garden photo or

from an Internet site would also be helpful. Donated plants will be "up for adoption" for a freewill offering, with all monies going to the Food Pantry. For more information, call Shirley Oglesbee, 433.8350.

Plant name _____

Flower color _____

Sun/shade, dry/moist _____

Comments (e.g., attracts birds or butterflies) _____

Monthly Care Insert

On the first Sunday of each month (Communion Sunday), a complete *Caring for One Another* insert will be in the bulletin. This insert lists members and friends of the congregation who are in the hospital, recently hospitalized, recently bereaved, recovering at home, living with cancer, homebound or in extended care, and serving in the military. Following Communion Sunday, copies of the list will be available outside the Church Office and on the Path of Community table in the Narthex. You may also have a copy mailed to you by calling the Church Office at 433.1810. You are encouraged to use this list for praying, sending cards, visiting, and making phone calls. You can be a great blessing to others.

Lamb Ministry

Since 2007, many lambs have found their way to new homes, leaving our Sanctuary in the safe, loving arms of their new owners or taken to give to others who will love and care for them. Each lamb has been blessed through love and prayers offered during worship, studies of the Word, and various worship and music activities throughout Southminster. The lambs share the love and support we offer to each other and to the community.



As Jesus, the Good Shepherd, loves and watches over you, we also want you to know that all in need are in the prayers of our congregation.

Say hello to our lambs the next time you are in Church, and wish them well in their travels.

Your shepherd,
Olivia Ireland

Rummage Sale News

Well, we didn't do as well as before,
But we did have lots of goods on the floor.
Everyone who helped needs a star in their crowns
You all worked hard, with a smile, ne'r a frown.
The men were gems, everybody agreed,
They had to have strong arms and very strong knees.
The cooks served food, so good to our taste
We ate every crumb, so we would not waste.
Barbara was busy, all day long
Checking so things wouldn't go wrong.
To be together is always such fun,
Working together to get things done.
We still made money, so I'm sure we'll do fine
To help others. . . , just one more time.
So thanks to you all who worked hard all day,
We appreciate your time. Now you can play!

Pat Custer



Care Crews

Do you enjoy working outside? Do you enjoy helping others? Then joining a Care Crew may be just right for you and your family. A Care Crew will be asked to visit a member of the congregation to help with simple yard chores such as clearing flower beds or raking leaves. Or do you have a short-term need for a Care Crew to come help you around your yard? If you would be interested in participating in either side of this ministry, please contact Darlene Irwin at irwind@woh.rr.com or call the Church Office.

May Men's Breakfast (for Women Too!)



The Men's Breakfast group will host a special time for **everyone** in the congregation and in the community, on Saturday, May 14, at 10 a.m. in the CFC. The speakers will be Tom and Jean Gravin and Fred and Linda Wiggers, sharing their travel experiences with a program titled *China: A Tour through the Ancient and Modern World*. The buffet menu for this final Men's Breakfast event until fall is scrambled eggs, bacon, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, fresh fruit compote, and coffee—all for \$5.

Invite your friends. Prepaid reservations are required by Tuesday, May 10, and may be made by signing up with George Lawson on Sunday mornings, by phone to 434.8614, or by e-mail to law-songm@aol.com.

Stephen Ministry at Southminster



On March 27, the Stephen Ministry Team welcomed four new Stephen Ministers: Jana Bobo, Richard Bobo, Don Snyder, and Peg Sperry. They have each completed 50 hours of training and are humbly committed to put into practice what they've learned and to share their spiritual gifts.

A Stephen Minister is a listening voice as we "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2).

Stephen Ministry at Southminster had its beginnings in 2003, when our first leaders-to-be attended a week-long leaders training course. They brought back what they learned and began a plan to bring Stephen Ministry to our congregation. Additional leaders were trained in 2004, and six Stephen Ministers were trained and subsequently commissioned in May 2004. Over the past seven years, additional Stephen Ministry Leaders and Stephen Ministers have been trained and have been providing one-on-one distinctively Christian care to people in life challenges: stress, confusion, grief, loneliness, hurt, hospitalization, chronic and terminal illness, being homebound, separation, divorce, unemployment, single parenting—and even joyful events that bring stress such as marriage, the birth of a child, expanded job responsibilities, and retirement.

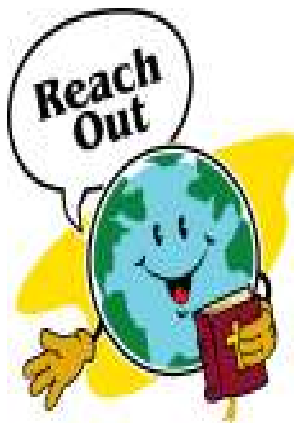
Our hope is to grow this ministry and to serve many more in our congregation. Do you have a gift for caring, listening, and serving? Do you feel God is calling you to this type of ministry? Would you like to learn more about Stephen Ministry? We're sponsoring a short, informal seminar on July 10, following the worship service, in the Adult Lounge. Please come and learn more.

Your Stephen Ministry Team: Jana Bobo, Richard Bobo, Sharon Boyko, Pat Elliott, Ann Gillies, Marj Lawson, Tammi Laycox, Frank Nagy, Don Snyder, Peg Sperry, and Lois Thorp

The Path of Stewardship

Help Wanted (from the Southminster Community)

We're calling on the members of Southminster to help find reasonable housing for a young, earnest couple starting over financially. This delightful couple came to our attention through their participation in Southminster's **Financial Peace University** seminars. Committed to a path of financial peace, they recently sold their home and are temporarily living with family. They are making good decisions, enduring impressive sacrifices, and earnestly want to save for a down payment to get back into a home of their own. He is employed full time as an electrician, and she is a stay-at-home mom. We are trying to find a two-bedroom unit in the south Dayton area, preferably in Centerville, for \$300 or less per month, so they may realistically get to a 10 percent down-payment situation in three to five years on their current budget. The couple is willing to provide modest services like groundskeeping and minor maintenance. Maybe you know of an unused loft, mother-in-law's suite, guest house, or possibly even a single-family home where the owner/landlord would appreciate a dependable tenant. If you know of just such a place, please contact Rusty May at 912.5324.



Jerry's Corner



A reminder: May 7 is *Two-for-One Day*. Two activities are scheduled for May 7—a blood drive and our annual Church cleanup day. We will have mulch available for the gardens, so bring your rakes and shovels. Wheel barrels will be available for use. All the fun begins at 9 a.m.

The Church still needs someone to “adopt a garden.” The area in front of the Sanctuary entrance as well as the three pots at the entrance itself are open for adoption. For details, contact me at the Church or Shirley Oglesbee at 433.8350.

There may be some Posy Power available from the Presbyterian Women of Southminster. If you need Posy Power, call me at Church, 433.1810.

Jerry

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
7001 FAR HILLS AVE
DAYTON OH 45459-4927

Phone (937) 433.1810 Fax: (937) 433.7665
Web Page: www.sminster.com
Office Hours 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Worship Services, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Eric Pasanchin, Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Megan Collins, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Nowak, Pastor for Care Ministries
Jeanne McIver, CCE, Director of Christian Education
Kathryn Moore, Director of Music
Russell Elias, Organist
Karisa Pasanchin, Staff Musician
Jerry Stahley, Property Manager

Time Sensitive Material

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 398
Dayton, OH

Return Service Requested