

February 26, 2010

**The Path of Learning**



**A Christian Seder Meal**

On Wednesday, March 31, Southminster will celebrate a Christian Seder meal in the CFC. The traditional foods of the Jewish Seder will provide an opportunity to remember our Jewish roots and will connect to the Last Supper in the Holy Week of Jesus' last days before his crucifixion and resurrection.

The Seder and dinner will begin at 6 p.m. with time for prayer, remembering, and celebration of our life in community. The Children's Choir will sing, and this meal is appropriate for all ages. All in the Church family are encouraged to make this time a part of their Holy Week. Foods included will be grape juice, unleavened bread, lamb, and a green vegetable. Watch the bulletin for an announcement of the cost, and please let us know you will attend by calling the Church office or signing up in the Narthex after worship.

The Window

**Workshops for Children**

The resurrection of Jesus will be the focus of March workshops for children, with learning through art, computers, games, and science. Sunday morning classes take place in the Biblical Village each week from 9:45 until 10:45 for ages three through the fifth grade.

**Fourth- and Fifth-Grade Fellowship**

Ice skating with the May family will be the program for the children in grades four and five on March 14. Watch for details in the bulletin and on e-mail.

**Nursery News**

Our Child Care Workers are fully certified for CPR for children, infants, and adults.

**Easter Sunday Event**



On April 4, between the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services of worship, there will be a special event for the Church in the CFC. The program will feature entertainment and food. There will also be crafts for children. Celebrate Easter with your Church family.

**The Catalog for the Resources of the Learning Resource Center**

If you wish to find a resource in Southminster's LRC, please notice that there is a second computer in the room; and it is equipped to help patrons find resources by searching the catalog online. The computer will be left on, and the patron needs only to turn on the screen to begin a search. You may search for title, subject, key word, or author. The listing will indicate if the resource is in or checked out and where it can be located by spine numbers. All audio-visual materials are in the smaller room, along with the children's collection and fiction for adults. In the larger room all books are arranged by the Dewey Decimal System.



The complete catalog of the Learning Resource Center is available also on Southminster's web site ([www.sminster.com](http://www.sminster.com)) under *Other Links*.

Please note that the children's collection and the fiction and biography have not all been entered into the catalog yet. People with computer skills and shelving skills are being sought to help with the LRC. Contact Gay Amos ([jgamos2@gmail.com](mailto:jgamos2@gmail.com)) or Jeanne McIver ([jeanne@sminster.com](mailto:jeanne@sminster.com)) to learn more.



Spread the Word

## Youth Ministry at Southminster



### Join the Youth Group

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR for May 16!** Our youth group will lead both worship services in the Sanctuary, and we will recognize our graduating seniors. If you are a senior and would like to preach or if you are a middle or high schooler and would like to write for the bulletin, read liturgy, lead music, or lead a prayer, let Pastor Megan know today!

**SUPER HAPPY FUN IS BACK!** Following Youth Worship on Sunday, March 21, stick around for SUPER HAPPY FUN, our progressive lunch with the youth group. Let Pastor Megan know if you would like to be one of the stops of SUPER HAPPY FUN. We need houses for appetizers, salad, main course, and dessert.

If you are finishing grades 8 through 12 this year, you are invited to **Montreat on July 11 through 17!** Turn in your \$100 deposit today to hold your spot. Help Montreat fundraising by selling Kroger cards to your friends and family. Four percent of all money loaded onto the cards is donated to our camp fund!

Have you been going to **Sunday school?** Join Martha in the ARK if you are in high school—or Jill in the SPY Room for pre-confirmation if you are in middle school. Confirmation continues to meet in Room 209 for eighth-graders.

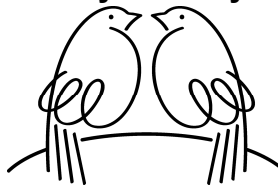
Middle and High Schoolers are invited to **WOW** on Wednesday nights for dinner at 6, worship at 6:30, and then youth group from 6:50 to 8. We do something different every week and would love to have you come—and bring a friend!



**Robyn Kleinschmidt's last Sunday** with us is March 21. Her family is moving to Florida due to her husband Neal's relocation in the military. Robyn will start distance learning with Dubuque Theological Seminary in August. Robyn has been

serving as the Middle and High School Ministry Intern for this past year, as well as leading the Food 2 Go initiative here at Southminster. We are so sad to see her go and will be praying for her and her family as they move and as Robyn starts seminary.

## Family Ministry



Date Night is continuing to meet monthly on the second Friday of the month! Join us on Friday, March 12, at 6:30 for a conversation on the Love Languages and how they affect our marriages. Then leave your kids for a fun evening with Carolyn and the Irwins while you have a date with your spouse from 7 to 9! Sign up with Pastor Megan, and let her know if you are bringing your children.



**M M: R & R (Men's Message: Read and Reflect)**  
*Knowing what to do is easy. . . when you don't have to do it!*



One of the interesting and aggravating phenomena of our time is the vocal critic with all the answers. He always knows the way to go when he doesn't have to go himself. He's the expert pontificating on every conceivable issue. Free from having to follow through on a decision, he also feels free to make it for those who must bear the responsibility. What a difference between the players on the field and the spectator in the stands: The bleacher quarterback never makes a mistake!

Of course, this isn't to say that dissent is wrong. Dissent is the stuff democracy is made of. But what about the dissenter's spirit? That's the thing.

Let the spirit of the critic be sensitive to the burden of decision borne by the one criticized. *Don't judge other people, or you will be judged. . . Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood in your own eye?* -- Matthew 7:1, 3

Don Dameron

## Becoming the Parent God Wants You to Be

Here is a family activity that you may want to do during the 40 days of Lent. Purchase a bag of jellybeans, and place them in a candy jar. Attach the following poem to the jar:

Red is for the blood He gave.  
Green is for the grass He made.  
Yellow is for the sun so bright.  
Black is for the sin we made.  
White is for the grace He gave.  
Purple is for His hour of sorrow.  
Pink is for our new tomorrow.

By Charlene Dickensen, 1997



Next, put out separate empty candy jars for each child in your family. Over the 40 days until Easter, use the jellybeans as treats for the children to earn as they show certain behaviors. For instance, red represents Christ's blood shed on the cross, showing us his sacrificial love. Whenever your child shows love to another, put a red jellybean in his or her jar. Green represents the grass and creation; use this as an opportunity to encourage your child to recycle. Whenever your child goes "green," add a green jellybean. Yellow represents God's light, shining and bright. Whenever your child shows kindness to another, add a yellow jellybean. Black is for the dark of night—the time to rest and the time to repent. Add a black jellybean when your child says an evening prayer and goes to bed without a fuss. White is for the grace of God. Add a white jellybean at any time, for we do not need to earn God's grace. Purple represents the pain and suffering of Jesus on the cross. Add a purple jellybean whenever your child asks for forgiveness when he or she has caused pain to another in the family. Pink is for joy and happiness as we recognize the new tomorrow, the new life we have in Christ. Add a pink jellybean when you share a good laugh together as a family.

Hopefully this fun activity will help your children, as we want to encourage children to seek to be like Jesus in all they say and do. *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice to our sins.* -- 1 John 4:10

Happy Easter.

Priscilla Stapleton



## Color Easter Eggs the Natural Way



Here's a fun way to color Easter eggs using all natural ingredients. The longer the eggs are in the coloring the darker they will become.

*(NOTE: Some of these colors need to be heated on a stove or in a microwave oven. Be sure to get an adult to help you.)*



### Golden Brown

Simmer the brown outer skins of onions for 5-10 minutes. The more skins you use, the darker the color.

### Blue

Mash blueberries – fresh, frozen or canned – in a pan with a little water. Simmer 5-10 minutes.

### Lilac

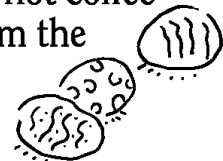
Dip eggs in cold grape juice. For a darker shade simmer the juice for 5-10 minutes.

### Pale Green

Chop and simmer the green tops of carrots.

### Chocolate-colored

Dip eggs in hot coffee straight from the coffeepot.



## Presbyterian Women of Southminster

### Rummage Sale, April 22, 23, and 24

If you haven't worked  
On a rummage sale,  
You should know  
That it's lots of fun.  
You'll meet many new friends,  
And we'll be happy  
At the work we've done.  
This is the largest fundraiser we do;  
We help many missions around here  
And international ones too.



So clean out those closets  
And cupboards too.  
Also anything that's red,  
White, and blue.  
No stoves or refrigerators, please;  
They are too heavy  
For the ole boys' knees!  
Bring your clothes  
And your jewelry will be fine.  
They'll be hot dogs,  
Soup, and dessert to dine.



Barbara Lambright will be there  
When the 19<sup>th</sup> we set up.  
So get some coffee,  
And fill your cup.  
Let's help her out  
By lending a hand.  
She will appreciate it  
If you do what you can.

Pat Custer



Please remember  
that the deadline for  
the *Window* is al-  
ways the 15<sup>th</sup> of the  
month.

## The Path of Invitation

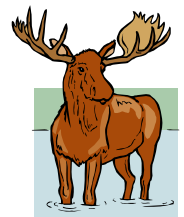
### Are You Interested in Membership at Southminster?

Pastor Eric will be leading *CLASS 101—Discovering Church Membership* as a three-hour seminar on Saturday, March 6, from 9 a.m. to noon. If you would like to learn more about the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), this congregation, and the meaning of Church membership, this class is for you! Attending *CLASS 101* does not obligate you to join Southminster Presbyterian Church, although it is a requirement for membership. Current members who would like to learn more about the meaning of our faith and church membership are also encouraged to attend.

## The Path of Stewardship

### Jerry's Corner

Cans, cans, and more cans! I had to go downtown to pick up some cedar boards the other day. Why? I'm making a moose planter for Mary. (Sorry; I am diverting from my can story.)



Anyway, since I was going downtown, I thought I'd help out the youth and Pastor Megan and take the aluminum cans that have been accumulating. It turned out that eight large bags of cans filled my little truck. At 58 cents a pound, I drove away with over \$25. On my trip home, I thought, "How many cans could I take if the cans were flattened?" Oh, about ten times as many!

But who is going to flatten them? I have a great idea! I can throw the cans out into the parking lot on Sundays, and you can drive over them. This way you will feel like you helped with the recycling program here at Southminster. Great idea, huh? (I think I need a vacation.)

Help the kids by dropping off your aluminum cans at any recycling tub at the Church—and I'll take it from there.

Jerry

## The Path of Worship



### Sermon and Liturgical Schedule

March 7	Lent III and Communion Pastor Eric preaching Theme: <i>Revealing Relationships</i>
March 14	Lent IV Pastor Megan preaching Theme: <i>Service</i>
March 21	Lent V Pastor Sue preaching Theme: <i>Discernment</i>
March 28	Lent VI Pastor Eric preaching Theme: <i>Sacred Struggles</i>

### Children's Dance Workshops at Southminster

Little ones (ages 18 months through two years) will focus on creative movement. Ages three through 13 years will spend two weeks on each of the following: tap, jazz, ballet, Hawaiian, and tumbling. The workshops, taught by Aleshia Hutchison of the Southminster Academy of Music and Arts, are held in half-hour increments on Wednesdays from 5:15 to 8 p.m. in Room 103. Classes are grouped by age and are open to the community. The cost is \$5 per class. To register, contact Aleshia at [dancinlesh@yahoo.com](mailto:dancinlesh@yahoo.com).



### Opportunities to Be Involved

The Path of Worship has several opportunities for members who are interested in supporting the worship experience at Southminster. The areas in which help is needed include the following:

- *Home Communion* (currently serving or other elders and deacons). Contact Bill Boyko, [sb.boyko@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sb.boyko@sbcglobal.net) or 433.8263, to indicate your interest or for more information.

- *Acolytes, ushers, or sound booth*. Contact Rig Duncan, [rigduncan@hotmail.com](mailto:rigduncan@hotmail.com) or 434.8088, to indicate your interest or for more information.

### Hymn Survey

In early 2009, the congregation was invited to participate in a survey of favorite hymns from The Presbyterian Hymnal, 1990 edition. The purpose of the survey was to assure that, at each worship service, some of the hymns are familiar, thereby enhancing the worship experience by making it more participative and meaningful. Twenty-five members participated in this survey.

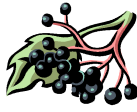
Seven members volunteered for a more rigorous survey of the entire hymnal, and five other volunteers gathered four times to listen to and rate their familiarity of hymn *tunes* only. (If a worshiper is familiar with a tune, then even singing new words can be a meaningful worship experience.)

Thanks to the many people who participated:

- To responders to the original survey: Phyllis Beal, Monica Ernsberger, Tom Gravlin, Gloria Guest, Ted Guest, Marj Lawson, Linda Lenz, Paul Lenz, Carolyn Nagy, Jill Parker, Karisa Pasanchin, Virginia Peterson, Marge Sarringar, Phyllis Strayer, and several who responded anonymously
- To responders to the survey of the entire hymnal, for familiar tunes and favorites: Bob Kienzle, Martha Kienzle, Florence Krahling, Karen Kronson, Janice Short, and Mary Stahley
- To responders to the survey of tunes only: Jean Clements, Lisa Gaines, Jim Gaines, Billie Platt, Jane Preston, and Phyllis Strayer
- And to Karen Kronson, who tallied the surveys.







Elderberries

DATE: March 5

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

PROGRAM

'Great Flood of Dayton'  
By speaker Brady Kress

LUNCH MENU: Macaroni & Cheese,  
Green Beans with Almonds, Jellied Fruit  
Salad, Rolls and St. Patrick's Day Dessert  
Cost \$5.00

RSVP by Tuesday, March 2.  
Please sign up in the narthex or by calling the  
church office.

### 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 difficulties of loss, we hope you will consider joining us. Our next gathering is Thursday, March 11, at 10 a.m. in the Coffee Corner. For more information, please contact Jane Hancock at 433.0972.



*We know  
that all  
things work  
together  
for good for  
those who  
love God....*

*Romans 8:28*

## The Path of Service



### Invisible Children Film Screening

In the daily rush of our lives, it is easy to forget the challenges of the world outside of Ohio. On March 11, from 6:30 to 8:30, join us in the Community Room to watch a film about the Invisible Children of Uganda and meet Boni, a young man from Africa who will speak with us about his experiences.

In addition to the film, music and food will be offered. Check out [www.invisiblechildren.com](http://www.invisiblechildren.com) to find out more. All ages are welcome to attend, but parents of small children should be advised that some of the material may be disturbing at times. Talk with Pastor Megan for more information!

### Young Families

We have noticed a few new young ones running around in the halls on Sunday mornings and would like to extend a special welcome to the new young families who have been joining us over the past few months. If you are looking at ways to get connected here at Southminster, consider checking out one of these opportunities:

**Date Night:** On the second Friday of each month, couples meet in the Community Room from 6:30 – 7 p.m. to talk about the “love languages,” then leave to go on a date from 7 – 9 p.m. Children are invited to stay with Carolyn in the nursery, or older children can play with the Irwins in the CFC. There is no cost for childcare, and the kids have a great evening of crafts, games and activities.

**Mom to Mom:** Every other Friday morning Mom to Mom meets for conversation, food and support. The little ones are invited to the nursery to play!

**Girls' Night Out:** One Thursday evening a month, the women of Southminster spend a relaxing evening out over coffee to connect and share stories from their week.

There are lots of other ways to get connected in our church family. Talk to Pastor Megan (937-479-0270, [Megan@sminster.com](mailto:Megan@sminster.com), or facebook 'Pastor Megan') for more information!

## **Pastor's Message**

### **The Simple Life**

As I returned from a week of study leave this week, I found my office looking like it had been hit by a paper blizzard. Seriously, I could have used a shovel to clear it out. There were official church documents and policies, notes from members, letters from people in the community, junk mail, curriculum samples, music books, vouchers to sign, old sermons to file, committee papers, etc. You get the idea. It was a huge mess. And then I opened my e-mail—only to find another storm—this time, of virtual correspondence! Yes, I know, I'm whining. Poor me. But that's not my point.

It occurs to me that nearly all of us face a similarly overwhelming deluge of correspondence, tax forms, medical bills, school papers, and other items that demand our attention. Who has time to sort through it all when we are busy enough just functioning from day to day? Jesus promised us abundant life, but did he mean a life abundant in bureaucracy and paperwork? We can't do much about the flood of information from the government, medical care providers, or school; but we do have some control over what we experience through our Church. Unfortunately, I suspect it is too often the case that we come to Church seeking God and are instead overwhelmed by activities, committees, and bureaucracy.

Let me go out on a limb here and suggest that this isn't what Jesus had in mind—that it's not the kind of thing that, for most of us, is going to nurture our spirits. We can do better. The question is, "How?" I'm sure it's no accident that part of my study leave focused on ways we can utilize electronic media to connect people with tools for spiritual growth, worship, learning, and service. Although nothing will ever replace the importance of gathering as the people of God, we might well be able to streamline the business of the Church so that we are liberated to focus on growing, loving, and serving others. I know that many of our members haven't made the jump to cyberspace and, quite likely, never will. That's okay, too. But we need to be looking for ways to help the many new people who are joining us to find a place at the table. We need to explore new ways of educating, motivating, and involving people who can't necessarily keep up with our traditional cycle of evening meetings and paperwork. Don't worry. I'm not suggesting that we throw out anything that's working in our structure. I am suggesting that we explore ways to be more effective

so that we can focus on what is most important, our relationship with God.

If you have any thoughts about how we might streamline our structure, communicate with fewer meetings, and kill fewer trees in the process, I'd love to hear from you. Feel free to speak to me in person, to call me, or to e-mail me ([eric@sminster.com](mailto:eric@sminster.com)) or look me up via our Facebook page for Southminster Presbyterian Church – Dayton, Ohio.

Your Companion on the Journey,

Pastor Eric



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**"I am  
the  
true  
vine ..."**

