

December 29, 2011

**A Word from Pastor Eric**

Without a doubt, 2011 was a year filled with activity, excitement and challenges! In January, the Session adopted a new simple mission statement “Inviting to Worship – Learning in Community – Serving as Stewards” and this has continued to guide the work of your staff and lay leadership.

In the area of worship, you may have noticed extra effort going into diverse musical responses and offerings, as well as some creative ways of drawing your attention to the message (you might recall the dialogue sermon that Pastor Megan and I did, the use of physical objects and props during the Parable sermon series, and the use of videos to augment our Christian giving campaign.) We also began a more focused program of invitation, instituting a series of special “Invitation Sundays” aimed at giving thanks to folks who serve our country and community (remember our Educator, Emergency First Responder, and Military Service Recognition Sundays). Your Staff, Session, Worship Council and Invitation Council are all dedicated to increasing growth in our mission of Inviting to Worship. As a consequence, we are seeing a good number of guests in worship, and quite a few have chosen to unite with our congregation this year. (By the way, keep your eyes open for people to invite to church – it’s an important part of our calling.)

In the area of Learning in Community we started one of the biggest initiatives I’ve seen at any church, which has been the creation of a Growth Groups ministry. Although we’ve only had our first trimester, it has been very exciting to see how substantially it increased adult participation in learning and helped build community within the church. I anticipate this continuing as the way we do the majority of our adult learning and incorporating people

into our church community. The work of our Learning Council has been developing very nicely, as we continue to build on our Children and Worship program and the Workshop Rotation Sunday School. Our church is also a sponsor and host of a Presbytery-wide network for Equipping People for Ministry, which has led to the growth of our Learning Resource Center and some special lecture and learning opportunities. Youth ministry has taken a very positive turn this year through a new commitment to mission and service, whereby our youth are helping lead the way in making Southminster a church that follows Jesus’ command to love our neighbors. Meanwhile, our Deacons (Community Council) have continued to be very active in caring for the members and friends of our church through visitation, cards and letters, provision of meals, transportation, health ministries, and many other forms of compassion.

Our mission of Serving as Stewards made great progress this year. We have seen a real movement of the Spirit with regard to our Service Council supported missions. We have we maintained connections with existing mission partners and engaged with newer missions like Shoes4theShoeless, Food4Summer, and our own newly instituted Community Meal. The Session adopted a covenant for Spiritual Leaders which has involved them not only in daily Bible reading and prayer, but also in an annual service project. This year, the Session brought the fun of Trunk or Treat to the neighborhood of Dayton Urban Ministry. It was exciting to be there, and to show those children that we care about them. Most of our Growth Groups also engaged in service projects as part of their time together, and this was also a very positive experience.

From the perspective of the Stewardship Council, this has been a challenging yet rewarding year. We completed the final payment on a \$2 million plus mortgage which we had carried for many years, which is cause for celebration. At the same time, the Session commissioned a strategic plan to take care of much needed capital improvements and repairs that went untended because of the \$120,000 a year we had been spending on the mortgage. By the time you read this, you will have voted on a plan to fund these things through a shorter term, much smaller loan that can be more easily accommodated by the budget. Speaking of

the budget, the recession finally came home to roost this year, with giving coming in at a level below what was pledged. Nevertheless, we made it to the end of the year with forward momentum. Pledges for 2012 are within the range we need to continue fulfilling our mission. As we look at the many cases of financial hardship and belt-tightening happening at every level of our society, we can be thankful that our ministry is still well supported.

Of course, 2011 had its share of painful moments. We experienced many staff transitions this year, most of which were related to individual family or health needs. Consequently, we have felt the sorrow of saying goodbye to old friends and the joy of welcoming new ones. We have also had to say goodbye to a large number of treasured church members who passed into God's eternal kingdom. Thankfully, we have also been able to welcome new people into our church family. Even so, all the changes we experienced during the year were difficult. Personally, I am very proud of this congregation, our lay leadership and our staff for hanging in there and keeping us moving forward even during times of transition.

I don't have the gift of prophecy (so far as I know) but I do feel very good about where Southminster is headed. Yes, there will always be challenges, but I anticipate that 2012 will be a strong year for our ministry as we continue "Inviting to Worship – Learning in Community – Serving as Stewards." I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as one of your pastors, and am thrilled to lead our staff. Believe me when I tell you, no pastor could ask for a more committed, collegial, Christ-centered team to work with. I could not be more pleased than to be working with Southminster's members as your partner in the Gospel.

Your Companion on the Journey,

Pastor Eric



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP AT SOUTHMINSTER?**

Pastor Eric will be leading Discovering Church Membership on Wednesday, January 18, from 6:30-8 p.m. (Immediately following the Community

Meal). If you would like to learn more about the Presbyterian Church (USA), this congregation, and the meaning of church membership, this class is for you. Attending the class does not obligate you to join Southminster Presbyterian Church, but it is necessary for membership. Current members who would like to learn more about the meaning of our faith and church membership are always welcome. This class will be held in the Adult Lounge (Room 205). If you are interested in attending, please call the church office (433-1810), or email Pastor Eric (eric@sminster.com) by January 16.



**Inviting to Worship**

**Sermon and Liturgical Schedule**

- January 1 No Sunday School  
11:00 service only  
Pastor Jackie preaches
- January 8 Pastor Megan preaches  
**What Does God Want?**  
*Micah 6:8*  
**Communion Sunday**  
**Ordain/Install Officers**  
**Recognize Outgoing Officers**
- January 15 Pastor Eric preaches  
**What does God Want?**  
*Justice*  
**MLK recognition**
- January 22 **Invitation Sunday:**  
**Medical Professionals**  
Pastor Eric preaches  
**What Does God Want?**  
*Mercy*
- January 29 Pastor Eric preaches  
**What Does God Want?**  
*Humility*

**From the Worship Council**

Did you know that parts of each week's worship service, including the sermon, can be viewed online 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 SPC. Join Facebook and look for us under "Southminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton, Ohio".

### Southminster fortune cookie

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”  
Dr. Martin Luther King

### Gemstones from the Gallery

We hope you all had an opportunity to visit the gallery in December, featuring an amazing display of black and white photography by Beth Doyle, who studied at UD and is now at Duke University in North Carolina. January will be Mystery Month in the gallery. Will it be photos? jewelry? children's art? pottery? hobbies? craft? Watch bulletins for more information. If you have any ideas for a display for February, please contact Kurt Jacobsen @ 434.3943.

### Flower Calendar

The flower calendar for 2012 is posted on the narthex hall wall, so be thinking about the winter months. If you would like to honor a friend or family member with flowers on a special occasion, just sign up for that date. Please call Liz Taylor at 847.2587 if you have any questions.

### Volunteer Opportunities

**Acolytes are needed.** If your son or daughter (grades K through five) would like to serve as an acolyte this fall, please contact one of our acolyte coordinators: Laura Torres (886.1883), Karen Locke (748.9233), or Gretchen Campbell (384.7742).

**Liturgists are needed.** If you are interested in contributing to the worship experience in this special way, please contact the Church Secretary Lisa Hoban at 433.1810.

### Tech Tip:

God sent the very first text message: The Bible!

### Learning In Community

#### Remember in your prayers...

**Military:** Sean Leibrock (Afghanistan; Pastor Kevin and Patricia Lawler's son), Michael David Milam (Afghanistan; David and Donna Milam's nephew) Brian Vaughn (Germany; Charlotte Mort's son)

### Our sympathy

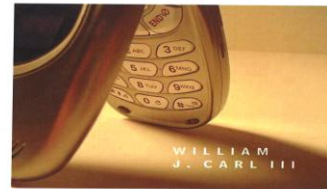
To Robert, Dorothy and Anne Fyffe in the death of Robert's father who died on December 15.



To Bill and Joy Artman in the death of Joy's brother-in-law, James L. Thompson.

### The Lord's Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER FOR TODAY



A church-wide emphasis including sermons and Growth Groups.

The Winter-Spring Growth Group trimester begins January 30, 2012.

### Growth Groups Begin in January

Sign up in the Narthex or online for winter Growth Groups. The 12-week Churchwide study will be The Lord's Prayer for Today.

Southminster's first Growth Groups trimester was **very** successful, as people explored and grew in faith through class discussions, serving in mission together, and connecting with one another.



### Fourth and Fifth Grade Fellowship, January 15

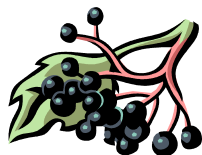
Watch the giraffe in the Narthex and the cyber-giraffe for details. Friends and kids of Southminster who have not attended before are always welcome! Questions? Ask Pastor Jackie ([Jackie@sminster.com](mailto:Jackie@sminster.com), Facebook [Jacqueline Nowak], or 433.1810).

### Holy Communion Training for Children and Parents, January 29

There will be a Holy Communion training session for children ages four through third grade on Sunday, January 29, after the 11 a.m. worship service. We will meet in the Hospitality Room. Please sign up for this class by contacting Pastor Jackie ([Jackie@sminster.com](mailto:Jackie@sminster.com), Facebook [Jacqueline Nowak], or 433.1810).

## Elderberries Is Coming in February

Hold on to your hats! On February 3, Elderberries will feature guest speaker, Scott Royal from the Centerville Washington Township Library. The program is "And He Lived to Tell: The Incredible Story of Louie Zamperini" a juvenile delinquent, Olympic runner, POW, and World War II hero. Sign up in the Narthex or through the Church Office for a fun time of fellowship and good food.



## Tangible Items of Prayer and Blessing Are Available in the Church Office

Southminster folks care for each other very well. Many people visit nursing homes, hospitals, and rehab centers to bring cheer to Southminster people and other friends. If you visit or provide other kinds of care, remember that you are encouraged to take something to leave with the person you visit, as a reminder of God's loving presence and the prayers of Southminster. In the Church Office, there are prayer wraps of various kinds, stuffed lambs, crosses and other pocket items, prayer squares, and booklets. CareNotes may be found in the Coffee Corner, in the Community Room, and outside the Church Office. Don't go empty handed to your visit! Do note what you take, when, and to whom, on the clipboard by the spiritual nurture items.

And remember, these things are not just for hard times. Baby blankets and prayer booklets, prayer wraps, and lambs are available for times of celebration too!

Questions? Ask Pastor Jackie ([Jackie@sminster.com](mailto:Jackie@sminster.com), Facebook [Jacqueline Nowak], or 433.1810).

## Youth Ministry at Southminster

**Wednesday evening youth group** starts again on January 11! Come to the Ark at 6:30.

Are you an upperclassman at Centerville High School? About once a week, we do **lunch** at the Church for you and your friends. Text Megan if you want to come.

Get your **flippers** ready! We are planning another overnight trip to the water park for early March.

Our **high school summer mission trip** is set! We are heading to Boaz and Ruth in Richmond, Virgin-

ia, July 8-14, 2012. If you missed the parent meeting and would like more information, talk to Megan. We continue to head to the **soup kitchen** on the fourth Sunday of the month! Come to the CFC Kitchen to cook at 9:45 a.m. Then high schoolers travel to the Gateway Shelter for Men from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to serve lunch to the homeless men of Dayton.

**Confirmation** starts January 15! If you are an eighth grader or a high schooler who has not been confirmed, you should have received by mail a letter with more information. Talk to Megan if you did not get your confirmation dates.

**Sunday school** for Middle School meets every week in the SPY Room at 9:45 a.m. High schoolers are encouraged to talk with Barb Van Doren or Pastor Jackie if they would like to help lead our children's classes during Sunday school.

## Annual APCE Event February 1-4

The Annual Event of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) will be held February 1-4 in Grand Rapids, MI. "God's Surprising Wonders" is the theme the event, which will feature more than 80 workshops, worship, speakers, regional gatherings, a spirituality center, and more.

Jeanne McIver, retired Christian Educator from Southminster Presbyterian Church, Centerville, will be installed as APCE president at the event. Marvella Lambright, the educator at First Presbyterian Church, Middletown, will also receive the Val Murphy Scholarship and JoAnn Sharp, the Christian Education Director at First United Presbyterian Church, Bellefontaine, will receive a Certification Scholarship. Learn more at <http://www.apcenet.org>.

## A Wonderful Santa Breakfast!

On December 3, many happy children and adults enjoyed a wonderful pancake breakfast, the making of personalized ornaments, and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

The event would not have been possible without the help of many hands. Thanks to the kitchen crew: Steve Campbell and son Kyle, Don Gier, Tom Gravin, Ron Kuker, George Lawson, Bob Murphy and grandson Owen, Shawn Reese and son Zach, Fred Wiggers, and Chris Wilson. Crafts were provided by Cheryl Gier, Ken Irwin, Jill Parker, and Rob Parker. And thanks to the Balloon Lady for her visit as well as to Cindy Harris for the post-

ers. A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make this wonderful tradition a success.

Don Dameron

### Presbyterian Women

**Women**, if you were unable to attend the Christmas luncheon on December 7 at The Chop House, you missed some delicious food, warm fellowship, and marvelous entertainment. Jane Hancock and Fayne Kuker decorated the tables and provided festive cupcakes for all to enjoy. Mary Kaiser was the mistress of ceremonies. Gay Amos, Cheryl Gier, Sue Schenk, and Mary provided delightful skits and led the group in singing carols. Thanks to all these women who enabled us to enjoy some great Christmas fun!

**The 2012 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women** will be in Orlando, Florida, from July 18 to July 22. Beginning January 15, register by phone, 502.429.5825. Register by May 15 and save \$40!

### What's the Coffee Corner All About?

I'm glad you asked! The Coffee Corner is the quaint little nook just off the Narthex where you can gather between the Sunday worship services. There are tables for socializing with others or for relaxing with a cookie, some lemonade, and perhaps a much-needed cup of coffee.



The new year is quickly approaching, and plans are moving forward for the Coffee Corner in 2012. The schedule has been updated on the wall in the Coffee Corner and is ready for the blanks to be completed. All we need is **you!** Gather some friends or a Growth Group, Presby group, Church committee, or just your family and sign up for a week or more. Hosting the Coffee Corner is easy; and the more hands, the easier it gets. It's quite a simple process: make coffee, bring in cookies or any other goodies you'd like to provide, and place them on the table; then put it all away after the 11 a.m. service begins. There's a "how-to binder" just to the left of the sink, if you want to explore the option before committing for any particular Sunday.

The Fellowship Committee of the Deacons/Community Council is available to assist with any questions you may have. Karen Kronson is currently the go-to person for the Coffee Corner.

She can be reached by phone at 937.271.4308 or by e-mail at [Kronson@att.net](mailto:Kronson@att.net).

### Becoming the Parent God Wants You to Be

As I was shelving books in our Church Learning Resource Center one day, I came across the book The Parent's Toolshop by Jody Johnson Pawel, LSW (649.1 Paw). It's actually a huge workbook filled with creative ideas on parenting. I opened the book and discovered that I had landed in the chapter dealing with behavior and disciplines. The Bible is clear to point out that discipline is necessary for spiritual growth and character development. . . . *but he who loves his son [daughter] is careful to discipline him [her]* (Proverbs 13:24). *He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored* (Proverbs 13:18). The Parent's Toolshop also provides some clear direction on discipline. Below are five steps to prevent bad behavior

1. **Notice children being "good."** Encouragement helps children feel good about themselves and produces a sense of confidence. When your child does something "good," make an effort to point out his or her behavior, a kindness to a friend, or whatever good he or she has done. Don't let a good deed go unnoticed. But be careful not to give false praise; be sure it is specific and justified.
2. **Show unconditional love.** Don't make your love conditional, as if I will love you only if you do so and so. The love for your child should have no boundaries.
3. **Spend time with your child.** Prevent negative attention-seeking behavior by spending quality time with your child. **You** will fulfill the need for negative attention.
4. **Focus on internal approval and motivation.** Help your child to create a positive self-image by pointing out the things that your child does well. For example, you might say, "Wow, I really like the way you made your bed this morning, without being asked." Another suggestion might be to say, "Thanks for taking out the garbage when you noticed that the trash cans were getting full. I really appreciate your doing that."
5. **Build teamwork.** Create a cooperative teamwork approach at home. When the family is doing chores around the house, children need to believe that their contribution to the overall wellbeing of the family is important.

It is my hope that these suggestions will help to create a more positive environment in your home for the new year. May God bless you and keep you. *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you* (Psalm 32:8).

Peace,  
Priscilla Stapleton

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

Have you ever been just sitting there; and, all of a sudden, you feel like doing something nice for someone you care for? **That's God.** He talks to you through the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever been down and out, and nobody seemed to be around to talk to? **That's God.** He wants you to talk to him.

Have you ever been thinking about somebody that you haven't seen in a long time; and then, the next thing you know, you see that person or receive a phone call? **That's God.** There is no such thing as "coincidence."

Have you ever received something wonderful that you didn't ask for, like money in the mail, a debt that had mysteriously been cleared, or a coupon to a store where you had just seen something you needed but could not afford? **That's God.** He knows your needs.

Have you ever been in a situation and had no clue how it was going to get better—but it did? **That's God.** He passes us through tribulation to see a brighter day.

God is always there.

Shared by Don Dameron

### **Catching Fireflies**

The following is an excerpt from The Heart of a Teacher by Paula J. Fox.

When you first see a firefly light up the darkness, the moment takes on a magical quality. It makes you catch your breath and stop what you're doing. Your senses are suddenly heightened as you watch intently for the next flash of light, never quite sure where it will come from. Teaching children to "catch fireflies" can be a magical adventure as well. I'm not talking about the little lightning bugs found in nature, but the kind of "fireflies" that are those

sparkling moments in our lives that brighten our day and make us feel better.

They are the small moments of brilliance and joy we discover in the course of a normal day that can bring light into our lives and make us want to share the good feelings. It may be an affirming word, an unexpected surprise, an act of kindness, a touch of beauty found in nature, a smile, a hug, and countless other examples of things that lift our spirits and make the world a better place. "Fireflies" are "God moments"—those times when we suddenly become aware that God is in the moment, touching our lives in a special way; and we are encouraged and inspired by that personal touch.

Children catch on to this little treasure hunt quickly and delight in sharing what they find. One special first-grade teacher decorates a large jar to put "fireflies" in. The children in her class use small pieces of yellow paper to write down or draw a picture of their "firefly." When they tell the class about it during the sharing time, they get to fold up their "firefly" and put it in the jar. This little activity is not only fun but also teaches children to look for the good things in their lives and to celebrate the small joys in each day, turning "firefly" moments into magical learning experiences.

In her book My Stroke of Insight, Jill Bolte Taylor, Ph.D., tells us. . . *Our minds are highly sophisticated "seek and ye shall find" instruments. We are designed to focus on whatever we are looking for. If we seek red in the world, then we will find it everywhere—perhaps just a little in the beginning; but the longer we stay focused on looking for red, then before we know it, we will see red everywhere.*

**If we focus on looking for "fireflies," we will see them everywhere.**

### **Resource Center News**

**The LRC at Southminster has received ten new books!**

- Daily Feast, Meditations from Year B
- Gospel According to Twilight
- Gospel According to Bob Dylan
- 1 7 2 Kings for Everyone
- The Early Christian Letters
- Revelations for Everyone
- Genesis Belief: Theological Commentary
- Hebrews Belief: Theological Commentary
- The Sacraments in Biblical Perspective
- The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday                                  | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> 11:00 Worship<br/>(Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Nowak preaching)</p> <p><b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b></p>  | <p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> <p>7:00 Venturing Crew<br/>7:00 BS Troop #516<br/>7:00 Stewardship Council</p>   | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>7:00 Grace Circle<br/>7:00 Literacy Tutoring<br/>7:00 Beginning Ala-Non<br/>8:00 Ala-Non</p>   | <p><b>4</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg.</p> <p>4:30 Intercessory Prayer</p>   | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>4:30 Bells of Southminster<br/>6:00 Choir Meal<br/>6:30 Stephen Leaders<br/>6:30 Toastmasters<br/>7:00 Choir<br/>7:00 Science Olympiads<br/>7:30 Stephen Ministers<br/>7:30 AA</p> | <p><b>6</b></p>                         | <p><b>7</b> 9:00 Men's Bible Study</p>  |
| <p><b>8</b> 8:30 &amp; 11:00 Worship/Communion [Rev. Megan Collins preaching]<br/>9:30 Congregational Meeting<br/>12:00 Child Safety Training<br/>5:00 Care Connection #1<br/>5:00 Children's Choir<br/>5:00 Children's Art<br/>5:30 Children's Chimes<br/>6:30 PB'nJ</p> | <p><b>9</b> 9:00 Moms In Touch</p> <p>4:00 Cello<br/>7:00 Session<br/>7:00 Venturing Crew<br/>7:00 BS Troop #516</p>  | <p><b>10</b> 8:30 Kindermusik<br/>9:00 Covenant Quilters</p> <p>5:00 Church Basketball<br/>7:00 Literacy Tutoring<br/>7:00 Beginning Ala-Non<br/>8:00 Ala-Non</p> | <p><b>11</b> 8:30 Kindermusik<br/>10:00 Staff Mtg.</p> <p>4:30 Intercessory Prayer<br/>6:30 Youth</p>  | <p><b>12</b> 10:00 Grief Support</p> <p>4:30 Bells of Southminster<br/>5:00 Church Basketball<br/>6:00 Choir Meal<br/>7:00 Choir<br/>7:30 AA</p>  | <p><b>13</b> 9:00 Mom To Mom</p>        | <p><b>14</b> 9:00 Men's Bible Study</p>   |
| <p><b>15</b> 8:30 &amp; 11:00 Worship [Rev. Eric Pasanchin preaching]</p> <p>5:00 Children's Choir<br/>5:00 Children's Art<br/>5:30 Children's Chimes<br/>6:30 PB'nJ<br/>6:30 Care Connection #2</p>  | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>4:00 Cello<br/>7:00 BS Troop #516<br/>7:00 Venturing Crew<br/>7:00 Community Council<br/>7:30 Investment Committee</p>                                  | <p><b>17</b> 8:30 Kindermusik</p> <p>5:00 Church Basketball<br/>7:00 Literacy Tutoring<br/>7:00 Beginning Ala-Non<br/>7:00 Finance Committee<br/>8:00 Ala-Non</p> | <p><b>18</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg.</p> <p>4:30 Intercessory Prayer<br/>6:00 Free Community Meal<br/>6:30 Knitting Group<br/>7:00 PWS Steering Committee</p> | <p><b>19</b> 10:00 Women's Reading Group</p> <p>4:30 Bells of Southminster<br/>5:00 Church Basketball<br/>6:00 Choir Meal<br/>6:30 Toastmasters<br/>7:00 Choir<br/>7:30 AA</p>                        | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>6:30 Date Night</p> | <p><b>21</b> 8:00 Session/Deacons<br/>8:00 St. George Episcopal Church<br/>9:00 Men's Bible Study</p>   |
| <p><b>22</b> 8:30 &amp; 11:00 Worship [Rev. Eric Pasanchin preaching]</p> <p>3:00 "Pray with Me" Stephen Ministry Workshop<br/>5:00 Children's Choir<br/>5:00 Children's Art<br/>5:30 Children's Chimes</p>   | <p><b>23</b> Moms In Touch</p> <p>4:00 Cello<br/>6:30 Children's Christian Education Committee<br/>7:00 BS Troop #516<br/>7:00 Venturing Crew<br/>7:30 Learning Council</p> | <p><b>24</b> 8:30 Kindermusik</p> <p>5:00 Church Basketball<br/>7:00 Worship Council<br/>7:00 Literacy Tutoring<br/>7:00 Beginning Ala-Non<br/>8:00 Ala-Non</p>   | <p><b>25</b> 8:30 Kindermusik<br/>9:30 Ruth Circle<br/>10:00 Staff Mtg.</p> <p>4:30 Intercessory Prayer<br/>6:30 Youth<br/>6:30 Knitting Group</p>     | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>4:30 Bells of Southminster<br/>5:00 Church Basketball<br/>6:00 Choir Meal<br/>7:00 Choir<br/>7:30 AA</p>  | <p><b>27</b> 9:00 Mom to Mom</p>        | <p><b>28</b> 9:00 Men's Bible Study</p>   |
| <p><b>29</b> 8:30 &amp; 11:00 Worship [Rev. Eric Pasanchin preaching]<br/>9:45 Youth</p> <p>5:00 Children's Choir<br/>5:00 Children's Art<br/>5:30 Children's Chimes<br/>6:30 Care Connection #3</p>  | <p><b>30</b> 9:00 Moms In Touch</p> <p>4:00 Cello<br/>7:00 BS Troop #516<br/>7:00 Venturing Crew<br/>7:00 Building &amp; Grounds Committee</p>                              | <p><b>31</b> 8:30 Kindermusik</p> <p>5:00 Church Basketball<br/>7:00 Literacy Tutoring<br/>7:00 Beginning Ala-Non<br/>8:00 Ala-Non</p>                            |  |   |   | <p>Note: This is the information that was provided on December 15. For changes or corrections on this calendar, please call Carl Kienzle after 7:00 p.m. Mon thru Thurs at 433-1810 ext. 106 or email Carl@sminster</p> |



## Southminster Presbyterian Church Report of the Strategic Planning Task Force December 2011

In an effort to revitalize Southminster Presbyterian Church's infrastructure and modernize/improve areas that have long been deferred and to augment the vitality and spiritual growth of the Church, the Session, at its regular meeting of November 14, 2011, voted to approve six capital improvement projects and to recommend to the congregation that Southminster acquire a loan of \$360,000.

| Capital Improvement Project        | \$               |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| HVAC System <sup>1</sup>           | \$ 50,000        |
| Organ                              | \$129,000        |
| Digital Exterior Sign <sup>1</sup> | \$ 28,000        |
| Sanctuary Refurbishment            | \$ 79,000        |
| Sanctuary Media Upgrades           | \$ 29,000        |
| Sanctuary "Window" Lighting        | \$ 15,000        |
| Contingency                        | \$ 30,000        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>\$360,000</b> |

<sup>1</sup>The items are prioritized by need. However, only the HVAC system and the digital exterior sign will be addressed before the roof repairs are completed.

### LOAN (\$360,000)

A commercial loan was chosen as the primary\* method of financing for the following reasons:

- The Church can obtain funding faster than with a capital improvement campaign
- The capital improvement projects could be addressed in a more timely and orderly fashion
- Interest rates are relatively low at the present time.

The loan value of \$360,000 (based on 4.75 percent, as an example\*\*) would create the approximate monthly payment schedules\*\*\*:

| Term    | Monthly Cost |
|---------|--------------|
| 5 year  | \$6,752      |
| 10 year | 3,775        |
| 15 year | 2,800        |

Note: These calculations do not include any application fees or closing costs, which are estimated at between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

This payment structure, with no prepayment penalties, could easily be worked into annual operating budgets.

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\*Members of the congregation may want to offer gifts or memorials (e.g., for the organ, the sign, and the "Window" lighting), with such contributions to be acknowledged.

\*\*The actual percentage would be determined after approval of the loan application, which involves significant compiling of data and information.

\*\*\*The Finance Committee anticipates seeking the fifteen-year loan term.

### **HVAC (\$50,000)**

Southminster's heating/air-conditioning system has been neglected in recent years and has become an antiquated "patchwork quilt." The current circuit board is defective, and replacement parts are no longer available. In addition, Property Manager Jerry Stahley must make manual adjustments in order to maintain comfort levels. This approach is labor intensive, inefficient, and likely costly in terms of heating and cooling costs. A new state-of-the-art circuit board would include updated on/off-campus climate controls (via web access). This project supports ***Serving as Stewards***.

### **ORGAN (\$129,000)**

Our worship ministry has been augmented by a wonderful pipe organ for many years. Unfortunately, the reliability and functionality of the organ has been an issue of growing concern for several years. It is approximately 100 years old, and is frequently in need of maintenance or repair. Various proposals have been made as to how best to ensure consistent, quality sound for the foreseeable future, taking into account both short-term and long-term financial issues. Possibilities include a thoroughgoing restoration of the existing pipe organ, or the replacement of the organ with a high-end digital organ. The Session has commissioned an Organ Committee to conduct an even-handed study of the issue and present a final recommendation to the Session for its approval. The amount allotted in this section of the plan is the minimum amount required to address the organ issue, but you will notice that there is a contingency amount included in the plan to allow some flexibility for different options. This project supports ***Inviting to Worship***.

### **DIGITAL EXTERIOR SIGN (\$28,000)**

The new digital sign will fit the dimensions of the existing stone frame. Most of the infrastructure to support a digital sign is currently in place; minor electrical modifications are included in the cost.

Messages for the sign can be changed with a few key strokes on the Church Office computer. The digital signage will better tell Southminster's story and share our activities, services, and mission to the thousands of people who pass by the Church every day. This project supports ***Inviting to Worship***.

### **SANCTUARY REFURBISHMENT (\$79,000)**

Our Sanctuary has not been painted or carpeted in almost 30 years and is showing considerable wear. Current pew cushions are thin, worn, and uncomfortable; and light bulb replacements require scaffolding. This project includes new acoustical paint, carpeting, pew cushions, and pendant lighting.

Improvements to the Sanctuary are needed for the upkeep of the Church property and will enhance the worship experience. This project supports ***Serving as Stewards*** and ***Inviting to Worship***.

### **SANCTUARY MEDIA UPGRADES (\$29,000)**

The current system has been "patched together" and cannot effectively convey God's message to the congregation and to the growing number of younger visitor families.

This project consists of a new video projector and monitors for better viewing throughout the Sanctuary, including the transept, the choir loft, the pulpit, and the Sanctuary Lounge as well as sound improvements. This project supports ***Inviting to Worship***.

### **SANCTUARY "WINDOW" LIGHTING (\$15,000)**

When the Sanctuary was constructed in 1967, the "Window" was illuminated fully, was a testament to God, and was one of the most recognizable pieces of art in the community, facing what is now one of the county's busiest intersections. Over the years, with cost-containment requirements, the lighting has been reduced to less than 50 percent of its potential and former glory.

With this project, interior lighting will be placed along the entire length of the "Window." The current "post" lighting will be removed and replaced with state-of-the-art and less costly lighting, adding four additional pews in the balcony. This project supports ***Inviting to Worship***.

Strategic Planning Task Force:

Dan Beck, Chair  
Barbara Lambright

Gay Amos  
Marj Lawson

Bill Barlow  
Terri Witters

Tom Gravlin

## Serving As Stewards

### Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 8 at 9:30 a.m., to elect Dorothy Fyffe as a Ruling Elder for the Class of 2014 and Jill Matteson as a member of the 2012 Nominating Committee. The meeting will also include a vote pertaining to the financing of a facility plan the Session has approved.

The plan relates to deferred maintenance items and improvements, including better lighting for the Sanctuary window, repainting the Sanctuary (and repairing holes in the ceiling), replacing the carpeting in the sanctuary (and matching the pew cushions), and effectively addressing problems with the organ. Additional issues include improved signage and the ability to use technology more effectively. Copies of the plan will be available in the Narthex beginning December 25. Although the plan itself has been approved by the Session, the issue before the congregation is the proposal to take out a \$360,000 loan for a period of 15 years (to be paid off as a part of our annual budget), in order to handle all these issues in a well-coordinated and timely way.



### Southminster in Service

Southminster is beginning a new Male Mentoring Program to reach out to families in the Chevy Chase apartments, located near the Church. Male mentors will attend a training session, have a background check, and meet with Pastor Megan. After we have our mentors ready, we will partner with families at Chevy Chase; and mentors will spend one to two hours a month with a child who needs a positive adult male role model. Activities could include throwing a football, getting ice cream, or working on homework together. An informational meeting will be held on January 8 at 9:45 a.m.

Are you looking for service opportunities in Dayton? Members of our congregation are working in organizations every week, feeding the homeless, helping children get shoes, delivering food to families, and

much more! Talk with Pastor Megan if you would like to get connected!

Would you like a pen pal? We are continuing our relationship with our partner church in Mexico. Pen pals can write letters to be mailed, or connect via e-mail or Facebook. Talk to Laura Torres or Pastor Megan for more information.

### The Christmas Basket Program: You Made It a Grand Success!

Because of you, Southminster provided Christmas baskets to 73 families. You gave 96 children a merrier Christmas, with gifts and food for 220 people! We continued our support of Dayton Urban Ministries, providing gifts and food for ten of their families. It wouldn't have happened without your support!

We offer our **gratitude** to all the people who made this project so successful. We thank all who bought gifts and/or donated money for the food baskets. We thank the Knitting Group for the hand-knitted hats and gloves and all who donated hats, mittens, and gloves. In addition, it takes many volunteers to coordinate the gifts for each family, to assemble food boxes, to fill the food baskets with Christmas meals, and to joyfully deliver the food and gifts to the families.

Thank you all for your generosity!

### Greater Dayton Alternative Gift Market Results

We are delighted to share that our Alternative Gift Market, led by a team of community members and four churches including Southminster, raised \$19,011 to support local and international charities this year. This gives us a total of over \$100,000 raised in five years!

The top five earning projects this year included the following:

- #21: Where Needed Most: \$1,414.50
- #40: Blue Star Mothers: \$1,306
- #10: Books for the Joy of Reading (Nicaragua): \$957
- #36: FISH Food Pantry (Local): \$934
- #26: Bicycles for Rural Healthcare Workers (Namibia, Zambia): \$796.

It is amazing to see God at work among us! Thank you again for your support and faith in this project.

A huge thank you goes out also to all of our many volunteers and planning team members!

May this Christmas indeed be a time of remembering the true meaning and spirit of our celebrations.

Sarah Albright

## HIGHLIGHTS



### FROM SESSION Highlights of the December Session Meeting

At its December 12 meeting and following a time of worship, the Session

- adopted The Blessing Center as an outreach and nurture ministry of Southminster,
- approved the hiring of Tammi Eslinger as Interim Choir Director and Bell Choir Director for 15 hours per week,
- approved the call of a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 8, at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of electing Dorothy Fyffe as a Ruling Elder for a three-year term and Jill Matteson as a member of the Nominating Committee for 2012, as well as of approving a 15-year, \$360,000 loan, as per the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Task Force and as approved by the Session on November 14,
- approved the 2012 budget (total receipts: \$683,516; total expenses: \$687,623; net: [\$4,107]),
- approved the 12-week, all-Church Growth Group study The Lord's Prayer for Today by William J. Carl, III, to begin the week of January 29,
- approved the formation of an Organ Committee consisting of Stephen Albright (chair), Dick Bobo, Jerry Craig, Tammi Eslinger, Jim Harris, Karisa Pasanchin, and Pearl Scott,
- received the Clerk's report, reflecting the death of Kathy Paris,
- received the reports of the Pastors (now called *Teaching Elders*); the reports of the Community, Learning, Stewardship, and Worship Councils; and the report of the commissioners to the November 12 Presbytery meeting.

Note that copies of full minutes of recent Session meetings continue to be available for pickup in the Church Office and on the Stewardship table in the Narthex.

### Jerry's Corner

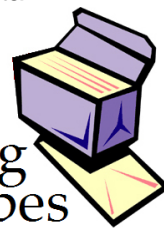


O.K. What's wrong with this picture? Here it is mid-December. I'm writing my column before I leave for Christmas vacation, and I've not had to shovel any snow yet! Maybe it's just going to be a wet and warmer winter, and we will get only a couple of inches of snow. Sounds like my Christmas wish, doesn't it? Merry Christmas!

Jerry

### A Letter of Thanks

Dear Congregation,  
Thank you for your generosity, show to the staff at Christmas-time. We appreciated the cards, presents, and the monetary gift! Your appreciation offered in various ways is cherished. It is good to be in ministry with all of you  
Southminster Staff



### Offering Envelopes

**Our 2012 Offering Envelopes are in.** Rather than mailing them to you, we will have them available for you to pick up at the church. They are arranged alphabetically on a table in the Narthex.

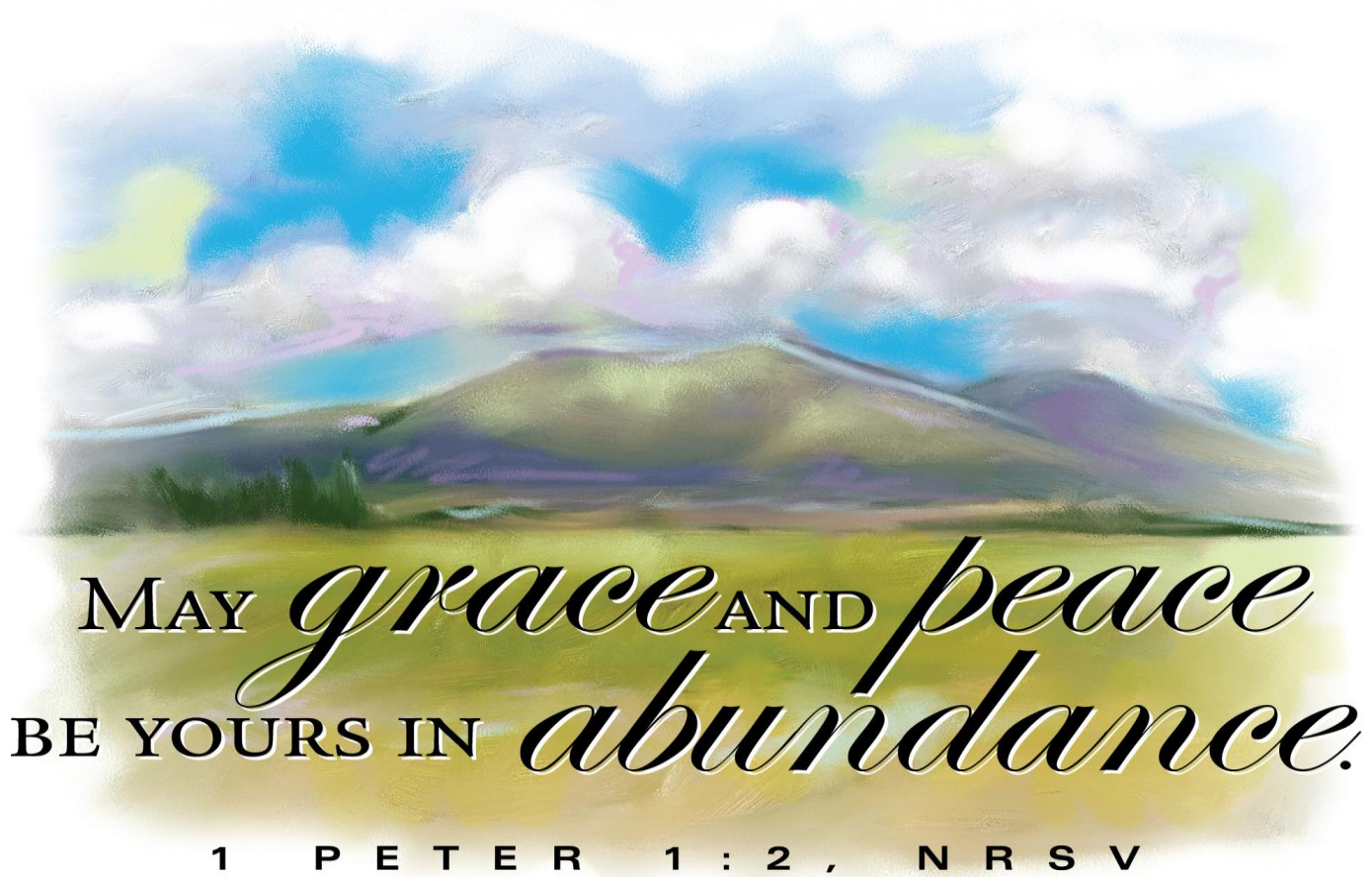
If you cannot pick up your envelopes and would like them mailed to you, please call the Church office. We have ordered the envelopes for the entire year. The box you pick up will have all your envelopes for 2012.

### Annual Reports

If you are the chairperson or moderator of a committee or organization in the Church, please submit your annual report to the Church Office by December 31. The report need only be a brief summary of your group's activity in 2011 and a look forward to your anticipated activities in 2012.

Thank you.

**Please note** that the deadline for contributions to Southminster for the year 2011 is **Saturday, December 31**. If you mail your contribution, it must be postmarked by **December 31**.



MAY *grace* AND *peace*  
BE YOURS IN *abundance.*

1 P E T E R 1 : 2 , N R S V

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**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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**Rev. Megan Collins**, Associate Pastor  
**Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Nowak**, Associate Pastor  
**Dr. Barbara Van Doren**, Interim Christian Educator  
**Karisa Pasanchin**, Staff Musician  
**Jerry Stahley**, Property Manager

**Time Sensitive Material**