

October 31, 2011

A Word from Pastor Eric**Transitional Things**

If there is one thing that is certain about life, it is that things are always changing. Personally, I'm not in love with the idea. It would be nice if things could just be fairly stable and comfortable. Unfortunately, such is often not the case. By now you have most likely seen the notice that Kathryn Moore, our Director of Music for the past three years, has resigned. This is important for her well-being as she seeks to balance her life between working full time at a school in Springfield and being a wife and mother. And so, even as we are sad to see her leave, her decision is understandable.

With Kathryn's departure coming only a few months after the death of our long-time organist Russell Elias, we have experienced great losses in our music ministry. I know that many of us are still trying to catch up emotionally to these losses and experiencing grief over them. But even as we process our emotions, the church's ministry of worship must continue.

In order to give us time to regroup, the Personnel Committee is in the process of hiring Tammi Eslinger as Interim Choir and Bell Choir Director. Tammi and her husband Bob have been worshipping with us for several years, and Tammi has been singing with the choir. She is a skilled musician, with experience in choral direction and bell choir leadership. For the time being, Tammi and Staff Musician Karisa Pasanchin will be leading our music ministry with adults. Barbara Van Doren, who came to us as an Interim Christian Educator and is in the process of becoming our ongoing (that is, no longer interim) Director of Children's Ministries, will be working with the children's choir through May. As these plans are solidified for carrying on the music ministry in the immediate future, the Personnel Committee will be discussing how best to meet our music and worship needs in light of available human and financial resources. What had seemed like a straightforward process when Russell left us

has become a more complicated matter in light of Kathryn's unexpected departure and the fact that the recession has caught up with our Church finances. Honestly, I'm not sure what our long-range plan will be. One thing I am certain of is that we will be able to carry on the ministry of worship and music with quality and with passion for God.

I would like to invite your prayers for the Personnel Committee and for the Session as they discern the way forward; for Kathryn and her family as they move on to a new phase of life; and for Tammi, Karisa, and Barb as they carry on our music ministry while we wait for a future path to become clear. I would also ask for your patience and understanding as we seek to manage these transitions to the best of our ability.

Meanwhile . . .

There are some very exciting things happening at Southminster! Our Growth Groups ministry, which we launched in September, is an enormous success. We have greatly increased the number of adults involved in learning about and discussing their faith, and this has led to an increased sense of community and to new service opportunities. In fact, our mission of serving the community is growing significantly, with our high school youth making a monthly trip to feed the homeless in Dayton, while our middle school students and younger children help prepare things for that ministry. At the same time, we have begun a free monthly community meal to build a connection with people in the area who need food or who simply desire companionship and a place to belong. The Session has adopted a Covenant for Spiritual Growth and is increasingly involved in daily prayer and Bible study, as well as in an annual mission project. In October, they, along with others from the Church, brought the annual Trunk or Treat mission to the children of Dayton Urban Ministry instead of having them come to us. We have also been gaining a clearer vision for our ministry of invitation by holding regular services of recognition and blessing for those who serve our community. And yet another form of community outreach is on the horizon, as we are in conversation with the West Carrollton YMCA about partnering in athletic activities and, ultimately, childcare. As I write, we are about to receive eight new members in worship, and there are still others waiting in the wings for the next new member class. Finally, even through all the transitions we have

experienced, our staff is working together with the same collegiality and fondness that has characterized Southminster since Pastor Sue and I started here in early 2007.

I hope you can stand me writing an extra long article this month, but I really wanted to balance the necessary discussion of transitional issues with a look at some of the things that make Southminster an awesome Church as we continue Inviting to Worship, Learning in Community, and Serving as Stewards.

Your Companion on the Journey,

Pastor Eric

Inviting to Worship

Sermon and Liturgical Schedule

- November 6 **Daylight Saving Time ends
Communion Sunday**
Where Is God When It Hurts? Responding to Pain
Pastor Megan Preaching
- November 13 **Invitation Sunday:
Active Duty Military,
Veterans and Families**
No Greater Love
John 15:9-17
Pastor Eric preaching
- November 20 **Thank Offering Sunday**
Debbie Lewis from
The Castle speaking
Potato bar luncheon follows
the 11 a.m. service
- November 27 **Advent 1**
Sleeping In
Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37
Pastor Eric preaching

From the Worship Council

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*.

Southminster Fortune Cookie

A smile is a curve that sets a lot of things straight.

Gemstones from the Gallery

We hope you all had an opportunity in October to visit the Gallery, featuring art projects by our children. This month the Gallery will feature a jewelry collection by our own Jana Bobo. The original-design, homemade silver and gemstone jewelry will be on display on Sundays only, so be sure to check it out before or after worship services. Jana is a member of Town and Country Fine Arts Center in Kettering as well as Pendleton Art Center in Middletown. If you have any ideas for a display for December or January, please contact Kurt Jacobsen at 434.3943.

Flower Calendar

Flower orders are filled for the rest of this year, so be thinking about the winter months. If you would like to honor a friend or family member with flowers on a special occasion, please call Liz Taylor at 847.2587 to ask about any date early next year.

Volunteer Opportunities

Acolytes are needed. If your son or daughter (grades K through five) would like to serve as an acolyte, 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, 433.1810.

Be our Guest Veterans, active duty military, and their families
Military Recognition Sunday at Southminster!
November 13th at 8:30 and 11:00
We want a chance to thank you for your service and sacrifice. Please join us for either worship service.
937-433-1810
Southminster Presbyterian Church
7001 Far Hills Avenue in Centerville

Invitation Sunday, November 13

Do you know a veteran, a military person on active duty, or a member of their families? If so, invite them to Southminster on November 13 for the 8:30 a.m. or the 11 a.m. service!

We will be recognizing the commitment and the sacrifices they make and will offer a prayer of support and blessing. Invitation cards are available each Sunday in the bulletin. Join us as we thank the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country!

Serving As Stewards

Alternative Gift Market Anniversary!

This is the fifth year of Southminster's participation in the Greater Dayton Alternative Gift Market! In addition, 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of Alternative Gifts International, the parent charity to our local market. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make the past four years such an amazing success, with over \$82,000 raised locally for missions around the world and here at home!

Please come and celebrate by sponsoring humanitarian and environmental projects in honor of friends, loved ones, and associates in lieu of material gifts. As in past years, shoppers will receive a full-sized greeting card, an insert explaining the project(s) selected for the recipient, and a hand-made ornament commemorating the project. As an added feature, this year's market will offer Fair Trade goods for purchase. Our market will also include live entertainment, homemade food at our Caring Café, and children's activities.

More information about this year's market and the projects available to sponsor is available on our website, DaytonGift.com.

This year's Greater Dayton Alternative Gift Market will be held on **Saturday, November 5**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Southminster CFC. Please join us at this year's market to celebrate this great anniversary—and why not invite a friend?

If you have questions or would like to volunteer at the Market, please contact Pastor Megan (433.1810) or Sarah Albright (513.932.4231).

Community Meal

The community meal ministry continues this month, on November 18. To help, sign up in the Narthex. Bring a friend, and come to join us for the dinner! The meal is open to everyone and free to everyone. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the meal may write a check to Southminster, with the notation *Community Meal*. Questions? Talk with Pastor Megan or with Gretchen Cleaves, meal coordinator (885.2921).

Look for the Barrels!

Donations for The Castle, Food2Go, and Food4Summer continue to happen each week. Look for the barrels in the Narthex and downstairs for food donations, and sign up to bring food to The Castle on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Christmas Baskets

On November 27, the Christmas Basket tree will be decorated with gift ornaments! Ornaments are organized by family. Spending at least \$25 per child is suggested. Donation envelopes to raise money for the Christmas dinners will be available too. The average cost to provide dinner to a family is \$55. Over 27 percent of the people we now serve don't have children living with them and are receiving only the Christmas dinner. If more money is collected than spent, remaining money may be donated to the Food Pantry or to Dayton Urban Ministry Center.

Jerry's Corner

November is almost here—and when that happens, what do we all say? I can't believe the members of the Optimist Club are setting up their Christmas tree lot already! Yes, I had to get a plug in for them.

A thank you goes out to Pat Custer for the beautiful granite bench she had made in memory of Jim. If you have not seen it yet, it's outside the Sanctuary entrance near the front flower bed.



I also want to thank Don Snyder for the flower bulbs he donated to the Church. In the spring, we will see even more beauty, thanks to Don. The bulbs will be planted near the Community Room entrance, in the space where the large bushes were removed.

We're still working on getting the hail damage to our buildings repaired. The more we look, the more we find. We hope to have many repairs completed before those trees show up for Christmas.

Jerry



November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>19:00 Kindermusik 10:00 Growth Group</p> <p>7:00 Grace Circle 7:00 Literacy Tutoring 7:00 Beginning Ala-Non 8:00 Ala-Non</p>	<p>2 9:00 Kindermusik 10:00 Staff Mtg.</p> <p>4:30 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 Knitting Group 6:30 Growth Group 6:30 Sanctuary Choir 7:00 Scout Meeting</p>	<p>3 10:00 Growth Group</p> <p>3:30 Bells of Southminster 6:30 Toastmasters 6:30 Stephen Leaders 7:00 Science Olympiad 7:00 Growth Groups 7:30 Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>411:30 Elderberries</p>	<p>5 9:00 Alternative Gift Market 9:00 Growth Group</p> <p>2:00 Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors</p>
<p>6 8:30 & 11:00 Worship [Rev. Megan Collins preaching] 9:45 Growth Groups 4:00 Service of Wholeness 3:00 Growth Group 5:00 Care Connection #1 5:00 Growth Group 5:00 Children's Choir 5:00 Children's Art 5:30 Children's Chimes 6:00 Family Meal 6:30 PB'nJ</p>	<p>7 9:00 Moms In Touch</p> <p>4:00 Cello 7:00 Stewardship Council 7:00 Venturing Crew</p>	<p>8 Election Day 9:00 Kindermusik 9:00 Covenant Quilters 10:00 Growth Group</p> <p>7:00 Literacy Tutoring 7:00 Beginning Ala-Non 8:00 Ala-Non</p>	<p>9 9:00 Kindermusik 10:00 Staff Mtg.</p> <p>4:30 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 Knitting Group 6:30 Growth Group 6:30 Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>10 10:00 Grief Support 10:00 Growth Group</p> <p>3:30 Bells of Southminster 7:00 Science Olympiad 7:00 Growth Group</p>	<p>11 9:00 Mom To Mom</p>	<p>12 7:30 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Growth Group</p>
<p>13 8:30 & 11:00 Worship [Rev. Eric Pasanchin preaching] 9:45 Growth group 2:00 Equipping Ministry 3:00 Growth Group 5:00 Growth Group 5:00 Care Conn. #5 5:00 Children's Choir 5:00 Children's Art 5:30 Children's Chimes 6:00 Family Carry-In Meal 6:30 PB'nJ 6:30 Care Connection #2</p>	<p>14 9:30 Moms In Touch 11:30 PEO</p> <p>4:00 Cello 7:00 Session 7:00 BS Troop #516 7:00 Venturing Crew</p>	<p>15 10:00 Growth Group 11:00 Family Network</p> <p>12:00 Miami Presbyterian Educators 7:00 Finance Committee 7:00 Literacy Tutoring 7:00 Beginning Ala-Non 8:00 Ala-Non</p>	<p>16 10:00 Staff Mtg.</p> <p>4:30 Intercessory Prayer 6:00 Community Meal 6:30 Knitting Group 6:30 Growth Group 6:30 Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>17 10:00 Growth Group 10:00 Women's Reading Group</p> <p>3:30 Bells of Southminster 12:00 Personnel Committee 6:30 Toastmasters 7:00 Growth Group 7:00 Science Olympiad</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:00 Date Night 7:00 CHS Freshman Dance Assembly</p>	<p>19 9:00 Growth Group 10:00 DAR</p>
<p>20 8:30 & 11:00 Worship [Rev. Eric Pasanchin preaching] 9:45 Growth Group 3:00 Growth Group 5:00 Growth Group 5:00 Children's Choir 5:00 Children's Art 5:30 Children's Chimes 6:00 Family Carry-In Meal 6:30 PB'nJ 6:30 Care Connection #3</p>	<p>21 9:30 Moms In Touch</p> <p>4:00 Cello 7:00 Community Council 7:00 BS Troop #516 7:00 Venturing Crew</p>	<p>22 10:00 Growth Group</p> <p>6:30 Sanctuary Choir 7:00 Worship Council 7:00 Literacy Tutoring 7:00 Beginning Ala-Non 8:00 Ala-Non 8:00 Bells of Southminster</p>	<p>23 10:00 Staff Mtg.</p> <p>4:30 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 Growth Group</p>	<p>24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Thanksgiving! Church Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Church Office Closed</p>	<p>26 9:00 Growth Group 11:00 Gustafer YellowGold</p>
<p>27 8:30 & 11:00 Worship [Rev. Eric Pasanchin preaching] 9:45 Growth Group</p> <p>3:00 Growth Group 5:00 Growth Group 5:00 Growth Group</p>	<p>28 9:30 Moms In Touch</p> <p>4:00 Cello 6:30 Children's Christian Ed Committee 7:00 BS Troop #516 7:00 Venturing Crew 7:15 Building and Grounds Committee 7:30 Learning Council</p>	<p>29 10:00 Growth Group</p> <p>7:00 Literacy Tutoring 7:00 Beginning Ala-Non 8:00 Ala-Non</p>	<p>30 10:00 Staff Mtg.</p> <p>4:30 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 Sanctuary Choir 6:30 Growth Group</p>			<p>Note: This is the information that was provided on October 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>

when you are called for joys and concerns on Sunday evenings. The Group also prays for members with ongoing needs. Additional Intercessory Prayer Group participants are urgently needed. Will you please prayerfully consider if you are called to this ministry.

On October 16, the Health and Wellness Committee sponsored a **Flu Shot Clinic** administered by CVS Pharmacy. Fourteen people over the age of 18 will be protected from the flu, thanks to the efforts of our own Southminster member Lois Thorp and her assistant Emily Bennett. People were astounded by the skill and efficiency of the administration by the CVS team. All insurances were accepted, and no one was turned away. For a first-time event, it was a successful venture; and consideration will be given to offering this service next year.

Cancer: Types, Treatment, and Emotional Care

The Greater Dayton Stephen Ministry Network, of which Southminster is a member, is offering a workshop open to all titled *Cancer: Types, Treatment, and Emotional Care*. The speaker will be Mary E. Murphy, RN, MS, who is vice president of care for The Hospice of Dayton. She also has advanced certifications in hospice and palliative care and in oncology nursing.

Fairhaven Church, 637 East Whipp Road (corner of Whipp Road and Marshall Road) is hosting the event on Sunday, November 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring their questions and concerns, as significant time will be reserved for dialogue. For reservations, please contact Marj Lawson (lawsongm@aol.com or 434.8614) by November 1.

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

In mid-November, the rains started in earnest—chilly, drenching day-long downpours that left beads of moisture even on the inside of the Nazi concentration camp walls. The Lagerstrasse was never dry. Even when the rain let up, deep puddles stood in the road. We were not allowed to step around them as the ranks were formed. Often we stood in water up to our ankles, and at night the barracks reeked with rotting shoe leather.

Betsie's cough began to bring up blood. We took her to the hospital—this large, bare room where all the sick in the camp had to assemble, often stand-

ing outside in the rain for hours just to get through the door.

I hated the dismal place full of sick and suffering women; but we had to go back, for Betsie's condition was growing worse. She was not repelled by the room as I was. To her, it was simply a setting in which to talk about Jesus, as indeed was everywhere else. Wherever she was—at work, in the food line, in the dormitory, and in the hospital, Betsie spoke to those around her of God's nearness and his yearning to come into their lives. As her body grew weaker in the hospital, her faith seemed to grow bolder: *This is such an important place. Some of these people are at the very threshold of heaven!*

Ah, to witness the faith and share such love with others!

From a writing by Corrie ten Boom, shared by Don Dameron

Becoming the Parent God Wants You to Be

What are we seeking? The Bible gives us a clear directive on what we are to be seeking. Matthew 6:33 says, *Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.* As parents, what are we seeking for our children? Perhaps it is fame, fortune, scholarships, or putting your talented child on YouTube and hoping that it will go viral. There are so many distractions in our day that keep us from focusing on Jesus and seeking him first in our lives. Read Colossians 3:1-2. What does that tell you?



Our young people are overwhelmed from the moment they wake up until they go to sleep at night; there is technology right at their fingertips. I like to call this generation of children the *Fingertip* generation. All they need is right at their fingertip—and yet, is it? We seem to fill our time with things that matter the least in life and the things that matter most to a professing Christian get pushed to the side at times. Take a moment to think about what it is that is distracting you from focusing on Jesus and seeking him first in your life.

As parents, we need to help our children redirect their attention to focusing on a life with Jesus, a daily walk that includes some quiet time away from the distractions of the moment. Even young children can appreciate some “quiet time,” time to sit

back and reflect on how to seek God. Perhaps you can set aside some time each day, for quiet reflection, for a daily devotion, or for just talking with your children—no cell phones, no iPhones, no iPod touch, no nothing! This might give you an opportunity to discuss ways to seek God in all that you do. The Bible tells us that God will give you everything you need if you just seek him first. As we prepare for this Advent season, think about what you are seeking. Even wise men sought Jesus; the wisest men of the time thought that there was value in seeking out baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12).

Peace,

Priscilla Stapleton

Men's Breakfast, November 12 (for Women Too!)

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 12, for great food and fellowship. Hot coffee will be available in the CFC at 7:30 a.m., with breakfast served at 8 a.m. This month's menu will be juice, scrambled eggs, bacon, and biscuits and gravy.



Members of Southminster and their friends are invited to hear Master Sgt. Dustin Meyer, who has served more than 19 years in the U.S. Army in various assignments. He will give a PowerPoint presentation on career opportunities in today's Army.

Prepaid reservations (\$5) are required by Tuesday, November 8, and may be made by signing up with George Lawson on Sunday mornings, by phone to 307.5940, or by e-mail to lawson59gm@aol.com.

Old Testament Scholar Walter Brueggemann to Speak at Southminster

Save the date! On Sunday, November 13, from 3 to 5 p.m., we have a unique opportunity to meet Walter Brueggemann, recognized the world over for his work, and to hear his lecture on *Hope and Healing in a Broken World*. His presentation is free of charge to members of Southminster and to members of the Presbytery's Equipping for Ministry Network and \$5 a person for others. Contact Pastor Jackie at Jackie@sminster.com or 937.433.1810 for reservations or for more information.

Thank Offering Sunday

Our annual Thank Offering will be **Sunday, November 20**. Money from this offering will help fund many programs including hospitals, schools, health programs, elder care, homeless shelters, and more. Presbyterian Women of Southminster urge you to generously support this very important cause.



Following the 11 a.m. service, there will be a complimentary Potato Bar in the CFC. This meal is being supplied by the women of the Church as a thank you for your support of their many activities. Please be sure to make a reservation on a table in the Narthex or outside the Church Office.

Gustafer Yellowgold Is Coming Again to Southminster, November 26

We welcome the return of Gustafer's creators Morgan Taylor and Rachel Loshak as they bring new, delightful, engaging stories and original songs with video about the journeys of Gustafer Yellowgold. The program will be presented on Saturday, November 26, at 11 a.m. in the CFC. Both the young and the young-at-heart of our Church and community will enjoy the magical setting. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be taken; and Gustafer products will be available for sale. Check out Gustafer at www.gustaferyellowgold.com. Bring your children and grandchildren! Invite your neighbors and friends!



Church Women United

will be celebrating its 70th anniversary, December 1 to 3, 2011, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Ina Green, the local CWU president writes, "We have chartered a bus for the state of Ohio and still have a few seats left. The bus will leave Dayton on November 30 at 7 p.m. and arrive in Atlantic City on December 1 by noon, for the opening session at 4 p.m. Price is \$145, round trip. It is not too late to register for the celebration. Contact me at 937.263.5285 for information."



It would be wonderful if Southminster could be represented. Call Ina today!

Women's Christmas Luncheon

This annual event will be held at The Chop House on Wednesday, December 7. We will be ordering from the menu. Plan to meet at 11:30 a.m. and to enjoy a meal and fellowship with other women of Southminster. It would be a great time to take a much-needed break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Be sure to reserve a space by signing one of the sheets in the Narthex or outside the Church Office.

Santa Is Coming!

Mark your calendar now for the Santa Breakfast, December 3, 9 to 11 a.m., in the CFC. Please sign up in the Narthex.



Transportation Ministry

Our goals are to provide reliable, safe, timely, and friendly company when transporting our members who have no alternative for getting to medical appointments or to Church activities. If you are requesting transportation, we would appreciate two or three days' notice in order to reach a volunteer who is available.

We have been blessed with a wonderful group in this ministry, and we are grateful for everything they do. They are Jim Combs, Bill and Gail Conger, Suzi Dameron, Marge Gentis, Ted Guest, Joe Lam-bright, Bob and Judy Murphy, Jacque Ryan, Jodell Schlotterbeck, and Dave Thomas.



SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Web Page: www.sminster.com
Office Hours 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday
Worship Services, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Non-Profit Organization
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Dayton, OH

Rev. Eric Pasanchin, Pastor/Head of Staff
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

Return Service Requested