

August 25, 2011

A Word from Pastor Eric

As you might know, our Session adopted a new mission statement and discipleship process earlier this year; Inviting to Worship – Learning in Community – Serving as Stewards. This month we will be taking a major step forward in the second step of this process. In our adult ministry, we will be Learning in Community through a Growth Groups ministry that will be much like the Lenten small groups we have held for the last three years. The youth will also be involved in their own small groups, while there will be a strong emphasis on communal learning in our children's ministries.

You might wonder why we are specifically concerned with Learning in Community. After all, you can learn on your own by reading a book or studying online. Of course, there are many ways to learn, but we learn the best through means that suit the subject matter. For example, if you only want to learn Bible stories, you can do that on your own. If you want to learn about Christian beliefs or social responses, you can also do that through personal study. But our mission as Christ's church isn't merely to teach intellectual content, be it Bible stories, theological beliefs, or social ideals. Our mission is to teach a way of life—the way of life Jesus lived and shared with his disciples. You'll notice that Jesus didn't send his disciples home for private study. Instead, he called a group of people to follow him, to observe him, and to share life with him as he carried out his mission to announce the Kingdom of God. More than that, as they learned from observation, he sent them to learn by doing the same kind of things he had been doing. Jesus knew that the best way to teach his way of life was to gather disciples in community and to get them busy doing God's work.

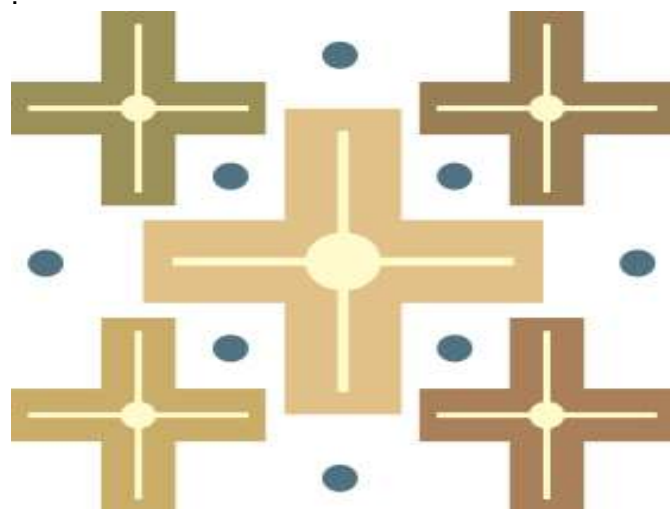
At Southminster, we are called to far more than a theoretical knowledge of Biblical faith. We are called to walk the way of Jesus—to love, to forgive, to pray, to bless, and to sacrifice ourselves—all for the sake of our hurting brothers and sisters in the human family. You can't learn to do that alone. We learn to be like Jesus by gathering together in study and service, sharing our questions and struggles, and straining together to attain to the vision Jesus gives through his proclamation of the Kingdom of God.

I pray that all who are able, from the youngest to the oldest, will take part in some form of Learning in Community as we begin our program year this fall. Adult Growth Group opportunities will be published in a separate catalog which will be widely available by the time you read this article. This edition of the Window also includes information about youth programming as well as information about our evolving children's ministry. As I write this, I am aware that there are a couple questions still to be resolved regarding the Wednesday evening program for children; but this information will be coming your way soon, too.

May God bless and guide our Church as we seek to faithfully fulfill the mission to which God has called us.

Your Companion on the Journey,

Pastor Eric



Inviting to Worship



Worship Schedule

On Sunday, September 11, Southminster will return to the two-service schedule (8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.), with Christian education at 9:45 a.m.

Sermon and Liturgical Schedule

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| September 4 | Communion
Pastor Megan preaching |
| September 11 | Recognition of Emergency First Responders
<i>Rude Guests, Weeds, and Lost Change: Parables of Jesus: Searching for the Lost</i>
Pastor Eric preaching |
| September 18 | <i>Rude Guests, Weeds, and Lost Change: Parables of Jesus: Weeds in the Garden</i>
Pastor Eric preaching |
| September 25 | <i>Rude Guests, Weeds, and Lost Change: Parables of Jesus: A Great Banquet</i>
Pastor Eric preaching |

Special Invitation Sunday

September 11 is the date set aside to thank and bless the network of first responders: police, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians. Please invite friends and family members who work in or support these critical services, so we may give thanks for the important work they do for our community.

Milestones in the Lives of Our Children

In keeping with Southminster's custom of recognizing milestones in the lives of the children of our congregation, two important events will occur this month. On **September 11**, at both services, each child entering kindergarten will receive a Worship Book, which explains all parts of the worship service in a kid-friendly storybook. On **September 18**, each child entering the third grade will be given a children's Bible.

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*.

Should We Have One Service or Two?

This is a serious question before our congregation, and the Worship Council has taken it to heart to understand fully the desires of our members and the implications of such a decision. As you are aware, the Council has been working hard over the summer to understand the positions and concerns of everyone in the Church community. As the co-chair of the Worship Council, I want to personally thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work through this significant topic and prayerfully consider the correct course of action. The final numbers are in, and at the August Worship Council meeting we discussed the options and decided upon a recommendation to set before the Session on behalf of the congregation. At the September Session Meeting we plan to present the recommendation for general discussion and hopefully a vote on that course of action. My hope is to have an announcement shortly after that meeting so we can bring this to resolution. Thank you again your support, honesty, candor, and most of all your patience.

Yours in Christ,
Stephen Albright

Your Southminster Fortune Cookie

Make a list of activities you did not get to do this summer. Attach it to your June 2012 calendar, and schedule the events for next summer.

Gemstones from the Gallery

In August, our Gallery displayed artwork created by the children in various activities during Vacation Bible School. In craft sessions, they made chef hats, aprons, placemats, napkin rings, ceramic hot plates, and more—all decorated with symbols from the lessons. Thank you for your interest in our Gallery.

Flower Calendar

There are several Sundays open on the flower schedule: September 4, September 18, October 9, and October 16. God has given us amazing beauty through a variety of flowers for our enjoyment—and they look so lovely in our Sanctuary. Please select a date on the calendar in the Narthex, such as the remembrance of an anniversary or birthday or in honor of a friend or family member. Please call Liz Taylor, 847.2587, to let her know the date you have selected or to ask about any date later this year.

Vacation Bible School Worship Service

On August 7, an inspiring and energetic service was led by the staff and students of Vacation Bible School, following the theme *Shake It Up Café*. All week the children studied stories about special food celebrations found in the Bible, learning about trusting God. Kathryn Moore, Director of Music, led the children as they sang and signed the songs they had learned. To find out more about what happened that week, be sure to watch the slide show in the Narthex.

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.

Fall Music Opportunities

Do you love to sing in fellowship with others? Then Sanctuary Choir is for you! The Sanctuary Choir meets Wednesday evenings in the Choir Room from 6:30 to 8 p.m. to prepare for singing in worship. All voices are welcome. Hope to see you!



Do you want to learn a new instrument but were afraid to try? Ringing handbells is fun, is challenging, and requires that you learn only two notes at a time! The Bells of Southminster rings in worship once a month and meets Wednesday evenings from 8:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. All ringers, experienced and novices alike, are welcome.

Do you love to sing but can't be at a weekly rehearsal? Then Hymn Choir is for you! The Hymn Choir sings in worship during the services that Sanctuary Choir does not. The purpose of the Hymn Choir is to provide vocal leadership for hymns and congregational responses. It is low maintenance and is a rewarding service to the congregation and to the glory of God.

E-mail Kathryn at Kathryn@sminster.com if you're interested in or have questions about any of these opportunities.

Children's Choir and Children's Chimes Return on September 18!

Children's Choir and Children's Chimes are opportunities for your child to explore praising God through music. Children's Choir will meet on Sundays at 5 p.m. in Room 206, and Children's Chimes will meet in the Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. Children's Choir is open to children in grades kindergarten through fifth grade; Children's Chimes is for children in second grade and higher. Kathryn Moore leads the Children's Choir; questions about Choir may be directed to her at Kathryn@sminster.com. Sharon Bond leads the Children's Chimes; she may be contacted at 2-bond007@earthlink.net. We are looking forward to a great season of music – and we hope you are too!

Learning in Community

Remember in your prayers...

Military: Sean Leibrock (Afghanistan; Pastor Kevin and Patricia Lawler's son), Brian Vaughn (Germany; Charlotte Mort's son)



Our sympathy

To the family of Helen Jackson in the death of Helen who died on July 22. A Memorial Service was held at Routsong Funeral Home on July 25 with Pastor Jackie Nowak officiating.

To the family of Mary Catherine Wolf in the death of Mary Catherine who died on July 30. A Memorial Service was held at Southminster on August 11 with Pastors Jackie Nowak and Eric Pasanchin officiating.

To the family of Russell Elias in the death of Russell who died on August 7. A Memorial Service

Parents and grandparents, this is the second of a series of occasional articles offering suggestions for nurturing your child's spiritual growth.

Baptism.

- If you have pictures of your child's baptism, look at them together and share the story of what happened that day.
- Our baptismal font often has water in it. Take your child up to the Chancel, and look at and touch the water. Talk about what happens at the font.
- Each time there is a baptism, remind your child that the sacrament says, "Welcome to the family!"

Communion. Touch the Communion table, and talk about how Holy Communion is celebrated at Southminster. When the family is eating together, talk about how good it is to be together at the table. Remind your child that at Holy Communion, the whole family of God gathers at the table of the Lord. Each time we celebrate Communion, remind your child that this is a special time of remembering how much Jesus loves us.

Adapted from an article by Christina Berry in *Presbyterians Today*.

Children's Ministry, 2011-2012

This fall there will be a variety of education, mission, and fellowship activities for children of Southminster and their friends. Regular Sunday morning Christian education will begin on September 11. Other fall programs will be aligned with Growth Groups. Wednesday Midweek for Kids begins on September 28 at 6:30. Families are welcome to bring supper and eat together in the CFC at 6 p.m.



Fourth and Fifth Grade Fellowship will begin in October. Watch your mail and e-mail for more information. Parental help is a must for this group!

Parents and grandparents are always welcome to participate in the planning and leading of Christian education and formation opportunities for children. To volunteer to help with any of the following, contact Interim Christian Educator Barb Van Doren at Barbara@sminster.com or Pastor Jackie at Jackie@sminster.com or on Facebook.

It will be an exciting year!

Youth Ministry at SPC



Wednesday night Youth Group starts back up on September 7! All youth in grades six through 12 are invited to come from 6:30 to 7:30.

Help us feed the homeless! On the fourth Sunday of each month, come to worship at 8:30 a.m. (look for us in the transept of the Sanctuary); and then head to the Kitchen to cook lunch for the men of the Gateway Shelter in Dayton. At 11 a.m., the high school youth will head down to the Shelter to serve lunch, returning to the Church by 2 p.m. (There is an age restriction at the Shelter.) We need help getting the food supplies for each month, so let Megan know if you would like to contribute!

Want to do more? Come at 5:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month before Youth Group to help set up for the new free community meal in the CFC!

Sunday school for middle school students begins again in September. High school students are encouraged to participate in small groups, as they are considered members of the congregation after Confirmation. There are also lots of ways to help out between services, in the building and with our children!

Parents: Our fall parents meeting will be after the worship service on September 4. Also mark your calendar for part of our dating and relationships series on October 12, when we will be joined by Dr. Kelley, a practicing Ob/Gyn, who will be available to meet separately with parents to answer questions.

We are looking forward to a great fall! Always feel free to call Pastor Megan with any questions or concerns—at the Church Office (433.1810), over e-mail megan@sminster.com, or on her cell phone.

CareNotes

Have you noticed that the CareNotes displays now have more permanent positions throughout the Church—all securely mounted on the walls? The Narthex display has been moved to the Coffee Corner just inside the doors to the Narthex. The

display in front of the Church Office has been moved from the information table to the wall immediately to the right of the table. The Community Room display is now located on the wall adjacent to the main door.

What are CareNotes? They are little informative booklets offering direction, inspiration, and messages of hope and compassion to people in need. The real-life topics covered are many and are appropriate for children, teens, and adults. Please familiarize yourself with these new locations, and take advantage of the displays. The booklets are free, so take one for yourself or to share with a friend.

Becoming the Parent God Wants You to Be

How do you raise a child who is ready to learn? It's a question that many parents ask as a child enters school for the first time. In her book My Shining Star: Raising a Child Who Is Ready to Learn, Rosemary Wells suggests two things a child must do in order to become a successful learner: (1) respect and trust others, and (2) be ready to learn without fear. *All children bring to school what they learn at home. You are your child's first teacher.* Confidently accept that you are your child's first teacher. You have the awesome God-given responsibility to teach your children and bring them up in accordance with Biblical principles and values. Rosemary reveals ten important qualities which children must be taught to help them on their way to becoming successful learners in life and in the classroom.



- **Respect.** If a child is treated with respect at home, he/she will have a sense of self-respect—and that will carry over in actions with friends.
- **Listening.** If you take time to really listen to your child, he/she will listen to others because the child appreciates how important it is to listen and to be heard.
- **Patience.** Being patient is a virtue that many have not yet discovered. For the most part, we are a very impatient society; but, if you take the time to show your child the importance of being patient and to persevere, there are great rewards to those who learn to wait.
- **Trust.** Your child needs to learn that he/she can trust your words. For example, if you say you are going to do something with your child,

don't put it off or make excuses. Do it, and demonstrate to your child to trust what you say.

- **Work.** Teaching your child the value of work begins with having your child perform simple chores at home. We have become a society whose work ethic is slowly deteriorating. Take time to teach your child the value of hard work and the payoff of a job well done.
- **Honesty.** Telling a lie is not an option! Teach your child that telling the truth, no matter the consequences, is always the best thing to do. One lie turns into another lie and then. . . *Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive. . .*
- **Time.** The most important thing you can do with your child is spend time with him or her—really spend time: no distractions, no cell phone in your ear, no computers, just one-on-one time. This will show your child that you value his or her thoughts and opinions, which, in turn, will bring self-confidence.
- **Reading.** Spend at least 20 minutes a day reading to your child. The value in reading and sharing a good book is immeasurable.
- **Writing.** Begin with writing a thank you note. It's such an important skill to learn, and a simple thank you note is the beginning to endless possibilities of great writing.
- **Habits.** A child learns best with consistency. Create habits of going to bed at the same time, having regular meal times, engaging in outdoor play, and learning to be alone for some quiet time each day.

Be a shining star in the classroom, in the community, and at home.

Peace, Priscilla Stapleton

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

Sometimes it's hard to see through the problems. But God is at work in your life and in my life, even when we do not recognize it or understand it.



God uses problems to **direct** us. Sometimes God must light a fire under us to get us moving. Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. *Blows and wounds cleanse away evil. . .* – Proverbs 20:30

God uses problems to **inspect** us. People are like tea bags: If you want to know what's inside them, just drop them in hot water! *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.* – James 1:2-3

God uses problems to **correct** us. Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. Sometimes we only learn the value of something—health, money, a relationship—by losing it. *It is good for me to be afflicted so that I may learn your decrees.* – Psalm 119: 71

God uses problems to **protect** us. A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents us from being harmed by something more serious. *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.* – Genesis 50:20

God uses problems to **perfect** us. Problems, when responded to correctly, are character builders. God is far more interested in our character than our comfort. Our relationship with God and our character are the only two things we're going to take with us into eternity. . . . *we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.* – Romans 5:3-4

And God is with us through any problem.
Shared by Don Dameron

Share Your Garden

When you have tomatoes taking over the kitchen and zucchinis coming out of your ears, we have a solution: The ministry of Compassion and Assistance of the Community Council will be holding its third annual *Share Your Garden* event. If you have produce and fruits in your garden or fresh herbs that you would like to share with others, bring them to the Church on the following Sundays: **August 28, September 4, and September 11.** A table will be in the Narthex for you to donate your produce. Then, the folks without a garden will be able to take some produce home and, if desired, make a freewill donation to benefit the Food Pantry and minister to people who are hungry. Questions? Call Carolyn Nagy at 514.7737.

Men's Breakfast Is Back!

The Men's Breakfast group gears up for the new season! On Saturday, September 10, come to the

CFC, where delicious, hot coffee will be available at 7:30 a.m., with breakfast served at 8 a.m. This year Mike Stevens and Pat Roberts will be in the kitchen, along with George Lawson. They will be preparing a special egg dish, biscuits and spicy gravy, Mike's famous bacon, and Pat's soon-to-be-famous hash browns.

Steve Davis will share more about the new Growth Groups and answer your questions.

Come—and bring a friend—or make a new one! This is a great opportunity to meet other men of the Church and in our community and to enjoy casual fellowship. Prepaid reservations are required by Tuesday, September 6, 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.

Quilted Banner to Be Sent to Craiova, Romania

The quilted banner blessed at Southminster on Sunday, June 5, will travel this summer to the Craiova Evangelical Free Church in Romania. Twenty years ago this month, Richard Millhouse, son of Jerry and Nancy Millhouse, planted the church there through the Johnson Evangelical Free Church in Johnson, Iowa. Martha Millhouse, Rich's wife, designed the beautiful banner and had it printed on paper. Southminster's Covenant Quilters wanted to make a more permanent version of Martha's beautiful design. The Quilters who fashioned this banner are Gretchen Cleaves, Jean Clements, Jean Gravlin, Fayne Kuker, Carolyn Nagy, and Linda Wiggers. We pray for peace and God's blessings on the Craiova Evangelical Free Church, so faithfully led by Richard Millhouse.

Attention: Knitters and Crocheters

The Knitted Blessings Group will resume on Wednesday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Room. All are welcome!

Southminster Golf Outing

The annual Southminster golf outing will be held on Saturday, September 24, at Miamisburg Mound Golf Course. The first tee time is 10 a.m. Please give your entry fee of \$10 to Mark Locke prior to the event. Call Mark at 748.9233 or 371.7789 with any questions.

College Care Packages

The Community Council is currently gathering a list of college students who would like to receive care packages from Southminster. We mail a small box of goodies to the students a couple of times during the school year to let them know that their home congregation is sending them spiritual and nutritional support. If your student would like to receive one of these during this school year, please provide his/her name and current address to Darlene Irwin (irwind@woh.rr.com) or call the Church Office by September 26.

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 cleaning flower beds or raking leaves. Or, do you have a short-term need for a Care Crew to come and help you around the yard? If you would be interested in participating in either side of this new ministry, please contact Darlene Irwin (irwind@woh.rr.com) or call the Church Office.

Lay School Training Program for Church Leadership

The Equipping for Ministry Network of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, in cooperation with the Presbytery of Cincinnati and with the Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association (SONKA) Ohio Conference of the United Church of Christ, invites interested people to the Lay School Training Program for Church Leadership.

Two fall classes—Worship and Sacraments and Christian Education—begin in September. Registration is through SONKA and includes an application, three letters of recommendation, and a \$25 registration fee. Tuition for each class is \$120. For more information, contact Jeanne McIver (Jeanne@sminster.com).

Health Resources

If you or someone close to you is new to or struggling with a health issue, support from a Southminster Health Resources team member may be just a phone call or an e-mail away. We have developed a listing of members with personal experiences dealing with a wide variety of health and caregiver issues. These people are willing to share their experiences and lay expertise with you. Contact them with your questions, as they want to



help you with your journey. The listing, distributed in January, may be found at the information desk in the Narthex and with the CareNotes displays—or simply contact the Church Office.

We would like to identify additional care resources in the following areas: adult diabetes, cardiac surgeries, chemotherapy treatments, grief support, macular degeneration, mental health, postpartum concerns, and stroke. If you have questions about this program or if you, through your personal experiences, would like to join the team, contact Ellen Ireland at 299.6118 or ireland430@aol.com.

Please contact:

<i>ADHD</i>	Linda Lentz, 433-7044 (only after noon please) KayLenL@sbcglobal.net
<i>aphasia and stroke consequences</i>	Lisa Kelchner, 313-2559, kelchnl@ucmail.uc.edu
<i>bladder cancer</i>	Irene Tipsword, 435-2339, itipsword@woh.rr.com
<i>brain aneurysm</i>	Irene Tipsword, 435-2339, itipsword@woh.rr.com
<i>breast cancer</i>	Ellen Ireland, 299-6118, Ireland430@aol.com
<i>care for the caregiver</i>	Jacque Ryan, 435-5847, jkryan@toast.net
<i>cataract surgery</i>	Marj Lawson, 434-8614, lawsongm@aol.com
<i>colostomy and ileostomy</i>	Janne Allison, 433-1486
<i>hip replacement</i>	Dan Beck, 885-5544, dbeck@bbckagency.com
<i>home care</i>	Sharon Boyko, 433-8263 sb.boyko@sbcglobal.net
<i>juvenile diabetes</i>	Cindy Harris, 603-6138, entinghcoh@yahoo.com
<i>knee replacement</i>	Dan Strayer, 433-2133, afdeke@gmail.com
<i>prostate cancer</i>	George Lawson, 434-8614, lawsongm@aol.com
<i>rehab care continuum</i>	Jacque Ryan, 435-5847 Jkryan@toast.net
<i>rheumatoid arthritis</i>	George Lawson, 434-8614, lawsongm@aol.com
<i>rotator cuff surgery</i>	Carolyn Nagy, 514-7737, cnagy7240@gmail.com
<i>shoulder replacement</i>	Joy Artman, 436-7723, 9Wartman@sbcglobal.net
<i>spinal injury</i>	Rob and Jill Parker, 885-5906
<i>traumatic brain injury</i>	Abby, Jill, Ward Blair, 748-2286

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 Toastmasters 6:30 Stephen Leaders 7:30 Stephen Ministry	2	3 9:00 Men's Bible Study
4 10:00 Worship/Communion [Rev. Megan Collins preaching] 10:00 Children and Worship NO Care Conn.	5 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	6 9:00 Kindermusik 6:30 Grace Circle 7:00 Stewardship Council 7:00 Literacy Tutoring 7:00 Beginning Ala-Non 8:00 Ala-Non	7 9:00 Kindermusik 10:00 Staff Mtg. 5:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 Sanctuary Choir 8:00 Bells of Southminster	8 10:00 Grief Support	9 9:00 Mom To Mom	10 9:00 Men's Bible Study
11 8:30 & 11:00 Worship [Rev. Eric Pasanchin preaching] 8:30 & 11:00 Children and Worship 12:15 4 th & 5 th Grade Fellowship 5:00 Care Connection #1	12 9:30 Moms In Touch 7:00 Boy Scout Troop #516 7:00 Kettering Chorus 7:00 Session	13 9:00 Kindermusik 7:00 Literacy Tutoring 7:00 Beginning Ala-Non 8:00 Ala-Non	14 9:00 Kindermusik 10:00 Staff Mtg. 5:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 Sanctuary Choir 8:00 Bells of Southminster	15 6:30 Toastmasters	16	17 9:00 Men's Bible Study
18 8:30 & 11:00 Worship [Rev. Eric Pasanchin preaching] 8:30 & 11:00 Children and Worship 11:00 Youth Worship 12:15 Invitation Council 5:00 Children's Choir 6:30 Care Connection #2	19 9:30 Moms In Touch 7:00 Boy Scout Troop #516 7:00 Kettering Chorus 7:00 Community Council	20 9:00 Kindermusik 7:00 Finance Committee 7:00 Literacy Tutoring 7:00 Beginning Ala-Non 8:00 Ala-Non	21 9:00 Kindermusik 10:00 Staff Mtg. 5:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 Sanctuary Choir 8:00 Bells of Southminster	22 12:00 Personnel Committee	23 9:00 Mom To Mom	24 9:00 Men's Bible Study 5:00 Troop #516 Eagle Court Dinner 6:00 Eagle Court of Honor
25 8:30 & 11:00 Worship [Rev. Eric Pasanchin preaching] 8:30 & 11:00 Children and Worship 5:00 Children's Choir 6:30 Care Connection #3	26 9:30 Moms In Touch 6:30 Children's Christian Ed Committee 7:00 Boy Scout Troop #516 7:00 Kettering Chorus 7:15 Building & Grounds Committee 7:30 Learning Council 7:30 Stephen Ministry	27 9:00 Kindermusik 7:00 Worship Council 7:00 Literacy Tutoring 7:00 Beginning Ala-Non 8:00 Ala-Non	28 9:00 Kindermusik 10:00 Staff Mtg. 5:00 Intercessory Prayer 6:30 Sanctuary Choir 8:00 Bells of Southminster	29	30 4:00 Yeo/Cho Wedding Rehearsal	Note: This is the information that was provided on August 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@smminster.com

Serving As Stewards

How To Get Something Done in the Presbyterian Church

If you are interested in making a positive impact on the life of our Church and have ideas to share, please know that we have an open policy regarding member involvement. If you would like to attend a meeting of one of our Councils, you are welcome to do so. If you have an issue you'd like to discuss with the Council, please talk to the Council chair or to one of the Pastors beforehand so they may plan accordingly. The meetings of our Session and our Board of Deacons (Community Council) are also typically open meetings, although only elected officers have voice at them. If you wish to speak to the Session or Deacons at one of their meetings, please contact one of our Pastors, who can arrange for you to be granted voice for that meeting. The list of Council chairs usually appears in the Sunday bulletin. If you would like to get something done but don't know how to start, you can always talk to one of the Pastors, who can help you navigate our Council and Committee process.



Update on Free Community Meal!

Our new community meal planning is well underway, and the details are starting to come together! The one big change is that the meal will be held on the **third Wednesday of each month**, instead of the first Wednesday, to better accommodate the needs of those in the community. If you haven't heard: Southminster is starting a new free monthly meal for Church members, friends, and anyone in the community who would like to join us.

Our first meal will be October 19 at 6 p.m., and all are welcome! Signup sheets for volunteers for set-up, cleanup, and dishwashing are posted in the Narthex. You may sign up for just one dinner or for several months. If you would like to help but cannot come on a Wednesday night, we are always in need of donations, especially desserts! If you would like to make a financial donation, please

write *Free Community Meal* in the memo line of your check.

We look forward to seeing you in October for the first meal together! If you have any questions, contact Gretchen Cleaves, Meal Coordinator, at 885.2921, or Pastor Megan.

Being a Generous Person

Why Do Christians Give to Their Churches?

This is a bit of an open-ended question because there are almost limitless ways we all seek to "give to our churches." We serve on committees. (After all, we're Presbyterians!) We deliver food to those who are hungry. We minister to those experiencing grief and physical discomfort. We support the Boy Scouts of America. We come together to worship our Lord. We administer the Sacrament of Holy Communion to people who are physically unable to share the Elements with us at the Lord's Table in our Church building. We join together to celebrate the lives of those who have experienced their personal resurrections. Each of these activities is a gift from us **to** God, using our personal, spiritual gifts received **from** God. These gifts to others are commitments that we make and by which we abide. These are ways we care for others in various aspects of their lives. These are ways we can return to God that which he has enabled us to use for His glory.



The commitment to **giving and caring** may have had its roots for you when you were a child and did everything in your power to convince Mom and Dad that having a new dog was really a great idea for the entire family! You committed yourself to the complete care of that pet by promising to feed it, water it, walk it, clean up after it, train it, and, most of all, love it. This may well have been your first foray into Christian giving or stewardship, in the sense of caring for something that could not entirely care for itself. If you followed through on your commitment, there was joy in your household for you, your parents, and your pet.

We all know that neither Southminster nor any other church can survive without the financial resources provided by its people. This, too, is a commitment for all of us. Different families and individuals in the Church have wide-ranging needs as

well as personal resources. If we are sincere about our commitment to the success of our Church's myriad missions, our level of financial support must be a substantive reflection of our response to God's extravagant love for us. That substantive reflection will be determined by our individual abilities and circumstances. Jesus taught us that the identification of a person's deep-seated passions and concerns is noted by where that person's financial resources are lodged. Scripturally, this is found in Matthew 6:21, wherein Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." This is an outward expression of your innermost concerns for others as well as your commitment to Southminster, to the degree that you are able to do so. Many would say that this is a barometer of faith at work. Remember, stewardship or Christian giving is everything we do after we say, "I believe."

As yet, not everyone has come to know Jesus Christ or to know the gifts he has provided to us through his blessings. Not everyone in the world has had the opportunity to return some of those gifts to God by using his gifts in the service of others. We, on the other hand, know God and have been the knowing recipients of his gifts. Because of the gift of that knowledge, we have the **opportunity** to thank God through our gifts to the Church, gifts that will be used for his glory in the service of others.

So what is the answer to the question posed above? The Rev. Jon Brown (*Presbyterian Leader*, 2009) provides us with this answer: *We give primarily because God has created us to be a generous people. It is one of the ways we reflect God's image. It just so happens that as we give generously, the community of faith is then capable of carrying out a variety of ministries that bear witness to God's love at work in the world.*

Frank Nagy
Christian Giving Committee

Highlights of the August Session Meeting

At its August 8 meeting, the Session

- approved a motion to reduce the number of ruling elders serving on the Session and the number of deacons serving on the Community Council/Board of Deacons to 19 in 2012, to 17 in 2013, and to 15 in 2014 and thereafter,
- moved to call a congregational meeting for August 28 for the purpose of amending the bylaws to reflect the motion immediately above,

- approved a motion to extend the current cell tower lease with Crown Castle,
- adopted the proposed Southminster logo, reflecting our purpose statement: *Inviting to Worship - Learning in Community - Serving as Stewards*,
- approved a motion to sponsor a blood drive this fall, at the request of the Community Blood Center,
- approved a kick-off event meal on August 28, at no charge to the congregation but with a donation basket available,
- approved a motion to substitute the Presbyterian worship rotation Year 5 curriculum lessons on the plagues with a rotation on the parables, in October,
- accepted, with regret, the letter of resignation from Betty Norris,
- approved the hiring of Lisa Hoban as Church Secretary, effective August 1, for 32.5 hours per week (9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, with one-half hour for lunch),
- received the Clerk's report, reflecting the loss of three members by death: Carl Larson, Helen Jackson, and Mary Catherine Wolf,
- received the reports of the Pastors and of the Community, Learning, Stewardship, and Worship Councils, and
- prayerfully reflected on each part of our mission: *Inviting to Worship - Learning in Community - Serving as Stewards*, celebrating Vacation Bible School and giving thanks for the leadership provided, especially by Jill Parker, Pastor Megan, Pastor Jackie, and Barb Van Doren; praying for the formation and launch of the Growth Groups this fall; praying for improved health for Jean McIver, Janne Allison, Ken Morse, Pastor Eric's father, and Karisa Pasanchin's mother and for comfort for the family of Russell Elias. We pray for income to move toward matching pledges. And we give praise for the safe return and successful trip of Laura Torres and her family to Mexico.

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

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

Jerry's Corner

The Building and Grounds Committee has put in two new gas grills at the Pavilion. The old ones were in pretty bad shape. Just a reminder: The Pavilion is

free for anyone to use, but there is a deposit for use of the grills by anyone other than a Church group. Just see or call Lisa or Carl in the Office to reserve the dates.



COOKOUT!

All the carpet in the Church will be cleaned soon. We will be working around various meetings and schedules so as not to disturb anyone. I apologize in advance for any inconveniences.

Jerry

Church Office Hours



Please note that the Church Office Hours have changed. The church office is now open 9 a.m. to 4

p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Thank You!

Thanks to all who stopped by the Office to say goodbye, who called or e-mailed me, and who sent lovely cards with such kind and sweet words. I will cherish the memories and treasure the cards and e-mails. A very special thanks for the thoughtful gifts you gave to me, which I appreciated and for which I am so grateful. I miss you already and look forward to seeing you again. It was a pleasure to serve you, and I'm so glad I had the opportunity to know you. Retirement has been bliss so far—and now I have time to do lunch, so call me!

Love and blessings,
Betty



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

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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
Kathryn Moore, Director of Music
Karisa Pasanchin, Staff Musician
Jerry Stahley, Property Manager

Time Sensitive Material