

# Annual Report 2018



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***God comes to meet us in surprising ways.*** A few weeks ago at the Epiphany Feast, our new magi included a teenager who had worked hard helping us set up for the event, a joyful adult whose tests recently showed no more traces of cancer, and a little girl who was over-the-moon about being a part of it all. When they approached the manger, the adult decided to kneel, and the other 2 followed her lead.

I began thinking about the different gifts of the Spirit these magi brought with them: the seeking faith of a teenager, the gratitude of a faithful disciple who experienced healing, and the wonder-filled faith of a child. Looking around the room, it was clear that others were touched by the scene in front of them. In the glow of candlelight, smiles could be seen, even on the faces of those who I knew were going through difficult times in their lives. The Spirit of God seemed palpable in that moment.

Harry Emerson Fosdick once said, *“Divinity is not in some remote heaven, seated on a throne. Divinity is love... wherever goodness, beauty, truth, love, are—there is **divine** love.”*

So many times, as I engage in the honor of serving this congregation, the Spirit and presence of God catches me by surprise. There is something holy about people coming together to worship, learn from each other, lean upon one another and strengthen each other for Christian discipleship. Have you ever been in worship when the ethereal sounds of the choir, a message of Scripture that you needed to hear, a prayer that gave voice to the longings of your heart, or even the words of a child made you aware of God’s presence? If not, keep listening and watching, and I bet you’ll start to notice.

Sometimes, we sense God’s presence in the compassionate ministries of our Deacons and in the events that help us enjoy Christian fellowship. Even when members no longer can be physically present at the church, they know that they are a cherished part of this community. Faithful visitors take Home Communion to remind folks that they are still important to our family of faith. Time and again, when visiting someone in the hospital or nursing home, I see a treasured gift or card from someone in the congregation or run into one of you who has come to brighten the day.

Our Elders work hard with the many teams that support the church, and I hope you will read their reports. So many of you volunteer your time and commitment to these teams as well as to the many different groups and programs that keep Southminster buzzing with activity.

Youth group provides a meaningful, fun and safe place for teenagers to be themselves; while Sunday School experiences encourage the faith and exploration of our children. Through Adult Education, members continue to explore the Bible, current issues, and the meaning of living out faith in today’s world.

Southminster Presbyterian Church strives to be the hands of Christ. Through building houses with Habitat for Humanity, offering gifts for Veterans, bringing food for “The Castle,” providing a family nutrition program, donating shoes for the Soles4Souls program, and in countless other ways, you put love into action.

One way we have really grown this year is in the effort to expand our horizons of community service. On a weekend in October, we had a different sort of Sunday experience called, *“The Church Has Left the Building.”* The motto was, *“Don’t just GO to church, BE the church!”* Under the guidance of

different volunteers leading each project, we made a difference both locally and globally. (See the Mission Team's report to read more about all that we were able to do that day!)

As we reach out to others, we are blessed with a deeper joy and sense of God's presence and peace. Perhaps that is why such a large percentage of our members volunteer in mission projects initiated by the church as well as in other service opportunities in the community. The spirit of compassion and generosity, as well as an eagerness to live out our faith in concrete ways, draws each of us into this family of faith and then strengthens us to go out and share the light of Christ.

Many of us are grieving for some of those light-bearers in our congregation who have left this world and entered into their new life in Christ this year. The spirit of love, faith and commitment they shared with us continues to touch our lives on a regular basis because of the lasting impact they made on this church and congregation.

How can we challenge ourselves in the coming year? I hope that we will strive to keep growing in mission and get out into the community-- loving our neighbors the way Jesus taught us to love. We have some definite financial challenges. Yet, starting with an upcoming officer's retreat for financial visioning, we can try thinking "outside the box" for new ways to bring in the needed funds to continue and even expand the exciting ministries of this congregation. Since most folks agree that we want to see more children in the church, we each can challenge ourselves to participate more in opportunities to engage with them and help them feel welcome.

I truly believe that if we keep looking to the Spirit of the living God to guide us, Southminster Presbyterian Church has the potential to grow and to make a difference in many lives within the congregation and far beyond it, for *"nothing is impossible with God!"* (Luke 1:37)

We are blessed with a talented and dedicated staff, and I am thankful for their hard work and the gifts that they share with us.

Finally, I am grateful for the ways that all of you shine the light of Christ into my life. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in the midst of your ministry.

May God's Peace be with each of you,  
*Nancy Birdsong*

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.  
Jeremiah 29:11*

What I offer here are general observations from the interim, some perspective as a pastor with one foot in and one foot out of the congregation.

*Grief-work*

I believe there continues to be important grief-work to be done in our congregation. The primary grief could be captured by the phrase, "We are not what we used to be."

Some of this change is due to general shifts in American society and culture. The mainline protestant church is in decline and the church no longer inhabits the place in society that it once did. Some of this grief is particular to our congregation – some of us can remember when we were a larger congregation. We used to pack the place out for special services.

This grief should be acknowledged and processed so that it does not keep us from discerning what it means to be faithful, here and now. If we don't name the grief and the change, we might keep trying to go back to what we once were, instead of determining who we are now, what our current context is and what God is calling us to today.

*Renewal / Redevelopment*

Our congregation is primed for new energy, the kind of energy that comes from new people and new ministry. You know this already because this is part of what you have called Nancy to help you discern. She is working with the congregation to discover new vision, excitement and mission.

*God's Providence - We Already Have what we Need*

We may not be what we used to be, but we are good, we are resourceful and we are full of potential. This is a strong congregation – God has been faithful in the past and God will be faithful moving forward. The new thing that God is doing among us - what we are becoming as a congregation - may not look exactly like what we were ten to thirty years ago. But that's okay. The world doesn't look like it did ten to thirty years ago.

Are you excited, as I am, to think about where this renewal will emerge? Like spring growth, poking through winter earth, it will show itself. Will it be some kind of liturgical renewal? Some new mission initiative? Some new aspect of care for one another or fellowship? Some new outreach to families, youth or children? Or something totally unlooked for? In 2019, let us saturate all we do with prayer – prayer for the good things God is doing among us.

Peace,

Steve

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## **The Vision of Southminster Presbyterian Church:**

*“To be the head, heart and hands of Jesus Christ,  
driven by God’s love for our church and the world beyond.”*

### **HEAD**

#### **Christian Education**

The Christian education team had a very productive year and we still managed to stay on budget! Steve Davis, Lois Thorp and Gay Amos selected very good books and study guides for adult education. Some classes were enhanced with videos, while others elicited great discussions from books.

Gay Amos led a class that discussed racism in our society. Her teachings centered around a book entitled “Waking Up White”. Many participated in this class. It was so well received that a book club evolved from this. Books containing current issues or problems are read and discussed.

Kim Catchpole and Erin Dickerson were wonderful leaders for our children & youth! Indeed, they provided excellent materials for Sunday school, Sermon 2.0 and the like but they also organized fun venues like weekend shut-ins, VBS, various camps, and parties throughout the year. They also enriched their education by attending APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators). They studied for a week and came back with many new ideas.

There were two very impressive classes the youth attended. One, for the older teens, was a book study, “The Hate You Give.” It was a well written account concerning a racial situation. Kim guided them through this book, then they attended a movie adapted from the book. It was a very eye opening experience for our youth. The other class involving a book was entitled “Sex + Faith= Talking to your Children about their Sexuality.” This was aimed toward the “tweens” and their parents. It had been Erin’s project to do but when she left, Gay Amos taught the class. Both classes were well received.

Pastor Steve Schumm was a welcome staff clergy to our team. He gave us good insight and kept us focused. I am very pleased with this fine group of people.

Jeanne Leatherbury, Chair

#### **Learning Resource Center/Library**

The Learning Resource Center has had modest usage this year by Presbytery members and the Southminster congregational members. Several of our study programs were taught with materials that are housed in the LRC. We are trying to develop a strong collection on the subjects related to social justice issues.

We were granted \$1,200.00 from the Presbytery for use in purchasing materials. However, not all of the money was used, as the programs available to purchase were not of a quality we strive for, nor

did they reflect the Reformed tradition in their theology. The unused money was returned. This year, 2019, will be dedicated to researching materials for purchase, and then next year I will again apply for a grant to acquire appropriate, challenging materials.

The LRC continues to support those Presbytery members in charge of education for churches and we also will lend to other churches outside the Presbyterian tradition. All Southminster members and their families are welcome to borrow books and materials from the LRC at no charge. Please visit the LRC/ Library and see what books and materials are available.

Gay Amos, Librarian

## **Adult Education Team**

The Adult Education Team offered numerous opportunities for adults to learn more about Jesus, build their faith and grow as disciples. These included:

- *Who Did God Create and Gift Me to Be?* a Growth Group facilitated by Marj Lawson;
- *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*, a video study facilitated by Steve Davis featuring noted pastor and author Adam Hamilton;
- A weekly book discussion facilitated by Gay Amos which studied a variety of fiction and nonfiction books including *Waking Up White*, *Small Great Things*, *Racism: America's Original Sin* and *We Are Not Yet Equal*;
- A study of the book *Secrets of the Vine* by noted teacher and evangelist Bruce Wilkinson facilitated by Drew Fisher;
- A study of the book *Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study* by renowned Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann facilitated by Steve Davis; and
- *Six Themes in the Bible Everyone Should Know* facilitated by Steve Davis.

Team members included Gay Amos, Jeanne Leatherbury, Drew Fisher, Lois Thorp and Steve Davis (chair) with staff support provided by Pastor Steve Schumm and Kim Catchpole. Thanks to all who served, facilitated and participated.

Submitted by: Steve Davis, Chair

## **Youth Education**

### **Kim Catchpole, Interim Director of Children's and Youth Ministries**

2018 was a year of transition and growth for me as well as for the Children's and Youth Ministries of Southminster Presbyterian Church. I continued to grow in professional knowledge through participation in the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators annual meeting as well as through my pursuit of a Master's Degree in Education at the University of Dayton. I began the 2018

program year in the position of Interim Director of Youth Ministries with Erin Dickerson serving as the Interim Director of Children's Ministries. With Erin's departure mid-summer, I took on the responsibilities of both children's and youth ministries and have worked in concert with the Christian Education team to reach three main goals.

**Goal 1:** Provide educational opportunities that encourage and strengthen biblical literacy for children, youth and their families.

The core of these learning opportunities happened on Sundays, including a multi-age Sunday School class with an average participation of 7 youth. Children and Worship and Sermon 2.0 provided developmentally appropriate Christian education for children mid-worship, and youth combined music and the art of puppet ministry in the evenings with PB n' J Puppets. Four youth completed Confirmation classes in 2018 using the Spark House *Collaborate* Curriculum. Seventy-five children attended Vacation Bible School and enjoyed games, music, yoga, and crafts using the *Peace Lab* curriculum. Additionally, six youth planned and raised money to attend the Montreat Youth Conference in North Carolina where they grew in both faith and friendship.

**Goal 2:** Build a sense of community among and through members and leaders.

Benefitting from the connectional nature of the Presbyterian Church, I worked with other Christian Educators within Presbytery of the Miami Valley to create opportunities for children and youth to meet new friends and have unique experiences, keeping their faith formation journey fresh and rewarding. Youth attended two events hosted by the Presbyterian Youth Connection Network including a retreat at Kirkmont Center. Tweens from Southminster partnered with Sugarcreek Presbyterian youth to make a difference in the local community during Tween Mission Week. Southminster youth and the youth of Fairmont Presbyterian Church had fun during a Halloween Pumpkin Carving Party.

**Goal 3:** Develop awareness of spirituality in all facets of life while encouraging church members to share in leadership.

In order to allow families to weave spirituality into the fabric of their already busy lives, I focused on meeting them where they were. Working closely with A Great Start Preschool, families were invited to fun events for all ages like Trunk or Treat, Blessing of the Backpacks, and Breakfast with Santa. A special Prayer and Blessing class was also offered at the preschool in collaboration with The Blessing Center. Parents Night Out provided an opportunity for children to have fun at church while parents got a chance to unwind and rejuvenate. Advent in a Box and the Reverse Advent Calendar provided ways for families to incorporate the themes of Advent into their daily lives. Social media, including Facebook and Instagram, were a consistent means of connection with youth and their parents, including online devotionals and video series.

Members of the church were encouraged to take on leadership of children's and youth ministries through teaching and assisting opportunities as well as through involvement in planning and decision-making processes. This included a children and youth ministries planning retreat, parent and youth meetings, as well as participation in monthly meetings of the Children and Youth Design Team.

## **Nominating Team**

The Nominating Team completed two primary tasks in 2018.

The following were nominating to serve as the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and were approved by the congregation on June 24: Dick Adams, Georgina Amegatcher, Cindy Battelle, Abbie Campbell, Shailendra Dwyer, Marianne Farmer, Mark Ferguson, Todd Hall, Richard Jester, and Abby Locke.

The Team also had the task of discerning five members of Session (Ruling Elders) and five members of the Board of Deacons for the Class of 2021 to serve for a three-year term, as well as two members for the Session Class of 2019, one member for the Session Class of 2020, and one member for the Board of Deacons for the Class of 2019. All of these positions were filled and the candidates elected by the congregation on December 9.

Also elected on December 9 were the following 2019 congregational at-large members of the Nominating Team: Jeff Acred, Dale Berger, Suzi Dameron, Phyllis Strayer, Herb Swiger, and Joanne Yost.

Thank you to the following who served on the Team in 2018: Brandon McFarland (Session representative), Peggy Stichter (Deacon representative), and congregational at-large members Cindi Allison, Cindy Battelle, Dale Berger, Andrea Calim, Suzi Dameron, Peg Sperry, and Joanne Yost.

Submitted by George Lawson, Chair

## **Personnel Team**

- In February we said farewell to Garth Adams as part time Temporary Interim Associate Pastor.
- The following month we welcomed Rev Steve Schumm as Interim Associate Pastor.
- In April we accepted with regret Jimmy Hoshue's resignation as Property Manager. That same month we hired Mike Shively as Property Manager.
- In May we accepted with regret April Bennet's resignation as Choir Section Leader.
- In August we accepted with regret Erin Dickerson's resignation as Interim Director of Children's Ministries. We then expanded Kim Catchpole's responsibilities to be Director of Children's and Youth Ministries.
- Accepted in September Mike Shively's resignation as Property Manager. We were then fortunate to hire Christian Zennie as Property Manager.
- The same month saw many changes to the Employee Handbook, previously called the Personnel Policy Manual.
- In December we welcomed Heather Greene as one of our Child Care Providers. We supported the Employee Appreciation and spearheaded the Staff Christmas Honorarium.

Submitted by Charles Tapp, Chair

## Finance Team

Southminster will close out 2018 in considerably better financial condition than anticipated at the beginning of the year. We capitalized \$98,433 of long term assets which moved their cost from the P&L to the Balance Sheet. We ended with net earnings of \$78,100, but would have had a net loss of \$(20,333) excluding the capital assets. Total receipts in 2018 were \$802,819 of which \$6,733 came from our investments against total expenses of \$724,720. You may recall we began 2018 with a deficit budget of \$(109,702).

During the course of the year we had to transfer a total of \$37,000 from our money market funds in order to meet our obligations. This sort of movement will become normal as we no longer receive monthly income from the cell tower. Beginning in 2019, we receive a single annual payment of \$89,000, all of which will be moved to our investment accounts until it is needed in the general fund.

The fact that our deficit was much less than anticipated is because of the generous giving of the congregation. We were also blessed to receive substantial gifts from the estate of Jean Savage. In addition, \$50,000 was received from the Strayer family for the resurfacing of our parking lot, and \$11,400 from the preschool lease.

Total expenses for 2018 are \$17,379 below what we planned for in the 2018 budget. Some of this was due to generous gifts from the congregation offsetting the expenses.

The Finance team thanks the congregation for their generous and timely financial support. We ask that you remember the church in your estate planning.

Please remember that pledging for the year helps us to establish and maintain a budget for the church. If you are able to make a commitment we would like to encourage you to do so each year. Also remember that for 2019 our per capita - which is the church's tithe to the Presbytery - is \$48.20 per member.

Finance also oversees more than \$600k in investments, including both restricted funds (endowments) and general long-term savings vehicles. In 2018 our investment value decreased by \$87,338 between December 2017 and December 2018. This loss was due to market conditions (poor performance, especially during the last quarter of the year) as well as the transfer of funds to the checking account to cover operating expenses.

The Finance team meets every third Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM. Contact anyone on staff or the team chair, Ryan Battelle (rbattelle@woh.rr.com), if you have any questions.

**Team Members:** Ryan Battelle, Chair; Larry Schlotterbeck (assistant treasurer), Brian Stephens (investments), Patty Izor (treasurer), Ron Kuker, Mike Farmer, and Ralph Adkins.

Submitted by: Ryan Battelle, Chair

(Financials not available online. See printed version.)

## **Communication Team**

2018 highlights:

- We created a password protected private page for our church website for the following things:
  - photo directory
  - highlights from session meetings
  - employee handbook
  - audio of sermons
- Our team members met with other Southminster teams to make sure they were aware of our communications procedures and their own team websites, as well as ask them to think about different ways that they can communicate important things about what their teams are doing.
- We created an online Information Publication Request Form, as well as a print-out version for people to fill out when they want to communicate something to a broad audience in a variety of formats, such as website, News & Notes, Facebook, front sign, etc.
- We discussed and experimented with ways to improve the website, such as updating content, adding an announcement feed, leveraging a Buddy Press plugin for more collaboration with teams, and several other things. This work is ongoing.
- We worked on social media usage guidelines to be added to the employee handbook. Those are still being reviewed.

In 2018, the Communications team consisted of Brandon McFarland, Ken Irwin, Bill Barlow, Adrienne Dickson, Linda Wiggers, and Steve Schumm.

Submitted by: Brandon McFarland, Chair

# **HEART**

## **Worship Team**

The Worship Team is responsible for many areas related to providing a meaningful worship experience for our Congregation. These areas include liturgists, the choir, Communion setup and cleanup, sound system & multimedia, the candle table, flowers, and ushers; we also provide palms and ashes. We also helped with special worship services like the Epiphany Feast, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. We were especially honored to support the Service of Ordination for Anne Fyffe, who had grown up in this church.

This year we asked the congregation to contribute toward the purchase of the new Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal. We were so pleased with the response. We received enough to purchase some large print Hymnals, also. These will be placed in The Sanctuary as soon as the dedication

bookplates have been created.

We are always looking for volunteers to be trained in running the sound system & multimedia, as well as ushers and liturgists. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Davis or Lois Thorp.

Respectfully submitted by the Worship Team

**Ruth Mappes  
Director of Music Ministries**

Here at Southminster, the music ministries have had a great 2018. The Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir continue to lead worship throughout the year with special music being offered by local vocalists and instrumentalists from the community and from the church family.

The Sanctuary Choir continues to bring their talents and gifts to every Sunday Worship service from September to May. They perform an eclectic array of choral anthems with historical, cultural, and scripture textual significance. This year they explored anthems in multiple languages and percussion and other instrumental accompaniment to many anthems - including a trumpet trio to the Easter Service. In May of 2018, the choir had the wonderful opportunity to perform the music from Steven Schwartz's *Godspell* along with the choir of Grace United Methodist Church. We added some new and returning members to choir in 2018! We hope to see the number of choir members grow in 2019.

The Bell Choir performed many complicated preludes during several Worship Services in 2018 and played on Christmas Eve as well as accompanying the Sanctuary Choir in anthems. We hope to continue doing this in 2019.

"Music with Ruth" and VBS offered many musical outlets for the children in the church over the summer. The children enjoyed playing the various instruments at the church and playing music related games.

**Board of Deacons  
Compassion and Assistance**

The Compassion and Assistance team oversees a collection of smaller ministries which provide care to other people. Here is a list of those ministries with information and updates on each one:

AED/CPR Training

AED/CPR training was held in August this year. Attendees included people from both Southminster and Fairmont.

Anxiety/Depression Group

This ministry allows for a peer-led group of people to meet casually on a regular basis to discuss a variety of mental health issues, coping strategies, and treatments. There are about 4 regular participants, and others who come on a short-term basis throughout the year. Records of attendees are not kept due to the confidential and anonymous nature of the group.

#### Card Ministry

Birthday cards were sent to 86 people who were 82 years of age, or older.

#### College Care Packages

For the school year starting in 2018, there are 9 college students who are receiving the packages sent twice during the year.

#### Flu Prevention Clinic

The annual flu vaccine clinic was held in September with 17 people receiving the vaccine.

#### Grief Support Group

This ministry provides fellowship, support and information for a grief journey. The group meets monthly and has 20-25 regular attendees.

#### Hometouch Letters

This ministry provides continued connection to people who are not able to attend Southminster physically by sending weekly letters to them. There are approximately 30 people who received these informational letters written by Pat Custer along with a printed copy of Southminster's News and Notes.

#### Needlecraft Group

The Needlecraft group meets once a week for fellowship and to create items for various charities including Wesley Center and a local elementary school.

#### Sanctuary Flower Delivery

This ministry provides encouragement of flowers to people connected with Southminster and makes good use of the flowers donated for Sunday morning worship. However, this year with few takers of the flowers, this ministry has been placed on hold.

#### Sanctuary Lambs

This ministry places plush toy lambs in the Sanctuary to be taken by anyone who needs one for love and support. This year many lambs have found new homes.

#### Share Your Garden

This ministry provides an opportunity for gardeners and plant-lovers to share the results of their efforts with others; with optional financial contributions benefiting Southminster's food pantry. This year only the spring perennial sale was held due to a previous lack of summer produce.

#### Take Them a Meal Program

This ministry provides a coordinated method for people within Southminster to provide meals over a short period of time to another person within Southminster. One person took advantage of this program formally during the year, but many other meals were provided by more informal means.

#### Tangible Items of Prayer and Blessing

In the church office there is a collection of items which can be used as part of any visitation ministry. These items are left with the recipient as a tangible reminder of the visit and the prayers shared. Any member may take and distribute these items; those involved in visitation or prayer ministries are encouraged to do so.

Submitted by Shirley Oglesbee, Chair

## **Fellowship Team**

Team Leader: Linda Wiggers

Staff Support: Rev. Steve Schumm

Team Members: *Deacons* – Sandy Stevens, Jon Friedl, Holly Woods

*Members-at-large* – Jane Barlow, Tammy Caskey

The fellowship team works to lead Christian fellowship and build Christian relationships at Southminster by creating and supporting events and activities that bring our members, families, friends and the community-at-large together to share fun, food and Christian love.

Weekly the team organizes and serves in the Coffee Corner offering an opportunity for all to share in coffee, cookies and good conversation before Sunday School and after the worship service.

The Fellowship Team planned and hosted multiple fellowship events during the year. Highlights from 2018 are:

- Epiphany Feast – This new event to Southminster was introduced in January when the church emphasized the visit of the three wise men and celebrated the Epiphany. A meal of ham and pot-luck dishes was served ending with the King's Cake.
- Habitat for Humanity Lunch – In April, Fellowship supported the Mission Team in preparing and serving lunch to the volunteers working on the Habitat House.
- Heritage Sunday – In May, Southminster celebrated our Presbyterian Heritage, "Scotland and Beyond! A Multicultural Pot Luck Lunch." The lunch included Chicken in the Heather, Rumbledethumps and, along with the music of bagpipes, was enjoyed by all.
- Family Fun Nights – During the summer months Fellowship offered 3 different events to for our church family and the community, young and old; opportunities to dine together and to have FUN. June was hot dogs, popcorn & movie night, July was pizza & game night and August was lasagna & painting/craft night.
- Fall Fling & Blessing of the Backpacks – On this Sunday in August, Southminster joined with "A Great Start Preschool", welcoming the Preschool children and families to our worship service where all the children & teachers were given a special Blessing to start their school journey. Following worship, a picnic meal was provided, along with games and a tour of the Great Start Preschool facilities.
- The Church Has Left the Building – In October, Fellowship provided coffee and donuts for those who participated in various mission projects both in the church and away.
- Facets of Faith – Thank You Meal – This meal in November was the culmination of the efforts of the Stewardship's pledge drive, the Worship Team's celebration of the anniversary of our

beautiful faceted window, and the Fellowship Team. On behalf of the entire church a big thank you was extended to all the members of Southminster for the many gifts they so graciously give – time, talent and financial.

- Anne Fyffe Ordination – Southminster was honored to host the Ordination of Anne Fyffe in November. Fellowship prepared and served the reception that followed.
- Hanging of the Greens Lunch – On the first Sunday of December, following worship and the decoration of the church for the Advent Season, Fellowship served a simple lunch of pizza and sloppy joes.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Wiggers, Chair

## **Prayer & Presence Team**

The ministry of Prayer & Presence reaches out to the congregation, supporting others through the gifts of listening, presence, prayer and lay counseling. The committee consists of 4 Deacons (Pam Bates, Peggy Stichter, Judy Murphy, and Barbara Adams) and 3 members-at-large (Marion Kaufman, Judy Bonhert, and Marilyn Kemper). The Prayer and Presence Committee consists of 8 ministries, (Care Connection Calling, Hello-Good Morning, Care Notes, Homebound Visitation, Hospital and Rehab Visitation, Follow-Up Calling, and Homebound Communion). Peggy Stichter served as Chair and Judy Murphy served as secretary. This team meets quarterly.

The Hello-Good Morning ministry connects individuals living alone. These individuals check on each other daily in a brief conversation. This ministry has one team with 14 members participating. Care Connection ministry involves 5 teams (3-4 people per team) calling members of the congregation on Sunday nights to learn of prayer concerns and joys to share. Each household is called 6 times per year. Suzi Dameron and Marion Kaufman are the coordinators. Over 1300 calls were made in 2018.

Pam Bates has coordinated the Care Notes ministry. These small booklets offering spiritual support and help on care needs are located in 3 areas of the church. Members and visitors of SPC have made use of these Care Notes, available at NO CHARGE to the congregation. The notes are no longer being produced so when our supply is depleted, a new devotional will be selected.

The Homebound, Hospital and Rehab Visitation ministries have many faithful volunteers connecting by phone or personal visitation with people dealing with health and aging issues. The Hospital and Rehab visitation ministry makes a few visits per month. Church members who have been recently hospitalized or are at home dealing with other life challenges are also called on a monthly basis. This is referred to as the Follow-Up ministry, with 4-8 calls being made monthly. Thanks to Judy Murphy for her leadership in this ministry.

The Prayer Chain continues to be an efficient E-mail Prayer Chain. Judy Murphy oversees this special ministry. Hundreds of requests were received in 2018. The Intercessory Prayer Group is down to 2 people (Dottie Eggers & Lois Thorp). They pray for specific requests and prayer concerns generated by the Care Connection calls made on Sundays.

The Homebound Communion Ministry, coordinated by Barb Adams consists of past and present Deacon and Elder teams volunteering to take communion to homebound or nursing facility members on or near the first Sunday of each month. An average of 8-10 persons were served each month. In 2018, pictures of those being served (with their permission) were taken to share with the congregation. Another feature introduced this year was having music when the team would visit. Art Nitsch would accompany one team each month and provide the music.

Barb Adams will serve as Chair and Judy Murphy will serve as Secretary in in 2019.

Submitted by: Peggy Stichter, Chair

## **Stephen Ministry**

Our Stephen Ministry had some ups and downs in 2018. We were greatly saddened by the death of Al Herner in June. He was a kind and calming presence on our team and continues to be missed.

Team members took turns writing publicity bits included in News and Notes once a month for 6-8 months. We had hoped to have some enrollees in the training class in Fall, but sadly, that did not occur. We went through a spell of having no Care Receivers, but ended the year with nearly all of us engaged in supporting individuals here at SPC, or by helping out another Presbyterian Stephen Ministry Team that didn't have enough members. In December, we put up a *Blue Christmas* Tree for the Holiday Season in support of those who might have less joyous hearts this year. Several people placed 'prayer ornaments' on the tree and we prayed for all of them more than once during the season. As always, we will continue to be here to support any who may need a listening ear and a caring heart throughout 2019.

**Stephen Ministry Team:** Leaders: George Lawson & Lois Thorp. Stephen Ministers: April Bennett, Sharon Boyko, Lana Ellinger, Pat Elliott.

Submitted by: Lois Thorp

## **Invitation Team**

The year 2018 was again a busy one for the Invitation Team in pursuit of fulfilling the team's mission statement: **"The Invitation Team leads the congregation to invite people to Southminster and warmly welcome them, to bring them into membership (if they desire), and to assimilate them into the life of the congregation."** Invitation Team **2018 Goals** were established as follows:

- Share Invitation Team Mission Statement
- Provide Greeter Schedule and Training
- Extend Gifts & Talents event throughout the year
- Continue Inquirer's Class – Process in place and working well
- Make more effective use of Social Media (Strategy)
- Build awareness that evangelism is everyone's responsibility.

To that end, the team worked tirelessly to convey the message to all visitors that they are valued and welcomed. This begins with our wonderful group of **Greeters** and also includes the **Welcome Center** volunteers who share informative Guest **Welcome Folders** with church information, a nice welcoming letter from Pastor Nancy and a welcome gift. **Church Tours** continued in 2018 to provide an engaging tour of our great facility to guests and potential new members.

There were three **Inquirer's Classes** held (formerly called New Member Classes) that welcomed 14 new members to our rolls. (Four additional new members were added as Confirmands.) The Shepherding process was improved to more effectively connect new members with their shepherds. Information was also developed for shepherds to help them better understand their role.

**Existing member follow-up:** There was extensive follow up on those who we have missed. The team's follow-up with these lapsed members is extremely important as we are seeing some members return to the life of the Church. Over the course of the year the total count of lapsed members who have returned stands at 14.

The Invitation Team championed the design of new **Name Tag Holders** for our members and guests. The new name tag holders will not only be more attractive but will also have a more space-efficient design to replace the bulky pyramid units. Thanks to Mike Stevens for volunteering to build the new name tag holders that will be coming early in 2019.

The Team redesigned the **Sharing Your Gifts & Talents** event from a once-a-year event in the CFC to a monthly informational series in the Narthex, visible to members and guests throughout the year. Each Session and Deacon team was scheduled in the rotation for an entire month to showcase their ministries. The goal of this initiative remains to align needs of the Church with members' gifts and talents.

**Outreach Highlights for 2018:** Invitation Team provided balloons, cider, donuts and literature (upcoming events half sheet, pens and magnets) during the Trunk or Treat event in an effort to be more welcoming to those attending.

Backpack Sunday was a big success in the fall as the Invitation team staffed extra greeters to be especially welcoming to our guests and created customized folders for everyone featuring programs for children.

Connect Centerville, an event focused on connecting current Centerville residents with immigrant families in the community, was held at Tower Heights on November 13. The Invitation Team represented SPC at the event sharing literature on Southminster as well as a slide presentation showing pictures from our outreach and mission work.

Facebook posts were used again this year to highlight key events and special services as part of our strategy to utilize social media to attract guests.

An informal "**Marketing Team**" was established with members from the Invitation, Communications, Stewardship and Finance teams for the purpose of looking at how SPC might consider new approaches for marketing SPC more effectively. The group's initial focus is looking at website content generation and management.

Thanks to all Invitation Team members (Adrienne Dickson, Marj Lawson, Cheryl Hartman and Pastor Steve) as well as all congregational members who have supported the team in 2018 for their dedication. The Invitation Team is excited about the progress and momentum over the past year and is looking forward to continuing to fulfill our mission and God's will for SPC in 2019.

Mark Ferguson - Invitation Team Chair

## Southminster Women's Association

### Mission Giving - 2018

Miami Valley Presbytery Pledge \$1,320.00

### Outreach, Nurture Giving

Blanket Sunday \$985.00

Thank Offering \$775.00

Soles 4 Souls 716 pairs of shoes donated

## HANDS

### Mission Team

The Mission Team had an exciting year in 2018 with the following projects and programs:

**Family Nutrition led by Jean Clements.** Nine individuals who registered for the Family Nutrition Program completed the four sessions held on Thursdays in October. During each session participants cooked a nutritionally balanced meal, shared the lunch, cleaned up and then took home groceries to prepare the same meal at home. Emphasis was on eating on a budget, using less meat and increasing the amount of vegetables consumed. Four individuals registered after the class was filled. Five Southminster volunteers assisted in the kitchen and two provided transportation for two participants to and from the church. Baby-sitting was also provided.

**The Castle led by Mary Stahley.** In 2018, Southminster members continued to support The Castle by providing food items brought to the church on the fourth Sunday of each month, except for May and December. Volunteers from The Castle pick up the donations the Monday after the donations are brought in. Forty-six people graciously contributed this year, many of them multiple times. We also received donations to make it possible for The Castle to have a cookout in May.

**Clothes That Work led by Mary Stahley.** This Southminster mission has been blessed with four teams of two people each who serve a three-month period. They collect the donated clothing and are responsible for seeing that it is taken to a designated drop-off center for Clothes That Work. Clothes That Work is an organization which allows access to those in need of clothing for work and interviews.

**FISH Southeast Food Pantry led by Jane Kessler and Kevin Dickson.** In June of 2018, the FISH Southeast Food Pantry coordinator transitioned from Jane Kessler to Kevin Dickson. Our mission remains to serve and reach out to those in need in the Centerville region. Through November of this year we served 13,140 meals to 876 people and 288 families. These numbers are down from 2017, but the second half of this year we've added two new callers and six new deliverers. With our growing team, we will expand back to Friday deliveries twice per month in an effort to continue reaching out to as many in need as possible!

**VA Hospital Veterans Gifts led by Joe and Brenda Ricketts.** Each year for the past several years the congregation has purchased items listed on an ornament hanging on the Narthex Christmas tree. The Elves of Southminster spend part of a day separating and organizing these items, then gathering

them in the plastic shoeboxes which will be given to veterans at the hospital for Christmas. This year 125 shoeboxes of goodies were gathered and wrapped with a ribbon. Two large bags were also filled with games and shower shoes. Everything was delivered to the hospital before Christmas.

**Catch the Building Spirit in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Dayton led by Robert Fyffe, Bill Barlow, and Kevin Dickson.** On a blustery, cold weekend in April, over 100 people from Southminster, CTBS, Alter high school students, the Boy Scouts and the community in one way or another gathered at SPC over three days – Friday night cutting and stacking lumber, Saturday building the frame of a house, providing food and refreshment by the Fellowship Team, & Sunday loading frames for transportation, taking photographs, etc. The cost was reduced because plans and some equipment were provided by HHGD and/or CTBS. Pastor Nancy led a brief service to bless the house after Sunday Worship before the frame was loaded. Other significant contributions came from Requarth Lumber, Mike Stevens, Steve Campbell (Essential Lawn & Landscape) and several anonymous financial or in kind donations from church members. The house was built in the Dayton area during the summer.

**Emergency Assistance,** Close to \$2,000.00 was given this year to individuals in need from our congregation and the community. Bus passes were also purchased and given when requested.

**Refugee Assistance** This is a new fund started for financial assistance to refugees in our church and community. We were able to assist a family in purchasing a car and with funeral expenses.

**The Church Has Left the Building** This program was new this year. Instead of church services on October 14, 2018, approximately 111 members and visitors of our congregation spent at least a half day in service in our community and for the world, under the direction of Pastor Nancy Birdsong and the Mission Team. The various projects included sewing over 50 dresses for girls in Africa, a cookout at Chevy Chase, painting a garage for a local agency, making 48 casseroles for St. Vincent De Paul Homeless Shelters, cleaning a room for the Preschool, cleaning the Community Room kitchen, and preparing a mailing for Hannah's Treasure Chest.

**Special Offerings** led by Gretchen Cleaves. We have four special offerings every year which support the Presbyterian Church USA. It was our objective to educate and promote these offerings. A portion of two of the offerings is kept by Southminster to promote Peace and Christian Education.

**Other.** The Mission Team gave financial support for Dayton Habitat, House of Bread, and Missionary Support to Randy and Heather Stahley. We also support PCUSA Mission and the Theological Education Fund.

## **Buildings and Grounds Team**

Southminster Buildings and Grounds Team worked in 2018 to maintain our facility with routine maintenance and repair, as well as these projects:

- Replaced light bulbs with LED bulbs in all areas except the Sanctuary; this included new night lights and updating emergency lights
- Worked with other teams to sign a new lease with A Great Start Preschool
- Repaired and replaced parking lots through the contribution of Phyllis and Dan Strayer
- Installed an outside bench by the office through the contribution of Jerry and Mary Stahley
- Installed doorbells on the Community Room and Education wing doors
- Replaced three water fountains
- Continued to repair recurring window leaks
- Trimmed and removed dead and diseased trees
- Repaired ceilings in several rooms
- Worked to maintain AC and heating systems
- Worked with the preschool on various concerns
- Installed 3 gas alarms outside the boiler room and in the CFC. These will detect carbon monoxide, natural gas, and methane leaks.
- Worked with Essential Lawn and Irrigation and volunteers to maintain the gardens

Submitted by: Linda Meily, Chair

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

### **Membership Report**

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Total Active Membership Reported, December 31, 2017:</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>436*</b>
<b>Gains:</b>			
17 and Under	3	1	4
18 and Over	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>
Total Gains	10	8	18
<b>Losses:</b>			
Letter of Transfer or Removal from Rolls	10	16	26
Death	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>
Total Losses	14	24	38
<b>Total Active Membership, December 31, 2017</b>	<b><u>177</u></b>	<b><u>239</u></b>	<b><u>416</u></b>

\*One female member inadvertently not removed in 2016 report

### **Age Distribution of Active Members**

25 & Under:	56
26-40:	71
41-55:	64
56-70:	89
Over 70:	<u>136</u>
Total	416

### 2018 Member Necrology Report

<u>Name</u>	<u>Joined</u>	<u>Died</u>
Allison, Janne	5/16/65	7/19/18
Dickerson, Chuck	10/29/89	9/29/18
Erion, Joan	4/8/02	6/11/18
Herner, Alan	4/12/04	6/17/18
Hodapp, Dan	5/28/63	12/23/18
Kabealo, Evelyn	10/30/63	1/6/18
Kronson, Ruth	12/8/03	4/9/18
Noakes, Dena	11/11/91 (10/30/63)	10/27/18
Putzier, Carl	4/14/03	9/21/18
Shrader, Nancy	4/22/71	1/4/18
Sowder, Karlene	4/5/12	1/9/18
Wightman, Shirley	7/11/11 (10/21/62)	8/14/18

### SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2018

**CALL OF THE MEETING:** The congregation of Southminster Presbyterian Church was called together, with proper prior notice, for the purposes of receiving the Annual Report.

Moderator Reverend Nancy Birdsong opened the meeting with prayer at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Seventy-Eight members were in attendance; a quorum of the Church's membership is 44.

#### **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

It was moved, seconded and accepted (MSA) to approve the agenda for the meeting.

It was moved, seconded and accepted (MSA) to approve the minutes of the Congregational Meetings held in 2017. (February 26, July 16, October 1, November 12 and December 10)

Rev. Birdsong offered a prayer for members lost in 2017.

Rev. Birdsong recognized outgoing Church Officers.

After a short presentation by team leaders, it was moved, seconded, and accepted (MSA) to receive the staff reports and the reports of the Christian Education Team, Buildings and Grounds Team, Stewardship Team, Finance Team, Nominating Team, Invitation Team, Communications Team, Personnel Team, Worship Team, Mission Team, Board of Deacons and related subcommittees and organizations, as presented.

2018 Nominations for at large members

In George Lawson's absence Peggy Stichter presented the following slate

Cindi Allison

Cindy Battelle

Andrea Calim

Suzi Dameron

Peg Sperry

Joanne Yost

Hearing no nominations from the floor, it was **MSA** to approve the slate as presented

It was explained that the 2018 Budget and Terms of Call for Reverend Birdsong will be presented to the Congregation at a later date.

It was MSA to adjourn the meeting.

Reverend Garth Adams opened the Meeting of the Corporation with Prayer.

The business of the Corporation was to elect officers to serve one-year terms. The following names were presented by Peggy Stichter:

President: Ralph Adkins

Vice President: Irene Tipsword

Secretary: Dorothy Fyffe

Treasurer: Patty Izor

Hearing no nominations from the floor, it was **MSA** to close the nominations and to adopt the slate as presented.

It was **MSA** to close the meeting with prayer. Rev. Adams closed the meeting with prayer at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Fyffe, Clerk of Session

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MINUTES OF CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
March 18, 2018 11.15 a.m.**

A Congregational quorum was present.

**Staff:** Reverend Dr. Nancy Birdsong

Reverend Birdsong opened the meeting with prayer.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive the church budget for 2018 and to approve the pastor's compensation. Ryan Battelle presented the current status of the church budget and how the Finance Team reached the budget numbers along with their recommendations.

The congregation received the Budget for 2018.

The congregation approved of the pastor's compensation.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer (Rev. Birdsong) at 11.35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jane Barlow

Clerk of Session pro tem.

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MINUTES OF CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**JUNE 24, 2018**

**CALL OF THE MEETING:** The congregation of Southminster Presbyterian Church was called together, with proper prior notice, for the purposes of appointing members to the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC).

Moderator Reverend Nancy Birdsong opened the meeting with prayer at 11:05 a.m. in the Sanctuary. A quorum of the Church's membership was present. (In excess of 70 members present).

**BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

Nominations for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

George Lawson presented the following slate:

Dick Adams	Abbie Campbell	Mark Ferguson
Georgina Amegatcher	Shailendra Dwyer	Todd Hall
Cindy Battelle	Marianne Farmer	Richard Jester
Abby Locke		

Hearing no nominations from the floor, it was **MSA** to approve the slate as presented

It was **MSA** to close the meeting with prayer. Rev. Birdsong closed the meeting with prayer at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothy Fyffe, Clerk of Session

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MINUTES OF CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**CALL OF THE MEETING:** The congregation of Southminster Presbyterian Church was called together, with proper prior notice, for the purpose of electing a member to the Nominating Team.

Moderator Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong opened the meeting with prayer at 11.10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. A quorum of the Church's membership was present.

**BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

George Lawson, Chair of the Nominating Team, proposed the nomination of Dale Berger to a vacancy on the Nominating Team resulting from the nomination of Cindy Battelle to the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

Hearing no nominations from the floor it was moved, seconded, and accepted (**MSA**) to elect Dale Berger as an at-large member of the Nominating Team.

It was **MSA** to close the meeting with prayer at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gretchen Cleaves, Clerk pro tem.

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MINUTES OF CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
December 9, 2018**

**CALL OF THE MEETING:** The congregation of Southminster Presbyterian Church was called together, with proper prior notice, for the purpose of electing the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Team.

Moderator Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong opened the meeting with prayer at 10.58 a.m. in the Sanctuary. In excess of a quorum of the Church's membership was present. (A quorum is 44).

**BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

It was moved, seconded, and accepted (**MSA**) to elect the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Team for the Class of 2021 and open slots in the Class of 2019 and the Class of 2020 and to elect six at – large members from the congregation to the 2019 Nominating Team.

Peggy Stichter proposed the following Slate of Officers:

**SESSION**

**Class of 2021**

Michael Farmer (Finance)

Tom Novak (Invitation)

Herb Swiger (Christian Education)

Lois Thorp (Worship)

John Woods (Building and Grounds)

**Class of 2019**

Ralph Adkins (Stewardship)

Jerry Stahley (Building and Grounds)

**BOARD OF DEACONS**

**Class of 2021**

Deanna Brewer

Tammy Caskey

Lana Ellinger

Jan Hohenstein

Mel Kelley

**Class of 2020**

Ron Kuker (Personnel)

**Class of 2019**

Lisa Rawls

**2019 At-Large Members of the Nominating Team**

Jeff Acred

Phyllis Strayer

Dale Berger

Herb Swiger

Suzi Dameron

Joanne Yost

Hearing no nominations from the floor, it was **MSA** to approve the slate as presented

It was **MSA** to close the meeting with prayer. Rev. Schumm closed the meeting with prayer at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Fyffe, Clerk of Session

Pastor's terms of call not available online – see printed report.