

Ken Irwin

From: Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 12:01 PM
To: communications@sminster.com
Subject: News & Notes for February 2, 2018



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

NEWS & NOTES

February 2, 2018

STAFF AND OFFICE NOTES

Kim Catchpole and Erin Dickerson will be traveling to Louisville Monday January 28 to attend the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators (APCE) annual conference. **Lynn Grubb** will also be out of the office the week of January 28 as she is attending a Spiritual Retreat in Nashville, TN. Erin, Kim and Lynn will return to work Monday, February 5. Please contact **Karen Hardie**, Office Assistant (Karen@sminster.com) if you have any requests for scheduling or announcements next week .



PASTORAL COVERAGE 2/5/18 – 2/10/18

While Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong is in New Jersey for her move next week, Rev. Garth Adams will attend to pastoral needs. In the event that he is not available due to his duties as a hospital chaplain, pastoral duties also will be covered by

Rev. Bob Shearer and our Stephen Ministers. Please call the office with any needs or concerns: 937-433-1810

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR about ASH WEDNESDAY and LENT



Dear Friends,

This year, Ash Wednesday is the same day as Valentine's Day! After discussions of both the Worship and Fellowship Teams, we decided to do something different to allow people both to come to a service and still be able to have an evening with loved ones. **You can choose to come to either of 2 services: one at noon and one at 5:30 pm.** The services probably will last around 40 minutes and will include communion and ashes for those who would like them. *(Next year, we will have an Agape Meal and worship service in the CFC.)*

Ash Wednesday begins our six-week journey to the cross that we call *Lent*. In the early days of Christianity, Jesus' followers would spend time in self-examination and reflection during the time of the year leading up to Easter. They recalled that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, preparing himself for his ministry. Lent is our 40 days of preparation.

While it sometimes has a reputation for being gloomy, Lent does not need to be that way. Intentionally looking beneath the surface of our daily lives and considering our relationship with God is not a dismal thing. There can be a deep inner joy in meditation, reflection, and considering our faith journey.

In the 61st chapter of Isaiah, the prophet proclaims,
"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit."

In the 4th chapter of Luke, Jesus read these words from a scroll and then told the people, *“This Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”* While the ashes remind us of our mortality, they also remind us that, in Christ, the destructive, difficult, even death dealing forces of this world are no match for the love of God that is Good News to a broken world. Lent reminds us to look for the beauty, even in the ashes, for the life about to spring forth from death in different ways, large and small, all the time.

Why not start off your observation of Lent by joining us for one of these services? I hope that you have a meaningful experience of Lent that draws you into a deeper relationship with God. When we gather spiritual strength, we are better able to serve others as Christ’s disciples.

Blessings,
Nancy

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- February 4 Scout Sunday**
- February 11 Annual Reports distributed**
- February 18 Blanket Sunday**
- February 18 Annual Meeting after Worship**
- February 25 Nancy’s Installation at 4:00 p.m.**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 IS SCOUT SUNDAY!

All Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms and we celebrate the contributions of Scouts and their service in the community.



CHURCH TOUR

Dates: Sunday, Feb 4, 2018

Time: 11:15am

Location: Meet at the Welcome Center

A tour of Southminster Church will be offered on Sunday, February 4, 2018 by Hospital Host Marj Lawson, following worship. Marj will meet people near the Welcome Center. The tour will take approximately 45 minutes. Advance registration is not necessary, but helpful and can be noted in the Friendship pad.

Pastor Installation

Dates: Sunday, Feb 25, 2018

Time: 4:00 pm

Nancy Birdsong has been our Pastor/Head of Staff since October 8, but she hasn't yet been installed by the Presbytery! Please join us for a special service of installation at 4 pm on Sunday, February 25, as Nancy officially becomes our pastor.

Blanket/Tool Sunday (CWS)

February 18, 2018

"A CWS Blanket provides warmth and comfort for those in need." Money goes to disaster relief, which includes blankets, hygiene kits, school kits, baby kits, clean-up buckets and tools for long-term recovery. Your support truly makes a difference all over the world.



PHILEMON CLASS

Dates: Sunday, Feb 4, 2018

Facilitator: Steve Davis

Time: 8:45am

Location: Hospitality Room

Paul's letter to Philemon is one of the Bible's shortest books but don't let that fool you! John Wesley found in this little letter a message that "infinitely transcends all the wisdom of the world." That powerful, counter-cultural message was of vital importance to Paul's original reader (Philemon) and remains so today. It is hard to believe that such a brief work could include so much explosive information challenging us to transform our view of the world and each other. Join us for a 4-week study at 8:45 am in the Hospitality Room.

The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

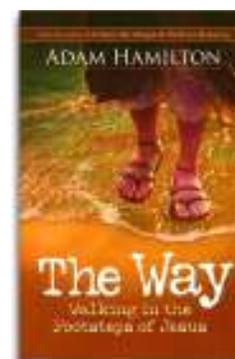
Dates: 6-week Lenten study class beginning February 18, 2018

Facilitator: Steve Davis and Gay Amos

Time: 8:45 am on Sunday's and 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday's

Location: Adult Lounge

Travel with pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton as he retraces the life and ministry of Jesus. Hear familiar stories with fresh ears by drawing upon insights from history, archaeology, and Holy Land geography. See the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized and the wilderness where He was tempted. Climb the mountain where he preached His most famous sermon. Ride a boat in the Sea of Galilee. Deepen your understanding of Jesus' ministry, while at the same time deepening your faith and your love for Him.



This 6-week Lenten study will begin on **February 18**. Adult groups facilitated by Steve Davis and Gay Amos will meet from 8:45 to 9:45 on Sunday mornings and from 10:00 to 11:30 on Tuesday mornings in the Adult Lounge. Separate groups for children and youth will also participate in the study.

Although this is a video-based study, participants will be encouraged to read Adam Hamilton's companion book, *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. Copies will be available in the church office for \$10 beginning February 11. Hard or kindle copies may also be obtained directly from Amazon.com.

Please sign up in the Narthex today and join us!

Congregational Meeting

Date: Sunday, February 18, 2018

The Session hereby calls the annual meeting of the congregation on **Sunday, February 18, 2018**. We will receive the annual report of the various teams of our church as well as elect a Corporation President, Vice-president, and Treasurer. In addition, we will elect members of the 2018 Officer Nominating Team and conduct other business as needed.



Note: Please pick up an Annual Report on Sunday, February 11, a week before the meeting, so that you can read through it in advance. If you have questions

that you want to ask committee chairs before the meeting, please feel free to contact them or one of the pastors.

This year's budget will need to wait to be presented to the congregation in March. After all the coming and going of staff, the Finance Team and the Session feel that rather than offering a budget with which we are not yet satisfied, we will do more at the February Session meeting and, if necessary, have a special session meeting so that we can feel as though we have worked together to exercise good stewardship over the funds entrusted to us for the ministry of the church.

We are working toward a process through which Team Chairpersons can take more responsibility for their budgets and the activities they feel mean the most to the congregation and to the future of Southminster.

For additional upcoming events, be sure to visit our [website](#)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

THE CASTLE

The February sign-up sheet for The Castle is available in the Narthex.

The logo for "Friends of the Castle" is written in a stylized, gothic-style font with a dark, textured appearance.

THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM is inviting all church members and groups to sign up to help with the coffee corner for 2018. This entails groups bringing a total of 8 to 10 dozen cookies/snacks for a particular Sunday. We are also hoping to show anyone who participates to learn how to make the coffee, set up and take down. We have created detailed instructions along with pictures to make it easy for you to follow. We will also have someone from Fellowship there every Sunday to help you through the process. Notice the new sign up boards in the Coffee Corner! We have also added some artwork for your enjoyment. Thank you for helping us make this a successful program for current members and visitors! Fellowship Team: Jane Barlow, Tammy Caskey, Jon Friedl, Sandy Stevens, Linda Wiggers, Holly Woods.

GROWTH GROUPS

Are you curious about Adult Education here at Southminster?

Typically, throughout the year, small groups are formed for different areas of study. We call them *Growth Groups*. These groups give people a safe place to explore faith questions in a casual atmosphere, and to grow in faith and Biblical understanding while growing in fellowship with others.

Our Team is currently looking for people who might be interested in participating in a Growth Group, leading a Growth Group, or even starting your own group. Please contact any member of the Growth Group Team for information, or check the website for newly published outlines explaining the process for starting your own group.

Team Members:

Amos: jgamos2@gmail.com;

Steve Davis:

steve.davis@thompsonhine.com

Fisher:

dnnfisher@earthlink.net,

Lawson: lawson59gm@aol.com,

Lois Thorp:

lthorp51@earthlink.net

Staff Liaison: Kim Catchpole: kim@sminster.com

Gay

Drew

George

INFORMATION OF INTEREST

A GREAT START PRESCHOOL

Fall registration will be open to Southminster church families beginning **Wednesday, January 31**. Contact Christina at 312-1621 if you have any questions.

A NOTE FROM STEVE PLUNKETT

Many of you have asked about Margaret Plunkett's condition as she battles cancer, as well as what the family learned when at MD Anderson. We have set up a Caring Bridge website to keep people up-to-date on what's happening with Margaret. If you would like to check out the Caring Bridge website, you may do so by logging in [here](#).

Everyone's concern, care, and love are deeply appreciated.

Love,

Margaret and Steve, Stephen and Katherine, Alison and Kevin

PER CAPITA - 2018

Per Capita is Southminster's support of the larger church. The per capita amount, assessed by the Presbytery for 2018, is **\$45.98 per member**. Making a check out for this amount, multiplied by the number of confirmed family members, helps us meet our obligations. Please label your payment "per capita" so it will be posted to the right account.

Southminster Contributions – 2018*

Period	Budgeted Contributions	Actual Contributions	Excess/ (Shortfall)
Last Week	TBD	\$4,412	TBD
Year to Date	TBD	\$32,274	TBD

* as of January 29, 2018

The budget has not yet been approved by Session.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP AND PUPPETS HAVE RESUMED

It's time for fun and faith with your friends in Youth Group and PBNJ (Proud Believers in Jesus) Puppet Ministry.

When: Sunday Nights

Time: 6-8 PM

Where: Community Room

IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT SUMMER CAMP AT KIRKMONT!

[Registration](#) is now open for 2018 Summer Camp at Kirkmont Center, Zanesfield. Camps for all ages are available from June 9 through August 5.

WORK AT CAMP

Are you seeking a [summer job](#) outdoors sharing God's love with young folks? Post-high school men and women give campers a great experience 6 days a

week for June and July. Serve the campers through activities, music, kitchen help, cleaning, energizers and more.

Visit our website for information about Southminster's [Children's ministry](#) or [Youth ministry](#)

Stay Connected: Find us on Facebook and visit our [website](#)



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