

**Ken Irwin**

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**From:** Southminster Presbyterian Church <office@sminster.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 09, 2018 12:00 PM  
**To:** communications@sminster.com  
**Subject:** News & Notes for February 9, 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 9, 2018

### STAFF AND OFFICE NOTES

#### **PASTORAL COVERAGE**

**2/5/18 – 2/10/18**

While Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong is in New Jersey, 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 61<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 11 Annual Reports Available**
- February 14 Ash Wednesday service**  
Noon and 5:30 pm
- February 18 Blanket Sunday**
- February 18 Annual Meeting after Worship**
- February 25 Nancy's Installation at 4:00 p.m.**



### 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.



## 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.

## 2018 BUDGET

**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.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

**Stephen Ministers are trained lay caregivers**, who have completed 50 hours of study and practice. The driving force of that preparation is what we call the "Caregivers' Compass", reminding us we are to be Christ centered, Compassionate, Full of Faith, Skilled, and Trustworthy.



***This month we are focusing on "Compassion"***.

All of us have had times in our lives when we needed compassion; yet, sadly, this isn't always easy to come by. When you have a Stephen Minister working with you, compassion will be one of several things you will receive, along with patience, understanding and acceptance of how you might be suffering. Sometimes just having someone to listen gives you some

sense of relief. Your heartaches, distress or anger can be shared and processed in the safety of a care-giving relationship. We are there to listen without judgment. No one should go through times of trouble alone. A Stephen Minister will be there for you for as long as you need support and care.

## GROWTH GROUPS

### **The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus**

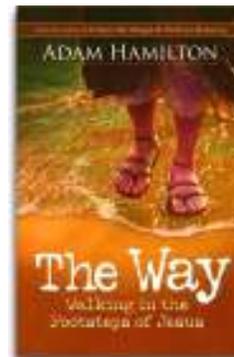
**Dates: 6-week Lenten study class beginning February 18, 2018**

**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!

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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.

Friends of the Castle

## 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](mailto:jgamos2@gmail.com);

Steve Davis:

[steve.davis@thompsonhine.com](mailto:steve.davis@thompsonhine.com)

Fisher:

[dnnfisher@earthlink.net](mailto:dnnfisher@earthlink.net),

Lawson: [lawson59gm@aol.com](mailto:lawson59gm@aol.com),

Lois Thorp:

[lthorp51@earthlink.net](mailto:lthorp51@earthlink.net)

Staff Liaison: Kim Catchpole: [kim@sminster.com](mailto:kim@sminster.com)

Gay

Drew

George

## INFORMATION OF INTEREST

### Hello Good Morning

In Aug. 2010, a new ministry at Southminster began called "**Hello Good Morning!**" This successful ministry is still very much thriving and we'd like to bring it to your attention if you are a **single person living alone**. The purpose

is to connect 2 individuals who will check on each other briefly by phone every day to be certain each other is okay. Participants are paired so there is only one person each participant is responsible for contacting. No problem if you are out of town, etc., just be certain your partner knows. Please contact Judy Murphy @ [lucy1942@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lucy1942@sbcglobal.net) if you have questions!

## **A GREAT START PRESCHOOL**

Fall registration is open to Southminster church families. Contact Christina at 312-1621 if you have any questions.

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

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

[Registration](#) is now open for 2018 Summer Camp at Kirmont 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.

### **Spring Youth Retreat**

Join a group from Southminster who will be attending the Spring Youth Retreat hosted by the Presbyterian Youth Council of the Miami Valley, including our own Valerie Kronson! This year's theme is *Plot Twist*. The retreat takes place at Kirkmont Retreat Center. Ask Kim about scholarships.

**Who:** Youth grades 7-12

**When:** Friday, April 6 (will leave from SPC at 6 pm) - Sunday, April 8 (1:30 pm)

**Cost:** \$75 (scholarships available)

**To Sign Up:** Contact Kim Catchpole, [kim@sminster.com](mailto:kim@sminster.com)

**Deadline:** Payment to Kim by Sunday, February 25

### **Youth: Join us on The Way**

The Southminster Youth Group will journey back in time as we follow Jesus on a 6 week Lenten exploration. We will discover how His message applies to our lives today. Dinner provided.

**Who:** Youth grades 7-12

**When:** Sundays 5:30- 6:30 pm in the Ark Room, February 18 – March 25

**To Sign Up:** Contact Kim Catchpole at [kim@sminster.com](mailto:kim@sminster.com) or sign up in the Narthex

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

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