



From the Pastor

Hello Southminster,

All my bags were packed, ready to leave on a jet plane knowing that I would not be back again. Retirement from the Ministry was set for August 31, 2022. Retirement as in retirement. Done. Finished. History.

On Sunday 31 July 2022, I unpacked my bags and my being in the two-windowed corner office at Southminster, which I have the privilege to call my second home for the past year and shall for another year.

What happened? Why was I back in the Ministry before I even retired? I believe God is the culprit. He made me see something. As I approached the church complex from Hull Street. I saw something. When the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee and I talked, I saw something.

Michelangelo was once observed pushing a huge rock through the streets of Florence. The bemused citizens turned to him to ask, “Why are you pushing that mighty rock, Michelangelo?” His response was simple but decisive: “Because there’s is a person inside longing to come out!”

I saw and heard a faith community longing to come out.

God’s future for a congregation is not in introducing a plan or a strategy; it is among the people of God. God brings the future towards us. God’s future is cultivated in the community among the ordinaries of one another.

A faith community’s longings becomes God’s future for them when God’s people shift their attention to elements such as listening to Scripture; dialoguing with one another, learning to listen and coming aware of and understanding what is happening in their neighborhoods, community and the places of their everyday lives. Instead of seeing these places and relationships as potential for church growth (numbers), they come to see it as places where God’s Spirit is present and calling us to enter with listening and all-inclusive love.

This shift sees God at work in one’s context and seeks to name what God might be up to. It is about seeing the church in, with, and among the people and places where we live, rather than in a building with a certain kind of people.

I still see and hear a faith community longing to come out more and more. God’s future for Southminster is in and all around us. Let us “come out” together this year and embrace our God given future as a congregation.

Rev. Jock O’Connell

Confirmation Class of 2023

On August 13, 2023 during our 11:00 AM service, we will welcome Brady Paterson, Haddie Knight, and Cooper Knight as adult members of Southminster Presbyterian Church. We encourage everyone to come out and show their support for our newest members.

Rev. O'Connell on Leave in August & September

Rev. Jock O'Connell will be on leave from August 21st – September 5th attending his 50th high school reunion in South Africa. Rev. Charlie Summers will provide emergency pastoral care during this time. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Joni in the church office during the week and Jennifer Weddle, Clerk of Session on the weekends. They will forward the information to Rev. Summers

Worship services will be held as usual at 9:00 AM in the outdoor chapel and 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. On Sunday, August 27th our lay leaders will conduct services, while on Sunday, September 3rd our own Rev. Curtis Kearns will lead worship. We wish Rev. O'Connell and his family safe travels.

Church In The World

School Supply Drive

Southminster is working with Chesterfield County Community Support Services to provide 71 special needs students with the tools to learn. Below you will find a list of items that we need, as well as a list of the items we are fully stocked on. **Backpacks for middle and high school aged boys is currently our greatest need.** We also welcome monetary donations to the School Supply Fund which will help us fill in any gaps.

Please bring your school supplies to the church by Wednesday, August 9th. On Sunday, August 13th we will celebrate the Blessing of the Backpacks during worship. Following worship, everyone is invited to come to the Fellowship Hall to help pack up supplies for the students

We Are In Need Of:

- Crayons
- Colored Pencils—10 pack
- Notebook Paper—Wide ruled
- Spiral Notebooks—One subject, wide ruled
- Composition Book—Wide ruled
- Colored Construction Paper—50-100 pages per pack
- Liquid School Glue
- Scissors—7 inch
- **Backpacks**

We Are Fully Stocked On:

- Pencils
- Pens (all colors)
- Erasers
- Glue Sticks

Changes to Church Accounting

The Session has approved a change in how we handle our accounting. We are switching to a less expensive software program and employing an outside accountant part-time. This will assist our hardworking, volunteer Treasurer, Mark Endries. The net result is that the church will save a substantial amount each month. When implemented we plan to go back to reporting on what current spending is in various categories versus the budgeted amounts. We expect monthly information to be available in about two months.

Scholarship Committee Report

I am pleased to share the Scholarship Committee was able to provide generous scholarships to five of our college students. Merrill Dugger, Ryan Endries, Bella Paterson, Seth Willis and Jacob Wetzel received portions of \$28,043.22 made possible by the Zona Willis Estate and a special scholarship fund established by an anonymous donor. This is such a blessing for the students and their families.

To be eligible to receive a portion of this fund, you must be a confirmed member of the church. I encourage our youth members to speak with Rev. O'Connell about joining the church if you are not already a member. If anyone would like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund you may make designated contributions to the fund.

Kitty Bice, Moderator

Stewardship Awareness: Food Closet

As of July 20th, our Food Closet has provided food for 209 families (a total of 746 individuals) for 2023. To date, Southminster has spent \$15,079.14 to fill in shortages in our Food Closet and to provide grocery cards so that our clients can purchase perishables.

Our Food Closet is supplied partly through our church budget, and partly through generous donations of food and money from our members, friends, neighbors, and community partners. We could not keep up this important work without your help. We are always happy to accept donations of nonperishable food items. Please remember that all food must be unopened and unexpired. Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity.

Stewardship Awareness: Liberation Veteran Services

Members were responsive in donating day-to-day household supplies for our mission to the Liberation Veterans Service" organization and the vets were most grateful. Thanks too for Rich Kowalski and Susan Pharr for transporting the supplies. Another stewardship opportunity is coming – providing school supplies or funds for special education students in the county. We continue to be a grateful and giving church!

Save the Date for Rally Day

Join us on Sunday, September 10th as we kick off another busy church year with Rally Day! Sunday School classes will be back in session, and we will be looking forward to a growing calendar of church events for the fall. We will gather together for worship in the Sanctuary at 11:00 AM. Following worship, we will have a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Southminster will provide the main course; please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We'll see you there!

Pastoral Care Team

Pastoral care for our congregation has always been among the highest priorities for Southminster and for Rev. Jock. Whether it is cards, calls, visits, or meals, it takes a village to create a system of caring and support for members who may be elderly, homebound, or just experiencing a personal problem or a health setback. Fortunately, Southminster is a very compassionate and energetic village.

Over the past few months, we have developed a Pastoral Care Team which will help Rev. Jock and the church office reach out to our special care members on a regular basis. The team is comprised of the Pastor's Aides under the leadership of Tracey Williams and the former Visitation Team under the leadership of Karen Stafford. We have a lot of work to do, and new team members are welcome! If you are interested in volunteering with the new Pastoral Care Team, please reach out to Karen Stafford.

The Manchester Concert Series Presents *Some Assembly Required*

Last year members of Southminster launched a new endeavor. The Manchester Concert series was designed to allow Southminster to reach out to our community through music, inviting different groups to put on concerts in the Sanctuary. After a successful inaugural year and three concerts, we are carrying the Manchester Concert Series on into 2023-2024!

The first concert of the 2023-24 Manchester Concert Series will be held on Saturday, September 2nd at 4:00 PM (doors open at 3:30 PM) in the Southminster Sanctuary. Please join us as we welcome *Some Assembly Required*.

Some Assembly Required has developed a unique sound of traditional and contemporary bluegrass with ballads, blues, country and gospel. The band formed in 2006 and has had to require some assembly often. A complete resume would be impossible but be sure there are many years of musical experience.

Band Members:

Lynn Stephens: Lead & harmony vocals, guitar and mandolin

Leo Szydlowski: Lead & harmony vocals, guitar and mandolin

Doug Cherrington: Lead & harmony vocals, banjo, guitar & mandolin

Bill Richardson: Bass and harmony vocals

The suggested donation for admission is \$10.00 per attendee in support of the performers, along with one non-perishable food item for the Food Closet. This event is open to the community, so please invite your family and friends.

Bible Fun Week Report

At the writing of this article, we are only partway through Bible Fun Week, but a great time is being had by all, as you can see in the pictures below. Thank you to Laura Pearson and Susan Pharr for organizing and leading BFW, as well as to all the volunteers who have been lending their support this week.



Directory Updates

Marsha Lane
7312 Southwind Drive
Apt. 208
Chesterfield, VA 23832

Bob & Bonnie Davis
6828 Welara Run
Moseley, VA 23120
Preferred Phone:
Bonnie Cell: 804-938-0258

Southminster Notes

Ginny and Art Williams thank the members of the congregation for their thoughts and prayers and cards. We have appreciated your thoughtfulness and we are encouraged that you all care. Ginny is making progress and we hope to see her back in the swing of things soon.

Art Williams

Notes will be published as space permits. Some notes will carry over to next month's newsletter.

August Birthdays

- 1 Kathy Brammer, Morgan Krigelman
- 3 Courtney Price
- 5 Kimberly Ryan
- 6 Shelley Murray
- 7 Barbara Briggs, Gary Pond
- 8 Ken Brammer, Judy Updegrove
- 10 Lynn Sutton
- 12 Audrey Lopez
- 13 Aileen Davis, Logan Pond
- 15 Larry Chamberlain, David Flynt,
Lucie Pond, Bob Lee
- 16 Jeanne Coryell, Cooper Knight
- 17 Layla Pond, Libby Pond, Howard Vann
- 21 Benton Flynt, Nancy Peters, Mark
Pinchbeck
- 22 Brad Flynt, Melba Jolly, Jim Lewis, Jacob
Wetzel, Kyle Taggart, Tori Carter
- 26 Ivy Stennett, Peggy Morrow-Sanders
- 28 Becky Rowan, Dennis Stone
- 29 Kevin Pond, Cheriene McCall
- 30 Chuck Greenberg, Gary Miller, Clay
Spillman
- 31 Lindsay Conrad

August Anniversaries

- 4 Matt & Barbara Briggs (39)
- 6 Bob & Lisa Tully (40)
- 15 Bob & Bonnie Davis (55)
- 16 Curtis & Karen Radt (43)
- 17 Brown & Laura Pearson (49)
- 18 Al & Karen Stafford (50)
- 26 Brad & Barbara Flynt (34)
- 26 Bob & Danise Warren (62)

*Have we missed your birthday or anniversary?
Let the church office know: 804-276-1749.*

August Schedules

*If you cannot be present on your scheduled day,
please notify your schedule's organizer.*

Communion Team

August 6: Team 3 (both services)

Elder Greeters

- 6 Mary Stahl
- 13 Clay Spillman
- 20 Jerry Davis
- 27 Curtis Radt

Ushers

- 6 Pat Thomas, Kathy Liesfeld,
Jerry & Cheriene McCall
- 13 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams,
Pat & Rick Abbott
- 20 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams,
Pat & Rick Abbott
- 27 Dennis Stone, Margaret & Jim Hall, David Huff

Food Closet

- 1 Mary Stahl, Cheriene McCall
- 3 Mary Stahl, Gail DeCosta
- 8 Jane Williams, Ann Wilkins
- 10 Jane Williams, Melba Jolly
- 15 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 17 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta
- 22 Frank Grier, Rose Spradin
- 24 Shelley Murray, Ann Potts
- 29 Ann Wilkins, Cheriene McCall
- 31 Rose Spradin, Shelley Murray

Southminster Presbyterian Church August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Communion 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	7 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	8 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN	9	10 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	11 7:30 PM: IPCN	12 7:30 PM: IPCN
13 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: School Supply Packing 3 PM: IPCN	14 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	15 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN	16	17 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	18 7:30 PM: IPCN	19 3 PM: LVS Cooking 7:30 PM: IPCN
20 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	21 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	22 Food Closet 7:30 PM: IPCN	23	24 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	25 7:30 PM: IPCN	26 7:30 PM: IPCN
27 9 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	28 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	29 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	30	31 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers		
		Notes				

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7500 Hull Street Road

N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-5810

Phone: 804-276-1749

www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

August 2023

**Blessing of the
Backpacks**

Sunday, August 13th
11:00 AM

Join us after worship
to help pack school supplies



Would you like to receive your newsletter electronically?

Send an email to office@southpreschurch.org with *Add Me To Newsletter List* in the subject line.