



## ***From the Pastor***

Hello Southminster,

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him Born the King of Angels  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!

All “ye faithful” are invited to come to Bethlehem. All means all. The weary, the anxious, the fearful, the vulnerable, the marginalized, the forgotten, the blind, the lame, the crippled, the poor. All of us. Each one of us.

We are invited to come to Bethlehem, the shabby place where Herod and Caesar will never go. But the shabby place where God from God comes, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, becomes one of us.

We come to do only one thing. Only one. To adore Christ our Lord. Walter Brueggeman poetically-beautiful writes: “Adore is beyond love, trust or obey. It is an emotional rush of abandonment that gives over everything in gratitude and awe. Adore is to abandon common sense and be silly in treasuring, as in first love.”

You have arrived. You are in the shabby Bethlelem. Bethlelem is where you are. You are Bethlehem. You are the crib into which Jesus is born. You are the the faithful. Adore Him. Adore Him. Adore Him.

I wish you in Christ our Lord the most silliest-adorable and adorable-silliest Christmas ever. He invites you to be that in Him. Let your imaginations go. Throw common sense out of the window. Don’t let Him down this Christmas. Be over abundant in your adoration. Make His day. He makes ours every day.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come.

Blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2023 to you and your loved ones.

*Rev. Jock O’Connell*

**Intergenerational Advent Worship Service**

On Sunday, December 4th Southminster will celebrate the approaching Christmas season with a special intergenerational Advent worship service.

The day will kick off at 9:00 AM with a pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall hosted by Girl Scout Troop 603. The pancake breakfast is an annual fundraiser for the troop. The suggested donation for breakfast is \$5.00 per plate. Rumor has it that Santa will also put in an appearance (stay tuned for details). Following breakfast and Sunday School, we will head into the Sanctuary for our worship service. Children are invited to wear angel and shepherd costumes to the service.

**Christmas Eve Worship**

It has been a long year, but in a sense it feels like it was yesterday that we gathered for the Christmas Eve worship service. This year's one is just around the corner. We shall have only one gathering on **Saturday 24 December at 7:30 P.M.** It will be a joyous feast of Word, string music, carols and communion in which we will worship God's gift to the world, Jesus our Christ. Please circle this date and time in red on your calendar and keep the Worship Team in your prayers in their preparations for this glorious occasion. Share and invite family and friends.

**Church in the World****Food Closet & Thanksgiving Baskets Update**

I must start off this article by giving a big shout-out to Rich Kowalski and Jim and Margaret Hall, without whose muscle power and pickup trucks, we would have been in trouble today. We just returned from delivering **70** Thanksgiving meals (38 from Southminster and 32 from Fort Lee's Army Logistics University students) to the fairgrounds for CCHASM Thanksgiving.

Thank you for responding to this wonderful program. It is an extension of our Food Closet ministry, which, in the first three quarters of this year, has served 178 families. CCHASM has added a new feature for those families who are unable to drive to a pantry; Door Dash now collects food from Southminster and delivers it to those clients. As you can imagine, just from your own grocery bills, the demand is increasing. So far this year, Southminster has spent 2 to 3 times what we spend in an average year, so donations are always appreciated.

Remember that the last Sunday of the month is an opportunity to contribute to the Cents-ability offering. The idea is to multiply the number of meals you prepare in a month by 5 cents. So, a family of 2 would figure 2 people X 3 meals a day X 30 days in the month, to come up with \$18.00 as an offering, but any amount is, of course, welcome! Thank you for the generosity that allows us to continue this important ministry. And many thanks to all the volunteers whose devotion makes this such a vital and smooth operation.

**2022 Contributions**

Contributions for 2022 must be received by the church office by December 31, 2022 in order to be included in this year’s contribution statements. Thank you to everyone who has so faithfully supported Southminster over the past year!

**Stewardship Update**

Thank you to everyone who turned in your pledge card on Commitment Sunday. If you weren’t able to be with us that day, you may still turn your pledge card into the office at any time.

We encourage you to turn your Stewardship pledges in by mid-December in order to be included in the 2023 budget process. Pledges can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate during worship. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex.

***Leadership & Planning***

**2023 Annual Meeting**

Please mark your calendars for the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023. Following worship service that day, a luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the Annual Meeting. Please plan to bring a side dish or dessert to share for the luncheon. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Presbyterian Women**

**Anna Circle**  
December 6th at 6:30 PM  
Debbie Greenberg’s residence

**Martha Circle**  
December 7th at 10:00 AM  
Conference Room

**Presbyterian Women**

**Ruth Circle**  
January 3rd at 2:00 PM  
Conference Room

**Anna Circle**  
January 3rd at 6:30 PM  
Debbie Greenberg’s residence

**Martha Circle**  
January 4th at 10:00 AM  
Conference Room

## Lessons and Carols 2022

The Sanctuary Choir is hard at work preparing an exceptional musical celebration for the Christmas season. The Service of Lessons and Carols follows a structure which dates back to the late 19th century. It features nine scripture lessons recounting the miraculous story of Jesus' birth, followed by a carol or song that reflects on the lesson's message. Join us for our Service of Lessons and Carols service on **Sunday, December 11th at 11:00 AM**, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to be involved in the service, please reach out to Kimberly Ryan at [keliseryan@gmail.com](mailto:keliseryan@gmail.com).

## Progressive Dinner

The Southminster Progressive Dinner will take place on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Dinner guests will progress from host house to host house, beginning with appetizers at 6:00 PM, followed by dinner at 7:15 PM and dessert at 9:00 PM.

The cost of the dinner is \$17.00 per person. RSVP and hosting forms will be available in the Narthex. Brown Pearson is also actively seeking host homes for the dinner. If you are interested in hosting or have questions, please contact Brown at 804-347-8895.

## Southminster Make-Over

Some very dedicated members of our congregation have been working hard to give Southminster's common spaces a little facelift. Their goal was to create warm and inviting areas where our members, guests, and visitors can gather and relax. If you haven't seen their handiwork in person, check out the pictures on page 5 for a peek at what they've accomplished.

## Session Highlights

- Approved Facilities Use Guidelines.
- Communion will continue as intinction in 2023 until further notice.
- January 15th is date for installation of Elder Class of 2025.
- January 22nd is date for Annual Congregational Meeting and luncheon.
- Approved the creation of an Assistant Clerk Position to help with transition and duties of Clerk. In 2023 Jennifer Weddle will be Clerk, Anne Smith will be Assistant Clerk.



### **Directory Updates**

**Mel Bookman**

Phone: 804-739-4594

**Jim Park**

Auburn Hill, Room 214  
5800 Harbour Lane  
Midlothian, VA 23112  
(804) 924-9563

**Sue Rhodes**

Preferred Phone:  
804-938-9299

### **Southminster Notes**

*Dear Church Family,*

*Our continued appreciation for your kind expression of concern and your prayers for healing and comfort as Elizabeth recuperates from a recent hospitalization due to complications from the continued ravages of cancer and the side effects from chemotherapy infusions.*

*We continue to let God be her guarding to guide her each day.*

*Sincerely,  
Candace Young*

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

## ***December Birthdays***

- 1 Haddie Knight, Phil Stillman
- 3 Curtis Kearns
- 5 Jason Endries, Joyce Grier, Riki Stone
- 7 Brown Pearson, Kathy Liesfeld
- 9 Kate Grier
- 10 Pat Thomas
- 13 Reggie Stennett
- 14 Ginny Williams, Marsha Paulson
- 17 Adele Robertson
- 18 Anne Smith, Billy Smith
- 20 Shirley Martin, Jenny Schiller
- 21 Jim Park
- 24 Jenny Williams
- 25 Al Stafford
- 26 Merrill Dugger, David Lamberton,  
Abby Willis
- 27 Julia Dugger, Norris Hall
- 29 Jeff McDonald
- 31 Kitty Bice

## ***December Anniversaries***

- 10 Courtney & Lil Price (34)
- 12 Jim & Margaret Hall (58)
- 16 Caroline & Coveh Solaimani (5)
- 18 Jim & Debbie Dugger (34)
- 20 Jim & Betsy Davis (53)
- 21 Bob & Judy Lee (54)
- 22 Tom & Shelley Murray (43)
- 26 Ralph & Judy Updegrave (62)
- 29 Dennis & Riki Stone (48)
- 30 Ron & Susan Witcher (44)

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

## ***December Schedules***

### **Communion Team**

- 4: Team 3 (Unit / Intinction)
- 24: Team 1 (Unit / Intinction)

### **Elder Greeters**

- 4 Clay Spillman
- 11 Rich Kowalski
- 18 Anne Smith
- 25 Eddie Pearson

### **Ushers**

- 4 Matt Briggs, David Huff, Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon
- 11 Matt Briggs, David Huff, Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon
- 18 Kitty Bice, Rich Kowalski, Lynne & David Reeser
- 24 Pearson Family
- 25 Kitty Bice, Rich Kowalski, Lynne & David Reeser

### **Facility Stewards**

- 4 Mark Endries
- 11 Mark Pinchbeck
- 18 *TBD*
- 25 Matt Briggs

### **Visitation Team**

- 11 Rick & Pat Abbott

### **Food Closet**

- 1 Barbara Reid, Melba Jolly
- 6 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 8 Cheriene McCall, Frank Grier
- 13 Jane Williams, Margaret Hall
- 15 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski
- 20 Ann Potts, Shelley Murray
- 22 Jane Tarter, Melba Jolly
- 27 Rose Spradin, Frank Grier
- 29 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski

## ***January Birthdays***

- 1 Connie Goodman, Don Reed
- 4 Holly Coryell
- 5 Danise Warren, Curtis Radt
- 6 Bob Davis, Frank Grier, Grier Swenck
- 11 Karen Radt
- 12 Lauren Pinchbeck
- 15 AJ Bookman, Jonathan Derrenbacker
- 16 Hagen Smith
- 17 Bobby Adiele, Bill Morrow Sanders
- 20 Sydney Kirtley
- 22 Ramona Clopton
- 23 Bonnie Cary, Branch Hobson
- 25 Rachel Clay, Freya Harper
- 26 Charles Reed, Rhonda Clopton
- 27 Betsy Davis, Eileen Robison
- 28 Mary MacKenzie Swenck
- 29 Patsy Hevener
- 30 Katie Daniel
- 31 Star Lopez

## ***January Anniversaries***

- 2 Guy & Dorothy Dixon (32)
- 14 Bill & Janet Crawford (34)
- 15 Harry & Becky Rowan (57)

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

## ***January Schedules***

### **Communion Teams**

1 TBD

### **Elder Greeters**

1 TBD

8 TBD

15 TBD

22 TBD

29 TBD

### **Ushers**

1 Pat Thomas, Kathy Liesfeld,  
Jerry & Cheriene McCall

8 Pat Thomas, Kathy Liesfeld,  
Jerry & Cheriene McCall

15 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams, Rick & Pat Abbott

22 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams, Rick & Pat Abbott

29 Jan Belote, Moses Adiele, Margaret & Jim Hall

### **Facility Stewards**

1 Andrew Swenck

8 Ben Nwoke

15 Chuck Greenberg

22 Clay Spillman

29 David Huff

### **Visitation Team**

*Schedule Coming Soon*

### **Food Closet**

*Schedule Coming Soon*

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

7500 Hull Street Road

N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-5810

Phone: 804-276-1749

[www.southpreschurch.org](http://www.southpreschurch.org)

[office@southpreschurch.org](mailto:office@southpreschurch.org)

**Return Service Requested**

**December 2022 / January 2023**

**Christmas Eve**

**Join us for worship on  
Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM**



Would you like to receive your newsletter electronically?

Send an email to [office@southpreschurch.org](mailto:office@southpreschurch.org) with *Add Me To Newsletter List* in the subject line.



# Southminster Presbyterian Church

## December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4 Communion</b> 9 AM: Pancake Breakfast 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	<b>5</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>6 Food Closet</b> 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>7</b> 10 AM: Martha Circle 4:30 PM RISC Team Mtg. 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>8 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>9</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>10</b> 10 AM: Choir Rehearsal 6 PM: Progressive Dinner 7:30 PM IPCN
<b>11</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Lessons & Carols 3 PM: IPCN	<b>12</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>13 Food Closet</b> 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>14</b>	<b>15 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>16</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>17</b> 7:30 PM IPCN
<b>18</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	<b>19</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>20 Food Closet</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>21</b>	<b>22 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>23</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 7:30 PM: Christmas Eve Service w/Communion
<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	<b>26</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>27 Food Closet</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>28</b>	<b>29 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Balladeers	<b>30</b> 7 PM: IPCN (Sanctuary)	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> 7 PM: IPCN (Sanctuary)
		Notes				

# Southminster Presbyterian Church

## January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> New Year's Day Communion 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	<b>2</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>3</b> Food Closet 2 PM: Ruth Circle 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>4</b> 10 AM: Martha Circle 4:30 PM RISC Team Mtg.	<b>5</b> Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>7</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>8</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aids 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	<b>9</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>10</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>14</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>15</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship Installation of Elders 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	<b>16</b> ML King Day Office Closed 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>17</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>21</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>22</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Annual Meeting & Luncheon 3 PM: IPCN	<b>23</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>24</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 5:30 PM: RISC Research Meeting 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>28</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN
<b>29</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	<b>30</b> 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>31</b> Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN				
Notes						