



From the Pastor

“We can’t all do great things, but we can do little things with great love.” This quote, often attributed to Mother Theresa, was in fact written by a woman called Saint Therese of Lisieux, who was so inspirational to Mother Theresa that she chose to take on her name. St. Therese of Lisieux, also known as “the little flower” was quite a young woman. Although she died at just 24 years old, she soon became well known worldwide for her wisdom and teachings of the power of humility and small acts of devotion.

During Advent we prepare ourselves for Christmas and the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. It is easy to feel that for such a big holiday the only way to celebrate is to go big! We enjoy the bigness of over-the-top decorations, huge piles of presents, and large family gatherings. The taller the Christmas tree the better! Yet, St. Therese also reminds us of the beauty and power of small things: a thoughtful handwritten card for a friend, the beauty of a bright red poinsettia delivered to the home of a neighbor, the holiness of a single flickering candle lit in prayer. Big is wonderful, but in a world so full of grand gestures it is easy to lose sight of the power of the small.

This Advent we will take some time to remember the power of little things done with great love. We will uplift the hope that comes in small packages, the beauty of ordinary acts of care, the power of a simple word of encouragement, and the joy of God’s love that comes into the world in the most ordinary and humble circumstances. And perhaps we will train ourselves to notice the small miracles of life just a bit more!

Advent 2021: Little Things with Great Love

Week 1, Nov 28th: **We Prepare**- A tiny shoot grows from a stump...something new is coming!

Week 2, Dec 5th: **We Hope**- God breaths life to unexpected places...there is hope for us all!

Week 3, Dec 12th: **We Seek**- A call to pay attention...God is coming into the world!

Week 4, Dec 19th: **We Rejoice**- Lessons and Carols...We sing of Christ’s birth!

I hope you will join us!

Peace,

Pastor Caitlin

Lessons and Carols 2021

Our wonderful Sanctuary Choir is hard at work preparing an exceptional musical celebration for the Christmas season. The choir will feature guest singers and will be joined by a string quartet for this special service. Our program features favorite Christmas carols in addition to moving musical selections by Rutter, Hagenberg, Leavitt, and more.

The service 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 prayer and a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message. Join us for our *Festival of Lessons and Carols* service on **Sunday, December 19th at 11:00 AM**, followed by hot cider and cookies in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Eve

Join us for Christmas Eve Worship! On December 24th we will hold two services; both services will include readings of the Christmas story, singing some of our favorite Christmas carols, and of course a candlelit rendition of Silent Night. Both services will be live-streamed on Southminster's Facebook page. I hope you and your loved ones will join us for this special occasion.

5 PM Family Service: This shorter service is particularly kid friendly with an extended Children's Time and special guest musicians.

8PM Service: This has a more contemplative tone and will include a full communion service as well as special music from our Sanctuary Choir.

Pancakes With Santa

Calling one and all for some Christmas cheer! Santa will be visiting Southminster on Sunday December 5th! Join us from 9-11AM in the Fellowship Hall for a pancake breakfast prepared and served by our Girl Scout Troop 603. Donations are welcome for this lovely meal and all proceeds go to support the troop. Then after breakfast little ones are invited to come and meet Santa out in the courtyard!

We will not have Sunday School to allow everyone to enjoy time at the breakfast, but at 10 AM our music staff will lead us in some Christmas carols so we don't miss our weekly music time! All are welcome- this is a great event to invite friends or neighbors to!

Church In The World

Christmas Joy Offering

During this month, all members will have the opportunity to make a gift through this annual special offering. Collected funds are used in the Assistance Program by the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to help current and retired Presbyterian church workers and their families that have financial needs. During 2020 the Board of Pensions was able to help 299 households with needed supplemental income and 244 households to allow those folks to remain in their existing homes, or to afford assisted living or long-term care housing. In addition, a portion of your gifts will be used to help support Presbyterian-supported colleges that are equipping students of color that have financial needs and that have the goal of becoming future church leaders. This latter ministry has been active for nearly 140 years. During this season of giving, we all can participate in the Joy Offering at whatever level is personally viable while we celebrate the birth of the best gift the world has ever received – our Lord Jesus Christ.

Last Minute Giving and Tax Planning Reminders

That end of the year is fast approaching, and now is the perfect time to make an end of year gift to Southminster. After all, how many organizations can you say you interact with every single week with opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and care! End of year donations must be postmarked by December 31st.

Consider taking advantage of some end of year tax saving opportunities. For example:

- For 2021 even if you take the Standard Deduction you can take an additional \$300 deduction (\$600 married filing jointly) for charitable contributions.
- A portion of your Required Minimum Distribution (up to \$100,000) donated directly to a charitable organization like a church as a Qualified Charitable Distribution reduces your taxable income by the same amount even if you take the Standard Deduction!
- Appreciated stock donated directly to a charitable organization avoids Capital Gains Tax and could be advantageous especially if you itemize deductions.

As always, make sure you consult with your tax advisor!

Leadership & Planning**Stewardship Update**

Thank you! We had such a good response for our Commitment Sunday this year- I am so grateful to all of you who made an investment in the future of our congregation. If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. The session is hard at work finalizing the 2022 Budget that will be presented to the congregation at our Annual Meeting on January 30th. Our hopes for next year include fully welcoming a new part time staff person dedicated to intergenerational ministry and pastoral care, expanding our mission commitments, and reinvesting in time for community fellowship. Everything we do is with goal of fulfilling our mission statement: Loving God and Neighbor, We Welcome, Worship, Serve and Share!

Facilities**BSA Update**

For the past several years, Southminster has been the meeting place for Boy Scouts of America. We began with Cub Pack 2801 and have watched as they have added a Boy Scout Troop as well as a BSA Troop for Girls.

Like all of us, our BSA Scouts have had to make many adjustments due to Covid-19. During the latest surge they made good use our Southminster's outdoor space by holding their meetings outside. They have been happy to move back indoors though as cold weather sets in. The BSA Scouts meet at Southminster on Monday evenings at 6:30 PM.

Presbyterian Women**Ruth Circle**

December 7th at 2:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

Anna Circle

December 7th at 6:30 PM
Debbie Greenberg's residence

Martha Circle

December 1st at 10:00 AM
Conference Room

Esther Circle

No meeting planned for December

Progressive Dinner

Well it looks like we are headed back into some sense of normality, so we are now planning our 2021 Christmas Progressive Supper. I know we all look forward to the event and really missed having it last year! We need host families and this year I would rather have more homes with smaller groups. So, whether you have or have not hosted in the past, please consider hosting this year! Also, two or more families may join together to host. Please call Brown Pearson at 804-347-8895 if you have any questions. ***We need to have host homes as soon as possible.***

Also, for those not hosting, mark the date, and plan to sign up early. It is always a lot of fun and a great way to get to know fellow church members better. We start at the first home at 6:00 PM for appetizers, split up for dinner going to several different homes at 7:15 PM, and come back together for dessert at the last home at 9:00 PM. The date is December 11th, 2021 and the cost is \$16/per person. The money collected is divided among the hosts to help defray the cost of the food. A great time is had by all. Lastly, I would like to request that only folks who have had the COVID-19 vaccination or who have had the actual virus sign up to attend.

Poinsettia Delivery

Each year we enjoy our beautiful poinsettias in the sanctuary, bringing so much cheer to our Advent and Christmas season. Many of you who order poinsettias will take them home with you on Sunday, December 19th following our 4th Sunday of Advent worship service. Others may choose to donate their poinsettias to the church and our elders will take those flowers to some of our special care members. We are particularly mindful of those who have lost loved ones in the past year and those who are sick or homebound. I hope you will join in keeping our special care members in your prayers this holiday season.

Blue Christmas

On Sunday, December 19th at 7pm Southminster is co-hosting a Blue Christmas worship service with Bon Air Presbyterian. The service will be at Bon Air Presbyterian and will be a time for all those who may be feeling the weight of grief or loneliness this Christmas season. There will be contemplative music, prayers, and a time to light a candle in honor of those you are missing or the dreams you are longing for. More details to follow in the worship bulletins this month.

Session Highlights

- Session approved increase of gift card amounts for Food Closet clients
- Heard update on Covenant Pastor search
- Session retreat will be held January 15th and installation of new officers on the 16th

Getting Involved at Southminster

With a new year right around the corner, it's the perfect time try something new at Southminster! While most of our programming runs from September to June, there's never a bad time to jump in. No matter what your interests are or how much time you have, there's something to suit almost everyone. Here are just a few of the ways you can get involved.

Volunteer: One of Southminster's greatest strengths is its volunteers and we have a wide variety of options to choose from. Whether it's working the Food Closet, planning special events, ushering, assisting with pastoral care, or lending a hand with Facilities or Finance, our volunteers are always willing to jump in.

Sanctuary & Bell Choirs: Take part in making music during Sunday worship. The choirs are always excited to add new members. No matter what your music experience or skill level is, you will be welcome.

PW Circles: Join one of or Presbyterian Women's circles for monthly study and fellowship.

Chair Yoga: Men and women of all ages are invited to take part in our weekly chair yoga class. Improve your flexibility and balance under the guidance of a professional instructor. No prior experience or pre-registration is required, and the class is free (a free-will offering is taken up to cover the cost of the instructor).

Directory Updates

Andrew & Natira Bookman

6024 Walking Path Lane
Midlothian, VA 23112
Natira Cell: 804-229-6600

Mel Bookman

804-608-0700

Rhonda Clopton

1204 Hull Street
Apt. 2E
Richmond, VA 23224
rmclopton@icloud.com

Norma Poole

5507 Glenhope Court
Cary, NC 27511

Virginia Wagstaff

2104 Camelia Circle
C-102
Midlothian, VA 23112

Southminster Notes

Our love and thanks to our Southminster family for all of your support following the recent loss of my brother, Larry, and Chuck's mother, Elaine. We have certainly been on an emotional roller coaster over the past several months, but we have been steadied by our faith and the knowledge that we are members of such a wonderful Christian family.

Chuck and Debbie Greenberg

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, Robert Zehner
- 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, Marie Stuart

December Anniversaries

- 10 Courtney & Lil Price (33)
- 12 Jim & Margaret Hall (57)
- 16 Caroline & Coveh Solaimani (4)
- 18 Jim & Debbie Dugger (33)
- 20 Jim & Betsy Davis (52)
- 21 Bob & Judy Lee (53)
- 22 Tom & Shelley Murray (42)
- 26 Ralph & Judy Updegrove (64)
- 29 Dennis & Riki Stone (47)
- 30 Ron & Susan Witcher (43)

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

December Schedules

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

Communion Team

December 5: Team 1 (Unit)

December 24: Team 2 (Unit)

Elder Greeters

5 Tracey Williams

12 Rich Kowalski

19 Anne Smith

26 Eddie Pearson

Ushers

5 Matt Briggs, David Huff, Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon

12 Matt Briggs, David Huff, Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon

19 Terry Liendecker, Kitty Bice,

Rich & Bonnie Kowalski

24 – 5 PM TBD

24 – 8 PM TBD

26 Terry Liendecker, Kitty Bice,

Rich & Bonnie Kowalski

Visitation Team

5 Laura Pearson

12 Jan Belote

19 *Poinsettias*

26 *Poinsettias*

Food Closet

2 Lyndale, Jane Tarter

7 Mary Stahl, Margaret Hall

9 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski

14 Terry Liendecker, Lyndale Baptist

16 Jane Tarter, Margaret Hall

21 Lyndale, Melba Jolly

23 Melba Jolly, Barbara Reid

28 ***Closed***

30 ***Closed***

Southminster Presbyterian Church

December 2021

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10 AM: Martha Circle	2 Food Closet 6 PM: Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall	3 7:30 PM: IPCN	4 7:30 PM: IPCN
5 Communion 9 AM: Pancakes w/Santa 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Music Recital 3 PM: IPCN	6 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga	7 Food Closet 2 PM Ruth Circle 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	8 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	9 Food Closet 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	10 7:30 PM: IPCN	11 6 PM: Progressive Dinner 7:30 PM: IPCN	
12 10 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	13 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga	14 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	15 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	16 Food Closet 10 AM: Triad	17 7:30 PM: IPCN	18 1 PM: Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: IPCN	
19 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Lessons & Carols 12:30 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	20 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga	21 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	22 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal	23 Food Closet 5 PM: Family Service 8 PM: Worship	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 7:30 PM: IPCN	25 Christmas Day	
26 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	27 Office Closed 10 AM: Balladeers 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	28 Office Closed 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	29 Office Closed 6 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 PM: Choir Rehearsal	30 Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed 7:30 PM: IPCN		
			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

December 2021

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 PM ~ Family service for
members of all ages

8:00 PM ~ Traditional worship
service with communion



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.