



From the Pastor

Dear Southminster

It is hard to believe that it is six months ago that that we entered each other's lives as complete strangers. In many ways we still are, but in the same breath, it feels thou as if I know you for years. It is like reconnecting with old friends after some absence. You know what I am talking about. You visit a friend you have not seen for a long time and the conversations seem to pick up where it left off weeks, months and sometimes years ago.

I am wondering....is that what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ? To be one in Christ? To be children of the same Father? One household? I think so. I believe so.

Many more conversations are awaiting our Southminster household. Some won't be easy. Some changes will happen. We touched on some of these topics during last Sunday's Congregation meeting. It will have to be done, but I want to assure you that:

- 1) Your Session loves this household and its gathering place just as much as you do.
- 2) Your Session is committed to seek God's will for Southminster
- 3) Your Session is ready to lead, in the footsteps of Jesus, by example.
- 4) Your Session will be transparent in all what it does.
- 5) Your Session asks for your continued prayers for God's wisdom to be with them as they seek, interpret and manifest God's will for Southminster
- 6) Your Session asks for your input on issues when requested

We are positive about Southminster's future for two obvious reasons, namely the promises of God and quality of our people.

God's promises that He is with us, is enough for us to move forward into the unknown, knowing that God is already present in it and reaching for us to meet Him in what is already known to Him.

The quality of our people. Colin Powel (Secretary of State) once said: "You give me the right people, and I don't much care what organization you give me. Good things will happen. Give me the wrong people, and it does not matter what you do with the organization. Bad things will happen"

Southminster. We have God's promises and God gave us the right people. Good things will happen. The future is ours. Together we shall overcome.

Blessings.

Jock

Manchester Concert Series Welcomes the Sweet Adelines

The Manchester Concert Committee is excited to announce that the Greater Richmond Chorus of Sweet Adelines International will be coming to Southminster as part of our Manchester Concert series on Saturday, February 25th at 4:00 PM.

Sweet Adelines International (SAI) is a nonprofit organization of women singers dedicated to advancing the musical art form of barbershop a cappella four-part harmony through vocal and showmanship education, performance, competition, and community service. You can learn more about the Greater Richmond Chorus chapter of the Sweet Adelines at www.grcsings.com.

The suggested donation for admission is \$10.00 per person along with one non-perishable food item for Food Closet. This event is open to the community, so bring your family and friends!

Ash Wednesday Service

Southminster will hold an Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:00 PM. Join us as we begin the Lenten season with this time of reflection.

Church In The World

Souper Bowl of Caring

Join us on Sunday, February 12th at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary for SouperBowl of Caring Sunday. The food and offerings collected on this day will give a big boost to Southminster's food missions!

More than 30 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a prayer from a single youth group: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day millions have been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

More About Qualified Charitable Distributions

With a new giving and tax year beginning we feel it is appropriate to issue a reminder of the advantages of Qualified Charitable Distributions for those who are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution from an Individual Retirement Account. For IRA's held in Fidelity a QCD can be easily executed online without involving an agent. Other fund families have similar user-friendly procedures.

QCD Facts:

- QCD's reduce your taxable income by the amount of the QCD which is essentially equivalent to a tax deduction which can be important for taxpayers who can't itemize deductions due to the current high Standard Deduction.
- The maximum QCD per year is \$100,000 but with no minimum a number of small donations can be made.
- QCD's don't have to be given all at once but can be set up as periodic donations such as monthly or quarterly.

Leadership & Planning

Farewell to Rev. Mary Bielen

At the end of January, Southminster said farewell to Rev. Mary Bielen who has served as our Covenant Pastor for Faith Formation for the past year. The congregation honored Rev. Bielen with a reception at her final worship service with us on January 29th. We wish her all the best in her next chapter.

A search committee has been formed to fill the vacant position.

Facilities

Inclement Weather Policy

In case of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, the decision to cancel services will be made by the pastor and the facilities chairperson by 7:30 AM.

By 8:00 AM, closing notices will be submitted to local Richmond CBS, NBC, and ABC stations, a notification will be sent to the email list, and a notice will be posted on the church Facebook page. You may also call the church office where the voicemail message will be updated with appropriate information.

Presbyterian Women

Martha Circle
February 1st at 10:00 AM
Conference Room

Ruth Circle
February 7th at 2:00 PM
Conference Room

Anna Circle
February 6th at 6:30 PM
Debbie Greenberg's residence

Online Zoom Bible Study

Rev. O'Connell will conduct an online Zoom bible study for adults on "15 Essential Biblical Texts." Please send an email to pastor@southpreschurch.org if you are interested in participating.

Help Serve Liberation Veterans' Services

Our Liberation Veterans' Services (LVS) meal volunteers are geared up for serving again this year! We always welcome new folks into the fold to provide any level of support. That includes grocery shopping, cooking (at church or home), transporting and serving. We need 5 – 6 people for each meal to make the work easy for everyone!

LVS is a locally supported non-profit located 2.5 miles from the church to help the individual Veteran **"who is motivated but lacks opportunity. In most cases, an individual just needs a place to sleep, eat and feel safe while improving their situation. LVS is here to provide that boost and connect them with the necessary tools and resources to get them back on the right track towards self-sufficiency"**. It is an honor and a humbling experience to have served these folks right here in our own community almost 6 years now.

Our 2023 Liberation Veterans' Services meal schedule is below, and I bet you can find one date that might work for you to try it out:

February 4, Saturday

March 9, Friday

May 5, Friday

August 19, Saturday

October 19, Thursday

For more information contact Susan Pharr at 804-690-5436 or shpharr@gmail.com

Session Highlights

- The Session accepted the resignation of Rev. Mary Bielen who will be leaving Southminster when her contract expires at the end of January.
- Approved a Celebration of Life service for former member Douglas Lints on January 28th.
- Approved Susan Edwards, Kitty Bice, Joey Williams, and Karen Stafford as the Nominating Committee of 2023.

Surprise Food Donation

In late January, CCHASM became the recipient of a large donation of food which was distributed among its participating food pantries. Southminster was able to add 80 boxes to our Food Closet supply!



Directory Updates

Mel Bookman

Correction

Phone: 804-739-4595

Ramona Clopton

Chesterfield Heights Assisted Living
901 Madrona Street
Midlothian, VA 23114

Jean Derrenbacker

Brookdale Senior Living
14016 Turnberry Lane
Midlothian, VA 23113
Cell: 804-310-7256

Ann Wilkins

Email: awilkins1@verizon.net

Southminster Notes

Dear Southminster Friends,

Many thanks to all of you for your sweet and thoughtful support before my surgery and during my recovery. The words of encouragement that greeted me each Sunday, the many cards and calls, and Jock's nice hospital visit all meant so much. I am happy to report that I am better and stronger each day! I am grateful for your kindness.

Blessings and peace,
Joyce Grier

Mel Bookman and family express their deepest thanks for all of your prayers and cards during his recent illness. It gave him strength to recover.

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

February Birthdays

- 1 Gina Taggart
- 2 Carolyn Surber
- 4 Jim Davis
- 5 Meleana Grogan
- 7 Barbara Reid
- 9 Curtis Spitler
- 10 Art Williams, Michael Willis
- 11 Lou Ann Daniel
- 12 Austin Smith, Jones Hollingsworth,
Ann Wilkins
- 19 Gregory Conrad
- 20 Kerry Knight
- 21 Wanda Carneal, Grady Osborne
- 22 Melinda Bookman
- 23 Dan Pharr, Barbara Jordanger
- 24 Anna Pinchbeck
- 25 Joseph Swenck
- 26 Tracey Bowser
- 28 Susan Teller

February Anniversaries

- 28 Peggy & Bill Morrow Sanders (19)

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

February Schedules

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

Communion Team

February 5: Team 1

Elder Greeters

- 5 Clay Spillman
- 12 Jerry Davis
- 19 Curtis Radt
- 26 Laura Pearson

Ushers

- 5 Boy Scouts
- 12 Dennis Stone, Margaret & Jim Hall, David Huff
- 19 Dennis Stone, Chuck Greenberg,
Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon
- 26 Dennis Stone, Chuck Greenberg,
Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon

Facility Stewards

- 5 David Kirtley
- 12 Dennis Stone
- 19 Eddie Pearson
- 26 Frank Grier

Food Closet

- 2 Melba Jolly, Cheriene McCall
- 7 Ann Potts, Mary Stahl
- 9 Jane Williams, Bonny Kowalski
- 14 David Stahl, Frank Grier
- 16 Shelley Murray, Rose Spradin
- 21 Mary Stahl, Cheriene McCall
- 23 Bonnie Kowalski, Ann Wilkins
- 28 Jane Williams, Frank Grier

Southminster Presbyterian Church

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 AM: Martha Circle 4:30 PM RISC Team Mtg.	2 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	3 7:30 PM: IPCN	4 7:30 AM: IPCN Fasting 3 PM: LVS Cooking 7:30 PM: IPCN
5 Communion 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	6 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7:30 PM: IPCN	7 Food Closet 2 PM: Ruth Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	8 Food Closet	9 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	10 7:30 PM: IPCN	11 7:30 PM: IPCN
12 SouperBowl Of Caring 10 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM Pastor's Aids 11 AM: Worship 12 PM RISC Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	13 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	14 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	15 Food Closet	16 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	17 7:30 PM: IPCN	18 9 AM: Girl Scout Cookie Sorting 7:30 PM: IPCN
19 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	20 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	21 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	22 Ash Wednesday 6 PM: Ash Wednesday Service	23 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 6 PM: Bell Choir 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	24 7:30 PM: IPCN	25 4 PM: Manchester Concert Series 7:30 PM: IPCN
26 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	27 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	28 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 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

February 2023

Sunday February 12th

Offering will be taken during worship.

Help us tackle hunger in our community!



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.