



Keyhole Press

Southminster Presbyterian

March 2022

From the Pastor

Friends,

I'm writing this as my last few weeks with you are coming to a close. It has hard to believe that it has been eight and a half years since I first walked into this office that is now in the process of being packed up into boxes to be moved to Ohio. But I have yet to pack my most precious items. In the bottom left hand drawer of my desk I keep a stack of all of the thank you notes that I receive. They remind me of the most meaningful times of my ministry. Many of them are thank you notes written after a funeral for a loved one, or in gratitude for a visit while you were sick, a baptism, or even thanksgiving for work done together on committees or special projects. These cards reflect more than eight years of hard work and fruitful ministry. But that drawer also contains lovely cards of congratulations upon the birth of our daughters, holiday cards and birthday cards, and, most precious of all, touching cards that truly lifted my spirits after the death of my grandfather in 2020. They are a testament of eight years of you all ministering back to me in the times that I needed it the most. In recent days this stack has also swelled with goodbye letters from so many of you that I will cherish for many years to come.

Some people think handwritten cards are a bit old fashioned. Even I admit that I have relied upon a quick thank you email plenty of times on my busier days! Yet, this drawer full of notes provides a tangible reminder of the power of relationship in a way that email never could. We human beings need one another. We need one another times of sickness and death, as well as in times of celebration and joy. There is just something more powerful, embodied, personal about a note written in someone's own handwriting.

This is why I think churches are so important. Yes, of course anyone can have a deep relationship with God on their own. You can study the scriptures, pray, meditate, even serve others without being attached to a congregation. Yet there is something much more powerful about a faith that is lived out in the company of others. Church gives us the opportunity to practice our compassion, gives us people to lift up in prayer, provides partners in service, challenges us when others interpret scripture differently than we do, and of course comforts us when we are going through tough times. Without others alongside us in our walk of faith, religion can be a bit theoretical. The greatest commandment seems quite straightforward until we actually have to practice loving our neighbor and accepting their love in return. There is simply something more tangible and real about a faith that is practiced in community.

So, I'll hold on to my drawer full of notes. They not only remind me of particulate people and occasions that I am so deeply grateful for, but they also remind me that we need one another, and that our faith is stronger and deeper when we choose to live it out together.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Caitlin

Congregational Life

Lenten Sunday School Class

During the month of March, Southminster intern Brett Eisenhauer will lead the Contemporary Issues Sunday School class in a Lenten series called *Good Creation and Our Collective Call*. Through the class we will look at ways to care for the earth, for our neighbors, and for our bodies. Even if you are not a regular member of the Contemporary Issues class, everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate. Our first class will be held on Sunday, March 6th.

Ash Wednesday

Join Rev. Deyerle on Ash Wednesday for a reflective service at 6pm in the Sanctuary. The theme for our service will be Who is Jesus: The Good Shepherd, based on the scripture text John 10:1-18. The imposition of ashes will be available to all who are interested in participating.

Church In The World

RISC Update

Mark your calendars! **Monday, March 14**, 7PM, is our Rally for all clergy, Team Leaders and Network members in preparation for our Nehemiah Action Assembly on Tuesday, April 5th. This important meeting is one of the 4 actions all Network Members agreed to when you signed on, and we need you to make every effort to be there. The location has not been decided as of this moment, so we'll be contacting you with that information. Need to know more? Contact Jan Belote, 804-745-0162 or flysis44@verizon.net.

Girl Scouts Drive Thru Cookie Sale

Have you found yourself craving Thin Mints and Samoas recently? That's because Girl Scout cookie season has officially arrived, and the Southminster troop has planned a safe and easy way for you to get your cookie fix.

Girl Scout Troop 603 will hold a series of drive-thru cookie sales during the month of March. The sales will be held on March 5, March 12, and March 26 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the parking lot of Manchester Middle School. There is no need to pre-order or even to get out of your car. Just drive up, give the scouts your order, and pick up your cookies. The Scouts will accept cash, checks, or credit cards. Girl Scout cookies are \$4.00 a box (\$5.00 for gluten-free Caramel Chocolate Chip). Thank you for supporting Troop 603.

New Covenant Building Sale

We are happy to announce that the New Covenant Church property has been sold. A portion of the proceeds was designated by the Session of NCPC to create a Legacy fund at Southminster going towards the support of mission programs. The property sold for \$677,973 and 40% or \$271,189 will go to this Legacy fund. The Remaining 60% will be used to create permanent endowment funds managed by the Presbyterian Foundation for 1) Camp Hanover fund - designated for Camperships, 2) Sunnyside Communities Fellowship fund and 3) POJ disaster relief team.

Elder Clay Spillman

Leadership & Planning

Welcome Rev. Charlie Summers

Rev. Charlie Summers will begin serving as Southminster’s part-time Bridge Pastor on March 14th until the session secures a full-time Interim Pastor. Rev. Charlie Summers is a retired Presbyterian minister. He has served churches in Washington, D.C., Charlotte, NC, and Richmond. He served as Chaplain at Davidson College, where the students dubbed him "Charlie Chaplain". For eight years he taught Bible at Queens College in Charlotte as a part of their adult evening classes. He was co-president for RISC for several years, and continues to be involved during retirement. He has served as interim pastor at Salisbury Church and Three Chopt in the Presbytery of the James

His hobbies include tennis, golf, and fly fishing. He and his wife Marsha will celebrate their 50th anniversary this summer. She is the CO-CEO of Coming to the Table-RVA. This non-profit seeks to promote racial healing through guided conversations. They have three grown children and three grandchildren. (They will be glad to show you pictures.)

Rev. Summers’ primary role will be to preach and lead worship, moderate the session, and offer pastoral care. Please join the session in giving him a warm welcome to our Southminster family!

*Anne Smith
Clerk of Session*

Interim Pastor Search Team

The Session has selected Jennifer Weddle, Rich Kowalski, Robin Lapsley, and Clay Spillman to form a committee for the purpose of selecting an Interim Pastor.

The search team will keep Southminster apprised of any developments.

<p><u>Presbyterian Women</u></p> <p>Ruth Circle March 1st at 2:00 PM Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Anna Circle March 1st at 6:30 PM Debbie Greenberg’s residence</p> <p>Martha Circle No plans to meet in March</p>
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Pastoral Care Communication

As we enter this time of pastoral transition we want to ensure all pastoral care needs are addressed. If you have a concern that you would like the church to be aware of, including a request to be added to the weekly Joys and Concerns, there are three ways to communicate your need:

- Contact Covenant Pastor Mary Bielen at mary@southpreschurch.org
- Call the church office at 804-276-1749
- Talk with your Pastor's Aid

Covid Update

We all give thanks that the month of February marked a steep decline in the number of Covid cases! Thank you for your flexibility as we navigate the many waves of this pandemic. January and February definitely were a high-water mark for the number of Southminster members contracting Covid and we hope all of you and your families are recovering well.

Our local testing numbers have now dropped below both the 14% positivity benchmark to allow for in-person worship and the 10% positivity benchmark to allow all other in-person classes and meetings. So that means all church groups are currently active! For the time being we will continue to wear masks and social distance. If you have questions about scheduling for your particular Sunday School class, PW Circle or committee please contact your group leader for more information.

The recent months have also marked another important milestone, the overall vaccination rate in Virginia passed 70%, and there are more experts who are advising we may be nearing an "endemic" stage of the virus. With this in mind, the session is in discussions about how to move away from the disruptive pattern of church closures and offer more stability for worship, particularly in light of our pastoral transition. We will continue to rely on masking and social distancing as our first line of defense.

Session Highlights

- Approved the annual special charity offerings.
- The Covenant Contract for Charlie Summers was approved.
- Approved a motion to call a Congregational Meeting for March 6th in order to elect Frank Grier to fill the remaining two year term of Terry Liendecker. Also to officially dissolve the pastoral relationship between Southminster and Rev Deyerle.

2022 Easter Lily Orders

We are now taking orders for Easter lilies. The lilies will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 17th; the deadline to order is **Monday, April 4th**. Lilies are \$11.00 each. Checks should be made payable to Southminster Presbyterian Church.

Order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins, or you can fill out the form below and return it to the office with your payment.

Dedicated By: _____

I wish my dedication to read as follows:

(Dedications will be printed exactly as written.)

_____ I wish to keep my flower

_____ I would like my flower to be delivered to a special care member

Directory Updates

Michaela Williams
419 Seabury Avenue
Sandston, VA 23150

Welcome, New Member

Sandy Stegall
2405 Sandler Court
Richmond, VA 23235
904-248-8559
sandystegall7@gmail.com

Southminster Notes

Dear Southminster Family,

Thank you for all your prayers and cards. Thank you especially to Caitlin for her cards and visits. It is a wonderful thing to be part of such a caring church family

Nancy Peters

To My Southminster Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards and prayers.

Dianna Scott

March Birthdays

- 1 Ralph Updegrove
- 2 Jane Lewis, Liz Snead, Thomas Swenck
- 5 Ted Coryell, Lynn Hodges
- 7 Jim Hall, ChiChi Huff, Megan Pond,
- 10 Matt Ball
- 14 Janet Crawford, Kylie Lopez
- 15 Katie Roland, Sandy Stegall
- 17 Ryan Witcher, Andrew Grogan
- 18 Pattie Pinchbeck
- 22 Anne Dugger, Emily Cruciata,
Andrew Bookman
- 23 Christy Jones
- 26 Matthew Endries
- 27 Andy Lopez
- 28 Mark Endries
- 31 Bernie Chamberlain, Jane Tarter,
Emily Ball

March Anniversaries

- 24 Hal & Debbie King (43)

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

March Schedules

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

Communion Team

March 6: Team 2 (Unit)

Elder Greeters

- 6 Eddie Pearson
- 13 Jennifer Weddle
- 20 Mary Stahl
- 27 Robin Lapsley

Ushers

- 6 Laura Pearson, Dianna Scott, Frank & Joyce Grier
- 13 Girl Scout Sunday
- 20 Laura Pearson, Dianna Scott, Frank & Joyce Grier
- 27 Matt Briggs, David Huff, Marsha Lane, Guy Dixon

Visitation Team

- 13 Laura & Brown Pearson
- 20 Laura & Brown Pearson
- 27 Jan Belote

Food Closet

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

Southminster Presbyterian Church

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 Communion 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Devotee Reception 3 PM: IPCN	7 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	1 Food Closet 2 PM Ruth Circle 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	2 Ash Wednesday 10 AM: Martha Circle 6 PM: Ash Wednesday Service 6 PM: Bell Choir 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	3 Food Closet 6 PM: Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting	4 3 PM: LVS Cooking 7:30 PM: IPCN	5 7:30 PM: IPCN
13 10 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	14 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	15 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	16 6 PM: Bell Choir 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	17 Food Closet 10 AM: Thad Meeting	18 7:30 PM: IPCN Sigma Chi Installation	19 7:30 PM: IPCN Sigma Chi Installation
20 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	21 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	22 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	23 6 PM: Bell Choir 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	24 Food Closet	25 7:30 PM: IPCN	26 7:30 PM: IPCN
27 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	28 10 AM: Balladeers 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	29 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	30 6 PM: Bell Choir 7:15 PM: Sanctuary Choir	31 Food Closet		
		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

March 2022



Ash Wednesday Service

March 2, 2022

6:00 PM

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.