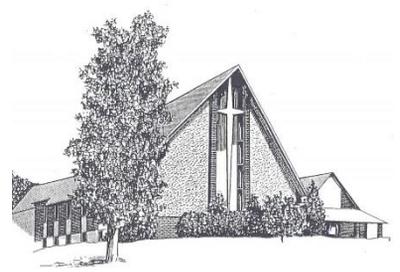


Southminster Presbyterian Church
KEYHOLE PRESS
May 2016



Confirmation – Seeking Deeper Understanding

In the summer prior to my confirmation, I attended math camp with some of my fellow confirmands. During the day we would be entrenched in the mysteries of algebra and geometry. Some of us spent several evenings gathered around the campfire reviewing the Heidelberg Catechism. We wanted to make sure we understood its questions, knowing, soon we'd be standing in front of our congregation, each of us having to profess our faith with some degree of boldness.

You might think that we were the nerdy types—to go to math camps in the first place, then add to that catechism around campfire. Perhaps we were. However, this took place in Communist Romania at a time when no church camps were allowed, and regular church gatherings were limited for the most part to the Sunday church service and a bible study. I recall my “math camp catechism” fondly because there we intuitively recognized an essential conviction of our Reformed faith—that we profess our faith and make sense of it in the midst of community. David, one of our young people attending our current Confirmation Class at Southminster, expressed this idea beautifully when he said, “I love being among peers. The interaction with people and the exchange of ideas allows for a better way of understanding the Bible than reading it alone... as a young person I appreciate the guidance.”

As Presbyterians, when we baptize infants, parents and the congregation make a promise to nurture and raise the child in the Christian faith. In the act of Confirmation, the youngsters “affirm” that faith in their own words and accept responsibility in the life of the church. The Confirmation Class, which has become a biannual spring tradition at Southminster, is meant to offer guidance in this process. In weekly meetings since January, my fellow teachers Caitlin, Barbara and myself share what we believe and trust, and how we have experienced God's presence and love in our lives and in the world. Our aim is not to have students memorize lists of doctrines, but to encourage them to express their own understanding as well as their own questions and doubts about God, life and death, following Jesus and being church. We do this by highlighting the multiplicity of voices found in our Scriptures and engage in conversation with our confessions, emphasizing we are part of a long tradition passed down from generation to generation. How thrilling to witness “the light bulb go on” as Barbara put it, recalling a particular conversation from the class: “This year while talking about life and death... one of our youth realized that while her grandmother has recently died, she was Alive in Heaven, living with God. Seeing her grief suddenly turn to joy because of understanding is what I love about this process.”

In a couple of weeks, our youngsters will be presented before Session to offer their statements of faith, and to be accepted as active members of the church. Then they will be presented to the congregation in a worship service. The congregation will confirm these young people in their baptismal identity, and will commission them for full participation in the mission and governance of the church. How exciting, yet by no means is it the end of the journey of their Christian formation! As we prepare to mark this rite of passage, it is my hope and prayer that you Southminster Presbyterian Church will continue to walk with our newly confirmed members as we grapple with what we believe, how we treat others and how we are church in our messy and complicated world.

Enikő Ferenczy

Session Highlights

- Session approved a recommendation from the Finance Committee for the use of a portion of the 2015 budget savings as follows:
 - \$25,000 matching gift to the endowment fund.
 - \$5,000 to Camp Hanover.
 - \$6,000 for new chairs for the Fellowship Hall.
- Session approved Abby Willis as a backup nursery worker.

Southminster Scholarship

The Southminster Scholarship Fund is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year. Guidelines and applications will be available in the narthex and the church office. Full-time undergraduates in two-year and four-year colleges and universities, vocational or technical training schools, and community colleges may apply. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is **June 15, 2016**.

To be eligible for a scholarship grant, the applicant must:

- Be a confirmed member of Southminster Presbyterian Church.
- Have been on the active roll at Southminster for at least the previous twelve months as of the deadline date for applications.
- Be under the age of 25 as of the deadline date for applications.
- Be a high school graduate.
- Be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate education program leading to a degree or certification.

Camp Hanover Day Camp: Registration Now Open

June 20 – 24, 2016
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Camp Hanover Day Camp will be returning to Southminster the week of June 20 – 24, 2016. We have signed up for extended hours this year with camp beginning at 8:00 AM and ending at 5:00 PM. Camp is open to all children who will be entering grades 1 – 6 in the fall of 2016.

Day Camp is a small group experience. Campers will spend the week doing arts and crafts activities, Bible studies, playing games, exploring nature, and singing songs. There will be a mid-week cookout for campers to prepare their own lunch.

The cost for Day Camp is \$100 per camper. If cost is a burden, contact Sue Rhodes to ask about scholarships. Registration forms are available in the Narthex. You may also register online at camphanover.org.

Summer Sundays on the Playground

Beginning Sunday, June 5th ~ 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

Southminster's toddler and K-5 Sunday school classes will break for the summer, which means time for outdoor fun and fellowship! Our Sunday schoolers and their families are invited to come out for Summer Sundays on the Playground, featuring causal dress, free play for the kids, and coffee and conversation for the grown-ups.

Graduate Recognition Sunday

Southminster high school and college graduates will be recognized and honored on Sunday, June 5th during worship services. Watch your Sunday bulletins in May for Graduate Recognition information forms.

Fellowship Committee

Potluck dinners will continue on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM. Please bring a dish to share. Paper products are used for the dinners. The serving / clean-up schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows:

May 4 th	Dixie & Marty Kovacs (Serving)	Brown Pearson (Clean-Up)
June 1 st	Joyce & Frank Grier (Serving)	David & ChiChi Huff (Clean-Up)

Presbyterian Women

Martha Circle will meet on **Wednesday, May 4th** at 10:30 AM in the Christian Life classroom. Liz Snead will lead our Bible Study #9, "River of Life." Our annual luncheon will follow at 12:00 Pm. Don't forget to bring items for the Food Closet.

Ruth Circle will meet on **Tuesday, May 10th** at 7:00 PM at Kathy Krausse's residence.

Esther Circle will meet on **Tuesday, May 10th** at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin our study of Session # 9, "River of Life--Hope." Remember to bring items for Sunshine Bags, Food Closet, magazines for VA Hospital, tab tops and education coupons to benefit schools. After our meeting, we will go to lunch at Tripp's. If you are unable to come to lunch, please call Lynda at 674-1116.

Anna Circle will meet on **Tuesday, May 17th** at 7:00 PM at Debbie Greenberg's residence.

Remember in Prayer

Please pray for our military personnel, Dan Bice, Mel & Linda Bookman, John Bowles, Lillian Brooks, Mike & Pat Cifelli, Ron Crenshaw, Matt Davis, Pete Gillispie, Marty Griffin, Anna Hall, Bob & Net Hall, Laura Jessee, Ann Kearns, Bev Lamberton, Nellie Long, Adele Robertson, Ken Robison, Edna & Louis Schelter, Eddie & Jenny Schiller, Gordy & Betty Smith, Riki & Dennis Stone, Dave Thomas, Marjorie Quimby, Doris Vaughan.

Southminster Softball Schedule for May

Summer is here and softball season is underway! Everyone is invited to come out and support the Southminster team. All games are held at Ironbridge Sports Park.

May 6:	8:30/9:00 PM	Bon Air United Methodist	IRBG 9
May 13:	8:30/9:00 PM	Woodlake United Methodist	IRBG 9
May 20:	7:00/7:30 PM	Belmont / New Life	IRBG 9

Contemporary Issues

The Contemporary Issues class meets from 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM.

May 1st	Continuing discussion of Derek Maul's <i>Pilgrim in Progress: Notes from the Journey</i> , led by Joyce Lapsley
May 8th	<i>TBD</i>
May 15th	<i>Current Political Scene</i> , led by Dixie Kovacs
May 22nd	<i>Freedom of Religion Legislation</i> , led by Robin Lapsley
May 29th	Open Forum

Youth Group

The Southminster Youth Group meets on Sundays at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall unless otherwise stated.

May 8th	<i>Mother's Day / No Youth Group</i>
May 15th	Confirmation students meet with Session (12:30 – 1:30 PM) POJ Youth James River Clean-Up (2:00 – 4:00 PM)
May 22nd	<i>Confirmation Sunday / No Youth Group</i>
May 29th	<i>Memorial Day Weekend / No Youth Group</i>

June / July Newsletter Deadline

If you would like to submit an article or item for the June/July newsletter, please turn it in to the church office by **Noon on Monday, May 16th.**

Directory Update

Wanda & Richard Carneal
3005 Mill Quarter Road
Ford, VA 23850

Southminster Notes

To Southminster Presbyterian Church,

I've reflected on my friendship with Chris Stone a lot over the last few months. What I've come to realize is best friends don't always have the best stories, because best friends *are* the stories. It's the foundation that gave each story its meaning and joy. When we would start a school year, we knew we had a base friend we could lean on. When we wanted to have fun, we knew each other's phone number by heart. In fact, right now I can recite his home phone number.

Chris and I both became friends with Ryan Witcher and the three of us enjoyed hanging out. I remember in high school the three of us going to the church lock-ins at Southminster.

I know that youth group was important in the life of Chris, and my wife and I have decided that one way we can honor Chris is by offering a donation to the Southminster Youth Group. We hope this gift will be used to encourage youth to be involved and help promote community, love, and faith discussions. Thank you for your ministry to the community and may this gift be a blessing.

Sincerely,
Webb & Rose Estes

Hello Church Family,

I wanted to let you know that I received your care package a couple of weeks ago! I've been so busy eating its contents (and doing school work) that I just now got the chance to thank you. I always love getting it every year, not only because it helps to stock my pantry, but also because it reminds me that I get to go home soon for Easter to see everyone.

Thank you!
Jason Endries

Congratulations to Lauren Sanderson and Jacob Yorkis, who were married on April 9th in Annapolis, Maryland. Lauren and Jake live in Boca Raton, Florida. We especially want to thank Caitlin, who graciously stepped in to officiate the ceremony due to an unexpected, last-minute change of plans.

Susan Pharr

Thank you so much to all of our volunteers who gave their time and energy to make this year's Community Festival such a great success!

Anne Smith

May Birthdays

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 Melissa Rhodes Moore, Lauren Weddle | 16 Linda Abercrombie |
| 2 Bobbie Briggs | 17 Art Wiggins |
| 9 Guy Dixon, Heather Bailey | 20 Jackson Tully |
| 10 Ron Howlett, Don Watkins, Parker Fitzgerald | 22 Lindsey Hamlin, Laura Pearson |
| 12 Marshall Chamberlain, Ron Crenshaw,
Brad Howlett, Neil Raetz | 23 Ron Witcher |
| 13 Bob Hall | 24 Marjorie Quimby |
| 14 David Stahl | 25 Susan Pharr, Tom White |
| 15 Margaret Hall, Lee Thomas, Ryan Willis | 29 Wendy Hevener |
| | 31 Tori Hamilton |

May Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 16 Marty & Dixie Kovacs (52) | 24 Ron & Cindy Howlett (6) |
| 17 Mike & Cindy Ferguson (19) | 30 Mark & Tracey Williams (24) |
| 21 Jeff & Tammy McDonald (33) | 30 John & Marie O'Connor (7) |

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

May Schedules

Elder Greeters

- 1 Brown Pearson, Moses Adiele
- 8 Sue Rhodes, Bonnie Kowalski
- 15 Liz Snead, Joyce Lapsley
- 22 Ken Brammer, Kathy Liesfeld
- 29 Gail DeCosta, Jeff McDonald

Door Greeters

- 1 Bob & Danise Warren
- 8 Jim & Margaret Hall
- 15 George & Barbara Reid
- 22 George & Barbara Reid
- 29 Jim & Margaret Hall

Flower Delivery

- 1 Karen Stafford
- 8 Jan Belote
- 15 Laura & Brown Pearson
- 22 Kathy Liesfeld
- 29 Kathy Liesfeld

Soundboard

- 1 James Deyerle, Gary Smith
- 8 Lee Bennett
- 15 Mark Endries, Gary Smith
- 22 The Crawfords
- 29 Gary Smith

Ushers

- 1 Jim & Margaret Hall, Ben Nwoke, Moses Adiele
- 8 Terry Hamlin, David, Cathy, & Mitchel Kirtley
- 15 Terry Hamlin, David, Cathy, & Mitchel Kirtley
- 22 Gail DeCosta, Rich & Bonnie Kowalski, Gordon Smith

Food Closet

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Gerry Doyle, Shirley Martin | 16 Jane Tarter, Liz Snead |
| 5 Rachel Clay, Bonnie Kowalski | 19 Shirley Martin, Terry Liendecker |
| 9 Mary Stahl, Norma Poole | 23 Gail DeCosta, Norma Poole |
| 12 Melba Jolly, Jane McGee | 26 Liz Snead, Barbara Reid |
| | <i>30 Closed</i> |
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Southminster Presbyterian Church

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 9:45 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: First Sunday Prayers 12:15: Congregational Life 12:30: Finance Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	2 Food Closet 10:00 AM Balladeers	3 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM IPCN	4 10:30 AM Martha Circle 12:00 PM Martha Luncheon 6:00 PM Pot Luck 7:30 PM Choir	5 Food Closet	6 7:30 PM IPCN	7 7:30 PM IPCN
8 Mother's Day 9:45 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	9 Food Closet 10:00 AM Balladeers	10 10:00 AM Esther Circle 7:00 PM Ruth Circle 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM IPCN	11	12 Food Closet	13	14 7:30 PM IPCN
15 Pentecost 9:45 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 12:30 PM: Session Meeting 2 PM: POJ Youth James River Clean Up 3 PM: IPCN	16 Food Closet Newsletter Deadline 10:00 AM Balladeers	17	18 7:30 PM Choir	19 Food Closet 9 AM: Triad Meeting 6:30 PM Presbyterians	20 7:30 PM IPCN	21 7:30 PM IPCN
22 9:45 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship Confirmation Sunday 12:15 PM: Prayer Shawl 3 PM: IPCN	23 Food Closet 10:00 AM Balladeers	24 8:00 AM Senior Advocates Law Day 7:00 PM Anna Circle 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM IPCN	25 7:30 PM Choir	26 Food Closet	27 6 PM: Girl Scout Movie Night 7:30 PM IPCN	28 7:30 PM IPCN
29 9:45 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM IPCN				
		Notes				

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7500 Hull Street Road

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Phone: 804-276-1749

www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

May



Chapel in the Woods **Beginning Sunday, June 5th**

Worship in the outdoor chapel will begin at 8:45 AM and will conclude by 9:30 AM to allow for transition time to Sunday School.

Outdoor worship will not always replicate the regular 11:00 AM worship service.

Communion on June 5th will be at the 11:00 AM service only.