



From the Pastor

It is Saturday afternoon.

Thunder bares its loud voice. Rain spatters down sounding like popcorn popping in a pot. A good time to get this written. The lady in Southminster's office needed this two days ago. I am searching. A book I read. A line I can't remember. Books. They play hide and seek. The older I get the better they hide. Where are you? Not here. Neither here. Or there. Then I see it. In a back corner of the shelf. Hidden behind books and files and framed pictures.

A small pot. A tiny orchid. Two perfect pinkish-violet flowers smiling at me. Wordless beauty. Creation's blooms whispering song into my being.

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the wonder thy hands have made, ,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed,
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!*

*And when through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!*

(Hymn 625)

I bow in humble adoration and proclaim in completely off-note song; "My God, how great thou art!" I don't think I am mistaken. Them pinkish-violet flowers are making eyes at me...or is it God?

Oh yes. The book. The "self-hider". I will search for you again. Find you, but till then; thanks for hiding. You started this off. Finding God in unexpected places.

God is always there to be found...in the everyday little things. Unexpected places. Lurking to be set free inside you and me.

Blessings

Rev. Jock O'Connell

Manchester Concert Series Welcomes “The River Trio”

Join us on Saturday, May 6th at 4:00 PM for the third installment of our Manchester Concert Series. We are excited to welcome back Demas Boudreaux, former music director for Southminster Presbyterian Church, and his ensemble, "The River Trio."

The River Trio has been making music together for over a decade, offering mid-twentieth century jazz standards and the songs from before and around the Second World War. Typically, they play at private parties and events, but the group has offered to play for our Manchester Concert Series to help restock the Food Closet. Currently, Demas is music director at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Oregon Hill and is delighted to come "home" to Southminster to see so many of you from years ago.

Admission to the concert is \$10.00 per person in support of the musicians, plus one non-perishable item for the Food Closet. This concert is open to the public. Please invite your family and friends!

Southminster Arts & Crafts Jam

Sunday, May 14, 2023 ~ 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

On Mother's Day Sunday, May 14th Southminster will hold an "Arts & Crafts Jam" in the Fellowship Hall prior to worship. Do you paint, knit, or draw? Quilt, sculpt, or make jewelry? Whatever your medium, whether you are complete beginner or a master of your craft, we want to see what you can do! Reserve a table and exhibit your work.

You will find registration forms and guidelines in your Sunday bulletins. We will have 27 tables available, and they will be assigned on a "first come, first served" basis. (Tables are available to Southminster members only.) You will have the option of selling your work, just exhibiting it, or a combination of both! You must reserve your table by May 8th.

We can't wait to see what the talented members of our congregation can do. We hope you will make time to take a look around the Fellowship Hall on the morning of May 14th.

Church In The World

Food Closet Update

As of April 18th, our Food Closet has provided food for 103 families (a total of 357 individuals) for 2023. Our Food Closet is supplied partly through our church budget, and partly through generous donations of food and money from our members, friends, neighbors, and community partners.

For those of you who shop regularly you know how much the cost of food has gone up just since January. To date, Southminster has spent \$5,206.36 to fill in shortages in our Food Closet. We could not keep going without your help and the help of our partner churches who collect food on our behalf. We are also exceptionally grateful for the service of our volunteers who are drawn not only from Southminster's congregation, but from Lyndale Baptist and St. David's Episcopal Church. By working together we can make a huge difference in our community.

Southminster Scholarship

The youth and young adults in our congregation have been blessed by the generosity of former and current members who contribute to our Scholarship Fund, helping our young members with college expenses. All eligible Southminster youth are encouraged to apply for the Southminster Scholarship.

Applicants must be confirmed members of Southminster and attend at least two worship services or church-sponsored events each year. Applications and guidelines will be available at the church. Applications are due by June 15, 2023.

Stewardship Awareness

The Session has discussed a need we see for better communications with the congregation in certain areas. One of those areas is in our mutual participation in stewardship – both our individual resources and our volunteered time. Those matters are reviewed in our annual church meeting but a lot of information is reviewed quickly then because of the shortage of time. It has been proposed that smaller “pieces of all the facts” about our stewardship might be better understood in the form of regular, brief reviews in this monthly newsletter. This is the first of these planned bits of information. We hope you find them helpful in understanding the church’s missions and routine expenditures.

This month two items in the approved budget are noted:

Our contribution to the Presbytery of the James for the various local, national and foreign missions and associated expenses - \$5,000 for the year or about \$417 per month.

Our total expenditures to pay our basic, building utility bills. Specifically, this is the total for electric power, water and sewer service and natural gas - \$23,500 for the year or about \$1,960 per month.

We are most grateful that our members are participating in the stewardship of their financial resources and volunteered time to continue our Lord’s work here at Southminster. Thank you!

Facilities

Spring Work Day Report

Thank you so much to the volunteers who participated in Spring Work Day on April 1st: Brown Pearson, Clay Spillman, Anthony Pais, Frank Grier, Jacob Wetzal, Jerry Davis, Dennis Stone, Riki Stone, David Huff, ChiChi Huff, Rich Kowalski, and Laura Pearson.

Thanks to all their hard work, Southminster is refreshed and ready to launch into summer!

<p><u>Presbyterian Women</u></p> <p>Martha Circle May 3rd at 10:00 AM Conference Room</p> <p>Ruth Circle May 2nd at 2:00 PM Conference Room</p> <p>Anna Circle May 2nd at 6:30 PM Debbie Greenberg’s residence</p>
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Bible Fun Week 2023

Save the Date: July 24th – July 28th

Calling all parents and grandparents, neighbors and friends! Before you know it, summer will be upon us, which means it is time to save the date for Bible Fun Week. Come learn and grow in faith with us as we explore Heroes in the Bible! Through stories, songs, crafts and activities we will once again bring God's Word to life. Come join in the fun. Invite your friends and neighbors.

Bible Fun Week is open to children ages 2 through 5th graders. (We ask that children who are not potty trained be accompanied by a parent or caretaker.) We encourage older youth to come and participate as young leaders. Look for sign up forms and more information in the Narthax and on the church website. An organizational meeting for volunteers who wish to help will be held on Sunday, May 7th after church in the Parlor. For more information, please contact Laura Pearson.

Rev. O'Connell on Leave in June

Rev. Jock O'Connell will be on leave from June 10th – June 27th. During this time Southminster's worship and pastoral care needs will be in the capable hands of our pulpit supply pastors, with the guidance and support of the Southminster Session and office. We wish Rev. O'Connell and his family safe travels and a pleasant holiday.

Outdoor Worship 2023

Outdoor worship will begin on June 4th. We'll see you on Sundays at 9:00 AM in the Chapel in the Woods!

Session Highlights

- Gary Smith presented an update on the live streaming upgrade with explanation of software/hardware needs and installation plans.
- Donna Alexander has signed a contract to begin providing financial reporting support beginning June 1. The monthly budget figures were presented and reviewed.
- Jennifer Weddle and Laura Pearson are working on pulpit supply for the Sundays in June, August and September that Rev. O'Connell will be gone.

Disaster Relief Mission Trip ~ Coming in May

Once again, I am putting a team together to help with the recovery from Hurricane Ian in Southern Florida. We have been to Little Gasparilla Island, Florida twice, and they were devastated. However, the damage also goes deep inland. This trip is being sponsored by the Presbytery of the James, with logistics and accounting provided by Southminster Presbyterian Church and myself, Brown Pearson. The dates are **May 13th through May 21st, 2023**. We are going inland this trip to Hardee County, FL to the town of Wauchula. It is a small community with much devastation and not much help so far.

As usual, we need able bodied people who can get in there and get to work. Any skill level is helpful at this point in time. These people will have been over 6 months and homes are still a mess. We are scheduled to be doing rebuild. I am looking forward to having a team of 24.

We have a place to stay with a kitchen. We will need to cook our own meals, so we can either get a volunteer to be our cook, or we can divide the job up. We will need our own air mattresses (or use their cots) and sleeping bags.

I promise you three things – 1. We will do manual labor (at your own pace) and you just might develop a skill you never thought you would have – 2. You will have one of the most positive experiences of your lifetime – 3. You will be making a huge difference in the lives of a number of very grateful people.

If you have an interest in being a part of this mission, please contact myself, Brown Pearson, at cbpearson3@erg-homes.com. I will be delighted to answer any questions you might have.

Directory Updates

Gary Pond
804-873-6776

David Reeser
804-664-2843

Becky Rowan
New Cell: 804-245-2567

Lynne Harper Reeser
804-516-6258

Southminster Notes

Dear Southminster,

Thank you so much for your kind donations for the Easter Egg Hunt. Your treats filled many colorful eggs and brought happy smiles to the children. Thank you for your generosity! Thank you to Lynn Hodges and the awesome setup and clean-up crews, and all the families who joined in the fun.

Easter joy and blessings to all,
Joyce Grier and Mary MacKenzie Swenck

May Birthdays

- 2 Bobbi Briggs
- 9 Guy Dixon, Doug Briskman
- 10 Ron Howlett
- 12 Ron Crenshaw
- 13 Bob Hall
- 14 David Stahl
- 15 Margaret Hall, Ryan Willis
- 16 Linda Abercrombie
- 22 Laura Pearson,
Kate Bunkholt, Owen Bunkholt
- 23 Ron Witcher, Melody Clopton
- 24 Elizabeth Waldron
- 25 Susan Pharr
- 28 Patricia Shade
- 29 Wendy Briskman, David Reeser

May Anniversaries

- 10 John & Carolyn Surber (47)
- 17 Mike & Cindy Ferguson (25)
- 21 Jeff & Tammy McDonald (39)
- 24 Ron & Cindy Howlett (42)
- 30 Mark & Tracey Williams (30)

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

May Schedules

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

Communion Team

May 7: Team 4

Elder Greeters

- 7 Robin Lapsley
- 14 Frank Grier
- 21 Mary MacKenzie Swenck
- 28 Jennifer Weddle

Facility Stewards

- 7 *TBD*
- 14 *TBD*
- 21 *TBD*
- 28 *TBD*

Ushers

- 7 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams, Pat & Rick Abbott
- 14 Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams, Pat & Rick Abbott
- 21 Dennis Stone, Margaret & Jim Hall
- 28 Dennis Stone, Margaret & Jim Hall

Food Closet

- 2 Jane Williams, Ann Potts
- 4 Shelley Murray, Rose Spradin
- 9 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 11 Bonnie Kowalski, Frank Grier
- 16 Jane Williams, Rose Spradin
- 18 Melba Jolly, Frank Grier
- 23 Mary Stahl, Ann Wilkins
- 25 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski

Southminster Presbyterian Church

May 2023

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	2 Food Closet 2 PM: Ruth Circle 6:30 PM: Anna Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	3 10 AM: Martha Circle 4:30 PM RISC Team Mtg. 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	4 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	5 3 PM: LVS Cooking 7:30 PM: IPCN	6 4 PM: Manchester Concert Series 7:30 PM: IPCN
7 Communion 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	8 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	9 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	10 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	11 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	12 7:30 PM: IPCN	13 7:30 PM: IPCN	
14 Mother's Day 9 AM: Craft Show 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	15 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	16 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	17 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	18 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	19 7:30 PM: IPCN	20 2 PM: Piano Recital 7:30 PM: IPCN	
21 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	22 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	23 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	24 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	25 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir	26 7:30 PM: IPCN	27 7:30 PM: IPCN	
28 Pentecost 10 AM: Adult Sun Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	29 Memorial Day Office Closed 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	30 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	31 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)				
			Notes				

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office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

May 2023



**Arts & Crafts
Exhibition**

**Sunday, May 14, 2023
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
in the Fellowship Hall**

Details inside

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