



From the Pastor

Dearest Soutminster

In 1985, on my first day at Seminary, I felt at home parking my 1972 Ford Escort amongst many same age and older cars. No flashy new cars in our parking area. My Escort? Well it was roadworthy. Great for getting from point A to B, but less good from A to Z. Applying the brake caused a medium amount of shudder and squealing from somewhere underfoot. The steering wheel? Well it was less exact. If you turned it, the Escort would eventually change direction. Not always the intended one. It took some skill to keep it on the road. Going into any turn at 60 miles per hour, a nightmare. At 70 miles per hour – only downhill – even on a straight road was a rollercoaster ride.

Reminded of my basic military training. Left, right, left right. The parade ground. The drill Sargent putting us through our marching paces. There was always one guy blessed with two left or right arms or feet!! You have seen it...when the left arm and leg are in sync but actually totally out of sync because they should not be in sync. That was my Escort on the road. At any speed 60 miles per hour and above. Working that steering wheel left and right as you gave it your all to keep it on the road.

Then it happened. One of our classmates was a “well off” older gentleman. He was a Chiropractor who had his own practice for many years and as a seminarian, still practiced his profession after class. He pulled into the parking area with a brand spanking new BMW, red two door coupe. Oh man. What a car. What a car.

“I bought it for the driving experience. When I took it for a test drive, I entered Piet’s Corner (a notorious S-bend just outside Stellenbosch with a speed limit of 40 miles per hour) at over 100 miles per hour. Never lifted my foot from the gas. Never not in control of it. It just kept its line. That was a driving experience” he told me. I just looked at him. “How much did you pay for the Beemer?” He answered me. I just looked at him. You could buy a small house back then with that money. Said to him “You call that a driving experience? You could have borrowed my Escort and took on Piet’s Corner at 60 miles per hour. That is a driving experience!”

From now till January we are in for a high speed church experience.

Children’s Halloween egg hunt. Manchester Concert Series. All Saints Sunday. Commitment Sunday. Thanksgiving. Baptism. Care Group Commissioning. Lessons and Carrols. Christmas Eve Service. Installation of new elders.

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AND...Sunday 19 November we will have a special early holiday-season service. The morning will kick off at 9:00 AM with a craft sale and coffee in the Fellowship Hall. At 11:00 AM we will move to the Sanctuary for a music jam of carols and other Christmas songs presented by The Balladeers, along with scripture reading and a short sermon.

Included in our togetherness in the sanctuary we shall celebrate the life of Ada and Jim Park in a very special way. We shall continue celebrating the Parks with a reception in the Fellowship Hall for the congregation.

All I can say is, hold on: Piet's Corner is awaiting Southminster. At 100 or 60 miles per hour, the next couple of months are going to be an experience. Left, right. Left, right. Hang on.

Blessings

Rev. Jock O'Connell

Southminster Children's Choir

Calling all children: Here is a wonderful opportunity to sing! Our own choir director, Kimberly Ryan, will be offering Children's Choir practice this fall.

The Children's Choir will meet for four rehearsals, after worship on **November 5th, November 12th, December, 3rd, and December 10th**. Each rehearsal should take only 15 – 20 minutes. The children will learn one Christmas song that will be sung along with the Adult Choir during their performances on December 17th and 24th. You do not need prior experience and all voices no matter how small are welcome. For more information, please contact Kimberly Ryan.

Church In The World

CCHASM Thanksgiving Baskets

Every year, CCHASM works with area churches to put together non-perishable food items for their Thanksgiving baskets. To help them reach their goal for 2023, Southminster has pledged to contribute 30 baskets. We are proud to report that as of this newsletter printing, we have assembled 12 baskets.

Food may be brought to the church through **Sunday, November 5th**. You can find the shopping list in your Sunday bulletin and on our website. Be sure to check out our tracking board at the back of the sanctuary to see what items we are short on.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously to the Thanksgiving Baskets this year!

Commitment Sunday

Join us on Sunday, November 12th for Commitment Sunday! Please bring your pledge cards with you to dedicate during worship as we celebrate our commitment to God’s mission at Southminster for the coming year. Stewardship season is the time to take a step back, give thanks, and remember why our faith community is so important to us. So I hope you will join us on Sunday, November 12th!

Leadership & Planning

Nominating Committee 2024

Nominations are now being taken for **active members** to serve on the 2024 Nominating Committee. Any active member may volunteer or submit names of individuals to serve on the committee. The 2023 Nominating Committee will put together a recommended slate for the 2024 Nominating Committee. You may submit names by using the inset in your Sunday bulletin or by sending your nominations to the church. Nominations should be placed in Jennifer Weddle’s mailbox by **November 26th**.

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

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

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

Anna Circle
November 6th at 6:30 PM
Debbie Greenberg’s residence

Beginning this month, Anna Circle meetings will be on the first Monday of the month

The Manchester Concert Series: The Common Folk Trio

The Manchester Concert Series is pleased to announce an addition to its 2023-2024 line-up. On Saturday, November 4th at 4:00 PM we will welcome The Common Folk Trio to our Sanctuary.

According to the members of the trio, "The Common Folk Trio engages the audience with their vocals and adept guitar, banjo, and mandolin renditions of the popular folk music of the 1960's combined with more contemporary songs that adapt well to this styling. Playing songs made popular by The Kingston Trio, Woody Guthrie, Peter, Paul & Mary, and Jimmy Buffet, the Common Folk Trio provides insightful introductions to the songs, blending historical perspectives with humorous anecdotes that entertain as well as inform."

The doors will open at 3:30 PM. The suggested donation for admission is \$10.00 per attendee in support of the performers, along with one non-perishable food item for the Food Closet. This event is open to the community, so please invite your family and friends.

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 5th is All Saints Sunday. On this special day each year we take a moment to pause and remember all the saints we have lost in the last year. We will have a special moment in our worship service to honor the Southminster members who have died since last November. We also want to make space to remember any friends or family you have lost this year.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Southminster will be participating in the annual Community Thanksgiving Service at Lyndale Baptist Church on Tuesday, November 21st at 6:00 PM. Southminster's own Rev. Jock O'Connell will be preaching at this year's service. We encourage all Southminster members who are able to join their neighbors in the spirit of thanksgiving and fellowship.

The Thanksgiving Community Offering will be in support of CCHASM and its mission to better the lives of our friends and neighbors.

Session Highlights

- On Sunday, November 19th our worship service will include a Celebration of Life for our beloved Jim & Ada Park.
- A Pastor Nominating Committee has been established and will meet every second Wednesday to discuss the mission of the Southminster congregation and our vision for the future.
- On Sunday, December 10th we will officially commission the Southminster Care Team.

2023 Poinsettia Dedications

Poinsettia dedications are a wonderful way to remember and honor loved ones during the holiday season. The poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary on December 10th and 18th.

Order forms will be available in the bulletins beginning in November. You may also order by contacting the church office at office@southpreschurch.org. We are still awaiting information about pricing. Orders must be received by Monday, November 27th.

Thank You To Our 2023 Rise Against Hunger Team!



Directory Updates

Jane Conrad

Anthology of Midlothian
11210 Robious Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23235
804-674-9328

Sandy Stegall

7309 Jackson Arch Drive
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Winki Lampe

Updated Room No.
Watercrest Senior Living
5250 Grandin Avenue
Room #1
Moseley, VA 23120

Southminster Notes

Dear Southminster Friends,

Many thanks for your comforting words and supportive acts during my mom's illness and at her passing. Your words of encouragement, the calls, cards and Jock's delightful visit with Al and I, were appreciated more than you know. I am very grateful and blessed for the Southminster family.

With love to you all,

Karen Stafford

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

November Birthdays

- 1 Ron Hepp
- 3 Rick Schaffer
- 4 Patricia Ervin
- 5 Robin Lapsley
- 7 Amanda Bunkholt
- 8 Rick Abbott
- 11 Donna Medicus, Eric Stahl
- 12 Jean Derrenbacker
- 13 David Huff
- 15 Tammy McDonald
- 16 Debbie Dugger
- 17 Caroline Solaimani, Brian Singleton
- 23 Jim Dugger
- 25 Andrew Swenck
- 26 Mike Cifelli
- 27 Mark Williams
- 28 Melanie Miller, Tim Weddle
- 29 Mel Bookman

November Anniversaries

- 2 Katie & Justin Roland (4)
- 3 Jane & Brent Tarter (23)
- 5 Andrew & Natira Bookman (10)
- 5 Andrew & Marit Smith (7)
- 7 Gary & Anne Smith (42)
- 19 David & Lynne Reeser (6)

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

November Schedules

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

Communion Team

November 5 Team 2

Elder Greeters

- 5 Laura Pearson
- 12 Robin Lapsley
- 19 Frank Grier
- 26 Mary MacKenzie Swenck

Ushers

- 5 Jerry & Cheriene McCall, Clay & Debbie Spillman
- 12 Guy Dixon, Marsha Lane,
Gail DeCosta, Tracey Williams
- 19 Rick & Pat Abbott, Margaret & Jim Hall
- 26 Guy Dixon, Marsha Lane,
Chuck Greenberg, David Huff

Food Closet

- 2 Cheriene McCall, Ann Potts
- 7 Frank Grier, Shelley Murray
- 9 Melba Jolly Cheriene McCall
- 14 Mary Stahl, David Stahl
- 16 Bonnie Kowalski, Gail DeCosta
- 21 Ann Wilkins, Rose Spradin
- 23 *Closed for Thanksgiving*
- 28 Jane Williams, Mary Stahl
- 30 Shelley Murray, Ann Potts

Children's Sunday School

- 5 The Ten Commandments – Laura Pearson
- 12 The Battle of Jericho—Lynn Hodges
- 19 Naomi & Ruth—Lynn Hodges
- 26 TBD—Melanie Miller

Southminster Presbyterian Church

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 AM: Martha Circle 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	2 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	3 7:30 PM: IPCN	4 4 PM: Manchester Concert Series 7:30 PM: IPCN
5 Communion 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 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: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	8 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	9 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers	10 6 PM: Girl Scouts Sleepover 7:30 PM: IPCN	11 Veterans Day (8 AM: Girl Scouts Out) 9 AM: IPCN (FH) 7:30 PM: IPCN
12 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	13 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	14 Food Closet 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	15 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	16 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers 6 PM: Surreywood Annual Meeting	17 7:30 PM: IPCN	18 7:30 PM: IPCN
19 9 AM: Craft Sale 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	20 12 PM: Chair Yoga 6 PM: BSA Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	21 Food Closet 6 PM Comm. Thanksgiving at Lyndale Baptist 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	22 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	23 Thanksgiving Office Closed 10 AM: Balladeers	24 Office Closed 7 PM: IPCN (Sanc)	25 7 PM: IPCN (Sanc)
26 10 AM: Adult Sun. Sch 11 AM: Children's Sun Sch 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 PM: Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM: IPCN	29 7 PM: IPCN Class (FH)	30 Food Closet 10 AM: Balladeers		
		Notes November 4th: Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before bed! Daylight savings time ends on November 5th.				

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

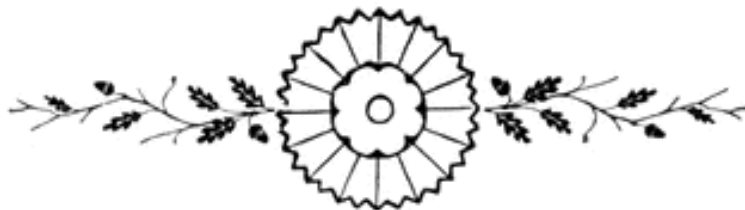
Return Service Requested

November 2023

Commitment Sunday

November 12, 2023

Join us for service at 11:00 AM



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.