



### ***From the Pastor***

This month in honor of Rally Day on September 8<sup>th</sup> I want to share an excerpt from the blog *The Plural Guild* by Lenora Rand: My daughter Hannah coaches girls’ softball, so I occasionally take time to watch these pre-teens run around a field, attempting to catch and throw and make it home safe. On the surface, it is idyllic, so lovely and simple and sweet. A beautiful summer moment in middle America. However, I was a 12-year-old girl once myself. So watching them, all at various stages of shedding their childhood and moving into the next phase of their lives, made me think about myself at that age. And here’s the truth. I didn’t feel lovely and simple. I felt awkward and ugly, jumbled and unsettled, sad and lonely. Somehow, I suspect, just beneath the surface, a few of those girls might have been feeling a little of that too.

I remember one summer evening in particular – I was at a park too, not to play softball, but for a church picnic. On the outside I may have seemed fine, but inside I was close to tears from how gross and unlovely I felt. I couldn’t quite imagine how I was going to get through my life. I felt ready to give it up. I was just going through the motions, helping to watch the little kids. Then suddenly, one of the young moms came over to me. I thought she was there to check in on her 2-year-old. But this woman, MaryAnn, who also happened to be my Sunday School teacher that year, just stood next to me, touched my arm, and said, “Lenora, I really like you.”

“What?” I asked. “What did I do?”

“Nothing,” MaryAnn said. “I just really like you.”

I’ve never forgotten that moment. It was just a few seconds, but it’s stayed with me all my life. That small gesture broke through the despair I was slogging through, and gave me a little hope to hold on to. I woke up this Saturday morning thinking about MaryAnn and all the Sunday School teachers I had along the way, all the ones I’ve known and others I’ve watched from afar, all who inspired me to teach Sunday School myself a time or two. All the teachers who will be up and out the door early this coming Sunday morning, who will be out there, in smelly basements and hot little attic rooms in all kinds of churches, across every denomination, hugging kids, feeding them snacks, telling them stories, wiping their noses, and holding them when they’re scared.

Then it hit me-- I never said thank you. I never said thank you for the hours of preparation and sacrifice, for how they shared their creativity and passion, not perfectly, but wholeheartedly. How they gave themselves, heart, soul, mind, and strength, to help a bunch of kids who were not their own. When I look back, what they did, week after week, was amazing. And hard. I know because I’ve tried it myself. It takes a lot out of you. And frankly, too often, you don’t always get a lot of kudos for doing it. So this month let us all take some time to say thank you to all those Sunday School teachers who have loved us when we felt unlovable, and liked us when we couldn’t yet like ourselves. Let us say thank you to those women and men who have in some way given us a glimpse into God’s unconditional love. Thank you.

*Caitlin Dwyer*

### **September Highlights**

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## Rally Day

Celebrate Rally Day with special music from our Sanctuary Choir, a new sermon series, and an all church potluck! Make sure to bring a side dish to share, our planning team will provide the main dish. Sunday school participants of all ages (yes adults too!) are invited the sanctuary at 10AM for a special Sunday school blessing. We will recognize all of our wonderful teachers and celebrate the children moving up to the next age group, before sending each class on their way with a blessing to begin a new year of deepening their faith.

If you are new to Southminster or are interested in joining a new class—please join us! All of our adult and children's classes are always open to including new friends.

## Announcing a New Class for Fall 2019: Creative Worship Team

All youth and adults are invited to join Rev. Deyerle in the sanctuary each week at 10 am to plan creative elements of our weekly worship. Are you interested in drama, art, music, writing, or video? The new Worship Arts Team will prepare creative scripture readings, skits, interactive prayers, decorations, children's lessons, special music, and more for upcoming worship services. Our teenagers and young adults will take special leadership of this team, but adults of all ages are welcome to join in the fun.

## *Church in the World*

### Southminster Food Closet

Southminster's Food Closet has provided food for individuals and families experiencing difficult situations through our partnership with CCHASM (Chesterfield Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry) for decades. This is a wonderful ministry where you can show compassion and care to our guests—our neighbors by listening to their stories of stressful and sometimes overwhelmed times in their lives, affirming them as precious children of God in the midst of struggle and brokenness, and praying with them.

We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 until noon and currently staffed by volunteers from Southminster and Lyndale Baptist Church. We serve as many as 4 families scheduled by CCHASM each day. Volunteers assemble bags with groceries for our guests that provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner for 3-5 days.

Do you feel called to volunteer with the Food Closet? If so, please contact Shelley Murray for more info at (804) 897-3571 or [shelmurr@hotmail.com](mailto:shelmurr@hotmail.com).

### School Supply Report

Thank you, Southminster! Because of your generosity we packed 73 backpacks for special needs, low income children in Chesterfield County. When each caseworker picked up their backpacks they told me how excited the children were when they received them and how thankful the families were for making their children feel special. One case worker said that one of her children asked when school ended last year if she thought they would get one again this year. She told him she didn't know and hasn't told him one is coming yet. She said he will be so excited when she delivers his new one this year. Again, thank you for making a lot of children smile.

*Gail DeCosta*

## Finance

### Online Giving

Do you ever wish that you could give to support your church in the same simple ways you shop online or pay your bills?

Southminster is upgrading our online giving option to make it more accessible. Starting on September 15<sup>th</sup> we will switch to a new giving plan through the Presbyterian Foundation. It will allow you to give online using your credit or debit card and even set up regular donations on your preferred schedule. Never forget your checkbook or run out of cash again! Just pull out your phone and make your offering.

Think you will miss your weekly ritual of placing your offering in the plate? We are also introducing new online giving tokens. Take one each week to put in the offering plate, symbolizing your personal gift to God. Stay tuned for details on Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Leadership & Planning

### Session Retreat

On Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> the Southminster Session will meet for our annual retreat at the Presbytery of the James Office. This year we will focus around the theme of Stewardship with guest speaker Deborah Rexrode, Presbytery of the James Associate for Stewardship. Please pray for our church leaders, both current and incoming elders, as they plan for the future of our congregation.

## Facilities

### Our Facility At Work

Southminster always strives to provide a welcoming and pleasant environment for our members to come together for worship and fellowship. But we also strive to find ways to use our facility to serve our wider community.

On Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> Dominion Energy will hold an open house meeting in the Fellowship Hall from 5 PM – 7 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to Surreywood residents about an upcoming project to bury power lines in the neighborhood. Southminster was approached by Dominion due to our space and our proximity to Surreywood.

We are happy to be able to open our doors to help both our members and neighbors stay informed about ongoing improvements in our community.

### Presbyterian Women

#### **Ruth Circle**

September 3rd at 2:00 PM  
Conference Room

#### **Anna Circle**

September 3rd at 7:00 PM  
Betsy Zehner's residence  
*Carpool will meet at church at 6:15 PM*

#### **Martha Circle**

September 4th at 10:00 AM  
Parlor

#### **Esther Circle**

September 10th at 10:00 AM  
Fellowship Hall  
*This will be a short meeting led by  
Rev. Deyerle to discuss the future  
of Esther Circle.*

## Congregational Meeting

The 2019 Southminster Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate Anne Smith, Eddie Pearson, and Rich Kowalski as the Session Elder Class of 2022. Please join us for the called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 29th after worship to elect the new class.

We would like to thank the Nominating Committee of 2019 for all of their hard work in ensuring that Southminster's Session elders represent the integrity and energy needed to help set the church's vision, determine its direction, and design the ministries and mission initiatives of the church over the next few years. A big thank you to James Deyerle (Moderator), Ron Hepp, Wendy Hevener, Laura Pearson, and Rev. Deyerle (Ex-Officio).

## Join the Sanctuary Choir

In the words of Psalm 100: "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord...Serve the Lord with Gladness. Come before His presence with singing..." September is almost here and with it comes the return of our wonderful Sanctuary Choir. We want to extend a warm welcome to anyone who'd like to join us this year. Here's your chance to serve God and our congregation with gladness and singing!

Our choir's primary mission is to serve the worship community, and we have fun every step of the way. All levels of musicianship are welcome. In rehearsals, we will strengthen music reading skills and singing technique. We rehearse every Wednesday from 7:00 PM -8:00 PM, and Sunday mornings from 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM. Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday September 4th at 7:00 PM in the choir room. All are welcome! Email [keliseryan@gmail.com](mailto:keliseryan@gmail.com) for more information.

## Sunday School Children's Choir

Starting in September, Kimberly Ryan will be leading children's choir every week during the first part of Sunday school. Our first rehearsal will be on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>. See you there!

*Kimberly Ryan  
Director of Music*

## Flower Dedications

Sanctuary flower dedications are now open for fall. If you would like to dedicate flowers to celebrate a special occasion or loved one you may sign up for any available Sunday on the wall chart in the office wing. The donation to dedicate flowers is \$35.00.

## Session Highlights

- Brown Pearson represented the Session with new lighting options for various areas of the church which will provide better light with a significant cost savings. He also presented a chart with safety recommendations for the church and a ranking on timing for implementation.
- Approved chairpersons for Ministry teams for the next term to include Joyce Lapsley for Leadership and Planning; Jerry Davis for Church in the World; Brown Pearson for Physical Facilities and David Huff for Finance.
- Approved Sunday School teachers and curriculum for 2019-2020.
- Received reports from the Personnel, Scholarship, Nominations, and Finance Committees.
- Approved the 2018 Financial Review Memo.

## **Bible Fun Week 2019**

Bible Fun Week this year was a super blast! This year we had 16 participants and were able to have two classes, the Mini Minnows(Children under 3) and the Mighty Minnows(Children Over 3). We told the Story of Creation, and what a story it was. At one point, I could not tell who was having more fun, the parents or the children as we designed our Creation Mural. Caitlin Deyerle led our singing and what a joy it was to hear "This Little Light of Mine". We had so many volunteers from parents, to friends, to grandparents and we cannot thank you enough. Most of all what a privilege it was to share God's Goodness and Love with all who attended and those who helped!

*Laura Pearson*

## **Flu Shot Clinic**

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 2 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Our local Rite Aid store pharmacist will once again sponsor a Flu Shot Clinic at Southminster Presbyterian Church. Getting a Flu Shot is one of the most important health related activities that you can do. It helps to prevent Influenza. Look for Informational flyers as well as a Sign Up Sheet in the Narthax. There will also be pneumonia shots available. For questions, contact Laura Pearson at 804-387-3913.

*Laura Pearson*

## **Remember in Prayer**

Please pray for our military personnel, Sue Carlton, Rachel Clay, Jean Collier, Bob Davis, Matt Davis, Carolyn Griles, Bob Hall, Ann Kearns, Bev Lamberton, Marsha Lane, Alberta Lindsey, Shirley Martin, Jane McGee, Earl & Donna Medicus, Adele Robertson, Billy Smith, Liz Snead, Dave Thomas, Howard Vann, Ryan Witcher.

## **Directory Updates**

**Marty & Dixie Kovacs**

804-839-7292

(Cell Phone)

## **Southminster Notes**

Dear Southminster Family,

Words cannot express how touched and appreciative we are of your loving and generous kindnesses and, most of all, your prayers during the last five months. You have been with us throughout hospitalizations, surgery, and recuperation and then since our daughter Genie's death and then our house fire. You continue to sustain us with your love and your prayers. Thank you.

*Joyce & Robin Lapsley*

With sincere gratitude,

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the prayers and love you have extended to our family during this time of loss.

*The family of Carli Vendetti  
Niece of Chuck & Debbie Greenberg*

## September Birthdays

- 2 Carson Crenshaw
- 3 Ryan Endries, Betty Smith
- 5 John Lampe
- 6 Lynda Reed
- 8 David Carter
- 11 Gene Rhodes, David Singleton
- 12 Tom Murray
- 14 Matt Davis
- 18 Gail DeCosta
- 19 Alberta Lindsey
- 21 Martina Mazzamuto
- 22 Virginia Wagstaff
- 23 Richard Jordanger
- 24 Mike Bowser
- 25 Rich Kowalski, Casey Brammer
- 28 Phillippa Solaimani
- 30 Mary Ann Hepp, David Knight, Norma Poole

## September Anniversaries

- 1 Mel & Linda Bookman (46)
- 5 Mark & Pattie Pinchbeck (21)
- 6 David & Kerry Knight (16)
- 8 Don & Diane Watkins (40)
- 10 Robin & Joyce Lapsley (36)
- 11 Jerry & Aileen Davis (48)
- 12 Jim & Ada Park (60)
- 13 David & Mary Stahl (32)
- 16 Rich & Bonnie Kowalski (52)
- 16 Curtis & Karen Radt (39)
- 23 Rick & Ann Schaffer (30)
- 27 Bob & Betsy Zehner (53)

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

## September Schedules

### Communion Teams

Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>: Team 3, Intinction

### Elder Greeters

- 1 Tracey Williams
- 8 James Deyerle
- 15 Kitty Bice
- 22 Jan Belote
- 29 Marty Kovacs

### Facility Stewards

- 1 Mark Endries
- 8 Matt Briggs
- 15 Ben Nwoke
- 22 Bob & Marty Griffin
- 29 Brown Pearson

### Ushers

- 1 Kathy Liesfeld, Pat Thomas,  
Ron Hepp, Jacob Wetzel
- 8 Kathy Liesfeld, Pat Thomas,  
Ron Hepp, Jacob Wetzel
- 15 Frank & Joyce Grier,  
David Huff, Terry Liendecker
- 22 Frank & Joyce Grier,  
David Huff, Terry Liendecker
- 29 Dianna Scott, Laura Pearson,  
Jerry Davis, Matt Briggs

### Visitation Team

- 8 Aileen & Jerry Davis
- 15 Jan Belote
- 22 Jan Belote
- 29 Karen Stafford

### Food Closet

- 3 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski
- 5 Jane Tarter, Lyndale Baptist
- 10 Terry Liendecker, Mary Stahl
- 12 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski
- 17 Melba Jolly, Margaret Hall
- 19 Mary Stahl, Lyndale Baptist
- 24 Terry Liendecker, Lyndale Baptist
- 26 Shelley Murray, Jane Tarter

# Southminster Presbyterian Church

## September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Communion</b> 8:45 AM: Outdoor Worship 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: First Sunday Prayers 3 PM: IPCN	<b>2 Labor Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 10 AM: Balladeers 6:30 BSA Scouts	<b>3 Food Closet</b> 2 PM: Ruth Circle 7 PM: Anna Circle 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>4</b> 10 AM: Martha Circle 6 PM: Pot Luck 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>5 Food Closet</b> 12 PM Chair Yoga 7 PM: Presbyterians	<b>6</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>7</b> 7:30 PM IPCN
<b>8 Rally Day</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Fall Picnic 3 PM: IPCN	<b>9</b> 10 AM: Balladeers 6:30 BSA Scouts	<b>10 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Esther Circle 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>11</b> 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>12 Food Closet</b> 12 PM Chair Yoga 7 PM: Presbyterians	<b>13</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>14</b> 7:30 PM IPCN
<b>15</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Kahliah 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN 6 PM: Praying For Our Schools Event	<b>16</b> 10 AM: Balladeers 6:30 BSA Scouts	<b>17 Food Closet</b> 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>18</b> 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>19 Food Closet</b> 10 AM: Triad Meeting 12 PM Chair Yoga 7 PM: Presbyterians	<b>20</b> 6 PM: Girl Scout Movie Night 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>21</b> 9 AM: Session Retreat 7:30 PM IPCN
<b>22</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	<b>23</b> 10 AM: Balladeers 6:30 BSA Scouts	<b>24 Food Closet</b> 5 PM: Dominion Energy Open House 7 PM: Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>25</b> 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>26 Food Closet</b> 8 AM: Lifeline Screening 7 PM: Presbyterians	<b>27</b> 7:30 PM: IPCN	<b>28</b> 7:30 PM IPCN
<b>29</b> 10 AM: Sunday School 11 AM: Worship 12 PM: Congregational Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	<b>30</b> 10 AM: Balladeers 6:30 BSA Scouts					
		Notes				

**SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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[office@southpreschurch.org](mailto:office@southpreschurch.org)

Return Service Requested

**September 2019**



**Rally Day**

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

12:00 PM Fall Picnic

Join us as we celebrate the start  
of a new Sunday School year.

Would you like to receive your newsletter electronically?

Send an email to [office@southpreschurch.org](mailto:office@southpreschurch.org) with *Add Me To Newsletter List* in the subject line.