



SOUTHMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 2017

www.southminstertaylor.org

new
Life



... just as Christ was
raised from the dead
through the glory of
the Father, we too may
live a new life. ROMANS 6:4

From the Pastor



As I look forward to 2017, it feels like we're stepping into the great unknown. I'm writing this in the waning days of 2016 and the nominations for incoming administration assure us that change is in the air. The culture in which we live is increasingly fractionalized with religious differences often being a factor in the splitting-apart-into-camps process. The technology that was supposed to

empower us to live together (the Internet and the electronic communications revolution) has contributed to a kind of self-imposed isolation. Sociologists from a generation ago didn't see this coming.

We Presbyterians are a big-tent people and a world divided into smaller tribal groups isn't a natural fit for us. Most of the time, change happens so slowly that it is almost imperceptible, then we come to the transition from one epoch to another and everything seems to reconfigure right before our eyes. In many respects, we seem to be at one of those epochal moments. What will these momentous changes mean for Southminster Presbyterian Church in Taylor in 2017?

Times of transition demand that we focus on what is central. It seems to me that our defining question in 2017 should be: "what is the 'business' of the church, why do we exist and what is our role in the community of Taylor?" As resources like volunteer time and dollars are stretched, it is imperative that we focus on our main tasks and prioritize our activities. 2016 was about lots of new things, but we need to evaluate those new things like *Discovery Zone* against our core mission. Just because it exists doesn't mean

that it is a good investment of time, energy, effort and dollars. Everything we undertake, new and old, needs to pass a simple litmus test: “does it help us fulfill our mission?”

In the year ahead, you will hear a lot about the mission of Southminster Taylor. There is a leadership retreat the third weekend in January where we will be focusing on defining the mission of Southminster Church; the results of that work will become part of our church-wide conversation. Being very specific about our mission will allow us to begin to measure what we are doing in light of what we hope to accomplish. My hope is that 2017 will be a time when we bring more focus to our life together, when we make strategic investments of effort, time and money based on our long-term objectives.

2017 should be an interesting journey. I don't think any of us can guess where the journey will take us, but we are committed to taking the journey together and choosing our course along the way guided by our communal mission and the voice of God's Spirit as we understand it.



Nurture

Wendy Woodley / Marnie Winkleman

Happy New Year!

Thanks to everyone that helped the Nurture team during 2016, we really appreciated your continued support. We're looking forward to another exciting new year with more opportunities of interaction with the young people of our church. We'd like to get

a few more consistent volunteers to assist Marlene Jones in the Nursery program. If you're interested, please let Marnie or Wendy know.

The goal of the Nurture team is to mature intentional followers of Jesus Christ so that they may go out and serve our world. We've taken some steps toward reaching this goal with the Discovery Zone programming. The children and adults have been enjoying this learning time together and the interaction between adults and young people has made things fun. Discovery Zone has been very informative and all have been looking at scripture in a new perspective.

Pastor Clint is starting off the new year with an 8 week biblical series on King David. He also intends to be teaching a courses for our adults on Bible Study 101, Presbyterianism for Beginners and Church Polity during the upcoming months.

Youth ministry coordinator, Gina Savastano has an eventful schedule planned for the older youth of the church. Structured regular meetings have been set as well as outreach and entertainment activities. The middle school youth group will meet with Gina here at the church for a regular meeting on January 15th at 4:00 p.m. The high school aged youth will meet January 8th and again January 29th at 4:00 p.m. for their regular meeting at church.

The first outreach event of the New Year will take place on January 5th. The middle school and high school aged youth will volunteer their time helping others at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit. They will meet at the church at 8:15 a.m. and return back to church around 1:00 p.m.

On January 22nd there will be a monthly entertainment activity including both age groups. Youth will go to Zap Zone for Laser Tag/Glow-Golf or they may be going ice skating at Campus Martius downtown.

Friends in Christ, our kindergarten through 5th grade youth group will meet on January 28th from 1 to 3 p.m. for bowling at Score Lanes. On February 10th there will be a Valentine Extravaganza at 6:00 p.m. at the church. The children will make Valentines, enjoy snacks and games.

A Confirmation class for youth wanting to join the church will be starting this month. A several month discussion and learning time will be conducted prospective confirmands. Gina Savastano will be assisting Pastor Clint in mentoring. Upon completion the youth will join the church around Easter. Please let Pastor Clint know if you have a young person interested in confirmation class.

Expressions

Michele Hintz / Kandi Wood

The entire Expressions Committee would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed this Advent Season to the “Season of Giving” Project. A summary recap is as follows:

- 1) We delivered 71 Crock Pot Packages to Fish & Loaves to be distributed to their clients. Each contained one crock pot, a serving spoon, spices, \$10 Aldi gift card and a limited ingredient (5 ingredients on average) Crock Pot Recipe booklet to help with meal preparation. This is one way to help the food insecurity issues in the Downriver community by providing tools & means to enable clients that may not have an oven at home. Please remember to also support Gardner White, as they donated 48 of the crock pots that we used!!



2) We participated in supporting Christnet the second week in December at Journey of Hope on Pardee by staffing and preparing meals for two of the nights and collecting coins for laundry. There were 28 guests this year and a very rewarding experience for all. We appreciated all the help whether it was preparing and serving meals, or giving up half of your night in a very busy season!

3) We are continuing to collect into the New Year for our project at the Iturisho School in Kenya. Starting out as a school with 2 pupils under a tree, they have grown to over 250 students and have their first 7th grade this year. They are in need of items for school improvements, such as a water tank to provide for fresh drinking water. There are special envelopes for this project designated “Ceason’s of Giving” for the collection towards this project. We have hopes of establishing a long-term relationship with the school, rendering future opportunities to help and serve.

Grief Share will begin on Thursday, January 19 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. and continue for 11 weeks. Kandi Wood is one of Southminsters’ facilitators for this group. If you know of anyone in our community who would benefit from this compassionate class, please encourage them to call the Church Office at 313-291-0122 to register. The classes are free to those attending, but a count is important for booklets.

January meeting will kick off establishing which projects we would like to focus on for the upcoming year – we welcome all to attend if you would like to help plan and participate in these Outreach Projects!

School Project: We are still looking for volunteers willing to spend some time tutoring/reading with elementary students at Kinyon School. If you are interested, please see Michele or Kandi for more information on how to become involved.

Next meeting: Committee Day – Sunday, January 8th at 3 p.m.– we would like to encourage anyone interested in joining the Expressions Committee to come to our next meeting and learn about how YOU can help spread God’s plans for helping our community needs!

Book Club

Joyce Rowley

We had an absolutely delightful time sharing our Christmas themed stories on December 9!!!! Some stories were read aloud to us, some stories were told to us. Some were love stories, some were mysteries. Some were children’s stories and some were stories for people of all ages. Regardless of theme, all stories were enjoyed!!!!

Note the order of the books that will be read in the coming months:

January 13 – Woman of God by James Patterson

February 10 – Innocence by Dean Koontz

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we always gather about 10:30 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, in either the

Double Classroom or Fellowship Hall and are generally on our way by the Noon Hour. We are a very informal group and we always are happy to see new faces. Please remember it is not necessary to have read the book – if you would like to join us, just to see what our discussions entail, we would welcome your presence. As we always say, “Give it a try – you may find you will like it”, or “life is too short not to try something new” 😊

January Volunteers

Lay Liturgist	Dave Fraser
Communion Setup	Mary Cline, Sharon Puschaver, Nancy Gillespie
Pew Patrol	Tony Savastano
Coffee Clean Up	Tony Savastano
Communion Clean Up	All Deacons

Session Motions and Notes

Connie Dainus

1. Motioned by Nurture to allow the Middle/High School Youth to overnight at the Church on Friday December 16 from 7:00 p.m. to Saturday December 17 at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried
2. Motioned by Expressions to amend the motion made by Expressions on November 20, 2016 (Page 1973) to read: “requesting to direct the Seasons of Giving offering we receive to the Ilturisho Primary School in Narok, Kenya for

the purpose of funding school improvements, benefitting the children and the community. Motion carried

3. Motioned by Building and Grounds that we purchase the Memorial Plaque Tree of Life from Sanford Werfel Studio in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 Motion carried
4. Motioned by Building and Grounds to purchase furniture (2 loveseats & 2 chairs) from American Interiors in an amount not to exceed \$5,500.00 and additional Narthex furnishings not to exceed \$1,500.00 for a total not to exceed \$7,000.00. Motion amended to be funded from Memorial Fund. Motion carried
5. Motioned by Finance to receive the gift of \$6,000.00 in Stryker stock from Marilyn Neuder. Motion carried
6. Motioned by Rich Pratt and seconded to place #1974 Melissa Dingess, #1922 Gregory Ward, # 1962 Eileen Tetz and #1901 Karen Ostrowki on the Non-Participant roll. Motion carried
7. Motioned by Dale Simon and seconded to hold the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation on Sunday, January 29, 2017. Motion carried
8. Motioned by Finance to approve the 2017 Annual budget. Motion carried
9. Motioned by Finance to transfer the balance of fund account #3.4500 (\$647.29) to account #3.4000. Motion carried

10. Motioned by IT to transfer \$500.00 from IT line item to IT fund account. Money to be used to replace/repair hardware. Motion carried

Senior Luncheon

Kay Snaddon

Please join us on Monday, January 9th at 12:00 Noon. The menu will be Spaghetti, dessert and beverage. The usual donation of \$3.00 is appreciated to help defray the cost. It is always nice to get together with our friends and share this wonderful meal.

Starting in 2017, your newsletter will be placed in the Fellowship Hall where lunch is held and you can pick them up at this time. This helps with our postage costs and thank you!

Mark your calendars for lunch on February 13, 2017, at noon. The menu will be Swedish Meatballs, vegetable and dessert.

Calendar Notes

Birthdays January

Veronica Dor	1-1	Carolyn Koziol	1-14
Kathryn Hutchinson	1-2	Don Hardy	1-14
Nancy Fraser	1-3	Pat Borieo	1-20
Marvin Litogot	1-3	Alexander Fraser	1-22
William Cairns	1-5	Ashley Nowak	1-22
Nikolai Stiles	1-8	Phyllis Hunt	1-31

Memorials

Memorial Garden upkeep

Lawrence and Cynthia Rogna

Upcoming Dates

1. Rachel Circle Jan. 2, noon
2. Men's Square Jan. 3, 17, and 31 at 7:00 p.m.
3. Capuchin Soup Kitchen Jan. 5, Youth 8:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
4. Degreening of the Church Jan. 7, 10:00 a.m.
5. Bowling Jan. 7 and 21 at 6:00 p.m.
6. Committee Day Jan. 8. 3:00-6:00 p.m.
7. Deacon Meeting Jan. 8, 11:30 a.m.
8. Youth Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29 4:00 p.m.
9. Senior Lunch Jan. 9, noon
10. Ruth Circle Jan. 11, 10:00 a.m.
11. Book Club Jan. 13, 10:30 a.m.
12. Session Jan. 15, 3:00 p.m.
13. Annual Reports due to office Jan 15.
14. Leadership Retreat Jan. 20-21

15. Sarah Circle Jan. 22, 6:30 p.m.

16. Annual Report and Meeting of the Congregation Jan. 29

Building and Grounds

submitted by Bruce Aue

As we look back on 2016, you may have noticed the big changes to the Narthex. The ceramic tile leading all the way up to Fellowship Hall, the drywall covering the block cement walls which is painted a light gray that brightens and makes the area appear larger, and is finished off with white molding.

The project is not quite complete. A storage bench will be built in the coat room and we will be getting a new vinyl floor in the Adult Classroom.

As we look forward to 2017 we will see the new furniture that we ordered arriving within 4-6 weeks. Session has approved the purchase of the Memorial Tree of Life which will enhance our new Narthex walls. We are hoping to have that before Easter.

We are excited about the changes but know that there is still much more work ahead for an aging building. If you find this kind of work exciting, please join our Building and Grounds committee.

I personally want to thank the committee members for all their hard work and dedication. Well done Laurie Barclay, Mary Cline, George Smith, Ron Wells, Mark and Teri Donnan, WELL DONE.

Youth

Giovanna Savastano

First, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped out and participated in all of the events up to this point. I appreciate it very much, and am very much looking forward to the new year!

We are going to begin in January with an outreach event to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit on Thursday, January 5th. We will be leaving the church at 8:15 a.m. and will return at approximately 1:00 p.m. Then there will be just a regular meeting for the 9th-12th graders at the church on January 8th, from 4:00-5:00 p.m. and then one for the 6th-8th graders on January 15th, at the same time. We will go to Zap Zone on January 22nd. We will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m., and return around 6:00 p.m. To close out the month, there will be another regular meeting for the 9th-12th graders at the church from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Giovanna

Prayers

For those healing in the hospital:

John Fields (The Lodge, Taylor) David Grove (Beaumont, Taylor)

We pray for those healing at home:

Ken Renner, Pat Morton, Sharilyn Bullion, Mary Wright, Joyce Rowley, Nan Bouchard, Arnold Aue, Don Hardy, Elda Moore, Laurie and Tim Barclay, Nancy Gillespie

We pray for those needing long-term and emotional support:

Debra Creech, Patricia Kurish, Donna Clark, Joe Kurish (daughters and son of Elda Moore); Katherine Hutchinson; Laura

Mount (daughter of Fred Mount); Jerry Pawelczyk (friend of Shirley Petlicki); Ralph Schall (uncle of Hope Lambrix); Kasey Morgan (daughter of Jackie Carlman); Sheila Morais; Dorothy Davies (friend of Judy Nowak); Barbara Willis and Ron Wilder (friends of Terri Donnan); Sue Landis; Kara Westra (awaiting liver transplant 15 yr.old); Tammy Lathrup & family, Mickey Corcoran & family (friends of Stephanie Pratt); Keith Oliver (Nancy Gillespie's grandson); Chuck Stevens; Carol Barnard; Vorrey Holmes; Darcy Matthies; Miriam Soln (niece of Nan Bouchard); Ed Schenken (friend of Jean Page); Brian (friend of Gloria Olsowy); Linda Solis (Sue Grove friend); John Ciado (nephew of Nan Bouchard); Ann Rowley Smith (Joyce's daughter); Brenda Price (Cash family); Michelle Sample (Dale and Vicki Simon's daughter); Sandy Tipshus (Vicki Simon sister); Nancy (Marlene Jones family) Jay Warren (Dave Calendine friend) Patricia Epperson & Phyllis Marken (Pat Tucker family); Kathy Jacobi (Karen Miller sister); Brendon Cozier-school God's perfect & peaceful plan; Kristy McMillan (Patty Lalinsky friend); Alicia Bertine, Ron Torella, (Kandi Wood friends,); Carol Politi, Carol Drumm (Shirley Aue friends); Paula Schultz (Laurie Barclay friend); Wayne Tetz (Terri Donnan family); Dave Consiglio (Sue Frederick friend); Andrea Green, Karen S. (Daniel Bartok friends); Jamie Crigger (Phyllis Hunt friend); William and Brenda Martnelli (Friends of Southminster); The family of Dorothy Jansen on her recent death.



We pray for those who serve our country:

Our President Elect and Officials; President, Robert Fraser
Bradley Schleicher II, Kevin Moody

Southminster Presbyterian Church
21845 Wick Road
Taylor, MI 48180

Weekly Worship Schedule:

Family Worship Service	11 am
Discovery Zone (Learning Time)	10 am
Middle and High School Groups	10 am

Return Service Requested

Contains Time Sensitive Information
Please Do Not Delay Delivery