



SOUTHMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2017

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From the Pastor

Southminster has a new church mission statement! At its April meeting, the Session approved a new mission statement that has been under development for some time. It says simply that the job of Southminster Presbyterian Church is:

to participate in what God is doing in our world by calling, nurturing and equipping, and sending out followers of Jesus.

I'm normally a skeptic of spending time working on mission statements; I find that organizations spend too much time writing captivating and cutting-edge words and invest too little time and effort expressing their words in actions. In our case, I did feel that our former mission statement was too broad and didn't help Southminster to focus and prioritize tasks, objectives and resources. The new statement is explicit: the reason Southminster Presbyterian Church exists is to participate in what God is doing in our world. Everything starts with a simple (biblical) foundational statement: the Creator God still actively participates in the creation. Sometimes God moves in familiar ways which strike us as expected; other times God works in new and unexpected ways. By listening to a myriad of voices (the Spirit, the Bible and our neighbors to name a few), we come to some understanding of what God is doing.

Asking the question "what is God doing in our world" is the starting point for our work this spring and summer. We will be going out into our community (Taylor and the Downriver area), asking questions, listening to what others are saying and observing. As a community, we will unpack what we are hearing and seeing; we will pray for God's guidance and a willingness to hear the voice of the Spirit as we together try to understand what God is doing right here and right now.

The church in the New Testament was simply an extension of Jesus' function as a rabbi (teacher / master) to his disciples. Jesus invested heavily in passing his life, actions, and teachings on to those he had gathered

together. He then sent them out to multiply the influence of his life and teaching. The church exists to continue the process of gathering, growing and teaching, sending. Southminster Presbyterian Church contributes to what God is doing in our world by inviting people who want to be followers of Jesus to become part of a community, then by helping them to discover who Jesus is and what Jesus wants of those who claim to be his followers. Those who join in following Jesus have two needs: to be cared for (nurturing) and to become deeper and more intentional followers of Jesus (equipping). Finally, the church sends out these mature intentional followers of Jesus so that they can participate in what God is doing in our world. The cycle (calling, caring and equipping, sending out) simply loops itself again and again. I've seen a tag line that captures this nicely: invite, disciple, send, repeat.

Our hope is that this mission statement will help us to focus on being intentional in our decision making and strategic in the way we use our resources. In the days ahead, many opportunities will present themselves. If we use this mission statement to measure the places into which we choose to invest, we will be faithful to God's design for our community. Remember, the reason we do what we do should always be:

to participate in what God is doing in our world by calling, nurturing and equipping, and sending out followers of Jesus.



Nurture

Marnie Winkelman/Wendy Woodley

Looking for a few more consistent volunteers (thank you those who have already volunteered!) to assist Marlene Jones in the Nursery during Discovery Zone and Worship service. Marlene is

taking vacation time off with her family so help is definitely needed on May 7th.

If you'd prefer watching a Veggie Tale movie with the young children, we have available spots for you. Additional volunteers will be needed during the summer months, as our regulars enjoy vacation time away. Please let Marnie or Wendy know if can help in one of these areas.



The Discovery Zone Biblical series begins April 30th and will continue through the end of May. Stories are based on the book of Daniel. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego will be covered in this series. Pentecost Sunday is June 4th and will conclude the Discovery Zone Sunday school hour until September 10th. Sunday, June 18th begins the summer worship schedule at 10:00a.m.

The Middle School aged youth group and High School youth group will meet at Southminster for game day with the Grosse Ile Presbyterian youth on Saturday, May 13th from 4 to 6 p.m. Weather permitting, they will be using our beautiful outdoor areas for many games and activities.

Friends in Christ Youth group will meet here at the church on Friday, May 19th from 6:30 to 8:30p.m. for family entertainment Retro Cartoon Night. Admission for kids \$1.00, adults \$1.00 plus

a donation of soda or bag of chips/snacks. Monies collected will be donated to the Iturisho school in Kenya.

We welcome three new young members to our congregation: Owen Hamilton, Bethany Hamilton and Sam Shinavier. They joined the church on Easter Sunday after several months of confirmation class work. These are wonderful young people, we are excited they have joined our membership.

Attention 2017 Graduates! We are aware that there are many graduating this year, please let us know what high school or university you are graduating from and the degree attained. We will recognize all 2017 graduates in worship on Sunday, June 11th at 11:00a.m. Please let us know if you have a graduate that deserves recognition. We would like to have a complete list by the middle of May. If you, your child, grandchild or another family member deserves recognition for a job well done, let Pastor Clint, Marnie, Wendy or the office know. We do not want to leave anyone out.

The planning sessions for Vacation Bible School have begun. The 2017 Vacation Bible School theme is “Cave Quest”. Vacation Bible School is Monday, July 31st through Friday, August 4th. This is a five evening program from 6:00p.m. to 8:30p.m..

Friends In Christ

submitted by Pat Fraser

Join us May 19th, from 6:30 to 8:30p.m. – Retro cartoon night; Bugs Bunny and Bullwinkle the Moose for your viewing pleasure. There will be popcorn and snacks and drinks. The cost: Kids are \$1.00 and Adults are \$1.00 & a bag of chips



or a 2-liter of pop. Money will go towards our continued support of the school in Africa

Look to June for a game night and/or miniature golf and ice-cream at “the Barn”. We will keep you posted.

Thanks a bunch,

Pat

Fellowship

Dave Fraser

We have some exciting things coming up. The Church picnic is June 4 right after service. The Deacons will be supplying hot dogs with all the works. The rest will be potluck.

We are going to the Toledo Mudhens again on Sunday July 2. We will be deciding on whether to stay for the fireworks or not.

Last but not least we have the Family Campout weekend August 25 thru 27. Come for the weekend or come Saturday and join us for the day and a potluck dinner followed by a Communion service.

Sign ups for all 3 events will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Expressions

Co-Chairs: Michele Hintz & Kandi Wood

Grief Share has wrapped up the first program of the year. We will begin another session in the Fall – please watch for more information closer to that time. This group is open to anyone who has lost a loved one – please share and invite this info to anyone who may benefit from this opportunity as it is open to the

community. There is no cost for this program, but registration is helpful to plan for enough materials. For further information, please contact Kandi Wood or the church office.

Southminster's own ANIMALPALOOZA! – SATURDAY, MAY 6th from Noon – 2p.m.. How cool would it be to see a Bald Eagle up close and personal!!! You will be able to do that if you attend this event, which is open to the Community as we share the wonders of nature with our neighbors. We will have Howell Nature Center here to offer their Raptor Program (live Birds of Prey on site doing demonstrations), including a very special guest named Kili the Bald Eagle. We are also excited to host Alexandria's Nature Bus, funded by a grant offered by the Spirit of Alexandria Foundation, started in memory of Alexandria Bennett. The foundation's mission is Connecting Children to Nature (more info at www.spiritofalexandria.org) and we are excited to be a recipient of this grant to further the love of nature and God's Creation to the children in our community. The Bus will offer hands on experiences of nature, in addition to the Raptor Program. We also will have a Petting Zoo on site, complete with a pony offering rides to children! Other activities include a bubble machine, crafts, games and snacks. There will be a chance to enter your name in a drawing to win some cool nature prizes! Pass the word around, invite your friends and families and lock in May 6th on your calendar!!! We will also be asking for help in different areas for this event – contact Michele Hintz, Kandi Wood, or anyone on Expressions to sign up!

LENTEN/EASTER OUTREACH PROJECT OUTCOME: “LIVING RIVERS IN THE DESERT”

For the Lenten/Easter Season, we ran our “Living Rivers in the Desert” project which continues to support the Maasai Mari

region in Africa, including Ilturisho School. A group from Montana has discovered a way to effectively bring water to the villages in the surrounding area. Due to gravity fed methods, water will soon be able to be delivered 3.5 KM (2.1 mi) to these villages which previously required walking that distance to the main tap, and then carrying the water back home. The costs are ~\$10K; over \$3K has already been raised from other sources. As we see this as the Holy Spirit truly at work, we are excited to help assist with the build for clean water.

With the collection of Southminster's Fish Boxes and Living Rivers Envelopes, we tallied almost \$1400.00!!!! A huge THANK YOU to all you supported this project as we work with God to help bring clean water to His people.

Next meeting: Committee Day – May 7th @ 3p.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 enjoyed our March 17th movie outing to see *The Shack*. It was interesting to see how God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit were depicted in the movie from their depictions in the book. All in all, we thought it was a good movie. We walked away with a more relaxed feeling than when we entered the movie.

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

May 12 – The Light Between the Oceans

by M. L. Stedman

June 9 – Underground Railroad

by Colson Whitehead

Please note that June 9 will be our last gathering until September. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we always gather about 10:30a.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” 😊

Thank You

Living Rivers

We have forwarded a check for \$1862.00 to Montana on a Mission to be used for the water project in South Africa. We wish to thank you, the congregation, for all your support.

Deacons

submitted by Nancy Gillespie



When people in need come to our door during Church Office hours with a food request we always give them addresses and phone numbers of where they can go to get assistance. Many of these people are in dire need of something to eat immediately.

Two suggested projects for 2017:

The Deacons will make up several small boxes with food that can be eaten immediately to hand them along with the list of places they can go for a larger supply of food

The Deacons are asking permission from our Session to build and maintain an outdoor Yard Based Food Pantry with items that the needy can have access to 24 hours a day. It would be restocked with donations from our church family and eventually it will become a community supported pantry and a way that people can feel like they are making a difference.

May Volunteers and Deacons

Communion Setup	Nancy Gillespie
Pew Patrol	Tony Savastano, Nancy Gillespie
Coffee Clean Up	Pat Tucker, Sharon Puschaver
Communion Clean Up	All Deacons
Lay Liturgist	Wendy Woodley

Session Motions and Notes

Connie Dainus

April 10, 16, 23 2017

Session Motions

Special Meeting April 10:

Motioned by Dave Fraser and seconded that the session of Southminster Church accepts the active membership of Owen and Bethany Hamilton upon profession of faith. Motion carried.

Motioned by Wendy Woodley and seconded to approve the baptism of Sam Shinavier, on April 16, 2017. Motion carried.

Special Meeting April 16:

Motioned by Dave Fraser and seconded that the session of Southminster Church accepts Samantha Shinavier into active membership by Profession of Faith. Motion carried.

Session Meeting April 23:

Motioned by Rich Pratt and seconded to adopt the following as the Southminster Presbyterian Church Mission Statement: “To participate in what God is doing in our world by gathering, nurturing and equipping, and sending out followers of Jesus”. Motion carried.

Motioned by Wendy Woodley and seconded to approve Pastor Clint’s vacation July 2 to July 29 (4 weeks including 4 Sunday’s) as vacation time, and one week of continuing education before July, timing to be determined by available pulpit supply and retreat plans. Motion carried.

Motioned by Dave Bullion and seconded that beginning on June 18, worship services revert to 10:00 a.m. through September 3. Motion carried.

Motioned by Rich Pratt and seconded to move May 21st session meeting from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00pm. Motion carried.

Motioned by the Nurture Committee to approve The Revised Child Safety Policy as presented by committee. Motion carried.

Motioned by Wendy Woodley and seconded to extend a scholarship opportunity to Owen and Bethany Hamilton for attendance at Howell Nature Center Camp this summer. The cost is \$385.00 per child. The \$770.00 total expenditure to be taken from the Special Offering fund #3.2250. Motion carried.

Motioned by Rich Pratt and seconded to take a Scholarship Fund offering on graduation Sunday June 11. Motion carried.

Motioned by the Expressions committee to request approval to accept the Spirit of Alexandria Bus Grant for \$750.00 to Howell Nature Center to bring the Alexandria’s Nature Bus, Raptor Program and Bald Eagle to Southminster for the Spring Animal Event, “Animalpalooza”. Motion carried.

Motioned by the Expressions committee to send \$450.00 to Ilturisho School to cover payroll expenses for the month of March to come from our budget. Motion carried.

Senior Luncheon

Kay Snaddon

Please join us on Monday May 8th at 12 Noon. The menu will be Sliders, beverage and dessert. 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. We started placing newsletters in Fellowship Hall for those who join us for lunch to help keep postage cost at a minimum.

Calendar Notes

May Birthday

Sharon Walker	5-4	John Fields, Jr	5-18
Antonio Savastano	5-5	Wauline Tunesi	5-24
Daniel Pratt	5-8	Bethany Hamilton	5-27
Robert Barclay	5-14		

May Wedding Anniversaries

William & Mary Wonnacott	66 Years
Thomas & Patricia Tucker	62 Years
George & Suzann Smith	50 Years
Charles & Judith Calderone	48 Years

Memorials

In Memory of Revalee Hutchens Phyllis Hunt

Upcoming Dates

1. May 1 Rachel Circle Noon
2. May 6 Raptor Program 11:00 a.m.
3. May 7 Committee Day 3:00 p.m.
4. May 8 Senior Lunch Noon
5. May 10 Ruth Circle 10:00 a.m.
6. May 12 Book Club 10:30 a.m.
7. May 13 Bowling Allen Park 6:30 p.m.
8. May 14 Mother's Day
9. May 19 Retro Cartoon Night 6:30 p.m.
10. May 21 Session 3:00 p.m.
11. May 22 June newsletter deadline
12. May 22 Garage Sale
13. May 22 Bowling 6:30 p.m.
14. May 28 Sarah Circle 6:30 p.m.
15. May 29 Memorial Day

Building and Grounds

Dave Bullion

I am glad to report that the Narthex project is COMPLETE. I know it was a long time coming and I appreciate everyone's patience. I believe it looks terrific and very inviting. My personal THANKS to all who helped (you know who you are) I couldn't have done it without you. Now we are free to move on to some other projects.



We are planning on refreshing the kitchen and adult classroom. This will entail a wide variety of things but mostly cleaning out and painting. We will not undertake these projects until after the Senior Lunch in June. All the work will be done with the help of volunteers. So keep your eyes peeled for a

date and time , if you are so inclined, come on out and lend a hand.

We will be holding the Garage Sale on 5-27-17. We will be accepting non- clothing donations at the Garage every Wednesday in May from 6-8:00 p.m. We will be having a spring cleanup on Saturday May 6 2017 from noon to 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



Youth

Giovanna Savastano

For the month of May we have a couple things planned. First, on Saturday, May 13th, the 6th-12th graders will be having an outdoor activities-type of fun-day. We will be combining at Southminster with the youth of Grosse Ile Presbyterian Church and the youth of St. Constance. There will be lots of games, such as Ladder Ball, Kickball, and Frisbee, as well as some snacks, and lots of fun! We plan on starting around 4:00p.m. in the afternoon! Second, there will be a Middle School Youth group meeting for 6th-8th graders from 5:30-6:30p.m. at church on Sunday, May 21st. Thank you!

Prayers

For those healing in the hospital:

Joan Watson (Glacier Hills, Ann Arbor)

We pray for those healing at home:

Vorrey Holmes, John Fields, Terri Donnan Pat Morton, Mary Wright, Joyce Rowley, Arnold Aue, Don Hardy, Laurie and Tim Barclay, David Grove, Jean Page, Evelyn Langlands



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

Debra Creech, Patricia Kurish, Donna Clark, Joe Kurish (daughters and son of Elda Moore); Kathryn 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 (friends of Terri Donnan); Kara Westra (Connie Dainus friend); Tammy Lathrup and family, Mickey Corcoran & family (friends of Stephanie Pratt); Chuck Stevens; Carol Barnard; Darcy Matthies; Ed Schenken (friend of Jean Page); Brian (friend of Gloria Olsowy); Linda Solis (Sue Grove friend); 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), Patricia Epperson & Phyllis Marken (Pat Tucker family); Kathy Jacobi (Karen Miller sister); Kristy McMillan (Patty Lalinsky friend); 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); Sue Grove tests, Success and understanding and safe journeys to and from school Veronica Dor, Flora Kibong, Yvonne Ngong; Ken Renner & Sue Landis; Elda Moore; Nan Bouchard; Steve Premo (Stephanie Pratt friend); Jack Tyre; Michael & Linda Crosby (Shirley Petlicki family); Kim Renner (Ken Renner's daughter); The Family of Revallee Hutchens on her recent death; Gordon Watson (Joan Watson family)

We pray for those who serve our country:

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

Southminster Presbyterian Church
21845 Wick Road
Taylor, MI 48180

Weekly Worship Schedule:

Family Worship Service 11 a.m.

Discovery Zone (Learning Time) 10 a.m.

Middle and High School Groups 10 a.m.

Return Service Requested