



**SOUTHMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA



1124 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia, AL 35216

**Thanks Be to God**

*"I thank my God every time I remember you." -- Philippians 1:3*

Everyone agrees – the church of Philippi was among the favorite Christian communities of the apostle Paul. He speaks to them with overflowing cadence of joy, hope, encouragement, and prayer. He thanks them for their enduring support of him, spiritual and financial, while he was imprisoned. He affirms their love of him and each other who bears witness to Christ's gospel.

So friends, though I have never been short on words, I see no need to improve upon Paul's. For as the Philippian church was to him, so you have been to me, as well as to Rachel and Nate.

I give great thanks to God for you as in these recent days your encouragement and love have shined forth in beautiful handwritten notes, heartfelt embraces and smiles, well-wishes and tears in the face of a new journey, a joyful celebration of shared ministry complete with a feast of fried food, and deeply generous other acts of spiritual and financial support.

But truth be told, your love and encouragement, your willingness to share the gospel of Christ, has always been present for the entirety of my ministry here at Southminster and even before. You may not have always realized it, but this place shaped me, formed me, echoed God's call to me long before you could distinguish my face from the many others who filled the Day School hallways or who spent the night on the floor of the "Backdoor" as part of youth groups not your own.

For such gifts, my thanks to you and to God go beyond words; and so my gratitude will have to be the calling card of my family's new ministry in Garner, North Carolina. Know that whatever I do there – whatever hope is renewed, whatever love is experienced, whatever gospel is shared – it is an extension of the grace you poured into my life. My ministry **will always** be connected to yours.

It could be no other way. For our paths have crossed too many times. God's presence has been too steadfast. May that holy presence always hold us together, even when we are apart.

God Be With You My Friends.  
Thank You.  
Amen.

Ben

*i thank  
my God*  
EVERYTIME  
*i think  
of you*  
PHILIPPIANS 1:3  
www.hollylansedesigns.com



# (In) Forming Faith

## CELEBRATING!

- **THANKS TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS!** As summer is upon us, our Sunday School class offerings change for adults, youth, and children. A special thanks to all the Sunday School teachers and leaders for all ages! **See elsewhere in the Sounds for more info about our Summer Offerings!**
- **WE HAVE A NUMBER OF GRADUATES THIS YEAR** from High School and College!

**High School:** **Hopper Coley** (Vestavia High School, will attend UAB), **Elizabeth Corcoran** (Mt. Brook High School, will attend Mississippi State), and friend of the church, **Noelle Thrasher** (Mt. Brook High School, will take a gap year before attending Rollins University in Orlando).

**College:** **Claire Dortch** (graduated in December from Auburn), **Madison Goodwin** (graduated in May from Auburn), **Patricia Howard** (graduated in May from Barnard College), and **Linze Slay** (will complete work at UAB School of Nursing in August 2018).

## EXPERIENCING!

- **LIVING RIVER SUMMER CAMP:** If you want your children, grandchildren, friend's children, students, or neighbors to have a life-changing, faith-forming experience, they NEED to go to Summer Camp this year – and what better place than Living River? Registration is live at <http://www.livingriver.org/>. Remember: **children go to camp because someone invited them to camp!** Invite someone today!
- **SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL:** See elsewhere in the *Sounds* for information about a combined adult and youth experience, and offerings for children during Sunday in June and July.

**Leaders needed for Children sessions! Contact Laura Bannon if you can help. (Volunteers must be oriented to our Safe Sanctuary policy and screened according to that policy.)**

## ANTICIPATING

Some dates to keep in mind for this summer:

- **July 7 - 14: Montreat Youth Conference**
- **July 22 - 25: Vacation Bible School.** See promo in this edition of the *Sounds* for our new evening VBS for Children of God of all ages (including adults!) on Sunday-Wednesday.
- **June and July Combined Summer Sunday School:** See note in *Sounds* about our Summer Faith Formation series on "Peacemaking."



## Wednesday Night at the Movies

Come join us Wednesday Night, **June 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM** to enjoy a "brown bag" supper and movie. Drinks and popcorn will be furnished. Our movie, "The End of the World Rocks," was written and directed by Bruce Hyer (former member and son of Cal and June) and takes place in West Virginia. come see Cal in his acting debut!

There will be a "kid" movie for the children as this movie would not hold their attention.

See you on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00!

## Fellowship Ministry Unit

### Ministry Units Meet

Congregational Care Ministry Unit will meet Monday morning, June 4th at 10:30 AM. Outreach Ministry Unit will meet Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM. The remaining ministry units - Administrative, Faith Formation, Fellowship, Generosity, Property, and Worship - will meet Wednesday evening, **June 6<sup>th</sup>**, at 5:30 P.M.

### Attention Session Members

Moderators are to submit Ministry Unit reports by Sunday, June 10th. All Session members are asked to pick up minutes, agenda, and reports following worship on the 10th in preparation for the Stated Meeting on **Monday, June 11th, at 5:30 PM in Grace Hall.**

### Cents-Ability Gifts



As you make preparation for Holy Communion on **Sunday, June 3rd**, remember that this day is designated for our Cents-Ability Offering (formerly known as Two Cents a Meal). Each month we remember the hungry of our community and the world with an offering that represents two cents for each meal of plenty we have partaken in the previous month. Our Cents-Ability gifts will benefit the Matthew Twenty-Eight mission in Haiti and our Presbytery's Congo Partnership.

## Clerk of Session Report

A summary of the actions taken at Session and Congregational Meetings since the last newsletter is as follows:

1. The Session approved calling a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 13, following the Worship service to concur with Associate Pastor for Education and Youth Ministries Ben Acton's request and recommend to Presbytery that his Pastoral relationship with Southminster be dissolved.
2. The Session approved recommending to the Congregation June 20 as the effective date of dissolution for the Call of Associate Pastor for Education and Youth Ministries Ben Acton with Southminster. The Session approved payment of the five-year anniversary service award to Ben Acton.
3. At the Congregational Meeting on May 13, the Congregation concurred with the Associate Pastor for Education and Youth Ministries' request and recommended to Presbytery that Reverend Joseph Benjamin Acton's Pastoral relationship with Southminster Presbyterian Church be dissolved effective June 20, 2018.
4. The Session approved the Property Ministry Unit recommendation to invite the Reverend Davis Bailey to preach at the Installation service of The Rev. Dr. Bryson on May 20.
5. The Session approved the Worship Ministry Unit recommendation to invite the Reverend Patrick Harley of UKirk Birmingham to assist in Worship leadership and Holy Communion on June 3.
6. The Session approved the Administrative Ministry Unit recommended Pastoral Sabbatical Leave Policy for inclusion in the Southminster Organizational Manual.
7. The Session approved the Administrative Ministry Unit recommendation to establish an escrow account for future Sabbatical Leave and transfer remaining budgeted funds for the Pastor Nominating Committee, after settlement of all outstanding debts, to the escrow account.
8. The Session approved the Faith Formation Ministry Unit recommendation for a Minute for Mission on June 17 for Vacation Bible School to advertise, recruit volunteers, and request supplies.
9. The Session approved the Faith Formation Ministry Unit recommendation to transfer the responsibilities of maintaining the confidential volunteer files related to the Safe Sanctuary Policy to the Church Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Christians*

## Southminster PW News to Know!!



Our 2018-2019 Coordinating Team Leaders were installed by The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Tom!

Co-Moderator/Vice Moderator:	Judy Boyes, Chris Coley
Treasurer:	Pat Goodman
Secretary/Historian:	Charlotte Worsham
Mission, Peace & Justice:	June Hyer
Circle 1 Chair/Vice Chair:	Charlotte Worsham, Christina Frederick
Circle 2 Chair/Vice Chair:	Sally Stephens, Nancy Alexander
Circle 3 Chair/Vice Chair:	Janet Nebrig, Patsy Van Kirk
Service Circle Liaison:	Belinda Dickinson
Columbia Friendship Circle:	Charlotte Worsham
Presbyterian Children's Home:	Marian Deslattes
Sanctuary Guild:	Connie Thorington

*SAVE THE DATE!!!*  
*SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN WILL HOST THE*  
*BIRMINGHAM EAST/WEST FALL GATHERING*  
*ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2018*

Registration: 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. ~ Brunch in Grace Hall  
Gathering Meeting: 10:00 am ~ in the Sanctuary

Co-Cluster Leaders, Belinda Dickinson and Charlotte Worsham, will contact Circle Leaders regarding our responsibilities for the Gathering.

The Rev. Debbie Feagin will present an overview of the 2018-2019 Horizon's Bible Study, "*God's Promises: I Am with You*," written by Amy Poling Sutherlun.

Circle Leaders will distribute our new study books in the coming weeks. As in prior years, please plan to pay for your book (\$10.00) when Circles meet in September.

## Summer Choir is Here!

It has been a wonderful year for the Southminster Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir. Now we begin our summer schedule. The choir will not be having regular Wednesday evening rehearsals, beginning now and lasting until August. Instead, we will gather in the Choir Room on Sunday mornings at 9:50 for rehearsal. This means that if you have not been singing in the choir because of the time commitment on Wednesday nights, you can join us now on Sunday mornings. This is a great time to visit the choir and give it a try. We'd love to have you permanently ... or just in the summer. Please think about it and join us when you can.

To God be the glory!

*Larry Hardin*





## Seeking a Safe Place for Our Children

Have you ever thought about helping with children's Sunday School or Vacation Bible School? Does spending time with our youth sound like fun to you? Southminster has a policy that those who serve in these essential roles must attend a meeting to learn about our "Safe Sanctuary Policy" and have a background check to check for any previous crimes against minors. Perhaps you are just curious about the Southminster policy and would like to learn more without having a background check.

There will be two opportunities this month, on Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> after worship or Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., to learn more about Southminster's policy. You are invited to attend either one, especially if you might like to be a part of our ministry with children and youth. Please call (223-1045) or email Janet Nebrig ([ajnebrig@charter.net](mailto:ajnebrig@charter.net)), if you would like to know more or would like to attend. We need to know you are coming because there will be a light meal served and we want to have plenty of our materials available.

## Summer Potluck Suppers

Our summer plans are underway, and we won't be having weekly Fellowship Suppers ... but don't despair, we will be having monthly potluck suppers!!! Make plans to attend on **Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**, brown bag dinner (drinks provided) and movie night. (See article elsewhere in this edition of *The Sounds of Southminster*); **Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>** for a potluck dinner, and **Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>** for a light dinner with a homemade ice cream social.

The fall schedule will begin **September 5<sup>th</sup>** with a meal and our Ministry Unit meetings. The following week, **September 12<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a congregational meeting for election of Session, and our annual Montreat report!

Mark Hopkins, Fellowship Ministry Unit Moderator

## In Generosity Let God Lead

"Still another seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown." -- Matthew 13:8

Jesus is well known for his parables (or seeds) and in daily life Jesus sows words and images of God throughout the community. How these seeds grow up in all of us varies from person to person and congregation to congregation and creates a rich diversity of lives listening and responding to God.

We can all be inspired to try some generous sowing of our personal talents and financial resources. But, think about this as you sow. Do you feel liberated? Irresponsible? How will you follow your generosity? Most importantly, where is God leading you through your giving?

Prayer: *Lead me, God, to move beyond fear to generosity. Open my life to the wonder of your creative activity in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

## Outreach News



Our annual Pentecost CANpaign is in full swing! Last year Southminster did a spectacular job bringing in cans for this CANpaign drive! Let's do it again! From now until July 1<sup>st</sup>, let's overflow the box located in front of Grace Hall with canned goods!! We CAN make a difference!

Mark your calendars for **June 23<sup>rd</sup>** for a workday at Jesus is Lord Ministries Church, where our own Dereck Stewart attends and ministers. The church is located at 828 Dartmouth Court in Bessemer, Alabama 35020. It will somewhat resemble a mini SOS Day here at Southminster! Look for a sign-up sheet on the Outreach bulletin board and more information to come. Lunch will be provided.

More First Light dates have arrived! We have four more opportunities to serve the women and children of this very special place. Please see the Outreach bulletin board for available dates. Contact Sara Brown or Heather Benoit with questions, hesitations, or meal ideas. We are here to make this a fun and service-filled experience.

Available dates:

Breakfast – Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Dinner – October, August 13<sup>th</sup>; Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>; Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

NEW TO SOUTHMINSTER!! Outreach now has a closet! We will be collecting non-perishable food items and travel-sized toiletries all year long! You will find the closet in the Youth and Family Room directly behind the sanctuary. There is a suggested list of items on the Outreach bulletin board. By having an ongoing collection, we will be better equipped to help places like GBM, First Light, and more when they are in need. Let's get those shelves stocked!

Sara Brown, Outreach Moderator

## Southminster Presbyterian Church Foundation for Ministry

The Southminster Presbyterian Church Foundation for Ministry seeks to bring Christ and His love to our local and global communities by awarding grants to selected charitable ministries consistent with the principles of Christian stewardship. Applications for grants to be awarded in the fourth quarter of 2018 are being accepted from June 1<sup>st</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. The grants process and timeline are as follows:

1. Applications are due on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Applicants will be notified on or before November 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. Funds will be disbursed according to the terms of the grant, generally at the time of the grant notification.
4. All grant recipients are required to submit an annual report on grant impact. The report is due by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following the award year. As a minimum, the report shall address how the program performed against its stated goals.

For additional details, go to <http://www.southminsterfoundation.com>.

# A Season of Peace



## Summer Sunday School for Adults, Youth and Children:

Adult, Youth and Children will be "Seeking Peace" this summer.

Adults and Youth will spend the time on "Peacemaking 101": exploring the Biblical roots of peacemaking, how early followers of Christ wrestled with this commitment, and how we might live that commitment out today.

Children will explore biblical stories of peace and compassion and, by the end of the summer create a Mosaic of Peace!

See below for a schedule!

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### Adults: "Peacemaking 101"

- June 3: What Is Peacemaking?  
Leader: Rev. Patrick Harley
- June 10: Biblical Roots of Peace  
Leader: Dr. Tom Bryson
- June 17: Peacemaking and Jesus,  
I  
Leader: David Stephens
- June 24: Peacemaking and Jesus,  
II  
Leader: Marilee Dukes
- July 1—Peacemaking @ The GA  
Leader: Mark Hopkins
- July 8—No Sunday School  
due to July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday
- July 15: Peacemaking In Music  
Leader: Dr. Larry Hardin
- July 22: Commitment to Peace I  
Leader: Dr. Tom Bryson leads
- July 29: Commitment to Peace II  
Leader: deNay Kirkparick
- August 5: Next Steps  
Leader: Dr. Tom Bryson

### Children: "Stories of Compassion & Peace"

- \*=leader(s) still needed
- June 3 Genesis 18:1-8:  
Abraham and Sarah's Guests
- June 10 Micah 6:6-8:  
What is Good!\*
- June 17 2 Kings 6:8-23:  
The Feast that Brought Peace\*
- June 24 Matthew 9:35-38:  
Jesus' Compassion\*
- July 1 John 5:1-9  
Jesus Heals on the Sabbath\*
- July 8—No Sunday School
- July 15 Luke 7:11-17:  
Compassion that Heals
- July 22 Matthew 25:31-46:  
Lord, When Was It?
- July 29 Luke 10:25-37:  
The One Who Showed Mercy\*
- August 5 Mark 10:17-27:  
The One Thing



## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Southminster Presbyterian Church  
1124 Montgomery Highway  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216  
Church: 205/822-1124  
Church Fax: 205/822-6739  
Website Address: <http://southminsterpcusa.org>  
E-Mail Address: [southmin@bellsouth.net](mailto:southmin@bellsouth.net)

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### Staff Members

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson, Pastor  
Rev. Ben Acton, Associate Pastor for Education and Youth Ministries  
Larry Hardin, Dir. Of Music Ministries  
David Renaker, Organist  
Jeanie Covin, Dir. Of Day School  
Betsy Murphy, Church Administrator  
Dereck Stewart, Sexton



# SOUNDS OF SOUTHMINSTER

## JOIN US FOR THE RIDE OF A LIFETIME!!!



Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> - Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

Light Dinner - 5:30 p.m.

VBS - 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

4 years old through completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade



But wait!! Adults, don't despair!!

For the first time in a long time at Southminster, VBS is now for  
you, too!!

Join us on a walk through the New Testament!  
Schedule the same as above.