



**SOUTHMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA



1124 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia, AL 35216

## A (Presby) BYG Update

As many of you know, Southminster has continued this year as one of the six churches in Presby BYG (Birmingham Youth Group) to provide a youth group experience for all the youth in those churches.

The impetus for this collaboration was a realization among the various church's leadership that combining resources could lead to a fuller and more faithful ministry than any one of the churches could currently do alone for the young people we are charged to nurture in faith.

To that end, this year Presby BYG has partnered with Alaquest Collaborative for Education (ACE for short) to dream, develop, and implement a "service learning" project to address an issue that our young people want to see change.

What is a "service learning" project? ACE defines this type of service experience as one that creates youth ownership and sustained involvement. Rather than be a one-time project or trip, a "service learning" project asks youth to work as a team over a longer period of time to craft a project they believe will make an impact. In the process, the youth learn about themselves, their strengths, their weaknesses, their community, even their faith, as much as they work with their hands.

At this point in our process, our Presby BYG group has been inspired to tackle what is admittedly a broad and maybe even intimidating issue in our world – inequality. The project they have settled on is a forum led by youth, for youth (and with adults in attendance providing support and solidarity), that will address how youth in particular might harness their God given gifts to reflect Christ's love in a way that tears down barriers of hostility and proclaims our unity as God's children.

Topics the forum may explore run the gamut from race relations, to economic injustice, to issues of discrimination based on gender and sexuality, to simple practices of civility so that even when we disagree on the solutions to our challenges, we can speak with love. Presby BYG will be inviting other youth groups to participate with them in this forum, including those of other faith traditions. In many ways, this project continues conversations Southminster has been having about "peace" since the first of this year.

A BIG part of this project, though, will be developing support for these young people as they put their faith into action in this way.

**One opportunity to lend your support (or even just a listening ear) will be on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, at Southminster. From 5 to 7 p.m., the youth of Presby BYG will host an informational and awareness dinner for their project with members of each church involved in Presby BYG. The group will ask for people's prayers, ideas, and other forms of support, including financial. *If you are interested in attending, please let me know and we'll save a spot for you.***

Thank you or what you have already contributed to the young people of Southminster over the years. May the Spirit continue to work among us to strengthen that bond of love and care so that all may know our common humanity as a gift from God.

The Lord Bless and Keep You!

Ben

# (In) Forming Faith

## CELEBRATING

- **SOUPER BOWL:** The annual youth-led Souper Bowl of Caring (February 1) raised an additional \$670.00 for GBM and our Rise Against Hunger campaign. Thanks for your generosity!
- **MARDI GRAS PARTY:** Our youth held their second Montreat FUNdraiser: the Mardi Gras celebration! A delicious Cajun potluck was enjoyed by all, with many King Cake babies found, and a Mardi Gras Pictionary game! Mark Hopkins won the "best dish" crown.

Generosity of spirit and the joy of fellowship abounded as we raised over **\$500** for youth attending Montreat with Southminster. "Merci beaucoup!" to all who donated food, time, energy, and finances to this ministry effort!

## EXPERIENCING

- **BRIGHT SUNDAY PREPARATIONS:** In March and April, Wednesday Night Fellowship programs for our children will consist of preparation for Bright Sunday - which is April 22<sup>nd</sup>! All children are invited to attend and take part!
- **BYG SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT!** Our combined Birmingham Youth Group (or BYG) ministry with 5 other Birmingham area PC(USA) congregations is developing a service learning project to address the issues of inequality in our culture and how the good news of Jesus Christ tears down the divisions we experience. We will host an information dinner about that project at Southminster on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 7 p.m. Let Ben know if you are interested in attending and learning more about this event! **(See Ben's column for more details.)**
- **YOUTH MONTREAT DEPOSITS ARE DUE!** Please get your \$100 in ASAP to reserve your spot for Montreat, July 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- **LENT SERIES: LENTEN PERSPECTIVES!** How do other Christian faith traditions approach Lent? What practices do they employ that might deepen Southminster's own practice? Come March 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> to hear from friends from Riverchase United Methodist and All Saints Episcopal to find out! Dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by program and communion at 6:35 p.m.
- **EASTER EGG HUNT!** Southminster's annual Easter Egg Hunt for the community will be **Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**, with the hunt beginning at 9:15 a.m. **Faith Formation invites you to donate plastic eggs and candy for those eggs. Donations can be dropped off in the basket outside of Grace Hall.**

## ANTICIPATING

Some dates to keep in mind for April and beyond:

- **April 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Bright Sunday
- **April 29<sup>th</sup>:** Youth Sunday
- **June: Living River Camps!** Go to <https://www.livingriver.org/summer-camp-information.html> to sign up your child, a neighbor, a family member, or whomever would love to be at camp! Volunteer opportunities are also available!



## Clerk of Session Report

The Session welcomed incoming Elders Curtis Eatman and Barbara Sansom to their first Session meeting. A summary of the actions taken by the Session since the last newsletter is as follows:

1. The Session approved the Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering on April 15, with a Minute for Mission on April 8.
2. The Session approved the 2017 General Assembly annual statistical report. Including the results of the active membership review conducted during the year, active membership changed to 282.
3. The Session approved updates to the Overview and ministry unit sections of the Southminster Organizational Manual recommended by the Clerk.
4. The Session elected Linda Carey, Patrick Riley, and Jim Prince as Session representatives on the Congregational Nominating Committee for 2018. Linda Carey was appointed chair of the committee.
5. The Session approved the Faith Formation Ministry Unit recommendation of a summer Sunday School schedule of a joint adult Sunday School Class and a joint children's Sunday School Class from Sunday, June 3, through Sunday, August 5.
6. The Session approved the Faith Formation Ministry Unit recommendation to change Rally Day to Faith Formation Sunday and hold it on Sunday, August 12.
7. The Session approved the Outreach Ministry Unit requested updates to the ministry unit section of the Southminster Organizational Manual.
8. The Session approved the Outreach Ministry Unit recommendation to designate the local 25% of the 2017 Peace and Global Witness Offering to The Well House.
9. The Session approved the Property Ministry Unit recommendation to hold the Spring SOS workday on Saturday, April 7.
10. The Session approved the Worship Ministry Unit recommendation to permit UKirk interns to serve Holy Communion on Sunday, March 4, when Reverend Patrick Harley preaches and shares in Worship leadership.
11. The Session approved the Worship Ministry Unit recommendation to host a program by the Montevallo University Concert Choir on Sunday, April 15, at 3:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary.
12. The Session approved updated job descriptions for the Church Administrator/Financial Assistant and Church Sexton recommended by the Administrative Ministry Unit.
13. The Session approved the Administrative Ministry Unit recommended updates to the Internal Accounting Control section of the Southminster Organizational Manual.
14. The Session approved the Administrative Ministry Unit recommended updates to the Money Counters section of the Southminster Organizational Manual.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Bill Christians*



## Let God Lead

*You shall take of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God gives you, and you put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place which the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there.  
(Deuteronomy 26:2)*

new Pastor. Thanks be to God!

Always consider God's leading when planning your giving to Southminster. He has led us to a new era in the life of our church with a

## Outreach Ministry Unit News



Thank you for helping us reach our \$2900 goal to help aid the fight against hunger. But our mission isn't done yet ... it's now Meal Packing Time! Please join us **Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 4 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church** to pack 20,000 meals! There is a job for everyone to do! Please sign up on the Outreach bulletin board. We hope to see you there!

There are still two dates left to help serve a meal at First Light. Please consider serving breakfast on March 18<sup>th</sup> or May 20<sup>th</sup>. Grab a group of friends, family, or colleagues to experience this wonderful opportunity. If you need meal suggestions or have any questions, please contact Sara Brown, Linda Carey, or Heather Benoit.

Matthew Twenty-Eight has their travel schedule set up for 2018. If you are feeling led to take a mission trip to Haiti, please check the Outreach bulletin board for more details. They are especially in need of those with a medical background: doctors, nurses, chiropractors, physical therapists, etc. Mark Hopkins is heading to Haiti with Matthew Twenty-Eight on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Let's remember to keep Mark in our prayers during his mission journey.

*Sara Brown*, Outreach Ministry Unit



## Easter Lilies

Our Easter Sunday Southminster tradition is to fill the chancel with Easter lilies. A mark of purity and grace throughout the ages, the white lily is a fitting symbol of the greater meaning of Easter.

The signup sheet and dedication forms are posted on the bulletin board outside of the Church Office. The cost of the lilies is \$10.00 per plant. Please turn in your money and dedication form to Betsy by Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>!

## Church Work Day



The Property Ministry Unit will be hosting a Spring SOS Day on **April 7th** for clean-up, fix-up, and minor improvements inside and outside the church, day school, and playground...in anticipation of welcoming our new pastor! All hands are welcome! Doughnuts and coffee will be on hand for early risers, with lunch to be provided around noon. We will start at 8:00 AM and knock off by 5:00 PM. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside of the Church Office. Your assistance and fellowship - for whatever time and energy you can spend with us - will be most appreciated.

*Mike Horton*, Property Ministry Unit

## Wednesday Night Supper and Programs

**March 14<sup>th</sup>:**

**Meal:** Chili Mac, Tossed Salad, Bread, Dessert.

**Program:** Lenten Series: Lenten Perspectives. Dinner at 6:00, followed by program and Holy Communion.

**March 21<sup>st</sup>:**

**Menu:** Easy Creamy Baked Chicken, Broccoli, Bread, Dessert

**Program:** Lenten Series: Lenten Perspectives. Dinner at 6:00, followed by program and Holy Communion.

**March 28<sup>th</sup>:**

**No Supper due to Holy Week and Spring Break**

**\*\*Make Reservations by signing the Attendance Form on Sunday or calling the Church Office, 822-1124, by Noon on Mondays\*\***

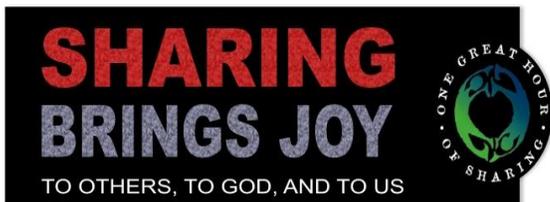


## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April *Sounds of Southminster* and calendar will be **Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**. That is the week of Spring Break ... so please get any articles or information you would like published in this edition to me as soon as possible. There is lots of exciting news to share ... so don't miss out!!!!

## Bunch for Lunch

Join us on **Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in Grace Hall** for another day of fun and fellowship. Bring your lunch ... drinks will be provided ... and let's play some SkipBo. This is a game that is enjoyed by all and a time to share much laughter and love. For more information, contact Evelyn Ellison!



SHARING RESOURCES CHANGING LIVES [www.onegreathourofsharing.org](http://www.onegreathourofsharing.org)

## One Great Hour of Sharing

Have you ever taught a child to fold their fingers inside their hands and say the rhyme, “Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people?” The wiggling fingers teach children – and adults too – that the church is not the building: the steeples, windows, or structure, but people gathering to worship God. There’s something else in the children’s rhyme. As the child breaks open their hands to reveal the “people,” they move their fingers back and forth, often as fast as they can. This simple move reminds us that the church is the energy and actions that share the love of Christ. When a disaster strikes, people give, volunteer, and pray so that those impacted receive help and hope, this is church. When poverty and violence cause hunger and people join together to respond to the need and address its church, day school, and address its cause, this is church. When injustice falls on those who are vulnerable, and people join hands with one another and lift their voices against the interests of power, this is church. The church is the Holy Spirit’s transforming power emanating into the world, sharing the compassion, justice, love and peace of Christ. Presbyterians join the movement of the Spirit into every corner of the Earth on Easter Sunday, through our churchwide One Great Hour of Sharing.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Our offering goes to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which restores streets to live in, works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters and supports for refugees; through Presbyterian Hunger Program by sharing bread with the hungry and taking action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and address the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed; through the Self Development of People who loose the bonds of injustice by partnering with communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educating Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

Please give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering collected on Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>!!

### Chancel Flowers



Many thanks to all who have provided flowers so far this year. There are still plenty of dates to share special significant events such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and memorials. There are several ways to sign up. First, there is a flower calendar outside of the Grace Hall entrance. Also, you can go to [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com). Go down to the bottom and click on Find a Signup. Enter the following address: [smpcusa@gmail.com](mailto:smpcusa@gmail.com) and click your way to the date that you would like. The week that you are donating flowers, please email Betsy at [bets\\_southmin@bellsouth.net](mailto:bets_southmin@bellsouth.net) or call her at 822-1124 and give her your bulletin dedication information.

Flowers just add that much more beauty to our sanctuary ... so sign up today!!



*A Journey Through Lent*

**Wednesday Night Lenten Series:**

March 14, 21

***Lenten Perspectives***

Dinner @6pm, Program and Communion @ 6:40 PM

*Guests will come from different churches  
to share their Lenten practices.*

**March 14: Rev. Nancy Harper,  
Riverchase United Methodist,**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Prayers for Peace:**

Every Wednesday from February 21-March 28

1:45pm-2:00pm in the Prayer Garden,

*(Will meet in Sanctuary if inclement weather)*

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**Lenten Studies:**

**Sunday School Classes** 9:00am-10:00am every Sunday **Devotional Materials**  
available in narthex and on table in between sanctuary and Associate Pastor's  
office

\*\*\*\*\*

**Maundy Thursday Service: March 29**

***Remember***

Service with Communion and Liturgy of Tenebrae

## 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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ALA.

### Staff Members

Charlie Durham, Transitional Pastor  
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  
Betty Smith, Financial Assistant  
Gerald Colbert, Sexton  
Dereck Stewart, Sexton



# SOUNDS OF SOUTHMINSTER

# EASTER

# Egg Hunt

## Saturday

### March 17, 2018

### 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

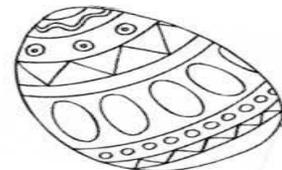
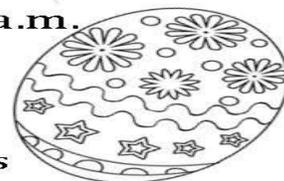
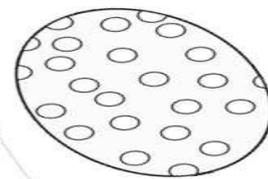
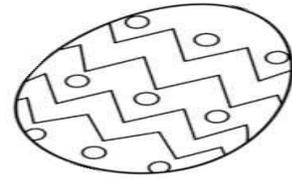
### Egg Hunt begins at 9:15 a.m.

Egg Hunt      Easter Bunny  
Golden Egg  
Breakfast      Bouncy Houses

## Southminster Presbyterian Church

We hope you'll join us!

Turn in the slip below to the office or email  
[bets\\_southmin@bellsouth.net](mailto:bets_southmin@bellsouth.net)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of children attending: \_\_\_\_\_