



SOUTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA



1124 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia, AL 35216

A Word from Dr. Tom

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

Great quotes from William Arthur Ward.

This is the month of giving thanks, showing gratitude, overtly remembering appreciation. Gratitude is a natural extension of our faith but it is not always easy. Gratitude begins with memory. In our fast-paced world, it is the easiest offense to live in the moment. We are all guilty from time to time. It often feels like calendars are our new bosses, stacking more and more upon us till we forget there is anything other than the immediate. It's only when we pause and catch our breath that we have the modern luxury of remembering. And it is not in our remembering that we have opportunity for gratitude.

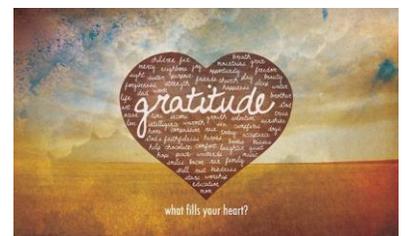
Several of our family traditions have changed over the years but one I hope we can always reinforce with our kids is a family table pause in our Thanksgiving Day meal. The pause comes before the blessing, so each person can share what they are most thankful for. It can be difficult to pause while the food is hot, the smells are amazing, and stomachs are growling. It can be difficult, but it is most rewarding. The pause gives reflection and reflection births appreciation. We are thankful for a great many things. Let us take the time to lift our gratitude.

Psalm 100 from the *Message* translation.

On your feet now – applaud GOD! Bring a gift of laughter,
sing yourselves into his presence.
Know this: GOD is God, and God, GOD.
He made us; we didn't make him.
We're his people, his well-tended sheep.
Enter with the password: "Thank you!"
Make yourselves at home, talking praise.
Thank him. Worship him.
For GOD is sheer beauty, all-generous in love, loyal always and ever.

In much gratitude,

Tom



Faith Formation News

The Kirkin' o' the Tartans celebration day was a lovely experience for everyone involved. Since Faith Formation was asked to plan the Highland Games, we want to thank those who planned, produced, coordinated, and participated in the Games, especially Al Nebrig, for making and planning the events. Many others helped cut fabric for "kilts," set up and cleaned up and supported the participants. It takes many hands to create such a special event for our congregation and community to enjoy! Now that we've had the experience, we look forward to next year's celebration and the chance to include more friends and neighbors! Stop by the office and see the wonderful photo book Janet Nebrig so graciously made!!

Children's Advent Program



As an exciting break from tradition, on **Sunday, December 9th**, our children's program will be performed as part of the morning worship service. Our children will continue to practice on Wednesday nights at 6:30 after dinner; however, if your child would like to participate and Wednesday nights are a scheduling problem, there will be some practices on Sunday during the last part of the Sunday School hour. All children and youth are encouraged and invited to participate. Please call Heather Benoit or the church office if your child is interested.

Heather would also like help with some scenery and costumes. If that sounds interesting to you – whether or not you have children involved – let Heather know. She would certainly be appreciative of the help!

Attention Session Members

Moderators are to submit Ministry Unit reports by Sunday, November 11th. All Session members are asked to pick up minutes, agenda, and reports following worship on the 11th in preparation for the Stated Meeting on **Monday, November 12th, at 5:30 PM in Grace Hall.**

Skip Bo

Make plans now to join us on **Tuesday, November 28th, at 11:30 a.m.** in Grace Hall for a time of games and fellowship. We will eat lunch and play Skip-Bo. Bring a sandwich; drinks and dessert will be provided. Questions? Contact Evelyn Ellison at 822-9634.

Advent Bulletin Covers

Special bulletin covers for the Advent and Christmas Season have been ordered! If you would like to dedicate one of these covers in honor or in memory of someone, please call Betsy in the Church Office. The cost is \$20.00. The dates available are: **December 2nd, December 9th, December 16th, December 23rd, and December 24th – Christmas Eve.**

Clerk of Session Report

A summary of the actions taken in the October Stated Session meeting is as follows:

1. In an electronic vote, the Session approved the Worship Ministry Unit and Pastoral recommendation to invite Reverend Rachel Winter to fill the pulpit on October 7; to include preaching, providing worship leadership, and serving Holy Communion.
2. The Session approved the Administrative Ministry Unit recommendation to enroll the Church Administrator, Church Sexton, and future program director in the PC(USA) Board of Pensions non-ordained staff health insurance program in lieu of contributions previously provided to purchase private health insurance.
3. The Session approved an Administrative Ministry Unit recommended resolution to update the list of church Trustees with the church's bank.
4. The Session approved the Outreach Ministry Unit recommendation to have a Minute for Mission on November 18 to update the Congregation on the work of the Presbyterian Home for Children.
5. The Session approved the Outreach Ministry Unit recommendation to designate the local 25% of the Peace and Global Witness Offering to the Presbyterian Home for Children.
6. The Session approved the Outreach Ministry Unit recommendation to designate the Christmas Eve offering to the Presbyterian Home for Children.
7. With thanks for their work, the Session approved disbanding the Long-Range Church Planning Special Session Committee.
8. The Session approved the Foundation Board of Director's recommendation for 2018 grants to Assistance League of Birmingham (Operation School Bell); Congo Partnership Team, Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley (UPRECO Funding for Ten Student Seminary Scholarships); Presbyterian World Mission (South Sudan Education and Peace Building Project); Better Basics (Motivators of Reading Enrichment); Junior League of Birmingham (JLB Diaper Bank); UKirk Birmingham, Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley (College Conference at Montreat); Buckhorn High School Choral Department (Learning Outside the Classroom); and Presbyterian Home for Children (Secure Dwellings).

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Christians

Fellowship Ministry Unit

If Wednesday Night Suppers aren't a part of your weekly routine, they should be!!! Below is the schedule for this month. Make plans to attend. Sign up on the Attendance Pad in the pews or call the Church Office (822-1124) by Monday at noon to make your reservations!

November 7th:

Menu: Chili and Fixings, Slaw, Crackers, and Dessert.

This is the night seven of our Ministry Units meet: Administrative, Faith Formation, Fellowship, Generosity, Outreach Property, and Worship. The meetings take place at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Congregational Care meets Monday, November 5th at 10:30 a.m.

November 14th:

Menu: Easy Bake Chicken, Rice, Italian Green Beans and Dessert

Program: Tom continues the video series, "Making Sense of the Scriptures" and a Mission Wednesday Gift Wrapping. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

November 21st: **No Supper or Program due to Thanksgiving**

November 28th:

Menu: Beef Stew, Green Beans, Rolls, and Dessert

Program: Tom continues the video series, "Making Sense of the Scriptures."

Annual Adult Christmas Party

When: Friday, December 7th, 6:30 PM

Where: Southminster's Grace Hall

Meal by Savoie Catering: Wedge Salad with Bacon Crumbles and Tomato/Ranch and Balsamic Vinaigrette, Char Grilled London Broil/Steak House Sauce, French Green Beans with Sesame Seeds, Potato au Gratin with Sour Cream, Soft Dinner Rolls, and Mini Crème Brule Cheesecake.

Entertainment by Dr. Melinda Doyle; Associate Professor of Music, University of Montevallo, and University of Montevallo Concert Choir Choral Group.

A signup sheet will be posted soon, or you can call the Church Office, 822-1124, to make your reservations!!



Nursery will be provided





Note of Thanks

During my eighteen dull and boring days in the hospital, your cards, calls, pop-in visits, and flowers certainly helped enlighten every hour. And, of course, your concerns and prayers are helping me with recovery.

You are a loving, caring congregation and I am so blessed to have you.

Fay Prince

Let God Lead

Thanks to all of you who made the Generosity Brunch a huge success. We had 70 folks attending the brunch and 51 pledges turned in at the Dedication time. We missed those unable to attend. Please send/put into the offering plate your pledges for 2019. These are needed to assemble the budget for next year. Thanks to all of you – your ministry, both in time and talent, as well as your monetary contributions are all amazing!!

Day School News



The first nine weeks of school are behind us and we are forging ahead and into the holiday season! It's always an exciting time at SDS! The weather is cool, the children are getting ready for our wonderful Christmas program, and they are also working hard in the classroom. During this time of year, we try to participate in activities that will help the less fortunate. Right now, we are participating in the Rise Against Hunger Drive by collecting items that will be taken to the coast to help out those who have lost so much during Hurricane Michael. Items such as heavy-duty garbage bags, Clorox wipes, rags, diapers, cleaning products, and hand sanitizer are being collected so that we can do our part in helping with this great need. If you would like to donate items, you may bring them by the school office before November 14th.

For those of you who have been through Fancher Hall or around Grace Hall, you may have noticed the wonderful handmade Christmas door/wall hangers and other items on display. This is part of our Holiday Store, which is also a fundraiser for our 4th graders who will travel to Washington, DC next year! The items are beautiful and can be personalized too! We hope you will come by and take a look!

Please mark your calendar for our Annual Christmas Program which will take place on Tuesday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan Church of God, 2800 Metropolitan Way, Birmingham, AL 35243. We would love to have you as our guest for one of our favorite events of the year!

Jeanie Cobin, Director

Lectio Prayer Journey in October

October took us through chapters five through eight of the Gospel of John. This was truly a time of refreshment! I had forgotten many of the very powerful stories and scenes found in these "stop-overs." Stories like the healing at the pool of Beth-Hesed (ever been to Walter Reed Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland?), an event in John that really marks the dawning of the Kingdom of God in Jesus coming near. How about the story of Jesus teaching in the Temple where we find that famous and often misquoted verse, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." We enjoyed these brief stops in this marvelous book. One observation we have all noticed in looking closely at the texts are all the subtle references to the Trinity and especially to Jesus' dual nature, both divine and human. In chapter five, Jesus' humanity shows through plainly as he tells the Jewish authorities that "the Father will show him (Jesus) greater works than these so that they (the Jewish authorities and us) will marvel." Jesus was surely referring to God the Father raising both himself and others from the dead! I really do marvel at all this. More to come...

George Van Kirk

Lectio Divina Prayer Group Wednesday 5-6 pm, (4:30-5:30 on 1st Wed.) 2018-2019 Revised Schedule

November 14 th	I Am the Good Shepherd	John 10:22-30
November 21 st	Break for Thanksgiving	
November 28 th	The Plot to Kill Jesus	John 11:45-57
December 5 th	Jesus' Hour Has Come	John 12:12-36
December 12 th	Jesus Washes Disciple's Feet	John 13:1-20
December 19 th	Promise of the Holy Spirit	John 14:15-31
December 26 th	Break for Christmas	
January 2 nd	I Am the True Vine	John 15:1-17
January 9 th	I Have Overcome the World	John 16:25-33
January 16 th	Prayer for Future Believers	John 17:20-26
January 23 rd	Peter's Denial	John 18:15-18, 25-27
January 30 th	Crucifixion, death, burial of Jesus	John 19:12-42
February 6 th	The Resurrection of Jesus	John 20:1-23
February 13 th	Jesus, Peter, and John	John 21:15-25



Presbyterian Women Mission Monthly

November Mission: This month's mission emphasis is the annual Thank Offering. The Thank Offering is one of two special offerings of Presbyterian Women. Received in the fall of the year, it gives women a tangible way to express gratitude for the special blessings in their lives.

The Thank Offering began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society. The impact was immeasurable and positively impacted the worldwide missionary movement at that time.

This annual event has since supported thousands of ministries worldwide and raised millions of dollars for mission. This offering will be collected in our November circle meetings, as well as during the worship service on November 18th.

Presbyterian Women gain recognition at the United Nations: Wanda Beauman, Vice-Moderator for Justice and Peace, has issued a statement from PCUSA informing us that Presbyterian Women has received official consulting status with the United Nations. Gaining this status with the UN Economic and Social Council is the result of a shared long-term vision beginning in 2003. In addition, with our partnership with PCUSA and Ecumenical Women, our new recognition will open another venue as we continue our work to improve the status of women and seek further opportunities for justice and peace. Hard work, commitment and continued attendance and participation in the Council on the Status of Women have earned Presbyterian women an important position. We celebrate this recognition as we continue our international partnerships on behalf of women in all countries.

As always, we welcome all those interested in joining with us in the important fellowship and mission of the Presbyterian Women.

On behalf of Southminster Presbyterian Women,

Charlotte Worsham, Secretary

Work Day at Living River



Join some of the folks from Property and Outreach for a work day at beautiful Living River on Saturday, November 17th, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is a wide variety of projects – both skilled and unskilled, such as clearing trails, moving the camp office, carpentry projects, hauling trash.

Also, Southminster will be focusing on building a small portable wood shed for firewood that will be built at the home of George and Patsy Van Kirk, at a date to be determined, and delivered and installed at Living River in December. Contact George Van Kirk for details.

If you plan on going to the work day, it's a great opportunity to see the camp and the beautiful land it's built on. Bring a picnic lunch. All workers will need to check in at the Dining Hall upon arrival.

For more information on this workday, see George Van Kirk.



Outreach News



Thank you for making the duffel bag drive for The WellHouse such a success. We collected over 35 bags for the women at The WellHouse. A special thank you to Fellowship for donating funds to help make this possible, as well as all of our Mission Wednesdays possible. Susan from The WellHouse was our fantastic guest speaker of the night. We all learned a lot! Anyone wanting more information about The WellHouse, please contact Sara Brown.

Southminster Day School has kicked off our Rise Against Hunger collection for 2019. They collected monies the month of October and collected an amazing \$951.69! Way to go!!!

On November 14th, during the Wednesday Night Supper, we will be wrapping earrings for the Christmas bags that the First Light Shelter gives their residents each year. Please join us for a fun wrapping party, along with the continuing video series that Dr. Tom is leading.

Thank you to everyone who has been stocking the Outreach Closet. See below for a list of items needed.

Closet Collection Items
(new and unopened items only, please)

- ❖ travel sized shampoo
- ❖ travel sized conditioner
- ❖ travel sized soap
- ❖ travel sized lotion
- ❖ travel sized toothpaste
- ❖ toothbrush
- ❖ alcohol-free mouthwash
- ❖ brushes and combs
- ❖ shower caps
- ❖ anti-itch cream
- ❖ sewing kits
- ❖ make-up (all kinds and shades)
- ❖ razors
- ❖ shaving cream
- ❖ chapstick
- ❖ underwear (all sizes)
- ❖ socks
- ❖ hair products (all kinds)
- ❖ over-the-counter pain relievers (non-drowsy, alcohol-free, pseudoephedrine-free)
- ❖ weekly pill organizers
- ❖ copy paper (8.5x11)
- ❖ black and blue pens
- ❖ highlighter
- ❖ white-out
- ❖ manila envelopes for larger mailings
- ❖ glue sticks
- ❖ cleaning supplies
- ❖ non-perishable food items

Sara Brown, Outreach Moderator

Southminster Kirkin' o' the Tartans
Sunday, October 28th



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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
PERMIT NO.
2358
BIRMINGHAM,
ALA.

Staff Members

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bryson, Pastor
Larry Hardin, Dir. Of Music Ministries
David Renaker, Organist
Jeanie Covin, Dir. Of Day School
Betsy Murphy, Church Administrator
Derek Stewart, Sexton



SOUNDS OF SOUTHMINSTER

Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good; His love endures forever.
- Psalm 118:1

