



SOUTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA



1124 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia, AL 35216

Note from Tom

What makes you, you? Is it the choices you make or where you were born? Is it determined by the building blocks in your DNA code or is it chance or fate that determines who you are? At our baptism, we believe that we are claimed by God and given a new name, child of God. We are a family of sisters and brothers in Christ which Paul calls our common calling; the one we share. But we are also distinct in our personalities, interpretations, passions, and gifts. So again, what makes you, you?

Of course, this is a larger conversation than any one article could seek to find resolution, but I do want to offer one idea. Who we are today is in part defined by who has come before us. In the movie *Amistad*, which came out in 1997, a man is enslaved aboard a ship and in a very powerful dialogue he offers this insight to his understanding of identity. He states that he is the culmination of all those that have come before him; he is one who bears witness to the story of his people. The Hebrew people had a similar way of talking about identity. In Deuteronomy 26 we hear the refrain "My ancestor was a wandering Aramean." They knew who they were because of their shared story. This story gave them identity and purpose.

At the end of this month we will celebrate the cultural heritage of the Presbyterian tradition in our annual Kirking of the Tartan service. This is our shared story as Presbyterians, but it gives us opportunity and intentional time to reflect on our individual identities as well. Kirking of the Tartan simply means blessing of the family. In that understanding, it does not matter where your family or cultural heritage originates to celebrate the blessing. Actually, it gives space for the uniqueness of each family and individual to share their story of identity and faith. I hope you will all be here on October 28 as we celebrate one of the many things that makes us, as we bless the families and tell the stories of our heritage of faith.

God Bless,

Tom

You Are Invited!!!



The Generosity Ministry Unit invites you to attend the Annual Stewardship Brunch on **October 21st** from **9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Grace Hall**. No reservation is necessary. Each household has been mailed a 2019 Pledge Card. Dedication Sunday will be during Worship on **October 21st**. All will bring their financial commitment forward and place it in the basket.

Pledge cards will also be available at the Brunch and in the Pews. Please come ... and be generous!!

(In) Forming Faith

CELEBRATING

- **Thanks to all our wonderful Sunday School teachers!** Classes are off to a fantastic start. Please see elsewhere in the newsletter for information about a class where you can find a place to belong!
- **MONTREAT REPORT:** The youth again shared their gratitude for the “safe place” that is Montreat. Thanks to all who came to hear about their journey and to celebrate 41 years of Montreat being a “Home Away from Home” for many at Southminster.

Your faithfulness and generosity also helped raise over \$3500 to assist in the cost of youth attendance at Montreat. That amount, along with some changes in cost for Montreat, allowed us to spend less budgeted money for Montreat (while still keeping youth costs at \$200 per person) providing faithful stewardship and savings to the church.

EXPERIENCING

- **DON'T FORGET: Sunday School Mission Option!** Kent Howard has helped develop a number of service projects Sunday School classes can do - no matter their age and skill level - to make an impact of love and care in our community. These service project lessons can help complement regular studies of God's word, by putting our faith in action. Contact Kent Howard if you would like to schedule a project.
- **SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP is back in Session!** Our joint youth group with Edgewood, Oakmont Chapel, First Birmingham and Shades Valley began late August and continues - beginning this month - at Oakmont Chapel. Call Betsy at 822-1124 for more information.

ANTICIPATING

- **October 28th - Kirking of the Tartan Worship Celebration:** See details below.

A man in a dark jacket and a red and black plaid kilt is playing bagpipes. He is standing against a light blue background.

Southminster Presbyterian Church
Kirking of the Tartans
Sunday, October 28

Worship begins at 10:30
Blessing of the Families
Following Worship:
Dedication of Tillman Field
Picnic on the Grounds
Highland Fun Games

2018-2019: Sunday School Offerings!

*All classes meet from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Children and Youth:

- **Nursery** (Infant-2½yr old's)

Location: Room 213
(same level as Sanctuary)

- **Wee Believers** (2-1/2 – 4 yr olds)

Location: Room 206
(same level as Sanctuary)

Teachers: Sara Brown and Betsy Murphy

- **Kingdom Kids** (1st-5th Grade)

Location: Backdoor (ground level)
Teachers: Ginny Ezekiel and Allison Smith

- **Youth Sunday School** (6th-12th grade)

Location: Backdoor (ground level)
Teachers: Patrick Riley, Anna Murphy, and Elizabeth Ogletree, and a variety of guests!

Adults

Meeting in Grace Hall...

- **FRIENDSHIP CLASS**

Weekly conversations and studies on scripture passages used in worship

- **TOPIC CLASS**

Discussions on a variety of topics: including music, theology, history, prayer, and bible study.

- **JOYOUS SOULS CLASS**

Studies various books of the bible and historical themes of scripture

- **ADVENT CLASS** (Discussion topics vary but typically focus on how to live our faith more fully in everyday life)

- **GENESIS CLASS** (Meets in Library)

Uses the "Present Word" PC(USA) curriculum

- **SEEKERS CLASS** (Meets in Room 212, next to the nursery)

Explores a variety of studies that "seeks" to connect life and faith

ALSO Meeting: Southminster In Motion – an intergenerational class focused on service that partners with different adult, youth, and children classes. Contact Kent Howard to schedule a project for your class!



Bunch for Lunch



Make plans now to join us on **Tuesday, October 30th 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.

Clerk of Session Report

A summary of the actions taken in the September Congregational and Stated Session meetings is as follows:

1. At the Congregational Meeting on September 9 the Congregation elected Marian Deslattes, Margaret Dormon, John Gasque, Charles Goodman, deNay Kirkpatrick, and Al Nebrig as Ruling Elders to the Session Class of 2021; elected Marilee Dukes to fill an unexpired term in the Session Class of 2019; elected Sara Brown to fill an unexpired term in the Session Class of 2020, elected deNay Kirkpatrick as the Trustee for the Session Class of 2021; and elected Connie Currin, Archer Crumpton, Al Dickinson and Anna Murphy as congregational representatives to the 2019 Nominating Committee.
2. In an electronic vote, the Session approved the Faith Formation Ministry Unit recommendation to use the BBC video series, *A History of Christianity - The First Three Thousand Years*, written by Darmaid MacCulloch as Sunday School curriculum for the Seekers Class and other Adult Sunday School classes that wish to use it.
3. The Session approved the Presbyterian Women request to hold the PW Thank Offering on November 18, with a Minute for Mission on November 11.
4. The Session approved the Administrative Ministry Unit recommendation to pursue hiring a non-ordained Program Director at a total compensation package not-to-exceed \$50,000, and a general job description as presented.
5. The Session approved changing the date of the October Stated Session meeting to Tuesday, October 9, at 5:30 PM in Grace Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

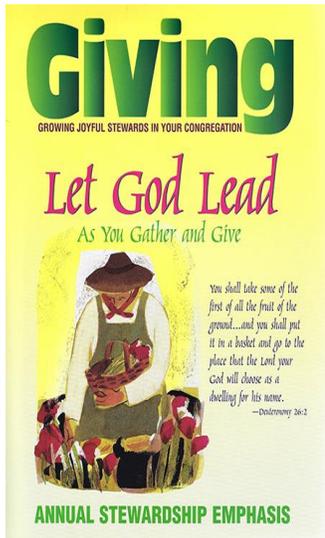
Bill Christians, Clerk of Session and Mark Ezekiel, Assistant Clerk

Attention Session Members

Moderators are to submit Ministry Unit reports by Sunday, October 7th. All Session members are asked to pick up minutes, agenda, and reports following worship on the 7th in preparation for the Stated Meeting on **Tuesday, October 9th, at 5:30 PM in Grace Hall. ***Notice Date Change******

Work Day

Please join us on **Saturday, October 20th**, for an all church Work Day! We will begin at 8:00 AM and lunch will be served. All we need is YOU...tools and materials will be provided! We will be doing work inside and out, preparing the building and grounds for the Kirking of the Tartan and all the activities that will be held the following week. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board outside of Grace Hall.



Let the Lord Lead

"That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put *it* in a basket, and shalt go under the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there. Deuteronomy 26:2

SAVE THE DATE!!!

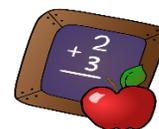
A brunch for you on **Sunday, October 21st, 2018, 9:00 to 10:00 AM**, provided by the Generosity Ministry Unit. Come see what you have accomplished during the past year.

October is the month we review and renew our giving for the coming year. We have been blessed and encouraged having our new pastor and his family with us. We have a growing Foundation for Ministry, a well-financed Capital Fund, no debt, but we need to increase our General Budget giving that pays the salaries, etc. Please consider increasing your tithe. If you don't tithe, consider moving toward that goal.

A Promise from God

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse" ... "Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." -- Malachi 3:10

Day School



October is upon us and we are busy in school! Our 5th graders will begin the month in Washington, D.C. and we are all excited about that! The trip is always the highlight of their SDS experience.

We are excited to be hosting Family Night this year with a different twist! Rather than the usual meal offered, we are sponsoring a Holiday Store and Bake Sale! Among other things, we will have a Southminster Christmas Ornament, hand-painted Door Hangers in seven different festive designs, some of which can be personalized, and hand-made wooden Nativity figures.

Please make your plans to attend this Holiday Store on **November 15th** at 5:30 PM in Fancher Hall. It's a great time to walk through the school to see the children's artwork on display, as well as enjoy the Bake Sale, the Bookfair, and Holiday Store. We look forward to seeing you.

Jeanie Couin



Lectio Prayer Journey in October

Our prayer journey in September took us into and through the first four chapters of the Gospel of John. We're using Lectio Divina, the practice of listening to God speak to us through the Scriptures, a little differently than the usual practice of individual prayer. Instead, we're practicing it in community, with great results so far! Almost everything, I think, is better done in community where multiple gifts and perspectives are present. We've enjoyed the added benefit of reading more of each chapter than normally read in Lectio. This gives us the opportunity of seeing the big picture context that John is trying to get across. Reading Scripture, the first of the four steps of Lectio Divina, has been an opportunity for us to stop, look, and listen to the great stories and concepts of John's gospel: "In the beginning was the Word (Logos)..."; Jesus' first miracle of turning water to wine; seeing John 3:16, one of the best known Bible verses, in action and Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well and that gushing, living water.

As we've gotten to know each other just a little bit better, our discussions, insights, and prayer time have been fruitful, encouraging, and fun! The hour flies by and we're all starved for supper. This first rung on the Lectio ladder, Reading, is just the beginning; it "puts whole food in the mouth," according to Guigo, the 12th century Carthusian monk in his book, *Ladder of the Monks*. In the next steps of Lectio, we've practiced meditating on that scriptural "food" until we're finally ready to offer prayer to God about it. That's the real goal of all that wrestling! Stay tuned for more journey!

George Van Kirk

Fellowship Ministry Unit

Our Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers are underway. 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!

October 10th:

Menu: Chicken Marsala, Wild Rice, Grilled Vegetables, Brownies.

Program: Mission Wednesday - The Well House

October 17th:

Menu: Catered Meal

Program: Mark will give us an update on Matthew 28

October 24th:

Menu: Catered Meal

Program: Dr. Tom will continue our video bible study.

Outreach Ministry Unit

Mission Wednesday is back this month! On October 10th we will welcome Susan Vawter from The Well House as our guest speaker. She will talk about The Well House and have a short Q & A to follow. Our mission for this event has been to collect new or gently used duffle bags in any size. When the women arrive, they have nothing with them. As they move through the program, they accumulate items and need something to help transfer their belongings. Thank you for your donations and please make plans to hear all about the wonderful things happening at The Well House.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering will be collected on October 7th.

Thank you to everyone who has been stocking the Outreach Closet, located in the Family and Youth Ministries Room. Below is 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

Looking for way to support the Presbyterian Home for Children? Here are a few ideas:

It is our mission at the Presbyterian Home for Children to provide refuge for children who need a safe and secure place to rest, a place they can call home. It is something we have been doing for 150 years. Be a Helper. Join us for the Children's Home Bible Challenge on October 27th and support our mission of helping homeless children. Register now: <https://www.bikeregcom/childrens-home-challenge>.

Become a prayer warrior for our children and families. While many of our children and families need to remain anonymous, we can still pray for them daily. Go to: <https://www.phfc.org/pray-for-our-children-families/>

Sara Brown, Moderator

Presbyterian Women Mission Monthly

What do you think of when you hear the words "Presbyterian Women"? Yes, we gather together monthly for Bible Study and fellowship. We receive benevolent offerings to support worthy charitable causes. We partner with other denominations in our communities. All of the above are true, but we are involved in so much more. Recently, the Southminster Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women discussed their desire to communicate the mission projects chosen for the coming year. Our purpose is two-fold. First, we wish to inform the congregation of our service in mission to the community. Second, we wish to define with greater clarity the many aspects of membership in our women's circles. In addition, we will inform the women of Southminster of upcoming events which provide opportunities to develop their spiritual life.

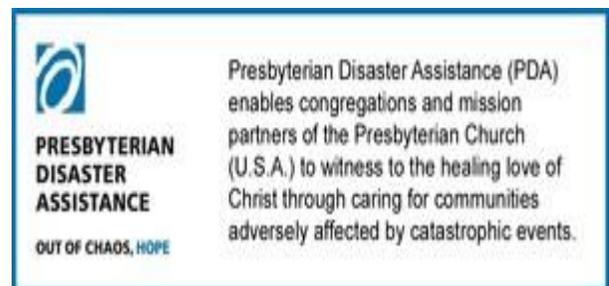
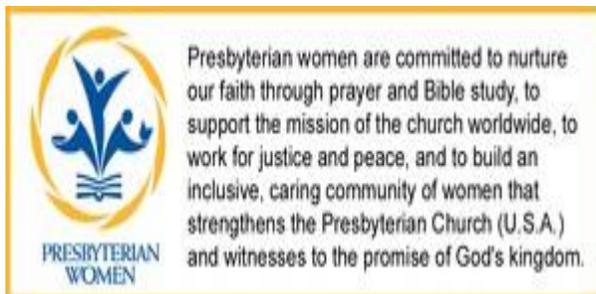
The women of our circles support missions in our community in various ways including volunteer service, donations of material goods and financial contributions. Through our support and collaboration with our mission partners we bring love, hope, and assistance to impact meaningful change.

As the months of September and October bring with them the height of the Atlantic hurricane season, we have chosen to support the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the PCUSA, providing care for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events. The program focuses on the following: longer term recovery of disaster impacted communities, disaster preparedness and collaboration with other faith-based responders of national and international organizations.

We look forward each month to telling the story of the many ways in which Southminster women are committed to providing compassionate care.

On behalf of Southminster Presbyterian Women,

Charlotte Worsham, Secretary



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
Dereck Stewart, Sexton



SOUNDS OF SOUTHMINSTER

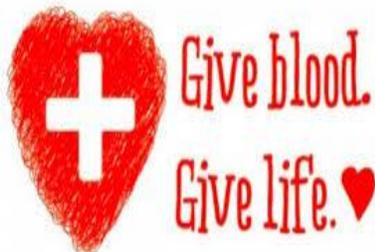
Blood Drive in Honor of Bill Christians

Southminster Presbyterian Church
Grace Hall

**Tuesday, October 16th
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**



Contact Betsy Murphy at 822-1124
to sign up or sign up on
the bulletin board
outside of Grace Hall!



Our goal is to collect
30 pints of blood!

**PLEASE SIGN
UP TODAY!!!!**