



SOUTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA



1124 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia, AL 35216

A Note from Tom

The last little bit of summer is passing by us here at Southminster. Fall will hopefully bring the cooler, crisp air that we all dream about on hot, muggy days. The beginning of Fall also means a few other changes on the hilltop. One of the big changes is the start of a long sermon arc called the Narrative Lectionary. Some of you have asked about this relatively new ordering of scripture and I wanted to take a few minutes to tell why I like it.

The Narrative Lectionary is simply a suggested list of scriptures for a congregation to read and discern over a nine-month period. Much like its better-known predecessor, there will be readings provided each week to challenge and encourage us in our walk with God. Lectionaries (suggested readings each week based on calendar and seasons) can be a great help to ministers who might otherwise seek out only the comfortable texts in the Bible to preach. Lectionaries help pull us away from topical or easy sermons and present a good and worthy challenge to help us grow in faith together as a community. The Narrative Lectionary is no different, asking us to take a deep dive into a narrative arc, especially in the Old Testament, that often take a back seat in modern sermon preparation.

One of the co-editors, Dr. Rolf Jacobson, of Luther Theological Seminary says this of the NL:

"Texts were selected that lead well to the proclamation of what God is doing. The stories tell of hope and disappointment, suffering and redemption. In all these varied contexts, we find God dealing with the complexities of human life. Stories from the gospels differ each year, avoiding repetition and highlighting what is distinctive about each gospel's telling of the story of Jesus."

We will begin this new journey on September 9th in the Book of Genesis. We have several helpful resources in the office that guide us over the next nine months. If you would like these resources or just a little more information, please contact the office.

I hope God will bless you in this new session and especially as we read and discern God's Word for us at Southminster.

Two other events of note:

On September 16th, we will have a short reception after the worship service for anyone looking to join the church. If you know of someone who has been a regular attendee in the last few months, encourage them to come and be a part of the conversation.

On Sunday, October 28th, we will have our "Blessing of the Families" service or, in our Scottish heritage, often called the "Kirkin of the Tartans." This will be a wonderful day with many events, including a picnic lunch, a dedication of the playing field, and Highland Games. More information will be shared soon. Please make plans to attend.

Many Blessing to you all,

Tom



FAITH FORMATION

(In) Forming Faith

CELEBRATING

- **FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY:** What a magnificent time of celebration we enjoyed on August 12th! From our Sunday School presentations, breakfast and bible presentation in Grace Hall, to the blessing of backpacks in worship, we gave glory to God for the gifts of a new school year and honored God's desire for us to use the gifts of our minds. *Special thanks also to our Faith Formation folks who provided leadership, vision, and decorations for the day: Laura Bannon, David Stephens, Janet and Al Nebrig, Libby Stephens – and many more!*

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, First Birmingham and Shades Valley kicked off last month with a pool party at the home of Will, deNay and Sam Kirkpatrick, and continued with a get-to-know you and visioning night held at Southminster, where we will continue through the month of September.

See below for schedule.

September 2nd: No meeting (Labor Day)

September 9th: Parent/Youth Night at 5:00 p.m. Bring a covered dish to share. Parents will hear a little about what we envision for the coming year. Games will be played, laughter and good conversation will take place, and good food will be consumed. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend!!

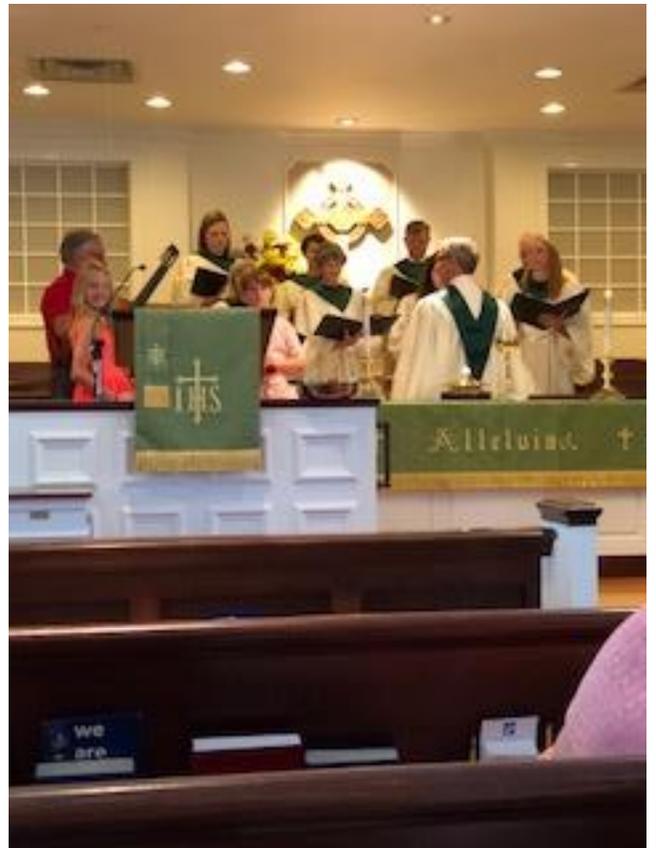
September 12th: **Wednesday Night Montreat Youth Report (at Southminster, 6:45 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.)**

September 16th, 23rd, and 30th: Presby BYG at Southminster, 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

ANTICIPATING

- **September 12th:** This evening will include our "Home Away From Home" Montreat Report from the youth. Make plans to attend and hear from the youth about their experiences and see a slideshow!
- **October 21st: Generosity Brunch, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in Grace Hall.** The Generosity Ministry Unit returns with their annual brunch on Sunday, October 21st in Grace Hall, during the Sunday School hour. Make plans to see how your gifts have given witness to the Spirit's work this year!
- **October 28th: Reformation Sunday – More details in Tom's column**

Faith Formation Sunday Pictures!



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!



Southminster Prayer Journey

Travel is always exciting and fun and fraught with the unknown! Seven Southminster folks began a 6-month spiritual journey this week. I have an expectation of experiencing all those emotions. I want to practice journaling this trip so we can remember some of the details, the connections, and our experiences with God. We've done our study, our planning, our packing, and it's now bon voyage as we begin our journey through the Gospel of John. It's a 21-week trip, twenty-one ports of call, lots to explore, a world class cruise. I'm overwhelmed right now!

Everybody packs differently, but here's some of the things I threw in the suitcase. **Prayer** – the lingua franca of the human soul, the language we use to relate to God. I don't use it enough, so I'm no expert, but I believe it's critical to have along. I packed my **Bible**. I usually read it, along with praying. I think they go hand in hand. God speaks to us through Scripture, so the Bible is living and active. I expect God will be speaking to me along the journey too. **Journaling** – hey, sometimes I can't remember what I did yesterday! I want to look back over this trip and savor where we've been and feel the excitement of the unknown with God. **Community** – prayer is often a solo thing. Church is always a community thing. Why not combine these two and experience God together? Stay tuned! More to come next month.

You want to know more about this journey? Contact George Van Kirk at 256/690-1537.

Sharing God's Love
Southminster Presbyterian Church Foundation for Ministry

With the beginning of the school year, families are faced with costs of school clothing and supplies for their children. For economically disadvantaged children, it is particularly a bad situation. The Southminster Foundation for Ministry is proud to support the Assistance League of Birmingham and their program "OPERATION SCHOOL BELL" which provides new clothes, hygiene kits, and books to these children. Since 1985, Operation School Bell has provided more than 37,000 children with these needed items.

Wednesday Night Suppers



Summer is over and things around the church have returned to their regular routine – and that includes our Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers and Programs. Fellowship is working on Wednesday night suppers and programs for the fall. Tom will be leading a video bible study, along with (hopefully) a program on 'scams,' and one on financial planning. We are also helping with the meal for the 'Highland Game' in October. More info will follow on that soon. Also, we are beginning to think about the Adult Southminster Christmas Party.

Here are the menus for the remainder of September:

September 12th: Montreat Review and Matthew 28 Stories. Meal: Hamburgers, Chips, Condiments, and Dessert.

September 19th: Meal: Beef Stew with Potatoes and Carrots, Slaw, Dinner Rolls, and Dessert.

September 26th: Meal: Ham, Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Dessert.

Programming for Children and Youth takes place at 6:30, with our programs beginning at 6:40 p.m. Make reservations by signing the attendance register in worship on Sundays. You may also call the Church Office at 822-1124 by Monday at noon. Make Wednesday Night Fellowships a part of your weekly routine!

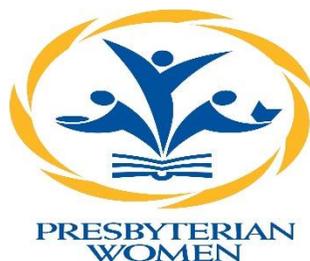
Skip Bo

Beginning this month, we will meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 11:00 AM in Grace Hall. Join us this month on September 25th. Bring a lunch and join with this fun-loving group for a few hours of a great games of cards. Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there!! Contact Evelyn Ellison if you have questions.

Fellowship Snacks Following Sunday School Hour Fall/Winter 2018-2019



September – Topic
October – Joyous Soulos
November – Seekers
December 2nd – 23rd – Advent
December 30th – Genesis
January – Friendship
February – Topic
March 3rd – 24th – Joyous Soulos
March 31st – Genesis
April – Advent
May - Seekers



Southminster PW News to Know!!

Southminster Presbyterian Women started a new year of study and fellowship when the Coordinating Team met on Tuesday, September 4th at 10:00 a.m. in Grace Hall.

On Tuesday, September 11th, Circles 1, 2 and 3 will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the church to begin our 2018-2019 *Horizons* Bible study: "*God's Promise, I am With You*" written by Amy Poling Sutherland. In addition to Bible Study, Southminster PW actively supports mission efforts of our local church, our community and the PCUSA.

All women of Southminster are invited to participate in a Circle. If you would like more information, you may contact a Circle Leader or Co-Moderator:

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

Blessings.

Chris Coley & Judy Boyes, Co-Moderators

Outreach Ministry Unit News

FIRST LIGHT!!! We have three more opportunities to serve the women and children of this very special place for 2018! If you are unable to participate on any of the following dates, but want to know how you can assist, we can help you on that. Please contact Sara Brown or Heather Benoit with questions, hesitations, or meal ideas. We are here to make this a fun and faith-filled experience. Available dates are: **Saturday, October 13th, Sunday, November 11th, Saturday, December 8th.**

Thank you to everyone who has been stocking the Outreach Closet! A rather large sized donation was dropped off at First Light in August!

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 (8-1/2 x 11)
- ❖ black and blue pens
- ❖ highlighter
- ❖ white-out
- ❖ manila envelopes for larger mailings
- ❖ glue sticks
- ❖ cleaning supplies
- ❖ non-perishable food items

Sara Brown, Outreach Ministry Unit Moderator



First Light's Dancing With the Stars

First Light's Dancing With the Stars is back! It's a spectacular one-night competition you do not want to miss. Make plans for Thursday, October 11th, at 6:30 p.m. at The Lyric Theatre, 1800 3rd Avenue North. Doors, concessions and cash bar open at 5:30 p.m. The suggested donations is just \$25.00. All proceeds benefit the homeless women and families at First Light.

Day School News

We are having a great start to our 51st year at Southminster! The children are already learning new things and planning great adventures.

Our 5th graders will be leaving soon for Washington, D.C. where they will spend four days visiting the Capitol, The White House, Arlington Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the many War Memorials, the National Cathedral, and will have dinner with an Alabama Congressman. This is the highlight for all of our students at SDS and they look forward to it for years.

It is great to see that the new teachers at SDS are enjoying being a part of Southminster! We are excited about the expertise and guidance they bring to the classrooms each day. We also have many new students this year. They are special to us and represent families that have found a new home at SDS!

We invite everyone to come and walk our halls and see what our students are learning! It's an exciting time here.

Jeanie Covin, Day School Director

Make Up Day for Pictorial Directory

If you were unable to get your picture made at the end of August for our pictorial directly, we now have a makeup day planned. The day is **Monday, October 1st from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Grace Hall.** We would love to have our directory full of your lovely smiling faces, so please call Betsy in the Church Office, 822-1124, to book your time!!

Let God Lead

You shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground ... and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name – Deuteronomy 26:2

As we delve headlong into a new school year and so many exciting things in the life of our church, please consider how God is calling you to adjust your contributions to our wonderful church. The pledge campaign is a great time to add a small amount to your annual pledge so that we can continue to become the version of Southminster that God is transforming us into.

Dedication Sunday and Brunch - October 21st. We can't wait to see you there!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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E-Mail Address: southmin@bellsouth.net

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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

Attention Session Members



Moderators are to submit Ministry Unit reports by Sunday, September 9th. All Session members are asked to pick up minutes, agenda, and reports following worship on the 9th in preparation for the Stated Meeting on **Monday, September 10th, at 5:30 PM in Grace Hall.**



Peace and Global Witness Offering

The Peace and Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world. Your gifts will help more people experience the freedom and dignity that Christ wants for everyone. 50% of this offering will stay with our community and our region for ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation. The other 50% will unite Presbyterians who are working actively for peacemaking efforts around the globe.

If we do a little, it adds up to a lot. Any gift is appreciated!

You can make your contribution to this Presbyterian-wide Special Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 7th!

Envelopes will be in the pews soon for your convenience. Thank you!!