

Southminster Presbyterian Church Newsletter

November 2009

Volume XXXXI Number 11



Southminster Presbyterian Church
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Pam Hudson, Church Musician

*We believe God calls Southminster to **proclaim** the Good News of Jesus Christ, to **build** a fellowship of Christian love, to **create** an environment that nurtures spiritual growth, and to **serve** our diverse community and the world in the spirit of our Lord and Savior.*

Church Session:

Pete Paulsen, Moderator
Candace Brisbane
Helen James
Whitey James
Bill Kershaw
Lottie Kershaw
Beverly Larsen
David Markle
Kate Tutwiler
Betty Cheek, Clerk

Earl Lavender, Receiving Treasurer
Connie Swain, Disbursing Treasurer
Beverly Pearce, Bookkeeper

Pastor's Letter

Joshua is one of the great leaders whose story we learn from Scripture. After 40 years in the wilderness during which the former slaves were weaned from their defeatist mentality and strengthened in their trust of God, the time came for them to enter the Promised Land. Moses could not do the job so Joshua was called to provide the needed leadership. Late in the third chapter we read how the Israelites crossed the Jordan River. For me the key verses are Joshua 3:15-16. Faced with a major obstacle and with little knowledge of what waited for them on the other side, the priests and those bearing the Arc of the Covenant put their feet in the flood-swollen waters of the Jordan trusting that God would see them through as God had been with them over the 40 years. The narrative continues with an affirmation of God's faithfulness. As soon as the feet of the priests and the porters entered the river the flow of the water was cut-off and the people crossed on dry ground as they had crossed on dry ground coming out of Egypt.

Where is our Jordan River? What obstacle keeps us from following our faithful God to the promises given to us? What keeps us from putting our feet in the water, from starting out on something because we believe that it is God's will and know beyond human knowing that God will be with us as we move forward?

The people who most fascinate me are the priests and the porters. What must it have been like for them to come up to the edge of the flooding river and take that first step? Were they confident as I pray I might be in that situation or were they frightened as they took that first step, wanting to believe that God can do anything but not sure that God would do anything in that moment?

We are on a journey together – a journey grounded in God's love and call on our lives. Over time we have been through the wilderness and in pleasant pastures. Now, like most congregations, we are facing the obstacles of a changing culture and a changing community. Are we willing to take that first step and thereby prove God's faithfulness? The Promised Land is on the other side.

In a real and tangible way we will face the decision about moving forward when we make our pledges for 2010. Do we trust God to lead us through this time of transition and discernment? Can we see the Promised Land ahead and are we willing to take that first step to get there? Our pledges will speak of our faith and will reflect our energy given in support of our congregation as we move forward toward the future God has prepared for us.

I trust God and look forward to celebrating with you on November 8 as we learn once again that our God is not too small and our faith is not too weak. We will step into the water knowing that God is with us and will lead us as we have always been led.

- Pete Paulsen

Worship Schedule

November 1

All Saints Sunday

Genesis 12:1-9

Revelation 21:1-8

Beyond the Rim

Communion

PATH Offering

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

November 8

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship Sunday

The Rev. Elizabeth Johnson,

Guest Preacher

November 15

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daniel 12:1-3

Mark 13:1-8

Temple building

Nickels for NAMI Offering

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

November 22

Christ the King/Reign of Christ

II Samuel 23:1-7

John 18:33-37

Talking past authority

Thank Offering

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

November 29

First Sunday of Advent

Advent Wreath

Hanging of the Greens

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 a.m. - Adult Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Choir Warm-up

11:00 a.m. - Worship

Nursery Provided



November and December Worship

November 1 is All Saints Day. On this day we give special thanks for the Resurrection of our Lord and remember with affection those in or close to our congregation who have died in the past year. If you did not get a name to us in time to list in the bulletin you will still have an opportunity to speak that name as we prepare for the Prayers of the People.



November 8 is Stewardship Sunday. Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary will preach. Following worship the Southminster congregation will gather for lunch while waiting word on the total of pledges received.

November 14 is the training day for all current and incoming Elders. Our form of government asks the session to do two things after an Elder is elected by the congregation before we get the point of ordaining and/or installing that person. First, we must provide training and then we must meet to interview and approved the elder-elect. The training will take place 9 am to 3 pm in the session room at First Presbyterian Church, Marietta.

November 29 is the first Sunday in Advent. Traditionally the decorating of the sanctuary has been done outside worship by a group of skilled and dedicated volunteers. There is, however, a strong tradition in some sections of the Church that at least symbolically the church gets decorated during worship on the First Sunday in Advent. The service is called the Hanging of the Greens and we will follow that liturgy on this Sunday. It will also be the first Sunday for the lighting of the candles in the Advent Wreath. We will light a new candle every Sunday until Christmas Eve at which service we will light the large central white candle – the Christ Candle.

Music is central to our celebration of Advent and Christmas. On December 13 the choir will lead us in worship as the members raise their voices in praise.

The Christmas Joy offering will be received on December 20. Fifty percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the General Assembly Council. Additional information will be distributed to inform and guide our giving.

The Christmas Eve service will be at the Southminster Church at 6:00 pm. It will be a service of Lessons and Carols and Communion will be served. The service will end with the lighting of candles around the sanctuary and the singing of *Silent Night*. All the details are not in place but we believe that some of our renting congregations will join us for this service,

No matter how many Christmas Carols we sing during Advent we never sing enough and we never sing the one you most love. On December 27 we will gather at Calvary Church at 9:00 am for coffee and sweets and move to the sanctuary at 10:00 to sing every Carol you wanted to sing all through the season.

Ministry Teams

Care Council

Helen James, Convener -
Shepherding, Pastoral Care,
Intercessory Prayer, Community
Projects, Global Missions

New Life Council

Charlie Allen, Convener -
Evangelism, Worship, Spiritual
Emphasis Events, Music,
Assimilation, Stewardship

Resources Council

Whitey James, Convener -
Administration, Finance, Personnel,
Property Management

Link Council

Beverly Larsen, Convener -
Christian Education, Nursery, Youth,
Fellowship, Small Groups,
Presbyterian Women,
Presbyterian Men

*If you are not now helping to
strengthen the church program
by serving on one of the councils,
please consider how your gifts
and ideas might be used and join
one of the groups. Your help is
needed,*

Choir News



The Southminster Worship
Choir rehearses on Thursdays
at 7:00 p.m. Choir warm-up
time is 10:30 a.m. each Sunday
morning.

Everyone is Invited

On Sunday, November 8, following morning worship, the congregation is invited to gather in fellowship hall for lunch. The meal will be prepared for you, and there is no need to bring anything. Dr. Elizabeth Johnson, J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary will be our guest preacher on that day. We will also hear a report from the Stewardship Committee. Please plan to attend.



November Birthdays

10th - Ashley Vaughn

18th - Judy Curlee

20th - Lorelei Moran

22nd - Martha Markle

23rd - Stephanie Grimm

23rd - Doin Kibaara

24th - Daisy Langlois

24th - Betty Cheek

27th - Lottie Kershaw

30th - Jeffery Gaines



If your birthday is not listed, please let us know by writing your name and birth date on a piece of paper and placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office.

In Appreciation

October was *Pastor Appreciation Month*. We had fellowship and donuts after church to say thank you to Pete for all he does. But *pastor-appreciation.net* had some more creative ideas to say thank you that we might want to try: 1) Creatively communicate words of encouragement for his service to God and the Church; 2) Thank him all year, making every Sunday *Pastor Appreciation Day*; 3) Actually listen to his sermons; 4) Better yet, apply the truth of his preaching to specific areas of your life and say "Thank You Pastor, for helping me spiritually"; 5) Say "amen" when the pastor proclaims spiritual truth, because "amen" means "so be it!" and "right on!"; 6) Give a good report about your pastor, bragging about him in such a way that your relatives and friends just might want to attend church; 7) Show up at church on Sunday; 8) Show up at church workdays and meetings; 9) Support the church financially; 10) Sit near the front of the sanctuary during church worship services; 11) Invite friends and relatives to attend church services, introducing them to your pastor and better yet, introducing them to Jesus; and 12) Pray.

In Sympathy

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Pat, Shannon and Jarod Dunn in the death of Wayne Dunn October 18;

To Jennifer, Nancy, Amber and Trenton Whitehead in the death of Kent Whitehead on October 3;

To the family of Jackie and Mac McCown in the death of Jackie's father in September;

And to the family of Lottie Kershaw in the death of her brother in August.



Church Women United
World Community Day,
Friday, November 6, 2009
9:30 a.m. - Refreshments
10:00 a.m. - CELEBRATION
At Greater Community
Holiness Church
406 Roswell Street, Marietta
GA 30060
Speaker: Barbara Hickey, Past
President, Cobb Clean
Commission
Subject: "Piecing Our Earth
Back Together"

Presbyterian Women



All too quickly this year is coming to an end, but we still have important events for your attention.

The "best ever" was one description of the October 9-11 Spiritual Retreat at Cherokee Retreat Center with Southminster represented by Jan Boehm, Chris Curschmann, Doris Grimm, Kate Tutwiler, and Mary York. The theme, "Putting on the Garments of Faith: The Grace Filled Life," focused on forgiveness, love, peace and prayers. Reverend Maryellen Hittel, Pastor of Rockmart First, let the special time of study and reflection. As CPPW Missions Officer, Jan provided an array of mission opportunities for service, with Saturday evening devoted to making girls' blouses out of pillowcases for Malawi, baby kits for the Congo, Christmas cards for service men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq, and needed items for flood victims. In the Sunday worship service Doris sang "The Lord's Prayer" and the Southminster PW communion cup and plate were used. Chris and Doris' pictorial display of the July Gathering was a popular attraction throughout this memorable weekend.

The PW THANK OFFERING on Sunday, November 22 will be a way to contribute to carefully chosen projects with beneficiaries in our Synods and worldwide. What better way to celebrate Thanksgiving Day this year: by your gifts!

During November until December 6 the Santa Express box will be located by the front doors for useful gifts for men and women residents in health services centers at Presbyterian Home (Quitman) and Presbyterian Village. Please consult the "Suggested Gift Items" or call Ruth Webb, 770-819-7108 for information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Monday, November 9 - Evening Circle at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with Mary York, Leader
Tuesday, November 10 - Day Circle at 10:00 a.m. at Presbyterian Village with Helen James, Leader
Sunday, November 22 - Thank Offering
Sunday, November 29 - Hanging of the Greens during worship service



Austell. Please RSVP to Kathy (770-943-5322), Sharon (770-445-0024) or Mildred (770-948-1742). Please bring a dish: salad, meat, vegetable or casserole.

Care Council Mission Outreach News

This year we will not be bringing food for the NAMI Thanksgiving baskets. Instead we will send a check from the NICKELS FOR NAMI to help buy Kroger Gift Cards to be distributed to NAMI Clients. Right now there is \$107.71 in the NAMI FUND.

Thanks to your sponsoring Jan Boehm on the NAMI WALK \$114 was raised. Forty percent of that stays in South Cobb NAMI and sixty percent helps the state of Georgia NAMI fund programs that help folks with mental illness to cope.

Thanksgiving N.A.M.I.

Each of us is a reason for all of us to be thankful. Each of us brings something wonderful and unique to the table . . . and that is what makes life a feast. We cordially invite you to our annual NAMI South Cobb Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday, November 19, 7-9:00 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 4780 Flint Hill Road in

~ Thanks to your generosity, dozens of toothbrushes, tubes of toothpaste and bath soap bars were delivered to CAMP soon after the flood.

~ Highest Praise Church, our closest food pantry for the hungry and homeless, picked up all the pasta and other donated items you kindly brought.



~ Mr. and Mrs. Hawley, Chairs of the Military Ministry at Mars Hill, picked up all the articles marked for soldiers in Iraq. With the Change for Change collection a check was also added for \$45 to mail the packages. Your donations are much appreciated by Care Council and The Military!

LET'S FILL OUR BARRELS IN NOVEMBER:

CAMP – Toothpaste, Toothbrushes

HIGHEST PRAISE – Spaghetti, Canned Goods

MILITARY MINISTRY – Baby Wipes, Hard Candy, Powdered Drinks, Boxed Cookies (none iced), Beef Jerky

HOLLYDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is the school closest to our church. Please keep Hollydale in your prayers and volunteer efforts. Call Jackie McCown if you can spend an hour a week at the school with an at-risk child. Jackie's home number is 770-432-7319 and her work number is 770-434-1002.



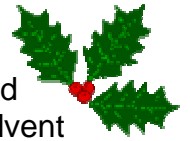
Session News

At the stated meeting on October 11, session took the following actions:

- ~ Reviewed calendar of upcoming events and heard reports of Ministry Teams.
- ~ Approved expense for replacing the area rug in the nursery.
- ~ Approved the Discretionary Investment Funds Policy recommended by the Resource Council.
- ~ Approved asking the disbursing treasure to disburse \$22,500 to PILP from funds collected for reduction in loan principal.
- ~ Made plans for elder training on November 14 at Marietta First church and installation of elders in January of elders elected by the congregation September 27: David Markle (2011), Lottie Kershaw (2012), Charles Kibaara (2012), Linwood Swain (2012) and Kate Tutwiler (2012). Continuing on session to complete their terms are: Candace Brisbane (2011), Helen James (2010) Whitey James (2011) Bill Kershaw (2010), and Beverly Larsen (2010).



Hanging of the Christmas Greens



Through the centuries, Christians have observed a time of waiting and expectation before celebrating the birth of the Savior at Christmas. The Advent season is a time for reflection and preparation, but its mood is joyful. Advent has been enriched by Christian tradition to reflect its distinctive Christian meaning.

The most striking and the most universal feature of Christmas is the use of evergreens in churches and homes. Among ancient Romans evergreens were an emblem of peace, joy, and victory. The early Christians placed them in their windows to indicate that Christ had entered the home. Holly and ivy, along with pine, and fir are called evergreens because they never change color. They are ever-green, ever-alive, even in the midst of winter. They symbolize the unchanging nature of our God, and they remind us of the everlasting life that is ours through Christ Jesus. Under Christian thought and sentiment, holly became widely used in church celebrations. Holly was considered as the burning bush, or a symbol of Mary whose being glows with the Holy Spirit. The red berries represented the blood drops from the cruel thorns in the crown of Jesus.

In Isaiah 60:13 we find these words: *“The Glory of Lebanon shall come unto you, the fir tree, the pine tree and the box together, to beautify the place of your sanctuary.”*


Our forefathers called the procuring of these evergreens, “Bringing home Christmas!”

November 2009 Worship Responsibilities

	<i>November 1</i>	<i>November 8</i>	<i>November 15</i>	<i>November 22</i>	<i>November 29</i>
	<i>All Saints Day</i>	<i>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<i>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<i>Christ the King Reign of Christ</i>	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>
Preacher	Pete Paulsen	Elizabeth Johnson	Pete Paulsen	Pete Paulsen	Pete Paulsen
Pulpit Assistant	Pam Moseley	Tom Cheek	Lizabeth Kibaara	Linwood Swain	Beth Mukora
Special Music	Choir – <i>I’ll Fly Away</i>	Choir – <i>Simple Gifts</i>	Choir – <i>Surely the Presence</i>	Choir – <i>Glory to His Name</i>	
Greeters	Lottie and Bill Kershaw	Mike and Jill Kerns	Carmen Freemire and Jackie McCown	Jackie and Dan Searles	Joey and Selinda Moran
Children’s Time	Betty Cheek	Pete Paulsen	Rosalie Morgan	Helen James	Jan Boehm
Communion Preparation	Kate Tutwiler and Candace Brisbane				
Communion Servers	Martha Markle Charles Nyaga Pat Mukora Robert James	< Pulpit Area < Downstairs			
Offering Counters	Helen and Robert James	Charles Allen and Earl Lavender	Charles Allen and Earl Lavender	Neal and Betty Cheek	Neal and Betty Cheek
Nursery	Gail Draper	Gail Draper	Gail Draper	Gail Draper	Gail Draper
Session Meeting		Devotion – Beverly Larsen			

If you have a conflict with the date you are scheduled, please call the church office, 770-436-4010 and talk with Pete Paulsen, or call Lottie Kershaw at 770-378-8558, or find a replacement.

Southminster Presbyterian Church – November 2009

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 All Saints Day Communion PATH Offering Daylight Saving Time Ends	2	3	4 6:30 – Scouts 7:00 - Resource Council	5 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal	6 10:00 a.m. – Church Women United	7
8 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Stewardship Sunday Congregational Lunch Session Meeting	9 6:30 – PW Evening Circle, Fellowship Hall	10 10:00 – PW Day Circle at PV 7:00 – Tuesday Evening Prayer	11 6:30 – Scouts	12 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal	13 1:00 p.m. – Care Council	14 9:00 to 3:00 – Elder Training at Marietta First
15 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time NAMI nickel Sunday	16	17 9:00 to 2:30 Presbytery Meeting at Southminster	18 6:30 – Scouts	19 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal	20	21 7:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study
22 Christ the King Reign of Christ THANK offering	23	24 7:00 – Tuesday Evening Prayer	25 6:30 – Scouts	 Thanksgiving	27	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent Decorating of Sanctuary during worship	30	Sunday Schedule 9:30 a.m. – Adult Sunday School 10:30 a.m. – Choir Warm-up 11:00 a.m. – Worship			<u>Looking ahead:</u> On January 3 we will celebrate the visit of the Magi to the Christ child.	On January 10 we will remember the Baptism of our Lord by renewing our own Baptismal Vows.