

Southminster Presbyterian Church Newsletter — March 2010

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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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.*

2010 Church Session:

Pete Paulsen, Moderator

Candace Brisbane

Helen James

Whitey James

Bill Kershaw

Lottie Kershaw

Beverly Larsen

David Markle

Charles Nyaga

Linwood Swain

Kate Tutwiler

Linwood Swain, Clerk of Session
Earl Lavender, Receiving Treasurer
Connie Swain, Disbursing Treasurer
Beverly Pearce, Bookkeeper

Pastor's Letter

Like any good Calvinist, when asked to help I said 'yes!' The yes was to service on the Spiritual Development Team in the new presbytery structure. After agreeing to serve I was then asked to chair the Team, to which I also said 'yes.'

I agreed to this not because I know so much about spiritual formation. I do not see myself as an exceptionally spiritual person – whatever that means. I am not a practitioner of what passes as spiritually in modern culture. I agreed to serve thinking that my questions, my inabilities, my experience (and lack thereof), my perspective might help the presbytery in its service to the clergy and laity of this area. In addition, I agreed to serve because I think within a culture of popular spirituality, much of it based on Eastern/Asian models, there is a tradition of Christian spirituality and within that there is a distinctive Calvinist spirituality that has much to contribute to our lives and the life of the Church in this challenging time.

What I find unique in Calvinist spirituality is its emphasis on the centrality of worship for growth in Christ. Tied to that is the understanding that along with whatever we might do as individuals, there is also the fact that spiritual growth takes place within the community of believers. None of us is aware of our own peculiarities. We need brothers and sisters in Christ to guide and direct us when our own interests take us in strange directions. Spiritual growth is a gift from God and not something we acquire by our own labors nor is it a reward for doing all the right things. God is sovereign, we Calvinists say, and God gives growth where and when needed in our lives and in the life of the community within which we serve.

One thing I have learned again in this process is how important it is to be serious about spiritual growth and the disciplines, which over time the Church has learned are important for coming to know and love Christ more every day and are key to our service for Christ in the world. Those disciplines are not some exotic mantra or the positions of yoga. The disciplines, along with regular worship, are those that most of us learned as young people – regular Bible reading, prayer, study in groups, and service in the world. Each of us will balance the use of these disciplines in ways that mirror our personalities but each of them is important. In fact, each of us should work to develop disciplines that don't come easily for us. As an activist, I must learn to be quiet and wait upon the Lord.

During Lent there will be many opportunities for worship, study, and service in the life of our congregation. I encourage you to review the opportunities as outlined in this newsletter and take advantage of all that you can. Before the end of March we will be in Holy Week. We have a full schedule of activities. Each has a slightly different emphasis and style. Participating in all will give us the preparation we need to welcome with joy the news that "Christ has Risen! He has Risen indeed."

- Pete Paulsen

Worship Schedule

March 7

3rd Sunday in Lent

I Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

Repent or perish

Communion

PATH Offering

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

March 14

4th Sunday in Lent

Celebrating the Gifts of
Women

Rev. Rebecca Blackwell,
Preacher

March 21

5th Sunday in Lent

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Lay your burden down

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

March 28

Passion/Palm Sunday

Holy Week begins

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher
Parking Lot Parade into
Sanctuary



Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 a.m. - Adult Sunday School

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

11:00 a.m. - Worship

Nursery Provided

Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday is a Christian moveable feast which always falls on the Sunday before Easter Sunday. The feast commemorates an event mentioned by all four Canonical Gospels Mark 11:1-11, Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19: the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem in the days before his Passion. It is also called Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion.

In many Christian churches, Palm Sunday is marked by the distribution of palm leaves (often tied into crosses) to the assembled worshipers. The difficulty of procuring palms for that day's ceremonies in unfavorable climates for palms led to the substitution of boughs of box, yew, willow or other native trees. The Sunday was often designated by the names of these trees, as Yew Sunday or by the general term Branch Sunday.

According to the Gospels, before entering Jerusalem, Jesus was staying at Bethany and Bethphage, and the Gospel of John adds that he had dinner with Lazarus, and his sisters Mary and Martha. While there, Jesus sent two disciples to *the village over against* them, in order to retrieve a donkey that had been tied up but never been ridden, and to say, if questioned, that the donkey was needed by the Lord but would be returned. Jesus then rode the donkey into Jerusalem, with the Synoptics adding that the disciples had first put their cloaks on it, so as to make it more comfortable. The Gospels go on to recount how Jesus rode into Jerusalem, and how the people there lay down their cloaks in front of him, and also lay down small branches of trees. The people sang part of Psalm 118 - *...Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father, David. ...* (Psalms 118:25-26). Where this entry is supposed to have taken place is unspecified; some scholars argue that the Golden Gate is the likely location, since that was where it was believed the Jewish messiah would enter Jerusalem; other scholars think that an entrance to the south, which had stairs leading directly to the Temple, would be more likely (Kilgallen 210).





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NIGHT

will be Saturday,
March 13 at 5:30 p. m.

The movie will begin at 6:00 p.m. We will watch "Last Chance Harvey" (re-scheduled) with Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson, a movie about a relationship between two "mature" adults and how they help each other to re-connect with their families and re-define their future goals and life in general. We will have discussion following the movie.

Please come and join us, and bring a friend, and your favorite movie snack to share. Call Chris Curschmann, 770-842-3768, for RSVP and directions.



Presbyterian Women

We are indeed fortunate that this year WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be observed by Church Women United of Cobb County on Friday, March 5 at Southminster Church. An opportunity to host again this sister organization representing many churches in our county area and participate in a worldwide event. Plan to attend the coffee hour 9 - 10 o'clock in Fellowship Hall, followed by the meeting/service in the Sanctuary.

A week later, Saturday, March 13, the 103rd Annual Gathering of Cherokee Presbyterian Women will take place at Eastminster Church, Marietta, 8:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. The theme, "Revealing HOPE in Revelation," promises an interesting day of growth workshops and fellowship. More details and registration forms (due March 1) are available on the desk by the office.

Each year Presbyterian Women nationwide conduct "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" services in their churches. On Sunday, March 14, the Reverend Rebecca Blackwell, Mission Coordinator of Cherokee Presbytery, has been invited to be our guest preacher. Rev. Blackwell joined the presbytery staff in June 2009 and she and her husband moved to Cartersville from Washington State. Many of you met her when presbytery met at Southminster in November.

It is not too early to consider making your room reservation for the 2010 Gathering of PW of the Synod of South Atlantic, October 22-24 at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island. Registration brochures are now available. Dr. Beth Johnson, Professor of New Testament at Columbia Seminary, will lead the study/review of the 2010-11 Horizons Bible Study of the Book of Revelation.

If you have questions about these meetings, contact Ruth Webb, 770-819-7108.

Mark your Calendar

The Evening Circle will meet on Monday, March 8, at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. Mary York is Leader.

The Day Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 9, at 10:00 at Presbyterian Village. Helen James is Leader.

The lesson this month is Lesson 7 - God's Concern for Justice: The Cities of Refuge.

Reminder: to keep up to date on your pledges.



March Birthdays

- 1st - Neal Cheek
- 3rd - Beth Njau
- 10th - Nancy Whitehead
- 16th - Samuel Bibanga
- 19th - Ruth Webb
- 25th - Pat Dunn
- 25th - Doris Kidney
- 27th - O. B. Chaffee
- 31st - Christopher LaVine

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.

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. New Choir members are always welcome.



Vacation Bible School Is July 18-

22,
2010

and it's titled Galactic Blast.

Items we are requesting to be donated:

- glow in the dark stars (lots of people buy them and then never use them - hope some of those people are in our congregation)
- bottle, container & jar caps (small & medium sizes)
- aluminum pie tins
- 'to go' Styrofoam and clear plastic food boxes
- contact lenses containers (the ones they come in when they are new)
- large cardboard &/or cardboard boxes

Mission Outreach



One Great Hour of Sharing

Our greatest effort for global mission is centered in Southminster's support of One Great Hour of Sharing. This year especially there will be a concentration of help going to Haiti.

Please fill your coin banks and add to our Easter Celebration on April 4 with your donations for One Great Hour of Sharing.

Check out the Sharing Calender in this newsletter.



*Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of
Zion!
Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and having salvation,
gentle and riding on a donkey, on
a colt, the foal of a donkey.
I will take away the chariots from
Ephraim
and the war-horses from
Jerusalem,
and the battle bow will be broken.
He will proclaim peace to the
nations.
His rule will extend from sea to
sea
and from the River to the ends of
the earth. – Zechariah 9:9-10*

Condolences

We extend our Christian sympathy to Pete Paulsen in the recent death of his uncle in Norway, and to Robbie and Tim Rolstad in the recent death of Robbie's father and uncle.



New Session Committees

Session recently changed the structure of the Southminster ministries from councils to committees and shifted some of the responsibilities. If you are not now helping to strengthen the church program by serving on one of the committees, please consider how your gifts and ideas might be used and join one of the groups. Your help is needed.

Financial Committee

David Markle, Chair

Receiving Treasurer, Bookkeeper, Stewardship,
Disbursing Treasurer, Budget, Bank Account

Resource Committee

Whitey James, Chair

Repairs, Landscaping/lawn mowing/gardening, Outdoor
Lighting, Building and Cleaning Supplies, Personnel,
Signage, Maintenance, Parking Lot, Housekeeping,
Building Use Agreement/Contracts, Audit

Fellowship Committee

Beverly Larsen, Chair

Organize all fellowship activities (inside and outside of
the church), Organize (decorate and provide food) for
all meal functions, Oversee weddings and other building-
use functions, Oversee PW handling funeral receptions

Christian Education Committee

Helen James, Chair

Children's Church, Nursery, Presbyterian Women, Youth
Group, Confirmation Class, Sunday School, Small Groups,
Presbyterian Men, Vacation Bible School

Care Committee

Kate Tutwiler, Chair

Intercessory Prayer, Community Missions, Global
Mission, Caring/Sharing Fund, Community Projects,
Pastoral Care, Shepherding

Worship/Evangelism Committee

Lottie Kershaw, Chair

Communion for those in confinement, New Member's
Classes, Greeting and Assimilation of New Members,
Oversee all Worship Needs, Evangelical
Events/Promotions/Mailings, Greeters, Newsletter,
Communication, Communion, Doorstep Visitation,
Publicity/Promotions, Sanctuary Set-up/Décor, Music,
Directory, Bulletins

Session Report

At its stated meeting on February 14, 2010, Session took the following actions:

- ❖ Received and welcomed confirmand Charlton Kariuki into the membership of the church by Profession of Faith.
- ❖ Approved the minutes of the January 10, 2010 Stated Session Meeting and the January 17 and 29, 2010 Called Session Meetings.
- ❖ Approved rescheduling the March Session Meeting to the first Sunday, March 7, 2010.
- ❖ Approved the request from the Fellowship Committee to host an evening supper in May or June 2010 that would include an Alzheimer's presentation by Presbyterian Village staff.
- ❖ Approved request from the Christian Education Committee to conduct Vacation Bible School during the week of July 18-22, 2010.
- ❖ Approved request from the Christian Education Committee to suspend Children's Church during June and July 2010.
- ❖ Appointed Charles Allen to serve as its commissioner at the March Cherokee Presbytery Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 5:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Dalton

March 2010 Worship Responsibilities

	<i>March 7</i>	<i>March 14</i>	<i>March 21</i>	<i>February 28</i>
	<i>3rd Sunday in Lent Communion</i>	<i>4th Sunday in Lent Celebrating Gifts of Women</i>	<i>5th Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Passion/Palm Sunday Holy Week begins</i>
Preacher	Pete Paulsen	Rebecca Blackwell	Pete Paulsen	Pete Paulsen
Pulpit Assistant	Doris Grimm	Betty Cheek	Delores Thomas	Robbie Rolstad
Greeters	Charlie Allen Shirley Allen	Martha Markle Helen James	Joey Moran Selinda Moran	Carmen Freemire Candace Brisbane
Receive Offering		Connie Swain Mary York Candace Brisbane Chris Curschmann		
Children's Time	Golda Fuller	Rosalie Morgan	Jennifer Whitehead	Helen James
Children's Church	Doin Kibaara	Jackie McCown Nicole Larsen	Pam Moseley Mary York	Jan Boehm
Communion Preparation	Pam Moseley Mary York			
Communion Servers	Martha Markle Jennifer Whitehead Charles Nyaga Chris Curschmann	<Pulpit Area <Downstairs <Pastor		
Offering Counters	Whitey and Helen James	Neal and Betty Cheek	Neal and Betty Cheek	Connie and Linwood Swain
Nursery	Gail Draper	Gail Draper	Gail Draper	Gail Draper
Session Meeting	Devotion –Candace Food – Linwood			

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 – March 2010

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3 10:00 - Worship Committee 7:00 - Resource Committee	4 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal	5 World Day of Prayer Church Women United	6
7 3rd Sunday in Lent Communion PATH Offering Session Meeting	8 6:30 - PW Evening Circle, Fellowship Hall	9 11:00 Communion Service, Calvary 10:00 - PW Day Circle at PV 7:00 - Tuesday Evening Prayer	10	11 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal	12	13 5:30 p.m. - Movie Talk
14 4th Sunday in Lent	15	16	17	18 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal	19	20 7:30 a.m. - Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
21 5th Sunday in Lent NAMI Nickel Sunday	22	23 5:30 - Stated Presbytery Meeting, Dalton 7:00 - Tuesday Evening Prayer	24	25 7:00 - Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 Passion/Palm Sunday Holy Week Begins	29	30	31			