

Southminster Presbyterian Church Newsletter – July 2011

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Betty Cheek, Editor

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Pastor's Letter



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.*

2011 Church Session:

Pete Paulsen, Moderator
Candace Brisbane (2011)
Whitey James (2011)
Lottie Kershaw (2012)
Beverly Larsen (2013)
David Markle (2011)
Charles Nyaga (2013)
Linwood Swain (2012)
Kate Tutwiler (2012)
Jennifer Whitehead (2013)

Linwood Swain, Clerk of Session
Connie Swain, Disbursing Treasurer
Bill Kershaw, Receiving Treasurer
Doris Kidney, Bookkeeper

After our congregational meeting in early June one of our members came to me and said, "I am both frightened and excited." I assured her that I was likewise. I am absolutely convinced that we cannot continue for long as we are. While we are healthy and fully responsible to all our obligations, we are not able to reach, invite, and hold the people who live around us in our parish. With no new blood, we will die as our members move away or die. It is better for us to address this situation while we still have resources than to wait until decisions are forced upon us.

It happens that there are other Presbyterian congregations within commuting distance facing the same reality. It happens that they also are healthy and fully responsible to all their obligations. If nothing is done, however, it could be that this part of Cobb County will lose any Presbyterian witness. I agree that there is nothing that demands a Presbyterian presence here but I think that we have something to bring to our area and that we can and should make our contribution to God's work in these parts.

What we have done so far is to agree to go the next step in a trust relationship with the other congregations. According to plan, we will formally inform our presbytery at its meeting this month of our work to-date and our desire to follow God's will into the future. We will ask for the prayers of sisters and brothers across the presbytery and invite the presbytery to send people to join us in discerning the way forward.

I am excited about the work of discerning God's will. I don't for a moment believe that the days of the Church are over. I believe that we are in the middle of a Reformation as significant as the one in the 16th Century. I pray every day for us and for a vision of the future. I urge you to join me in those prayers.

I am fearful, however, as I have never gone this road before. Like almost all of us, I am a product of what we now call the 'Christendom,' that extended period from Colonial America to about the time of the Vietnam War during which the Church in all its forms not only thrived but largely controlled the culture. My dreams and plans for ministry are all shaped by my memories of that by-gone era. Now, instead of looking to my home congregation for a model for ministry, I must look to experiences on world mission fields or back to the experiences of the early Church as recorded in Acts. I ask God to give us all the wisdom to rightly discern the signs of the time and the courage to do what needs to be done.

One of our Elders stopped me after worship in the middle of the month and put into my hand the summer edition of one of the denomination's adult Christian Education curricula, *The Present Word*. "Read the lesson for June 12," she said. I did. It is titled God Has Expectations. The lesson is based on Joshua's call on the Exodus people to follow God into the Promised Land as one united body. It can be argued that we also stand on the edge of a promised land and must follow God together into what God wants done. Reading that Scripture passage and the lesson did more for me than simply rehearse Joshua's call to action. It brought to mind the whole Exodus experience from God's leading a reluctant people from slavery to God's faithfulness to the Covenant made with Abraham. Buy me some coffee and we can talk about this.

At this point the shape of our promised land is to be determined. There is much we don't know yet. Please stay active in the process. Offer your observations and concerns remembering that there are many voices in this process and only one final way forward. There will be meetings and classes and future votes. We will move responsibly toward what God has set as our goal.

As I said, I am both frightened and excited by what I see ahead.

Pete Paulsen

Vacation Bible School is July 10-14



Calvary, Southminster and Woodlawn congregations will come together at Southminster for this important week of fun, study, and fellowship.

Volunteers and Participants are needed for each night – Sunday through Thursday.

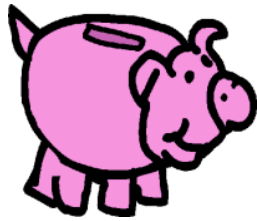


The program will include activities and Bible Study for all ages, including adults.

On Sunday we will register beginning at 5:30 p.m. A light supper will be served each night at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Opening Assembly for all will be at 6:35 each night. Then at 6:55 there will be story time, crafts, discovery and recreation for children while adults will be in a Bible study class. The Closing Assembly for all will be at 8:15 and the program ends at 8:30.

All children will be in one class. Older children are encouraged to help the younger children.

During the week we will collect school supplies to distribute through C.A.M.P. to children in the community who need help preparing for school. Please check the list of needed items on the Mission Outreach page in this newsletter.



Finance Information through May

Operating Receipts	\$61,283
Operating Expenses	\$91,192
Net Income	\$-28,909
Designated Offerings:	
NAMI	\$149
PATH	\$432
One Great Hour	\$1113
Caring Hands	\$1260
Building Use	\$7050
June 1 Loan Balance	\$595,907

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To keep up on the latest happenings in Cherokee Presbytery and across the denomination, log into the presbytery website at:

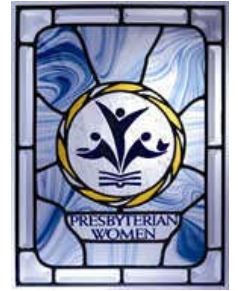
[www.cherokeepresbytery.org](http://www.cherokeepresbytery.org).



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Thanks to those who are providing special music while the Choir is taking a summer break.

Presbyterian Women

If it's JULY, it's time for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL on Sunday the 10th through Thursday the 14th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. (5:30 on Sunday) in Fellowship Hall. A wide-open invitation is for all ages of the congregations of Cavalry, Southminster and Woodlawn to come together for five evenings of fun, fellowship and spiritual sharing.



On Pentecost Sunday we were reminded that spiritual gifts given to each person by the Holy Spirit are special abilities that are to be used to minister to the needs of the body of believers (I Corinthians 12:4-13). There is still time to sign up to volunteer your gifts and time - above all to participate. Once again we are asked to bring school supplies for C.A.M.P. Look for the marked barrel and let's fill it to the brim during the week and until the new school year begins. Mission outreach is a twelve-month concern. We as Presbyterian Women, under Jan Boehm's leadership, are to be commended for responding to every call to contribute and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

August Kickoff

The Tri-Presbytery Fall Leadership Event will not be held in August this year because of budget cuts and lack of funding. However, Southminster PW's Coordinating Team is planning our August Kickoff and inviting PW of our sister churches to meet with us. The next newsletter will provide details.

Mark your calendar for the PW RETREAT, October 14-16, at the Cherokee Retreat Center for a wonderful weekend. Its theme, "Spiritual Practices for Busy People" will focus on what draws us into closer communion with our God. Rev. Rev. Maryellen Hittel, Pastor at Rockmart Presbyterian Church, will be the leader.



Worship Schedule



July 3

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 11:16-18, 25-30

Romans 7:15-25a

Come to me

Communion

PATH Offering

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

Fourth of July Weekend

July 10

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 13:1-9

Romans 8:1-11

Am I still excited?

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

Vacation Bible School Starts

July 17

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

VBS Wrap-Up

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Genesis 28:10-19a

What to do with needs?

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

July 24

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 13:31-33

Genesis 29:15-28

Signs of God's Kingdom

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

July 31

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Guest Preacher



What's happening in July?

The first Sunday, July 3, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper and receive an offering for Presbyterian Answer to Hunger (PATH) during worship.

On Sunday, July 10, our morning worship will be at 11:00 a.m., and then at 5:30 p.m. we will register for our first session of Vacation Bible School. This will be at Southminster and will be for all four of the CAWS congregations. Beverly Larsen is coordinating and can use help of any who would volunteer. We will have a light supper in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m. There is no need to bring anything - the meal will be prepared for you. The program will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Men of the Church will have breakfast and Bible study on Saturday, July 16 at 7:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

On Sunday, July 17, we will have Vacation Bible School Wrap-Up during morning worship.

The July Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery will be on Saturday, July 23 at 10:00 a.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church. Dave Markle will be elder commissioner.

Session will meet in the session room on Sunday, July 24 following morning worship.

On Sunday, July 31, we will have a guest preacher.

Ministry in our Community

On Wednesday evenings in August - 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, we will gather at the Calvary building at 6:30 p.m. for a light supper. At 7:00 we will study the PC(USA) book *Living the Vision: Becoming a Multi-Cultural Ministry*. As we work to re-anchor ourselves in our parish area we need to know more about the people who live around us and we have to develop some new skills or use some existing skills in ways that reach out beyond the kinds of barriers that exist in our culture. During these five weeks we will read and discuss the book, view a DVD made by our denomination, hear from the people at Woodlawn and the Presbyterian Church of Ghana - New Church Development at Woodlawn, and spend time with pastors and community leaders from our area. You are not only invited, you are urged to attend. There are exciting possibilities for ministry in this community. Serving those possibilities begins with learning about them.

2011 SESSION COMMITTEES

Financial Committee

C. David Markle, Chair
Receiving Treasurer, Bookkeeper,
Disbursing Treasurer, Budget,
Bank Account
Stewardship – Jennifer Whitehead

Resource Committee

Robert W. "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 P. 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

Charles K. Nyaga and
Candace M. Brisbane, Chairs
Children's Church, Nursery,
Presbyterian Women, Youth Group
Confirmation Class, Sunday School,
Small Groups, Presbyterian Men,
Vacation Bible School

Care Committee

Kate E. Tutwiler, Chair
Intercessory Prayer, Community
Missions, Global Mission,
Caring/Sharing Fund, Community
Projects, Pastoral Care,
Shepherding

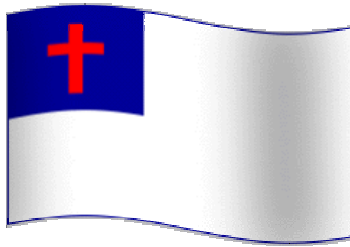
Worship/Evangelism Committee

Lottie S. 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



Independence Day, commonly known as the **Fourth of July**, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, political speeches and ceremonies, and various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the national day of the United States. During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4.



What is that OTHER flag at the front of the sanctuary?

The Christian Flag was first conceived in 1897 on Coney Island. The superintendent of a Sunday school, Charles Overton, was forced to give an impromptu lecture to the gathered students. Overton saw a flag of the United States in front of the chapel. Drawing on the flag for inspiration, he gave a speech asking the students what a flag representing Christianity would look like. In 1907 he and the secretary of the Methodist Young People's Missionary Movement designed and began promoting the flag. The flag's most conspicuous symbol is the Christian Cross. The red color is intended to represent the blood of Jesus. The white field represents purity and forgiveness. The blue square represents faithfulness, truth, and sincerity. Since the flag is not tied to any specific religious denomination or church institution, it signifies the unity of all followers of Jesus Christ within the Christian Kingdom of God despite historical, cultural, and dogmatic differences. The flag was first accepted by the Mainline Protestant denominations in the United States, and by the 1980s many institutions had described policies for displaying it inside churches. The American Flag is usually displayed with a traditional eagle finial, and the Christian Flag a cross finial. Some American churches practice a "pledge of allegiance" to the Christian Flag. There are various variations of the pledge. The Christian Flag spread outside North America with Protestant missionaries.



NAMI South Cobb thanks you for your generous support of NAMI Nickels Sunday month after month. NAMI South Cobb has been present at Health Fairs the months of May and June to distribute as much printed information as possible. Please remember to use this information yourselves. If you do not see the pamphlet you need concerning some aspect of mental illness, please call Jan Boehm. She will be delighted to get whatever material you need. Jan's number is 770-819-7208. The more folks that educate themselves on current mental health facts the more we help each other. Mental illness hits just like cancer and diabetes. There should be no blame or shame.



HAITI CHILD SPONSORSHIP
established 1982

Haiti Child Sponsorship

What an opportunity we have. We get to share resources with a place we know exists and with people our own. Charlie and Mary Scott visit often in Haiti. Their whole family is involved in this effort to educate and feed hundreds of Haitian children. Will you be a donor?

Care committee's Mission outreach

Camp News

In Memory of Simone Jorishie Collett
January 7, 1925 - March 20, 2011

Many of you will remember Simone visiting Southminster to encourage us to fill Christmas stockings and Easter baskets. She pioneered all the special gift programs for children, including the Newborn Baby Layette Program. In honor of Simone, C.A.M.P. (Christian Aid Mission Partnership) has created a new volunteer award to be given at the end of each year. The first recipient will receive the "Simone Collett Volunteer of the Year Award" in November 2011.

Be sure and get all the school supplies in the C.A.M.P. Barrel by July 17. Items needed are: Primary Tablets, Composition Books, College Rule Loose Paper, Wide Rule Loose Paper, 1" Binder Notebooks, Scissors (rounded and pointed), #2 Pencils, Pens (Black or Blue), Crayons (24 count), Glue Sticks, Pocket Folders, Colored Pencils (12 count).

Remember to thank Doris Kidney and Robert Holman for delivering all the canned goods, etc. that you bring for C.A.M.P. and Highest Praise.

Hygiene Kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance are coming in. Remember, we turn them in to Cherokee Presbytery every time we reach 20. There is no letup in need. Many kits stay here in Georgia and other stricken states. Others continue to be sent to Japan and Haiti. Fill a one gallon Ziploc bag with: 1 washcloth, 1 hand towel, 1 toothbrush, 1 nail file or nail clipper, 1 bar of soap, 6 Band-Aids, 1 comb. Bring completed kits to the information table beyond the elevators on sanctuary level.

Erma Jones of John Knox Presbyterian Church is responsible for mailing all the knitted or crochet cross squares for soldier helmets from Cherokee Presbytery Presbyterian Women, and also the *Messages of Hope* notes that are sent with the crosses. Knitters have now outdistanced writers. Please take the note paper provided and write a short message to a soldier that will receive one of the crosses. Leave your notes in the workroom in Jan Boehm's mailbox. Erma is short hundreds of messages, so let's help. Many soldiers have written back saying the cross and note are very special to them.



July Birthdays

9th - Catherine Mugo

15th - Joey Moran

18th - Jill Kerns

22nd - Lizbeth Kibaara

23rd - Ken Moore

26th - Edie Chaffee

30th - Jennie Grimm





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.

July 2011 Worship Responsibilities

	<i>July 3</i>	<i>July 10</i>	<i>July 17</i>	<i>July 24</i>	<i>July 31</i>
	<i>14th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<i>15th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<i>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<i>18th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Preacher	Pete Paulsen	Pete Paulsen	Pete Paulsen	Pete Paulsen	(visiting preacher)
Pulpit Assistant	Frank Kibaara	Ester Hegngi	B. Q. Oranike	Charles Allen	Ukpabia Ozor
Greeters	Martha Markle Jennifer Whitehead	Michael Kerns Jill Kerns	Carmen Freemire Pat Dunn	Bill Kershaw Jackie McCown	Doris Kidney Robert Holman
Children's Time	Pat Mukora	Jackie Searles	Betty Cheek	Rosalie Morgan	Kate Tutwiler
Children's Church	(summer break)				
Communion Preparation	Pam Moseley Mary York				
Special Music	Women of the Choir: <i>When Morning Guilds the Skies</i>	Doris Kidney: <i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	VBS Wrap-Up	David Markle	Kate Tutwiler
Communion Servers	Whitey James Helen James Beverly Larsen Chris Curschmann	<Pulpit Area/Preacher <Right Side facing pulpit <Left Side facing pulpit <Left Side facing pulpit			
Offering Counters	Linwood Swain Connie Swain	Linwood Swain Connie Swain	Charles Allen Robert Holman	Charles Allen Robert Holman	Dan Searles Jackie Searles
Nursery	Gail Draper	Gail Draper	Gail Draper	Gail Draper	Gail Draper
Session Meeting				Devotion: Candace Charles Nyaga: food	

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 – July 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p><u>Sunday Morning Schedule</u> 9:30 a.m. – Adult Sunday School 11:00 a.m. – Worship Nursery Provided</p>					1	2
<p>3 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Communion Fourth of July weekend</p>	<p>4 Independence Day </p>	<p>5 11:00 a.m. – Communion Service @ Calvary</p>	6	7	8	9
<p>10 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time V A C A T I O N</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16 7:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<p>17 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p>	<p>18 6:00 p.m. Bible Study with Golda Fuller and Charles Nyaga</p>	19	20	21	22	23 10:00 a.m. – Stated Presbytery Meeting @ Providence PC, Dallas
<p>24 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</p>	<p>25 6:00 p.m. Bible Study with Golda Fuller and Charles Nyaga</p>	26	27	28	29	30
<p>31 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Guest Preacher</p>			Watch for the announcement about the PW Fall Kickoff in August	Save the dates: August 3, 10, 17 and 24, & 31 for study sessions on <i>Living the Vision</i>	Watch for announcement about an <i>end- of-summer picnic</i> in August	Cobb County students return to school August 15