

November worship transects our mission as a church ...
"to invite, to nurture and to go"

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November 6 we celebrate our Jubilee GEM Sunday!
The conclusion of our Wheeling-Township-Mission Trip.



Enjoy brunch from 9-10:30 a.m.
Attend our single-service Celebration Worship at 11:00 a.m.
Focus: Nehemiah and Re-Building of the city of God!

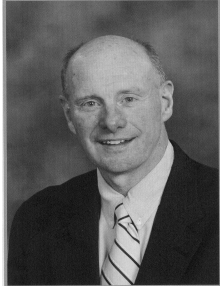
November 13 and 20 we are challenged by Jesus to consider if and how we "Give from the Heart," as we tackle the challenging topic of Christian Stewardship: the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure.

Sunday, November 13, 9:00 and 11:00 services
Focus: *The HeART of Giving*

Sunday, November 20, 9:00 and 11:00 services
Focus: *Giving from the Heart*

November 27 we begin the new church year with Advent.
This is the season in which we prepare ourselves for the in-breaking/birth of God into our lives. Our Advent focus is, *A Celtic Christmas.*"

In these four weeks, we will enrich our commitment to Christ by exploring Celtic Christianity that emphasizes achieving harmony, healing and renewal for human beings and all creation when we are intimately connected with God through Christ. This advent we will turn to an 'old heartbeat' to discover our 'new heartbeat' in God. In Advent we long for a new birth of God in our lives.



The Acts 16:5 Initiative ?!

I overheard someone say, “I think I’m pretty well informed about what’s happening at Southminster, but I don’t understand Acts 16:5.” The Acts 16:5 Initiative is a three-year program that encourages and assists congregations to attempt transformational ministries. Okay, what does this mean?

Most Presbyterian congregations are declining or dying, and some are holding their own while others are growing. My guess is that most, if not all PCUSA churches, want to grow – including Southminster.

What keeps a church from growing? There are internal and external factors contributing to a church’s decline: ineffective leadership, sociological/demographic/cultural changes, holding onto traditions that do not engage the present.

In their book *Pathway to Renewal*, Smith and Sellon say, “*declining congregations have lost connection with the Christian church’s basic mission of helping people experience God and live the gospel message of life and hope... a key factor is the failure to introduce new members to and equip them in the disciple-making mission of the church.*”

The Acts 16:5 Initiative is an intentional way for a church to perform a self-evaluation and encourage a church to stay focused on the “disciple-making business” by encouraging existing committees, organizations, and groups to focus both on the inner spiritual health of existing members while at the same time try outside “the church-box” ministries and programs.

Acts 16:5 keeps church leadership and existing teams/committees focused on being a growing church.

A declining church . . .

Focuses on growing the church
Runs the church
Concentrates on people-led
Participates in mission projects
Fixes what is

rather than
rather than
rather than
rather than
rather than

A growing church . . .

witnessing to the faith
forms disciples
spirit-fed
has a mission
creates what God wants

Our implementation of Acts 16:5 relies on a vision team—a group that has been recruited, trained, and linked to our session/council’s ministry teams—that works with these ministry teams to encourage the components of a growing church. They encourage and sometimes challenge teams/committees to focus on growing the church principles. They encourage trying ministries, re-creating ministries, and transforming ministries that engage each of us to become spirit-fed, engaged, and vibrant disciples who want to share our faith and our faith community.

The Acts 16:5 Initiative is like a spiritual enzyme working in an organism that creates new, sustainable, and faith-filled opportunities that grow followers of Jesus Christ.

Hopefully this helps you understand what Acts 16:5 is about—becoming who God wants us to be . . . with YOU!

Steve

Jonah, Change, and Small Groups

I've been wrestling with a number of things lately, and I see a through-line between them. Just this past Sunday, the story of Jonah was preached, and I think most of us find the ending of it quizzical. Why does Jonah not want the Ninevites to be saved? Is he just cold hearted, or is there something else? I think the answer to that question might be this simple: Jonah fears change. If the Ninevites were saved by God, and loved by God, then Jonah's world would have to expand. No longer just the safe clan of the Jews, but the family of God would have to be enlarged, causing ... change! That is, Jonah would have to get out of his comfort zone where things become less predictable and more people mean new faces. Jonah's "No God, don't let them in!" sentiment now makes a little more sense. It could have been driven by someone who was all too comfortable "in his box."

Yet God is always calling us to extend ourselves to people. Grace is for all. The kingdom of God is to grow like the smallest mustard seed into a large plant, and that means SPC, too. All this Acts 16:5 business is about that— transformational approaches to the church so that we can grow with the addition of wonderful, new faces and thrive in our next 50 years of ministry. So here we are confronted with Jonah-ism. We will either be open to new changes or we will run to our own Tarshishes, wishing God would contain His grace to comfortable limits and not change our world.

Ken Lageler in his book on *Youth-Ministry-Change* talks about how to overcome this anxiety to make sure you, me, and everyone gets cared for. He gives a pop quiz asking, *What is the best way to structure a youth ministry [or church] for care and the meeting of needs?*

- A. through small groups
- B. through small groups
- C. through small groups
- D. all of the above



His point is that small groups are our place within the whole where we can feel known and understood so that when change comes, we will still feel cared for. The changes that frighten us are abated by friendly, consistent fellowship, so new faces don't send us spinning because the familiar ones are still in plain view. It is these solid relationships that enable us to open our lives to those new faces so that they, too, can feel cared for and comforted.








So happy Jubilee and Acts 16:5ing, Southminster. May we live in rich fellowship with one another and fearlessly welcome the next generation into our midst. To the glory of God Almighty!

Peace to you,

Andrew

A PDO Thank-You

Our Parents' Day Out kids would like to thank Southminster for their many blessings:

-  a beautiful, safe church for us to learn and grow in
-  a caring staff that nurtures and guides us as we develop
-  a surrounding community that values us
-  an outdoor space where we can exercise and play
-  a program designed for us to explore art, books, and toys
-  a place for us to make friends
-  Southminster, a great place for us to learn and grow!



PDO operates weekly, Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Email Tricia at tdking61@aol.com for additional information.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Due Date: Sunday, NOVEMBER 20, 2011

Once again, our church is participating in **Operation Christmas Child**, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. This well-established, Christian non-profit program brings joy and hope to children around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God's love.

Samaritan's Purse goes to great lengths to deliver these shoeboxes to remote areas of the world...often by camel, bicycle, water-plane, and snow-shoes! They also give each child a Gospel Booklet in the child's own language.



Southminster's goal is to send 100 or more shoeboxes to children around the world!
Here's how you can help participate:

1. **Wrap separately** an empty shoebox and its lid or pick up an Operation Christmas Child shoebox from SPC or you may also decorate a plastic container.
2. **Choose a boy or girl label** and an age group: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.
3. **Fill the box** with a variety of gifts, using the list below as a guide.
4. **Please enclose a check for \$7 made out to Samaritan's Purse** in a payment envelope located by the education hall entrance to help cover OCC's shipping and other costs. Or go online to www.samaritanpurse.org/ezgive to donate. If you donate online, print out the label for your box and tape it on the top (OCC will send you an email telling you when and where your box was delivered).
5. Place a **rubber band** around your box and lid.
6. **Return your shoebox(es) to church no later than Sunday, November 20.**

SUGGESTED GIFTS FOR YOUR SHOEBOX:

Toys:

Small cars
Balls
Dolls
Stuffed animals
Kazoos
Harmonicas
Yo-yos
Slinky
Jump ropes
Small Etch-a-Sketch
Toys that light up/make noise
(include extra batteries)

School Supplies:

Pens
Pencils and sharpener
Crayons and/or markers
Stamps and ink pad sets
Coloring books
Writing pads and/or paper

Hygiene items:

Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Soap
Comb
Washcloth

Other:
Hard candy
Lollipops
Mints
Gum
Sunglasses
Flashlights (w/ batteries)

Ball caps
Socks
T-shirts
Toy jewelry
Hair clips
Watches
Small picture books

DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- X **NO** used items
- X **NO** war-related items (toy guns, knives, army guys, etc.)
- X **NO** chocolate or perishable food items
- X **NO** liquids: shampoo, lotion, bubbles, etc.
- X **NO** medicines: vitamins, cough drops, ointment, etc.
- X **NO** breakable items: mirrors, china dolls, snowglobes, etc.



Jubilee Faith-Holder Fund Q & A

Q: Will the Jubilee Faith-Holder Fund take the place of our annual Stewardship Campaign?

A: No. The annual Stewardship Campaign will take place in November as usual and is used for the day-to-day operation of our church expenses and programs. The Jubilee Faith-Holder Fund, lasting through December, 2013, is designed to jump-start us into the next 50 years of faith, sharing together as we go forward.

Q: May I designate specific projects to receive my contributions?

A: No, we'd rather you didn't. The Jubilee Faith-Holder Fund is planned for future investments in Southminster such furnishing a new boiler and new roofing; enhancing our entrance; replenishing the Pierce/Hetherington Endowment that provides for our Family Ministries program and Associate Pastor; and empowering our Mission efforts.

Q: May I make three individual commitments, one for each year 2011, 2012, and 2013?

A: Yes, participation is very flexible, allowing you to plan your own level of contribution.

Q: How do I contribute?

A: Special Jubilee offering envelopes are included in your envelope box or you can make the appropriate notation on your check.

Chris House Thanksgiving Bags

The Mission Team is now collecting food for the annual Christopher House Thanksgiving food drive. A list of suggested food items is posted at each of the collection boxes, which are located in the entrance vestibule and the library hallway. (Please remember to check expiration dates on your donations.)

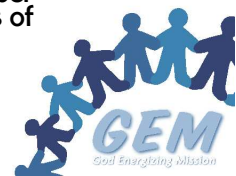


Collection will continue through Sunday, November 20. Thanks in advance for your very kind support of this worthwhile project!

GEM
God Energizing Mission

One hundred and fifty volunteers are scheduled to work on seventeen homes in our community. God continues to energize us to serve our community and bring others closer to God's love. Thanks to all who have given their time and effort to this project.

Watch the December Spire for full results of our Jubilee GEM Weekend!



Chris House Christmas

Our Family-to-Family Christopher House Christmas program is fast approaching! Once again we will support 100 individuals residing in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago. Our scheduled delivery date is December 17.

Sign-up begins between and after services in mid-November. Thank you in advance for your help.



For Your Marriage

Saying "I love you" out loud is important, but sometimes indirect gestures of love carry an even stronger impact. Be creative. Put your love in writing as a love letter or a short "sweet note" hidden in some unexpected place where your beloved will find it.

www.foryourmarriage.com





Jesus and the Marginalized

Jesus, our Savior, was once considered a prophet without honor in his hometown of Nazareth. That was before he began his life-saving ministries, demonstrating how the Old Testament's jubilee hope would become the New Testament Gospel—good news for the poor. However, the term “poor” does not only refer to those living with little money to spend, but by the standards of Jewish piety, the poor were those who were excluded from taking part in the life and benefits of God's people.

“Poor” people suffered either because of their physical condition, ritual impurity, or the way in which they earned income. They were the socially rejected (such as widows who had lost their sole source of income) and the ritually rejected

(especially tax collectors).

To answer John the Baptist's questions, Jesus responded by ministering to several widows and making friends, even dining, with tax collectors. He accepted the Pharisees' characterization of himself as “a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (Luke 7:34).

Being a widow myself, I am drawn to the story about the widow of Nain, a Gentile saved by Jesus. She, like me, was left alone to raise her children, and now she was grieving with a large crowd, ready to bury her only son. As her son was being carried out, Jesus said the word, “Rise!” The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother (Luke 7:11-17). It was a foretaste of the Resurrection, and changed the mood from death to life—what a gift of great joy! There are always skeptics who say that the man was not dead but in some sort of trance, but those early Christians were convinced that Jesus had brought to life those whom others had declared dead.

Luke declares that Jesus is the savior whom the prophets foretold. Bottom line: God wills wholeness and redemption for all people, and God's will for life shall not be compromised.

What a friend we have in Jesus!

Pastor Barb













The Reformation

Beginning on Sunday, October 30, the Discipling Team is sponsoring a three-part series on the Reformation. We are pleased to welcome Rich Blazeovich, a retired high school teacher and a member of Faith Lutheran Church (here in Arlington Heights), to speak to us during the adult education hour. Rich is a life-long student of history and has taught AP history at Forest View High School and Glenbrook North High School. Please join us at 10:10 a.m. in the chapel to hear the following presentations on the Reformation period:


November 13 “John Calvin and John Knox”

November 20 “The Catholic Response and the Impact of the Reformation”



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>2011</p>		<p>1 </p> <p>9:30 am <i>Beth Moore Book Group</i></p> <p>1:15 pm “♥ of a Woman”</p> <p>7:00 pm <i>Love and Logic Group</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Jubilee Ringers</p>	<p>2 </p> <p>7:00 am <i>Men's Sharing</i></p> <p>7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3 </p> <p>1:30 pm <i>Love and Logic Group</i></p> <p>7:00 pm <i>Men's Bible Group</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Singers</p> <p>8:00 pm Central Road Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>GEM Mission Weekend</p>	
	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 – 10:30 am GEM Brunch</p> <p>GEM Celebration Worship One Service @ 11:00 am</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 pm Worship Ministry Team Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 pm Deacons</p>	<p>8 </p> <p>1:15 pm “♥ of a Woman”</p> <p>7:00 pm <i>Love and Logic Group</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Jubilee Ringers</p>	<p>9 </p> <p>7:00 am <i>Men's Sharing</i></p> <p>7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10 </p> <p>9:30 a.m. <i>SPC Book Club @ Ruth Van Witzenburg's</i></p> <p>1:30 pm <i>Love and Logic Group</i></p> <p>7:00 pm <i>Men's Bible Group</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Singers</p> <p>8:00 pm Central Road Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 pm “Refresh” (Worship) in the Sanctuary</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>10 am Learning Opportunities*</p> <p>11 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>Stewardship 2012</p> <p>5:30 pm Jr. Hi. Night</p> <p>Operation Christmas Child Collection Week</p> <p>7:00 pm Vespers @ The Moorings</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 am Mission Min. Team</p> <p>7:15 pm Youth Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>15 </p> <p>9:30 am <i>Beth Moore Book Group</i></p> <p>1:15 pm “♥ of a Woman”</p> <p>7:00 pm Jubilee Ringers</p>	<p>16 </p> <p>12:00 p.m. SPC hosts A. H. Ministerial Assoc.</p> <p>7:00 am <i>Men's Sharing</i></p> <p>7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17 </p> <p>7:00 pm <i>Men's Bible Group</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Singers</p> <p>8:00 pm Central Road Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00 am Presbytery Assembly @ Wheaton First</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>10 am Learning Opportunities*</p> <p>11 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>Stewardship 2012</p> <p>5:30 pm Jr. Hi. Night</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:15 pm <i>LUV Group</i></p> <p>7:15 pm Church Life, Property, and Personnel Min. Team Mtgs.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:15 pm “♥ of a Woman”</p> <p>7:00 pm Jubilee Ringers</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 am <i>Men's Sharing</i></p> <p>7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p>9 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>10 am Learning Opportunities*</p> <p>11 am Contemporary Worship</p> <p>Stewardship 2012</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>29 </p> <p>9:30 am <i>Beth Moore Book Group</i></p> <p>1:15 pm “♥ of a Woman”</p> <p>7:00 pm Jubilee Ringers</p>	<p>30 </p> <p>7:00 am <i>Men's Sharing</i></p> <p>7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>			

* Learning Opportunities: Adult Discippling, Kiddie Kingdom, Kingdom Doors, Jr. High, Sr. High
Pastors Days Off: Steve - Thursday and Saturday, Andrew – Tuesday and Saturday Diane Ahlquist – Office Hours - 8:30 am - 3:00 pm - M – F

 Parents Day Out PDO Thanksgiving Break – November 22 – 25, 2011

A.A. Meetings every Monday through Friday at 12 noon; Tuesday at 10 am, and Friday at 8 pm.