

The Spire



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Southminster Presbyterian Church

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Lent 2006

The Life You've Always Wanted
(concluding Sundays)

Sunday, April 2nd

Worship Theme: "A Well Ordered Heart" (Ortberg, chapter 12)

Message: Your "heart's desire"?!?

Scripture: Hebrews 12: 1-3

Sunday, April 9 Palm/Passion Sunday

Worship Theme: "The Experience of Suffering" (Ortberg, chapter 13)

Message: tbd

Scripture: Mark 11: 1-11 and Hebrews 12: 4-24

Holy Week 2006

Maundy, Thursday, April 13 - 7:00 p.m. Worship *

A Vigil of the Final Hours of Jesus' Life

A Special Service Experiencing the History and Culture of the Day before Jesus Died -
Including the Upper Room

Good Friday, April 14 - 12:00 noon Worship *

A Time to Mourn - A Service Hearing and Responding to Jesus' Last Words

Easter, April 16 - (9 and 11) *

Celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus and the Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Message: Becoming an Easter Miracle

Scripture: Luke 24: 1-12

- Intra-Generational Friendly (elementary age +) - all will find these services meaningful.

The Season of Easter

Sunday, April 23

Celebrating Earth Day - One Service at 9 a.m.

Eco-Justice Sunday

And - Children's Ministry Open House.



Pastors' Perspectives

Easter – A Rush of Life



Susie and I found the recent exhibit at the Field Museum: *Pompeii – Stories from an Eruption* fascinating and tragic. On August 24, AD 79, Mount Vesuvius ... "A fearful black cloud was rent by forked and quivering bursts of flame, and parted to reveal great tongues of fire.... Darkness fell, not the dark of a moonless or cloudy night, but as if the lamp had been put out in a dark room." (from the exhibit narrative)

The exhibit centers on the human

remains that were found entrapped in the molten lava. The void from the human bodies was filled with a molding material, which, after it hardened, was chipped away – leaving the human form – a shell filled with chemical material.

What a contrast to the fear-filled and fateful day that Jesus died on the cross and the heavens spewed forth lightning and thunder. There was a violent earthquake, the Temple and its sacred curtain split in half. People ran in fear. Unlike Vesuvius, the resurrection filled Jesus and those affected by him with new life. They were not buried, stone-like; they became more than they had been; they

became dynamic, energized, vibrant and ALIVE!

That's what I like about Easter. It is not about the power of death; it is about a rush of life! Now, that's something worth celebrating... another reason why we'll never find the bones of Jesus.

He has risen! He has risen, indeed! Happy Easter!

Steve Pierce,
Pastor



The Eighth Day

Dear Friends,

Do you know why Christians worship on Sunday? Most of us probably think of Sunday as the last, or seventh, day of the week. Genesis tells us that "on the seventh day, God finished the work that he had done... so God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation" (Gen. 2:2-3). So, we think of Sunday as the Sabbath, and the Sabbath was the day our Jewish ancestors worshipped.

But, the primary reason the *first* Christians worshipped on Sunday was because Sunday was the day the empty tomb was discovered— Sunday was the day Jesus was resurrected from the dead. God's Kingdom was inaugurated with Jesus' resurrection. Sunday was thus the first day of the new age.

As the first day of the new age, Sunday represented the first day beyond our earthly experience of life and

time. Thus, the first Christians referred to Sunday as either the first day or the eighth day—the first day outside of, or after, the seven days of our world's creation.

This understanding of Sunday as the first or eighth day was central to the early Church's understanding of itself and its worship. By worshipping each week on Sunday, the early Church proclaimed that Jesus was risen, had inaugurated God's Kingdom, and would come again to reign over God's fully realized Kingdom. In its worship, the early Church sought to model God's Kingdom to the world.

What would we emphasize if we were to think of our worship as modeling the Kingdom life? We would not come to worship primarily looking for it to provide something for us.

Rather, with energetic intention, we would speak in awe of God's greatness and love; revel in the rich and diverse biblical witness to God's faithful relationship with humanity and creation; acknowledge the manifestations of our humanness; cele-

brate and affirm God's claim on our lives through baptism; receive nourishment for the Christian journey in the Lord's Supper; dedicate our lives to God's purposes; welcome the estranged into our community; love one another while holding one another accountable to Jesus' teachings; and pray for our global family and God's good creation. And, in turn, through this worship, we would be more open to God's continuing efforts to shape and form us, as disciples and as a people of God.

May our worship truly and enthusiastically proclaim and model that Christ has inaugurated God's Kingdom, and that God's Kingdom is at hand. See you on the eighth day!

In Christ's love,

Lolly Dominski



Following Our Faith



Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

When:	Saturday, April 22, 2006
Where:	United Presbyterian Church 16440 Cottage Grove Avenue South Holland, Illinois
9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m.	Keynote Speaker Kathryn Baker, Churchwide Vice Moderator and Mission Speaker from Shelter, Inc. To explain Mission Opportunities of Presbyterian Church (USA)
12:00 noon	Lunch (\$7.00)
1:00 p.m.	Worship with a birthday offering and mission project offering

You are invited to bring "new baby items" or make a cash donation. Cokesbury Books available for purchase.

Driving Directions: Bishop Ford Expressway (I-94) to Route 6 (162nd St.), west to Cottage Grove, south to 164th Place.

Spring Fling

Mary Magdalene . . . Martha and Mary . . . Suzanna . . . Un-named Women

Join Southminster Women on a Joy-Filled Spring Fling!

Attend:	Our annual Spring Salad Luncheon
When:	Saturday, April 29, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Where:	Southminster's Jones Memorial Fellowship Hall
Why:	To hear our featured author, Julie-Allyson Jeron An inspirational Christian speaker talks about her book <i>Women in Jesus' Circle of Friends</i> and the lessons they can teach us for today's living, following Jesus.

The cost is \$5.00 per person and includes musical entertainment by "Springtime Flowers." Tickets may be purchased between Sunday worship services. Bring your favorite yummy salad, serving 8-10. We'll provide the rolls and butter, beverages and dessert. Bring yourself and a friend for faith, food and fun!

Women Mentoring Girls

Please note the change of date due to spring break:

When:	Sunday, April 9 (second Sunday of the month)
Time:	12:15 to 1:30 p.m.
Where:	Library/Conference Room
Topic:	More Team-Building taught by Elder Jean Walker
Scripture:	Romans 15:5 and 6 - The Gift of Harmony Bring your Prayer Box and a friend!
Cost:	\$3.00 per person for sub, soda and apple
Email:	barbpeter@aol.com to reserve your lunch!

Green Team News

The Green Team invites people of any shade of green to join us. Come bring your ideas and interests. Forgot the granola? That's okay. Just bring your passion.

Our new scheduled meeting time and date is every third Sunday of the month at 12:15 p.m. Hope to see you there.

Children's Corner

Kingdom Doors Update

A new six-week unit for Kingdom Doors is set to begin on Sunday, April 2 with a visit from Paul who will tell the kids about his conversion on the road to Damascus. In the following weeks, kids will be receiving a different letter and sometimes a package from Paul in the workshop mailboxes. The letters and packages will help the children to learn that believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ grow stronger in faith through the church. Workshops will include Movie, Art, Game, Bible Variety, Cooking and a Ropes Course.

Everyone is Invited

Come upstairs and visit Kingdom Doors sometime during the 10:00 hour on Sunday, April 23. See first hand the program that has our kids excited about coming on Sunday mornings. Visit the newly completed Desert and see plans for the Marketplace.

Mark Your Calendars

The next Fellowship Friday will be on Friday, May 5. Watch the Fellowship Friday bulletin board for more information.

Vacation Bible School Dates

July 16 - 20 with the VBS Celebration and Cook-Out on Sunday, July 23.



Parents' Day Out Spring Registration Dates

Saturday, April 22, 2006, at 8:00 a.m.

This registration is for currently enrolled families and Southminster members for the Fall 2006 session. A lottery will be held to ease the registration process.

Saturday, April 29, 2006, at 8:00 a.m.

Registration will be open to the public. Remaining spots will be filled at this time.

For more information regarding PDO registration, please call Tricia Ondracek at 847.392.2025.

Foyer Plant Contribution:

As you may have noticed, the Worship Ministry Team purchased new silk plants to replace the live plants in the sanctuary. We decided to keep the live plants in the foyer, but instead of leasing them, make a one-time purchase to buy them. The \$360.00 for the four live plants is not in our budget. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of these plants, please make your donation out to the church. Remember to write "plants" in the memo section of your check.

Flower Fund:

If you would like to contribute to the flower fund in honor of an event or particular person, the notebook for doing so is in the hallway outside the office. You may sign up there and make your check out to the church, noting in the memo section of your check that it is a flower contribution.

Easter Lily Fund:

If you would like to purchase one or more Easter lilies either to take home or give to a homebound person, order forms can be found in the pew pads or the church office. Plants are \$8.00 each and can be picked up after Easter Sunday services. Fill out the form and attach your check, remembering to note in the memo section that it is for Easter lilies, and place them in the collection plate or drop them off in the office by Sunday, April 9.

Sharing In Our Faith

Whale of a Sale! Save the Date – May 20

Don't forget to clean out your *stuff* and save it for our WHALE OF A SALE. Proceeds of your *stuff* will go to great causes.



On Saturday, May 20, 2006, Church Life and Worship Committees are partnering with The Arlington Heights Junior Woman's Club to coordinate a Whale of a Sale to be held at the church. We need your unwanted *stuff* to make this a success. Sale proceeds will help pay for the renovation of the lower level Music Room and a new sign in front of our church. Proceeds from the Arlington Heights Junior Woman's Club will go to a local charity.

We hope to bring in many people from the neighborhood. We'll have information available about our children's, junior/senior high programs, mission, small groups and all the great activities we do at Southminster.

Mary Kay Walsh, Cathleen Von Oesen and Jane Behls (also representing the Arlington Heights Junior Woman's Club) have offered to lead this effort. Several people have already offered to help; however, the more hands we have on May 20, the less work and stress there is for each volunteer. We need YOU! We need your *stuff* and your help, and we need you to invite your friends, neighbors and relatives.

So if anyone is interested in helping on May 20, please either call the church 847.392.1060, Mary Kay Walsh 847.255.5941 (mwalsh1018@aol.com) or Esther Skeggs 847.413.9883 (estherms@ameritech.net).

This will be a blast! Come join us for the fun.

The Book Club



The Book Club is a group who enjoys reading and discussing books and meets informally in each other's homes about once a month to discuss books we have selected to read. We select books by consensus according to whatever strikes our fancy or has been recommended by other readers. We like a "good read," sometimes something from the bestseller list like *My Sister's Keeper* by Jody Picoult or sometimes something less well known like *A Distant Shore* by Caryl Phillips. We would like to add readers to our group and invite you to come to our next discussion on Thursday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Marj Leopardo's home, 806 S. Walnut in Arlington Heights. The book selected for that evening's discussion is *The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad, a non-fiction book set in Afghanistan. Copies are available on Amazon for \$4.95 or at your local library. Questions? Ask Jane Martin Behls, Marj Leopardo, Ruth Van Witzenberg or Mary Kay Walsh. We also invite any men who enjoy a good read as well.

Revisiting the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio

Fritz Michaelis is offering Southminster's Tour III of the landmark Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park on Saturday, April 22. The private showing will be from 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. A leisurely walk will follow through the neighborhood, identifying and comparing architectural styles of the same era. The walk will conclude with lunch at Winberie's, a popular Oak Park eatery. You also may wish to stop at The Home and Studio's Ginkgo Tree Gift and Bookshop before returning home.

Home and Studio tour fees are \$9.00 for adults and \$7.00 for youth (7-18) and seniors (65+). After collecting fees, a car-pool caravan will leave the church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Home and Studio policy limits tours to 15 persons at a time. If you're interested in going, don't delay in signing up at the kiosk.

Thank You, Southminster

Thank you for your cards, prayers and hugs as I went through radiation treatment. Things are progressing very well.

- Julie Wright

It is hard to put into words what is in my heart, but your kind words and cards of sympathy at the loss of my wonderful wife, Bea, has helped soothe the pain.

Thank you.

God bless,

- Pete Alford



Mission

**One
great hour
of sharing**

**Fishing nets and 500
fish fingerlings:**

\$150



It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

When was it that we saw you . . . thirsty? (Matthew 25:37)

Donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing help support Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Hunger Relief and Self-Development of people. As you know from reading the paper or watching the news, there is great need in these three areas of ministry.

Did you know??

\$350.00 can provide emergency shelter and food to a homeless youth for an entire year.

70% of those who suffer from hunger are women and girls.

\$10.00 a month can provide books, a uniform, and tuition for an African child.

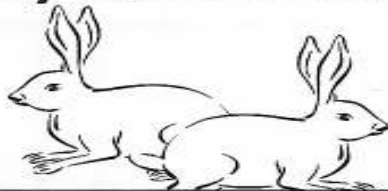
\$150.00 can support a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team member for a day, while consulting with disaster-affected presbyteries.

**IT'S REMARKABLE WHAT YOUR GIFT WILL DO.
PLEASE SUPPORT THIS WORTHY CAUSE.**

The offering will be dedicated on Sunday, April 30.

rabbit hutch, two rabbits:

\$50



**One
great hour
of sharing**

It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.

Hygiene Kits and Socks for the Homeless

Just a reminder that the mission team is collecting items for hygiene kits, including white athletic socks for the Night Ministry. The senior highs will put the kits together on Sunday, April 23. A typical hygiene kit includes the following, with the first six items the most important: Purchase TRAVEL SIZE Soap, Shampoo, Lotion, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Lip Balm, Wash cloths, a few towelettes, Disposable Razors and Shaving Cream. Please place items that you purchase in the box provided in the hall of the education wing.



Help Stop Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a modern day form of slavery that exists in Illinois. The Rescue and Restore Outreach Day is a day when volunteers in Illinois and across the nation will canvas neighborhoods and streets to hang Rescue and Restore posters wherever possible.

If you are willing to help hang posters on Saturday, April 22, please call 312.793.2665.

Mission



Have a Heart Spring Baby Shower

Just a reminder that baby shower items are being collected for the Christopher House Baby Shower being held on Tuesday, April 25. Items should be placed in the boxes provided in the hallway of the education wing or in the foyer. If you are able to help take items to the baby shower on April 25, please leave a note in the mission mailbox.

Operation Ortolano - Mission Trip to Gulfport

When Lisa Ortolano introduced our group to her neighbors, she said, "This is my new church family from Arlington Heights, Illinois. From day one the task before us was daunting. Where to start!! So much to do!! Our construction leader, Jay Haack, analyzed the situation and determined a course of action. Our goals were to restore a grounded electrical system, remove and replace the hot water heater, replace damaged studs, remove linoleum, remove damaged duct work, restore cable wiring, trim and remove debris from shrubs, replace insulation, and dry wall as many rooms as possible. We are pleased to report our goals were accomplished. It is amazing what nine people can do with hard work, humor and an organized leader.

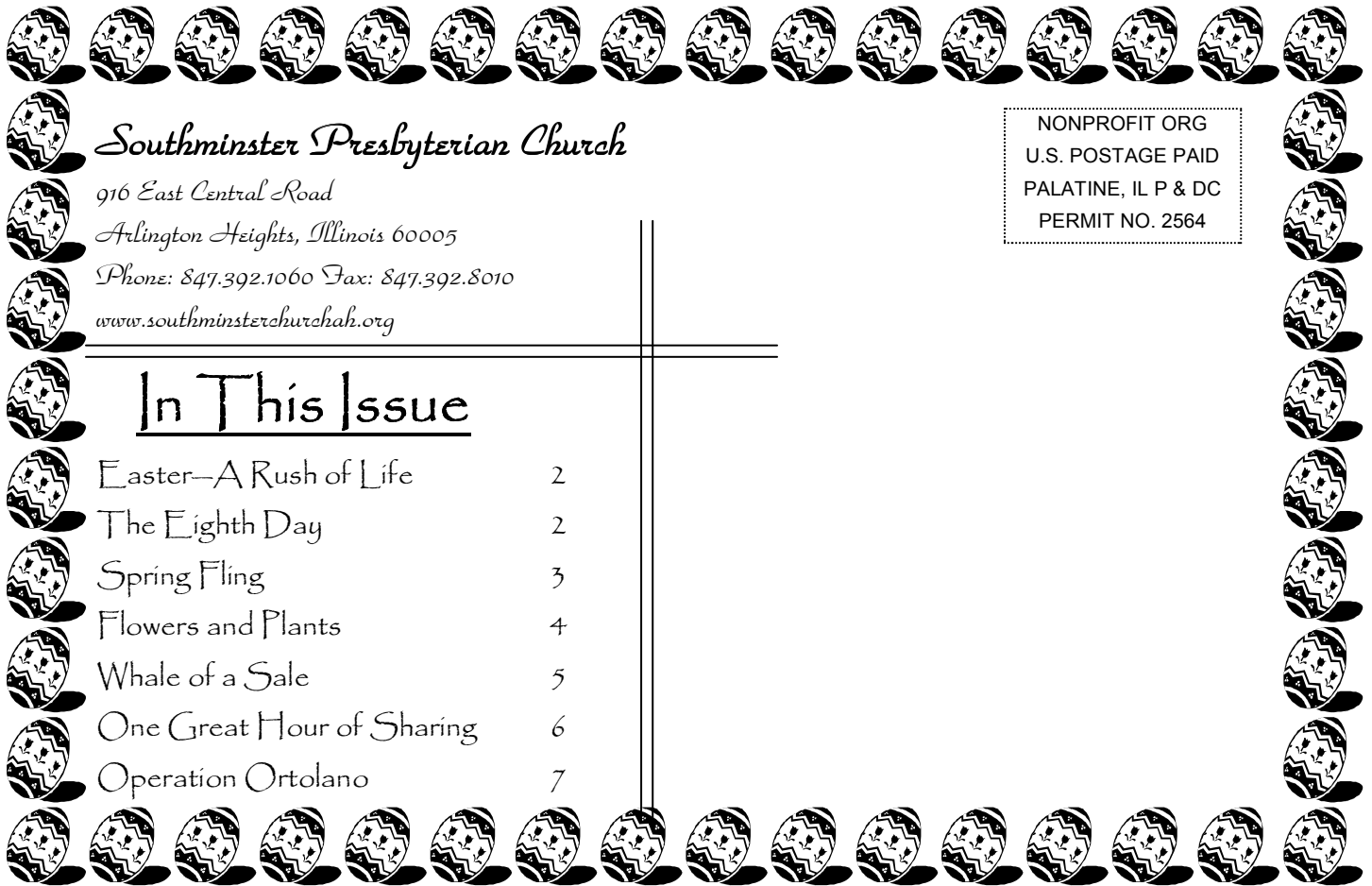
In order to do some of these projects the ceiling in the kitchen and dining area had to be removed. Day one was demolition day. We began our days at 8:00 a.m., had devotions, a short break, time off for lunch, and ended between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. Sunday was a special day. The team toured the devastation along the Gulf coast and then attended worship at Westminster Presbyterian Church before starting work at noon. Lisa's kids really enjoyed helping and during breaks played games with Steve and Sam. On Saturday evening we celebrated Lisa's birthday. Lisa's mom, Carol, brought over a rib dinner and cake, and we enjoyed some social time on the patio. We bonded not only during the workday but also through the close accommodations provided us by the POD at Westminster.

The money donated was used to support the team members' trip and purchase materials for our projects. There is still much more work needed before Lisa, April, Chance and Joe can move back into their home. A special thanks to Jean and Roger Boekenhauer for the use of their van, Jay Haack for his expertise, Jeff and Michelle Miller for their generous donation of supplies, and all of the congregation for their generous support. Southminster's Katrina money helped support a very needy family.



A special thanks to the team members for their week of hard labor:

Jay Haack	Construction Chief
Steve Haack	Attic Man
Samantha	Dry-Wall Cutter
Sue Peterson	Screw-Gun Operator
Jerry Westfall	Jack-of-all-Trades
Paul Bourke	Cable Man
Keith North	Demolition Man
Sandy Pifer	Mudder and Taper
Jean Walker	Linoleum Stripper



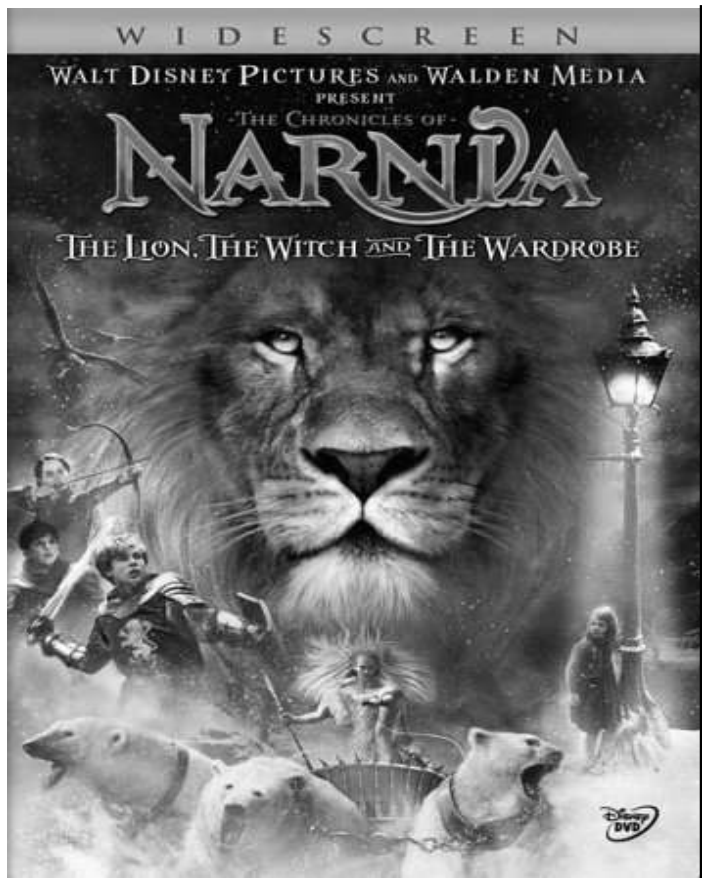
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In This Issue

Easter—A Rush of Life	2
The Eighth Day	2
Spring Fling	3
Flowers and Plants	4
Whale of a Sale	5
One Great Hour of Sharing	6
Operation Ortolano	7



Southminster's
Movie Night

**The Chronicles of Narnia,
The Lion, The Witch and The
Wardrobe**

Saturday, April 8

6:30 - 9:00

Fellowship Hall