

Southminster Presbyterian Church

Dr. Stephen C. Pierce, Pastor Rev. Lolly Dominzki, Associate Pastor Maureen Cooke, Editor

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Whale of a Sale Friday and Saturday - May 18 and 19, 2007



Church Life and Worship Committees are partnering with The Arlington Heights Junior Women's Club to coordinate Whale of a Sale to be held at Southminster.

Please begin putting the STUFF you no longer need aside as you do your spring cleaning. You can start bringing your smaller items to church and leaving them on the stage in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 6. Larger items such as furniture can be brought after Thursday, May 10 and placed in the tent. We are not accepting computers or large exercise equipment. Please let your friends and neighbors know as well. Donation forms will be provided for tax deductible purposes.

Proceeds of the sale will help pay for the music room project in the church's lower level and a new church sign facing Central Road. The proceeds from the Arlington Heights Junior Women's Club will go to a local charity.

WE WILL NEED LOTS OF HELP from May 14 - 19.

Please consider volunteering one hour or one or more days.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, please call any of the following contact names:

The church office at 847.392.1060

Mary Kay Walsh at 847.255.5941 or email
(mwalsh1018@aol.com)

Esther Skeggs at 847.413.9883 or email
(estherms@ameritech.net)

Jane Behls at 847.797.1936 or email
(iafan87@ameritech.net).

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mis-ə-'lä-nē-as, -nyəs

In my life, probably like in yours, there are many miscellaneous things that are special/noteworthy. They may not need a column to describe; they have significant merit in mentioning.

The word is miscellaneous ... Pronunciation: mis-ə-'lä-nē-as, -nyəs: Function: *adjective* Etymology: Latin *miscellaneus*, from *miscellus* mixed

1. consisting of diverse things or members: **HETEROGENEOUS**
2. a: having various traits, b: dealing with or interested in diverse subjects <as a writer | was too *miscellaneous* - George Santayana> - *mis-cel-la-neous-ly* *adverb* - *mis-cel-la-neous-ness* *noun*

Here's some miscellaneousness for you in May ...

- Take time to enjoy the beautiful gallery of Mary Kay Walsh's pictures of her trip to Jordan and Egypt - exhibited on the SPC gallery - the chapel hallway.

- Venture to the Arlington Heights Historical Museum (112 W Fremont) and enjoy the historical legacy of churches in Arlington Heights - including a Southminster exhibit.
- Serve God, save the planet - read - Redeeming Creation: The Biblical Basis for Environmental Stewardship by Fred Van Dyke or Serve God, Save the Planet by Matthew Sleeth - and then take some environmental action steps.
- Celebrate cancer survivor day: June 24, 2007, at the Arlington Height's Senior Center.
- Come to The Moorings on Sunday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m. to enjoy our SPC children participate in the Vesper service.
- Invite your pastor to join you for a round of golf (just want to check if you are really reading this! - though I'd enjoy the golf.)
- Claim some quiet time, find a spiritual resource, and enjoy

moments of personal renewal.

- Worship on Pentecost (May 27) and wear colors of fire!
- Volunteer to help with "The Whale of a Sale" - May 18-19!
- Take a walk in your neighborhood - invite everyone you meet to Southminster (we have resources to share.)

No doubt you have some miscellanea to add so here's some space for you...

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M and M - May and Miscellaneous! A great month to grow your faith and try some new church related things. See you in church,

Pastor Steve



Resources for Jealousy

Imagine yourself in a leadership role with two of your family members opposing you. That's the situation Moses found himself in when his brother Aaron and sister Miriam rebelled against his leadership.

Truth be told, Moses was no paragon of virtue before he encountered God at the burning bush. He killed an Egyptian man, becoming a marked man by the Pharaoh. He also married a Midian woman (outside of his Levite tribe). Yet God "drafted" this unreligious man to liberate his people, Israel.

Moses developed an amazing relationship with God, which caused

jealousy to erupt between him and his siblings. It was the Lord who called them all together and spoke to them: "When there are prophets among you, I, the Lord, make myself known to them in visions. I speak to them in dreams . . . with Moses, I speak face to face" (Numbers 12:6,8).

As baptized believers, we too are the privileged recipients of divine revelation in visions and dreams. Just as Moses discovered, we are to carry out that revelation to others even when it means controversy and upsetting others. How can we prepare to say the things that need to be said?

Second Timothy 4:2 gives guidelines: "Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching." Like Moses, ask God to prepare the way for you, in the way of Jesus the Messiah.

Easter tide blessings,

Pastor Barb on Longwood



Why Be a Member of a Church?

Dear Friends,

The Presbyterian churches with which I've been associated have all experienced something in common. A significant number of people attend worship regularly, perhaps get involved with other ministries of the church, and may even pledge financial support—and yet, do not become members.

I'm sure there are lots of sociological reasons for this trend, but I'm not nearly as concerned about the reasons for it as I am about what a nonchalant attitude towards church membership says about our relationship to God and our spiritual condition. It might be good for us all to consider again more fully what it means to be a member of a church. Here are just a few of the meanings of being a church member, rather than a regular visitor, in our Presbyterian tradition:

Only members can serve in the key leadership roles of Elder or Deacon. Thus, being a member demonstrates a willingness to take an active responsibility for

the ministries and people of Southminster.

One who has become a member of a church has covenanted with the other members to carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ in this community and beyond. You'll recall that when an individual is received into membership s/he is asked if s/he will share in this particular church's worship, prayer, ministry, study, service, and fellowship.

Church membership demonstrates a concrete sense of belonging to a church community. The community, in effect, has covenanted to be in relationship and to live in community with one another according to Jesus' teachings. We've covenanted that we can depend on each other for caring, forgiveness, repentance, support, and mutual spiritual growth.

One who has become a member has confessed to our Triune God, to him/herself, to the Session as well as the entire congregation, in a public setting, that s/he seeks to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

One person recently put it this way: being a regular participant in a church's ministries without becoming a



member of the church is like living together without getting married. This comparison is not without foundation. In the New Testament, the Church is often referred to metaphorically as the bride of Christ and Christ as the bridegroom.

Like getting married, becoming a member reveals a deeper level of commitment to God in Christ than does just living together or just participating regularly in a church's ministries. Those who are already members can renew the meaning of their church membership in their hearts, minds and souls—and in their attitudes and actions.

May we all consider more deeply during this Easter season what being or becoming a member of the Southminster church community really means.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Lolly

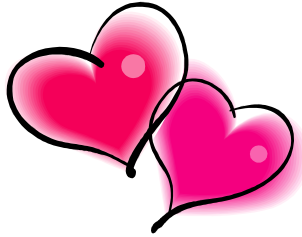
Pastoral Care (Pastors are not mind readers!)

If you go to the hospital or a care facility, under the recent HIPPA law, hospitals and health care providers must obtain patients' consent to share information about them.

Pastors and churches are no longer automatically informed about a member's hospitalization. If you go to the hospital or are having a medical procedure that you want Steve or Lolly to know about or if you would like to be included on either the prayer chain or the prayer list, please inform Steve, Lolly or the church office. Also, consider asking a family member/friend to keep the church informed as to how you are doing and to request any pastoral/spiritual care. Our faith teaches us, and studies continue to demonstrate, the efficacy of prayer and spiritual care during the irregular events of our lives.

Steve Pierce

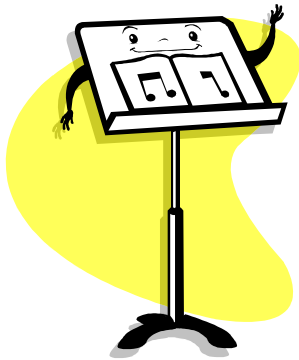
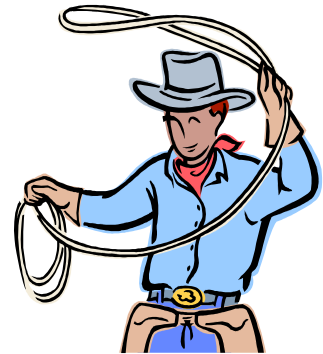
Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6



"All You Need is Love!" The Two Great Commandments

The Beatles were right: "All you need is love..." Hmm... were Jesus' words the inspiration for this tune? Jesus explained in Matthew 22:34-40 that ALL the commandments can be summed up by the word LOVE. In our current rotational unit, the children are learning about the Two Great Commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." Children are learning that these commandments guide the actions of our lives. Please take an opportunity to ask one of the Kingdom Doors Kids what they have been doing in Sunday school!

Wahoo! We will be doing Avalanche Ranch, a Wild Ride through God's World this summer for VBS. Save the week of July 15 for some good ol' western fun!



The Children's Choir will be singing on May 6 in both services and at the Moorings that evening. If your child would like to participate, please sign-up outside the main office or contact Eva Speedy or Kari Sealund! Practice will be Thursday, April 26 and May 3 from 6:45 to 7:30.

Shark Slam, Gator Gush, Barracuda Blast & Pelican Plunge?!?!

Those slides at Coco Keys were a BLAST! I think a few kids may want to rename one of them the water wedgie! What a turn-out we had! Thirty-nine children and parents attended (and quite a few guests). We sure have been having fun on our Fellowship Friday's this year!



Chris House Volunteers Needed

In last month's Spire we asked for volunteers to be liaisons with Chris House. Esther Skeggs said she would be willing to help, but would like a person or two with whom to partner. Thanks, Esther. If you are interested in doing some volunteer work that would only involve a few hours a month, Esther would love to work with you. The next Auxiliary Board meeting is coming up soon. Call Sandy Pifer at 847.215.4991 or Jean Walker at 847.255.9647 for more information.

Spring of Life Habitat Fundraiser

Flowers, trees, bushes for you- and funds for Habitat! If you plan to buy any plants, materials or products for your garden this spring, you can get everything you need at Knupper's Nursery in Palatine (1801 N. Rand Road, north of Dundee Road). Shop between Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day) and Friday, June 1 and this beautiful nursery will make a 10% donation from your purchase price to our church's Habitat Partnership, Spring of Life (SOL). You must mention Spring of Life Habitat to the clerk when making your purchases. It's a great way to get what you need for your garden and donate to a great cause at the same time!



Looking to Volunteer?

Faith Community Homes sent us a very detailed list of volunteer opportunities. Listed below are just a few. Check the bulletin board for more specific opportunities. This is a wonderful organization that provides affordable housing to people who live in Arlington Heights.

Services needed:

- 1) A person to assist with preparation for quarterly Board of Directors meetings. Service includes some typing, Xeroxing, and mailing of materials to board members in advance of meetings. Time requirement is four hours a month.
- 2) A person to assist with correspondence, writing thank you notes, general typing of forms and contracts. Time requirement is two hours a week.
- 3) A person to assist in maintaining a volunteer list (data entry), responding to phone calls, and picking up food certificates for families. Time requirement is two hours a week.
- 4) A person to perform mail merges and mailings for the Fund Development committee as well as maintain the donor database.

If you are interested in helping out in any of these capacities, contact sister Carrie Miller, SLW at 847.342.0846.

Book and Video Drive

The Mission Team is collecting books and videos through May to send to Neuva Esperanza. Neuva Esperanza is a program housed at Vida Neva Church in Chicago and is working to keep kids off the streets by providing tutoring and after school recreation. If you have any new or like-new high school age books or videos, please drop them off at the Pass It On Shop at church. They specifically asked for teen-appropriate coffee table books. Thank you.



Meadows Community Services Worship/Easter Egg Hunt

On March 24, thirty-seven children and twenty adults participated in a wonderful Southminster breakfast buffet followed by a worship service for both adults and children. After worship, the children were entertained by the Merry Heart Clowns. These three women delivered a wonderful message of God's love through magic, songs and games. The children then hunted for Easter Eggs, and each child was given a beautiful Easter Basket donated by the Christian Church of Arlington Heights. What a great day!

A Week of Prayer and Witness for Christians in the Middle East

Did you know that Egypt is home to approximately 6 to 11 million Christians, the largest Christian community in the Middle East? What do you know about Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine and Syria? Southminster has a plan to help us all grow in our understanding and pray for the Christians in the Middle East.

Please plan to participate in all these exciting events happening on Sunday, April 29!

Sunday morning worship will welcome Kathy Matsushima as she preaches about the enduring witness of Christians in the Middle East.

Adult Discippling, between services, will host Irene and Karl Sahyouni who will talk about Lebanon and its people.

Sunday evening at 4:00 we will view the video "The Iron Wall."

Sunday evening at 5:15 you are all invited to our MIDDLE EASTERN DINNER! Irene Sahyouni and the Mission Team will provide an authentic Middle Eastern dinner.

Following the fabulous dinner that you won't want to miss, Kathy Matsushima will provide information and insights into the Middle East situation. (Please sign up in the church office so we know how much food to prepare and how many will view the video.)

A Week of Prayer: Monday, April 30 through Friday, May 4

The chapel will be open daily. Please come and pray or pray at home for the elderly and ill Middle Eastern Christians as their shrinking communities, no longer able to care for them, become increasingly fragile. Pray also for the Jinishian Memorial Program, a foundation administered by the PC (USA) that supports the Armenian community of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Armenia, Turkey and Jerusalem.

Suggestions for daily prayer:

Monday, April 30 – Syria

We pray that the Syrian government will continue to provide religious freedom as well as refuge for those fleeing danger in the surrounding countries. We pray for the safety and well-being of Iraqis of all faiths who have found refuge and hospitality in Syria since the invasion of Iraq.

Lebanon

We pray for a government that represents Lebanese of all confessions and a determination among all Lebanese to work for the good of the country.

Tuesday, May 1 – Jordan

We pray for Jordan's people as they struggle to welcome many thousands of Muslim and Christian Iraqi war refugees. Also, for the Christian schools, hospitals and other institutions that minister to the needs of the Jordanians.

Wednesday, May 2 – Iran

We pray for minority religious groups facing discrimination that they may have freedom of religious expression, equal employment opportunities, and acceptance and tolerance in society.

Israel/Palestine

We pray for churches and other organizations working to meet human needs, building understanding and respect between Jews and Arabs, and seeking a just peace.

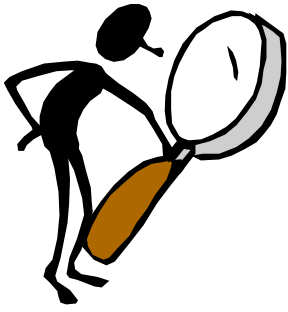
Thursday, May 3 – Iraq

We pray for the building up of a government able to keep peace among Iraq's religious and ethnic communities. We pray that Christians in Iraq will be accepted by their Muslim neighbors and contribute to the rebuilding of the nation.

Friday, May 4 – Egypt

We pray for Coptic Christians and Muslims who are working to live together in harmony and mutual understanding for the good of the country.

Thank you.



The Search is on...

The Youth Ministry Team is pleased to announce that a search has begun to fill a new position at SPC: Youth Ministry Coordinator. The Youth Ministry Coordinator will assist in the preparation and presentation of the Senior and Junior High Sunday religious education curriculum and take part in the after hours fellowship program for both groups. If you have the Spirit to work with high energy youth, or know someone who does, then visit the SPC website for a complete job description!

Wear Red!

Wear Red! The liturgical color for Pentecost Sunday - this year on May 27 - is red! The Worship Ministry Team would like to see a sea of red in both worship services. Come to Pentecost Sunday worship services wearing red and find out what is special about this day that makes red the liturgical color this one Sunday of the year.

Wanted: Basketball Players

Would you like to get in on a little physical activity while enjoying some friendly competition and fellowship? Basketball players of all levels of experience and ability are invited to join our team. Details on when and where to be determined. We're just looking to see how many people are interested, so if you are, please contact Joe Morton, Jr. at jkorton@sbcglobal.net or 847.640.6720.



2007 Confirmands

Below are the names of those being confirmed on Sunday, May 27 at Southminster. Congratulations to each and every one. To learn more about these wonderful, young people, look in the Youth Newsletter insert in this month's Spire.

- Andrew Bourke
- Kristin Sealund
- Rachel Erickson
- Benson Busse
- Claire Reibel
- Lauren Lonergan
- Christine Rueger



Southminster Presbyterian Church

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Worship in May

New Series: "Designer God - Designed People"
Being an Acts 2 Church

May 6: "Discovering The Designer"

May 13: "Designed to Love"

May 20: "Designed to Grow and Go"

May 27: "Designed to Make a Difference"

Also in May worship

May 6: Wills Emphasis Sunday
Celebrating the Lord's Supper

May 13: Mother's Day

May 20: Presentation of Bibles to Fourth Graders

May 27: Celebration of Pentecost
(Wear colors of fire!)

Confirmation Sunday
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Our Mission:

*To invite, to nurture, and to go
To invite all people to share in God's compelling love
To nurture a Christ-centered faith that works in everyday life
To go into the world as disciples*