



2008 First Annual Report

Board of Deacons
Southminster Presbyterian Church
Mount Lebanon, PA



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Special Community Service - Food Bank

Coordinator Ms. Danni Allman

- Ms. Danni Allman coordinates Southminster's food pantry - the South Hills Pantry. Ms. Allman's efforts are Herculean in terms of the time and energy she commits to address a critical need in our community. She works quietly behind the scenes to determine the eligibility of families to receive food and other supplies, coordinate pantry volunteers, and get the food directly to needy families.
- The South Hills Pantry supplies food and goods to 53 households living in 13 communities within the South Hills area of Pittsburgh.
- Composition of the eligible households ranges from one individual to six family members. Our clients are a fragile population of adults and families who are the elderly, mentally or physically challenged and special needs adults and children.
- The Pantry is blessed to have donations of food items, monetary gifts and an abundance of prayer in support of this mission. Several local churches, businesses, schools, individual donors, scouting and other programs keep this pantry going strong.
- In addition to canned goods and packaged food items, we provide fresh vegetables, fruits, dairy products, meats, chicken, sugar-free items and low sodium foods to accommodate the dietary needs and restrictions of our client families.
- The success of this program - in existence for 26 years - is not possible without the support and assistance of our volunteers who take phone calls, pack grocery bags for deliveries, and drive to distribute the food. None of this could be possible without the dedication and tireless work of these volunteers and one of the greatest volunteers in Southminster, Danni Allman. Thank you, Danni.



Duty: Café / Lemonade in the Shade

Committee Chair Ms. Susanne Cwalina

- Deacons host the final hour of the café for participants in the 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service. The Deacons also serve by cleaning Rec Hall and the kitchen, leaving it spotless for use the next day. Two or three Deacons work this shift. From early September until mid-June, the Deacons welcomed church-goers to this social hour, and made new members feel at ease. This year the Deacons coordinated their café duties with Elder Ms. Cyndy Donahoe.
- Beginning in mid-June throughout the summer the Deacons host what is fondly known as “Lemonade in the Shade,” after the 10:00 a.m. Traditional Sunday Service. Church-goers enjoy a cold drink and a sweet treat under the shade of the beautiful Oak tree on the Southminster House lawn.
- In 2008 our Deacons hosted more than 1,720 church-goers who found a comfortable and welcoming place to meet after the service.



Duty: Transportation

Committee Chair Ms. Celeste Reisinger

- The Deacons provide an invaluable service every Sunday to the elderly and people with disabilities who cannot drive to the 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service. Deacons also provide transportation to those who wish to participate in the annual Christmas Eve celebration of Christ's birth.
- This year the Deacons provided 286 rides to members of Southminster. Each Sunday up to nine people were transported to and from the Church by Deacons.
- Deacons transport residents of Friendship Village in Upper St. Clair, using the Southminster van. Several Deacons are certified to drive the van, and two "honorary deacons" - spouses of members of the Board of Deacons - graciously drove the van to and from Friendship Village this year. These gentlemen have earned special recognition for their service to the Church community: Mr. Bill Arthurs and Mr. Wayne Wilson.
- Deacons also drive senior citizens who live in nursing homes/assisted living facilities and in their own homes.
- The elderly express their gratitude to the Deacons, however, it is the Deacons who feel blessed for this opportunity to minister by providing this service to those who wish to worship in community with others.



Duty: Greeting Committee Chair Mrs. Mary Ann Wucher

- Most often the first person encountered at the doors of Southminster is a Deacon. Deacons stand at each entrance, welcoming visitors, new, and current members to the Service.
- Deacons smiled at, spoke to, and shook hands with more than 12,000 people in 2008. Deacons represent the Pastor and his staff in welcoming people to worship - an important contribution to the Church.



Duty: Flower Delivery

Committee Chair Mrs. Anne Sloan

- Every Sunday, Deacons collaborate with the Presbyterian Women to deliver flowers to Church members who are temporarily or permanently living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospitals, or are recovering in their own homes.
- In 2008, Deacons delivered vases and bouquets of beautiful, aromatic flowers to 125 people. Along with the flowers, a card from PW and a Church bulletin are delivered.
- The generosity of Church members who donate flowers makes this possible. They wish their donation to be given to those who cannot be present to enjoy the flowers in the Sanctuary and Narthex main entrance. Easter and Christmas are particularly plentiful occasions; for example, this year the Deacons, with help from their friends in the Chancel Choir, delivered dozens of floral gifts.
- In addition to the flowers bringing joy to the recipient, a smile from and a conversation with the Deacon who delivers them is an important part of this ministry.



Blood Bank - Ken Dobbins, Linda Wilson and Keep in Touch Greetings

- The Deacons sponsor two blood drives each year in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Community Blood Bank. In 2008 Mr. Ken Dobbins and Ms. Linda Wilson planned and coordinated the drives in the fall and spring.
- The drives collected 75 pints of blood. The Blood Bank and Deacons thank the Church members and non-members who donated to save people's lives and help them through medical recovery.
- Deacons send cards each month to Church members with a milestone 80th birthday! One hundred fifty birthday greetings were sent this year by Mr. Tom Hoag, Ms. Samantha Reid and Ms. Luetta Waddell. Mrs. Wucher coordinated card signing by all Deacons for college students. Beginning in 2009 the Deacons are expanding the greetings to college students on a more regular basis, new Church members, newlyweds and new parents.



Special Community Service - Limited Mobility

Committee Chair Mrs. Glenda Arthurs

- Started decades ago by Mr. Ed Emack, longstanding member of Southminster and former Deacon, the Limited Mobility committee falls under auspices of the Board of Deacons. From behind the scenes, Mr. Emack continues to support the committee's work.
- In 2008 Mrs. Arthurs fielded some 150 calls. Members of Southminster and people from surrounding communities inquired about borrowing and donating equipment to the committee.
- Forty-seven generous people donated equipment to this committee, which provided wheelchairs, walkers, portable commodes, canes, crutches and shower chairs to those in need. The equipment enhances the quality of life for so many, all of whom express deep appreciation for this ministry.



Board of Deacons

Organization and Membership

- In 2008 the Board developed a new organizational structure. Two second-year Deacons served as co-moderators of the Board: Ms. Samantha Reid and Ms. Jacqueline Molinaro-Thompson
- Two Deacons also served in the capacity of co-vice moderators: Mrs. Mary Ann Wucher and Mrs. Carol Mavilla.
- Deacons are nominated by Church members and installed during a worship service for a three year term. With support from committee chairs and Deacon membership, the leadership team re-energized the Board and served the Church in a meaningful way. During 2008 several deacons felt compelled for personal reasons to resign their post. This presented a challenge to the remaining members, who rose to this challenge and fully participated in the service and ministry.
- In fellowship and commitment to Southminster Church, the following officers served during the Board's 2007/2008 year:
 - Samantha Reid
 - Jacqueline Molinaro-Thompson
 - Mary Ann Wucher
 - Carol Mavilla
 - Glenda Arthurs
 - Robie Bruesewitz
 - Betsy Charles
 - Susanne Cwalina
 - Pamela Dickinson
 - Ken Dobbins
 - Tracy Fitzsimmons
 - Tom Hoag
 - Harry Mahr
 - Barbara Maynard
 - Jerry Owens
 - Kathy Perry
 - Cheryl Polito
 - Celeste Reisinger
 - Anne Sloan
 - Debra Stunkard
 - Dr. Frank Tinnemeyer
 - Hannah Vaughan
 - Luetta Waddell
 - Arthur Walters
 - Heather Wechter
 - Linda Wilson



Board of Deacons

Mission and Goals

- As written in the Book of Order it is the duty and purpose of the Board of Deacons to minister to the needs of the congregation, support the pastoral staff, and participate in the liturgy.
- The Board, comprised of 27 deacons, reaches its goals through full participation of each Deacon. The Board's effectiveness relies solely upon the full commitment and participation of its membership.
- A minimum of two pastoral care activities, described in detail on the following pages, are expected from each Deacon every month for three years. Full participation is also expected, to the extent feasible, in monthly Board meetings and special community events and services.
- This year the Board co-moderators participated in monthly Session meetings and reported their activities to the Pastor, Clerk and Elders. Close communication with Church staff and Elders promotes the mission and goals of the Deacons. The Board expresses special gratitude to the Pastor's office staff for their ongoing support, assistance and encouragement this year.
- The Board develops and follows an annual and long range plan. Goals accomplished for 2008 include:
 - completing 524 service duties in ministry to Southminster
 - establishing a relationship with the Session and participation on nominating committee
 - setting goals to expand future Deacon services and instituting mentoring of new Deacons
 - establishing a leadership team approach to accomplish the business of the Board
 - developing and distributing a training manual describing in detail the regular Sunday duties
 - providing special services such as food bank, blood bank and special needs equipment to people with disabilities and the elderly



Participation in Special Church Services

- The Deacons participate in the annual Scottish Sunday celebration, processing at the 8:00 a.m. service. In 2009 we propose to integrate the Deacons and Elders at both the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.
- Current and former Deacons participate in the annual installation of new members of the Board. This event unites those who serve Southminster by giving time and ministry in fellowship with one another.
- To the extent feasible, Deacons participate in weekly worship and attend congregational meetings. Deacons are leaders within the Church community and their participation in worship, congregational decision making and other special activities contributes to the strength of Southminster.



Looking Ahead

- The Board's theme for 2009 is "Deacons in Fellowship and Service." The officers will be lead by Mrs. Mary Ann Wucher, Moderator, and Ms. Samantha Reid, Co-Moderator. A new class was installed for a three year term, beginning July 1, 2008. We are blessed with the addition of three youth deacons to a one-year term of service and mission.
 - Lota Mitchell
 - Jonathan Kelly
 - Angelo Gabriele
 - Jacqueline Garbett
 - Bruce Leary
 - Rob Bagay
 - Celestia Reith
 - Kirsten Furry
 - Jennifer Miller
 - Carolyn Dimmick
 - Sheri Klemencic
 - Elizabeth Moore
 - Megan Reith
 - Courtney Weber

- A heartfelt thank you to the outgoing class who contributed and served for 3 years:

● Robie Bruesewitz	● Pamela Dickinson	● Luetta Waddell
● Ken Dobbins	● Tracy Fitzsimmons	
● Cheryl Polito	● Celeste Reisinger	

- The Board functioned in 2008 without a liaison from the Church staff. We are delighted to welcome The Rev. Deborah Lee Evanovich for 2009. Her enthusiasm and leadership will guide and spiritually uplift the Deacons.