

# The Spire

April 2017



Southminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Monthly Newsletter*

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

## Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday Worship April 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Worship April 14 at 12:00 p.m.

Festive Celebrations of the Resurrection

### **Easter Sunday Services**

Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m.

Contemporary Worship 11:00 a.m.





## Dear Family and Friends of SPC,

We are two weeks away from celebrating the pinnacle of the church year, as we rejoice together on Easter that Jesus Christ is our Risen Lord. This Lent we have been focused on encountering Christ at the Cross. We have placed ourselves at the foot of the cross, hearing his words spoken to us across the centuries as he hung upon the tree. We have heard words of forgiveness, hope, compassion, and power. Each week we have come closer to the reality of our Lord's death so that we can rejoice together in the resurrection.

I look forward to celebrating that joyous day with you. Holy week will begin on April 9 when we'll remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. From there, we will enter into a participatory Maundy Thursday service where we will celebrate communion around the table in groups and take part in the passion narratives of the gospel. Good Friday services begin at noon with a service led by Pastor Liz in the sanctuary. The sanctuary will then be open for you to come and pray as you feel led throughout the afternoon and early evening. A closing time of worship will take place at 7:00 p.m. Then we will come back together on Easter morning for worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. with a special Easter Egg Hunt between services for our children and the larger community that will begin at 10:15 in Fellowship Hall.

Following Easter, our focus will shift to a conversation around hospitality. Having received the wonderful grace of God, it is time for the community to reflect on how we display that grace to all who come to Southminster. I hope that this upcoming series challenges us to find new ways of being welcoming to those who visit and that we can make ourselves available to the larger community of which we are a part. Below is the preaching plan for April.

Date	Scripture	Theme
April 2	Matthew 27:46	Why Have You Forsaken Me?
April 9	John 19:30	It Is Finished (Palm Sunday)
April 13	Various Passages	The Cry of the Whole Congregation (Maundy Thursday)
April 14	Luke 23:44-49	Good Friday service at Noon
April 16	John 20:1-18	Easter Celebration
April 23	Luke 24:13-35	The Hospitality of the Journey
April 30	Acts 2:42-47	The Hospitality of the Fellowship

Last month many of you took time to participate in the CAT survey. Thank you! This month, Council will receive a report of the results of that survey. We look forward to sharing that information with the congregation in the weeks ahead. As we continue through this season of transition, I am so grateful for the chance to be on this journey with all of you. God is doing amazing things here at SPC, and it is a privilege to share this season with you. As we receive with sadness the news of our Children's and Youth Director's news that she will be leaving us at the end of this summer, may we celebrate this season with Kjirstin and look forward to the new chapter that God has for Children and Youth ministries that will begin this fall.

May God be with each of you as you make your way from the cross to the empty tomb and celebrate the good news that Christ is Risen. He is Risen, indeed!

In Christ,

*Pastor Carlton*



## Don Arlow Memorial Service

A memorial service for Donald Charles Arlow will be held at Southminster Church on Tuesday, April 18, at 11:00 a.m. A luncheon will follow to which all are invited. Please call the church office at 847.392.1060 or email [Diane@spcch.org](mailto:Diane@spcch.org) by Wednesday April 12, to let us know that you plan to attend.



## Dear Friends,

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (ESV)

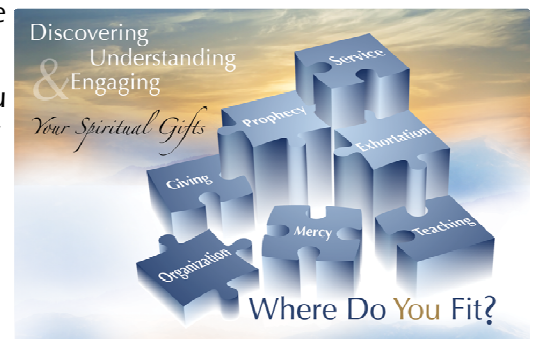
God has given each of us unique spiritual gifts, and they are each needed for us to be Christ's body in this world. Have you taken our spiritual gifts inventory yet? If not, please pick one up on a Sunday, download one from the eblast, or contact me and I'll email one to you. I love the way the Apostle Paul explains the important functions each of us performs in the church in 1 Cor 12:

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

Spring is a time for new beginnings. What new way is God calling you to use your God-given talents this season? The spiritual gifts inventory can give you insight into your-God given talents and help guide your path as you use your gifts to serve Christ.

Faithfully,

*The Reverend Elizabeth Nickerson*



## Everyone is invited to "The Seven Last Words of Christ"

On Thursday, April 6, at 7:15 p.m., The Bible Boys are hosting a Special Event in SPC's Library for everyone, including men, women, and children! This event is a presentation by Will De Filippis centered around Théodore Dubois' (1837-1924) oratorio "The Seven Last Words of Christ." In one concentrated single hour, enveloped by the words and music of this beautiful oratorio, we will have an opportunity to meditate on all that transpired in the greatest transaction that ever happened for the benefit of mankind. In this last Thursday before Holy Week, this opportunity to focus on these words one at a time will complement our pastors' sermon themes over the past weeks and leading up to Easter. We hope you will consider attending this very special event!



## One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. OGHs, received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs:



- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) 32% of funds raised
- Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) 36% of funds raised
- Self-Development of People (SDOP) 32% of funds raised

We urge you to give prayerful consideration to a generous gift to this special offering which will be dedicated on April 9.

**Youth @ Southminster/**  
**Children's Times**

**Kjirstin Almos, Children's and Youth  
Ministry Director**

[Kjirstin@spcah.org](mailto:Kjirstin@spcah.org)

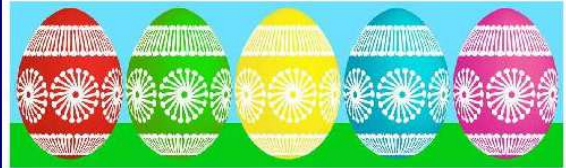
College Care Packages

Send some love to Southminster's college students as they approach finals! The Youth team will be collecting items for college care packages on April 2 and April 9. We are collecting items such as non-perishable food items, cards, books, toys, trinkets and school supplies both Sundays. The packages will be mailed April 10, so any fresh food items can be brought April 9th. There will be a table in the Narthex both Sundays for collection. Email Kjirstin Almos ([kjirstin@spcah.org](mailto:kjirstin@spcah.org)) with questions. to Cathleen Freels ([crfrees@hotmail.com](mailto:crfrees@hotmail.com)) or Kjirstin Almos ([Kjirstin@spcah.org](mailto:Kjirstin@spcah.org)).

**A.W.O.L. (A WORK OF LOVE)**

**AWOL is an event for middle school students taking place on April 21-22. This service retreat is for students in the Chicago Presbytery. Friday we will go to First Presbyterian in Libertyville and spend the night. On Saturday we will participate in a service project in a local park and return in the evening. Friends are welcome to join. Please contact Kjirstin Almos for more information. Parents must register by April 9. Cost is \$50, scholarships available.**

**Celebrate Easter with  
an Easter Egg Hunt!**



The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday, April 16 at 10:15 AM. Children 1 year-fifth grade are invited.

The event will start downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

Please RSVP for this event so we can prepare enough supplies. Families can RSVP by emailing Kjirstin Almos ([Kjirstin@spcah.org](mailto:Kjirstin@spcah.org)) with number of children and ages, signing up on the bulletin board by the Christian Education wing, or by filling out a registration form online at Southminster's website ([www.spcah.org](http://www.spcah.org)) and going to the Easter Egg Hunt page. Questions can be sent to Kjirstin Almos.

**Children's/Youth Special** **Kjirstin Almos, Children's and Youth Ministry Director**  
**Event: Superstart** [Kjirstin@spcah.org](mailto:Kjirstin@spcah.org)



Nine youth from Southminster in grades 4-6 went to a special event in Naperville the weekend of March 17-18, Superstart! Superstart is a preteen retreat to help kids realize their call to be "kingdom workers." This year, the theme was the recipe for generosity, or learning how to be generous. Through interactive theater, live worship, food demonstrations, cooking contests, and more, they taught that the recipe for generosity is to marinate in God's generosity, cook with our time, talents, and treasures, and to serve to glorify God. On Saturday, there was time to play, which for Southminster included laser tag, a gravity ropes course, arcade games, and pizza! It was a fantastic event!



*Stephen Ministry in Action:*

# ON THE FRONT LINES of Care



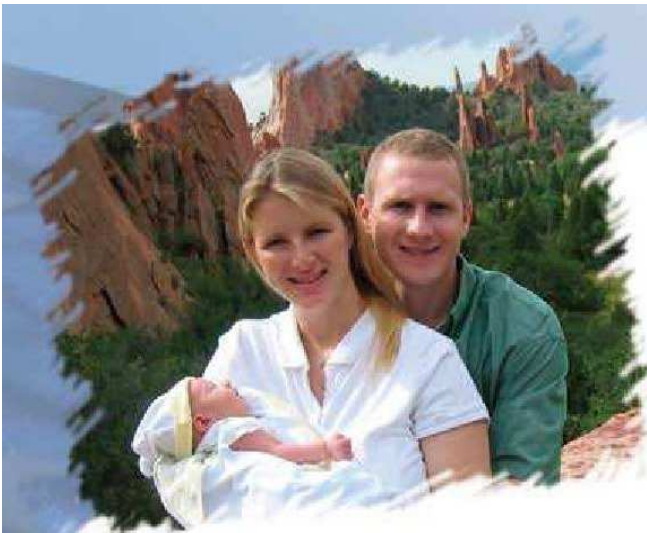
**“I’ve given enough,”** U.S. Army Captain David Rozelle told his wife, Kim, from the hospital in Iraq. Overcome by grief and pain, he thought his ability and desire to serve were gone for good. But God still had other plans.

It was on June 21, 2003, that David’s life had changed forever. Commander of Troop K in the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment, he was riding in a Humvee near Fallujah when a landmine exploded, badly damaging the vehicle and severely injuring his right foot. In spite of extreme pain and shock, David immediately thought of the safety of the 140 soldiers under his command—issuing orders to secure the site and evacuate casualties.

Hours later, doctors at the combat support hospital amputated David’s lower right ankle and foot. After the surgery, David was flown to Qatar, then to Germany, and finally, on the eve of Independence Day 2003, to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where he joined the amputees on Ward 57.

## **A Hero’s Joy and Sorrow**

Weeks later, David returned home to Fort Carson, Colorado, arriving in time to be with Kim for the birth of their son, Forrest. In addition to becoming a father, David was also a hero, receiving the Bronze Star with Valor, the Purple Heart,



the Army Commendation Medal (four awards), and the Army Achievement Medal (three awards). But any joy was short-lived; he spent day after day lying on the living room couch in a haze of depression. “I realized how worthless I was becoming, but I felt like I deserved it,” David said.

Kim’s love and patience and his joy in Forrest gave David the strength to move forward. A meeting with President Bush—and the President’s invitation to join him someday for a run—encouraged him even more. He resolved to overcome his fears and pain by strengthening his body.

### **Making Physical Progress**

Eight surgeries and three months after the explosion, David received his prosthesis. He resumed rigorous physical activity and was soon fully functional, “jumping, walking steps, doing push-ups, and sprinting up small inclines.”

Before long, he was on the Colorado slopes learning to ski again with the help of Disabled Sports USA. More sports followed—running, swimming, snowshoeing, and eventually marathons and triathlons. He encouraged others with disabilities to return to the sports they loved too.

### **A New Mission**

Physical activity provided a temporary emotional respite, but around six months after the

explosion in Iraq, a new reality struck. “I was lying on the couch, icing my leg, and it hit me, ‘I’m going to be like this forever,’” he said. “It finally sank in all at once. It was good that I was alone because I really got to cry it out. I was slowly realizing that I was going to have to adapt my lifestyle. My heart broke. It was after that day that my mind started to heal.”

David now focused on two goals: his determination to return to the Army and his concern for the needs of others with injuries like his own. The first challenge—to be found fit for duty—was straightforward. Pushing himself beyond the expectations of doctors, therapists, and even

*Overcome by grief and pain, he thought his ability and desire to serve were gone for good. But God still had other plans.*

himself, he got into better physical shape than he had been before leav-

ing for Iraq.

The second challenge was more difficult. “I had left Walter Reed unarmed with what I needed to heal,” he said. “There was no established support system to take care of me.” Doctors provided physical care, but David knew firsthand the tremendous emotional and spiritual needs of amputees.

Because he wanted to help other amputees, the Army sent him on a visit to Walter Reed Hospital. He went directly to Ward 57, where he sat, talked,



and prayed with the amputees. Although they deeply appreciated his gift of time, David found their grief difficult to handle and knew he needed to be a better listener. He returned home, wondering, *Where can I learn these skills?*

## Called to Stephen Ministry

In May 2004, David's church, First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs—a Stephen Ministry congregation since 1981—was preparing to train another class of Stephen Ministers. David attended an information session and applied to serve as a Stephen Minister. In the application interview, "David described how he felt called to minister to other amputees," said Stephen Leader Arlene Bosma. "His dedication to his family, God, and his country was obvious and very inspiring."

Soon David was part of the congregation's eighth training class of Stephen Ministers. "He has an incredible faith," said Fred Paul, another trainee. "What I admire most in David is how he remains so focused on other people. Despite what happened to him, he always puts others' needs ahead of his own. Whenever he enters a room he introduces himself to anyone he doesn't know. At each training session, he made an effort to speak with everyone there. He really cared about them and how they were doing."

Arlene recalled, "During our training class on grief, David talked about the grief that people experience after losing a part of their body. He

shared how there can be a delay before the loss sinks in. For him it was six months before it hit him really hard that his life had changed. But it was also obvious that he had worked through it well because he was so open to talking about it."

"David relies on his faith in Jesus Christ to sustain him in all situations," said Rev. JoAnn Brechbill, Minister of Congregational Care and a Stephen Leader. "He took Stephen Ministry training because he wanted to be better prepared to help those who have challenges like his."

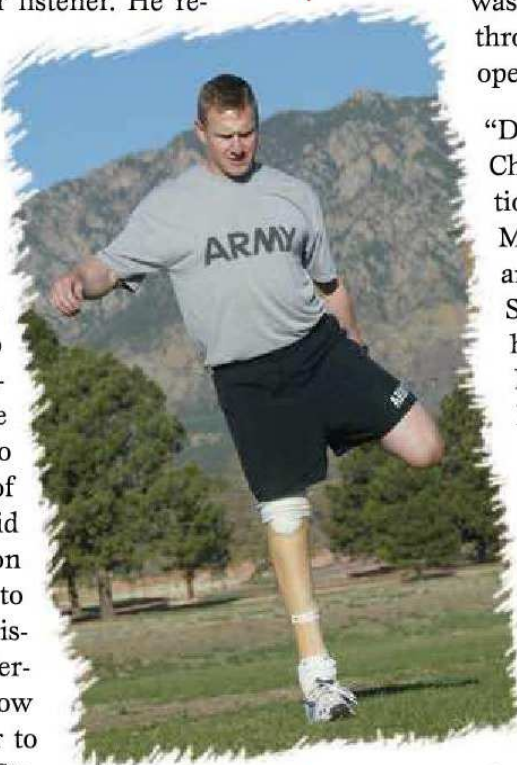
## A Stephen Minister on the Battlefield

During Stephen Ministry training, David received notice that the Army considered him "fit for duty." He wondered where he'd want to serve. Working with amputees at Walter Reed? Behind a desk at Fort Carson? A new command?

He discovered the answer when he welcomed his troop back from Iraq. As he celebrated their homecoming, he realized how much he loved being an Army captain and cavalryman. On June 17, 2004, he resumed command, just four days before the first anniversary of his injury. "I was ready to command again, but as a stronger and more mature leader," David said.

Two weeks later—just a few sessions before he completed his Stephen Ministry training—David returned to Iraq, the first soldier in history to become an amputee and then resume his command on the same battlefield.

Back in Iraq, he frequently found himself using his Stephen Minister caregiving skills. "There are never enough chaplains to cover the needs





of our soldiers,” he said. “Lay ministers are essential to our force.”

## Looking to the Future

David had two goals for when he returned from Iraq: to become program director of a new amputee center at Walter Reed and to finish the last few sessions of his Stephen Minister training. “I want to give soldiers someone to talk to who has made it through what they’re facing, let them ask questions, and have them see me walking,” David said. Now, back from his tour of duty in Iraq,

David is working toward achieving those goals. He is ministering to those at Walter Reed and working to establish an amputee center there.

God continues to use David’s personal experiences, caregiving skills, and unwavering commitment to serving his country and his fellow soldiers. “David has dedicated his life to the Lord,” Arlene said. “He believes he is doing what the Lord wants him to do. He’s a man of faith, strength, and courage, doing what’s right.” ■

Quotes and photos are from David’s book, *Back in Action: The Inspiring True Story of the First Amputee to Return to Active Command in Iraq*, published by Regnery Publishing. Used by permission.

Come to learn more. Join us for at Southminster for our Stephen Ministry Informational Meeting on **Sunday, April 30, at 12:15 p.m.** in the Southminster library. A light lunch will be served. RSVP to [stephenministry@spcah.org](mailto:stephenministry@spcah.org).



**David Rozelle’s** achievements have drawn much media attention. He has appeared on “The Today Show,” CNN, and several other popular television and radio programs. He has been featured in *People Magazine* and *US News and World Report*. His book, *Back in Action: The Inspiring True Story of the First Amputee to Return to Active Command in Iraq*, was published in 2005 by Regnery Publishing.

Despite the attention, David remains steadfastly focused on doing his duty: looking after his troops and ministering to those in need.



For more information about Stephen Ministry, please contact:

**Stephen Ministries**  
2045 Innerbelt Business Center Drive  
St. Louis, Missouri 63114-5765  
(314) 428-2600  
[www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)



## Dear friends,

It was two years ago now when I was in the process of getting ready for my move to Chicago. I knew I was going to Loyola University Chicago for grad school, and I felt God saying to me it was time to serve him by working in a church. My job search led me to Southminster, and since then, I've had the privilege of serving God and this congregation by working with our children and youth. Throughout my time here, I have talked about my long-term ministerial goal, which is to become a board certified chaplain in a healthcare setting. One part of this goal is doing a chaplaincy internship and then a chaplaincy residency. I completed my internship this past fall alongside my work here at the church. I have been blessed now to have the opportunity to accept a residency position with Advocate Lutheran General in Park Ridge starting in September. Unfortunately, as compared to my internship, residencies are fulltime commitments. This means that I will need to resign from my position as Children and Youth Ministry Director effective Sunday, August 27, 2017.

This is very bittersweet for me. I have greatly enjoyed my time at Southminster and my work with the children, youth, families, and church members. However, I also know my personal call is towards chaplaincy, and this residency role is the step forward for me. I am very grateful that I was able to give a notice with so much time. I will be able to see through several big events, such as the Easter Egg Hunt and Vacation Bible School, and there will be time to prepare for this transition.

I would like to thank this church for everything that you all have provided throughout my time here. Ministries do not happen alone. It has been an interesting time serving with Southminster, as we have gone through an incredible amount of change in a short amount of time, and I have seen this church move forward and grow in the midst of all of that. I have learned so much while in my position, and I know that I am more prepared for my future ministries because of my time here.

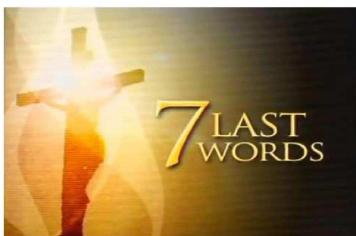
Over the coming months, Pastor David, Pastor Liz, the personnel committee, and the youth and children's committees will work together to determine the next step for this incredibly important ministry. I am committed to helping in any way I can to make the smoothest transition possible. I am excited to see how this process will unfold, as I see new opportunities for this church. I do ask that all of you pray for the search process as well as the children, youth, families, and committees involved in this ministry. I will also joyfully keep Southminster and its many ministries in my prayers.

God bless,

*Kjirstin*

## Everyone is invited to "The Seven Last Words of Christ"

On Thursday, April 6, at 7:15 p.m., The Bible Boys are hosting a Special Event in SPC's Library for everyone, including men, women, and children! This event is a presentation by Will De Filippis centered around Théodore Dubois' (1837-1924) oratorio "The Seven Last Words of Christ." In one concentrated hour, enveloped by the words and music of this beautiful oratorio, we will have an opportunity to meditate on all that transpired in the greatest transaction that ever happened for the benefit of mankind. In this last Thursday before Holy Week, this opportunity to focus on these words one at a time will complement our pastors' sermon themes over the past weeks and leading up to Easter. We hope you will attend this very special event!



## New Adult Education Series

Join our new Adult Education series Sundays at 10:10 a.m. co-hosted by the Discipling and Justice Ministry Teams.

**April 23 & 30** – "Understanding Islam" led by Pastor David Carlton

**May 7 & 21** – "Engaging Islam" led by Dan McNerney, Associate Director of Frontier Fellowship, a mission support group serving helping U. S. churches establish redemptive, bridge-building relationships with local Muslim and Jewish communities for the purpose of being a Gospel witness among these unreached people in our own country.

If you have any questions, email Cindy Greenwood at [cngrnwood@gmail.com](mailto:cngrnwood@gmail.com) or Linda Waycie at [lwaycie@wowway.com](mailto:lwaycie@wowway.com).



## The Counseling Corner at Southminster *Making a Difference in our Community*

You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.  
~ Margaret Thatcher



We all have trials; some are smaller than others. I remember watching the Bulls championship game with my husband Mark when Michael Jordan showed up to the game suffering from a terrible flu. Despite this, his perseverance won the game. I asked how he could play while so sick. Mark replied, "He wants to win the game, not let his team down. He's a leader, and he doesn't give up." How many times in our own lives would we like to have given up or not continued on a difficult path, task, or during our own illness that seemed impossible to push through?

The first difficult battle for me as a mom happened when my son Ryan was born six weeks premature. After his delivery, I did not get to see or hold him, and I was in the recovery room frightened and wanting to see my baby. Ryan was in the neonatal ward for babies born with difficulties. He weighed 4 pounds four ounces, was fed through a tube, and had a small hole in his heart. I witnessed the dedication and perseverance of the doctors and nurses and I experienced my own perseverance, for I needed to be present, available, and most important, not give up hope. Hope keeps things positive despite dark circumstances.

When I left the hospital, I had to leave without Ryan, and for several weeks, traveled back and forth from home to the hospital to take care of my older son, Harry, and Ryan. I also had to stay strong. When Ryan came home, I had a caring medical team, family, and friends that persevered right along with me. I think with perseverance comes willingness, hope, and a desire to "stay the course." During life's successes and failures, I learned lessons and received blessings along the way. The hole in Ryan's heart closed up, and we are grateful for his health. Perseverance does not come easy. However, hope and growth can accompany it. I encourage you to think about a time in your life when you persevered. Talk to others about it. Often times your experience can help others who are going through their own trials.

Warm Regards,  
*Cynthia Apelbaum*

## Combined Choir Concerts

We invite you to performances by the Sanctuary Choir of Southminster and the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church together with full orchestra, *REQUIEM* by John Rutter. The orchestra will be playing *HOLBERG SUITE* by Edvard Grieg. Performances are 4:00 p.m. on April 30 at First Presbyterian Church, 824 Waukegan Road in Deerfield and 4:00 p.m. on May 7 at Southminster Presbyterian Church. A Free will offering will be taken. Programs directed by Michel Nelson and Lee Nelson.



### For Your Marriage



Do you or your spouse enjoy cooking? Spend some time preparing a meal together, and make it a date night!

[foryourmarriage.org](http://foryourmarriage.org)



## Why Listen?

In 1816, a young French physician named René Laennec fashioned a cylinder from a sheet of paper and used it to examine a patient. He discovered that internal sounds could be isolated and amplified through a tube, making examinations less intrusive and easier to interpret. This exciting discovery paved the way for the modern-day version of the stethoscope. Doctors use this instrument daily because they've learned that listening well is a powerful tool for healing.

Join us for our upcoming Q Place Monthly Equipping Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, at 7:15 p.m. and Wednesday, May 10, at 7:00 p.m. with Jeff Klein. To RSVP, email our Q Place Coach Kathy Erickson at [lievph@aol.com](mailto:lievph@aol.com)

[www.qplace.com](http://www.qplace.com)

## Loving Hands Stitchers

At our March meeting we were delighted to have Grace Barr demonstrate how she makes fabric balls for children. She has been making these balls ever since her young son received one as a gift. She created a pattern and has been gifting babies and young children with these soft toys throughout the years. Christopher House is one lucky beneficiary of this labor of love. She also makes mini tactile baby blankets with tabs, as seen in the photo.



Grace Barr



Sandy Cartwright

Our group continues to produce a variety of charitable items. Sandy Cartwright is pictured here with the mat she crocheted for the homeless out of the 700 plastic bags we collected from all of you. We have many bags left, and Sandy will continue to work on this special ministry. Sandy and I recently visited the pediatric floor of St. Alexis Hospital, took a tour of their beautiful facility, and brought them an adorable, child-sized hospital gown, pillow cases, baby blankets, IV Sleeves, preemie and stillborn items, and animal-shaped pressure pillows to be used after surgery.

Nancy Sauls is thrilled to be using Jean Ward's and Shawn Erickson's wedding gowns to produce precious items for our littlest of angels. I will also be delivering one doggy pad and four kitty pads to Kay's Animal Shelter.

If you or someone you know would like to join our group and sew, knit, or crochet items to contribute, we would very much like to hear from you. We meet the first Saturday of each month From 10:00 - 12:00 a.m. in Southminster's Library. If you arrive late to a meeting, call my cell at 847.772.6559 so we can open the side door for you.

*Jan Tossman*  
847.259.2679