**Bearing Fruit – June 27, 2021**

**Months of Covid and Faithfulness**

There are several ways of talking about what it means to be “the church.” Each week we affirm that together as a congregation we are “blessed to be a blessing.” (Genesis 12). Some other ways the Bible names the church are “the people of the way,” “Disciples of Christ,” “the Assembly,” “the bride of Christ,” and “the body of Christ.” Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount that we are “salt of the earth” and “light of the world.”

Let’s talk about what it means to be salt of the earth. Salt is invisible in a dish, but if it is missing the savor can be bland. Salt can’t be seen, but it gives food its zing. Two of the sometimes invisible missions or blessings of SPC are Finance and Mission. One household in our congregation is active in both areas. The Freys - Bobbi and Tom - are salt of the earth. They serve God in our congregation without drawing attention to their work and have been extraordinarily faithful over the years, most recently during the pandemic.

For years Bobbi has come to Southminster to pick up our donations to the People’s Resource Center (PRC) and delivered them to their offices in Wheaton. When our building closed due to the pandemic, Bobbi stepped up and got creative: she opened up her heart and her home. The Freys’ front porch became Southminster’s outpost for our PRC donations. People of both Southminster and the Lincoln Hill subdivision dropped donations off at the Frey home for the past 15 months!! Twice a week Bobbi made her way to PRC. At Christmas the Freys’ Christmas tree was surrounded with our “gifts” to PRC. The Freys’ living room overflowed with tangible love for people in need. Now the donation box is coming back to Southminster and will be in the vestibule during weekdays and in our entrance hall on Sundays. Thank you, Bobbi, for months of love to all people.

Tom Frey has been our treasurer for many, many years. His work is also not only important, but often invisible. He’s the one who writes the checks and keeps the book. There are others in the fiscal end of things, as well, who do their work away from the spotlight but are still vital in Southminster’s mission. Rita Zapel audited our books for many years until recently. Sue Knisely counted the money with the help of “elders at the door” and drove the Sunday deposits to the bank each week. Barb Kocinski took over from Sue, and Will Perkinson is one of the newest members of Finance.

Our Endowment Ministry/Living Legacy Fund also plays an important role in the finances of the church, though not always highly visible. The most recent members of this ministry are Ron Birchall (moderator), Tom Frey, Nick Kaskovich, Chris Kozich, Jay Lerch, and Pete Petersen. Craig Allen on occasion has been recruited to give sage advice.

We thank all these people for their faithfulness in bearing the fruit of God’s love.