**Bearing Fruit – August 8, 2021**

**Friends Far and Near**

The pandemic has delayed many of us from getting together with people we normally see. Pastor Wendy’s friends, Arthur Shippee and Mary Porterfield, have been making annual pilgrimages from Connecticut to the Midwest since 1994. Like many of us last year, our plans did not work out, and we missed our visit because of the pandemic.

Reverends Arthur Shippee and Wendy Boden have been friends since 1975, right before freshman year of college, when Wendy was a history major at the University of Connecticut and Arthur was a math major at Brown University. At that time, neither considered that pastoral ministry was in their future. Wendy is twice blessed because she not only officiated at Arthur and Mary’s wedding but also preached at Arthur’s ordination.

During the pandemic Southminster reached a milestone, 60 years! In March of 2021 we have ministered in Glen Ellyn since 1961, 60 years! We did not celebrate though we did celebrate our 50th Jubilee in 2011. One of the first suggestions for celebrating our Jubilee 50th anniversary is that we would have a hymn commissioned to honor what God has done at Southminster. *The Precious Seed is Sown* is the result. Pat Weidner, Co-chair of the Jubilee Committee suggested the familiar tune of Darwall. Many know it as the tune for *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy*, but its original setting was for Psalm 148 or *Rejoice the Lord is King.* This tune was first sung at the inauguration of a new organ in 1773. Perhaps we can celebrate our next steps in bearing the fruit of God’s love in March 2022 as we step into our 61st year.

The Rev. Arthur Shippee was the composer of our hymn. He preaches and presides monthly at First Presbyterian Granby, MA, where he has served for several years. Arthur has degrees from Union Theological Seminary and Yale University. He teaches Religious Studies at Queens College, CUNY, where he won the 2005 Presidential Teaching Prize. He also teaches at Eugene Lang College, New School. His publications include *The Pastor: Readings from the Patristic Period* (Fortress, 1990), with Philip Culbertson.

Art and Mary are birdwatchers and nature lovers and are owned by two cats, Gilda and Maddalena, though they left them out of the slideshow.

Forming friendships and keeping up with friends near and far is one of the ways we bear the fruit of God’s love.