**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 1, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

Find the link for the service on one of these sites:

1) on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>
2) our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

3) our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/>

If the video feed is interrupted during the service, we will continue to record and then post the full video on Facebook and our web site as soon as possible.

For those who are in the sanctuary, please put your phone in airplane mode.

Today we are having communion. Those at home may want to gather the elements (“bread” and “wine” or whatever you have) before the service begins.

 Gathering Music

Our Photo Story today is “Southminster Summer Grounds.”

 Welcome and Announcements

 Lighting the Candles (Acts 2:2)‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬‬

**They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.**

  Prelude: *The Gift*

[Please remain seated while singing the opening song.]

 Hymn 288: *Spirit of the Living God* (sing twice)

 Call to Worship

 Leader: We pray that we will live not by our fears but by our hopes.

 **People: We pray to live not by our words only but by our deeds.**

 **All:** **Let us worship God.**

 Hymn 307: *God of Grace and God of Glory* (all)

 Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Lord God, keep us from complacency as you call us to mend a broken earth. By our lives may all know and understand that justice and righteousness are better than dominion and conquest. May we live to see that it is not by power or might but by your spirit this is done. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.**

 (Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

 Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ  (Psalm 103)

 Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious;
     slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

 **People: For as the heavens are high above the earth,** **so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

 Leader: As far as the east is from the west,
     so far he removes our transgressions from us.

 **People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

 **All: Alleluia!**

 Response 581: *Glory Be to the Father* *(Gloria Patri)*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.**

Public domain

 The Passing of the Peace

 Word with Children Blair Baldwin
 Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

As the children leave:

 *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands*

**He’s got the whole world in his hands,**

**He’s got the whole wide world in his hands,**

**He's got the whole world in his hands,**

**He's got the whole world in his hands.**

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 Prayer for Illumination

 Scripture Lessons:  Luke 15:31-32 Pew Bible, p. 79 (N.T.)

 Jonah 3:10–4:4, 9-11 Pew Bible, p. 861 (O.T.)

 Sermon: “I would rather die.”

 Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)
 *The Apostles’ Creed* [Ecumenical]

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

 Hymn 515: *I Come with Joy*  (verses 1-4)

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

[The offering plate is at the back of the sanctuary. Please leave your gift or pledge
in the plate on your way into or out of worship.]

 Offertory: *He*

 \**Doxology* Hymnal #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Public domain

 Prayer of Dedication

 Service of the Lord’s Supper

 Invitation

 [You do not need to wait to consume the elements – please do so as the Spirit
 leads (right away, as you pause after receiving, or back in your seats).

 We extend an invitation to the Lord’s Supper to all who have been baptized. You do
 not need to be a member of this congregation or a Presbyterian to share in this meal.
 We remember that access to the Table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a
 privilege given to believers who come in faith, repentance, and love.]

 Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

 Leader: The Lord be with you.

 **People**: **And also with you.**

 Leader: Lift up your hearts.

 **People: We lift them to the Lord.**

 Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 **People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

 *The minister gives thanks…*

 The congregation responds by singing together:

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 *The minister continues the Thanksgiving…*
 “*Together we proclaim the great mystery of faith:”*

 **According to Christ’s commandment**

 **We remember his death,**

 **We proclaim his resurrection,**

 **We await his coming in glory.**

*The minister continues with Intercessions for the Church and the World
and Prayers of the People…*

 Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

 **People**: **hear our prayers.**

 Our Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

 Words of Institution

 Communion

 Communion Music:  *In Remembrance*

*We all will receive communion by coming to the Lord’s Table. Our usher will invite you to come forward by pew, beginning from the back. If you are unable to come forward, a server will come to you after everyone else has received. Please consume the elements when you are comfortable doing so. You do not need to wait – please do so as the Spirit leads (right away, as you pause after receiving, or back in your seats).
With Christian love we serve gluten-free communion bread and alcohol-free grape juice.
Also with Christian love the elements were prepared with strict attention to health concerns.
You are invited to partake of the prepackaged communion juice and wafer if you choose; the wafer is not gluten free.*

 Prayer after Communion

 Hymn 306: *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* (all verses)

 Charge and Benediction

 Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,
 **People: For we are blessed to be a blessing!**

 Postlude: *Climb Every Mountain*

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden
Liturgist: Angela Smith
Greeter/Fellowship: Kathy Sanders
Guest Musician: Dr. Derek Buckley
Worship Associate: David Kozich
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Tom and Bobbi Frey in memory of their parents.

If you are online, we’re glad to have you! Using the comments section on Facebook, you can say hello, ask for words of peace, or request prayers.
If you are present for worship, please wear a name tag; they are on the Mission shelf in the Narthex and on the shelf across from the church offices. Following the service, you are invited by the deacons to gather for a time of **fellowship** in the narthex.

**Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study,** **11:15 a.m.:** If you’re at church and wish to join us, find Blair at his computer in the parlor/library. If you’re following us online, join the class by using this link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>.
You are invited to join us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>), where we have a live sharing of “**Heart to Heart**” with Pastor Wendy Boden at 4:20 p.m. most weeks Tuesday through Friday.

We continue to be live on **Sunday morning for worship** at 9:30 a.m. (slideshow beginning at 9:15) on YouTube at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>

If you are watching from home on Facebook, please check in and say hello so we can see that you have joined us. This is one way to make worship less “remote” and strengthen community at Southminster.

*The live video will appear about 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.*

*If for any reason the feed falters, rest assured that a recording will be posted to Facebook and You Tube as soon as possible.*

You can also find links to recordings of the weekday sessions, special services, and Sunday worship posted on our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/> or by going to our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos>

**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us feel connected!**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us prepare for worship, connect with one another, and make sure that our at-home people get both sound and sight. Here is a coming opportunity for you to share your photos:
 **October 6:** “**Communion Tables**” – photos of communion tables from the places of
 worship you visit while away on vacation or even ask a relative to send you a picture.
 Please send photos by Thursday, October 3.

**Send photos to our dedicated email address, used just for photos:**PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org**.** (If you only have hard copies of your photos, please leave them in the photo box on Pastor Wendy’s desk, labeled with your name and the date they are to be used.

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**
**Adult Education**:  Join us this Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in the Parlor/Library for our Sunday of Matthew's gospel. We have begun the march toward Jerusalem and the tensions are mounting.

**Men of Southminster**:  If you can grill, we need your talent to help cook for the Stewardship Dinner on September 22. Please contact Jay Lerch or Blair Nelson. Also, please reply to the email about dates for a September meeting.

**Youth**: Our next event is September 22. We will get to spend time with Ody, who does the youth work at our sister church in Cuba. Come at 4:00 p.m. with questions like, "Do Cuban kids like pizza?" "Does the Cuban youth group play the same games as we do?" "What do they do about their video games when the power goes out?" I am sure you can come up with better questions, though. We will then join the Stewardship dinner at 5:00, so it will be a day for the whole family. Also, please reply to the email about dates for events through the rest of 2024.

**From the Mission Ministry: The Cuba Sister Church Ministry**
There is more to having a sister church than paying a visit, though the visits are important. In September the Chicago Presbytery is hosting the Cuba Partnership Network (CPN) for their annual meeting in Darien, IL. The CPN is a network of Presbyterian churches in the U.S. that have sister churches in Cuba. ***We are looking for people to help with this event.*** Pastor Wendy will be making gift bags and would love your help assembling them. The event will also need folks to make Costco runs and airport runs. There will be people attending from all over the United States and Cuba.

**We need people to pray that the U.S. visas for Cubans attending this important meeting come through in time**! Take a moment right now and offer a prayer.

Southminster is looking for someone to help make the travel arrangements for our trips. Would you enjoy supporting this special relationship by working on the arrangements? You will be guided and taught and not just simply tossed into the deep end.

We are also collecting school supplies for our Cuba sister church. The list is below in the Christian Ed. notes.

 **From the Christian Ed. Ministry**: **“Ticket to Adventure”**
Our one-day VBS is quickly approaching! It’s on Saturday, September 7, from 10:00 a.m. (note 10:00, not 9:00 as previously announced) until 3:00 p.m. The registration deadline is Sept. 3; register at our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/>. Please sign up your children, grandchildren, and neighbors. There will be a freewill collection instead of a registration fee.

For our mission project, we will be collecting school supplies for our sister church in Cuba (see list below).

Our theme is Ticket to Adventure. We will have a Taco Lunch (make your own ground beef tacos with the fixings, tortilla chips and salsa, carrots, lemonade or water).

There will be a craft, games, a snack, Bible stories, and other fun activities.

If you would like to donate, we could use Walmart or Jewel gift cards for last minute items (this Sunday, 9/1 is Jubilee Bucks Day- please let Bobbi know you are donating to VBS.

***There will be a short VBS meeting after fellowship today in the Sunday school room to go over the final details.***

**Collection for Cuba:**

Crayons
Colored pencils
Markers
Pencils
Glue sticks
Glue in plastic bottles
Erasers
Tape
Stickers
AA Batteries (for battery operated pencil sharpener)
**Please leave donations in the suitcase in the Narthex.**
**All women invited: First Wednesday Women’s Breakfast!**Our next monthly Women’s Breakfast will be this Wednesday, September 4, at Danby’s Station at 8:30 a.m. All women are invited to join us! Danby’s Station is at 750 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn.

**From our Deacons**: Come and check out home baked goodies, cookies, and other treats at the **Deacons’ Fall Bake Sale** during Fellowship time following worship on September 8. There will be a free will offering to support the Deacon Care Fund. Come out and take home some goodies or enjoy during Fellowship and join us for the fun!

**Jubilee Bucks: Order today!**
This Sunday is your only opportunity this month to order Jubilee Bucks gift cards. Those cards can pay for groceries, personal products, gas, meals out, or can be given as gifts. You can give your order directly to Bobbi Frey, leave it in the office (the mailbox in the lower left corner of the mailbox grid) or email it to her (bobbifrey@aol.com) by 9:00 tonight. Payment can be made when cards are delivered. Because of Labor Day, the cards will probably not arrive until Wednesday or Thursday.
***See the Christian Ed. Notes for suggestions of cards that will help buy VBS supplies. You will need to let Bobbi know when you order if you are buying cards for VBS.***
Next chance to order will be October 6.

**Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)**:
Our weekly donations are greatly appreciated! Every bit helps! Each client receives between 70-100 pounds of food per visit! PRC receives, rescues, sorts and distributes about 40,000 pounds of food per week. Thanks to all! If you’d like suggestions for the most needed items for the PRC food pantry, there are lists of suggested donations in one of the literature stands on the shelf in the main hallway that is across from the church offices.

**Community invitations!**The **Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has invited our church members to a neighborhood barbeque** on Sunday, September 8, at 5:00 p.m. at their mosque at 2S510 IL-53 in Glen Ellyn. Their announcement of this event is on a bulletin board in the Narthex. They ask that those coming RSVP by calling or texting (630) 974- 8425 or by sending an email to: zaim.chicago@ansarusa,org.

Save the date – Wednesday, September 25, at 7:00 a.m. – for the annual **Glen Ellyn Interfaith Prayer Breakfast** at the Abbington. The theme is “Experiencing Wholeness through Diversity,” and the guest speaker will be Paul Chandler, “an author, art curator, non-profit executive, interfaith peacemaker, and an authority on the Middle East and Africa. He grew up in Senegal, West Africa, and has lived and worked extensively around the world in senior leadership roles within faith-based publishing, the arts, relief and development…” Watch for more information nearer to the date.

**Care Notes:** “In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” -Philippians 4:6
Even though we aren’t all together for worship, we are still collecting prayer requests! Please email or leave a message on our answering machine at 630-469-9149 if you won’t be present to fill out a prayer request slip.

**Friends,****You are all invited to offer prayer for people whether they are members or not. It would be a joy and very helpful to know how people are doing. If you have submitted a person to be prayed for, please send an update to the office once in a while. Thank you! Pastor Wendy**

***New requests and updates are italicized in our prayer list.***

**Joys and Concerns** ***The flowers today*** *are from Bobbi and Tom Frey in memory of their parents.***We give thanks to God for joys:**
 *- Deb Bohi is joyful that her family was all here last weekend for the birthday celebration of her daughters, Megan Batt and Jessica Parks.
 - The birth of Cis R.’s grandbaby, Mae James Carlson*    **We pray for the whole world and our nation:**
 - Students, teachers, and school/university support staff that they have a safe, successful school year
  - Peace for Haiti and Sudan; Hamas, Israel, the people of Palestine, and the tangle of interests in the Middle East; Ukraine and Russia
  - Pray for the American people – heal our nation and help us begin to work together.
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. *In one day (last Sunday, August 25) there were 122 shooting incidents in 29 states, leaving 52 people dead and 125 people injured.* To see current statistics for shootings in our country go to <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org>.
  - We pray for our nation as we continue to wrestle with race relations.
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world
 - For the Cuba Partnership Network as they seek visas for Cuban pastors and spouses for their meeting in September
**Blessed are those who mourn**:
 *- The family and friends of Joe Furwo* - Prayers for the family of Caroline Linde, and especially for Ralph, after her passing on July 17. A Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Caroline will be held at Southminster on Saturday, September 14; visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the service following at 11:00. You can find her obituary here: <https://www.hultgrenfh.com/obituary/carolinelinde>.
 - Prayers for Karen Fitzgerald and family on the death of her father, John Launer, on July 29.
  - For the families and friends of Ruth, Grace, Ed, Dan, Mike, and those we name in our hearts and hold dear.
**We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems**:
Please help us pray for your family and friends by updating your loved ones’ information with the church office. We support them and you in their journey.
 *- Ron Birchall asks prayers for Mark, diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia
 - Mary Tennyson, diagnosed with cancer* - Pam Ellinghausen Greenholt, Hal’s niece, was doing better after a brain tumor diagnosis, but now the tumor has returned and spread to her liver. She has been told there is nothing more that can be done – “It is in God’s hands, and she is good with that.”
 - We continue to pray for: Kim, Frank B., Katie B., Tom G., Frank L., Jean K., Jan M., Nikki M., Rebecca M., Tim O., Betsey P., Laura P., Cis R., Gerry S., Marta S., Meagan S., Shelayne, and others we name in our hearts.
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges**:
 *- Heather Kralicek asks prayers for successful foot surgery tomorrow
 - Joe McHaley was recently hospitalized with cardiac issues
 - Kathy, a friend going through medical procedures
 - Rick Crilly, upcoming surgeries* - Deb Bohi’s cousin, Barb, who has some serious health issues
 - Prayers for Paul Anderson following ankle surgery
 - Those trying to conceive and struggling with infertility
 - Rita Zapel asks prayers for Felice Tristano, age 96, who is healing slowly with a broken pelvis after a fall. He is the father-in-law of Rita’s brother.
  - Phyllis Lay, hospitalized in Florida
  - Heidi Shierry, continuing health issues
  - Brandon, a young man with liver damage
  - Prayers for all who are looking for meaningful employment
  - Mya, an 11-year-old who is suffering from an auto immune disease
  - All those who have medical concerns and upcoming medical procedures
  - Isabella, awaiting a kidney donor
  - Oaklen, a grandchild of a friend of Tricia Smith, who has birth defects
  - Sandy Phee asks prayers for Linda Talaga, who is now blind in both eyes.
  - Prayers for healing, strength, and peace for Dan, a neighbor of Ann Anderson
  - All those who are experiencing chronic pain.
  - For those who are depressed
  - Jim Smith, at Brookdale, and all who are in care centers
  - Difficult marriages
  - We continue prayers for those in hospice care: Gail Johnston at Du Page Convalescent Center (If you send a card to Gail, please mail it to Andrea Schmidt, whose address is in the directory.); former President Jimmy Carter; Barb’s friend Bill and her Aunt Ruth
**We pray for the Jeremiah 29 discernment task force** and all of us as we seek God’s will for Southminster in the 21st century. May we all be attentive to the Holy Spirit’s leading. **Prayers for our worshiping community** as we discern together God’s call on SPC for the 21st century.

 **Caring for you!**Our **Congregational Care Committee** is ready to assist in time of need. If you need assistance from the Congregational Care Ministry or Helping Hands in September, call Deacon Barb Kocinski (630-710-4703). You may call Pastor Wendy Boden on her cell or home phone (if she has shared the numbers with you) or leave a message for her at the church office: 630-469-9149. Email Wendy at wendy@southminsterpc.org. (Please note that she can only read email when she is in the office.) You may also call your deacon if you need help from the church.

**Regular Office Schedule: The church office is closed on Mondays and Wednesdays.**Barb’s regular schedule is to be in the office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from approximately 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. while her son attends his day program on those days. Mondays and Wednesdays she works from home.

Grace and peace to you! Remember that we love God, neighbor, and one another. Our address is 680 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 if you would like to set up an online account with your bank or mail in your pledge. Online giving through Vanco is also now an option –for details contact Ron Birchall.

**Dates to remember this week:**  **Sunday, September 1
Order Jubilee Bucks gift cards** by emailing bobbifrey@aol.com by 9:00 p.m.
 **Worship with communion** at 9:30 a.m.- in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship** in the Narthex following worship
 **VBS meeting** in the Sunday School room after Fellowship
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 a.m. in the Pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Confirmation** at 12:30 p.m. at Qahwah House, 406 E. Roosevelt Rd., Lombard **Monday, Sept. 2 – Labor Day
Tuesday, Sept. 3 – Pastor’s Sabbath** A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Wednesday-Friday** (because she is off on Tuesday)– **Pastor Wendy’s Heart
 to Heart** on Facebook live at 4:20 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 4
 Women’s Breakfast** at 8:30 a.m. at Danby’s Station**September *Dialog* goes out
Thursday, Sept. 5** Hawthorn Garden Club (may park here before meeting elsewhere) **Worship Ministry** at 6:00 p.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library **Friday, Sept. 6** A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
**Saturday, Sept. 7
 One-day VBS: Ticket to Adventure** from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (includes lunch) **Next Sunday, September 8**
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. - in person and also live on Facebook **Fellowship and Deacons’ Bake Sale** in the Narthex following worship
 **Staff meeting** at 11:00 in the pastor’s office
 **Confirmation** at 11:15 a.m. in the pastor’s office
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. in McHenry Parlor/Library

**Covid – where are we now?**Covid spiked during the summer, so we have continued having a “comfort zone” toward the back of the sanctuary. You may, of course, continue to wear a mask, if you so choose.

**Bearing Fruit – September 1, 2024**

**Love Calls Us Out to Others**

As long as there are people, there will be differences. There will be differences of opinion, different ways of doing things, and differences in faith traditions.

When Christians from different branches of the family tree that is the Church come together. it is an ecumenical event. The Nicene Creed, for example, was born from an ecumenical council. Christians came together and discussed their understanding of Christ and his church.

When people of different faith traditions come together, it is an interfaith event. Last year, in fact, there was the parliament of religions held in Chicago.

For several years the Glen Ellyn community has hosted what is a rare prayer breakfast in our nation. The Prayer Breakfast is rare because it is interfaith, not ecumenical. We strive to invite all the faith communities in Glen Ellyn to come together, break bread, pray, and listen to an invited speaker. Sometimes things do not go smoothly. Sometimes people are asked to pray, and they hear an invitation to lecture others, but generally that is not the case.

This year the Interfaith Prayer Breakfast has been moved up a month in order to accommodate DuPage PADS, who asked for our new date. With love the Interfaith Prayer Breakfast Foundation consented.

Save the date – Wednesday, September 25, at 7:00 a.m. – for the annual **Glen Ellyn Interfaith Prayer Breakfast**at the Abbington. The theme is “Divine Mosaic: Experiencing Wholeness through Diversity,” and the guest speaker will be Paul Chandler, “an author, art curator, non-profit executive, interfaith peacemaker, and an authority on the Middle East and Africa. He grew up in Senegal, West Africa, and has lived and worked extensively around the world in senior leadership roles within faith-based publishing, the arts, relief and development…” He also has roots in the Glen Ellyn community.

Again, this year our pastor is reserving two table for the friends and members of Southminster. You are invited to be her guest, or you may donate $30.00. If you are interested in joining, please send an email to our administrator, Barb, at admin@southminsterpc.org or call 630-469-9149.

Christians bear the fruit of God’s love when we extend ourselves to others.

**Thank you, Derek Buckley**With our Music Director away today, we welcome Dr. Derek Buckley as our sub. Derek has been a member of SPC since 2023. He graduated with a doctorate in music and vocal performance from the University of Illinois. He has had the pleasure of studying with Dr. Marilyn Coles, Dr. Alan Peters, Mr. Jerry Daniels, and most recently master classes with MS Renee Fleming and MS Linda Eder. Clearly Derek loves opera and, in particular, bel canto roles which have been a centerpiece of his repertoire for the past 20 years.