

Our Mission is to be an inclusive community of faith that preaches the word of God, teaches the love of Jesus Christ and reaches out to all through the Holy Spirit.

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Inside this issue:

Words from Rev. Whiston

Christian Education News

Did You Know

Committee News

Advent/Christmas

Happenings

Excerpts of Committee Reports

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes

Hymn Sing Sundays
(last Sunday each month)
10:15 am



South Congregational Church United Church of Christ

December 2011

Words from our Minister

As we enter the Advent season, the opportunity to experience the joy of giving surrounds us. The Outreach Committee offers the Circle of Giving as one way to honor those near to us and spread the good news of the season to a selection of local, national and/or global programs. More details are included in newsletter and available each Sunday after worship. Another idea I share comes from a reading of "The Power of Half" (Kevin Salwen, Hannah Salwen). Encouraged by the teen-age daughter of a family who decides to sell their comfortable Georgia home and donate one-half of the proceeds to a charity they research and choose, this idea emerges. Write a check in the amount of your choosing, signed and dated but blank in the space 'pay to the order of.' Let your son/daughter or other recipient forward it along to a program, charity, activity of his/her choosing. These are but a couple thoughts, along with my personal encouragement: no gifts of guns or games of violence for our children.

May we all receive the gift of this season as one to be shared, for this is the story of God's love - to be shared. *Charles*

Morning Message Sunday, November 6, 2011

I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe I am called to provide assistance, sustenance and nurture to others.

I believe that South Church-United Church of Christ has a place in this community... and beyond.

I believe in the good to be done though I may never witness it myself.

I believe I have a clear responsibility to offer a proportion of my earnings, 5% to my local church.

I believe God has a claim upon my life, my allegiance.

All this I find expressed in my church, this church, which in turn connects me to the York Association of 23 UCC congregations of AMIGOS projects and the York County Jail, to the Maine Conference UCC of 172 congregations; to Pilgrim Lodge and the Resource Center, to the Maine Council of Churches and its gatherings of Episcopalians, Methodists, Unitarians, Presbyterians and Catholic Church, to Bangor Theological Seminary and Andover Newton Theological School to offer educated and skilled leadership in the church, to the National and World Council of Churches who can see and reach to places unknown to me for the greatest good.

And once I am out there in all parts of the globe, I come back home, to this church and to this sacramental table, to re-commit myself to Jesus Christ all over again, to be clear whom I serve, and to begin all over again, that my house may be in order.



MANY THANKS!

The 2011 spaghetti dinner and BINGO night was a great success! Many thanks to all of you who supported this fund raising event by attending the dinner, playing BINGO, and/or donating prizes for the event. The money that was raised will support nine of our South Church high school youth group members who will travel to Biloxi, MS for volunteer work at the Back Bay Mission in January 2012. Your support is greatly appreciated and we hope you enjoyed your evening.

A huge thank you also goes out to each of the businesses who donated items for the event. As he has done for many years, Scott Baker of Atlantic Pizza supplied the majority of the food for the dinner. Shields Meats also donated food items. Community businesses that donated items for BINGO prizes include Kennebunkport Brewing Co., Kennebunk House of Pizza, The Coffee House, Arundel Ice Cream Parlor, Little Red Wagon, Poofberry's, Kennebunk Toy Co., Chase Hill Bakery, Marlows, The Candy Man, The Clam Shack, Carrots and Company, The Nonantum, and The Lobster Co. Please remember their generosity to our church community as you support these businesses. Thank you also to Liz Spofford (Silpada Jewelry representative) and Kelly McLaughlin of our church community for their generous prize donations, and to Steve Grabowski for his expert help in the kitchen. Once again, we realize how blessed we are by the generous support of our church community and the wider community.

The youth who worked hard in organizing and conducting this fund evening and who will participate in the mission trip include Caroline Dunn, Chris Dunn, Olivia Hussey, Grace Jandro, Ted Jandro, Hannah Rolland, Will Spofford, Cam Wiewel and Kristen Wiewel. Great job with your fundraiser, and best wishes for your efforts on the mission trip!

From The Board of Christian Education



Christmas Eve 4:00pm service– Nursery Care
Christmas Eve 7:30pm Service - No Nursery Care
December 25 - No Church School or Nursery Care
January 1, 2012 - Church School and Nursery Care are scheduled

Youth Group News

Did you know that 5 of our high school youth received the Coaches Choice Award and/or the MVP for their fall sports team? We are so proud of the following youth:

- Chris Dunn- Cross Country
- Olivia Hussey- Cross Country
- Hannah Rolland - Volleyball
- Will Spofford - Golf
- Cam Wiewel -Cross Country

Congratulations to you all!

Live Nativity

Our Live Nativity will be held on Friday, December 2nd at 6:00pm on the front steps of our church. Following the tree lighting in Dock Square, an opportunity for us to present the story as one of our gifts to the community. Any youth or adult who would like to participate are welcome. Please contact Heather if you would like to be a shepherd, Mary, or Joseph . We'd love to have you!



December 11, 2011 - Join us for our Christmas Pageant rehearsal and lunch after church in the Community House. The Board of Christian Education will serve grilled cheese and soups in the church school area downstairs. While there, the children will show you around the classroom and share some activities that they have been working on in church school.

After lunch, we will head to the sanctuary for our Pageant Rehearsal. We look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Pageant - December 18, 10:30am

Prayer Shawls

There are a few prayer shawls available to be given to anyone who is ill and in need of comfort. Recipients do not need to be members of the church. If you know of someone, please contact Charles or a member of the Outreach Committee.



Also, more shawls are needed. If you are a knitter and would be willing to make one or more, yarn and instructions will be provided. Again, speak to a member of the Outreach Committee.

South Church Prayer Group

A reminder of that South Church has an active our prayer group, we currently have 16 members and more would be warmly welcome! There are no meetings—each group member Offers prayers in his or her own way. The request list is emailed to each member whenever There is a change. Requests may be made by emailing or calling one of the contact people Below who will then forward the request to all members. There is also a basket in the front hall of the church so that requests may be received there.

The contact people are Louise Negley, negleys@roadrunner.com, 967-1993, Rebecca Schnell prschnell@securspeed.us, 727-6562 or Liz Baker, lized@earthlink.net, 967-5268.

Advent Daily Devotional

This year, through our Worship Task Force, we have assembled a daily devotional booklet comprised by church members. Copies for your family may be found on the hallway table, downstairs at the church. Over thirty individuals contributed.

Thank you Louise Negley, Liz Baker, Gail Kingsley, Heather McLaughlin, Rebecca and Paul Schnell and Rev. Charles in making this vision a reality.

Poinsettia Plants

The deadline for ordering a poinsettia plant for Christmas worship or to be delivered to someone home-bound is December 9, to Sarah in the front office.

Annual Reports

A reminder, that all committee and officer reports for the Annual Report are due to Sarah in the office by December 28, please.

If you were wondering, the furniture in the upstairs vestibule area before entering the sanctuary has been sent out for needed repairs and upholstery. The work will be done through the Maine State Prison program in Thomaston and will be funded through our Memorial Fund. However, it will be towards the end of winter when work will be completed.

Life Journeys

Baptism	November 27	Lucelia Patricia Mooney
Wedding	November 11	Taylor E. Hogan and Nathan R. LaPierre
Deaths	October 25	Marian M. Terrell
	October 31	Margaret Lovgren

WOULD YOU HELP?

Did you know that there are many activities, at South Church, where you can help and they don't require years of commitment?! Some examples where you might help are:

- Help prepare food for the Prelude Chili Luncheon 1 Hour
- Sing with the Choir for the Holiday months 2 Hours
- Be a Sunday morning Greeter 30 Minutes
- Be an Usher 75 Minutes
- Participate on a committee Monthly Meeting

It's true! We do become a closer church family when we worship and serve together. Check it out – give it a try, even if it's for an hour.

Contact:

- Steve Spofford topie17@hotmail.com 985-9254
- Marcia Landry tbhussey@roadrunner.com 967-9150

USHERS NEEDED!

Did you know that *anyone* from the congregation can usher at Sunday services? It requires only that you be at church a little early to meet with the Deacon in Charge who will be very glad to see you and will guide you through the process. There is a sign-up board in the downstairs hall (which may be moved to the front hall for easier access). Please consider volunteering for this simple way to serve your church!

The Fellowship Committee oversees the weekly Sunday coffee hours and plans social gatherings throughout the year. Members take turns greeting folks before each service and setting out food for the coffee hour after the service. The coffee is made by choir members and the food is provided on a monthly rotating basis by the Church committees and boards. The Committee meets monthly for an hour or so. It is a low-pressure, fun way to serve your Church. If you might be interested in joining us, for further information please speak to one of us: Lois Dennett, Joanna Dillon, Sue MacCachran, Trish Mason, Liz and Ted Baker or Rev. Charles.

The Music Committee meets Dec. 4, 11:45am (the committee will meet the first Sunday of the month thru June at least)

The Chancel Choir has begun rehearsing music for Advent and Christmas Eve. If you would like to add the joy of singing to your holiday, come join the choir for this special season of the church year.



Rehearsals are Thursday evening, 7:15-8:45pm.

Thank you for making Habitat For Humanity a Success!

Thanks to the following volunteers who worked at the **Springvale Habitat for Humanity work site**. On October 15th, our first team worked on insulation, foam board, retaining wall and flooring. Members were Jeanne and Tim Dunn, Chris Dunn, Henry Mobley, Scott Negley, Peter Sentner and Rev. Charles. We also want to thank Allison and Matt Pore who provided lunch for the entire crew!

On November 5 work continued with Jeanne and Tim Dunn, Marcia Landry and Tim Hussey, Abby and Jeff Troiano, John Merry, Scott Negley, Joe and Jane Rolland and Rev. Charles. We also thank Sarah Nelson for providing lunch for the crew! Photos of our team at work can be seen on the Outreach bulletin board downstairs next to the Music Room.



Circle of Giving Shop and **Mitten Tree**

The Outreach Board invites you to join us in these two opportunities for giving this Advent Season.

Mitten Tree – Once again South Church members are invited to decorate our Christmas tree with children’s hats and mittens. These gifts of warmth and caring will be distributed through area elementary schools to children as needed.

The Outreach Board is very excited to bring our second annual *Circle of Giving Shop*. The Shop is open during Fellowship Hour each Sunday of the Advent Season, November 27th, and December 4th, 11th and 18th. Gift donations may be purchased to ten carefully selected charitable organizations. The Outreach Board strives to include organizations which serve our local area, our nation and the world and that address a variety of issues, for example, hunger, housing and health. And, where available, the programs rated by watchdog organizations have all received consistent high ratings for their operations, financial health and accountability and transparency.

The local organizations that the Outreach Board has chosen to include in the Shop this year are The Animal Welfare Society, Caring Unlimited, Community Harvest, Church Community Outreach Services Fuel Assistance Program, Good Shepherd Food Bank, and York County Shelter. The national and global organizations are Homes for Our Troops, Heifer International, Partners in Health, and Save the Children. Outreach members will be available during shop hours to answer any questions you may have about these organizations.

Last year, 60 gift donations were purchased totaling nearly \$3,000.00. These dollars helped serve those in need right here in our community as well as in Haiti, Africa, South America, Russia to name just a few.

If you are unable to attend the shop hours you are welcome to come to church during office hours. If you have any questions please call Nancy Jandro at 985-5933 or the church office at 967-2793.

Minister and Deacons

Draft of a winter storm statement for the Church

It is our general practice not to cancel Sunday morning worship due to snow/ice storms, though the gathering may take a different form and perhaps take place as a small group downstairs in the library area.) This is due primarily to the fact that our minister is a three minute walk from the church. However, when such conditions exist—it is also our belief that NO ONE should travel if he/she is uncomfortable on the road regardless of responsibilities here. Specifically, this has been communicated to Rebecca and Paul as our choir director and organist (who in turn communicates this to the choir), to Heather as our Christian Education Director (who in turn communicates this to church school teachers and nursery care provider) and is applicable to the Deacon in Charge that Sunday, all ushers, coffee hosts, greeters and the like. Road conditions vary greatly in different parts of our community, snow plowing of driveways vary equally, and power outages hit different areas of our community for varying periods of time. Simply put, do not come if you do not feel safe. The key factor here is road conditions. If there were other overwhelming concerns that were life threatening, a decision to close may take place. In that case, an effort would be made to place notification with local television stations and if possible on our church answering machine.

Board of Christian Education

On our Christmas tree in the sanctuary this year, you will see ornaments in white and gold. These ornaments are called “Chrismons”, meaning Monogram of Christ. They are symbols of Christ’s life. Some examples that you might see are a Crown, (showing Christ’s royalty) a seashell (meaning the water of Baptism) a dove (representing Christ’s baptism, as well as peace) and a cross (representing the crucifixion) to name a few. Our children and members of our church made these symbols at The Hanging of the Greens that we held here on November 26th, as well as during church school. If you would like to learn how to make them, see Heather and she can give you the patterns.

Trustees

The Trustees are continuing efforts to bring forth a plan for increasing rental of the Community House. The goal is to continue to be able to offer the space for use by local non-profit groups while at the same time increasing use for private meetings and functions that would bring in increased revenue for the church. Plans call for upgrades to the building which include electrical work, removal of the stage and adding windows to the end facing the Rivergreen in order to be able to accommodate larger groups. This is seen as a benefit both in terms of rental and for use by our own church for gatherings. Some of these improvements, such as the electrical work, general painting and refinishing of floors are in need of being done whether or not we pursue a rental plan. We have estimated that the cost of upgrading the Community House will be around \$75,000. Our proposal is to finance the project over 5 years with the rental revenues being applied to paying off the initial costs. Once the project is paid for, any surplus revenue could be applied to the general church budget for operating costs and outreach.

Our board feels strongly that the Community House is a wonderful gift that was given to us by previous generations. It has great value to us as a place for fellowship, community outreach and as an financial asset to the church. Just as we would never have let the gift of a beautiful new organ go unplaced or unplayed, we need to unwrap the potential of this very unique property and allow it to give back to the church.

Two informational meetings open to the Congregation were held in early November. We hope to have Central Board agree to bring our proposal before the church membership at Annual Meeting so work can begin in early 2012.



Saturday, November 26
10:00am Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 27 First Sunday in Advent
10:30 am Worship and Church School, Nursery Care

Friday, December 2
6:00 pm Live Nativity

Saturday, December 3
9:00 am – 4:00pm Craft Fair
11:30 am – 2:00 pm Chili/Chowder Lunch

Sunday, December 4 Second Sunday in Advent
10:30 am Worship and Church School, Nursery Care
Communion Sunday

Sunday, December 11 Third Sunday in Advent
10:30 am Worship and Church School, Nursery Care
11:45 am Pageant Rehearsal and Lunch

Tuesday, December 13
1:00pm Christmas Tea at the Community House

Sunday, December 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent
10:30 am Worship, Pageant, Nursery Care

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 pm Family Service, Nursery Care available
7:30 pm Candlelight Service, No Nursery Care available

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day
10:30 am Worship, No Nursery Care or Church School

Sunday, January 1 First Sunday After Christmas
10:30 am Worship and Church School, Nursery Care
Communion Sunday

South Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
PO Box 414
Kennebunkport, ME 04046
Phone: 207/967-2793

We are on the web
www.southchurchucc.org

The deadline for submitting
newsletter articles is the 15th of
each month by emailing to:
sarah@southchurchucc.org.

In Search of our Kneeling Places

by Ann Weems

In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
an inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we experience our own advent in his.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we can longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars
not hearing angel voices.
We can longer excuse ourselves by busily
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that the Lord has
made known to us.

In the midst of our shopping sprees
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.

Through the tinsel
let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.

In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.

This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling place.

