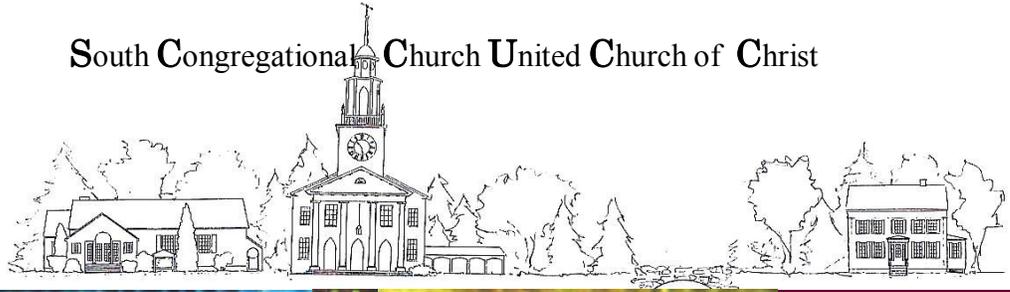


South Congregational Church United Church of Christ



February 2017

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

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Words from our Minister

Later this month, eight of our South Church community put on 'modern day missionary' hats as we volunteer for a week at Back Bay Mission, a program of our United Church of Christ in Biloxi MS. More than taking up hammers and paintbrushes for housing renovation work, we will learn more and participate with a local soup kitchen as well as the Micah Center - a daytime service program for those experiencing homelessness. In addition, we will share the time with a group from Mokena IL and Newtown CT including the preparation of meals together. This 'border crossing' experience offers learnings of both head and heart and soul, meeting folks living in the deep south who have memories and experiences often radically different than our own -- yet who share a common faith in God. Humbly we ask you to hold us in prayer as we go forth February 25-March 4: Linda Hill, Kiara Davis, Peter Sentner, Denise Macaronis, Don Curry, Henry and Maryfrances Smith along with myself. Take a look- www.thebackbaymission.org to see what we are doing. *Rev. Charles*

Our Annual Meeting took place on January 22, the business portion followed a delicious luncheon prepared by Megan and Steve Ogden. Patti Berger (vice-chair of Central Board) called us to order in the absence Loralie Mildner (chairperson) was away. Sandy Nichols, clerk, read the warrant and 2016 minutes were approved as amended. Written reports were received as presented as well as the budget passed as printed. The Nominating Committee report was also approved with one addition. Other invitations have been extended to fill open positions. There being no other business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Annual Reports remain available in the office if you have not received one. Or simply call 967-2793 and we will get one to you.

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes

Some of you have asked the **scheduled hours of our staff**. The office opens at 9:00am with Sarah in on M-W-Th-F to 2pm and Brenda M-Tu-Th mornings. Selden is in until 4pm on Tu-W-Th along with half day on Sundays and Mondays.

Megan, Beth and David do not have regular weekday 'office hours', doing much work at home however simply call the church if wishing to meet or speak to them on Sunday mornings. (Adult choir is Thursday evenings.)

Rev. Charles generally works at his desk mornings and is often in and out during the afternoon (Monday is a day off) though can vary greatly. In addition there are evening meetings, weekend weddings and funerals as requested. Feel free to call or email if wishing to meet.

Sunday School

The nativity scenes are packed away and the wreaths are off the door. Christian Education continues on! In the month of February we will be studying the following scriptures:

- February 5th:** Matthew 5:13-20, Exploring Jesus' teachings about being salt and light.
- February 12th:** Matthew 5: 21-37, Exploring Jesus' teachings about how God's love can work through us.
- February 19th:** Matthew 5:38-48 Exploring Jesus' vision about loving the way that God loves.
- February 26th:** Matthew 17:1-9 Reflecting on what Jesus reveals about God's love and power.

We hope that many will join us as we continue our studies, play games and create special valentines crafts.



Youth Group

A new endeavor is underway to start up a high school youth group with Heather McLaughlin, leading. This includes all kids 9th-12th grades.

Heather was our Director of Christian Education for eight years at South Church and feels strongly about continuing with the youth of our church. We are also hoping to include all youth in Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel churches. In the past, we have gone bowling, to the movies, volunteered at shelters, served in soup kitchens, helped with church functions, and shared meals together. We have also been on many trips to volunteer in places like New Orleans, Biloxi, New York and Washington DC. If this is something that your youth would be interested in joining, please contact Heather at mclaughlins@roadrunner.com. Let them know that friends are more than welcome!

From Heather McLaughlin

Mark Your Calendar

An **information session for those interested in becoming members of South Church** takes place after the worship service on February 5. Meet some other folks and learn a bit more of who we are as a faith community. If possible, let Rev. Charles or one of our Deacons know if you plan to attend that we can plan accordingly.

This year's **All Committee Night is Wednesday, February 15**, at the Community House. Potluck supper at 6:00pm (bring a dish to share of your choice) then break into Individual meetings shortly before 7:00pm. Do check with your chairperson for any questions.

A **community ecumenical worship gathering**, we gather at Church on the Cape on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00pm ~ Ash Wednesday. This marks the beginning of Lent, the forty days set aside by the early church to prepare for Easter. Traditionally, it is a time for personal reflection, humble confession and spiritual awakening. An open invitation from our local clergy association and churches.

And **COMING SOON: Bible Study** with Rev. Dr. Burt Howe on a weekday morning during Lent.

You Should Know

Habitat for Humanity-York County has a new house in early construction stages on Cole Road in Kennebunk- four exterior walls are now up ! Click here to see a recent news story:

<http://wgme.com/news/local/volunteers-help-make-a-difference-for-family-in-kennebunk> .

Several months ago, we welcomed Tahloni Yearwood to speak to us on a Sunday morning. It will be her family will move in later in the year. Habitat families covenant to donate 400 sweat equity hours as part of their commitment. We have a request in for a South Church work day....do stay tuned.

The Dock Square bridge is now an alternating one lane traffic flow with temporary traffic light. In early March, both lanes will be closed for six weeks, weather dependent. Detour will be using the Durrells Bridge Road. Parking will remain plentiful on Sunday mornings

Ministry of Caring Update -As you may recall, through the Board of Deacons last year came conversations and initial activities with the purpose of extending our ministry of caring through visits to church members whose mobility or living circumstances have changed. From these conversations came the Ministry of Caring initiative, which aims to build upon visits previously made by Reverend Charles, Lois Dennett and others with a wider circle of South Church members spending time with fellow members. The goal of the visits is to bring fellowship and conversation with the message they are in our thoughts and prayers.

The Ministry of Caring committee will be meeting Sunday, February 12 after church service; an opportunity to share experiences and to discuss next steps for the initiative. Congregation members who are interested in participating in the Ministry of Caring are invited to attend. If you are interested but cannot attend, please let Jeff Buck (Buck3819@yahoo.com) or Reverend Charles know of your interest.



South Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
PO Box 414
Kennebunkport, ME 04046
Phone: 207/967-2793
Fax: 207/967-5672
www.southchurchucc.org

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

Red Hymnals New and Old

The Deacons are very happy to announce that 80 new red hymnals are in the pews. We are grateful for those who submitted dedications for the new hymnals. God must have had a hand, since 80 dedications were submitted, enough for each of the hymnals! Thank you.

80 well-worn hymnals have also been retired. The names of hymnal dedicatees have been recorded and saved for South Church records. Retired hymnals will be made available for those who wish to have a hymnal at home, and for those who wish to have a hymnal that was dedicated in the past to a family member or friend. A list of dedication names will be posted for those that wish to have a specific dedicated hymnal. Retired hymnals will be available after church. Please call the office or email Susan Twombly at twom@gwi.net if you have any questions.

Special thanks go to Deacons Gwen Page, Beverly Meserve, David Reid, Linda Wiewel, and Elizabeth Grant for their work on this project.

Submitted by Susan Twombly, Deacon Co-Chairperson