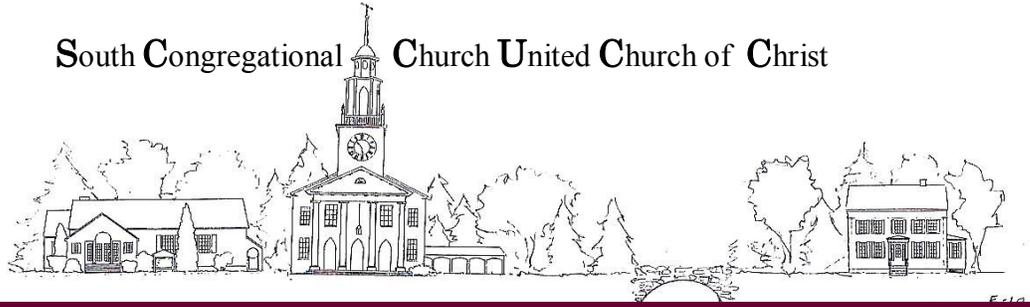


# South Congregational Church United Church of Christ



February 2015

*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  
Committee News  
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Did You Know...

**Sunday Worship** 10:30 am  
(Nursery Care provided)

**Sunday School** 10:30 am  
**Classes**

## Words from our Minister

### “The Puzzle That Speaks” – Part One

One of the Christmas gifts under the tree was a picture puzzle which I just laid out on the kitchen counter.

Already, I am finding it speaking to me. Immediately there are some learnings/lessons! The plan to assemble it on a black kitchen counter may not have been the wisest decision of that day.

Then comes the questions:

if a couple pieces come out of the box from the factory still together (not cleanly cut), does one take it as a gift or separate them? And what of a bigger question, does the picture with picture remain on the counter or does one proceed without this aid; trusting upon the skill of hand and eye? What are the ground rules, one must first ask. Thus lessons of life are already apparent.



First, turn all the pieces over, all 550. (Be thankful you were blessed NOT to receive one with 1000 pieces!) It is good to see what is before you before attempting to assemble. Second, I begin with the border pieces. In puzzles as in life, it makes sense to find a framework which offers parameters to help give focus. Third, a certain self-satisfaction in the first few pieces coming together---and this in the face of far, far more pieces awaiting their destination. It is all there before me, waiting to be revealed. Fourth, this will not be completed in one day.... and I'm comfortable with that fact.

Hmmm..... Good lessons as Lent approaches.  
Ash Wednesday- February 18.



## Life Journeys

Deaths	December 31, 2014	Jean H. Goheen
	January 7, 2015	C. Wesley Crowell

## Committee News

### Renovation of Church Library/Gathering Room

The Trustees' plan in the next few months is to renovate the Library/Gathering Room on the Church's first floor. The false ceiling will be removed, exposing the original corniced window tops, and sheet rock will be painted at the original ceiling height. The old "accordion" room-divider will be removed and new ceiling lights will be installed. The old cracked plaster in the Library area will be replaced and painted and the wood trim in the room will be painted. Electrical switches and plugs will be updated.

Once all the painting has been completed, the 100 year old pine floors will be sanded and refinished. Area rugs will be put down in place of the wall-to-wall carpet there now.

Our Women's Association has offered to put glass shelves, with locking sliding-glass doors, over the kitchenette area where the Church's various antique silver Communion pieces and vases may be stored and protected. They will also provide valances for the room's windows that will coordinate with the two couches the Women's Association had re-upholstered last year.

This work will be done with as little disruption for the Church Staff as is possible.

Sandy Severance, *Trustees Vice Chair*



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David Brandes began at South Church as our new Organist/Choir Director following early retirement from Franklin Pierce University in NH as Professor of Music (1993, 1996, 2007 "Teaching Excellence and Leadership Award). In addition, has served as Music Director/Organist for many New England churches including Second Church in W. Newton MA, Maple Street Congregational Church in Danvers MA, Church of Christ at Dartmouth College in Hanover NH, South Church in Concord NH and most recently Episcopal Church of our Savior in Milford NH. For thirteen years, David was conductor of the Monadnock Chorus and Orchestra and has led international concert tours.

He and wife Kathy have often vacationed in this area and now make their home in Kennebunk.

We extend sincere gratitude to the search committee who offered many hours and energies over these past nine months: Patti Berger (chair), Liz Baker, Bob Card, Sue MacCachran, Sue Twombly and Rev. Charles.



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Planning their trip, fifteen folks of the South Church community will head to BackBay Mission in Biloxi, MS; March 21-28. More on their venture next month. BackBay Mission is a ministry of our United Church of Christ, an active and vibrant presence on Mississippi's Gulf Coast, touching and changing lives just as we do here. [www.thebackbaymission.org](http://www.thebackbaymission.org)

## You Should Know...

You should know that soon after Christmas, we gave a total of \$ 1000 from the Deacons Fund to our town offices requesting that the funds be used primarily for heating oil for community members or other needs as deemed necessary. Charles delivered checks in person and received immediate words of gratitude.

And, four weeks ago, a call came from Rev. Mair Honan of Grace Street Ministry. With the sharp cold snap and sub-zero temperatures, any chance we could purchase some XL warm coats for folks experiencing homelessness in Portland. Within a few days, our Outreach Committee allocated available funds and a purchase was made. Rev. Charles delivered them to Rev. Bob of the program, and were quickly distributed.

Touching lives of real people, in our community and beyond. South Church at work.

**Lent** – a time of reflection and preparation. A time set aside by the early church to prepare for Easter. A time of forty days in duration, reflecting the time Jesus was in the wilderness after his baptism and before beginning his public ministry. Special devotional booklets are available. Our Kennebunkport churches once again will join together and share services during this period.

**Ash Wednesday** – February 18, 7:00pm at Church on the Cape  
**Maundy Thursday**- April 2, 7:00pm at Village Baptist Church  
**Good Friday**- April 3, 7:00pm here at South Church

Conversations are taking place for a **Lent series**, reflecting upon our faith in service. A light supper of soup and bread (6pm) followed by program and conversations, ending early evening in these winter months. Begins February 25 in the Community House. First program: “Hunger in Maine” Kristen Miale and Good Shepherd Food Bank.

Give the Gift of Life - a **Red Cross blood drive** at our Community House, Wednesday, February 18. Call 1-800-RED CROSS- for more information or to register for an afternoon time to donate. Perhaps a particularly meaningful way to begin Lent.

## Did You Know...

As we go to print, meeting here last evening an Ecclesiastical Council of the York Association, United Church of Christ voted unanimously to **recommend Debra Girard for ordination** to the Christian ministry. This means she has met all the requirements in order to circulate her professional profile to receive a call to a position. Once a call has been received, only then a service of ordination can take place. Congratulations, Debbie!

**Congratulations to Mal Davis** and R.M. Davis & Associates for being recognized at “Number Five” in the country for investors by Bloomberg Markets!! Mal is a member of South Church and has been our endowment’s financial advisor since 1980. Well done!

If you’ve ever thought about the **choir**, a great time to come with our new organist/choir director- David Brandes- now in place. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings, 7:15pm. Even if you’re not sure about long term, come perhaps for the six weeks of Lent leading towards Easter.

South Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
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**We are on the web**  
**[www.southchurchucc.org](http://www.southchurchucc.org)**

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

We continue a practice of recent years of having all committees of the church meet on the same evening in February, the first gathering after Annual Meeting. This year's **All Committee Night** will be Tuesday, February 10 in the Community House. We begin with a potluck meal at 6pm. Then we'll break into our respective committees about 7pm or shortly before. An important time of beginning anew in the winter, reminding us of the many hands and hearts that make South Church an effective instrument of God's love.

This would be a good week to return your Advent wreath ring. We'll save it for next year's gathering. Thank you.