

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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Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes

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

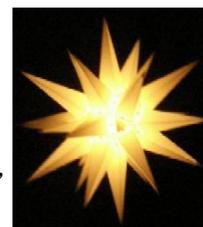


January 2012

Words from our Minister

These words of Howard Thurman are most fitting as the new year arrives and Epiphany –January 6- is celebrated, sometimes called Twelfth Night. It marks the traditional arrival of the magi at Bethlehem. Thurman was a faculty member at Boston University, prolific writer, civil rights leader, ordained Baptist minister who attended Colgate Rochester Seminary and earned his doctorate at Haverford University. Ebony Magazine named Thurman as one of the 50 most important figures in Afro-American history. Here he links our faith foundation with a call to service, resting upon the prophet Isaiah along side the birth and teachings of Jesus Christ.

*"When the song of the angel is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost--To heal the broken--
To feed the hungry--To release the prisoner--
To rebuild the nations--To bring peace among brothers and sisters--
To make music in the heart."*



As we prepare for our Annual Meeting, the star may fade for some yet as people of faith it still shines brightly. There are committees for which we can offer faithful leadership, programs within the church for which we can volunteer, outreach opportunities which await our hands and heart in action. We take stock of where we have been as a church and where it is to which God calls us. Let us join together to accomplish that which God has placed before us. *Charles*

Back Bay Mission is the destination of 21 of our congregation January 14-21, a mission of our United Church of Christ located in Biloxi, MS. We will participate in their housing recovery program to those struggling on the Gulf Coast where the impact of Hurricane Katrina (2005) is still felt. Assisting with the BBM homeless program as well as other hands on opportunities are part of the program. As you hold this group in prayer, we will attempt to communicate during the week with you through our church's website:



www.southchurchucc.org.

We have a rich group of nine high school students and twelve older adults: Hannah Rolland, Cam Wiewel, Kristin Wiewel, Chris Dunn, Caroline Dunn, Will Spofford, Teddy Jandro, Grace Jandro, Olivia Hussey along with Heather McLaughlin, Jane and Joe Rolland, Don Curry, Denise Marcaronis, Mariah Kelley, Nancy Jandro, Jeanne Dunn, Linda Hill, Susan Walters, Dayton Goudie and Rev. Charles Whiston.

Youth Group News

Our Live Nativity and Christmas Pageant were huge successes this past December! So many youth and children participated and South Church thanks you. Thank you to Steve and Will Spofford for setting up and taking down the Live Nativity. Thank you also to the Christian Education Committee for the hours of planning, making food, dressing children in costumes, cleaning up the church school area, shopping, the list goes on! And thank you to our church staff for the behind the scenes work.

Be sure to look at the Christian Education bulletin board in the hallway of the church. Pictures from both the Pageant and the Live Nativity will be displayed.



The next **Church School** unit that we will be learning is about Joseph. The story of Joseph and his brothers allows our teachers to share with our children the value of sharing, loving, believing, and trusting one another, but above all else, it teaches about forgiveness. We will begin this unit after Epiphany Sunday, January 8th.

On January 1st and 8th we will continue to teach our children about Christmas and how the Spirit moves us to carry on the Christmas message throughout the year.

Our **High School Youth** will be embarking on our next mission trip combined with adults from South Church to Biloxi, MS. There, we will help rebuild area homes, work in a soup kitchen and homeless shelter. We will also spend time together making meals, attending a church service on the Sunday of our arrival, and explore Biloxi. The youth who are attending are Caroline Dunn, Chris Dunn, Olivia Hussey, Grace Jandro, Teddy Jandro, Hannah Rolland, Will Spofford, Cam Wiewel, Kristin Wiewel and Heather McLaughlin.

We are looking forward to our trip and thank the church in advance for the monetary support as well as the spiritual support that we will receive.



Beginning on Sunday, February 5th, a class for our **middle school youth** will be held at the same time as church school. This class will be led by Heather McLaughlin in the parlor of the Community House and will run twice a month. We have such an opportunity to teach this age group and we have many of them in our church! Please let me know if you have a youth in grades 6-8 who would like to attend.

Winter Storm Statement

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.

Did you notice? Perhaps not as it blends into the front entry area so easily ! A new name tag holder crafted carefully by Gregg VanGundy and Henry Mobley of the church. Thank you very much ~ well done! Take a look. One more effort towards our goal of hospitality and fellowship that we come to know each other, more likely as we link names and faces.

Or perhaps you noticed an attractive addition to our river green area, a memorial bench from the family of Linda Broughton. Linda was an active member of South Church and who died in December 2009.

The Central Board voted to accept this gift in her honor with gratitude to the family – her mother and three brothers.



An Informational Session on the renovations and change in the alcohol policy planned for the Community House will be held by the Trustees on Sunday, Jan. 15. The gathering will be held at 11:40 in the Community House.

This will be the last opportunity for the Congregation to discuss the proposed changes before the Annual Meeting. While the Trustees will be able to answer questions at the Annual Meeting, this session allows for a more in depth presentation. Prior to this informational meeting, questions or concerns should be addressed to the Trustees through its chairperson, Bonnie Tahan, by calling 967-0622 or through email: bonnie@marshwoods.com

Sign up! The 2012 flower and usher charts are posted downstairs for anyone wishing to sign up for Sunday flowers or help to usher.

Life Journeys

Wedding	December 10	Gail P. Kingsley and Dean P. Wolfahrt
	December 31	Margaret Ann Coutinho and Ricardo Betancourt
Deaths	November 25	E. Lynn Wilkinson

Excerpts from Committee Reports for December Central Board Meeting

Trustees

The Trustees gathered on December 6 for a short meeting followed by dinner with their spouses at the home of the Tahans.

In and around the properties: we are experiencing some minor issues with the new Heating system, but expect it to be fixed shortly and to be covered by warranty. Tree trimming in back of the Community House has taken place to the Property Mangers' satisfaction.

Measures were taken during the recent busy weekends to deter parking on the Rivergreen in an effort to prevent damage to the lawn. Discussion will take place with the town as to a more permanent resolution, taking into consideration that the town does have a right of way through the property from the town lot to Temple/North St.

Library - Morven Troost

Our committee, now only three active members, agreed that we should reduce our budget from \$400 to \$350 for 2012, so we make a small contribution to closing the church's deficit. We also are in need of two more library committee members. It is not a burdensome commitment. We meet irregularly on Tuesday mornings, but it does need to be someone with a love of books and a sense of order.

Women's Association - Morven Troost

The Craft Fair is successfully behind us. Many thanks to Ellen Howes, Craft Fair chair for many years, and to the many people who helped - those who set up, those who were a presence the day of the fair, and those who helped to clean up. Because of a strong team of workers, this latter happened in record time. Financial figures should be available for CB meeting.

Music Committee - Louise Negley

We met on Sunday, December 4 and have decided to meet the first Sunday of every month no matter how many are present just to touch base. The main thrust of our meeting was discussing our Sunday morning worship music and how we could tweak the music to appeal more to the young people.

Christian Education - Heather McLaughlin

As you know, we have been very busy with Live Nativity and Pageant. We have MANY children for the pageant, (33) and had about 11 come to be on the live Nativity. This year's Nativity was another success and we expect the pageant to be as well!

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of South Congregational Church United Church of Christ of Kennebunkport, Maine is hereby called to take place following the worship service and lunch on Sunday, January 29, 2012 (snowdate February 5) in the Community House, then and there to act on the following business, to wit:

- Article 1 To receive the reports of the Minister, Officers, Boards and Committees of the Church,
- Article 2 To see what action the Church will take on the proposed budget as prepared by the Board of Trustees and recommended and presented by Central Board, and to authorize the Treasurer to expend funds in accordance with the budget as adopted
- Article 3 To hear and act upon:
- Leadership Task Force Recommendations
 - Communication Task Force Recommendations
 - Trustees Recommendation and Renovations to the Community House and Revision of the Alcohol Policy
- Article 4 To elect all the necessary Church Officers, Boards and Committees in accordance with the By-Laws, and act upon any further business to legally come before this gathering

Given under my hand and seal of said Church of Kennebunkport this twenty-eighth day of December in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Eleven.

Gill Page, Clerk of the Church

Dear South Church Members,

We invite you to attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, in the Community House immediately following the worship service. Our snow date is February 5 (one week later). We will again share lunch together prepared by Larry Adams before the business meeting.

Help us plan for lunch by signing up downstairs if you would. Childcare can be offered for any who wish. Would this be helpful to you? If so, please let us know by January 15.

Our meeting is an opportunity for fellowship with others as well as a chance to reflect upon the ministry we share together. Our officers, boards, committees and task forces have worked faithfully to strengthen our ministries and their reports reflect a strong spirit and program here at South Church. We will learn more of our church at work both locally and abroad and vote on the budget for 2012. We will hear report of the Leadership and Communication Task Forces as well as the Trustees recommendation of proposed Community House Renovations and Revision to the Alcohol Policy. An information session of this proposal is scheduled for January 15, after the worship service.

Copies of the 2011 Annual Report, with the proposed 2012 Budget recommended by Central Board, will be available to all on January 22. This is an excellent written summary of our church's work the past twelve months, as well as laying the foundation for the year to come.

We look forward to your presence in this important gathering of the church together.

Cindy Brockway, Chair, Central Board

Charles Whiston, Minister

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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.

Martin Luther King Jr, Day - January 16

If you are in the Washington DC area, I encourage you to visit the recently constructed and dedicated Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial on the Tidal Basin. As we remember his life and teachings on the anniversary of his birth, I had the opportunity to see this new site in our nation's capitol a few months ago.

Full of Biblical quotes, inspiring words and images of our common faith all abound. You may recall that our Youth Group visited the site as ground was being broken several years ago during their mission trip and delivered in person a financial contribution from our congregation for its construction.

Note: Howard Thurman who is quoted on page 1 had a great influence on Martin Luther King during his studies at B.U. as well as through such writings as "Jesus and the Disinherited".

