

South Congregational Church United Church of Christ



June 2016

Words from our Minister

As I look at the announcement page of a recent worship bulletin and newsletter, I am struck by the variety of places South Church is a church of outreach and mission.

- **'Bicycle Recycle'** - a local effort to fix up bikes and donate to those in need within the Kennebunks and Biddeford area.
- **Habitat for Humanity** work day on June 25 (**note the new date**) - volunteering to build a home for a Veteran family here in our town.
- **Bon Appetite Soup Kitchen** as we offer additional needed help during the summer, both the first and third Tuesdays of the month.
- **Walk/Run to end homelessness** (May 14) and to end domestic violence (July 16)
- **Craft Fair** on June 18 on our river green sponsored by local artists who are donating proceeds to South Church programs to assist others.

All these in the midst of 15 of South Church returning from a week at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi MS.

We are God's hands, touching lives and being touched in return.
The transformation power of love at work.. *Charles*

2016 Back Bay Mission Biloxi, MS
South Congregational Church UCC
North Hampton, NH UCC Church



On our website is the full set of Rev. Charles' reflections of his recent six weeks mission/study time at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS. These as well as photos are on the downstairs bulletin board.

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

Diaconate News

You Should Know/Dates

Outreach Opportunities

Dine With Nine

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes



June 19—Children's Sunday we celebrate our young people on Children's Sunday as our formal church program concludes until the fall. Plan to share the joy and then we as a church of all ages, we share a picnic after worship on our river-green. Hamburgers and hot dogs provided -- bring a dish to share (and folding chair if you have one). Thank you Beth and Megan for your dedication with our youth.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
AT SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



WHAT: Come learn about the Bible and how the story of Jesus' life has purpose in today's world through the exciting music of this Broadway show!

WHEN: Monday, June 27 – Friday, July 1 from 9:00-11:45 am

CONTACT: Beth Gachowski - bginme@hotmail.com or
Megan Grassi - dgrassi@roadrunner.com . To register.

DEACONS TO OFFER NEW PROGRAMS

The Diaconates' role is to help the minister in serving the church community members and supporting the spiritual life of South Church. What usually comes to mind is assisting during Sunday service, and delivering poinsettias or lilies at holiday time to members who are in assisted living or homebound. This year the Deacons are busy creating new and fun opportunities for additional support for South Church members! While Outreach does the important work of community service, we want to do "In-reach" with some new programs to engage South Church members in ways that will enhance spiritual growth. A few years ago, we initiated Movie Night as a chance for interested church members to get together to watch and discuss films that have a values-based focus. Now, in addition to continuing with Movie Nights, we have some new programs in the pipeline:

- * **Book discussion group** (being launched soon!)
- * **Memory Garden** (building and expanding on former efforts)
- * **Ministry of Caring** (a visitation program by South Church members for South Church members who are homebound or in assisted living)
- * **Visit to Southworth Planetarium** for the Christmas Sky Show

Watch for more information about each of these new initiatives in the church bulletin and newsletters. If you have any questions, please see any of the deacons. We are excited about serving and working with you all through these new opportunities!

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, June 12 - Music Sunday we celebrate our programs and ministry of music with additional pieces during the morning worship service. We are so grateful for David's gifts and continuing leadership.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE: The **worship hour** will change to 9:30am on June 26 for the summer weeks, through Labor Day weekend, September 4. We return to the 10:30am worship time on September 11.

We celebrate with First Congregational Church Kennebunkport the ordination and installation of their new pastor, Rev. Paula Norbert! In addition, on **June 26 at 4:00 pm**, we are invited to their church for an organ concert making the 100th anniversary of that instrument moving from our sanctuary to that new location in 1916.

You Should Know

Two significant property projects are anticipated later this summer. The bases beneath our lovely front porch columns are in need of repair.

Inside the church, the lower hallway (and likely Music Room as well) will receive fresh paint, new ceiling/lighting as well as carpet replacement. We will work to minimize disruption to our on-going programs and ministries as well as to our dedicated staff.

Outreach Opportunities

NEW DATE Saturday, June 25th from 8:30am to 3:30pm Habitat for Humanity Work Day - A work day at the Habitat for Humanity building site, Beachwood Ave., Kennebunkport is scheduled for South Church. For those interested there is a sign-up sheet on the Outreach bulletin board in the downstairs hallway. Participants must be at least 16 years of age. There is a limit of twelve.

The **soup kitchen program** in Biddeford (**Bon Appetit**) loses many of its student volunteer groups during June, July and August. Once again, we have offered to assist the program on both the first and third Tuesdays of these months. Let Rev. Charles if you would like to help. We leave at 4:00pm and return about 6:00pm.

Nicole's Run - Ellie's Walk is our annual participation and support of Caring Unlimited, the York County agency to address the crisis of domestic violence. The date is July 16, 9:00am, kids 1K fun run starts at 8:30 am. It is at Lords Point, Kennebunk Beach.

We will field a team again, "South church for Ellie", to honor Ellie Troost, long time church member and victim of such violence as a young woman. Folks can sign up on line (by June 17 will get them a t shirt) or on the form that will be made available by Karen Bragdon.

See our bulletin board for further details to walk, run and/or make a financial gift.

Do you have a bicycle that you no longer need? **Cycle Recycle**, a local non-profit that refurbishes used bikes and gives them to those in need is looking for road bikes, mountain bikes and kids' bikes. Please contact Tim Dunn at 985-9206.

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

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.



SAVE THE DATE
Coming this Fall two dates for
DINE WITH NINE

Friday, September 23
Saturday, October 15

Life Journeys

Baptism	May 22	Carson Timothy Rood
Deaths	April 10	Robert F. Wright, Jr.
	May 20	Eileen Mary Miller