

# South Congregational Church United Church of Christ



*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*

**March 2013**

## Words from our Minister

As we are now a couple weeks into our Lenten journey, we ponder the role of our faith in our lives. Nothing unusual about that. Then I read a quote of Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estes (American poet and health care worker to those living traumatic war injuries) which pushed me to widen my Lenten thinking and consider the role of the church today:

*“Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach.”*

Perhaps I have been too restrictive in my thinking. In fact, does not reflecting upon our faith also bring us to ponder the role of the church in the world; that place where people of faith gather. We are part of a much larger body, a larger community that we often realize. We are called into covenant with others who strive to engage the world with kindness and compassion, to be good stewards of the environment in our charge, to adhere to that moral compass deeply embedded in our souls.

No- neither you nor I - nor South Church nor any church- is able to fix the world at once. But we are called to be people of grace and healing to all those within our reach, as Estes articulates. At that moment when we reach out with such gestures of faith, we then touch the God in others and meet ourselves once again but in a new light. This is the transformation that faith provides in this journey we call Lent. *Charles*

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## Lent and Easter Offerings



Holy week marks the last seven days of Lent, the period between Palm Sunday and Easter. Considered by many to be the most profound week of the Christian calendar, we mark it with many gatherings beginning March 24:

<b>Palm Sunday Worship</b>	10:30am	
<b>Monday Through Friday Worship</b>	12 noon	Kennebunk Baptist, Main Street area clergy
<b>Thursday Seder Dinner</b>	5:30pm	Community House
<b>Communion Worship</b>	7:00pm	Village Baptist Church, Kpt
<b>Good Friday Worship</b>	7:00pm	Church on the Cape
<b>March 31, Easter Sunrise Ecumenical Worship</b>	6:25am	Kennebunk Beach
	10:30 am	South Church

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

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

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

## Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

On Thursday, March 28th we observe **Maundy Thursday**, the day that Jesus had His last supper with His disciples. South Church offers a **Seder Meal** before the Maundy Thursday service. A Seder meal is a Jewish tradition performed by a community or by multiple generations of a family, involving a retelling of the story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. Seder customs include drinking four cups of wine (we use juice) eating matza, and partaking of symbolic foods placed on the Passover Seder Plate. The Seder is performed in much the same way by Jews all over the world. The Seder meal will be held on Thursday, March 28th at 5:30pm in the Community House. We invite all area churches to participate. If you would like to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board of the hallway. It is a meaningful time had by all.

## Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, South Church will once again hold our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** before the Easter service. Rain or shine, we will hide the eggs for the children to find. Please join us at 10:00am on Easter morning, and bring your own basket! Please let me know if you think your child will be joining us!



## Confirmation Class

Beginning on Sunday, March 3, we will be offering a Confirmation program for any youth, grades 8-12. (Currently ten have indicated interest.) We will meet after church from 11:30-1:15 on the Sundays listed below. This class is a great chance for your daughter/son to learn about our local church history along with that of the United Church of Christ, their understanding of who God is and how faith is integrated into their lives. We will also discuss what it means to become a member of South Church as that will be an option at the end of the program. We will work out of a workbook and also participate in some activities. During this time, we ask the confirmands to attend Sunday worship as often as possible as well as be present for the classes. Adult mentors will be part of the program, being paired up with a young person. Let us know if that might speak to you.

The schedule is as follows: **March 3, 10, 17 April 7, 21, 28 May 5**  
**Confirmation Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Please let Rev. Charles or Heather know if your child will be attending.



Come to the Community House on Friday March 8 at 5:30pm for a 175th anniversary celebratory potluck supper and program to follow. Good food and good company as well as program by Joe Foster along with powerpoint by Steve Spofford assembled from records and images of the Kennebunkport Historical Society, Brick Store Museum, South Church records and personal collections of others. A great evening planned. All should be completed by 7:30pm so do bring your children. Sign-ups on the bulletin board would be helpful.

The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is looking for any photos or memories that folks have that can add to our presentation on March 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have something you would like to share, please contact Steve Spofford at 985-9254 or [topie17@hotmail.com](mailto:topie17@hotmail.com) or leave your items in the basket marked South Church Memories by February 24<sup>th</sup>. All photos will be returned. Thanks and we look forward to seeing everyone on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Our May 175 the event takes place on Sunday afternoon, May 5 – a special music concert with brass, voice, organ and more.

### You Should Know...

A trip to the **Good Shepherd Food Bank** in Auburn is being planned for Thursday, March 14. An opportunity for hands on service (packing, sorting, moving boxes and the like) as well as to tour the facility with its Director, Kristen Miale. Good Shepherd is the central conduit of food to over 600 partner feeding and pantry programs in Maine. Let Charles know if you'd like to participate by March 10 please so that transportation can be planned. To learn more of the program, go to [www.gsfb.org](http://www.gsfb.org).

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**An information gathering** is being planned for March 24 following the worship service for those interested in learning more about South Church and joining as members. Do let Charles know if this might speak to you at this time. Another group will take place later in the year as well.

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Did you know that a dedicated website is now place for rentals of the Community House for special events and functions such as wedding receptions and rehearsal dinners? Go to <http://www.kportcommunityhouse.com>

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The Deacons are always looking for volunteers to help **usher** on Sunday mornings. If you are interested, please sign up for a Sunday or two, on the Usher bulletinboard downstairs.

### Did You Know...

On January 29, a little more than fifty members of South Church gathered for our **Annual Meeting** after the worship service. Again this year, a delicious light lunch was prepared by Larry Adams – the warm apple crisp was a delight to all. In addition to good food and good company, you will want to know that the reports of all committees and officers were accepted, the budget as recommended and printed was passed and the proposed revision to our bylaws also passed unanimously. The Annual Report is an excellent summary of the efforts of many hands and the desires of many hearts striving to serve God in faithful fashion. For those who have faithfully served, often without frequent or public acknowledgement, we extend our thanks. Copies of the Annual Report remain available.

You Should Know... Did You Know

# Easter Flowers



*Deadline to return this form is  
Sunday March 17, 2013*

Easter is just around the corner and in preparation, we will be decorating the sanctuary this year with lilies and tulips. The tulips and lilies have been pre-ordered. You are invited to purchase a plant in honor or memory of someone(s) special, or make a donation to the Pilgrim Lodge summer camp scholarships, also in honor or memory of someone(s) special.

Should any funds remain from the purchase of the plants, the monies will be used for Pilgrim Lodge camp scholarships.

Please include your memorial message below whether you are purchasing a plant or making a donation. Your message will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

**Please indicate your preference:**

I wish to purchase a plant(s) at \$10.00     lily     tulip



I will take my plant home

I will leave my plant for a homebound member



I wish to make a memorial gift to Pilgrim Lodge in lieu of flowers

**Message as it will read in the Easter bulletin:**

**(more than one name may be listed for one plant or memorial gift)**

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**Given By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A telephone number in case of questions:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\* Please make your checks payable to: South Congregational Church U.C.C. \*\*\*\*\*  
PO Box 414

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](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).

## PRAYER GROUP NEEDS MEMBERS!

The South Church Prayer Group, which has been in existence for more than three years, would like to add more members. This group does not meet as a whole – each member offers prayers in his or her own way. Requests are made by calling one of the contact people who then forward the request to all members. There is also a basket on the table in the front hall of the church so that requests may be written on available slips of paper and placed in the basket.

Charlie is a member of the group, but will not pass a request on to the congregation as a whole during Sunday worship unless specifically asked to do so. There may be those who are dealing with personal issues and would prefer not to make their names known. This is fine – prayers can be offered for a situation as well as for a named person.

We currently have about 16 members and would really like to have more! Not all of our members are regular church-goers, and this is fine. Please call or e-mail one of the following contact people if you would be willing to join the group:

Louise Negley – 967-1993 or [negleys@roadrunner.com](mailto:negleys@roadrunner.com)  
Rebecca Schnell – 727-6562 or [prschnell@securespeed.us](mailto:prschnell@securespeed.us)  
Liz Baker – 967-5268 or [lized@earthlink.net](mailto:lized@earthlink.net)



## Outreach - Then and Now

A survey of some early records of South Church indicate we have long been a church of mission and outreach:

November 24, 1850

*“A collection was taken up I the congregation for the benefit of the Seaman’s Friends Society and \$ 20 collected with what had been collected at the concert was forwarded to Mr. Chickering Portland.”*

October 13, 1850

*“A collection was taken up in the congregation for the Am Bible Society when \$15 was collected and forwarded to said society.”*

February 2, 1853

*“A collection was taken for the purpose of helping build churches for the destitute in the western states.”*

Today, outreach remains at the heart of who we are as a people of faith. In 2012, over \$ 47,000 went forth from South Church to programs both near and distant from our front doors.