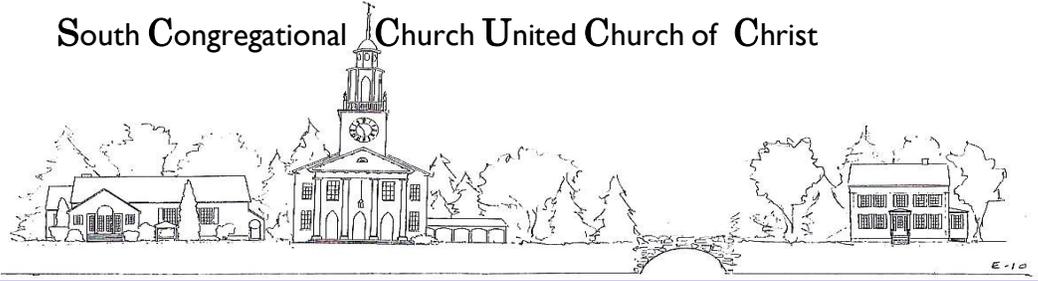


South Congregational Church United Church of Christ



March 2017

Words from our Minister



Two weeks ago, we had our All Committee Night. Though attendance was down somewhat due to the weather and some illnesses, we gathered and broke bread together. More than just a potluck supper (though it was mighty delicious!), it is a significant and visible testimony to our heritage as a congregation whose leadership is of the laity working in conjunction with the minister. Patti Berger -chairperson of our Central Board- and I encouraged folks to set new goals and review bylaw description of responsibilities.

Also shared was the importance of working in conjunction with staff who are on sight day in and day out. Shortly before 7:00pm we then went to our individual committees. As I look at the variety of faces and skills and interests and hopes we collectively bring, I am renewed in my conviction that South Church has a bright light of the gospel to share with others. Thank you one and all for your efforts to strengthen a vital ministry.

As Lent begins, we can reflect upon the ministry we share as well as our personal spiritual journeys. I look forward to my upcoming time at Back Bay Mission in MS as part of the renewal of my soul and faith's fires.

As the days increase in their length, may this Lenten season be a time of reflection and renewal whether it be in Wednesday morning Bible study here, mission volunteering local or beyond, re-exploring the arts or simply in reading that refreshes your spirit.

Rev. Charles

Welcome back to our Back Bay Mission, Biloxi MS team (returning March 4)

Don Curry
Kiara Davis
Linda Hill
Denise Macaronis
Maryfrances and Henry Smith
Peter Sentner
and Rev. Charles who returns on March 17.



We look forward to hearing of your experiences of carrying the gospel light... and discovering that light in MS.

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

You Should Know

New Members

Updates

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes



Lent Bible Study



**Wednesdays at 10:00am
March 1-April 5**

An open invitation to join Rev. Dr. Burt Howe in the Lenten Bible study group, You always wished you knew a bit more of the Bible and your faith - now is the time! Gatherings are for one hour and will focus upon, *“What’s the Question?”*. All are welcome to study the poignant questions Jesus asked his followers. We will consider the context of the questions and discuss the possible answers: *“So, What’s My Answer?”*

Pilgrim Lodge Lake Cobbosseecontee in West Gardiner

It's not too early for summer camp plans at **Pilgrim Lodge**. A great program of our Maine Conference UCC, one week camps for all ages.

Registration is just now opening up for Pilgrim Lodge summer camp, www.pilgrimlodge.org. Financial support is available through South Church and our Women’s Association. However, please let Rev. Charles know if/when you sign up to help our planning.



Committee Meetings

Out of our All Committee Night, regular committees plan to meet:

- Deacons** - Second Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm
- Trustees** - Second Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm
- Outreach** - Second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm
- Christian Ed** - First Sunday of the month, 9:15am
- Music** - Second Sunday of the month, 11:40am
- Communications** - Quarterly
- Scholarship** - Spring
- Central Board** - Every six weeks (dates available upon request)

Please note: some committees do NOT meet in the summer or in Advent. In addition, the day of the week may shift for All Committee gatherings or holidays. When in doubt, call the church office: 967-2793.

New Members joined South Church

February 12, 2017

Kori and Michael Stack - Some of you may remember that Kori and Mike Stack's youngest child, Lucas, was baptized here. With the baptism, Kori and Mike thus began their connection to South Church before they actually moved to town. Originally from Connecticut, Kori met Mike in Chicago, then moved to Hingham, Massachusetts. Mike owns an internet based company and works from home in worker compensation. As the busy parents of four young children ages 2 to 6, Kori and Mike chose to live in the Kennebunks as a good place to raise their family because of the schools, amenities and values driven community. Mike was brought up in the Catholic Church, and Kori's family were holiday attending Protestants. Both want their children to have the benefit of a strong, faith community, and have chosen South Church as a good fit for their family.

Stephanie Williams grew up in Cohasset, Massachusetts and, like many people who move to the Kennebunks, has close Maine ties. Her mother lived in Parsonsfield for 30 years, and her father was a professional artist who exhibited and painted in Maine. After a career as a registered nurse and occupational therapist, Stephanie earned a degree in art and is now an artist and photographer. She and her family moved to Kennebunk three years ago. Stephanie has two daughters. Her daughter Deborah works at the Brick Store Museum, and daughter Sarah lives with her husband Tom and their two young sons in West Kennebunk. We are very happy that Stephanie will be serving as a new Deacon.

Esther and Theo Rohrs moved to Kennebunk in 2012 after vacationing here for decades. Theo and Esther met as students at SUNY Binghamton, and have been married for 42 years. Both worked at IBM for many years before retirement. Their daughter and her family live fairly close by in West Newbury, Massachusetts, and their son, daughter-in-law and new grandchild live in Newport News, Virginia; three grandchildren in total. With roots in the Presbyterian and Congregational churches, Esther and Theo have been actively involved in church and volunteer activities, including being junior high youth advisors at a Presbyterian church in upstate New York. They both volunteer regularly at Community Harvest, where they are inspired by Eva Barnfather's commitment and energy, and also volunteer at the adult literacy program in Biddeford. One of the things that particularly attracted Esther and Theo to South Church is our involvement in Outreach activities.

“So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the house hold of God.”

Ephesians 2



Updates

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

In recent weeks, you have heard of our new efforts to support **refugee families in the Biddeford community**; a collaborative effort with other churches and non-profits. Your initial response to needed items was most generous and has been delivered to a family of five including their three young children from Iraq. The needs and communications are often shifting and we will keep you up to date through the weekly worship bulletin and hallway bulletin board. We are learning along with others as to the needs and appropriate ways to respond.

During the first week of this month the **Dock Square bridge** is scheduled to be closed to ALL traffic. Detour will be via Durrell's Bridge / River Road until mid April. Parking in the public lot behind Allison's Restaurant and around the church will remain plentiful, and a temporary pedestrian bridge is in place across the river. (Someone said to consider this a Lenten message, 'finding a new way' !)

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



Winter...Spring?

