

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
Christian Education News

Did You Know...

Dates, etc.

South Church History

Library additions

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes

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



March 2012

Words from our Minister

This past month, I attended a weekday retreat for clergy offered by the Maine Conference UCC in preparing ourselves to prepare for Lent. Led by the newly arrived director of the Carpenter's Boat Shop –Rev. Kim Hoare- we reflected upon balance in our lives and the rhythm of church life with its many and varied pulses.

We spoke about being re-newed and being re-minded. The phrase then hit me, 'who is minding the store' and 'who is minding me?' The critical need to care for ourselves amidst life's journey is as delicate as it is difficult, particularly for clergy but for all people of faith. We live our lives with an ear towards God's voice and a hand offered forth for our neighbors in need. No wonder we often feel off balance as we battle the clock and check book. One participant spoke of island living and letting the tides inform one's daily schedule, a far cry from the ticking of the clock.

Lent is a time for being 're-minded' and 're-minding' the who that we are. God does not place it all upon our shoulders, then why should we? Lent offers us breathing space, an invitation to a new place instead of feeling torn to pieces. It is time to care for self in order to care for others. *Charles*

Just beginning is our **Lent book group** for five Wednesdays at 6:30pm; Love Wins by Rob Bell. Our first session will be on February 29 at the church. If this might speak to you, come and join this time of faith exploration. From the introduction:

A staggering number of people have been taught that a select few Christians will spend forever in a peaceful, joyous place called heaven, while the rest of humanity spends forever in torment...its been clearly communicated to many that this belief is a central truth of the Christian faith and to reject it is, in essence, to reject Jesus...this is misguided...and ultimately subvert the contagious spread of Jesus' message of love, peace, forgiveness and joy that our world desperately needs to hear. And so this book.

Let us offer prayers for **Bangor Theological Seminary** as a recent press release announces the suspension of its Master of Divinity and Master of Arts graduate programs next year. This is done in light of changing trends of the church, a continuing drop in enrollment and major financial concerns. The school enters a time of discernment to determine its new role in religious education, service to the churches and emerging needs of the community as it strives to honor its historic foundation here in Maine. These are tough decisions and critical conversations for our friends at B.T.S., its current president –Rev. Dr. Bob Grove-Markwood- and its Trustees one of whom –Dr. Bob Card- is a member of our congregation.



Church School Space

As you may have heard, our Community House is being renovated! The final product is going to be lovely and I can't wait to see it finished.

With that said, the downstairs area, while not being renovated, is being worked on to correct wiring and smoke detectors. In the coming weeks, we will be assessing whether we will be in the church for Sunday school or in the Community House. I will send emails weekly to let you know where we will be meeting. I will also post a sign on the front door of the church to let you know where we will be!

Thank you for your flexibility and patience during this exciting process.

Operation Overboard

Dare to Go DEEP
with God!



Our deep sea adventure for [Vacation Bible School \(VBS\)](#) is coming this summer during the week of [July 9-13](#) here at South Church!

We are looking for people to help transform our church school space into an Underwater Universe!

If you have ANY oceanic items that we can borrow for the week, that would be great! (Props, stuffed animals, costumes, books) Also, if you would like to spend time with us during this very energetic week, let me know.

We'd love to have you help us to Dive Deep through God's word! Again, please contact me at heather@southchurchucc.org!

Vacation Bible School

Are You a Teacher?

Our church school children are fun to be with as well as so wise in their young years. One of my favorite parts of teaching Sunday school is when the children ask me thought provoking questions.

Two examples would be, "If God wants us to be kind and loving, why did God send a flood to destroy the world and all the people?" Or, "When Jesus said He loves ALL people, does that mean people who are bullies and mean, too?" While I might have an answer, it doesn't always satisfy the children's sense of fairness and right and wrong. But, sometimes I might answer a question with, "I don't know. How can we find that answer?"

My point is, it's ok to not have all of the answers. We all learn together in this big world with the help of God. I am asking you if YOU are a teacher? Would you be someone who would enjoy talking with our children about God and Jesus? Do you like to sing?

Create with your hands? Cook? Do you love to read stories aloud? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, please consider taking a Sunday or two to teach our children. We need the help from parents, our "older" generation, our youth to help our children learn to love God and each other.

There is no better time than now to start! Please let me know if you will help by contacting me after church, before church, or by emailing me heather@southchurchucc.org

THANK YOU!

Did you Know...

Did you know... Each week, the Sunday **worship service is recorded on CDs** and placed in our library for any/all who may wish to listen? Or perhaps may be shared with any at home unable to attend. We thank CC Clapp who records, labels and organizes this effort each and every week. In addition, would you like to receive the Sunday bulletin via email? This can happen easily through Sarah in the front office.

Did you see the front page article of the mission trip to Biloxi MS in the February 2 issue of the York County Coast Star, along with photos? It was an amazing experience and you should know that these 21 folks **embodied** the spirit of South Church alive and well. Here is the link: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20120202-NEWS-202020345>

You should know.. the **Habitat for Humanity home** in Springvale is nearly complete – and if asked, “It looks beautiful inside.” South Church offered two work teams in the fall plus Charles and a couple others volunteered additional time to this endeavor. Later this year, a possible build takes place on a lot located on the Biddeford / Kennebunkport town line. Stay tuned.

You should know... Work has begun on the **Community House renovation project** as voted at our Annual Meeting, January 29. It is anticipated to be a four month endeavor. We are pleased with the communication and cooperative spirit of Scott French, contractor, to whom the bid was awarded. Questions may be addressed to Gregg VanGundy or Henry Mobley helping to oversee the project.

You should know... that registration is beginning for **Pilgrim Lodge summer camp** opportunities, a fine program through our Maine Conference –United Church of Christ. “PL” as it is affectionately known is located on a quiet lake in Litchfield, just outside of Augusta. These weeklong camps are all described through website [camp brochure](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/schedule.php) , and/or www.pilgrimlodge.org/schedule.php or printed copy here at the church.

End of the Summer Sale! The date set is Saturday, September 1. Because of the Community House renovations, the **Women's Association Steering Committee** has decided to hold the annual sale at the end of the summer. This means that you have all spring and summer to choose items to donate. We would welcome good quality household items, books, jewelry, games and toys, but please, no clothing or electronics. Collection boxes will be set out nearer the time, but we can also arrange pick up if need be, and we have some storage space so we can accept items any time. If you drop things off before the boxes are out, please label for Women's Association. Watch this space for more information and please help us make this third annual sale the best yet. Call Cindy 967-2708 or Morven 967-3813 with questions, or better yet, if you would like to volunteer to work on this event.

FOOD! FOOD! FOOD!

Like to bake? Got leftover cookies? The Fellowship Committee would happily welcome contributions of food for coffee hour from anyone in the congregation. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board downstairs. OR if you have a particular Sunday in mind, speak to any member of the Fellowship Committee – one of us is always pouring coffee on Sunday morning. THANK YOU for your help!!

Dates, Etc.

On February 15, nearly 40 people met on **All Committee Night** to begin (and continue) the work of the church together, this being the first gathering since Annual Meeting. Rev. Charles shared the passage from I Corinthians reminding us that we are the body of Christ, comprised of many parts and each with our own function. That the 'eye' cannot do the work of the 'ear', and the 'leg' is not the whole body. That when we fall short, we fall short together. And when we flourish, we all flourish together. Cindy Brockway and Loralie Mildner reminded us of the critical nature of communication in our working together and the spirit and tone with which we are called to our areas of responsibilities. A great evening together!

FYI

When Do Committees Meet

Deacons	2nd Tuesday of the month	6:00 pm
Trustees	2nd Tuesday of the month	7:00 pm
Outreach	2nd Tuesday of the month	7:00 pm
Central Board	3rd Wednesday of the month	7:00 pm
Music	2nd Sunday of the month	11:45 am
Christian Education	1st Sunday of the month	9:15 am
Library	Tuesdays of every month	9:30 am
Fellowship	3rd Wednesday of the month	10:00 am

What are your plans March 18 after morning worship? How about a **Red Claws basketball game** in Portland... 1:00pm tip off! A signup sheet is on the bulletin board if you are interested in attending. Tickets: \$10-15

Ukrainian Egg Decorating - March 31st, at 9:00am in the church school area of the Community House. We will be creating beautiful eggs with the tradition of Ukrainian Egg Decorating. This workshop is open to all adults and youth 12 years or older. The Ukrainians have been decorating eggs for thousands of years. Before Christ, eggs were decorated praising the arrival of spring. In the year 988 AD, Ukrainians became Christians and their egg art became Easter celebrations. The eggs use Christian symbols as part of their designs. Colors also play an important role in the design of these eggs. Worried that this process sounds too hard? Aren't we blessed to have "resident experts" on site to guide us through! Also, please bring a brunch item to share as this art form takes about 3 to 4 hours to complete. If you would like to sign up, please do on the poster on the bulletin board.



FYI

April 21-27 2013
Dates on hold to return to Biloxi

Photo by Hannah Rolland



A PAGE FROM SOUTH CHURCH HISTORY

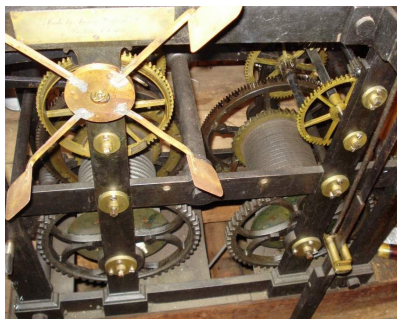
Because we will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of South Church's 1838 founding next year, I thought it might be of interest to have a South Church History column for the next several Newsletter issues.

You may have read recently in the Portland newspaper that Portland's First Parish Church is currently restoring their steeple and bringing attention to their 1826 Simon Willard tower clock. Our own South Church still has its working Aaron Willard, Jr. tower clock in our steeple dating from 1824. (In 2011 our church put \$170,000 into steeple renovations, similar to what First Parish Church is now facing.) The steeple of our church, also built in 1824, is made up of the watch tower section, containing the tower clock with its three large wooden dials, a columned octagonal belfry, an octagonal stage with a dome, and gold-leafed weathervane (handsomely replicated last year by Gregg VanGundy and Henry Mobley). According to a 1990 article by renowned author, historian and South Church member Joyce Butler, our Aaron Willard, Jr. clock was made in Boston in 1824, as indicated by an engraved plate on the clock itself; her research showed that its turret movement is one of only two Willard originals in existence.



Simon Willard was the uncle of Aaron Willard, Jr. and the older brother of Aaron Willard, Sr. ; Simon and all three of his Grafton, Massachusetts, brothers, including Aaron senior, left their family farm and established four clock-making businesses in the Roxbury section of Boston in the 1780s and 1790s. Aaron and Simon were the most successful "horologists" of their day. Aaron Jr. was born there in 1783, so he made the South Church clock at age 41 in 1824. The family clock-making businesses were very successful for three generations.

South Congregational Church was built next to the Kennebunk River and the Clark Shipyard in 1824 during the transitional period in church architecture of the early 19th century, marking a trend away from the plain, barn-like meeting house (which, according to Joyce Butler, had served as both a religious and political center of the community) toward the now traditional, steepled, long, rectangular building with the entrance on the steeple end. Our beautiful church building contains an excellent example of an early time and strike tower clock of the strap plate and pillar design. This clock is entirely different from the rectangular frame design employed by Simon Willard in the First Parish Church in Portland.



Our clock, in iron and brass, is in fine working condition and has served our church and the Kennebunkport community well for 188 years.

Sandy Severance
South Church Historian

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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.

Library news

Recent acquisitions include these titles-

299.93WIL Williamson, Marianne *A Return to Love: reflections on the principles of a course in miracles.*

818MCN McNair, Wesley editor, *A Place Called Maine: 24 authors on the Maine experience*

289.8 LAU Lauber, Jeannine, *Chosen Faith, Chosen Land: the untold story of America's 21st Century Shakers.*

FIC ORR Orringer, Julie *The Invisible Bridge*

Life Journeys

Deaths

January 26

Norman Edwin Merrow

Reflections...

We always ponder what to "give up" for Lent.

Give up anger...be more patient.

Give up gossip....control your tongue.

Give up complaining.....focus on gratitude.

Give up pessimism....become an optimist.

Give up discouragement...be full of hope.

Give up worry...trust Divine Providence.

Give up bitterness....turn to forgiveness.

Give up harsh judgments...think kindly thoughts.

Give up gloom....enjoy the beauty around you.

From MO Kenneally