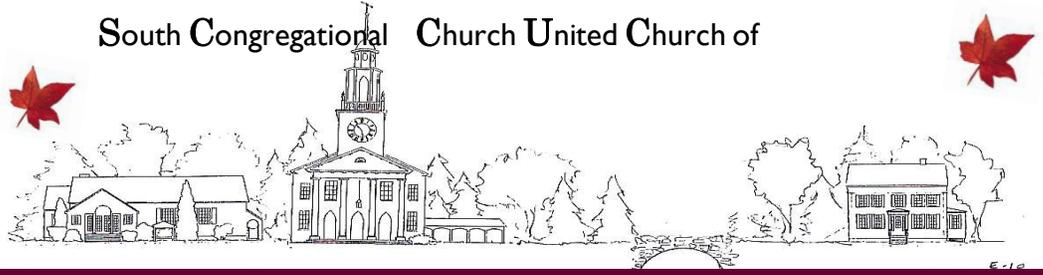


South Congregational Church United Church of



November 2016

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

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You Should Know

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes

Words from our Minister

Quickly we have moved into chilly nights and cool days. Leaves migrate from branch to ground. Schools have found their rhythm. Church programs and mission offerings extend our care. In the midst of everything, including Election Day, we are reminded of God's many gifts which surround us and the call to be 'good stewards'. We take to heart the call to be care-takers of the environment, of our physical health, of our church facilities, of all that is in our charge. It is both a privilege and responsibility.

November 13 is **Stewardship Sunday** at South Church and at thousands of other congregations across the country. In this harvest time of year, we reflect upon the richness and riches of our lives. We respond to an inner voice and desire to proportionally share of our wealth for the common good, for neighbors near and far. The two Stewardship mailings you will receive present an overview of our work together and vision for the coming year. Join with me in generous support. Lives will be changed, I promise you. I have witnessed this on a weekly basis and deeply believe it will continue.

Charles

2017 Stewardship - 'Go...and Do the Same'

Do watch your mail box for the two Stewardship mailings, each containing important news of South Church. 'Stewardship' the manner in which we care for that which has been entrusted to us." It is a humble and faith-filled calling for us. Our response will extend the reach of the gospel light throughout the Kennebunks, Wells, Arundel community – impacting York County, the state of Maine- across this country and programs overseas. Change a life ~ what could be a greater reward?!

While it is not necessary to complete a pledge card in order to receive a box of offering envelopes, it does greatly assist the budgeting process to anticipate income in light of expenditures.

*"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can. In all the places you can.
At all the times you can. To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can."*

John Wesley

Mark Your Calendar

November

A Fall Concert - The Boston City Singers Concert is being held on, Saturday, November 12, 2016, 7 p.m. This concert is sponsored by the McClelland Foundation of Church on the Cape and South Congregation Church. Please join the Music Committee with help feeding these youngsters after their bus ride from Boston. We will share the menu and serving with our friends and co-workers from Cape Porpoise. There is **NEED** and **HOPE** for **HELP** from **our** congregation in doing so. We welcome your help and hope you'll join us. Thank you.

For nearly every year since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, we have gone to the Gulf Coast to offer aid and grow in our understanding of mission. We are planning a **2017 trip to Back Bay Mission** (Biloxi MS) February 24-March 4. It will include opportunities in housing renovation (all skill levels welcome), attend local worship, work at the soup kitchen and the Micah homeless center. If you have gone on a previous trip or never gone at all, come to an **information session** immediately following the November 13 worship service to learn more. A rewarding experience for all ages. Back Bay Mission is a program of our United Church of Christ.

A **community ecumenical Thanksgiving service** takes place on Tuesday, November 22, 7:00pm; hosted this year at the Church on the Cape, Cape Porpoise. Area clergy will be participating and likely a community choir. An open invitation is extended to any and all.

November 27 is the First Sunday of Advent. As is our tradition, an open invitation for all ages to make an **Advent Wreath** immediately after the worship service that day. We'll have some food for light lunch and fresh greens along with everything necessary for a wreath to go home

December

Southworth Planetarium Show, "A Season of Light," Saturday, December 17, 2016:

Sign up for the Deacon-sponsored trip to the Southworth Planetarium! The planetarium's holiday sky show, called "A Season of Light," celebrates the history and astronomy of the holiday season, from antiquity to the modern day observances of Christmas and Hanukkah. Also, it explores if the Start of Bethlehem was a naturally occurring event in the sky, and if so, what it might have been. Carpool with friends, or go on your own and combine this excursion with holiday shopping in Portland, or lunch before the show, or walk around afterward to see the holiday lights and decorations, or even stay for dinner. The private South Church showing starts at 2 pm, lasts one hour, and costs \$5.50 each. The Planetarium is located at 70 Falmouth St in Portland, on the USM Campus. A signup sheet has been posted on the bulletin board. For more information, contact Elizabeth Grant, elizabethgrant@cox.net, or 207-204-0158.

This year's **Christmas Pageant** presented by our church school children takes place on December 18 as part of the worship service. Rehearsal date and time to follow.

You Should Know

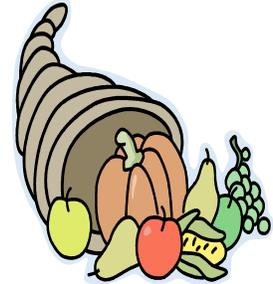
During the month of October, we received generous support of the Grace Street Ministry request for hooded sweatshirts. This program assist those experiencing homelessness in Portland. Program director Rev. Mair Honan has spoken on several occasions here at South Church. Nearly 2 dozen will be delivered shortly. Thank You !

Nearly 75 Holiday Food Baskets would go forth to families experiencing difficult times at Thanksgiving and again at Christmas time. Donations of non-perishable items are now welcome as well as financial support.

Thanksgiving donations needed by Sunday, November 20.

A listing is on the bulletin board of needed items as well as sign-up to help pack and/or make drop-off deliveries: **Packing and delivering of the baskets** is on Monday, November 21 at Sea Road Church Kennebunk.

On behalf of others, thank you !



It's pecan time again. Fresh from Georgia, the pecans are in 12 oz bags and sell for \$10.00 apiece. Payment should be made at time of ordering, if possible, and made out to the Women's Association. Pick up of orders will be before Thanksgiving.



Circle of Giving Gift Shop: Are you beginning to think about Christmas shopping? Tired of noisy, crowded malls? Exchanging gifts that don't fit after the holidays? Our alternative gift shop will be open again this year during Coffee Hour, beginning on Sunday, November 27. You can select from a list of worthy charities and make a donation in the name of a friend or family member. We'll give you a handsome gift card for each recipient. We'll be open the four Sundays during Advent.

Christmas Poinsettias - Again this year, both large and small plants will be available to order in the coming weeks. The smaller plants will be delivered to our homebound folks before Christmas. The larger plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve services.

In lieu of a plant, memorial gifts may be made to the Child Abuse Prevention Council of York County.

Road construction good news - Single lane traffic closures at the Dock Square Lanigan Bridge have been delayed from this month until after Prelude/Christmas. The plan for two lane closure remains in place for a 45 day period beginning in March/April, depending upon weather.

South Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Thank you for your support of the recent **Habitat for Humanity Walk** to raise funds for the new home in W. Kennebunk. With participants from all over York County, just over \$15,000 was raised. (What is the final estimated cost of the home? \$145,000)



Life Journeys

Deaths	October 2	Mary 'Betty' Nedeau
	October 8	George Robert Butler
	October 14	Violet Lanphear Eberle
	October 18	Brian Hartley Phillips

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

**South Congregational Church UCC
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