

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

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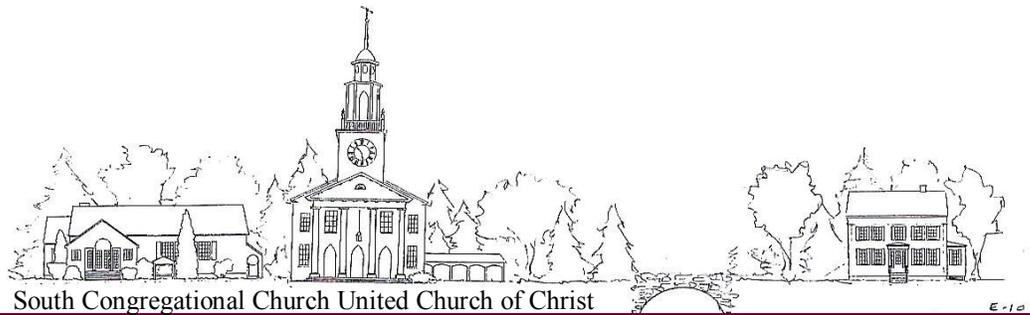
Committee News

Life Journeys

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes

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



October 2012

Words from our Minister

As the new program year begins, there is much for which to be grateful. Have you seen the number of church school children these initial weeks in worship with their families?! As I write, we prepare to welcome the “Messengers of Hope” gospel quartet for September 23 worship. We’ve been active during the summer in Outreach endeavors such as Bon Appetite Soup Kitchen and Caring Unlimited to address hunger domestic abuse respectively in our communities. As we enter a new month; on the first Sunday, the 7th, Celia Whitler –nationally recognize storyteller and singer-- is with us for a potluck supper at 5pm followed by gathering and concert at 6pm. We were most fortunate that an window opened up on her schedule while in northern New England to allow her to come to South Church.

Also in this month, we have two adult education offerings. October 21 we’ll view “The Line”, a 30 minute documentary film on the changing face of poverty in this country. October 28 we’ll share a second cup of coffee after worship to reflect upon the upcoming vote and faith related issues including same sex marriage in Maine.

Finally the month concludes with messages of stewardship as we prepare budget requests to support programs in the coming year, and we consider how we can and will support South Church.

Come learn, listen, ponder, consider how God is speaking to you through these and other offerings. *Charles*

Celia Whitler October 7



South Congregational Church welcomes nationally known Singer/Storyteller Celia Whitler to share with us her music and faith stories for all ages. Celia was the Keynote Speaker for The New England Church Educators in 2011. Please join us for a potluck supper on Sunday, October 7th at 5:00pm with Celia’s music and stories following at 6:00pm in the sanctuary of the church. A Love Offering will be received during the concert to help benefit our local food pantry.

*Celia creates moments where listeners encounter God whether it is a single song in a worship service or an hour long concert including stories and songs sprinkled with moments of interaction. People feel lifted and transported by Her music and words.

*Celia is a singer, songwriter, author, speaker, friend, wife and mom. She enjoys a good laugh, a well told story, connecting with people through her music and through travels. "When it comes down to it, there is something really sacred about telling our story and about hearing each others’ stories. I just happen to do that through song." *(Excerpts taken from her website www.celiamusic.net)



Our church school year has started off with so many children! So many familiar faces and some new ones as well. Our church picnic was a wonderful event and it was so great to see our families. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for organizing the picnic. We have begun our lessons in church school about The Widow's Offering. Please ask your child what he or she has learned. Hopefully, you'll be pleasantly surprised!

Bible Sunday October 28

If you have a child who is in kindergarten or third grade, they will receive a Bible on this Sunday. Our kindergarten children receive a picture story Bible and our third grade children receive a Bible with chapters and verses. With this Bible comes with stickers to help them identify areas that they enjoy reading, or a particular passage that is tricky. Both Bibles come from Spark, the same company of our curriculum. This way, learning the lessons in church school can transition to learning at home with their own Bibles.

If you have a kindergartener or third grader, please be sure to email me. I do have the registration forms, but I don't want to leave anyone out!

Also on Sunday, October 28th, the children will be doing a mission project in church school. We are going to put together small gift bags for our South Church family members living in an assisted living or nursing home facility. If you would like to help donate items for our project, we are looking for small hand lotions (travel sized), handkerchiefs, and hard candy. The rest of the items will be purchased by the Christian Education Committee. More information will come home to families closer to the project!

Youth Groups

Both our **senior high and middle school youth** groups met last month. We began the year with ice cream sundaes and discussed different things we would like to do this upcoming year. The senior high group is looking to do more mission work throughout the year, and our middle school kids are looking for more fellowship activities, sprinkled with mission work.

This month, both groups are encouraged to attend Celia Whitler's night of storytelling and music on October 7th. We may also go on a haunted hayride (yikes). If you would like to help Heather by chaperoning this event with her, please let her know. She is always thrilled to have another adult on hand!



You Should Know...

Help Survey

In our effort to put together a current list of people who are willing to help others in our church community who may need assistance, we have designed a survey to fill out and return. This can be done electronically (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/southchurchhelpsurvey>), or hard copies will be available at the church. Here is how it will work: a list of people willing to help, and in what ways, will be made up, so that anyone needing assistance can call a designated contact person who will arrange the appropriate help (note that you can indicate your willingness to be a contact person on the survey). Requests can also be called in to the church office, and they will be passed on to a contact person.

We would like to have your completed surveys back by the end of October. We very much appreciate any help you are willing to give! Thank you! *The Fellowship Committee*

An info session for those interested in learning more of the **Back Bay Mission Trip** planned for April 20-27, Biloxi, MS. Sunday, October 7 after worship.

Curious about what is actually done?

Wondering about skills that are needed, about costs, about accommodations?

Come and learn more.



At its September meeting, Central Board received the final work of the Leadership Task Force regarding by-law revisions with the recommendation ‘to move forward with the areas of change that have support, but not to pursue other ideas that have been presented and not found to have widespread support.’ Central Board will review these in a single draft document at its October meeting, after which the next step being an open invitation to the congregation to review as well at a couple gatherings most likely in November. We wish to keep you up to date in this regard.

Revisiting the book, “God’s Politics” by author Jim Wallis.

In this season of political debate I recommend reading, (or re-reading) this excellent book, which Challenges both the Right and the Left. It offers a new vision for faith and politics in America and spoke to me as I struggled to find my place in the midst of polarization and negativity. I welcome your thoughts as you read it. Charles is happy to loan you his copy as he did for me.

Judy Wilcox

Did You Know...

Thank You!

Our gratitude to **Linda and Steve Hannah** who pulled out the stumps of the overgrown shrubbery near our parking area and provided the fall mums to dress up the area. Thank you!

Christopher Teale Howes, son of Rev. Bob and Christine Howes, has written his memoir of his 30 years of service as District Chief with the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue in Florida, The book titled, “*Hot Zone*”, will be available the last week of November.



Meaningful ~ Personal ~ Fits all stockings and budgets

These are words that often help us describe what we seek in our gift giving during the holidays; we are looking for a gift that is from the heart and personal, that says something about us and our loved one.

The Outreach Committee is busy again organizing its third annual *Circle of Giving Shop* to bring you just that gift giving experience.

At the Shop you can purchase gift donations, of any size, to carefully selected charitable organizations. These organizations address a variety of issues including hunger, poverty and education. Upon your purchase, you will receive a customized card to give to the recipient informing them of the gift made in their name and describing the organization and its mission. One shopper described her experience by saying, "My son loves animals. Last year I bought him a gift donation to The Animal Welfare Society." Others noted that they are great for co-workers, teachers, that person who has everything, and hard to buy for person.

The Shop will be open during fellowship hour each Sunday of the Advent Season.

Matching Gift to Caring Unlimited

A very generous donation matching the funds raised for Caring Unlimited through the South Church for Ellie team has been made. On July 14th our South Church Team participated in Nicole's 5KRun/Walk raising funds through registrations and fundraising efforts. A member of the wider church community has made an anonymous matching donation bringing the total to \$5,490.00. We express our deepest thanks to this donor. These funds and generous donations will support Caring Unlimited in their work to end domestic violence in York County.

Bon Appétit Community Meal Program Beverage Drive

During the July volunteer day at the soup kitchen in Biddeford, Charles asked their director –Debbie- what needs the program might have which are not easily met. With little hesitation she said, 'I spend a lot of money on powered drinks, that would be most welcome and needed.'

The Outreach Committee invites you to bring your donation as part of the collection of powdered lemonade, ice tea and Kool-Aid-type drinks through October. Donations may be dropped off in the church office or in the box provided by the Outreach bulletin board next to the Music Room.

The program provides meals to anyone in need, Monday through Friday from 4:30 to 5:30 at the Second Congregational Church. South Church members serve meals on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please let Charles know if you'd like to volunteer anytime.

An evening of "**Dine with Nine**" dinners is scheduled for Friday evening, October 19. There is a sheet on the bulletin board for you to sign up if you would like to attend one of these dinners or even host one at your home. You will be assigned to one of the hosts, so that there are usually between six and ten people at each dinner. The host provides the main course, and you will be asked to bring something (hors d'oeuvre, veggie, dessert, etc.). These are fun, relaxed "grownup" evenings which give us all a chance to know each other better.

If you are new to the church or just "trying us out", we would **love** to have you!! Are you single? Please come (the name "dine with nine" is intended to indicate that odd numbers are great)! We look forward to getting to know each other more!

Music Survey Report

This survey was sent out in various ways to the congregation in late spring, 2012, and received a good response from approximately 80 folks, a large percentage of which were over 40 years of age.

Here are the responses:

| Survey questions | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Music is important to my worship experience | 99% Yes | 1% Somewhat | 0% no | |
| 2. The amount of music in the service is | 69% just right | 31% would like more | 0% would like less | |
| 3. Worship music should be inclusive language and support ethnic diversity | 70% yes | 30% no | | |
| 4. I support the continuation of a monthly hymn sing prior to worship | 77% yes | 4% no | 19% no opinion | |
| 5. Guest musicians during worship | 55% would | 29% on holiday and | 16% not important | |
| 6. Hymn Singing | Yes | No | No Opinion | |
| Enjoy singing new hymns | 75% | 13% | 12% | |
| Find it confusing to change hymnal | 26% | 61% | 13% | |
| Prefer the red Pilgrim hymnal | 42% | 9% | 50% | |
| Prefer the black New Century hymnal | 13% | 33% | 54% | |
| 7. Rank of preference for musical styles | First | Second | Third | Fourth |
| Traditional/Classical | 79% | 15% | 5% | 1% |
| Gospel | 17% | 36% | 30% | 17% |
| Contemporary | 7% | 27% | 32% | 35% |
| Praise & Worship | 12% | 26% | 23% | 39% |
| 8. Rate Preference for each type of instrument | Enjoy | Do not enjoy | No opinion | |
| Organ | 99% | 0% | 1% | |
| Piano | 96% | 1% | 3% | |
| Strings | 92% | 1% | 7% | |
| Brass | 89% | 3% | 8% | |
| Harp | 88% | 4% | 8% | |
| Guitar | 72% | 15% | 14% | |
| Percussion | 78% | 7% | 15% | |

There were 39 folks who took the time to share their thoughts, in addition to answering the questions. Many of the respondents mentioned their appreciation for being asked to participate in this kind of survey, and/or their support of the music program, often including their admiration for the services of Paul, Rebecca and the choir. In general, the congregation would like to have more music, especially music that is relevant to the times in which we live. One suggested two familiar hymns to go along with a new one for each service, and another suggested we always end the service with something "upbeat". Someone raised the question "Why can't every Sunday be Music Sunday?!"

Bob Card, Music Committee Chair

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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.

∞ Life Journeys ∞

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Weddings | September 2 | Paula Beer and John Lescure |
| | September 8 | Erika Kling and Joe Charpentier |
| | September 15 | Kairsten Wydra and Mark D'Ascenzo |
| | September 22 | Rebekah Miller and Jacob Hooker |
| | September 29 | Sarah Blanchard and Eric Dyer |
| Deaths | August 30 | Sydney 'Dunc' Cook |



How to Recognize Grace

by Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

It takes you by surprise
It comes in odd packages
It sometimes looks like loss
Or mistakes
It acts like rain
Or like a seed
It's both reliable and unpredictable
It's not what you were aiming at
Or what you thought you deserved
It supplies what you need
Not necessarily what you want
It grows you up
And lets you be a child
It reminds you you're not in control
And that not being in control
is a form of freedom

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