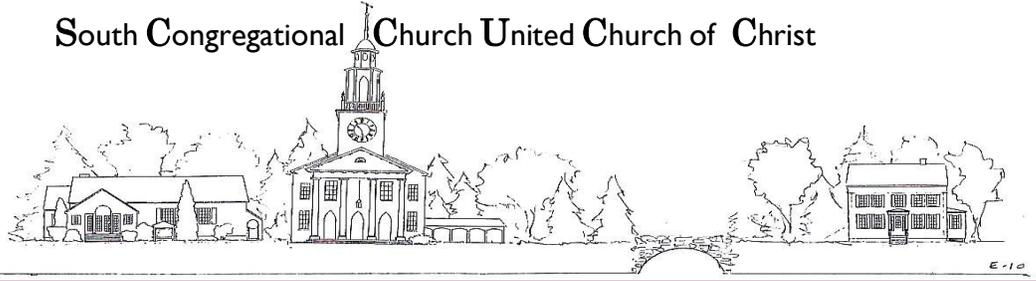


South Congregational Church United Church of Christ



February 2014

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
You Should Know
Mark Your Calendars

Sunday Worship 10:30 am
(Nursery Care provided)

Sunday School 10:30 am
Classes

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

Words from our Minister

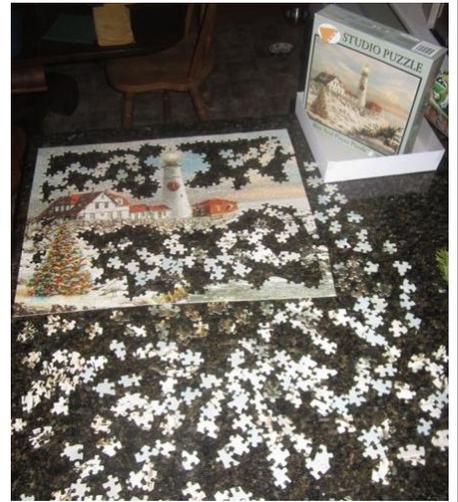
We have put away our Christmas decorations (true?) and find ourselves still in the glow of Bethlehem's light. Under the tree this year, our family received two puzzles. Having one out in our living area, I have found myself pondering with theological fingers and mystical eyes at the shapes -all the pieces are here, I just don't know how they fit together.

Hmmmm..... Is there yet a bigger picture emerging here than just that on the cover of the box before me? We often have before us the pieces of our lives – and a method of looking at them (ie. border pieces first, like colors grouped together, etc)- but it is a gradual process of linking and connecting.

Hmmmm..... I go in spurts working on the puzzle, sometimes I can only do a little at a time, then I have to pull back- have a snack, head to work, empty the dish-washer, have some ice cream, go for a walk, go to bed.

Hmmmm..... and when a piece/pieces do fit – we pretty much know it, don't we! Both the feeling within of satisfaction and the clarity of coming together, simply meant to be together, a good fit. And the bigger picture gradually emerges from the pieces.

Hmmmm.....Charles



A traditional which began several years ago: **All Committee Night** which follows the election of new committee members and officers at the January Annual Meeting. An opportunity to realize once again the number of folks involved, sharing talents and skills, to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the church programs and ministries.



This year's All Committee Night will be Tuesday, February 11. We'll begin with a potluck supper at 6:00pm in the Community House, then break into our individual committees just about 7:00pm.



Sunday School



This month in Sunday School, our children will be learning about Jesus' teachings known collectively as the Sermon on the Mount. Found in the gospel of Matthew chapters 5-7, this is considered by many to be Jesus' greatest sermon, revealing to us God's reality and transforming love. We are shown how God's wisdom is different from worldly wisdom. Each week, we will read a story and explore part of this sermon via discussion, activities, and song.

February 2 - the children will learn about the **Beatitudes** and will explore the things that bring true happiness.

February 9 - we will explore **Jesus' metaphors** about being **salt and light**, and how we are called to live in God's love and to show God's love to others.

February 16- we continue studying **Jesus' teachings about getting along well** with others via working out disagreements, showing forgiveness, and reaching out and making amends when we hurt someone.

February 23- we will learn about **how Jesus calls us to love**, be kind to, and pray for everyone—even our enemies—just as God loves all people.

Youth Group

Youth Group Gatherings

Our South Church Youth Group will pick up meeting again on the **third Sunday of every month** from 6:00pm -7:30pm. The group is made up of any youth in 6th-12th grade.

We will get together at the Community House and will be asking families to volunteer to bring dessert, enough for 15 people. Please bring a friend!

The next meeting date is going to be February 16th. Let me know if you are able to come. Contact Heather McLaughlin at mclaughlins@roadrunner.com. Thanks!



Lenten Bible Study



For us as Christians, the cross is to our faith; yet there is still a mystery that surrounds our comprehension. Let's face it, this mystery is mind-bending! Do you have questions? I sure do! My hope is to search within the depths of our souls and struggle with these questions together: Why did Jesus die on the cross? What was God thinking? What about sin? How about a little "reconciliation" Salvation and a love that lives! As Lent comes closer, and the cross comes closer, my prayer is that we become closer to God.

First week: 1Peter 2:21, Philippians 3:7-17, John 11:32-35

Second week: Ephesians 1:3-14

Third week: Luke 5:12-13, 1John 1:5-2:2

Fourth week: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, Colossians 1:15-23, Romans 8:9-17

Fifth week: John 19:17-30, Luke 24:1-9

Let's gather together in the library area on Tuesdays beginning March 4 (we will skip March 25) through Lent, **12 noon** and invite you to bring a brown-bag lunch. *Debra Girard*

You Should Know...

We recognize JoAnn Lapoint being named as **Great Person of the Year 2013** by the Kennebunk Post, recognizing her donation of a kidney to friend and neighbor, Dr. David Micca. "I was just helping a friend in need."

Others of the South Church community also nominated: Susan Cressey, June Ficker and Leslie Lindgren. We applaud you for listening to your heart for the good of the community we share and love~ Thank you!

Prayer shawls are here, made by those of the South Church community, to be taken to adults or younger person/child for comfort in times of need; be it physical health, emotional conflicts, spiritual quests. Supply and demand have an ebb and flow, we currently have several available for being shared across the community, across the state or beyond as you know of a need.

Our thanks to the Women's Association for having some furniture pieces reupholstered through the Maine State Prison program in Thomaston, and to Sandy and Mike Severance making the trip to shuttle them back to South Church.

Returning your **Advent wreath frames** this month will make your spring cleaning go quicker –Thank you!

The question has been asked, 'Must I make a financial pledge to the church in order to receive a box of weekly offering envelopes?' No, it is not a requirement – though it is certainly a help to the planning and budgeting process. Brenda at the office can set one aside for you.



Did You Know...

That **devotional booklets** (published every other month) are available for any who wish: *The Upper Room* or *These Days*? A thought per page for each day, large print also available. You'll find them on the small table adjacent to Sarah's office door.

Mark Your Calendars



An information gathering is scheduled for February 9 after the worship service for those who wish to learn more of membership here at South Church. Let Rev. Charles know of your interest if you haven't already.

For the first time in many years – a **blood drive** sponsored by South Church takes place at the Community House, Wednesday, February 19; 12noon – 6:00pm. Volunteers are needed to help in shifts that day, and of course all who are able are encouraged to donate a pint. We thank our Outreach Committee for coordinating this effort. Let's give the gift of life – a mission we can personally fulfill.

Coming to Maine: **Celebration IX – New England Women's Celebration**

"Together We Can" March 28-30 at Holiday Inn by the Bay. A unique opportunity to connect and be renewed, workshops along with speakers from around New England and beyond. Registration forms and more information is posted on the bulletin board or go to www.uccwomenscelebration.org. South Church can assist with scholarship assistance.



Ash Wednesday community worship will be shared at South Church this year; Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 pm. This marks the beginning of Lent, a time of spiritual reflection and preparation for Easter; forty days in length.

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

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

Grace Street Ministry



We are an outreach ministry offering a consistent, compassionate, pastoral presence to the homeless and marginalized in downtown Portland, Maine - to relieve suffering, to address the spiritual needs in this ever shifting community and to decrease the prejudice between the housed and the homeless through preaching, education and experience.

Nearly thirty sweatshirts, sixty plus Dunkin Donut cards and over 200 pairs of sox were sent to Portland with Rev. Elizabeth Peterson, one of two pastors of Grace Street Ministry. She joined us in worship on January 19, telling us more of this program we have become close to in our support. And inviting any who wish, to join her or Pastor Mair on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon for a couple hours as they offer their presence to those on the city streets who are most often overlooked.

