



From Your Pastor

I suppose there cannot be a MOST important verse in the bible. Of the handful of SOME of the most important verses in the bible, Matthew 6:33 appears near the top of the list, if not the top.

Matthew 6:33 comes from the Sermon on the Mount, which we as a congregation have been studying in an 8-part series. Only a few times did Jesus use the word “*first*” to give emphasis to his teaching. This is one of those firsts. Take a look at the verse from a few different versions:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (King James Version)

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (New Revised Standard Version)

Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. (The Message)

But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well. (Contemporary English Version)

May this verse guide your best attempt to choose the right life priorities. When you fail, God will give you grace. May your desire to be a faithful child of God propel you to try again and to keep on trying to seek first the will of God.

John Zehring



Did you miss the NEW MEMBERS CLASS?

No problem. We'll repeat it this Sunday February 19 for those who wish to become members of South Church in Andover. Following worship, go to the third floor Chapel to meet with John Zehring and members of the Board of Deacons.

Ash Wednesday Services February 22, 2012

12:00 pm St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 390 Main St, North Andover (followed by a light lunch)—sponsored by Communities Together.

12:15 pm South Church with the Protestant and Catholic Community at **Cochran Chapel, Phillips Academy**. John Zehring participating.

Have you considered remembering South Church in your will?

Upcoming Sunday Worship Schedule

- February 19** Message: *Sermon on the Mount*, part 6. Presidents Day Weekend. Dedication of chimes.
- February 26** Message: *Sermon on the Mount*, part 7. 1st Sunday in Lent.
- March 4** Message: *Sermon on the Mount*, part 8. 2nd Sunday in Lent. Communion.
- March 7** **12Noon** Lenten Service, Terry Ebner Coordinating
- March 11** Special guest preacher: The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, President and Minister of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ. 3rd Sunday in Lent.
- March 18** Jonathan Drury coordinating. Dedication of Chimes. South Church Musical.
- March 21** **Thursday 7:30 p.m. at Edgewood**, Confirmation Class participating. Jonathan Drury coordinating.
- March 25** Message: *Would God lead you into temptation?* 5th Sunday in Lent. Backwards Day. To prepare read Matthew 6:1-13 and Psalm 18:1-6. Private baptism in chapel following worship for Haley and Lila Magenheim.

Audio Recordings of the past Sunday Services are available on the website under [Worship](#).

ADULT EDUCATION

"THANK YOU" to Duncan and Polly Pyle for four fun filled and informative Tuesday evenings where we explored Hollywood Hits with Christian messages! Who would have known that *HOOK*, *STARMAN*, *EVAN ALMIGHTY*, and *COOL HAND LUKE* could be open to Christian interpretations? With Duncan's leadership and creative exploration these messages came ALIVE! The popcorn and soft drinks added wonderfully to the movie night ambiance! There were several requests to do something similar again!

I invite you to participate in our next ADULT MINI SERIES: with Terry Ebner (see below). Roxy Barry
Coordinator of the Adult MINI SERIES Courses

Lenten Book Study w/On-Line Option! *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark, Marcus Borg*

Tues. Feb. 20-April 3 ~ 7:00-8:30 Terry Ebner is trying something new. For those with extensive, little or absolutely no experience reading the Bible, all are invited to join in the conversation through a **BLOG and/or as part of a small discussion group which will meet in the parlor. Books are available in the church office for \$15.00.**

Participants are encouraged to read the entire Gospel of Mark, which takes two hours on average, at one sitting. Relatively few have ever done this and it's well worth the effort! We'll discuss initial reactions during our first meeting and dive right into the Introduction to Borg's book. Conversation will continue on-line.

SHROVE TUESDAY, FAT TUESDAY, MARDI GRAS

*Whatever you call it you won't
want to miss ...*

POT-LUCK PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, Feb. 21st, 5:30-7:30

Sing-a-Long with the **Jazz Disciples**, mask making and more . . . We'll provide the King's Cake & Pancakes. Bring a dish to share and come in your loose fitting clothing, p.j.s, costume or whatever. Join in the feasting and fun before the leaner days of Lent begin! RSVP to the church office at: 978-475-0321 or tebner@southchurch.com .



Children's Worship Service Sunday, Feb. 26th

On this first Sunday in Lent, all Sunday School classes begin the morning at 10:30 in their classroom with teachers. K-6th will prepare for their part in the service before coming down to Fellowship Hall at 10:50 ready to worship, sing and serve in leadership.

SAVE the Date! - Saturday March 31, 2012

There will be a daylong South Church Women's Retreat held locally. More details will be coming soon. If you are interested in attending or helping to plan the retreat, please contact Evonne Yang at: eryang25@gmail.com.



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our sympathy to Jennifer and Mark Hoenig, and family on the death of Jennifer's grandfather **James Sodermark** of Kenduskeag, ME on February 9.

Our sympathy to Gloria and Dwight Davis and family on the death of Gloria's mother **Janice Psoinos** of Andover on February 13.

CONGRATULATIONS

The 300th Anniversary Committee would like to congratulate **Dick and Barbara Moody**, who recently received the Samuel Phillips Award, which was presented to them at our 301st Annual Meeting. This award is given on occasional anniversaries to a member (s) of our congregation who not only has senior membership, but a deep commitment to church leadership and activities, and one who in personal life reflects true Christian witness.

Dick and Barbara joined South Church in 1952 and have continually been involved with church activities. They are both passionate advocates of equal opportunity and fair housing, as evidenced by their involvement with mentoring to members of the ABC House, hiring former criminals, and helping the Trujillo's family bring their parents and other family members from Spain to the USA. The list of accomplishments is long and would take up the entire 5 Minutes. All our lives have been touched by Dick and Barbara. We thank them for their contributions these past sixty years.

ANNUAL DIAPER & UNDERWEAR DRIVE

Communities Together, Inc. is having their annual spring diaper and underwear drive. Our economy remains sluggish, and the needs of children and families living in Lawrence are great. Please donate diapers and pull-ups (all sizes) and children's underwear in small sizes. Collections will be shared with approximately 10 social service agencies that serve families locally. A box will be placed outside the Sanctuary (next to the NIN wagons) for this collection. Monetary donations (and coupons dated *after* Easter) are also welcome. Checks should be made out to Communities Together (with *Diaper drive* written on the memo line. Questions? contact Lynn McDonald at: l-mcdonald@comcast.net.

Welcome to New Members who joined South Church January 29, 2012

Andy and Janean Sullivan are 2 year residents of Andover and parents of Nora (10 months) who was baptized last November at South Church. Both work in sales, Andy at American Express and Janean at Psychex, Inc. They are Boston sports fans and enjoy time with their families. Nora is described as well behaved, happy, sleeps through the night, loves being around other kids, and is curious, huge smile, and interested in everything around her.

Ted and Susan Knight are originally from Florida and live in North Andover. They have two sons, Hunter and Hayden. Ted is the General Manager for the New England Concrete Division for Aggregate Industries. Susan is a former art teacher and enjoys running and interior design.

Renee Manning has worked for Raytheon for the past 29 years. Her hobbies are amateur astronomy, space and aviation, and rocketry. Renee has two daughters, Eve (22) who is in the Peace Corps in South Africa and Erin (20) who is working to be a Medical Assistant. Renee has become involved as a member of the Open Dialog Committee.

Erika Sanborne is an educator who has taught at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell in the Psychology Department for the past decade. Previously, she taught at Lowell High School. Her specialty is Community Psychology. Erika lives in New Hampshire with her wife Rachael, who is a member of the UCC clergy. Erika has been approved by the Andover Association of the UCC for ordination to ministry pending a call and is currently in the search process.

DONATIONS FOR MISSION TO JAMAICA

Joyce Shaw is looking for donations to take with her on an upcoming service trip where she will provide pro bono physical therapy to residents of St. Elizabeth's parish in rural southwestern Jamaica. They would appreciate gently used children's clothing, sneakers (all sizes), and sheets and towels. There is a collection box outside the Nursery until Thursday morning February 23rd. For further information, www.friendsoftheredeemer.org or contact Joyce at 978-974-9422 or jshawpt@gmail.com.

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5 MINUTES
NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Next edition: March 4
Deadline: Friday, February 24

South Church In Andover
is an Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ

ALL MEMBERS ARE MINISTERS

The Reverend John Zehring, Senior Pastor
The Reverend Jonathan Drury, Associate Minister
Sherry Tupper, Assistant to the Pastor
Terry Ebner, Licensed Minister, Christian Education
Laura Weiss, Music/Choirs
Linda Francalancia Hacker,
Diane Morris, Office Administration
Dave Stanwood, Sexton
Joanne Smith, Finance Administrator
Linda Mesler, Moderator
Morgan Kiker, Treasurer

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