Member Dave Welbourn and I were sharing about how we have both found ourselves in our dream jobs. We both love what we do and are having the time of our lives doing it. I mentioned that I love my job, adding “It’s just that there is so much of it.” Dave, the incessantly creative wordsmith, responded: “I am whelmed.” Now THAT stopped me in my tracks. Most folks I know today, including myself, tend toward hyperbole when describing how busy we are or how much is on our plate. We would have said OVERwhelmed. But, Dave is just whelmed.

I love that. A synonym for overwhelmed is overflow. Sometimes work or life seems to overflow. After the manner of Dave’s understatement, we might also say our work or life flows rather than overflows. That’s nice: life is flowing. Work is flowing along, like a river journeying along from its source to its destination.

On my Iphone, I have a number of apps that tell me the weather. I’ve noticed that frequently, the weather is accompanied by a red flashing “SEVERE WEATHER ALERT.” I have come to learn that the alert frequently is sounded for a windy day or snow flurries of an inch or two. The weather folks practice hyperbole like the rest of us. Anything other than pleasant is a SEVERE WEATHER ALERT. Why not just say windy or snow flurries? OVERwhelmed.

Well, I know from meeting so many of you that sometimes you do feel overwhelmed. When that is the case, here is God’s message for you:

**But now thus says the LORD... I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you... You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you... Do not fear, for I am with you.** (from Isaiah 43)

They shall not overwhelm you. When you feel overwhelmed, take a minute’s vacation to go to this place where God assures you of God’s love, presence, comfort and protection.

John Zehring

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- Our Church Family p. 3
- Church School P.4
- February Calendar p. 7

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**DONATIONS WANTED**

The Board of World Service is asking for donations of clean blankets, soaps, and toiletries for those who are homeless and unsheltered. Melissa Glassman will be collecting these items to distribute through the Eliot Human Services Homeless Services Division. You may drop off items in front of the nursery. Thank You!
Upcoming Worship Opportunities

Feb. 3  Coordinated message and church school theme: Food for all. John Zehring preaching. Communion. Today’s Pastor’s Samaritan Fund will be dedicated to Bread & Roses. Reception of New Members. To prepare, read Mark 6:30-44.


Feb. 13 Ash Wednesday worship service with Phillips Academy and South Church in Andover, 7:00 p.m., at Phillips Academy Cochran Chapel A simple disposition of ashes is being held at 7:30 A.M. with a full service including readings and music at 7:00 P.M. Terry Ebner participating in the evening service.


Feb. 20 Worship at Edgewood, coordinated by Terry Ebner.


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Pastor John Zehring will be away on Study Week Leave from February 8-16. For pastoral needs, please contact Terry Ebner, Minister of Spiritual Formation, at: 978-204-0326.

SERVER THOSE IN GREATEST NEED:

Cor Unum Meal Center
Service Opportunity

Saturday February 2 from 4:00-7:30pm
Join Board of World Service members for a brief evening service trip to help feed hungry families in Lawrence. Cor Unum Meal Center serves hundreds of children and adults 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The beautifully designed facilities, restaurant-style setting, and volunteer wait staff are a dignified and loving way to offer the best to those who have the least. Contact: Stephanie Aude at: stephanieaude@gmail.com or 978-821-2033.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING
The church has acquired a defibrillator (AED). You will see it mounted on the wall next to the first aid box as you descend the steps towards Fellowship Hall. We would like to have members familiar with its location and use in case of an emergency. Thank you to the Memorial Gift Committee and Trustees for their financial support.
We are offering 2 brief training sessions in the Library. Sunday, Feb. 3, following worship service and Wednesday, February 6, at 7 pm.

Annual Youth Choir Bake Sale

Sunday, February 3rd!
Get your cold milk ready ...
Sweeten your Super Bowl Sunday or take a break from that post-holiday diet with confections baked and decorated by members of the South Church Youth Choir. Cookies, cakes and other treats will be available in Fellowship Hall Sunday Feb. 3rd after worship. Last year we sold out! Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase new sheet music. Thank you in advance for your support!!

Last opportunity to sign the 300th Anniversary Quilt!

If you have not already done so, there will be an opportunity for you to sign the 300th Anniversary Quilt on Sunday February 3 and 10. The quilt will be in Fellowship Hall after worship service and we will be there to assist you.

Quilt Committee
MEMORIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE

The Memorial Gifts Committee welcomes gifts in memory of loved ones who have passed away. These gifts purchase items for the church that are not included in the church budget. All names of those memorialized are recorded in a special remembrance book. If you have any questions please contact Sally Hudgins at: 207-363-7092 or rhudgie@earthlink.net.

GRADUATES

The Graduates announce a change in speakers for its February 16 meeting. Kristin Esterberg, Provost/Vice-President of Academic Affairs will talk about the Salem State University's 1 + 2 + 1 dual degree program with universities in China. Kris is also a Board Member of the ABC House and will give us an update as to what is going on there. A hot lunch will be served for those of us 50 and over at 11:30 am. Please make lunch reservations with Margaret Foster. All are welcome to hear the program at 12:45 pm. See you Saturday, Feb. 16th.

Upcoming speakers:
- March 16: Don Rob, Topic: the railroad in Andover (ran right by the front door of the Church)
- April 20: South Church Green Team

Julie Pike

COOKS NEEDED

Our South Church family occasionally supports each other by providing dinners to those who are unable to cook for themselves. If you would be willing to provide a meal please contact Sandy Meldrum, sandymeldrum@verizon.net or Amy Joyall, amyjoyall@comcast.net. When there is a need, you will receive an e-mail where you may choose to pick a date convenient for you.

Deacons

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our sympathy to Kevin and Laurie Brosnan and family on the death of Kevin’s father, Michael Brendan Brosnan, on January 8.

Our sympathy to Doug Halsted on the death of his mother-in-law Florence Peaslee on January 8.

Our sympathy to Brian Lima and his children Jessica, Kyle, and Matthew on the death of father/grandfather Joe Lima (88), on January 16.

Our sympathy to Donna and John Zehring on the death of Donna’s nephew, Ryan Atlas, on January 26 in California.

We rejoice in the birth of Adam William Loy on January 2 in Texas. Parents are Alaina Schroeder and John Loy. Congratulations to grandparents Donna and Bill Schroeder.

IN APPRECIATION

What a wonderful gift from South Church, a beautiful red poinsettia delivered by Tom Guy. Thank you for thinking of me.

Sue Barry

UPCOMING EVENTS

CUPID’s CABARET
Youth Serving a Great Cause!
Saturday, February 9
7:00 p.m.

Bring your family, bring your friends and enjoy an evening of delicious desserts and talented variety show hosted by our Youth! Middle Schoolers will serve and clear desserts. High Schoolers will sell and collect Cupid Bucks. Performers will entertain and serve when not on stage. Guests can help support the mission trip to John’s Island, SC, by purchasing Cupid Bucks and bidding on favorite acts! Tickets will be on sale after worship this Sunday and through the church office next week. Adults $10, youth (10 and under) $5. Participating Youth (middle -high school) FREE. Family cap: $30.

Rehearsal for ALL performers this Monday, February 4, 7:00 - 8:30pm! Bring your sheet music or chords if you’d like Laura Weiss and the Pentecostal Pickers to coach or accompany your act. Or bring your instrument, Ipod, props, etc. We still have a few spots for your skit, talent or song! Questions or to sign up contact Cindy Ozirsky at: cindyozirsky@hotmail.com or Jan Holden at: janiceholden@comcast.net.

The South Church Steeple is lighted in February in loving memory of my wife, Barbara by her husband, David Coffman.

MEMORIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE

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A WORD FROM TERRY...

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School continues its winter focus on stories from the Gospel of Mark. Mark emphasizes the good news of God’s earthly kingdom, which defies all expectation, and what it means to be a disciple – a follower of Christ. Caring for God’s creation, through prayers and acts of compassion, is emphasized each week. A special time is set aside for the offering and prayer, thanking God for our blessings and asking God’s care for those who are having a hard time. We all are in need of prayer. Lent is the perfect season in the church to talk with your child/teenager about prayer and the reasons you choose to follow Christ.

Reminder: Please remind your child/teenager to bring an offering each week for Gaining Ground Organic Community Farm which donates all its produce to food pantries and soup kitchens.


CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

The 3rd and 4th grade students this year have wonderful insights, reflections, and creativity! The goal is for children to leave class with a short message about faith that they can carry with them throughout the week. They began the year by crossing the Jordan River while naming something that required courage to remind them that courage comes from God. They talked about ways that they and their families help other people to remind us that kindness brings rewards. While reading about King David they learned about showing mercy to others. The fall of Jerusalem reminded them that, as God’s people, we will go through bad times, but God is listening to their prayers. The Christmas season reminded us of the great promise of God and the gift we have in Jesus. In the coming months we will focus on Jesus’ call to all kinds of people, the family of God, asking God for help, feeding our souls, and God’s love for everyone.

3rd and 4th grade teaching team: Garnett Jacavanco, Janet Clarke, Kerianne Harris

PRAYING WITH THOSE WHO MIGHT FORGET

"Why should I continue to visit him when he doesn’t even remember that I was there?" In this 90 minute mini course, we will be considering that question along with a few related ones. As people of faith, we are called sometimes simply to love. Relationships have their stories, and things change when one person has dementia or memory impairment. In this course we will focus on the “why bother” factor, the true and legitimate value of the love you show to someone even if the interaction is forgotten. I want you to know that your time is well spent. Optional pre-reading before the course is a journal article, the full-text of which is shared with permission online at http://brokenbrain.org. Tuesday February 5, 7:00-8:30pm. Facilitator: Erika Sanborne

Erika Sanborne joined South Church in 2012. She graduated from Andover Newton Theological School and is approved for ordination in the United Church of Christ pending call. She continues to teach in the Psychology Department at UMass Lowell. This mini course is one that combines Erika’s interests in both psychology and faith, as they come together when considering what goes on when caring for someone with impaired memory. The journal article referenced here as optional reading was published in 2008, in the Journal of Pastoral Care & Counseling, and is partially autobiographical in making sense of some of Erika's own experiences with impaired thinking.
Forward on Climate Rally:
"The fierce urgency of now."

When Rev. Martin Luther King uttered those words more than 40 years ago, he wasn't speaking about climate change. But they apply very much to our situation today. Major, disruptive changes to our national and global climate were predicted to arrive within 100 years, then 50, then 20, finally, now, it's happening today, already rolling across us like a wave, with more waves on the horizon. Are we going to respond with the fierce urgency that's required?

On Sunday, February 17th, the Forward on Climate Rally will be taking place in Washington DC. The South Church Green Team is inviting you to be there. The year is young, but this is shaping up to be perhaps the biggest national climate rally of the year, and one of the biggest ever in the US. This rally started with the idea of stopping the Keystone XL pipeline, but has become something far broader. The objective now is to show public support for getting serious about Climate Change and all the things we need to start doing. It's time to show your support with your physical presence, to be seen and heard in Washington, DC. Now is the time to make it clear to President Obama and our Congress. This is the event.

So far a number of church members are planning to go. - We would love to have more. Can we turn this into a caravan? For more information visit the Green Teams page on our website which also has a link to the Here is the 350.org signup website (http://act.350.org/signup/presidents day) with the call to make Forward on Climate the largest climate rally in history. It's sponsored by 350.org, the Sierra Club and the Hip-Hop Caucus. Here is the rally FAQ and signup link from the Sierra Club: http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/NAT_Oil_FowardOnClimate_FAQ_SC.html. You can also find more detail on our church website at: http://www.southchurch.com/greenteam.htm#rally.

Mark Bohrer, South Church Green Team

PS Here is an excerpt from MLK's speech where he spoke those words:
"We are now faced with the fact, my friends, that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked, and deserted with a lost opportunity. The tide in the affairs of men does not remain at flood — it ebbs. We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is adamant to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residues of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words, "Too late." There is an invisible book of life that faithfully records our vigilance or our neglect. Omar Khayyam is right: "The moving finger writes, and having writ moves on."
Caring For Chronically Ill Loved Ones
Three-Part Seminar
Do you have a loved one, friend, or family member experiencing chronic or life-threatening illness? Are you caring for them, or supporting someone who is? Christ Church is hosting a three-session workshop on skills, information and shared wisdom on how to cope and engage with these issues—Saturdays, February 2, 9 and 16 -- 9 a.m.-12 noon.

Ned Rimer, founder and executive director of Chronic Care Community Corps (4C) (and husband of the Rev. Katie Pakos Rimer, former CCA seminarian!) will conduct the seminar. Registration is required -- take a look at the website www.carecommunitycorps.org/ and sign up online under 'Participate - Join a Seminar'. It's free -- please share with those who might be interested!

Christ Church
33 Central Street, Andover

Andover Community Trust, Inc.
A Massachusetts non-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for and develop permanently affordable housing in Andover. The owner selection process for one permanently affordable three bedroom home, located at 98 Andover Street, will begin in February 2013. Anyone interested in being selected to purchase this home must attend one of the three information sessions, below. Applications will be available at the end of each meeting.
Memorial Hall Library, 3rd floor
Sunday, February 3, 2 pm
Monday, February 4, 7 pm
Wednesday, February 6, 7 pm

Andover Community Trust gives preference to income eligible, first time homebuyer (certain exceptions apply) households who will fully occupy a three bedroom home. All applicants must complete a first time homebuyer’s class

GUN CONTROL
Dear friends, if you have an interest in gun control, please see Associate Conference Minister Peter Well’s newsletter at this link. Thank you. John Zehring

Note: you will need to have (or open) a Yahoo, Facebook or Google account to access the website.

Climate and Environmental Information
From the Massachusetts Conference, UCC
To all who care about God’s creation:
Thank you for all that you are doing to protect, defend and restore God’s creation! I want to draw your attention to a number of upcoming events/opportunities.
2. Climate Revival – April 27, 2013 Boston, MA macucc.org/climaterevival
3. Mission 4/1 Earth ... and it will be ecumenical! http://www.ucc.org/earth/
5. Forward on Climate - the largest climate rally in history – February 17, 2013 – the National Mall, Washington DC. www.350.org/Feb17

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO IN RECOGNITION THAT THE EARTH IS THE LORD’S!

The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Conference Minister and President
Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ
SOUTH CHURCH WELCOME STATEMENT

We are a Christ-centered community that celebrates the love of God. Although we are of varied minds, we are one body, bound together in Christ. We recognize the uniqueness of every individual as God's beloved child. We seek to respond faithfully to God's call for justice for all creation. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance. We seek to create a sanctuary where all will know they are welcomed and included. You are welcomed, no matter your age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, race and ethnicity, physical and mental ability or economic circumstance, into the full life and ministry of South Church, including worship, sacraments and rites. Join us as we grow together in God's love.

(Revised at our Annual Meeting, January 30, 2013)

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
Sherry Tupper, Minister of Visitation
Terry Ebner, Minister of Spiritual Formation
Laura Weiss, Minister of Music
Linda Francalancia Hacker, Office Administrator
Diane Morris, Admin. Assistant & Webmaster
Dave Stanwood, Sexton
Joanne Smith, Finance Administrator
Melissa Glassman, Field Education Student
Linda Mesler, Moderator
Morgan Kiker, Treasurer

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