FROM YOUR PASTOR

This is a day of new beginnings

Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person.  
The past is forgotten, and everything is new.  
2 Corinthians 5:17, (CEV)

At our Homecoming September 8, we will sing a hymn from the New Century Hymnal titled This Is A Day Of New Beginnings:

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that’s gone.

Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring, step from the past and leave behind; 
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

September is a time of new beginnings, perhaps even more than January 1.  Vacations conclude, school buses roll, and work ramps up like a rushing wind.  There is the fragrance of newness in the air, new beginnings, and perhaps even a fresh start.

The hymn and Paul’s powerful words reminds us that we are new women and men, receivers of God’s grace and starting afresh.  Moving on has a catch:  there is the need to lie to rest the pain that’s gone.  There is the need to leave behind regrets, disappointment, guilt and grieving.  Move on, for now is your new beginning.

Let this be a day of new beginnings for you.  Seek new paths.  Open yourself to the Spirit’s leading.  Consider what opportunities and blessings God might have in store for you.  Keep watch, so that you do not miss them.

PRAYER:  Dear God, thank you for allowing me to move on with a fresh newness to my life.  
Open my eyes to be aware of your leading, the opportunities you provide to me, and to your mercies which are new to me every morning.  Strengthen my trust in you, refresh my spirit, and lead me on adventures in faith.  Amen.

John Zehring

IN THIS EDITION:

Worship Opportunities  p.  2  
Sunday School News  p.  3  
Our Church Family  p.  4  
Calendar  p.  7  

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
& SUNDAY SCHOOL  
changes to  
10:30 a.m.  
beginning September 8!
WRITING YOUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Led by John Zehring, Sundays, 9am, in the Chapel, September 22 and 29, October 6 and 13

This class for adults will engage you in conversations about what you believe, leading to the writing of your own Statement of Faith. When our Confirmands wrote their Statements of Faith, they told about how helpful it was to put it in writing. You may find it stimulating to organize your thoughts and write the foundations that undergird your faith and beliefs. Like Planet Fitness, this class is a “judgment-free zone.” No critics. You are free to express yourself without being judged.

For the first two classes, we will discuss historic creeds like the Nicene Creed, the Apostles’ Creed, the UCC Statement of Faith, and Benjamin Franklin’s Statement of Faith. We will also consider the basics of the theology of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the Church, Creation, and Heaven. In the second two weeks, we will present our statements to one another, although you will have the option to pass on presenting yours if you choose.
A WORD FROM TERRY…

GATHER 'ROUND WITH THE CHILDREN & YOUTH: JOIN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHING TEAM!

Please hold our children and youth in your prayers this year and consider how you might contribute in large or small ways to their spiritual growth. The CE Board invites all our members to consider this important ministry. Here are 10 reasons to say "YES!"

1. Team Teacher & CE support
2. Terrific kids!
3. The relationships you help foster may last a lifetime!
4. Solid, easy to follow curriculum
5. Flexible scheduling
6. Learn by “doing.” Teaching is one of the best ways to learn!
7. Become better equipped to discuss faith with your own children.
8. Serve as a faithful role model.
9. Jesus was a teacher. We are called to be Jesus’ hands and feet on earth.

10. You can influence important future decisions our young people will have to make.

In addition, we’re asking all parents to contribute to their child’s faith formation by substituting or assisting in a classroom at least twice each season during the school year.

We have the beginnings of a really great team of talented, faith-filled Sunday School teachers this year who would love for you to join them!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS’ GATHERINGS
Childcare available upon request

Saturday, September 7
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. New Teachers’ Orientation
10:00-11:30 a.m. Classroom Planning Option &
Tuesday, September 10
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Second Classroom Planning Option

“TALKABOUT” THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPIC OF THE WEEK AT HOME
Access the Sunday School Gather 'Round calendar. Link

FAITH FORUMS: SUNDAY MORNING SPIRITUAL STUDY/DISCUSSION
Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the church library for a “wake up” cup of coffee, stimulating conversation, and a caring community.

Sept. 8, Homecoming Sunday. Join us for breakfast in Fellowship Hall, catch up on summer happenings. We are planning to continue our format with guest speakers, reading books, and topical studies. September includes selected topics and video clips from UCC Synod XXIX.

September 15, Rev. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President of the UCC, “Change is a Comin,’ led by Janet Clarke

September 22, Dr. J. Bennett Guess is Executive Minister of the United Church of Christ’s Local Church Ministries and a member of the UCC’s five-person Collegium of Officers. Topic the Bold, Public Voice of the UCC, led by Helen Martin.

September 29, Dr. David Orr, Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics, Oberlin College, topic: Climate Change, led by Bill Schroeder.

October 6, 13 and 20, Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth by Reza Aslan, led by Steve Fink

October 27, November 3, and 10 Exploration of the Muslim Faith, book TBD, led by Helen Martin.

Facilitators: Deanna Atchison, Janet Clarke, John Roberts, Helen Martin, Terry Ebner, & Bill Schroeder

NURSERY ROCKERS NEEDED!
Please consider adding your name to the list of wonderful nursery volunteers who take turns assisting our nursery staff about four times or so a year. South Church parents and visitors so appreciate your caring service which allows them to worship with us knowing their children are welcome and well cared for. A sign-up sheet will be available during registration or contact Terry Ebner tebner@southchurch.com.
OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our sympathy to Kevin and Laurie Brosnan and their children on the death of mother/grandmother Margaret Brosnan on August 8.

Our sympathy to Dot Patterson and family on the death of her son and former member Lee W. Patterson on August 11 in Sundown, NH.

We rejoice in the birth of Ashton Samuel Fair on July 12 in Texas. Parents are Jessie (Fink) and Walker Fair and big sister is Sadie. Congratulations to grandparents Steve and Fran Fink.

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you for the flowers delivered by Willa Rapp, the prayers of the church and Beth Kiker for growing the flowers in her garden—appreciated. Marty Doyle

A very big thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered to me after church. I am feeling so much better now. Thank you to everyone at South Church for their prayers and warm wishes. Rachel Combs

Thank you so much for all the caring, food, and prayers on our daughter Emily's behalf after her stroke. We’re happy to report that her neurologist says she is free to resume a normal life. Currently Emily is doing temp work to ready herself for a return to Seattle, and she’s eager to find meaningful work there and to catch up with old friends. We are grateful, knowing all your prayers will accompany her. Dave and Lynn Welbourn

CHURCH BUILDING ACCESS

The passcode to enter the church building in the evening/weekend when the church office is closed, will be changed on Monday September 9. All board/committee chairs and will be notified. Please contact your board/committee chair, or the church office for the new passcode.

DID YOU KNOW...

That South Church is a model for UCC Green building initiatives AND we have the numbers to prove it! The solar panels on the roof went online last Oct. 20, the same week as our Church’s 301st anniversary (Oct. 17, easy to remember) and so far, it has produced a savings in our electric bill of around $3000. By the next annual meeting, chances are the $5000 building’s structural evaluation will have been paid back. All other costs were paid by the owner of the system, Great Green Enterprises, LLC. The 1860 local builders (and church members) Abbot & Clement, would be pleased to know we still have a strong, secure, and pretty snug building. On this Sunbug Solar site you can monitor our daily/past production at www.services.wattmetrics.com/dashboard.aspx?siteId=414#/dashboard.

Green Teamer Bill Schroeder reports, "Our best day was April 6 2013, when the system generated 346 kilowatt hours. However August 5 was pretty good, too: 320 kWh. Overall the system has generated about 55,000 kilowatt hours since it went online. There have been two '0' days as well, which will happen with absolute snow coverage (or the sun just didn't come up that day). The South Church Green Team has a quarterly report at www.southchurch.com/greenteam.

Other measures to retrofit energy and cost savings into our 153 year old building have been aided best by gas heating/electric controls by BC, the Basement Computer, a name which also suggests how old it is, or actually was, as it too finally needed replacing. You may remember a few Sunday’s last winter when BC either had us roasting or we needed the old practice of foot warming boxes filled with hot rocks. Thanks to Morgan Kiker and Dave Meldrum for their continued years of wizardry with BC. By the way, wiring for electricity was installed in 1888, a gift from George and Mary Ripley. See www.southchurch.com/Images/green-actions-taken.pdf for more recent improvements.

Solar panels and effective computer controls are simply modern marks of Yankee ingenuity in stewardship of all our resources. Our first minister, Rev. Samuel Phillips would be proud of our energy invested in our building and grounds plant resources, and our planet’s resources. Rev. Phillips was also our first Green Teamer as his prayers were so long, he blew out the candles to conserve them.

And now you know... Charlotte Lyons, Historic Committee

Our sympathy to Kevin and Laurie Brosnan and their children on the death of mother/grandmother Margaret Brosnan on August 8.

Our sympathy to Dot Patterson and family on the death of her son and former member Lee W. Patterson on August 11 in Sundown, NH.

We rejoice in the birth of Ashton Samuel Fair on July 12 in Texas. Parents are Jessie (Fink) and Walker Fair and big sister is Sadie. Congratulations to grandparents Steve and Fran Fink.

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you for the flowers delivered by Willa Rapp, the prayers of the church and Beth Kiker for growing the flowers in her garden—appreciated. Marty Doyle

A very big thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered to me after church. I am feeling so much better now. Thank you to everyone at South Church for their prayers and warm wishes. Rachel Combs

Thank you so much for all the caring, food, and prayers on our daughter Emily's behalf after her stroke. We’re happy to report that her neurologist says she is free to resume a normal life. Currently Emily is doing temp work to ready herself for a return to Seattle, and she’s eager to find meaningful work there and to catch up with old friends. We are grateful, knowing all your prayers will accompany her. Dave and Lynn Welbourn

CHURCH BUILDING ACCESS

The passcode to enter the church building in the evening/weekend when the church office is closed, will be changed on Monday September 9. All board/committee chairs and will be notified. Please contact your board/committee chair, or the church office for the new passcode.

DID YOU KNOW...

That South Church is a model for UCC Green building initiatives AND we have the numbers to prove it! The solar panels on the roof went online last Oct. 20, the same week as our Church’s 301st anniversary (Oct. 17, easy to remember) and so far, it has produced a savings in our electric bill of around $3000. By the next annual meeting, chances are the $5000 building’s structural evaluation will have been paid back. All other costs were paid by the owner of the system, Great Green Enterprises, LLC. The 1860 local builders (and church members) Abbot & Clement, would be pleased to know we still have a strong, secure, and pretty snug building. On this Sunbug Solar site you can monitor our daily/past production at www.services.wattmetrics.com/dashboard.aspx?siteId=414#/dashboard.

Green Teamer Bill Schroeder reports, "Our best day was April 6 2013, when the system generated 346 kilowatt hours. However August 5 was pretty good, too: 320 kWh. Overall the system has generated about 55,000 kilowatt hours since it went online. There have been two '0' days as well, which will happen with absolute snow coverage (or the sun just didn’t come up that day). The South Church Green Team has a quarterly report at www.southchurch.com/greenteam.

Other measures to retrofit energy and cost savings into our 153 year old building have been aided best by gas heating/electric controls by BC, the Basement Computer, a name which also suggests how old it is, or actually was, as it too finally needed replacing. You may remember a few Sunday’s last winter when BC either had us roasting or we needed the old practice of foot warming boxes filled with hot rocks. Thanks to Morgan Kiker and Dave Meldrum for their continued years of wizardry with BC. By the way, wiring for electricity was installed in 1888, a gift from George and Mary Ripley. See www.southchurch.com/Images/green-actions-taken.pdf for more recent improvements.

Solar panels and effective computer controls are simply modern marks of Yankee ingenuity in stewardship of all our resources. Our first minister, Rev. Samuel Phillips would be proud of our energy invested in our building and grounds plant resources, and our planet’s resources. Rev. Phillips was also our first Green Teamer as his prayers were so long, he blew out the candles to conserve them.

And now you know... Charlotte Lyons, Historic Committee
**SERMON SERIES**

In September and October, John Zehring will preach a series on the Epistle of Paul to the Philippians, usually simply called *Philippians*. Sometimes it is also nicknamed the Epistle of Joy because of the many times Paul speaks of *joy* or *rejoice*, which is remarkable considering that he was in prison when he wrote the letter. *Philippians*, four chapters long, contains some of Paul’s most memorable and insightful writings.

---

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST GENERALD SYNOD XXIX**

Janet Clarke from South Church in Andover and Christopher Jenkins from Tewksbury Congregational Church were the Andover Association delegates, to the United Church of Christ General Synod XXIX held in Long Beach, California June 28-July 2, 2013.

Here are some highlights of the 5 day long event which is a gathering of nearly 3000 people from around the world to do the business of the UCC, including worship, speakers, goals and visions, resolutions, budgets, and much more. We met in the cavernous convention hall in Long Beach, CA.

Imagine the center stage and six jumbo-trons so all could easily see, bigger than life, the speakers and choirs, the musicians and dancers performing on center stage, all conveying the theme of **VISION and Change**, Combining **Faith and Action**, inspired by Habakkuk 2:1-3.

In this short book, **Habakkuk cries out to God about violence and injustice** and asks why God tolerates wrongdoing. Habakkuk says he will watch and wait for God to speak. God answered and told him to wait for a vision, and then to write that vision on tablets so that all can see.

Synod was focused on Change, and is calling on the Church to be the prophetic and progressive voice of change, in **Habakkuk’s words, confronting violence and injustice, and wrongdoing. In Jesus’ words, Loving your neighbor as yourself.** Synod does not tell us what change or what action, but challenges each of us to discern what kind of VISION of change SPEAKS TO OUR HEART? And **there**, is the place for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus. God loves us, creates us anew, and asks us to co-create a just and sustainable world, God’s Kingdom of Justice and Peace.

Synod was like an energized Kaleidoscope of diversity and activity, diversity of people, cultures, race, sexual orientation, worship, speakers, preachers, resolutions, ideas, music, dance, and theological reflections, combined with business plans, goals and strategies, and budgets, and often-complicated parliamentary procedures, quirky electronic voting devices, and new language to learn, like collegium of officers, the 4 spiritual and administrative leaders of the UCC.

Several Resolutions spoke to me: the anti-bullying resolution, the 2 environmental resolutions, divestment from fossil fuel companies and encouraging churches to decrease their carbon footprints, and also the resolution for an all-church offering to support the education of members in discernment.

Jim Antal, our own Mass Conference Gen. Minister and Pres. wrote and led the Resolution for Divestment from fossil fuel companies. It was amazing to watch him work, to see his dedication, excitement, and drive. He worked with the pension boards and investment boards of the UCC, and came up with a compromise that allowed this resolution to pass. And when it passed, he emailed and tweeted it out to the world, and the world answered back, from 350.orgs, Bill McGibbon to S. Africa’s, Desmond Tutu, congratulating the UCC on leading the way to support clean energy.


You can see all the synod speakers on line and the are fun to watch. I highly recommend Rev. Geoffrey Black, Rev. Ben Guess, Rev Julian DeShazier, and David Orr. [http://www.ucc.org/synod/video.html](http://www.ucc.org/synod/video.html).

For me, the best part was just being a part of this amazing scene, this spirit filled place, and being exposed to the diverse, committed people who have come together from all of the United States and beyond, to share their gifts and their hopes for a better world.

Janet Clarke

---

**An OPPORTUNITY and a CHALLENGE!**

How about starting fall with developing a new skill? The South Church Flower Committee is in dire need of new members and you could be one of them. We will teach you, guide you and support you as you become comfortable with the pleasures of preparing our sanctuary for worship by bringing the beauty of nature inside. Who cannot be inspired by the evidence of God’s creation?

Please contact Susan Johnston, Chair 978-886-9214, syjohnston@comcast.net.

---

**An OPPORTUNITY and a CHALLENGE!**

How about starting fall with developing a new skill? The South Church Flower Committee is in dire need of new members and you could be one of them. We will teach you, guide you and support you as you become comfortable with the pleasures of preparing our sanctuary for worship by bringing the beauty of nature inside. Who cannot be inspired by the evidence of God’s creation?

Please contact Susan Johnston, Chair 978-886-9214, syjohnston@comcast.net.
SPICKET RIVER GREENWAY
On Saturday, September 21st, Groundwork Lawrence will hold their annual Spicket River Greenway Clean-up. After over 10 years of work, the recently completed Greenway improves walkability and revitalizes neighborhoods by connecting them with parks and playgrounds along the Spicket River.
Please join the Board of World Service as we work alongside hundreds of volunteers from Lawrence and surrounding communities to help maintain this 3.5 mile pathway through the heart of Lawrence. This is a festive and rewarding event and those who participated last year had a great time pulling invasive weeds with a great group of motivated Lawrence teens. This year we hope to have a larger group from South Church. Please join us! Time: 8am to 12noon (can be flexible).
All ages welcome! Contact Emily Strong at efs422@yahoo.com to sign up or with questions.
Carpooling can be arranged!

CONCERT
Thursday, September 12
Enjoy a Grill Night at the Andover Senior Center with music by The Jazz Disciples. 5–7 pm. Open to the public – outdoors if weather permits – behind the Andover Senior Center. Those wishing to participate in the Grill Night dinner need to make advance reservations by calling the Andover Senior Center, 30 Whittier Court, Andover, MA, at 978-623-8321. Otherwise, join us for music and dancing!

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.

10th Annual INTERFAITH PRAYER SHAWL TEA!
Communities Together, Inc., formerly The Greater Lawrence Council of Churches, and St. Augustine Parish in Andover will sponsor the 10th Annual Interfaith Prayer Shawl Tea at St. Augustine Parish, Center for Education and Ministry, 35 Essex Street, Andover on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 from 2 to 3:30 pm. Please join us for light refreshments as we celebrate the Prayer Shawl Ministry and offer shawls for a blessing by clergy. Our speaker, Colette Crowley, Chaplain at Lowell General Hospital, has entitled her remarks, “Wrapped in Love.” Anne Daly, LICSW, Social Worker at Edgewood Retirement Community, will share “Reflections on the Prayer Shawl Tea and Ministry.” This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP by Thursday, September 12 to the St. Augustine Parish office (Klara) at: 978-475-0050 x37 or klarapvajda@gmail.com.

Women’s Connection FONDUE PARTY
Join us on Sunday, October 6 at 4:00pm for our second annual Fondue Party at Lisa Guy’s house. Women of all ages are invited. Chocolate and cheese fondues will be provided, you bring delicious items to dip! More details to come.

PFLAG
The Merrimack Valley chapter of PFLAG (a support group for parents, family, and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons) meets here at South Church on the fourth Tuesday, of each month, from 7-9pm. Our informal and relaxed meetings are a great place for information and support. All are welcome and conversations are completely confidential. For more information contact: merrimackvalleypflag@gmail.com or call: 781-891-5966.

Have you considered South Church in your will?
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
David Welbourn, Moderator
Anne Hemmer, Treasurer

Phone: 978-475-0321
www.southchurch.com
scand@southchurch.com