

# the Torch Bearer

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## Happy Birthday South!

In 1662, a Royal Charter was obtained uniting New Haven with Connecticut into one colony. Most importantly it constituted the colony as a self-governing corporation – a Commonwealth. So generous were the terms of the charter (which was based upon Reverend Thomas Hooker’s sermon “Fundamental Orders”) that no changes to it were required when Connecticut ceased to be a Colony of England and became one of the United States of America.

By 1685, Reverend John Whiting was our minister and James II the new King of England. James II wanted more centralized control and to achieve this he commissioned Sir Edmund Andros as “Governor of all New England and New York.” Andros was to rule all of the colonies in a single “Dominion of New England.” In his new position, Governor Andros demanded the return

of Connecticut’s charter as it allowed colonists far too high a degree of self-governance. After trying several times to obtain it Andros finally marched into Hartford in 1687 with an armed force in order to seize it. This led to the “Charter Oak incident.” Though never fully proven as absolute fact, this legend remains one of the most exciting stories in Hartford and Connecticut history. The story is told as follows.

On October 27, 1687, Governor Andros’ party meets with Connecticut Governor Robert Treat and other colonists at Butler’s Tavern in Hartford (now the site of the State Capitol building). Andros again demands immediate surrender of the charter. Governor Treat responds with a long speech in defense of the colony. The ensuing debate went on for hours. Darkness fell early, as it does at that time of year, and when it did the charter was on the table

between the opposing parties when suddenly the room went dark. Candles were sought out but after they were lighted the charter was gone. Outside Butler’s Tavern was Captain Joseph Wadsworth who somehow came into possession of the charter and took it upon himself to hide it safely inside a majestic white oak tree (“The Charter Oak”) on Samuel Wyllys’ (one of the magistrates of the colony) estate. The treaty was never surrendered to the king.

On February 22, 2017, the Second Church of Christ, Hartford (South Congregational Church) celebrated its 347<sup>th</sup> birthday! We are so blessed to be serving the Lord in this city and a part of such a storied history. Only three years before we are 350 years old! That will be a party! I promise you !

## Daylight Savings Time

Don’t forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night April 11! You wouldn’t want to miss church!



## Men At Work

Men At Work is starting the 8-session “Honor Begins at Home” Bible study based on the great 2011 film *Courageous* this February 24 at 7:00 pm in the Youth Center. Join us as we work on being godly men, fathers, and husbands.



## Tree of Life Ministry



*"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb." (Jeremiah 1:5)*

We were so excited to launch the **Tree of Life Ministry** here at South Congregational Church on January 29.

We are collaborating with Caring Families Pregnancy Services ([carefamilies.com](http://carefamilies.com)) of Willimantic, CT and Christians Alliance ([christiansalliance.org](http://christiansalliance.org)) of Middletown, CT to offer a variety of support services for women here at South.

Caring Families Pregnancy Services will be sending a free on-site ultrasound mobile van to our parking lot on a regularly scheduled basis. Christians Alliance will be training us about their "Love Them Both" mentoring ministry. Our own **Carol Bracken** will also be leading a women's study called "Forgiven and Set Free." We will also house a "Baby Boutique" with baby clothes, diapers, and other helpful items for expectant moms.

The **Tree of Life Ministry** is designed to let women in our community know that South Church is not a place of judgment and condemnation but of grace, support, encouragement, and love.

If you are interested in helping please email Pastor Adam ([pastoradam@scchartford.org](mailto:pastoradam@scchartford.org)) or Carol Bracken ([caroljbracken@gmail.com](mailto:caroljbracken@gmail.com))



Caring Families  
Pregnancy Services

Christians Alliance

## New Beginnings at South

So far I have been here 7 months, and I have learned to love what is South Congregational Church. Though I have not started 2017 in a way I wanted it to be, God has been showing His faithfulness, His love through hard times, and His Grace when I felt down. As for what is Going on in the Youth and Young Adult Ministries, we have seen growth and obstacles a like. God is showing me a path to take with them, and I need to make sure I am not getting ahead of what I see is to come!

In December we had Duckpin at Duck on the Ave as the last day of 2016 goodbye! recently we partnered with other churches at a roller skating event at the Roll-A-Ron with prizes and fun. We had over 50 people show up to enjoy a family time of fun! Soon we will be doing another Duckpin night in March!

Lost & Found (Youth Group) has been faithfully meeting on Saturday mornings 10am-12pm unless there is a church event or some activity during that time frame. When the weather is good, we try and clean a street near the church for about 40 minutes then we meet in the youth room or my office (depending on numbers) to do a Bible Study together. We go through the Bible, stories, and even certain shows, in which we share issues/situations that reflect our lives. Growth comes from knowing God first and rejecting the World (Rom 12:1-2).

*"Often God does things in our life that may not fit our grid of 'normal'. But normal to God isn't a set formula; its obedience no matter what the cost, and total dependence upon Him for the outcome"*

**Eric Ludy**

A new plan in the making... after much prayer and talking with some people at church, The Orchard will be a Friday Worship Service geared toward Youth and Young Adults. The "O" will be focused on Worship and Preaching/Teaching. Eventually the hope is to see Life Groups, called ROOTED, that will be formed as the numbers grow. We do have needs:

- Worship members for worship, if you know someone who wants to participate please let them know and email me: [cmontijo@scchartford.org](mailto:cmontijo@scchartford.org)
- People to do sound, greeting, staff to help out and clean up
- People who want to teach/preach

The goal is to start this service in April. March will be a time to advertise!

As I have faced much Satanic attacks so far, I have grown to understand that Hartford is a huge battlefield. As each situation has weighed heavy, I have surrendered to the Lord, and He has taught me something new about Him and myself. If we are not being attacked at some times in our life then we are most likely not walking God's way. Satan is not going to attack someone who is walking the way of the World. We are fighting Satan's world, are you fighting with God or against Him?

**Dido Montijo**

## Children & Family Ministry

Happy March friends! The snow is melting and so are our hearts...for Jesus! God is working so mightily all around us. I see Him in the faithful servants who teach, serve breakfast, pray with, and play with our kids. I see Him in the parents who are supporting their children being here. Children's and Family Ministries' **main goal is; to share the love of Jesus, and partner with our families to grow kids "the way Jesus did; in mind, body, spirit and with everyone."** (Luke 2:52)

"Jesus is the same...yesterday, today and forever..." (Hebrews 13:8)

### Past:

January and February were fun months for family events with ice skating and roller skating as highlights! We were able to attend the last day of skating at Bushnell Park in the beginning of January. Always lots of healthy fun for our kids. We are so invested in this program that this year, Children and Youth Ministries made a donation to help keep this *city wide free program* open a week later in the season. Roller skating was a time to partner with other churches and has us talking about 'next time' already! Door prizes, Christian music, great conversations, and just a couple of spills made for a great time on the first Saturday in February!



### Present:

We are so blessed with several new babies and toddlers in our nursery as well as a fun-filled preschool room with many active 3-5 year olds. Those kids in 1st to 5th grades join Solid Ground for praise and prayer after Sunday school and then leave to have fun together at Third Day in the gym, and/or playing board games-growing in relationships. If you would like to work with ANY OF THESE AGE GROUPS once a month during the 11 am service or be a substitute for a 9:30

am Sunday School Class when needed, please contact me at [vhuffman@scchartford.org](mailto:vhuffman@scchartford.org) or 860-293-2484. You will be so blessed by these precious kids! (Check out our Psalm 139-Snowflake bulletin board next to the parlor.)

### Future:

Step-Up Tag Sale-Beginning on Sunday February 26 on the stage in Gray Hall-on going, every Sunday- all funds to support our **step-up!** campaign to fix our beautiful brownstone entrance on Main St. We have lots of children's books for sale! If you can help with overseeing the sales anytime on Sunday mornings, please let me know.

Bowling on Saturday March 18, 1-3 pm Families, Children and Teens...all who are able...more details to come!

Family Easter Celebration on Saturday April 15, 3-5 pm. Bring your own hardboiled eggs, we'll decorate them, make crafts, have an egg hunt and hear the real reason for our joy! He is Risen!

New Wing Ready-Easter on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> after lots of needed repairs and updates and organization-our children's area called "The Garden", should be ready for the kids by Easter! We are excited-come and visit anytime!

Spring is such a beautiful season-we see new life all around us. As we enjoy this time may the life of Jesus be blossoming in us through the Holy Spirit, and may we share His light and love through our whole beings!

With Love and Joy in Serving with you

### Vicki Huffman



## Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 9 (9:30 am & 11:00 am)

Holy Thursday

Thursday, April 13 (7:00 pm)

Family Easter Celebration

Saturday, April 15 (3:00 pm - 5:00 pm)

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 16 (9:30 am & 11:00 am)

## M25 Haiti

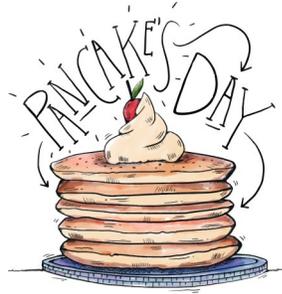
We are still trying to raise money for the rebuilding project for our sister church in Camp Perrin Haiti after Hurricane Matthew devastated our building. We still need to raise about \$10,000 to reach our goal. Part of this money will be raised by our shoe drive. You can donate your used shoes of any kind to our drive and Funds2org will donate money for those shoes. They can be boots, heels, sneakers, flip flops, etc.. any kind, any size, any condition... the only stipulation is that they have to be a pair. We need to collect 300 bags of 25 pairs and Funds2org will donate \$3000 to our cause. We are also collecting clothing, bedding, curtains, and other misc. household goods. We will be bringing these to our local Savers and they pay us by the pound for these items. These two drives will be continuing for the next two months, so get your stuff in and help us out.

We have a team of approximately eleven people right now but there is always room for one more. If you have it on your heart or you know someone who might be interested in going, have them talk to me or someone on the team and we can make it happen for them.

Lastly, continue to pray for our team and our friends in Haiti. God wants to hear from you!

**Renée Söderberg**

## Pancake Day & Easter Eggs



The Easter egg tradition may have celebrated the end of the privations of Lent. In the Medieval Europe, eggs were forbidden during Lent as well as other traditional fast days. During the strict Lenten fast of forty days no eggs were eaten. It was traditional to use up all of the household's eggs before Lent began, which established the tradition of Pancake Day. This was because, in Christian times, the egg was a symbol of new life just as a chick might hatch from the egg.

An Orthodox tradition related to Easter celebrations is the presenting of red colored eggs to friends while giving Easter greetings. The custom derives from a legend about Mary Magdalene and her role in Christianity. As the story goes, after the Ascension of Christ, Mary went to the Emperor of Rome and greeted him with "Christ is risen", whereupon he stated, "Christ has not risen no more than that egg is red" (pointing to an egg on his table). After making this statement it is said the egg immediately turned blood red. She then began preaching Christianity to him.

The egg itself is a symbol of the Resurrection. While being dormant it contains a new life sealed within it.

## Sewing Smiles

Just a friendly reminder that on the first Saturday of each month we gather in the Elmore Room for Sewing Smiles. Currently we are working on our "Freedom Bags." These are sustainable feminine hygiene kits for the girls in Camp Perrin Haiti. We need many hands to finish this project. No sewing experience necessary. We will be working from 9-3, come for an hour or for the day. The next two events are March 4 and April 1. Join us and make a difference in a young girls life. Anyone, any age, any gender encouraged to attend. (Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent.)

**Renée Söderberg**

## Happy Birthday!

### March

05 - **Sally Keating**  
 06 - **Sarah Carucci**  
 09 - **Davie Badillo**  
 12 - **Lomar Brown**  
 16 - **Erik Savery**  
 17 - **Beulah Williams**  
 18 - **Renée Söderberg**  
 22 - **Dave Ford**  
 26 - **Maureen Gainey**  
 27 - **Sharon Howes**  
 29 - **Joseph Ciarcia**

### April

02 - **Delano Paul**  
 06 - **Carol Navarrete**  
 13 - **Elaine Reid**  
 15 - **Caryn Pascale**  
 21 - **Kathleen Simon**