

# the Torch Bearer

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*Hold On! Spring Is Coming!*

Where is all that global warming when you need it? What a winter we have had! When we got through December without any appreciable snow I thought that perhaps we had dodged a bullet. Alas, it was not to be the case. Hello, February!

Nonetheless, with each passing day the earth gets closer and closer to the sun and thus, I promise, spring will arrive. Praise God!

With spring comes **Holy Week** which begins this year on **Palm Sunday** March 29. Following that, we invite everyone to come to our **Holy Thursday** service on April 2 at 7:00 pm.

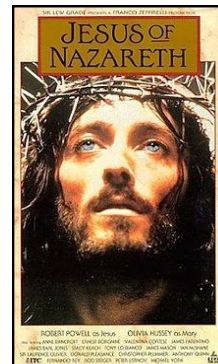


Again this year we will be recreating the Last Supper. I know you will be blessed!

On **Good Friday** we will be showing the second half of the film *Jesus of Nazareth*. This excellent 6-hour mini-series was originally broadcast in 1977 and remains a powerful telling of the story of Christ. If you want to join us for the first half we will be watching it in Bible Study on Wednesday March 25 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Then, on **Holy Saturday** we are holding our *Family Easter Celebration!* from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

**Resurrection Sunday** falls on April 4 and we will celebrate at both our 9:30 am and 11:00 am worship services.

Take this opportunity to invite family and friends to join you this year as we celebrate at South as we proclaim, **“He is risen! He is risen indeed!”** !



Who knows? They just might end up wanting to come back for the rest of spring as well as summer, fall, and winter! Pray!

## Welcome to the Family!

***“And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.”***

(Acts 2:47)

On February 22, 2015, South Church’s 345<sup>th</sup> birthday, we were greatly blessed on to welcome into our church family three new members: **Pamela Mautino, Winston Paul** and **Carlos Sanchez**. Congratulations and welcome!

Anyone who missed our New Member’s Classes and is interested in joining please contact the church office and we will be sure to let you know when they are scheduled next. Phone: (860) 249-8627. Email: [info@southchurchhartford.org](mailto:info@southchurchhartford.org).

## In the Garden

For many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white lily symbolizes purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life - the spiritual essence of Easter. Often called the “white-robed apostles of hope,” lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ’s agony.



On Easter morning we invite you, once again, to bring in a plant or flower (it doesn’t have to be a lily) and help us create an “Easter Garden” in our worship space. After the service, you are then welcome to take your plant home or deliver it to someone as an Easter gift. If we all bring something in it will be beautiful!

## Awesome God!

Perhaps you've had the opportunity of going to the Grand Canyon. If not I hope you get to go.

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to visit the Grand Canyon along with several other canyons. Each was different but each was filled with grandeur and wonder. When I think back on this experience, the thought of the breathtaking views of the Grand Canyon flood my mind with visual pictures of the spectacular views. Many say, "It's just a big hole;" not for me. As I watched an awesome sunset with the sunlight casting different hues on the canyon walls, my breath was taken away. With each passing minute the colors danced on the canyon walls and played a show of wonder.

My thought was no denying there was a God. How could there not be with all the grandeur of the canyon walls? It had to have been painstakingly planned. Having spent a couple of days in the canyon, I was able to experience a sunrise, a sunset, and the beauty of the wildlife along the rim of the canyon. Each time the view seemed different. It holds you spell-bound feeling like a sponge wanting to soak up all the beauty before

you. I felt a serenity enfold me and knew it must be God with me.

When Rich Mullins wrote the song *Awesome God* he must have experienced the wonder and grandeur of the Grand Canyon.

The chorus goes: Our God is an awesome God \* He reigns from heaven above \* With wisdom, power, and love \* Our God is an awesome God \* And when the sky was starless \* In the void of night \* Our God is an awesome God \* He spoke into the darkness \* And created light.

The ending of the song is: \* Too quickly forgotten \* That our God is an Awesome God.

*Carolyn Ford*

*Carolyn and her husband Dave are long time members of South Church. She currently serves as a Deacon.*

## Family Easter Celebration!

All South Church members and friends are invited to our annual Church Family Easter Celebration on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

There will be a "Family Craft," other crafts for kids, an egg hunt, snacks and a lesson for all on the real meaning of Easter!

Don't miss this fun event, and be sure to invite friends, especially those who don't have a church home. The warmth and love of this South Church event is sure to touch hearts. Please sign-up starting March 15 near the activity bulletin board so we know numbers for snacks and craft supplies. Contact **Vicki** if you'd like to help with planning, set-up or clean-up. Thanks in advance!



is taken from the Gospel of Luke 2:52, "*Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.*"

We are gathering downstairs in the Youth Center to study God's Word and pray together. So, ladies, please join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month from 10:00 am until noon for a time of sharing, caring, and encouraging one another as we grow in our faith.

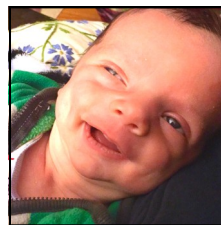
## Babies! Babies! Babies!

*"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."*

Psalm 127:3

We are blessed here at South Church to celebrate the gift of life! **Frank** and **Caryn Pascale** welcomed **Walter Frederick** on January 16, 2015.

**Jon** and **Sheila Hodges** are awaiting their first son (**Mabel** and **Ellie** a brother) in April.



**Rachel Porter** is expecting a son (**Selena** a baby brother) in May.

**Mike** and **Christine Macaluso** (Christine sings in our Chamber Choir) are also expecting a son in May. Boys all around this time!

Congratulations to all! You are in our thoughts and prayers.

## Matthew 6:3-4

Thank you to the faithful South Church couple who donated the funds to purchase a "breastology bag" for the ladies at our sister church in Camp Perrin, Haiti.

This interactive teaching tool is used for individual and group learning. Six individual models contained inside illustrate breast anatomy, frequent locations of harmful lumps, how to feel for changes, and the difference between fibrocystic and harmful lumps.



## Ladies 2:52

We have a new women's life group now meeting twice a month. Our name

## Support Your Church! It's Easy!

Beyond making financial gifts and volunteering your time there is another way you can support your church.



If you make **goodsearch** your default online web browser, every single time you do a search, South Church gets a penny! Just register with [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and choose South Congregational Church. That's it. Also, if you use **goodshop** you sometimes can get up to 30% off your purchase. Goodsearch uses Yahoo so you are getting a great web browser and supporting your church at the same time.

Calling all Amazon.com shoppers (I love Amazon.com!). Simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and choose South Congregational Church



as your charity. When you do South Church receives .05% of your purchase.



Likewise, if you buy or sell on eBay you can support South Church as well. Just go to [givingworks.ebay.com](http://givingworks.ebay.com) for more information and be sure to select South Congregational Church as your charity of choice.

All of these services are free to you. It just takes a few minutes of your time to register. After that it's all automatic. If you can't figure out how to do it ask anyone under the age of 25 to help you. That's what I did! Then, you can simply search and shop away and support your church at the same time. It's easy!

### Worship & Prayer Night

We have a very special Worship & Prayer Night coming up on March 16 at 7:00 pm. Without giving too much away, we will be creating a community art project together during this service! It's sure to be a powerful and unifying experience for our church, so please join us in Archibald Chapel for worship, prayer, unity, and creativity.

### Kid's Klub Afterschool

Children & Family Ministries is excited for the future as we transition from an evening Kid's Klub Program, to an afternoon program with a focus on helping our elementary aged children with their homework. We hope to be underway in March with a new format.

The program will be held on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm followed by dinner from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

The first hour will be homework help and/or reading, as well as learning



games. Volunteers are still needed as we desire a 1/1 or 1/2 ratio of volunteer to students. Other activities in addition to

homework will include Bible lessons, crafts, and life skills.

Please pass the word along to others who would like to make a difference in a child's life.

We already have 16 children registered but can not begin until we have a sufficient number of volunteers.

If you can help just once a week on Wednesdays, it's not too late. Please contact **Vicki Huffman**.

Let's make a difference in our city by helping our children, partnering with their parents and school teachers and helping them succeed in school.

### Worship Team

We are always looking for people interested in serving on our Worship Team in Solid Ground. If



you sing, play an instrument, dance, can help with audio/visual, computers, or feel called to join our Prayer Team just let our Director of Worship Arts - **Sheila Hodges** know. God can use you! You can Email her at: [sheila.reeve.hodges@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.reeve.hodges@gmail.com)

### Walk Against Hunger

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Walk Against Hunger takes place on May 3, 2015. If you

are interested in participating please call the church office and let us know.

### There Is Room at the Inn

The Residence Inn in Rocky Hill, CT received the "Property of the Year - Extended Stay" award at the Annual General Manager's Conference in Austin, Texas last month. The Rocky Hill GM is our own **Jonathan Hodges!** Congratulations Jon and all the staff in Rocky Hill who worked hard to earn it.

### Got Ideas?

The Fellowship Ministry Team (FMT) was formed by our Church Council in order to plan fellowship activities throughout the coming year which will bring all members of the Church together.

Current members of the FMT are: **Sheila Hodges, Meghan Sousa, Pat Rossi and Darlene Ambrose.**

We want to extend an invitation to anyone who would like either to join us or submit any fellowship ideas for consideration.

If you are interested or have any ideas to share please do not hesitate to contact any of the Fellowship Ministry Team members.

## The Amicus Club

Amicus is a Latin word which means literally, “friend of the human race.” It is also the name of the girls’ teen Sunday school class here at South Church taught by **Renée Söderberg, Khareem Foster** and **Jessica Battistini**.



These friends gathered together for a sleep over on Friday, February 20. **Jess Isberg, Sarah Savery, Mickey Mamrique, Veronica Williams, and Brayonna Corlette** enjoyed fellowship, made pizza, made chocolate chip cookies - which were then turned into ice cream sandwiches! - games, as well

as watching the movie *God’s Not Dead*.

Then on Saturday morning the girls all got up and volunteered at Sparrow Ministry before going home for some sleep. Lord knows no one ever sleeps at a sleepover!

Thank you **Renée Söderberg** and **Jess Sasseville** for leading this event. So much fun was had by all that more will be scheduled in the future. If you are a teen girl you may want to check out the Amicus Club on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am to 10:30 am down in the Elmore Room.



## Please Take Note!

This is the last issue of the **TorchBearer** to be mailed. Beginning with the May/June issue the **TorchBearer** will be available in the lobby as well as online at our website: [www.southchurchhartford.org](http://www.southchurchhartford.org)

## Happy Birthday

### March

01 - **Meghan Sousa**  
 06 - **Sarah Carucci**  
 07 - **Joseph Diaz**  
 08 - **Meredith Campbell**  
 09 - **Davie Badillo**  
 12 - **Lomar Brown**  
 16 - **Erik Savery**  
 17 - **Beulah Williams**  
 18 - **Renée Söderberg**  
 19 - **Helen VanMeter**  
 20 - **Paul Certo**  
 22 - **Dave Ford**  
 26 - **Maureen Gainey**  
 27 - **Sharon Howes**  
 28 - **Alice Doherty**  
 29 - **Joseph Ciarcia**

### April

02 - **Delano Paul**  
 06 - **Carol Navarete**  
 13 - **Elaine Reid**  
 15 - **Caryn Pascale**