

the Torch Bearer

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The Pastor's Report !

Holy Week 2017 was blessed! On **Holy Thursday**, we again presented "The Upper Room" a live recreation of the Last Supper. The service was well attended and anointed. **Drew Pasler** did an outstanding job as Jesus this year. **Dido** and I were also able to join as Roman Soldiers. Thank you to **Renée Söderberg** again for handling wardrobe and to the cast:



Jesus: **Drew Pasler**
Peter: **Phil Shattuck**
Thomas: **Jerry Hancock**
Andrew: **David Talone**
John: **Michael Serrano**
Judas: **Eric Savery**
James (Son of Zebedee): **David Casiano**
Philip: **Kevin Petruzielo**
Bartholomew: **Bob Jones**
Matthew: **Nick Mangan**
James (Son of Alphaeus): **Mike Savery**
Thaddeus: **Tony Casiano**
Simon the Zealot: **Jeremiah Sanchez**

Plans to include some ladies, as well as perhaps adding a scene from the garden of Gethsemane, in our service next year are already being considered. On **Good Friday** there were a dozen or so who gathered in Archibald Chapel for prayer, reading of Scripture and other works as well as a short film. A modern day parable called "Most." We ended the service by pushing nails through

parchment paper upon which we had written some sins in need of forgiveness and then nailing them into the cross on our front lawn. On **Holy Saturday** was our "Family Easter Celebration!" **Miss Vicki** and her team did an amazing job! We colored eggs, made a craft (an Easter wreath), created an "Easter mobile" out of a Twinkie, a peeps bunny, York peppermint patties and marshmallows. We also played jellybean games outside and each child got a Easter basket full of goodies to take home. It was a wonderful family friendly event. On **Easter Sunday** we celebrated the risen Christ at both our 9:30 am and 11:00 am services. At the first service, our **Chamber Choir** was amazing (as they always are) as they led Handel's "Hallelujah!" chorus. At the second service, our **Praise Team** was on fire with "Let It Rise" and "Shout Unto God!" The Easter Garden was beautiful as well. Thank you to all who worshiped here on Easter Sunday! It was a special blessing to have some first-time visitors with us. Some, simply because our Main Street doors were open! Praise God!



Also on Easter Sunday, at 4:00 pm, I was blessed to officiate at the wedding of **Michael & Joanna Torres**. Joanna told me that in lieu of a honeymoon this year they have decided to honeymoon next year in Haiti as missionaries on our **M²⁵** Haiti Mission Team! **Michael** and **Joanna**, along with their daughters **Haley** and **Makayla**, are a wonderful addition to the South Church family.

The Pastor's Report !

We have a “new” van at our disposal thanks to Grace Academy! GA applied for a grant for a new van for the specific purpose of use by South Church. It is a 2012 fourteen passenger van with low mileage. Thank you GA!

We are also extremely grateful to **John** and **Lita Heinmiller** for their generous donation so we can purchase some badly needed new kitchen equipment. We will soon have a new griddle, stove, and induction range for newly named “Cary’s Kitchen” (after Cary Hoge Meade).

The 2017 **National Day of Prayer** will be hosted here at South Congregational Church on Thursday, May 4th, at 7:00 pm. Invite someone to come and pray for the church, our city, state, and nation.

Being Rooted

I have discovered since being a part of South Church that we are missing a mission and vision for the identity of South. We may have our own ideas what South is to us, but we do need to find out what Identity that God has given South in Hartford. That being said...

I had a plan for youth and young adult ministry, and well as God does... He changed the plan. Lost & Found has been growing, not necessarily by numbers but seeing the youth being challenge and grow spiritually. We have had a lot of serious conversations that has opened doors into their lives. My hope is that they are discovering how God can be part of their lives.

Cultivate (Christian Education) on Sunday mornings has seen a lot of cool topics for the youth and young adults to discuss. Beginning of 2017, we went through a series, led by Delano, on Christians perspective on dealing with money and real life. It was very successful. Recently we began the journey on God, Dating, and Relationships. We separated Boys and Girls where Michael and I lead the Boys while Joanna leads the Girls. We have had some great conversations, thoughts, questions, and different perspectives.

Pastor Adam's Community Calendar

- 03/24 ~ I met with a couple of people from the **Hartford City Council** and **Merrill Lynch**. I gave them a tour of our facility and made them aware of the ministry going on at 277 Main Street.
- 03/30 ~ Attended the **Urban Alliance** Pastor's Luncheon. Leaders from over twenty churches and non-profit parachurch ministries were there.
- 04/18 ~ Attended the **Faith Based Initiative** meeting at Iglesia Nuevo Comienzo 514, Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, CT.
- 04/27 ~ Will be attending the **Urban Alliance** “U-nite” event.
- 05/04 ~ We are hosting the **National Day of Prayer** here at SCC 7:00 pm.
- 05/19 ~ Speaking at the **Overseed Conference** at FCC Wethersfield.

I am blessed to have been invited by **Overseed Ministries** (www.overseed.org) to speak at their conference on Friday, May 19, at First Church of Christ, Wethersfield, CT. Overseed's vision is to see vital, growing historic churches in every New England town, reaching their communities for Christ.

Remember South Church in your prayers! We have so much to do this year.



The Orchard, a new addition, began on April 21st 2017. This will only meet 2x a month on Friday nights at 7pm-9pm. It will be a Worship service geared toward youth to young adults (18-30). This will be the umbrella of our Youth and Young Adult Ministries for South Church. Our hope is to build a community where youth and young adults can find fellow peers they can connect with and worship together. Our worship time will be an extended time frame where there will be worship songs and then slots where the youth can share their talents in music, rap, dance, etc.

Dido Montijo

Children & Family Ministry

Hi Friends, Happy Spring!! The following is the report that I submitted to the Church Council on April 25th. Look for our coming events for May - June on our upcoming calendar.

Kids Klub Afterschool - we continue to meet every Wednesday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:45 pm. We have 6 tutors and 11 children. We have tried to have another day of afterschool but at this point we do not have enough volunteers to add Mondays. We will see what October 2017 brings as we seek to add another day to our program. *We have made a connection with Batances School and are looking forward to a partnership with them.* We are currently studying patience in Kids Klub...and have also studied responsibility and the Easter story this quarter. We took the klub kids to see Beauty and the Beast during their school vacation week at Front Street theater.



Our kitchen ladies!!

Renée and Kelly

Sunday Mornings-The Garden- A Hot Breakfast is served and provided by Kelly Travers and **Renée Söderberg** each Sunday morning for all children from preschool through grade 8. Other members have donated gifts of food and paper goods to supplement the budget which does not cover it all. The last week of each month is called "Family Sunday". On these weeks, we are encouraging families to worship together. There are no van rides and no breakfast on these weeks. We have "worship bags" made by

Renée, for children who need some tools to stay quiet during the parts of the service they can't participate in. We are excited to see a few families starting to join us on these weeks and we believe that attendance will increase. *We are excited to open "The Garden" area this Sunday, April 30th—all are invited to take a look at our new kid friendly area!*

Nursery - We have added five new volunteers this quarter, **Susan Taylor, Melissa Petruzielo, Ashley Burke, Jess Mangan** and **Lydia Ciccarelli**. We are pleased to welcome these workers to our team. We are still seeking a couple more adults to make our schedule complete. *I will be having a training "breakfast" soon to give an orientation to our new volunteers, and refresh-er to others.*

Preschool - **Mary Symkowitz** and **Linda Porter** continue to teach and encourage our little ones at both 9:30 am and 11 am.

Elementary-We have 30 active children in our elementary area. Grades 1 and 2 are taught by **Allie Evans** and **Lisa Jones**.

I teach the 3rd-5th grades with the help of **Veronica** and **David Mingolelli**. *"Let the little Children come to me,..." - Matthew 19:14*

Third Day - This portion of our morning is a fellowship time for kids as they have already had their lessons at 9:30 am. They play in the gym or outside, enjoying their church friendships- or play board games, paint nails-just have fun and a snack. *More adult assistants are needed to play with the kids, build relationships and make sure they stay safe during this time!* **Bailey Savery, Erik Savery** and **David Casiano** are currently assisting, and enjoy serving.

Solid Ground - Children who are 2nd grade and older join us for the beginning of worship for singing, offering, praying, and **Pastor Adam's** "Next Generation" children's message. Then they proceed to Third Day in the Garden

Children's Ministry Strategy Meeting - meets every 2nd Tuesday to help plan and develop programs for our ministry. At the last meeting, we went into depth on how to help our kids raise money for camp. **Pamela Mautino** and **Vicky Paddilla** have already begun with having bake sales on some Sunday morning selling items our parents have made. Great start with \$400 raised on Easter! It is \$350 per child-we would like to bring 20 children to the Junior week. *We also have set up a "fundraising bulletin board" to help support our kids going to camp as well. It is on the wall next to Mead Parlor.*

Summer Intern - **Brittany Montijo** will be our intern this summer for 15 hours for 13 weeks. It is great because she has skills to bring — marketing, communication and computer skills specifically. Brit also gets along great with the kids, and has already been volunteering MANY hours helping me get organized to open our wonderful new area called "The Garden" in the former 'Hands on Hartford' area.

Please get in touch by email or phone to join our team or with questions or suggestions.

Enjoy the new birth all around us...and join us for *worship on Sundays at either 9:30 am or 11:00 am.*

With Joy in Serving with you all,

Vicki Huffman

vuffman@scchartford.org

860-293-2484



Brittany Montijo, our summer intern paints in "The Garden"!

Step Up-date

The **Step Up!** campaign continues. We already have commitments in excess of \$17,000! A church member who wishes to remain anonymous recently gave \$7,000!



Praise God! On Earth Day, Sunday, April 23, we began selling South Church shopping totes for \$5.00. Tell your friends they can help our **Step Up!** campaign and save the planet at the same time with a reusable shopping tote instead of using plastic! I hope to have a “thermometer” posted soon so we can track our progress.

Sewing Smiles

We are in need of some sewers! We are trying to finish our Freedom Bags for the girls in Haiti. We need some ladies to come and help us sew the pads. These are sustainable hygiene kits for the girls. If you don't know how to sew, but want to learn, we can help you. All levels of experience welcome! We will also need some non-sewers as well; there are always jobs for you too!

Our May date will be the second Saturday, but normally we meet on the first Saturday of each month.

Renée Söderberg

Cooking with Christ

Our kitchen has been a busy place lately. We have about 6-10 people (men, women, and children) cooking with us on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:30 pm. We have been creating meals, desserts and snacks. On April 26th we spent 5 hours making sweet dips to help with the M25 Haiti Mission team for the Daffodil Festival. It was a great time of cooking and fellowship!

We are very excited because soon we will have our new ovens! Our current system is tired and ready for retirement. It has been a little bit of a challenge cooking in the ovens and using the stovetop, but that is about to change. Looking forward to what is going to come out of the kitchen next!

Renée Söderberg

M25 Haiti

We are gearing up for our trip. We head to Haiti June 23rd and return on June 30th. Our team this year is **Pastor Adam, Sarah Savery, Jeff Savery, Linda Porter, Doris Duggins, Drew Pasler, Andre Sasseville, Patrice Howell** and me, **Renée Söderberg**. We are excited to go back and somewhat nervous about what condition we will find our beloved church in. We will be helping our friends rebuild their building along with some hygiene training and Bible lessons with the children.

We are still in need of a few items for the trip: Hand Sanitizer Wipes, Shampoo (lots of bottles), girls panties (12-16) and Ladies panties (5-7). We also need sandwich size zip lok bags. Of course we are still taking cash donations for building supplies for when we are down there. If you have any questions about our needs, please email me m25Haiti@gmail.com or call (207)852-6545.

Renée Söderberg

Happy Birthday!

May

01 - **Robert Avery**
Darlene Lisella
 03 - **Charles Webster**
 07 - **Adriana Rotondo**
 09 - **Garrett Nielsen**
 13 - **Rose Hubbard**
 17 - **Allison Evans**
Candido Montijo
 18 - **Christopher**
Hammond
 23 - **Jennifer Paul**
 24 - **Mike Savery**
 26 - **Louise Berardino**
Linda Porter

June

01 - **Frank Pascale**
 04 - **David Happ**
 07 - **Marc Howes**
 08 - **Charity Chambers**
 09 - **Tony Casiano**
 12 - **Ed Grandahl**
 20 - **Janis Stewart**
 21 - **David Monzeglio**
 22 - **Susan Clark**
 23 - **Mary Moffat**
Ginny Pratt
Deb Robertson
 25 - **Carmen Berardino**
Crystal Revelle
 30 - **Lynda O'Connell**
Fanfarelli