

the Torch Bearer

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A Tree is Identified by it's Fruit

A series of studies conducted by the Barna Research Group regarding the age at which people accept Christ as their Savior highlights the importance of having people invite Jesus into their heart as their Savior when they are young. They discovered that the probability of someone embracing Jesus as his or her Savior was 32 percent for those between the ages of 5 and 12; 4 percent for those in the 13 to 18 age range; and 6 percent for people 19 or older.

In other words, if people do not em-

brace Jesus Christ as their Savior before they reach their teenage years, the chance of their doing so at all is slim.



This is why Children and Youth Ministry is so important to the body of Christ - the church - and why we are dedicated here to sowing seeds at South.

Jesus says in Matthew 12:33, ***"A tree is identified by its fruit."*** So, here at South Congregational Church we are as committed to planting seeds of faith in fertile soil (our children) in 2015 as we have ever been. To that end there are

several ways in which you are invited to help this summer.

Lakeside Camp: June 21 - 27

- ◆ Volunteers are needed to be Camp leaders at this overnight camp for children entering 2nd - 6th grades.

Vacation Bible School (VBS):

August 10 - 14 (5:30 pm - 8:30 pm)

- ◆ This week long adventure is for children 4 years old to entering 6th grade. We need help with: music, crafts, Bible stories, games, snacks, and of course drama!

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He Belongs to the Lord!

"I asked the Lord to give me this boy, and he has granted my request. Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will belong to the Lord his whole life."

1 Samuel 1:27-28

Hannah brought Samuel to the Temple and dedicated him to



godparents. Congratulations to all!

God. Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the Temple and dedicated Him to God. We celebrate with **Frank and Caryn Pascale** as they did the same with their son. On April 26, 2015, **Walter Frederick Pascale** was dedicated to the Lord. Praise God! **Kimberly Lane** and **Ryan Dafgek** are Walter's

Prayer Breakfast

South Church is inviting our community to a wonderful morning of prayer. We are holding a prayer breakfast here on **May 30 at 10:30 am**. Our plan is to have several pastors get up and pray over the city and then we will be having **Pastor Joel Cruz** will be our keynote speaker offering a message.

This event is a fundraiser which will help send the Hartford children of South Church to Lakeside Christian camp this summer. So, please join us in for a powerful morning of prayer, worship, and fellowship as one body of Christ standing in confidence knowing Jesus will break the various chains that are giving Hartford a bad reputation. Mark this date in your calendars my friends!

~ **Matthew Siracusa & Delano Paul**

A Tree is Identified by it's Fruit (cont.)

Summer Sunday Mornings

- ◆ *Nursery Care* continues at both 9:30 am and 11:00 am for infants to 3 year olds.
- ◆ *The Third Day* (formerly "Children's Church") takes place in the Bryant Room during Solid Ground for children 4 years old - 6th grade.

If you are not available for Camp or VBS you can still help. It costs \$200 to send leader to Camp and \$300 to send a youth. Any size donation is sowing a seed and it will produce fruit! Donations can be made out to: South Church (write "Children's Ministry" in the memo line).

We are currently feeding 25-40 children breakfast every Sunday morning! And have up to 30 children attending *Third Day!*

All of these opportunities need lots of loving, creative, and passionate servants to make them successful. Please keep your eyes open for sign-up opportunities to help or contact **Vicki Huffman**. at the church office: (860) 249-8627 or email her at: vhuffman@southchurchhartford.org. Everyone can find a part to play, so pray about sowing seeds at South this summer!

"Let my teaching fall on you like rain; let my speech settle like dew. Let my words fall like rain on tender grass, like gentle showers on young plants."

Deuteronomy 31:32-47

Say, "Hi!" South Church

Jon, Sheila, Mabel and Ellie Hodges welcomed the arrival of a new son/brother on April 10, 2015. Say, "Hello!" to **West Gordon Hodges** - 9



lbs. 2 oz. Mom, dad and big sisters are all doing well. As

are grandparents **Chris and June Hodges!** Congratulations to all! They are all in our prayers and we can't wait to meet **West!**

Generation Sunday

On **June 14** we will celebrate another great year of Sunday School and the beginning of summer! Children will lead the worship at the 9:30 am Traditional Service and participate in Solid Ground. A church-wide picnic will follow at 12:30 pm – including a bouncy house!

Potluck Supper

You are all invited to a potluck supper on **Friday, May 15, 2015 at 6:00 pm**. We will enjoy food, fellowship and the **M²⁵** Haiti Mission Team will give a presentation on this year's trip to our sister church in Camp Perrin, Haiti.

Sign up to let us know that you're coming and what dish you're bringing.

Summer Vacation? Nah!

The Youth Ministry of South Church remains active Spring and Summer!

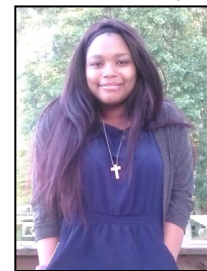
- ◆ **Hiking Club** (Open to any men in the church) begins in April and goes through October. See **Phil Shattuck** for dates and details.
- ◆ **30-Hour Famine: April 24-25** (Open to anyone in the church) Talk to **Abbi Menear** if you're interested.
- ◆ **Youth Xplosion! May 29 @ 7:00 pm**. South Church is hosting this great night of worship for youth. Adults are welcome too as we could use some volunteers to help with the flow and pray for people as they respond to the message! Talk to **Abbi Menear** if you're interested.
- ◆ **The Hartford Project: July 12-16** South Church is hosting THP again this year: Sign up ASAP if you want to come. This is a great time for our kids to give back to our community and experience God in a different way! ~ **Abbi Menear**, Director of Youth Ministry.

Bible Reading Marathon

If you are interested in the 2015 Bible Reading Marathon it takes place Thursday, May 7 - Wednesday, May 13 (8:00 am - 10:00 pm each day). Just contact the church office and let us know you want to participate and we'll be in touch.

Summer Intern

I am excited to announce our Children & Family Ministry summer intern this year is our own **Khareem Foster**.



Khareem grew up in the Caribbean and moved to the United States when she was a teen. She has a strong passion for Christ and children and currently serves as a tutor in the after school program. She is also studying Mechanical Engineering/Mathematics at Univ. of Hartford. Khareem joined South Church in October 2014. She is an amazing young woman and will be a great blessing. When you see her please welcome her to the team! ~ **Vicki Huffman**, Director of Children & Family Ministry.

Puerto Rican Day Parade

We will be celebrating with our Puerto Rican community this June 7! This is going to be fun and a fundraiser! Please contact the church office.

Time for Spring Cleaning!

It's time for **Spring Cleaning** and The Stewardship & Fund-raising Ministry Team wants to help you with it!

If you bring in and donate to South Church your used sporting goods – baseball, hockey, tennis, golf, lacrosse, and skiing equipment in particular – **Play It Again Sports** from West Hartford has agreed to come in and purchase all the items collected.



Just write your name on the items you bring in and drop it off at South Church before **May 18**. It's that easy. You can even receive a tax credit if you request one.

Now Buying

Downhill Shaped Skis Under 175cm
 Front Entry Ski Boots (except adult under size 25.0)
 Snowboard Boots (size 6- & 10+ only & Boa's)
 Hockey Skates (except sizes jr13, 1-5) & Figure Skates
 Lacrosse Equipment (small & medium)
 Winter Apparel & Snowshoes
 Cross Country Skis, Boots & Poles
 Golf: Proline Clubs & Complete Sets
 Baseball/Softball: Gloves & Bats
 Oversized Tennis Racquets

If you have any questions see: **Dave Talone** or **Delano Paul**.

Winter Youth Retreat

We had a great time on our retreat in Berea, NH. Thanks to everyone who helped make that trip possible! The theme was "Upside Down." We learned about how the way that we look at the world is often upside down from what God desires.



A few students (Out on the lake.) make first time commitments to Christ and a few others recommitted. I'm really excited to see how God continues to use this time we spent together to make an impact in our kids' lives. ~ **Abbi Menear**, Director of Youth Ministry.

Kid's Klub Afterschool

Children & Family Ministries has been running our afternoon tutoring program for a month now. It takes place on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm followed by dinner and has been a great success! Six faithful volunteers have been ministering to an average of 12-14 children every week and it has been amazing!

We are so blessed to be able to reach out to our kids, their parents and school teachers by helping them succeed in school.

A very special thank you to those who have made donations of food and especially to **Cathy Reitmyer** who has been cooking dinner regularly.

Help Wanted

We are always looking for people interested in serving our church in the Worship Arts Ministry. Specific needs include:

- ◆ **Choral singers** are needed for our Chamber Choir. Sundays: 8:45 am - 10:30 am.
- ◆ **Music Cataloguing.** Help is needed with filing choral music. Hours are flexible.
- ◆ **Computer Tech.** Solid Ground needs help with audio/visual. No experience is necessary as thorough training will be given. Knowledge of Mac computers would be helpful.
- ◆ **Ushers.** An usher is the first "official representative" seen when someone visits a church and their most important task is welcoming guests. Ushers are needed for the 11:00 am Solid Ground service. Other responsibilities include:

collecting tithes and offerings, tidying up and preparing the worship space, and distributing bulletins/programs.

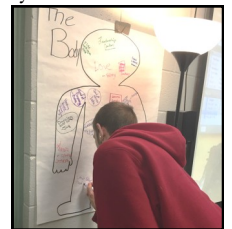
If you can help, please contact the church office as our Director of Worship Arts - **Sheila Hodges** is on maternity leave. God can use you!

Young Leaders @ SCC

We recently started a young leaders training group to develop the leadership skills that kids already have and empower them to lead in our church and our community. One exercise included asking all of the kids, "How do you fit into the body of Christ at South Church?" They then all wrote down what talents they have to bring into the church!

It's been really great so far and I'm seeing a lot of students stepping up and looking for ways to serve in the church.

Please encourage our kids to lead!
 ~ **Abbi Menear**, Director of Youth Ministry.



Torchbearer of the Month

There are so many South Church members quietly and faithfully holding the torch of Jesus by serving God here. In each of our upcoming newsletters, we will highlight one of these awesome people. One tireless volunteer and our first “Torchbearer of the Month” is **Mary Symkowicz**.

Mary began using her gifts here as soon as she started attending South in 2011. Her main passion is children, as well as underserved adults. She is dependable, loving, and creative. Mary has been a preschool Sunday school teacher for 4 years but when Sparrow Ministries began last spring, Mary found another fit for her calling and gifts. She faithfully comes every Saturday to minister to the hungry; cooking, serving, cleaning, and loving on those who attend.

Mary is wonderful example of someone who gives and gives and models her faith through her actions. She joined South Church in 2014. Mary is married and has adult children. She is a paraprofessional in the East Hartford School system. She continues to teach Sunday School, serve at Sparrow Ministry. She attends Bible Study, helped with Holy Thursday, is a leader at Vacation Bible School and was elected to the Church Council in 2015. Thank you Mary! You are an inspiration to us all! ~ **Vicki Huffman**, Director of Children & Family Ministry.



Baptism

If you would like to be baptized contact **Pastor Adam**: pastoradam@southchurchhartford.org. A baptism preparation course will be held on May 16 and the baptism's on May 31.

Happy Birthday!

May

01 - **Robert Avery**
Darlene Lisella
 03 - **Charles Webster**
 07 - **Adriana Rotondo**
 09 - **Garrett Nielsen**
 13 - **Rose Hubbard**
 17 - **Allison Evans**
 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**
 13 - **Mo Wyman**
 20 - **Janis Stewart**
 21 - **David Monzeglio**
 23 - **Mary Moffat**
Ginny Pratt
Deb Robertson
 24 - **Eric Jeffery**
 25 - **Carmen Berardino**
Crystal Revelle
 30 - **Lynda O'Connell**