

## State of the Church 2018

It is important to me that I begin by recognizing some specific people. For a majority of people, church is a one-day a week event - Sunday mornings, but this church operates Monday through Friday as well. We are so blessed to have such a professional and dedicated staff serving here at South Church. **Joanne Harrison** has been an administrative assistant here for over twenty years. **Leslie Watkins**, our Church Administrator, is rapidly closing in on that mark herself. Joanne and Leslie are a vital part of the team here at South. I know that Vicki, Dido, myself, and Moneca could not do what we have to do without their support. They deserve our thanks and appreciation. **Lauren Pouliot** was added to the team this year as our Director of Communications and has quickly made her presence known. Her creativity and skills are definitely going to help lead South Congregational Church into the next season of what God is planning for us. We are also blessed that, after **Christine Macaluso** accepted a call to serve over at St. Patrick/St. Anthony's, Lauren accepted the position she previously held of Choir Director. Our music ministry continues to be blessed by our Director of Worship Arts, **Ryan Dafgek**. Ryan's faithful leadership is a big part of South Church's spiritual and numerical growth in 2018. What can I say about our Site Superintendent, **Todd Case**? Rarely does one find someone so dedicated and passionate about a church of which he is not even a member. Todd does the work of two men, and does so all believing that this is God's house and needs to be treated as such. We gave Todd some help this year with the addition of **David Casiano**. As a part-time custodian, David has already proven his worth. He is a hard worker who takes pride in what he is asked to do, and often spends his own time "off the clock" finishing whatever needs to be done. David loves this church ("his church"), and Todd is grateful to know that he can count on him.

We had to say "goodbye" to a very special servant this year. **Vicki Huffman** has been our Director of Children and Family Ministries since 2011. Under Miss Vicki's leadership, Children and Family Ministries have realized significant growth in a number of ways. I have never met someone who has worked with children for so long, and still has such patience. Vicki never gives up on a child long after others (including me) would have. Believe me, there are more than one youth (whose names I will not mention) that would no longer be welcome in a program here if I had been the Director of Children and Family Ministry! On top of all that, I was truly blessed to have such a partner in ministry for seven years. I knew I could trust Vicki

to cover for me while I was on vacation or at school. She was willing to preach, visit, and do whatever else I asked of her. I have learned a lot from her over the years, and I will miss her.

If you ever doubted that God has South Church in the palm of His hand, how about as we prepared to face a future without Miss Vicki, He already knew who He wanted to succeed her. He led **Moneca Liz** to us this summer, and I have to say, rarely is one so certain about a hire. Miss Moneca is the right person for this job. She worked with Miss Vicki this fall, and is fully prepared to take the Children & Family Ministry to the next level. We are greatly blessed to have Moneca, Juan, and their family join God's church here at 277 Main Street. Dido, Moneca, and I look forward to an exciting year as your Servant Leadership Team (SALT team).

It is also important to recognize those we love and lost in 2018 - **Doc Bradley, Barbara Field, Helen Hubbard, and Vinny Santangelo**. I would ask for a moment of silence for these faithful servants, who came before us, who answered the call to serve, and upon whose shoulders we all stand. They are missed.

This year 2018, in many ways, was a year like other years. South Church continues to serve our community through a variety of outreach ministries such as the **Sparrow Ministry, Sewing Smiles, Covenant to Care for Children, the M<sup>25</sup> Haiti Mission, Kid's Klub Afterschool, Baskets of Blessings, Gifts of Grace, Vacation Bible School, the Tree of Life Ministry, and The Hartford Project**, just to name a few.

On November 17, we partnered with Safe Deposit Box, Inc. again to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Groom Room." Hundreds of people from our community came to 277 Main Street. They were served food, offered free clothing, haircuts, manicures, and a variety of other goods, information, and services. I think back to when Renée and I arrived twelve years ago. None of these ministries existed then. Sometimes we cannot see the forest for the trees. Today, South Congregational Church is an outreach ministry powerhouse in downtown Hartford. Praise God for what He is doing here!

In 2018, we added a **Men's Breakfast** on the second Saturday of every month, as well as an **Evangelism Ministry Team**. EMTs, after nine weeks of training, now hit the streets of Hartford to share the gospel and invite people to join us here at 277 Main Street. We also began partnering with **Hartford House of Prayer** to host Worship & Prayer nights every month.

*(cont. on p. 2)*



## Interesting Puritan (Congregationalist) Facts

- There was no religious freedom in New England. Quakers and Baptists were often forced to pay higher taxes or were banished.
- A committee assigned worshipers in New England their seats in the Meeting House. The best seats went to the minister and his family. African-Americans and Native Americans were assigned to the lowest-ranked seats, usually in second-floor galleries. Men and women sat on opposite sides.
- Puritans called Rhode Island “the latrine of New England” because it permitted all sorts of religious beliefs and made no religious requirements for citizenship.
- The American colonies became, in one historian’s words, “the most Protestant, Reformed, and Puritan commonwealths in the world.” When American colonists declared their independence in 1776, a full 75 percent came from Puritan roots.



Pastor Adam

## State of the Church 2018 (cont. from p. 1)

I fully believe God has responded to our faithfulness. He has provided the resources to fund this coming year’s budget, and He has led more folks to join this “Imperfect Christian community, dedicated to loving, serving, and equipping an imperfect world.” From November 01, 2017 to October 31, 2018, God added **Lydia Ciccarello, Daniel Dwyer, Carlos Flores, Yessenia Flores, Chris Pascale, Michael Serrano, Joanna Serrano, Haley Serrano, and Makayla Serrano** to our family. And, just last week, He added **Doris Duggins, Jordan Hegel, Juan and Moneca Liz** (and their children), **Lauren Pouliot, and Kyle Singerman** as well. That is nineteen people in one year and six days! Praise God for what He is doing here!

Matthew recorded for us in chapter 16 of his gospel, “... **Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. ‘Heaven forbid, Lord,’ he said. ‘This will never happen to you!’ Jesus turned to Peter and said, ‘Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap**

**to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s!’”**

In 2019, I begin my fourteenth year of pastoral ministry at South Congregational Church, and I must say, I have heard from some for that entire time say, “We’re going to have to close our doors soon. We’re going out of business. We’ll be out of money in five years!” (I’ve been hearing that for ten years). To those of you who think that, I say, “Get away from me, Satan! You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s!” South Congregational Church is not dying. We are growing! Nineteen people have joined in one year and six days! We are not going out of business. We have never been busier!

As we finish out 2018, I look forward with great anticipation to next year, and all that God has in store for us. Let us honor God first, as well as **Doc Bradley, Barbara Fields, Helen Hubbard, Vinny Santangelo**, and all the members of South Congregational Church who came before us beginning with the original thirty-one who gathered together in 1670, by continuing to grow in our faith, sharing our faith, and serving our community and beyond!

Pastor Adam

## Cookies Make Everything Better!

Congratulations to **Renée Söderberg**, the winner of the 2018 Cookie Crumble! Her almond layer cookies were so delicious!



We can also congratulate Renée on her Lemon Rosemary cookies, which earned her the runner-up spot in Wethersfield High School’s cookie contest.

## All That Jazz

Join us in the South Church Meeting House for a wonderful evening of music on Saturday, January 26 at 7:00pm, as we host **Bobby T’s Latin Jazz Quintet**. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and will be available at the door.



## Upcoming Sermons

### January Sermons



#### “Pray Like This”

January 06

Matthew 6:5-13

“When you pray...” implies that we will all pray. Who would pass up an opportunity to speak with God? He wants to hear from His children. Talk to Him. Do not ask others to speak for you.

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#### “EVOO”

January 13

2 Kings 4:1-7

God can take a common, everyday object (like you and me) and use it to work miraculous things. However, we cannot be passive. Couch potatoes and pew sitters experience few miracles.

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#### “The Powerball Plan”

January 20

Mark 12:41-44

Jesus sat down next to a collection box in the Temple. He watched as people placed their money inside. He praises a poor widow’s donation, and still this story was never about money.

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#### “Famous Amos”

January 27

Amos 1:9-10

God is good. God is just. God is the ultimate judge. He is also exceedingly patient. However, in order to be a good judge, He cannot let the guilty go free. That would be neither good nor just.

### February Sermons



#### “The Pause Button”

February 03

Mark 3:1-6

It is never the wrong day to do the right thing. If we have been truly transformed, we will not be able to pause being Christian on Monday morning.

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#### “Angels & Demons”

February 10

Matthew 17:14-18

Those who believe in heaven but not hell, angels but not demons, have only accepted half of the truth. Anything that is half-true is false.

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#### “Jeremy the Alien” (Valentine’s Day)

February 17

Romans 8:35-37

All babies are cute, right? Right? No? We do not love them any less though, do we? God’s love is similar. Regardless of the ugly things we might do, say, or think, He loves us anyway.

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#### “Be Careful What You Wish For”

February 24

John 5:1-9a

So many celebrities lament the attention that comes with fame. They hate that they no longer have any privacy. Wait. Did they not want more than anything to be famous? Be careful what you wish for, huh?

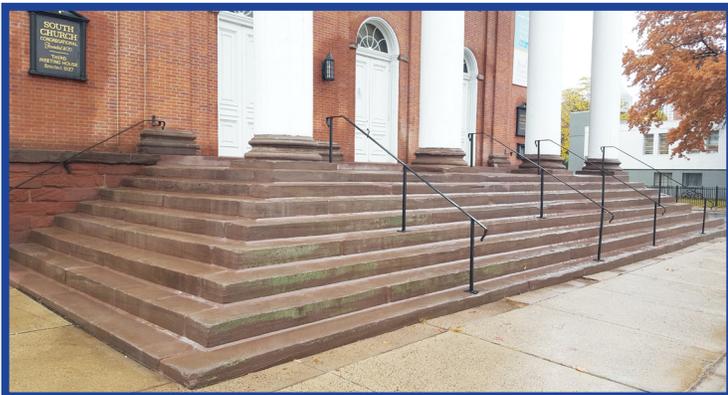
### Step Up is Complete

It was a long and tedious process, but the restoration and repair of our brownstone steps is complete. These are just a few of the photos taken to record the enormous amount of physical labor required to reset and stabilize the steps. A big thank you to “Jet” and Michael Abbruzese from the Arthur Vincent Company.

*Todd Case*



### The Process



### The Product



**Mike Abbruzese,  
Andrew Vincent,  
and  
“Jet”**



**Perpetual Spires Lit in Loving Memory of...**

**January 7**

*Raymond Derick*  
on the anniversary of his birth  
by his family

**January 10**

*Arnold C. Dunphy*  
on the anniversary of his birth  
by Len Diamond

**January 11**

*Agnes and Valentine Burr*  
by their late daughters,  
Ruth Stannard and Mildred Jarvis

**January 15**

*James W. Maxwell*  
on the anniversary of his birth  
by his family

**January 21**

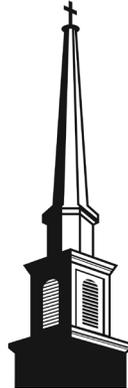
*Kenneth L. Howland*  
on the anniversary of his birth  
by his family

**January 30**

*Herman F. Robertson*  
on the anniversary of his birth  
by his family

**January 30**

*Mr. and Mrs. Melvin E. Thomas*  
by the Thomas family



**February 17**

*Anna and Anton Erickson*  
by their granddaughter,  
Mrs. Vincent Santangelo and family

**February 22**

*Rev. John Whiting*  
First Pastor of South Church

**February 22**

*In observance of the 348th  
anniversary of the founding of  
South Church*  
by the late Dr. Henry David Gray

**February 24**

*Kathleen Elizabeth Dobbin*  
by her parents,  
Sylvia and Owen Dobbin

**February 25**

*Florence Arnold Gager*  
by her family

**February 28**

*Florence Bryant*  
by the South Church Women

**From the Desk of Mrs. Moneca**

Happy New Year, Family and Friends at South Church! I hope you enjoyed the Christmas season with your loved ones. For most, winter is in full swing with all its cold mornings and the hope for warmer weather... people still wondering why they are in CT! However, for me, these past couple months have been blessed with starting off my role in the best times of the year. A season where families came together, children were giddy with excitement for the new gift at every turn. I saw beautiful lighting and poinsettias galore. What a great season to experience with my new church family! But of course, now that 2019 has arrived and the "White Christmas" excitement has dissipated, I hope that our momentum for the season does not fade away like melting snow. We celebrated the birth of Jesus our Savior and we must continue to show our excitement in our everyday life. The Bible says in Colossians 2:6-7: ***"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives with him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."***

My hope is that 2019 will be filled with moment of continued gratefulness and strengthening, and that our children see us live out our faith through our actions. Join me in this mission and look for opportunities to be a blessing to our children.

In His service always -

*Mrs. Moneca Liz*



Me with the girls from  
Third Day



Family Advent  
Tree Lighting  
with our young ladies



Sunday School  
"Build Your Nativity"  
Project



Special thanks to Donna Peatfield for  
her overwhelming dedication to the Kids  
Klub Afterschool program!

## Membership Appreciation Awards

Every year there are South Congregational Church members who exemplify service. As a church, it is important to us to recognize them with the 2018 Membership Appreciation Awards.

### **The George Grave Award** (Compassion & Caring)

George Grave was the first Deacon of South Church (1670-1673). Deacons are called to a caring and concern ministry within the body. This award recognizes someone who has gone above and beyond caring for members of our church. 2018 recipient: **Lynn Robertson.**

### **The J. Hubbard Wells Award** (Sunday School)

J. Hubbard Wells was the first Superintendent of Sunday School (1828-1829). This award is to recognize someone who has done outstanding work in our Sunday school ministry. 2018 recipient: **Linda Porter.**

### **The Jonathan Bull Award** (Finance)

Jonathan Bull was the first Treasurer of South Church (1775-1797). This award is for someone who has been a blessing to our church's financial ministry (fundraising, stewardship, etc.) 2018 recipient: **Delano Paul.**

### **The John Church Award** (Male Youth)

John Church was one of the children of the church who owned the covenant when we were formed in 1670. This award would be for a male youth whose faithful service should be recognized. 2018 recipient: **Erik Savery.**

### **The Sarah Richards Award** (Female Youth)

Sarah Richards was one of the children of the church who owned the covenant when we were formed in 1670. This award would be for a female youth whose faithful service should be recognized. 2018 recipient: **Makayla Serrano.**

### **The John Whiting Award** (Male Adult)

John Whiting was the first minister of South Church (1670). This award would be for a male adult whose faithful service should be recognized. 2018 recipient: **David Casiano.**

### **The Susanna Whiting Award** (Female Adult)

Susanna Whiting was the wife of our first minister the Reverend John Whiting. This award would be for a female adult whose faithful service should be recognized. 2018 recipient: **Donna Peatfield.**

Congratulations to you all! Thank you for answering God's call to serve.

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## Room Reservations in 2019

Due to some incidents with violations to South Church's building use guidelines, specifically those regarding the prohibition of alcoholic beverages, we will be implementing a new 2019 policy in regards to room reservations. We have always waived room reservation fees for members of the church, and that will not change; however, the office will now require a security deposit in order to reserve space at South. This applies to members and non-members alike. We hope that this will encourage people to thoroughly read the building use guidelines and follow them. I have included the addition of this policy from the building use guidelines for your reference. Thank you for your understanding!

**Deposit:** In addition to the room fees for your event, we require an additional \$200 as a security deposit. This must be paid in cash. The deposit will be returned to you one week after the event; however, **if you are found to be in violation of any of the building use guidelines, we reserve the right to keep the deposit.**

*Lauren Pouliot*



## Call You Out!

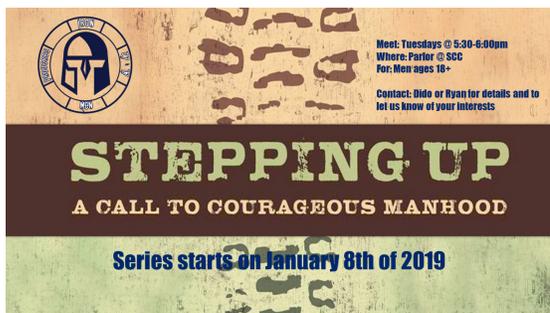
It is the second semester, hopefully with a new fresh start for 2019. By the time you read this you would have listened to me preach on December 30th. My challenge for you this 2019 is to ask Jesus to call you out... to discover who you are in Christ Jesus. Do not be a seat warmer for Sundays only, discover how you can be used by Jesus. First, you must surrender yourself completely to His perspective and expectation... dying to one self and letting Him transform you into the man or woman He desires you to be. So stand up and ask Jesus to call you out!

In January we have several changes coming with you group. Youth Group's Name is now going to be called The Orchard, I want it to fit the theme of the other programs and 11 service (Garden, Solid Ground and The Orchard). We are also now meeting on Fridays at 6pm-8pm. Sunday Morning will continue to be known as Cultivate from 10-10:45am. So if you know of any youth currently in 6th -12th.

A potential change for Sunday morning is a special class for 6th graders that will be geared towards helping them process through coming from elementary into youth group. That being said, next school year (Fall of 2019) we may be changing things up. We will keep (hopefully) this 6th grade Sunday School class, they will stay with Third Day during church, and will not be a part of Youth Group on Fridays. If you would like to know why, please come and talk to me.

Lesson plan for Friday, The Orchard, is a book series video series called "Sticky Faith: Can I ask that?" I am excited about this because I have enjoyed books by Dr. Kara E. Powell. She is connected to the Fuller Institute, and they have spent a lot of time going through studies on Churches in America and teen-young adult challenges. This Lesson plan is about prepping them to be ahead of the game as a Christian before college life. Sadly, many (75%-80%) of young adults leave the church after the first year in college. The Main case is that they never owned their faith. I have been doing a book series already for Sundays on grasping that, Dr. Powell believes what is written in this series can solidify it. I remember going through process from High School to young adult... it was hard.

This year we will try to also start (again) a young adults study time, most likely on Wednesday nights. So if you know anyone from 18-25 who would like to learn more about Jesus and who they are as a Young Adult direct them to me. This is going to be a study focused group, for the struggle is real in how to be a Christian today. NO SPECIFIC DATE has been created, but I am interested to know the interest level.



Iron Men, our Men's group (18+), has been a huge impact not just for the men, but also for myself. It has been great to discover a start of a special bond. We just finished the series called Wild at Heart. It was about discovering our wounds given by men in our lives, and how it molded our perspective of a man is to us. As we went through the series we can now see how God sees us as a man, specifically a man of God, a warrior with a purpose in today's culture. Our next step, Stepping Up Series, is about be courageous as a Man of God. The book is written by Dennis Rainey, who is the CEO of FamilyLife Ministries. We will start this Series on January 8th 2019, on Tuesday nights 5:30-7pm. If you are interested, please let Ryan or I know!

I hope 2019 will be a year to see youth grow even more in their **Identity** in Christ, finding a stronger bond with their church family as a **Community** to belong, and a **Purpose** to transform their culture, starting with HOME. Will you join me this year to pray over our youth. That God will transform them even more to be a voice for Jesus?!

*Dido Montijo*

## Upcoming Events for Our Families

**Sunday, January 6** ~ Family Ice Skating at Winterfest  
At Bushnell Park from 1:00 - 2:30 pm

**Sunday, January 20** ~ Family Matinee  
At Picture Show in Berlin - Time TBD

**February Event** ~ Ron-A-Roll Family Skating Party  
Time and Date TBD



