

# the Torch Bearer



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## The Pastor's Report !

### April

April 26 was "Administrative Professionals Day" and so I treated them to a lunch of delicious Chinese food from Wang's in Wethersfield. I (we) are blessed with a great staff! Thank you: **Joanne Harrison, Leslie Watkins, Vicki Huffman, Todd Case, Dido Montijo** and **Guillaume Olloz**. **Leslie Watkins** "retires" this July 10. Luckily, she will be hired as a consultant to handle our financials (payroll, accounts receivable/payable, etc.) on a part time basis. Thank you Leslie for 16 years of faithful service! I am so glad I am not losing you completely! (On a side note: **Joanne Harrison** will celebrate 20 years serving SCC in January 2018! Wow!)

On April 27, your SALT Team (along with **Renée Söderberg, Brittany Montijo** and **Vicki Silva**) attended the Urban Alliance event in East Hartford.

### May

On May 4, I participated in the National Day of Prayer which was hosted in the Meeting House. We had 20-30 join us for an anointed evening!

On May 19, I spoke at the Overseed Conference hosted by First Church, Wethersfield. Overseed has recommended me to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, MA to speak to seminary students.

### June

On June 2-3, SCC hosted "The Gathering" in Archibald Chapel. This was another anointed time of worship, prayer and evangelism.

On June 4, the Northern Connecticut Inspirational College of Theology held their graduation exercises in our Meeting House. I was unable to attend as I was on a flight to Atlanta, GA.

June 5-9 I was on campus at Luther Rice Seminary continuing my work toward a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree. I am one-third of the way through and on track to graduate in May 2019. It was great to hear that in my absence the Experiencing God! small group study still met on their own. Praise God!

June 11 was Generation Sunday! We were blessed with two great worship services led by our youth and Miss Vicki preaching.

On Tuesday, June 13, Grace Academy held their graduation exercises in the Meeting House. I was invited to make opening remarks and pray. Renée, Maureen Gainey, and I represented SCC.

On Father's Day, Sunday, June 18, we began our "Summer worship schedule" with the first service moving down to Archibald Chapel. It was also our 2nd Annual "Hawaiian Shirt Sunday!" In the afternoon, at 5:00 pm, we gathered out front to place some stones in memory of loved ones. June 18, 2017 (to the day) was the 22nd anniversary of the dedication of our Memorial Garden (June 18, 1995).

On June 23, we left for Haiti to spend a week working with our sister church in Camp Perrin. We plan to help Pastor François and his congregation rebuild their Meeting House, which was decimated by Hurricane Matthew last year.

The Step Up! campaign continues. To help raise funds we now have South Church shopping totes (\$5.00) and South Church baseball caps (\$10.00). Please Step Up!

Thank you to **John** and **Lita Heinmiller** for their generous donation toward badly needed new kitchen equipment. Our new griddle and stove have now been installed in "Cary's Kitchen."

## We Remember

In Joshua 4, God tells the story of the crossing of the river Jordan. “Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen – one from each of the tribes of Israel. He told them, ‘Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the Lord your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder – twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ Then you can tell them, ‘They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant went across.’ These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever.” (Joshua 4:1-7)



On June 18, 1995, we dedicated our Memorial Garden. Since then we have returned to the earth many of our loved ones. Ashes to ashes and dust to dust.

Twenty-two years, to the day, June 18, 2017, we rededicated our Memorial Garden and, like the Israelites, we placed some stones. We remember. We engraved the names of our loved ones upon these stones and they will stand in our garden as a memorial among the people of South Congregational Church forever.

## Rewind...Rebuild

Something that has been noticed by the majority of our youth to young adults is the understanding of the Bible, the stories, their moral compass, and everyday living in truth. So we have gone back to the basics! Going back to some of the typical stories and Biblical truths that they should have learned when they were younger. The exciting part is that the upcoming 6th graders will have that solid background due to Vicki’s ministry that our current youth to young adults did not have.

That being said, Lost & Found has grown by the addition of Michael and Joanna Serrano and their daughters (Haley & Makayla). They have been a huge impact as leaders, and it has been a huge joy to have Haley and Makayla be a part of our youth family. We have had some huge talks and taken the Bible out as our compass of truth. My hope is to give them the tools and truth they need to be godly men and women of God.

L&F will be doing The Hartford Project next week 6/25-6/29. This will be the first time for many, and it will be a great opportunity for them to serve their city of Hartford. It will also be a great time for them to meet other students from various youth groups, and they will have the opportunity to grow Spiritually and physically.

L&F will be doing camp at Lakeside. Hopefully Lakeside will continue the influence they had on our students as they have in the past. The students will be staying there July 9-15 where they will have fun, meet other

students, and have some personal/Spiritual growth from the experience.

The Orchard has been a blast and a privilege to begin. I feel God has called Ryan and I to begin, and it has been a spiritual fire to see how this will grow into a solid umbrella ministry for our church, youth, and young adults. We have done a couple series, and will be finishing up the second one soon. The series is: Wisest men of the world, do the dumbest things on earth

Samson- Being promised does not make you unbreakable

King David- Being close to God does not make you untouchable

King Solomon- Being wise does not make you invulnerable

All three show you how sin can impact you, affect you, and change you into people who love the world over God.

The Summer will be busy and exhausting, but it will be great to watch our students and other youth groups being transformed through camp, VBS, and The Hartford Project. My hope is for August to do more events: Nerf Wars, LARP’ing Sword Battles, Archery, and maybe more. Keep us in prayer!

**Dido Montijo**

## Children & Family Ministry

Hi friends, summer is here and Children's and Family Ministries has a jammed packed July and August ahead! We start off with THP! Although The Hartford Project is for teens, we are blessed to have teams of youth assigned to help our Children & Family ministries at South to prepare for VBS-July 24-28-Under Construction. These young people will hear the vision we have for children's ministries in Hartford, help to make props and set design for our VBS, as well as visit the neighborhoods inviting local children to attend.



Registration forms are available in Robinson Lobby at the church, or by calling Vicki at 860-293-2484. This year the program will service young people in Grades 1-8 and will run Monday – Friday. 5-8:30 pm each night. There will be childcare available for volunteer's children only, as well as a preschool program running at the same time.

Summer Sunday school at 9:30 am will return in September, but we still will be serving our little ones all summer long! Summers will offer childcare at both 9:30 and 11 am for ages newborn through preschool. During 11 am, Third Day will continue throughout the summer for Kindergarten-grade 5. We will be studying the 10 commandments in fun, creative ways. During the summer we will NOT have Family Sundays so the van will be picking up each week between 9:30-10:30 am. Children will enjoy a snack at 10:30 am and a lunch at 12 noon from our partner, the Community Renewal team through Urban Alliance.

We are pleased to welcome **Rebecca Bernadino** a volunteer from Urban Alliance who will be with us each Sunday throughout the summer. She is studying education at UConn and loves kids! If you see her, please give her a warm South Church welcome!

**Brit Montijo** and myself are off to Lakeside Christian Camp with 20 boys and girls on July 2nd, returning July 8th. Please pray for us all for the week to be safe and filled with joy as we grow in mind, body and spirit in this beautiful location in the Berkshires.

LOVE WINS is a community fair/outreach that is sponsored by THP and 4 local churches including South Church. This year it will be held on Tuesday night, July 18th from 5-7 pm. This event is a way to bless our neighbors and share the love of Christ! There will be free food, clothes, games, face paint, dunk tank, prayer, music, and much more! Volunteers are needed! They will receive a free LOVE WINS t-shirt. All will have a really good time as we bless our Hartford neighbors with love and tangible goods.

August brings a faith and family night at Dunkin Donuts Stadium on August 19th!



The Yard Goats will be playing at 6:30 pm with a program beforehand starting at 5 pm. We have 25 tickets available –first come first serve...at \$6 a piece. A little secret...we may have a visit from the mascot sometime before the game in August!! Save the date, invite your friends...if we sell out quickly we will order more. Tickets will be on sale at church beginning July 9th!

Enjoy your summer, hope to see you all when you are not vacationing!

Love and prayers and thanks for this church community!

**Vicki Huffman**

## M25 Haiti

When you read this we will have already returned from our trip. This is really hard to write the day before we leave and you won't get it until after we return.

On behalf of the 2017 travel team to Haiti, I just want to send out a heartfelt thank you to all the folks at South Church that made this trip possible. **Linda** has designed a thank you board on the way to Gray Hall. It has the names of most of the people who were an integral part of this mission trip. If you helped in any way and your name is not on the board, I sincerely apologize. Just let me know and we can add your name.

There were monetary donations, school supplies, hygiene supplies, sewing being done, supplies gathered, supplies organized, trips to Savers, just to name a few of the many supports we received. We couldn't have done it without all of our church family... and this year it really felt like a church family mission trip. So many people from different walks of life and generations helped us. Again, Thank You!

With all of that being said, we are back and it is time to start for next year. We will be collecting items throughout the year instead of at the end trying to gather everything. Each issue of the Torchbearer will have three month's

## Holy Scrap

Summer is going to be a fun time for the crafters at South. In addition to our Tuesday scrapbooking group (3-7 in the Elmore room), we are starting a time of card making on Thursdays from 1-5. We will be teaching Iris Folding techniques, embroidery for cards, stamping and embossing as well as many other card projects.

July 6, 20, 27 and August 3.

If card making is not your thing, come join us and do whatever crafts you are working on... Maybe you can teach us something too!

See you soon

## Cooking with Christ

We are on hiatus for the summer.... See you in the fall! Join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm for cooking instruction, fun and food... no experience necessary. We will have our first lesson of the fall on August 30.

**Renée Söderberg**

supply lists. So, if you would like to donate something to our mission, you can watch for the lists and watch for sales! Win, win!

July – Shampoo (78 cents at Walmart-no conditioner at this time, please) and bubbles

August – Toothpaste and school supplies (composition books, pencils, rulers, protractors, erasers, sharpeners, colored pencils, markers, chalk and scissors)

September – School supplies again and girls panties size 10-14

Also, we are setting up our team for next year so watch the bulletin and listen for a call from the church with the dates and times of the informational meeting. We are looking for traveling team members and mission control members. We would love to have you join in this awesome mission.

**Renée Söderberg**

## Happy Birthday!

### July

03 - **Carolyn Ford**  
 05 - **Betty-Ann Santangelo**  
 06 - **Charles Rossi**  
 12 - **Natalie Ciarcia**  
 15 - **Donna Peatfield**  
 23 - **Len Diamond**  
 24 - **Dwight Burgess**  
 25 - **Bob Jones**  
 31 - **Travis Hancock**

### August

02 - **Ashely Badillo**  
**Suzanne Savery**  
**Patrice Smith**  
 03- **Sarah Savery**  
 06 - **Linda Ciarcia**  
**Audrey Portonova**  
 07 - **June Hodges**  
**David Mingolelli**  
 08 - **Joan Sala**  
 11 - **Darlene Ambrose**  
**Nancy Springer**  
 14 - **Pertrena Davis**  
 17 - **Khareem Foster**  
**Lisa Jones**  
 19 - **Cathy Reitmeyer**  
 20 - **Melissa Petruzielo**  
 26 - **Justin Evans**  
 28 - **Nicholas Mangan**  
 30 - **Donald Bradley**

## Lifelong Learning



Congratulations to our High School graduate **Lexxie Carceres**. **Lexxie** graduated from Wethersfield High School with high honors and will be attending Manchester Community College in the fall. We are so proud of you **Lexxie!**

I always grin a bit when “graduation season” rolls around because I remember so clearly my mom sitting at the end of my bed bereft that her middle son had decided not to pursue a college education. (He did not need to as he was going to be a world famous rock ‘n’ roll drummer!) Truth is I was a decent student in high school but I was convinced I was going to be a successful musician and I pursued that dream for the next fifteen years with great gusto. However, by the time I hit thirty years old, the fog cleared a bit and it appeared that it was not to be. Little did I know what God had in store.



In 1994, I felt God call me into pastoral ministry. Alas, (much to my mother’s chagrin) I had no education beyond high school and I was thirty-three years old. I resisted God for the next three years but eventually surrendered. Okay, mom, now I have to get some education. Consequently, Renée and I packed up our three young boys and headed for Bangor, Maine so I could attend school. With their love and support, over the next five years, I completed a Bachelors Degree (B.A.) in Religious Studies from American Christian College and Seminary and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Bangor Theological Seminary. I was now thirty-eight years old but it is never too late!

## And All God’s People Said, “Aloha!”

On June 18, we not only celebrated Father’s Day here at South but it was also our 2nd Annual “Hawaiian Shirt Sunday!” Now, if you



are waiting for some deep biblical or theological tie in you will be waiting a while. Too many people think that Christians are stiff, boring, dour, folks who don’t know how to

have fun. Remember the old nursery rhyme, “Quaker meeting has begun. No more laughing, no more fun. If you show your teeth or tongue, you must pay a forfeit.”

Over the next nine years, I was busy serving the East Orrington Congregational Church in Orrington, Maine, and South Congregational Church but I love to learn and I knew I was not done. In August of 2016, fourteen years since I was last in a classroom, I began the Doctoral of Ministry program at Luther Rice College and Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. I love this school. Dr. Stephen F. Olford graduated from Luther Rice. Dr. Olford was the man Dr. Billy Graham said, “...who most influenced my ministry.” Dr. Charles Stanley (First Baptist Church of Atlanta and InTouch Ministries) is also an alumnus.



**LUTHER RICE**  
COLLEGE & SEMINARY

Yes, it is a lot of work but I love to learn! I just returned from Georgia on June 9 and will be going back August 21-25. By the end of this year, I will be half way through the program with plans to be a member of the Class of 2019. In May 2019, I will be fifty-five years old but it is never too late my friends! Whether it is finishing high school, going to college, or attending the **Ladies 2:52** Bible Study on Monday nights with **Miss Vicki** or Experiencing God! on Wednesday’s, I encourage you to be a lifelong learner! “Joyful is the person who finds wisdom, the one who gains understanding. For wisdom is more profitable than silver, and her wages are better than gold.” (Proverbs 3:14-15; NLT)

Who knew, huh? The teenager who was “so smart” he skipped college to be a world famous drummer and made his mom cry is going to end up with Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral degrees. And God still lets me play drums! Be a lifelong learner! Don’t make your mom cry!

**Pastor Adam**

We simply want to prove that untrue! Whoever visited us on Sunday saw that South Church is full of joyful people who know how to love, worship, and serve God and have fun doing it! As Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes, “For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven...a time to laugh...and a time to dance!” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4)



**Pastor Adam**