

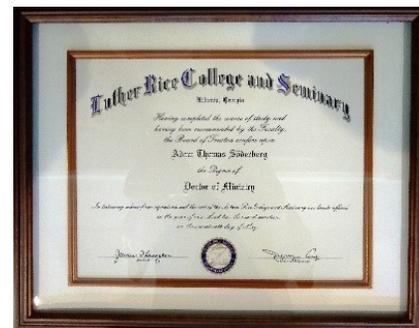
## Thank You!

On May 16, **Renée**, my mom **June Elizabeth Paine**, and I flew down to Georgia to attend my class banquet on May 16, and graduation on May 17. I was blessed to graduate *cum laude* ("with honors" for a 4.0 GPA) with my Doctorate of Ministry degree from Luther Rice College & Seminary.



I want to thank all those who sent a card, text, or email with congratulations. I also want to thank **Lauren Pouliot** for putting that great slide show together that was shown in church on Sunday, May 19. All the well wishes truly meant a lot to me personally.

Again, I want to encourage everyone reading this article. If you did not finish what you started, do it! I did not attend college for the first time until I was 30 years old, and I finished my doctorate at 55 years old. You can do it too! Finish that high school diploma, trade school program, or college degree. It is never too late!



*Reverend Doctor Adam Söderberg*

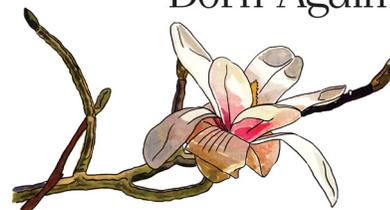
## Our Building is Being "Born Again!"

Many of you have seen the upgrades and improvements taking place to our physical plant. The new Robinson Lobby and Parker Parlor are almost complete. We also have new round tables and comfortable chairs in Gray Hall for our use. We will soon have the columns outside the John Street entrance repaired, as well as a newly refurbished parking lot. At the beginning of next year, the Bryant Room will also get new tables and chairs. Over the summer, the Stanley Room will be transformed into a special "museum room" that will tell the story of South Congregational Church.

I want to thank **Susan Elphick** and the **South Church Women** for helping with the archive material, and especially **Todd Case** and **David Casiano** for all the work they are doing to get us ready for our 350th anniversary in 2020!



Born Again



## Congrats to Miss Renée!

Congratulations to our **Renée Söderberg** who is the **2019-2020 Paraeducator of the Year (POY)** for Wethersfield Public Schools!

**Sally Dastoli**, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction for Wethersfield Public Schools wrote:

Please congratulate **Renée Söderberg** as the 2019-2020 Paraeducator of the Year (POY). Renée is known to be a lifelong learner who goes above and beyond for her students each year. Renée has worked as a para for 13 years and has recently supported individual students with specialized learning needs.

A group of teachers nominated Renée, and they shared:

*Renée was reassigned three years ago to work one-to-one with a student. In her new role, Renée learned how to transcribe materials into Braille and utilized her exceptional organizational skills to make sure her student had the appropriate materials for each class. In addition to learning how to transcribe Braille, Renée took her role one step further and began learning how to read Braille, so Renée could read and correct the student's work and also to make sure that the Braille was printing correctly. Renée successfully completed her Braille classes which has allowed her to be an even greater asset to her student. Renée has continued to play an active role on her student's team. She educates all teachers and team members*

*about the student's educational and physical needs and has proactively found numerous resources to aid in her student's learning. With teacher and student permission, Renée also informs her student's classmates about her needs and abilities so that each class remains an inclusive environment for all students. In addition to preparing materials for her student, Renée frequently communicates with the student's six service providers and is able to follow quite an overwhelming schedule with ease. Every staff member who works with Renée echoes the same admiration and appreciation for her work.*

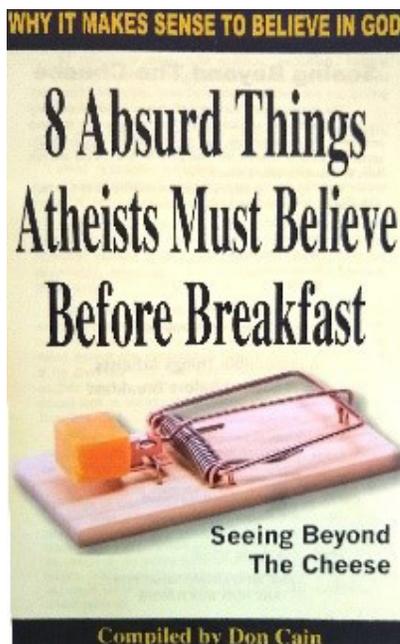
Renée is a kind and dedicated educator and she has the innate ability to develop strong relationships with students. She is a strong advocate for her students and embodies a "can do attitude." She is known for never giving up and actively thinking of ways to support her students outside of the school day. Renée is a problem solver, she challenges students, and encourages them to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. She is a team player who everyone wants on their team! Renée has a giving heart, as demonstrated by her desire to spearhead the collection of shoes for families in Haiti.



## Time for Sunday School, Adults!

With our new summer hours underway (one unified worship service at 10:00 am) we now have some time for summer school! For the month of July, anyone who is interested is invited to the Bryant Room at 9:00 am. **Dr. Adam** will be holding an adult Sunday school class beginning July 7 entitled, "8 Absurd Things Atheists Must Believe Before Breakfast."

We will enjoy some coffee and have a few laughs, while all the time growing in our faith and understanding. This will be the best experience of summer school you have ever had. Join us!



## Upcoming Sermons

### July Sermons

#### “The First Question”

July 07

Genesis 3:1-6

God created the heavens and the earth. Then He created all life that lives upon it including man and woman. All was well until His creatures began to question Him. Do you question God or do you trust Him?

#### “The Second Question”

July 14

Genesis 3:7-9

“Where are you?” God asks. God is omniscient. Would He not already know where Adam and Eve were? Yes. The question is about accountability. Will Adam and Eve confess their sin and repent or try to excuse and rationalize it? We certainly do not try to justify or rationalize our actions, right? Do we?

#### “The Panic”

July 21

Genesis 3:10-13

Adam begins to panic. He makes excuses. He blames his wife. He will say or do anything but admit he made a mistake. Christians are not perfect; they are forgiven. Do not panic when you fall. God’s mercy is boundless. His grace is amazing. His love is absolute.

#### “The Consequence”

July 28

Genesis 3:20-24

Adam and Eve are now tainted with sin. They cannot live in paradise any longer. They are banished. There are consequences to our actions, but God has also set out a plan of redemption. His name is Jesus.



### August Sermons

#### “Neither Snow, Nor Rain, Nor Heat”

August 04

Matthew 8:23-27

When the storms of life are raging, turn to Jesus. If He has the power to command the wind, He can certainly handle whatever situation in which you find yourself.

#### “Bloom Where You Are Planted”

August 11

Jeremiah 29:1-7

The world has rejected God’s Word. We are surrounded by selfishness and greed. What is sinful and immoral according to the Lord is considered righteous and moral by our nation. What do we do when it seems as if we have “lost?”

#### “The Boggy Creek Monster”

August 18

Mark 8:11-13

Bigfoot. Nessie. The Yeti. El Chupacabra. Aliens. With very little evidence, there are still thousands, if not tens of thousands of people who believe in these creatures. Is it really easier to believe in the Yeti than it is in Jesus?

#### “Shake It Off”

August 25

Acts 28:1-6

Trials and troubles, difficulties and dilemmas are going to happen. It’s this thing called life. Christians should rise above, shake it off, and endure. Our example reveals to others what faith can do.



## Decision Northeast Tour

The Northeast has a powerful spiritual heritage. More than 150 years before the Revolutionary War, men and women there were already laying the foundation for our nation, guided by God and based on principles in His Word.

Sadly, so much has changed. Belief in God is on the decline, and



the Northeast was recently named the least religious part of the U.S. What this region -- and America as a whole -- needs is a spiritual transformation that starts with individual hearts.

Only Jesus Christ can bring that change. Through the Decision America Northeast Tour, Franklin Graham wanted to join us in prayer for our communities and our nation.

From May 19-30, Franklin Graham embarked on a seven-city tour of the northeast United States. The series of one-night prayer and evangelism events included stops in New York, Connecti-

cut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. Franklin presented the Gospel of Jesus Christ at each stop, calling the lost to repentance and faith -- and praying together with believers for their families, churches, communities, and those who are far from God.

**Carlos & Yessenia Flores, Donna Peatfield, Jordan Hegel, Kelly Travers & Isabelle DeVanna, and Pastor Adam** jumped in the van and traveled from South Church to the event at the Big E in Springfield, MA. We joined over 3,500 others for an anointed night of music with musical guest **Crowder**, and a message of hope and prayer from Rev. Graham. Please continue to pray for the Northeast. We greatly need it.



## Membership Status

This summer, we will be taking some time to evaluate our church membership, and this evaluation could result in some changes to one's membership status. This is a reminder that in order to be eligible to vote at our annual meeting in November, one must be classified as an active member. Included below is the excerpt from the South Congregational Church By-laws (2016) for your reference.

### 4-103: Active/Inactive Membership:

**(a) Definition of Active Membership:** An active member is one who, if physically able, attends worship services on a regular (as determined by the Board of Deacons) basis. Attendance at a South Church Annual or duly called Special Meeting will not constitute "active participation."

**(b) Definition of Inactive Membership:** An inactive member is one who, being physically able, has not attended worship services on a regular (as determined by the Board of Deacons) basis. An inactive member shall not be entitled to vote at church meetings and is ineligible to serve as a member of a board or ministry team.

**(c) Membership Status:** While making every reasonable effort to reach out to its members and encourage them to remain active the Board of Deacons retains the right to reclassify a person's membership as active or inactive in accordance with these by-laws without notification.

## M<sup>25</sup> Haiti Mission

There are many Bible verses I claim as “my favorites.” There is one in particular I claim as one of my “least favorites,” and that is Romans 13:1: *“Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.”* Personally, I am a fan of very limited government. I agree with President Ronald Reagan who said, “There is nothing government does that the private sector cannot do better, cheaper, and faster.” Nonetheless, Romans 13:1 is God’s Word and I believe following God’s Word, even if we may disagree, is the responsibility of every true Christian.

With that said, there is always a level of risk when traveling overseas as the recent stories of American tourists dying suspiciously in the Dominican Republic highlights. The U.S. State Department evaluates travel advisory levels on a scale of 1 to 4. Level 1 is “Exercise normal precautions.” Level 4 is “Do not travel.” Unfortunately, with the collapse of the government in Haiti, it has been designated a Level 4 since February 2019. The U.S. State department posted on their website on April 09, 2019 the following:

### Travel Advisory Levels

- 1 Exercise normal precautions
- 2 Exercise increased caution
- 3 Reconsider travel
- 4 Do not travel

Travel Advisory  
April 9, 2019
C U K

## Haiti - Level 4: Do Not Travel

Do not travel to Haiti due to **crime, civil unrest, and kidnapping**.

There is an ongoing risk of widespread, violent, and unpredictable demonstrations in Port-au-Prince and elsewhere in Haiti. Due to these demonstrations, on February 14, 2019, the Department of State ordered the departure of all non-emergency U.S. personnel and their family members. The U.S. government has limited ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in Haiti.

Protests, tire burning, and road blockages are frequent and unpredictable. Violent crime, such as armed robbery, is common, and incidents of kidnapping have occurred. Local police may lack the resources to respond effectively to serious criminal incidents, and emergency response, including ambulance service, is limited or non-existent.

As a result, our M<sup>25</sup> Haiti mission team will not be traveling to Camp Perrin this summer. We will focus on sending what supplies we can send safely, and on preparing for our 2020 trip.

Please keep our sister church in Camp Perrin, as well as Pastor François, his wife, and the Haitian people in your prayers. They will be blessed by them.

## Congratulations Grace Academy Class of 2019!

Once again, South Congregational Church was blessed to host the Grace Academy eighth-grade graduation in our Meeting House. Congratulations to the Maya Angelou class of 2019: **Ingrid Garcia, Ayanna Kiser, Epephanie LaBoy, Cityra Lee, Rhaiti-em Lowe, Jacqueline Ordaya, and Ziane Ormsby.**

Next year these graduates will be attending **The Connecticut IB Academy, East Catholic High School, Glastonbury High School (Agriscience Program), Kingwood Oxford School, Masters School, and Northwest Catholic High School.**

We are proud of you all! God Bless!



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

**July 02**

*Alan I. Burnap*  
by his wife, Virginia  
on the anniversary of his birth

**July 08**

*Frederick & Virginia Burgess*  
by their children  
on their wedding anniversary

**July 21**

*Christina Mulholland &  
Thomas C. Mulholland*  
by their family  
on the anniversary of their birth

**July 28**

*Hazel Derick Brash*  
my Mr. & Mrs. Robert Derick Brash  
on the anniversary of her birth

**August 02**

*Keith F. Emslie*  
by his grandchildren  
Keith & Stacy Fricker, Cheryl Carpenter,  
and Michael Fricker

**August 24**

*Howard F. Grady, Sr.*  
by his family

## Children & Family Ministry Report

Earlier this spring, we taught the children about the sacrifice that Jesus made, the Resurrection, and how He continues to live through their lives daily. The new sunny season allowed for “hands on” lessons on how we are similar to plants in our walk of faith, and how our lives look and feel with Christ. We used plants as an example because plants need three things -- soil, sun, and water -- to survive. Similar to plants, we need three things. We need Christ (soil) in our lives as a strong foundation to build and grow upon. We need the Bible (sun) which guides and lights up the path we should be on (similar to a plant that seeks the sun for survival and tilts to catch the rays for its guide). Finally, we need fellowship at church (water) to thrive and sustain our lives in Christ. And don't forget to pluck out those weeds (resentment, hate), as they will smother and steal your nutrients to survive. That was a fun lesson!

As we head into the summer months, I wanted to give you a snapshot of our plans for the warmer weather. As we gather over the summer at our camping trip, the upcoming Yard Goats game, and VBS, I want to give our children the opportunity to grow in God's Word alongside their families, both in and out of the church building. My aim is to include many family-centered events over the summer, and ultimately to begin mid-week family days at church. I ask both young and mature parents to pray daily for our children and for families to grow together as a family in Christ. We as the church leadership team are here to walk alongside you in raising your children to know and love Christ with all their mind, body, and soul. So, I hope dates work with as many families as possible, and that they will challenge families in their walks with Jesus.

If you would like to help volunteer during any of our upcoming events, please contact the church office, or call 860-920-8154.

In Christ's love, *Ms. Moneca*

### Upcoming Events:

7/03/19 - Yard Goats game at Dunkin Donuts Park, Hartford, CT (South Church choir will sing the National Anthem!)

7/07/19 - Church-wide luncheon following 10:00 am service

7/22-7/26/19 - Vacation Bible School (2yrs to completed 5th grade)

8/14/19 - Summer Movie at Buckland Hills Imax - 9:30 am - “Despicable Me”



### Whose Voice?

Often times we battle making the right choice, thinking right and following the truth. Why do we struggle? How is it that we cannot hear right? If you are spending time to build a relationship with someone you become familiar to their voice, right? That is why children are soothed by a mother's voice. When you date, you spend A LOT of time getting to know that person as much as possible, and hearing their voice is magical. All the feelings, the joy and moments come to mind, and we are "transformed".

Church, these images are what it could be like if we are doing the same thing with God. He longs for a relationship with you. When life gets hard or unbearable that is when you need to hear His voice, or when life is good, we still long to hear His voice. Would you recognize that voice? There is another voice that can be heard, the Enemy! Satan and his followers want you and I to fail, to fall for the lies of this world and live like it. Would you be able to recognize the lies?

There will be two voices rumbling around in your mind, and we need to know which one is God. The only way is to familiar yourself with who God is from the Bible. Building a relationship allows you to not be fooled by lies and fake people. Know your God, read His word, pray and get familiar with His voice. The Enemy knows His words and they will distort them so you believe the lie. In many cases, fellow Christians have decided to choose feelings of love and compassion over truth and moral thinking. This does not

please God, and when He speaks you ignore because you rather not offend than stand for truth. Do you know your Creators voice?

### Youth Group: The Orchard

**THP** - We did The Hartford Project in June with an emphasis on Catalyst. Our desire was to have youth recognize what it means to be a Catalyst from the examples of Jesus, David, Elijah and Esther.

**Camp Lakeside** - In the 2nd week of July the youth and I (with Brit) will be doing camp. It has been great to see how God uses this camp to transform lives of youth for Jesus. Seeing our students get the experience of nature and be with counselors that care for them. Pray that

this Summer will be transforming.

**Cultivate** - I canceled Cultivate (Christian Education) for the Summer due to our Summer hours! But we will be back in September!

**The-O:** We have been meeting regularly on Saturdays at 10am. We do our studies or events to build community and spiritual growth. Since spring we have also added to our numbers with Anaya and Tim. God has shown himself to be involved and creating fruit in our youth.

*Candido Montijo*

### A Star is Born!

On Saturday, May 4, I witnessed a star being born at the Charles Wright Elementary School in Wethersfield. Our own **Isabelle DeVanna** played the role of Tessie in a production of Annie. Mom, **Kelly Travers**, was proud, and she had reason to be, as Isabelle was truly magnificent! Great job Isabelle! I am looking forward to more exciting roles from this young lady.



### Back-Porch Bible Study!



Calling all ladies 18 years old and up! You are cordially invited to a women's Bible study this summer on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month beginning at 6:00 pm. This Back-porch Bible Study is being hosted by our moderator, **Mary Symkowicz**, at her home on 805 Tolland Street, East Hartford, CT 06108. If you have any questions, please call Mary at (860) 528-2454 or email her: [mommasym@gmail.com](mailto:mommasym@gmail.com).



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 277 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
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Email: [info@scchartford.org](mailto:info@scchartford.org)

Torchbearer online: [scchartford.org/torchbearer](http://scchartford.org/torchbearer)

**Worship Times:**

Traditional Service: 9:30 am  
 Solid Ground Service: 11:00 am

Food and Fellowship  
 Sunday mornings at 10:30 am  
 Gray Hall

[facebook.com/SouthChurchHartford](https://facebook.com/SouthChurchHartford)

Ryan Dafgek ~ *Worship Arts Director*

Moneca Liz ~ *Director of Children & Family Ministry*

Darlene Lisella, Lynn Robertson ~ *Greeters*

Christine Melson ~ *Organist*

Candido Montijo ~ *Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry*

Lauren Pouliot ~ *Choir Director*

Rev. Dr. Adam Söderberg ~ *Senior Pastor*

An imperfect Christian community; loving, serving, and equipping an imperfect world.



# GOD'S MORNING ROUTINE

Every new day, we wake up to blessings from God.

*Directions: Use the clues to fill in the words. Then write the boxed letters in order below to complete Lamentations 3:22-23, NIV.*

Brush these daily

\_\_\_ \_ \_

Do this to your shoes

\_\_\_  \_\_\_

This rises in the east

\_\_\_

Cold breakfast food

\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_

Hot breakfast food

\_\_\_  \_\_\_

Talk to God

\_\_\_

Morning meal

\_\_\_ \_  \_\_\_ \_  \_

Extend your limbs

\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_

Fruit drink

\_\_\_  \_\_\_

Waffle machine

\_\_\_

Eat these scrambled or fried

\_\_\_



Because of the LORD's great love ...

never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23, NIV

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- 01 - Joanna Torres-Serrano
- 03 - Carolyn Ford
- 05 - Betty-Ann Santangelo
- 06 - Charles Rossi
- 15 - Donna Peatfield

- 19 - Len Diamond
- 21 - Dwight Burgess
- 25 - Bob Jones
- 31 - Travis Hancock



- 02 - Ashley Casiano
- 02 - Suzanne Savery
- 02 - Patrice Smith
- 03 - Sarah Savery
- 06 - Audrey Portonova
- 07 - June Hodges
- 07 - David Mingolelli
- 08 - Joan Sala

- 11 - Darlene Ambrose
- 11 - Nancy Springer
- 14 - Pertrena Davis
- 17 - Lisa Jones
- 19 - Cathy Reitmeyer
- 20 - Melissa Petruzielo
- 26 - Justin Evans