

From the Pastor's Pen

One of the most important things Christians do is worship God. The psalms repeatedly call believers to do so with great enthusiasm.

*"Sing praises to God, our strength. Sing to the God of Jacob. Sing!
Beat the tambourine. Play the sweet lyre and the harp."*

Psalm 81:1-2

*"O Israel, rejoice in your Maker. O people of Jerusalem, exult in your
King. Praise his name with dancing, accompanied by tambourine
and harp."*

Psalm 149:2-3

*"Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn; praise him with the lyre
and harp! Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him
with strings and flutes! Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise
him with loud clanging cymbals. Let everything that breathes sing
praises to the Lord! Praise the Lord!"*

Psalm 150:3-6

A lyre is similar to a harp, lute, or even an early guitar. Interestingly, the Hebrew word (תִּפְתִּי) *tôph* translated in Bible versions (including our NLT) as "tambourine," literally means "timbrel," which is a small hand drum. Yes, temple worship from the beginning was led with guitars, flutes, horns, harps, voices, drums, and cymbals! Sounds a lot like our 11:00 am service!

By the mid-14th century, the organ began to show up in churches. The first documented permanent organ installation, such as the one installed in 1361 in Halberstadt, Germany, prompted Guillaume de Machaut to describe the organ as "the king of instruments," a characterization still frequently applied. This organ had twenty bellows operated by ten men, and the wind pressure was so high that the player had to use the full strength of his arm to hold down a key.

Organs were not readily accepted, however, as English Puritans did not approve of any accompanying instruments in favor of just the human voice. In 1557, these "Congregationalists" declared, "concerning the singing of psalms we allow the people joining with one voice in a plain tune but not in tossing the psalms from one side to the other with mingling of organs." Some puritans (known as "roundheads" because they wore their hair closely cropped round the head or flat in contrast to the men of courtly fashion with their long ringlets) even went throughout England in 1664 destroying the noble organs in the churches and cathedrals. They tore the pipes from the organ in Westminster Abbey shouting, "Hark! How the organs go!" and "Mark what music that is, that is lawful for a Puritan to dance," and they sold the metal for pots of ale. By the time they were finished, only four or five organs were left uninjured in all England.

Nevertheless, by the end of the 18th century, organs would become the primary instrument used in church worship. Even Congregationalists eventually allowed organs in the Meeting House to accompany voices in praising God.

This summer, we tried something different by holding a combined worship service that included singing a hymn as well as modern praise songs. The goal was to be unified as one body in worship, but, alas, this new approach was not well received. As a result, beginning on Rally Day (Sunday, September 08), we return to our regular two services. Traditional Worship will again meet at 9:30 am and Contemporary Worship at 11:00 am. Whether you like an organ, or lyres, or timbrels and clanging cymbals, you can exult in the King here. Invite some friends to join you in singing praises to God at South Congregational Church!



Reverend Doctor Adam Söderberg

Thank You, Dido and Brit

Dido Montijo moved on from South Congregational Church as of July 14. We are grateful for the ministry both he and Brit shared with us over these past three years, and want only the best for them as they explore what the Lord has for them next. Please keep the Montijos in your prayers.



Welcome Kyle!

God has been so good to South Congregational Church when it comes to leadership. Over the past thirteen years, whenever there has been a change in staff, it seems that God had someone waiting in the wings, ready to serve Him here at 277 Main Street. Years ago, when our Director of Worship Arts, **Sheila Hodges** left for Utah, God raised up **Lauren Pouliot** and **Ryan Dafgek** to lead. When Lauren left for Colorado, God raised up **Christine Macaluso**. When Christine left, Lauren returned as our Choir Director and Director of Communications. The Lord has taken good care of us here for 349 years, and He has done so again.

Our new Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, **Kyle Singerman**, will officially begin here on September 1. Kyle has been worshipping with us for a couple of years now. He became a member of

South Church in 2018. Kyle has a passion for missions. He worked as a Christian missionary (October 2015 - March 2016) planting churches in Tunisia with Muslim people, and has been on short term mission trips to Northern Ireland (Summer 2007), Israel (Summer 2008), Indonesia (June 2010), Tunisia (June 2011), and China (Summer 2017, 2018).

Kyle has a heart for the city of Hartford as well, working as an intern and children's camp counselor for Hartford City Mission in 2010 and 2012.

Kyle has been busy here at South Church since he arrived. He volunteered as Teen Sunday School substitute teacher as well as helping with our Youth Group. Kyle serves with our Prayer Ministry Team, regularly leading prayer during Sunday morning worship; with our Evangelism Ministry Team going out into the city to share the gospel; and as a greeter on Sunday morning out on our Main Street steps. Kyle is also the M²⁵ Haiti Mission Team prayer coordinator, writing and emailing weekly devotionals to our team members.

Most importantly, Kyle has a passion for young people. He worked as a Youth Intern at First Church of Wethersfield from September 2014 to May 2015, where he helped facilitate the youth program for middle school and

high school students. This is where God will have Kyle focusing his gifts -- with our youth ministry.

Kyle graduated in the top 2% of his class at Wethersfield High School (class of 2009), and has a Bachelor's Degree in Ministry from Palm Beach Atlantic University, Florida (class of 2014). Kyle is an avid sports enthusiast. He is also a man with deep faith, and God is going to use him powerfully here at South Congregational Church as our Youth Pastor. We are blessed to have you! Welcome, Kyle!



Looking for a Car?

A lot of used car dealers have a bad reputation, and many are deserved. However, I never had such a good experience with the purchase of a vehicle as I did this July when my son Jeremy bought his 2014 Dodge Avenger. I believe in sharing the good news, so I wanted to let you know about FUL-LINE Auto in South Windsor,



CT. The staff was helpful, professional, and refreshingly honest. **David Bombeto** (the owner) is a Christian and has been in business for 30 years! It was a pleasure doing business with him. David always

responded to calls and texts in a timely manner and helped with financing.

If you are looking for a vehicle, I recommend Ful-line Auto, 1546 John Fitch Blvd, South Windsor, CT, 06074. You can check them out online at ful-lineauto.com, on Facebook at **Ful-Line Auto LLC.**, or call (860) 289-7892.

If you frequent a business or use a vendor that you think we should know about, please contact the church (info@scchartford.org) and we will share the good news in our next newsletter.



Upcoming Sermons

September Sermons

"Service Merchandise"

September 01

Hebrews 12:14-17

The overwhelming desire to satisfy our immediate wants often leads us to make decision we will later regret. Can you say, "Time-share?"

"Can't Buy Me Love"

September 08

Philemon 1:8-12

In 1964, The Beatles sang, "Can't Buy Me Love." If love is purchased, is it really love? If forgiveness is coerced, is it really forgiveness? The thing that separates humans from animals is the ability to think and reason. Choice (freewill) is a result of just that. Will we do the right thing by choice or by force?

"Calling Hours"

September 15

Luke 14:7-11

I know of several examples when families were shocked to learn about the kind of person their loved one was, while standing in a receiving line at the funeral home. What a blessing it is to discover they truly were who you thought they were. I pray our families hear the same about us.

"Be Careful What You Wish For"

September 22

Mark 10:35-39

Someone once said, "Be careful what you wish for, you just may get it." We often think our wishes and desires are all we need to be happy and whole. Why doesn't God give them to us, then? Maybe He knows better. Maybe when God says "No" to a prayer, it is because He knows what is best for us. Do we trust Him?

"Doctor My Eyes"

September 29

Acts 16:6-10

The majority of the apostles who followed Jesus were fishermen. Luke was a physician -- a learned man of means and influence who left his patients and his practice because he believed what Paul had told him about Jesus. Sadly, today, there are still some people who feel "too smart" to believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.

October Sermons

"What a Kroc!"

October 06

Psalm 37:1-7

Why does it seem that sometimes good things happen to bad people? Too often, we spend time frustrated about other people or situations over which we have no control. We need to be careful. Anger and frustration are fertile soil for seeds planted by the evil one.

"A Spiritual Shift"

October 13

Colossians 2:6-8

A recent Hartford Courant article revealed how millennials are replacing religion with things like meditation, astrology, and crystals. How far away from the truth can one get and still enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

"The Fall Feasts of Israel"

October 20

Chosen People Ministries

Dr. Richard Flashman will examine Israel's three most significant biblical festivals -- Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot -- including a look at their biblical roots, their celebration in the time of Messiah, and by Jewish people today. We want to understand these wonderful biblical festivals as well as their significance for our spiritual lives as believers in Messiah, whether Jew or Gentile.

"36 U.S. Code§302"

October 27

Acts 11:19-26

According to US Code, our national motto is, "In God We Trust." Do we still? Are we glad to make such a claim, or do we see it as offensive today? Why would we?



NAPF Conference 2019

Are you ready? We are off again, this time to Ohio, where the 2019 NAPF Conference was held. I am going to relate this to *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*. There were eight main topics covered, so that can be represented by each dwarf and Snow White. The first topic our speaker, Mark, talked about was **"Win the Morning."**



The main topics are: get fit, commit, discipleship, service, conform, transform, and fear. Also, keep in mind that one song from the movie was **"Heigh-Ho."** (O-hi-o?)

The leaders took an alternate route this year, and we stayed at a campsite. We stayed at Mohican School in the out-of-doors. The school is interdisciplinary with an emphasis on hands-on, experience-centered learning. Donna, the executive director, set aside time to do hands-on activities with the kids. The activities she led were hard, but fun for the kids. They had to think outside the box and not use the technology that they are so used to for answers or help. Jeremy, the facilities and environmental educator, was also there. He is a walking history book. He told a story that held their attention for a loooooong time! If you want a group of teenagers to sit still that long, have Jeremy tell a story! The kids took hikes, had s'mores by the fire, and just enjoyed a different style of living for a week, and I think it was an interesting way to connect to life, and of course, God.

Now, on to the rest of the conference. This year's theme was **Be Still.** (Snow White was still for part of the movie, right?) So, the theme correlates with the main character, already. There was an excellent motivational speaker, Mark... maybe Mark can be the prince? He woke us up, educated and enlightened us with five sessions. We also had three days of mission work, during which the teenagers worked their tails off!

The Sessions

In Session 1, he started off on the topic of **Be Still.** He talked about distractions in life and how our life with God is an adventure. There are three strategies to tune into what you want to hear. You have to **Win the Morning.** This means you have to designate time to sit and listen to God in the morning. Sit still, be quiet, and be with the Lord. Think of His faithfulness. Number two is **Get Fit.** Learn God's word. You do what you can to do what you want to do. The last one is **Commit.** This means you have to hang out with people in your life that support you and back you up. You have to be in the moment. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Switch off and tune in. **"The voice can only reproduce what the ear can hear."**

Session 2 taught us about the **Woman at the Well (John 4).** Even when Jesus is tired, He is still listening to that still, small voice. There were four "S's" about the Woman at the Well: *Sarcastic, Skeptical, Surprised, and Saved.* Jesus changed the woman's life. Jesus

served and He chose the dangerous path for us. A few chapters later in **John 7**, it says we have living water inside of us, we are followers of Jesus. His calling will change our lives.



The main theme of Session 3 was **Matthew.** Mark, our speaker, not the Bible book, told us that **"Leaders are readers and readers are leaders."** Everyone can be leaders. The three easy things you have to do are: Find a value, define your value, and do something each day to use that value. The book of Matthew teaches us that Jesus has many values. **Discipleship** - someone mentors you, you turn around and disciple others. **Service** - Jesus had all of the power. The last and most important, Jesus valued **Us.** He sacrificed His life for us because He loves us. Jesus values us and loves us no matter what. Mark ended the session by saying, **"Live for the applause of nail-scarred hands."**

We were learning a little bit of everything in Session four. We have to be **rooted** (keep that in mind for later) on the rock to let your light shine. We need to be grounded on the rock. God is chiseling us to be stable if we are suffering. Do not **conform**, but be **transformed.** We have to change our minds and our hearts. We also have to be **conditioned**, not because we have to, but because we want to. We were purchased by the blood of Christ. Embrace His grace because that is the image we were created in. If you are **contagious**, people will be drawn to you because we reflect His light. **Matthew 5** tells us that if we are dry, we need to drink from the well of Christ.

Our last session talked about **fear.** (Dopey was afraid of everything in the movie, wasn't he?) We have to have a healthy fear of the Lord. If we fear Him, then He is the master of our life. Fear creeps in and your light is stifled. We make ourselves vulnerable. What we fear establishes our boundaries. We



become fully aware of His love for us. God gave us a spirit of fear, power, and love. The power it took to raise Jesus from the dead is inside of us. There are a few things we have to do. First, we have to make the move and get serious with God. Second, we have to stop following the wrong. Next, we have to get past the awkward and just do it - it gets easier. Last, nurture your talents. You have to be the best you can be at that talent. The theme of this session was fear, did I mention that we held this session on top of Mt. Jeez? Nobody was quite sure how the mountain got its name, but we just said that when you get to the top, you say, "Jeez!" That is the reason we came up with, anyway. Let's stick to that. It was a beautiful site to end the conference. We were closer to God while on top of Mt. Jeez!

NAPF Conference (Continued from p. 4)

The Mission Work

We also had three days of mission work. There were several sites we helped work on. One group went on the **Red Cross** mission site. At that site, the group installed smoke and fire detectors; or if they were already installed, they were updated by replacing the batteries. There was a **Habitat For Humanity** site. The house was getting ready for a mother and two children to move into. The basement was being painted. The kids were also washing the windows on the main floor. They scrubbed the screens with toothbrushes. Another group went to the **First Congregational Church of Mansfield**. There the group primed walls. They were supposed to paint the choir room, but the site manager was not there. The second-in-charge told the kids he did not want the kids up on ladders in a room with all of the tiers inside of the room. Outside, there was a "condemned door." It was called this because there was five layers of paint that needed to be removed in order for it to be used again.

There was a campsite, called **Hemlock House**. The kids on that site fixed up some benches, cleaned debris, and chopped firewood. The **Friendly House** has programs geared toward the strengthening of family life and character building by providing recreation, education, health and fitness, crime prevention, preschool, and camping programs to their immediate neighborhood and their community as a whole, at a cost that everyone can afford. On this site, the kids repainted a boxing room. Some of the kids also helped organize a holiday storage room. From what it sounded like, this was not just a room, it went on and on with what seemed like no end in sight of "stuff."

Another site was **Harmony House Children's Advocacy Center**. Harmony House is a comprehensive, child-focused facility-based program that allows prosecutors, law enforcement, child protective service workers, medical and mental health professionals, and victim advocates to work together ensuring that no child is further victimized by systems designed to protect him or her. Here, the children pulled weeds, rebuilt stairs, collected trash, and put together a shed. The big project this site had was to repaint a map of the U.S. on the playground. The kids at the center would have competitions and tell each other, "I can make a basket from Texas, etc." The site manager told the youth leader from our conference that this would have cost \$16,000 if they had to pay for it themselves. Our kids helped save them a lot of money, and it really "paid off!"

The site that I went to we just called "**Becky's House**," because it was a house that Becky lived in. Easy, right? There were two wheelchair bound women that lived there. They had 24/7 care. The landlord does not take care of the place except to mow the lawn. Our kids did mostly outside work. They trimmed tree branches that were low, and planted a rose tree in the front yard so the ladies would enjoy something new, fresh, and beautiful. Remember when I told you we have to be "rooted?" Well, these kids took three hours to dig up a stump (and I know the time frame, because I was there)! Anyway, the problem was that they had the root, there was a layer of rock, and the other part of the root was under the rock. These kids were determined, and eventually, endurance paid off! I think you could hear the screams across town! That is how Jesus spoke to these kids, especially when they persisted the way they did. Now

that is being rooted! I know I am partial to this mission site, because I was there, but let's go back to Snow White for a minute. The song "Heigh-Ho" - have you ever really listened to the words?

*We dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, dig
In our mine the whole day through.
To dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, dig
Is what we really like to do.
It ain't no trick to get rich quick,
If you dig, dig, dig with a shovel or a pick
In a mine! In a mine! In a mine! In a mine!
Where a million diamonds shine!*

*We dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, dig
From early morn till night.
We dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, dig, dig up
Everything in sight.
We dig up diamonds by the score,
A thousand rubies, sometimes more.
But we don't know what we dig 'em for,
We dig, dig, dig-a-dig, dig!*

Our kids dug the whole day through, they got rich by doing God's work, and helping the landlord with the upkeep of the property. They used every accessible tool possible. And they definitely dug the whole day through! You can't tell me all of this does not tie in together!



I also took off for a day to attend one of the Bible studies at the adult conference. Claude "Big Dog" Johnson, from Michigan, likes to go to one session, and I invited myself along. If you ever get the chance to sit down and listen to Claude teach, it is a privilege you should not turn down! He and I were talking, and he taught me -- just listening to him in the one hour and twenty minute car ride, I had to get out my paper and start taking notes. When he was talking, he tied his "lesson" into the theme of the conference. He said you have to **BE** still, **BE**lieve, and **BE** ready. We have to remove excess baggage in order to serve. We have to feed all of the sheep, not just one. This is a big one -- **YOU CANNOT SERVE PART-TIME TO A FULL-TIME GOD**. You need to serve or not serve, nothing in the middle. I also learned the meaning of his nickname. After all the years of knowing Claude, I don't know that I ever realized it actually meant something. It stands for **Believe In God, Depend On God (BIG DOG)**. I think that is a good lesson to wrap up this article, isn't it?

Lynn Robertson

Perpetual Spires Lit in Loving Memory of...

September 16

Martha Barnard Derick
by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Derick Brash
on the anniversary of her birth

September 21

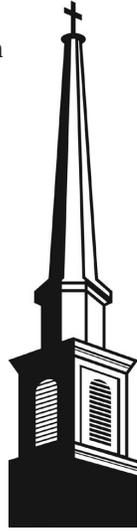
Helen Lorbeer Gray
by her children

September 22

Mrs. Henry Stanwood Atwood

September 26

Corinne Niver, my sister
by Joan Zito



October 2

Pauline K. Wirth Happ
by her family

October 3

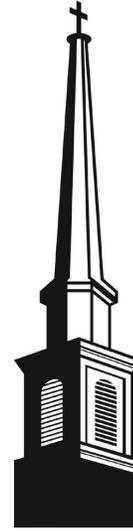
Robert D. Dickson
by his wife and family

October 16

Mendall P. Thomas
by his family

October 17

Charles J. Horton
by his wife and family
&
Elizabeth Hyde
by the South Church Women



October 18

Helen H. Hurlburt
on the anniversary of her birth
as bequeathed on her will

October 20

John M. Wallace
by the late A.S. Wallace

October 24

Mrs. Burdett H. Sloan
by her family

October 27

Ernest A. Dudley
by his family

Membership Appreciation Awards

Every year, we have an opportunity to recognize those who exemplify service here at South Congregational Church with our Membership Appreciation Awards. An explanation of the awards are as follows:

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.

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.

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.).

The John Church Award (Male Youth/Young Adult)

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.

The Sarah Richards Award (Female Youth/Young Adult)

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.

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.

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.

Not every award needs to be given out every year, but if there is someone you believe deserves to be noticed, please begin thinking about nominating him or her. Ballots will be available at the Information Desk in Robinson Lobby, or you can email Pastor Adam: pastoradam@schartford.org. The awards will be presented at our Annual Church Meeting on Sunday, November 24, 2019.

Rally Day 2019!

Rally Day is September 8, 2019 this year. We will begin with a breakfast from 8:30 am - 9:30 am. This will be followed by our Traditional Worship Service. This fall, we will be focusing on the hymns of the brothers **John and Charles Wesley**.

John (left) and Charles Wesley (right) are among the most notable evangelists who ever lived. As young men, they formed a party, which came to be derisively called the Methodists, because they methodically set about fulfilling the commands of Scripture. In due course, they learned that works cannot save,



and discovered salvation by faith in Christ. Afterward, they carried that message to all England in sermon and in song. John Wesley is credited with staving off a bloody revolution in England such as occurred in France.

Both preached; both wrote hymns, publishing fifty-six collections of hymns in fifty-three years; but John is more noted for his sermons and Charles for his hymns. Charles Wesley wrote 8,989 hymns (at least three times the output of poet William Wordsworth). Wesley's "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" was originally written as "Hark! How All the Welkin Rings" (meaning "how all the heaven rings"). Thankfully, Wesley's friend George Whitefield, the famous evangelist who sparked America's Great Awakening, changed this popular Christmas carol.

Interestingly, eighteenth-century hymnbooks were usually only collections of texts -- they did not include musical notes. This "newfangled" music was not immediately accepted. The first hymnbook of the Wesleys was published not in England, but in America (in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1737). It contained no texts by Charles Wesley. For this effort, John Wesley was "arraigned before a grand jury for altering authorized psalms and for introducing unauthorized compositions into church services." Perhaps that is why John Wesley's first two published books of tunes included only a melody line, because he held serious doubts about the appropriateness of singing in parts (harmony). As it was, the singing of hymns was not officially approved in the Church of England until 1820.

Today we are blessed by the Wesleys' work, because we are able to praise God with such hymns as "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."

After our 11:00 am service, everyone is invited to a church picnic! **Bring your own lawn chair** and a friend and join us in the front courtyard for fun and fellowship as we kick off our new church season!



Dance the Night Away!

On Friday, September 27 at 7:00 pm, South Church presents **Jukebox 45** (www.jukebox45.us) for a night of music from the 1950's and 1960's. Enjoy the music of The Duprees, The Five Satins, The Marcells, as well as Elvis, Del Shannon, and Chuck Berry, all while raising money for a great cause. One hundred percent (100%) of the proceeds of this event will go to the South Congregational Church College Scholarship program. Only \$15.00 per ticket will get you a night of great music, and it will help a South Church high school graduate as they head off to college.

Invite a friend to help you dance the night away! You do not want to miss this amazing event!



Friday
September 27
7:00 pm
\$15.00
277 Main St.
Hartford

Playing the best music from the 60's and 60's

The Dupree's, Ray's, Aretha's, 5 Satins, Monkeys, Earth, Little Anthony, Chuck Berry, Elvis, Drifters, Aretha's, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, Del Shannon

All proceeds benefit:
South Congregational Church
College Scholarships

Happy Anniversary, Grace Academy

Grace Academy is celebrating their 10th Anniversary on Wednesday, October 2, 2019! There will be a special prayer gathering in our Meeting House that day, followed by a reception in Gray Hall. All are invited to attend. The 2019-2020 school year is the final one for Grace Academy here at 277 Main Street. They will begin the 2020-2021 academic year in a different Hartford location. We have been blessed to support Grace Academy over the past ten years, and wish them all the best in their new location. Happy Anniversary, GA!



Sept / Oct 2019 |

South Church Families

From Ms. Moneca

Its official! This was one of the best summers our church family has ever had. Many of the joys I had was seeing God perfect planning even when it seemed like a sure failure. In the past couple months I can tell you that I felt the event could be a total flop. Whether the unpredicted rain made a surprise appearance or there just wasn't enough sign up staffing God works it out for his glory. The temptation to cancel, give up lingered in the mind for way to long because the word of God says. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV. So as the new Church year rolls around the corner and family schedules start filling in let's take a moment and bask in the glory of our Lord's work at Southchurch.

In his service
Ms. Moneca

Upcoming Events:
Sunday School Begins: Sept 8 -** Register online**
Rally Sunday Family Event- Sept 8
Trunk of Treat- TBD



We're Having a BLAST!

This July and August has been busy for our youth group. We have begun to reclaim the Youth Center downstairs. The plan is to have a prayer room as well as a new air hockey, ping-pong, and pool table. We also will be adding some paint to the walls, rugs on the floor, and upgrading the furniture. Service projects included a can and bottle drive to support the **M²⁵ Haiti Mission** as well as cleaning up our neighborhood (277 Main Street and the surrounding city block). We had discussions on the sanctity of life, baptism, Peter's confession (Matthew 16), peer pressure, addiction, and a walking history tour about the founding of the Second Church of Christ (South Church). There was time for fun as well. We have gone to lunch together at McDonald's, the Connecticut Science Center (to see the Real Bodies exhibit), **Miss Renée** made us all milkshakes (with our Hamilton Beach milkshake maker downstairs), and we walked to **Rush Bowls** (on Front Street) for smoothies.

This fall, we relaunch our youth ministry! We will be known as BLAST -- an acronym for **B**elonging, **L**earning And **S**erving **T**ogether. The youth also chose a new BLAST logo. We are looking forward to **Kyle Singerman**, our new Director of Young Adult Ministry coming on board on September 01. It is going to be a BLAST!

Reverend Doctor Adam Söderberg



Creation Stations

There are many opportunities here at South Church for you to express the creativity that God gave you. Whether it is sewing, making cards, knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking, or however the Holy Spirit leads you, we have a group for you.

Sewing Smiles and Holy Scrap meet downstairs in the Elmore Room Saturdays from 9-3, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12-5. The South Church Women's craft group meets Wednesdays from 10-3 on the main floor in the Bryant Room. Call the church office for more information. All are welcome, please join us!



Renée Söderberg

Living Prophetic Worship

As a worship leader, I am always trying to hone my craft and get better at what I do. This encompasses everything from listening to the current worship albums, sermons, and podcasts on leading worship to watching YouTube instructional videos on system setups and instrument tutorials. In my search, I stumbled across a video Rick Pino had posted on Prophetic Worship. Rick Pino is the founder of Heart of David Worship Center, who strive to be a modern day "Tabernacle of David" and are based in Austin, TX. There is a big push in the current worship culture towards prophetic worship, although many people aren't exactly sure how to define it.

Some people define Prophetic Worship as *worship that is spontaneous or has qualities of spontaneity*. Spontaneous worship might start with a song that is familiar and then break into a long section of Spirit-led prayer, or a completely new song could be composed on the spot. Sometimes a set list may be planned for a Sunday morning as a road map that the worship team can choose to follow, but the Spirit may lead them to go in another direction altogether.

Spontaneous style worship can take a lot of skill and preparation, but most importantly trust -- not only in your team, but in the Lord. Trust that He will use what you have to offer to minister and lead His people. This is the one thing that I pray for every Sunday morning -- that God would use our team at South to speak the words He needs the congregation to hear; that the songs we have chosen are not only great songs that people love to sing, but that they will minister to the congregation and that they will help the congregation to put words to the praise and thanksgiving that they have for their Father in heaven.

Rick Pino acknowledged the current trend and movement towards prophetic, spontaneous, Spirit-led worship, but he warned the listener of one thing. He said, *"Before we can have prophet-*

ic anything, we need to understand what is the prophetic, period. I think so many times people want to try to make this prophetic culture something really mystical, really spooky; they want to use these big elaborate words and really when it boils down to it, we just need to do what the Bible says we need to do when it comes to the prophetic. Because I don't want just prophetic worship. I want a prophetic marriage. I want prophetic finances. I want prophetic children. I want a prophetic life. I will not be able to do this until we first understand what is the prophetic."

Rick then goes on to share the "gold" of his post for me, which is the verse which he calls the heart of those interested in living prophetically. Colossians 3:16-17 says, **"Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father."** While this passage does mention singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, it also calls us to fill our lives with the "message about Christ." Not fill our Sunday mornings, but fill our lives.

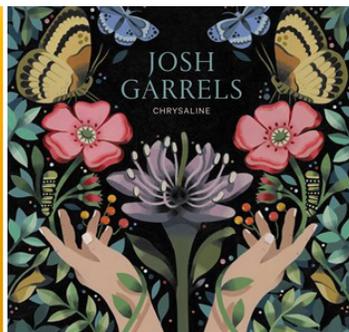
The last thing that he mentions in his post is that if we are to truly live prophetically, we need to be in the Word. How are we supposed to be a representative of Jesus if we do not know His example or how to live? How are we to live and speak the message about Christ if we've never read it for ourselves? How are we to praise God, whether it be planned worship or spontaneous song, if we do not understand what He has truly done for us? And most importantly, as believers in a world of unbeliever, how are we to bring people to the faith if we don't truly understand it ourselves?

Ryan Dafeck

What I'm Listening To



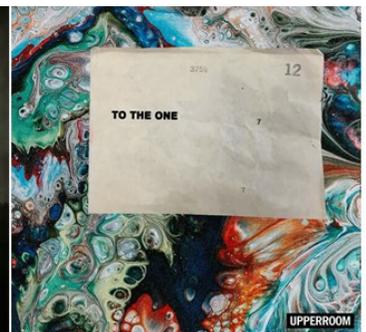
Will Reagan - Vacancy
Genre – Easy Listening/Contemplative
Will Reagan's songs such as Set A Fire, Take A Moment, Running In Circles and Not In A Hurry can normally be heard on Sunday morning in worship services around the world. This album uses a different formula. "Now that I am older I feel it all. But I feel nothing" is a direct quote Reagan used on his website to describe this album. With great musicality and soul searching lyrics this makes for a deep listen each time you play it.



Josh Garrels - Chrysaline
Genre – Alternative Folk/Religious
Josh Garrels has made a habit of writing contemporary Christian music that really cuts through to the heart and always sounds both current and classic. This album is Garrels' first full-length non-seasonal album in 4 years. An album full of spiritual songs that one can get simply lost in between the soaring melodies, orchestral arrangements and the journey each song take you on. Expect to hear this one a lot during quiet contemplative moments of services.



Skillet - Victorious
Genre – Hard Rock/Metal
This album rocks from the first track to the last. Filled with anthemic sing-a-long tracks, Victorious definitely makes the listener feel the theme of the album. From the opening track Legendary which focuses on our call to be Legendary for God to the closing track Back To Life that reminds us of the Victory we have through Jesus Christ. This album is overall just a fun listen and you won't be able to help from bobbing your head and singing along for multiple listens.



UPPERROOM – To The One
Genre – Live Extended Worship
UPPERROOM states they are "a community committed to ministering to the heart of God through prayer and worship because they believe that the Presence of God transforms lives". I highly suggest taking some time out of your busy day for some personal worship with this album. This album will fly by as you get lost in the atmosphere UPPERROOM creates in one of their worship services. There are so many great songs on this album but this is definitely an album that needs to be listened to in it's entirety.

Cooking With Christ

Cooking with Christ is getting a new look this fall! We will be focusing on outreach and mission, putting into action the spirit of "Love, Equip, and Serve."

What this means is that we will start each meeting with a devotion. Once the devotion is finished, we are going to create some wonderful treats together. We could make scones, cookies, cakes, breads, etc... You get the idea! These can be used to bless families at South Park Inn. They might be used for our Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship. On Wednesday night after they are done baking, we could take a walk to the Fire Station and surprise our local firefighters with something yummy. The possibilities are endless.

During our time together, we will learn to work with each other, embrace our differences, and love our similarities. We will learn to cook some delicious treats and bless others with these. And best of all, we will learn why God gave us His Son, so that we might live forever with Him in paradise. Join us Wednesday evenings in Cary's Kitchen. For more information, feel free to contact me at renee.soderberg@gmail.com, or (207) 852-6545.

M²⁵ Haiti

Despite not going to Haiti this past June, South Church has still had an impact on our sister church in Camp Perrin, Haiti. Our mission team raised enough money to build the pulpit and chancel area of the church. We were able to hire some local craftsmen to do the work. Pastor Lubin traveled this summer and shared with us some pictures. What an amazing transformation from our initial visit in 2011!

When we were there two years ago, we got the building started. There has also been some work on the building by a couple of U.S. college mission teams. They have been a blessing to us and Pastor François and his congregation. Work continues on the building and when we return in June 2020, we can get the classrooms finished.

There are still openings for missionaries to join our team. If this is something that God has laid on your heart, please join us by traveling with us, being a part of our prayer ministry, or Mission Control. Contact us at m25haiti@gmail.com.



Renee Soderberg

Support South and Have a Blast!



There are many ways that you can support the ministries at South Church beyond tithing on Sunday mornings. For example, instead of paying 10¢ per plastic bag at the grocery store, why not purchase some South Church **reusable tote bags**? These durable totes carry so much... I know from experience! They are \$5 a piece, or three for \$10. We also have handy **South Church water bottles** available for sale, and **South Church baseball caps**, both \$10 a piece. All of the items have our logo on them, so if you come across someone looking for a church, maybe they'll ask you about yours!

Fundraisers are great ways to support your church. **Jukebox 45** is performing Gray Hall on Friday, September 27 at 7 pm. Tickets are \$15 a piece, and 100% of those proceeds go to support our Scholarship Ministry. We are trying to put together more fellowship opportunities throughout the fall, including possibly attending a **Uconn Football Game**. There are some exciting plans already in the works for Spring 2020 as well (including, but not limited to, attending another **Yard Goats Game**, and hosting a musical here at South Church!)

God is moving here at South Church, and your support helps to grow His kingdom here in Hartford, Connecticut!

Lauren Pouliot



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 Email: info@schartford.org
 Torchbearer online: schartford.org/torchbearer

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

Coffee Fellowship
 Sunday mornings at 10:30 am
 Robinson Lobby

facebook.com/SouthChurchHartford

- Ryan Dafgek ~ *Worship Arts Director*
- Moneca Liz ~ *Director of Children & Family Ministry*
- Darlene Lisella, Lynn Robertson ~ *Greeters*
- Christine Melson ~ *Organist*
- Kyle Singerman ~ *Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry*
- Lauren Pouliot ~ *Choir Director*
- Rev. Dr. Adam Söderberg ~ *Senior Pastor*

LOVE. EQUIP. SERVE.



The Hartford Project

This was another exciting summer at The Hartford Project! Our theme for the summer was Catalyst, defined as *the spark that brings transformation*. Our students encountered many different catalysts, with God as the ultimate catalyst. Students were transformed as they worshiped God, learned more about our city, and served alongside local churches and non-profits.



Students also became *the spark that brings transformation*, as they grew in understanding their identity in Christ and stepped out in faith to share God's love with the people around them.

One of my favorite stories of the summer is from our Love Wins block party in July. This event was hosted

by four Hartford churches, including South Church. During the block party we were met with torrential downpour, and our students began to pray away the rain! We saw God move when the rain stopped immediately, but we were disappointed when the rain returned with lightning and we had to close down almost all of the activities. However, God was still moving and He had a plan, as He always does!

The students, church volunteers, and guests sheltered in the church where the block party was being held. Students continued to pass out food, gifts, Bibles, and pray and engage with guests. One leader shared how, even though we were sad to close most activities, people were entering the church because of it, and as a result might be more comfortable returning to the church in the future. The next day, a student shared about this event and we reflected on how beautifully this parallels life -- God sometimes changes our circumstances, but even when the challenges of life remain, this can cause people to turn to God and find comfort and safety in God and in Christian community.



Many other stories from the week speak to God's faithfulness and steadfast love. He was on the move, and He is still on the move in our city. How will you join Him?

Jacquelyn Perreault



- 03 - Gene Beaupre
- 03 - Marie LeVan (111)
- 04 - Michele Birbrau
- 04 - Levi Sepko
- 05 - Karl Hahn
- 14 - Peg Barles
- 14 - Sandra Carpenter
- 14 - Susan Elphick
- 15 - Alaura Howes
- 17 - Javon Delaine
- 19 - Deborah Deschenes
- 23 - Kyle Singerman
- 28 - Pat Rossi

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- 01 - Janet Wallace
- 02 - Veronica Mingoelli
- 02 - Dr. Adam Söderberg
- 06 - Jack O'Connell
- 12 - Tessa Belcastro
- 13 - Lydia Ciccarello
- 13 - Jean Trzcinski
- 21 - Haley Serrano
- 22 - Jeffrey Savery
- 23 - Carlos Sanchez
- 24 - Colleen Jenkins
- 30 - Jessica Sasseville