

From the Pastor's Pen*

Once upon a time...

The Dutch explorer Adriaen Block first visited this area back in 1614. He was followed by fur traders from the New Netherland colony which claimed territories in Delaware, and portions of Maryland and Virginia, to southwestern Cape Cod, as well as what are now parts of the Mid-Atlantic States of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The seat of the colonial government in the New Netherland Colony was New Amsterdam located at the southern tip of the island of Manhattan. We know it today as New York City.

These same fur traders set up shop at the confluence of the Connecticut and Park Rivers as early as 1623, and named their site "Fort Goede Hoop (Good Hope)." They stayed slightly over thirty years abandoning the area by 1654. Today, the neighborhood near this site is known as Dutch Point.

Thomas Hooker came to the area from Massachusetts in 1636 and founded the First Church of Christ (known today as Center Church). When Reverend Hooker died in 1647, Samuel Stone succeeded him. Reverend Stone leaned more toward a Presbyterian expression and over time a number of church members who wanted to remain congregational became disillusioned. They asked for permission to leave. At that time, one had to have permission from the General Court of the Connecticut Colony. Reverend Stone denied the dissenters and they were forced to go to court to fight for the ability to leave.

At long last, through conflict and councils, controversy and courts, on the 22nd of February, 1670, Reverend John Whiting and thirty-one members of the Hartford Church, along with their families, formed themselves into a new and distinct church -- the Second Church of Christ (now known as South Congregational Church). Hartford now had one more "House of Hope."

The membership of this new church called John Whiting to be their pastor and upon his acceptance was "re-ordained" with prayer and the imposition of hands by Reverend Joseph Eliot and Reverend Nathaniel Collins who was Mrs. Whiting's brother. Other messengers of local churches approved what was done by giving the right hand of fellowship. Interestingly, two of the original members of South Church: George Grave and George Stocking had previously been among those opposed to the withdrawal from First Church.

Cotton Mather said of John Whiting, "He will never be forgotten [until the] Connecticut Colony forgets itself and all religion." Reverend Whiting was the second son of Major William Whiting, an original proprietor of Hartford, who lived on the east side of Governor Street. A man of wealth and distinction, Major Whiting was a magistrate in 1637, and Treasurer of the colony from 1641 to 1647. For many generations the Whiting family was one of accomplishment and influence in the Connecticut Colony. Whiting descendants are found among the ministers, magistrates, merchants and soldiers of Connecticut to say nothing of the women of note whose ancestry can be traced back to Major William and Susanna Whiting.

They built a modest one-room Meeting House on the corner of what is today Sheldon and Main Street, and so began the story of South Congregational Church.

To be continued for 350 years...

Dr. Adam Söderberg

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\* Excerpted from Pastor Adam's upcoming book: **House of Hope -- The Story of South Congregational Church Hartford, CT.**

## 1670-2020

The year of our Lord 2020 is South Congregational Church's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. As such, there will be several events scheduled over the next twelve months. We begin with our Banquet on Saturday, February 22, 2020. That same day we also open up the new Stanley Room Museum. Visit the interactive display upstairs in the Stanley Room, and stay tuned for more ways we will be celebrating!



## Join Us at the Long Table

In the seventeenth century, New England had a great abundance of wildlife and seafood. They also made baked beans and pease porridge (a savory pudding dish made of boiled legumes, typically split yellow peas, with water, salt, and spices, and often cooked with a bacon or ham joint) were everyday fare, particularly during the winter, and usually eaten with coarse, dark bread. The colonists learned from the natives how to plant, nourish, harvest, grind, and cook maize (corn). They gave it the English name of "hasty-pudding." Governor John Winthrop also records that when corn is parched it turns entirely inside out, and is "white and floury" within. That's right. They had popcorn! Pumpkins (pumpkins) were readily available and eaten. Captain Edward Johnson (1598-1672), a leading figure in colonial Massachusetts, said, "We have pumpkins at morning and pumpkins at noon. If it were not for pumpkins we should be undone."



For protein, besides fish from the sea and birds from the air, they had animals from the forests. The free roaming pig quickly became the preferred source of protein. It demanded little attention, and smoked, salted, or pickled was easily preserved. By the time the thirty-one original members formed South Congregational Church, Connecticut farmers were growing wheat, rye, barley, peas, Indian corn, hemp, and flax. They also made cider, and perry (a fermented beverage similar to cider made from the juice of pears). Baking was also a particular favorite of the early colonists, and New England was the origin of dishes today seen as quint-essentially American, such as apple and pumpkin pie, as well as the baked Thanksgiving turkey.

In colonial New England, a "long table" was used as a dining table. These tables were frequently very large. A portion of one displayed by the Connecticut Historical Society is seven feet four inches wide! To celebrate our 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are having a banquet here in Gray Hall on the actual date -- February 22, 2020. This will be a catered meal featuring:

**Baby greens with feta, dried cranberries, English cucumbers in balsamic vinaigrette**

**Dinner rolls with butter**

**Lemon roasted chicken with mushrooms**

**Rosemary, dijon and maple glazed pork loin**

**Penne alla vodka (freshly grated parmesan on the side)**

**Oven roasted baby potatoes with butter and chives**

**Green beans with sauteed garlic and soy**



Due to the cost of the meal, we have to limit it to fourteen years old and up. There will be child-care available with pizza and ice cream for those under fourteen. Please join us at the "long table!"

Following the dinner, a guest speaker will speak in the Meeting House. We are blessed to announce **Mrs. Mary Brewster**, wife of **William Brewster** (as portrayed by **Vicki Oman** -- a long-time interpreter at Plimoth Plantation). Ms. Oman will stay "in-character" (as Mary Brewster in 1624) during her talk, and then come back to the future (2020) for a Q & A session. It promises to be an incredible evening! You do not want to miss our 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Banquet. **Church members, please reserve your seat by Friday, January 17, 2020.** After that date, we will open up the seats to non-members and friends.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the recipients of this year's Membership Appreciation Awards. Nominated by the congregation, these awards are presented to church members or someone who faithfully serves our membership. Our 2019 recipients are:

**Jessica Soto** -- George Grave Award

**David Casiano** -- John Church Award

**Ryan Dafgek** -- John Whiting Award

**Moneca Liz** -- J. Hubbard Wells Award

We are blessed to have so many unsung heroes here at South Church. Join me in congratulating our class of 2019! Well done good and faithful servants!



Left to right:  
Rebecca Liz standing in for **Jessica Soto**, **Moneca Liz**, **Ryan Dafgek**, Sue Savery standing in for **David Casiano**

## Young Adult Ministry

Greeting South Church Family!

Many revivals have been started by young people! Young people can and do make a difference. I have been challenging the BLAST! Youth Group to dream big and start small. My prayer for the youth is that they would have a healthy relationship with God and others (one another and the community). During Sunday School, we have been talking about having healthy relationships with others, specifically about friendship. Truly, our youth possess a great deal of wisdom concerning how to choose good friends and set appropriate boundaries.

One of the other gifts that I have witnessed at work in our youth is their creativity! It was the idea of our very own youth to transform the coat closet into a prayer "nook," where people can step out of the noisy world and pray to our God, who always listens. It is clear that this is a group of visionaries and artistic youth! I can't wait to see the fruit of their labor, a transformed youth center!

Our youth have been active in traveling around Connecticut. One of the highlights was to take a second trip to Ikea to finish our second round of upgrades to the youth center. The most memorable (and tasty) part of that trip was a stop at "Food Truck Paradise" along Long Island Sound in New Haven. We also took a trip to the Clay Pen in West Hartford to paint pottery. Finally, we attended the Hartford Wolfpack hockey game. Please pray for our youth to grow in Christ and to love one another. Together, we can change our city and world!



*Kyle Singerman*



# Children and Families Ministries

*January / February 2020*

## From Ms. Moneca's Desk

Come on in 2020, we've been waiting for you! At least that's what many like me feel after a long, busy and sometimes expensive Holiday season.

As followers of Jesus, our efforts to honor the true meaning of Christmas do battle with our consumer culture. The temptation to overindulge our children isn't limited to December, though. All year long, kids of all ages are bombarded by ads for "must-have" items that promise fun, excitement, and even popularity. Do families New Year's rest? Yes! Everybody appreciates a "do over." Guess what? We have the chance to fix or change the way we go about our daily life and task. You see we are granted Repentance and forgiveness which are the foundational in our Christian faith. In our culture, New Year's Eve is the time when many people decide to start over in their attempt to reach a specific goal. So I encourage South church families together either at the dinner table (with all the leftovers) or in the car (driving to return items we didn't use or need) and Encourage your child to search their hearts and get a fresh start for the New Year. Read them these verses: 2 Corinthians 5:17 says ***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!***

I pray that you will walk alongside you children in the New Year to Church and Worship. Whether its Sunday morning worship, Weds & Saturday bible study and Kids/Youth there is a place for you to fellowship with your kids at your church. God loves your family, so let's take advantage of the promise of "NEW" and explore the truth together.

## Mark Your Calendar

Wed Go! Club- Every  
Wednesday

Jan 4 -Carpenter like Christ  
@Home Depot -

Bushnell Park Ice Skating -TBD

Rolling Skating- TBD

## Upcoming Sermons

### JANUARY SERMONS

#### “Malchus, Servant of the High Priest”

January 05

Luke 22:47-51

Malchus was not a soldier so much as an observer. A spy for his boss, really. His role was to return to Caiaphas and share who did what, how the arrest went, did Judas really betray him, etc. Even though Jesus knew these people hated Him and were arresting an innocent man, He showed compassion for Malchus and healed him. That is grace.

#### “I Am Barabbas”

January 12

Luke 23:13-25

Pontius Pilate declares Jesus’ innocence three times. Nonetheless, the mob of people scream for Barabbas to be set free. Barabbas knows he is a criminal and yet he is set free. I know I am a sinner, and yet, I too am set free because of what Christ did on the cross. That is unmerited favor. We call it grace.

#### “The Last to Be Forgiven”

January 19

Psalm 32:1-5

We are often quick to forgive those who have hurt us -- to offer grace to others. The last person we struggle to forgive is ourselves. Shame and guilt follow us like a shadow. Through Jesus, God offers us grace from not only our sin but from our shame and guilt as well. Grace is a gift from God that we do not deserve nor can do anything to earn. That’s why it is called amazing.

#### “Grace is Not Cheap”

January 26

Titus 2:11-14

Although we can never do anything to deserve or earn God’s grace, we can show our appreciation to Him. We can live lives that honor and glorify Him. Lives that reflect our thankfulness for Christ, the cross, and the empty tomb.



### FEBRUARY SERMONS

#### “Martin, Chuck, and Henry”

February 02

2 Timothy 3:14-17

The Roman Catholic Church was the only church in town for 1,500 years when a Catholic priest named Martin Luther began protesting many of the man-made rules of the church. Luther’s idea of “Sola Scriptura” (“Scripture Alone”) began to resonate with others who were soon protesting, demanding that the church be reformed. This begins the “Protestant Reformation.”

#### “Just Jesus”

February 09

Colossians 1:15-20

That Christ is the head of the church is a foundational congregational understanding. When Christ is the head, why should any other group of leaders be elevated to a place of special authority over the rest of the body? The church does not need two “heads.” It’s just Jesus.

#### “The Reverend Lemuel Haynes”

February 16

1 Peter 5:1-5

The Congregational Church of Connecticut licenses African-American Lemuel Haynes to preach, making him the first African-American minister certified by a predominantly white denomination. He will later become the first African-American minister to pastor a white church in the United States.

#### “A Congregational Church”

February 23

Acts 13:1-3

At long last, through conflict and councils, controversy and courts, on the 22 of February, 1670, Reverend John Whiting and thirty-one members of the First Church of Christ, Hartford, along with their families, formed themselves into a new and distinct church -- the Second Church of Christ (South Congregational). Hartford now had one more “House of Hope.” It still does.



## State of the Church 2019

Hello, my brothers and sisters-in-Christ. I am humbled, honored, privileged, and blessed to serve as your pastor as we share in God's work here at 277 Main Street in Hartford, CT.

2019 began our 349th year of ministry here at South Church, and **Renée** and my 14th year here in Hartford. It is hard to believe so much time has flown by, but the enthusiasm for what God is doing here has not diminished for either of us.

Every year has its ups and downs, and we were saddened to say goodbye to **Beverly Diamond, Edmund Grandahl, Marie LeVan, Kate McNulty, Phyllis Story, and Makayla Thomas**. While our hearts are broken, we also can rejoice in knowing that they have entered eternity safe in the arms of Jesus. Please join me in a moment of prayer to thank God for these faithful servants.

I believe it is important to recognize some other folks also. For a majority of us, church is a one-day-a-week event -- Sunday mornings. However, South Church operates Monday through Friday as well. We are blessed to have such a professional and dedicated staff serving here at South Church. **Joanne Harrison, Leslie Watkins, Todd Case, Lauren Pouliot, and David Casiano** keep this place running like a machine all week long, and **Ryan Dafgek** (our Director of Worship Arts) makes sure Sunday mornings glorify God. **Renée Söderberg** as our new unpaid Director of Hospitality has been instrumental in bringing a level of professionalism to Cary's Kitchen, coffee fellowship, funeral receptions, Family Night meals, and other special events. She's super cute too. Just sayin'. I want to recognize **David Casiano** for successfully completing State of Connecticut training, making him a state certified Security Officer. Congratulations, David!



The pre-Socratic Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said, *“The only thing that is constant is change.”* It is always hard to make staff changes, and we continue to pray for **Dido** and **Brit Montijo**, as they start the next chapter of their ministry. We were blessed to welcome **Moneca Liz** as our new Children & Family Minister in late 2018, and are very happy to have her family now a part of our family. We were also blessed to welcome **Kyle Singerman** to lead our Youth & Young Adult Ministry. We say goodbye to Grace Academy this coming June, and wish them nothing but blessings as they continue their mission at a new Hartford location. We are very excited, however, to begin laying the groundwork for Tadpole's Christian Daycare. There is a great need for quality childcare in our city, and we have a real opportunity to bless young families.

This past May, after three years of hard work, I graduated cum laude with my doctorate of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary. As a result of my studies, we launched an evangelism ministry this summer. We will continue to tweak and improve on it, and are looking forward to see how God will use us in 2020. I continue to serve as President of the Connecticut Bible Society. I am also now working with Overseed Ministries. Overseed is a non-profit ministry dedicated to revitalizing historic New England churches. Pastor Derek Richenburg of First Church in Wethersfield and I lead a monthly cohort of a dozen other Connecticut pastors in Willington, CT. I continue as well to appear on WIHS 104.9 FM on a regular basis for the Bread of Life program as well as on 88.9 FM WJMJ for one-minute devotional spots. We continue to utilize all forms of media available to share the message of South Congregational Church. We advertised for some events on Facebook in 2019, and will be increasing our internet presence in 2020.

Speaking of events, we had some great fellowship opportunities in 2019. Thanks to our Director of Communications, **Lauren Pouliot**, South Church members and friends were invited to attend a Yard Goats game in July, a UConn football game in October, and the Wolfpack hockey game and a Hillsong concert at the XL Center in November. We refocused our attention on our Scholarship Ministry this year, and were glad to award a \$2,000 scholarship to **Haley Serrano**. Haley is now mid-way through her freshman year at Central Connecticut State University. We were blessed by **Jerry Fanfarelli** and **Jukebox 45** donating their time and talent for a scholarship fundraiser in September. We plan for this to be an annual event. God rewarded our new dedication to this ministry in 2019. He led our own **Marie LeVan** to leave \$30,000 to the church for scholarship. We look forward to awarding our first **Marie LeVan Scholarship** in 2020.

## State of the Church 2019 (cont.)

In 2019, South Church continued serving our community through a variety of outreach ministries, such as **Sparrow Ministry, Sewing Smiles, Covenant to Care for Children, the M<sup>25</sup> Haiti Mission, Go! Kids, Vacation Bible School, The Tree of Life Ministry, BLAST, and The Hartford Project**, just to name a few.

We continue to support **Al-Anon, the Theological Education Institute, LJB Security Training & Consulting, SoDo NRZ, the Larrabee Foundation**, and the **House of Good Hope/Hartford House of Prayer**, as well as others who utilize our building to help this community.

In 2006, when **Renée** and I arrived here, most of these ministries did not exist. Yes, there is still work to do, but it is good to pause every so often and recognize the good work that South Congregational Church has been a part of over the past few years, and praise God for what He is doing here!

In 2020, we will be relaunching our Men's Ministry "Men At Work," under the capable leadership of **Michael Serrano. Kelly Travers** is also leading our Strategic Planning Group, working on articulating an overall vision and plan for the next season of ministry here. You'll be hearing more about that in the coming months.

I bring a message of hope from our sister church in Camp Perrin, Haiti. Due to civil unrest in Haiti leading to a recommendation not to travel there by the US State Department, our **M<sup>25</sup>** mission team was unable to go this year. Nonetheless, we sent funds enough for them to finish the church part of their building, and install a beautiful new pulpit and flooring. In 2020, we hope to help them add on the new classrooms. At the moment, Haiti is struggling so please keep the nation and especially Bethesda Church at Camp Perrin in your prayers.

Most excitingly, we will be celebrating our 350th anniversary in 2020! Throughout the year, we will be holding a variety of events beginning with a banquet on our exact anniversary date, Saturday, February 22, 2020. This will be held in Gray Hall featuring a catered meal and special speaker. We will be opening our Stanley Room Museum as well, which will tell the story of South Congregational Church through a video presentation and display of a number of artifacts from our long history. A special thank you to **Susan Elphick and Todd Case** who have been working hard on this project. We will also see a new parking lot installed both across John Street and outside our back door. The Bryant Room will be getting new furniture and we will be installing WiFi and speakers throughout the entire building. You will be able to listen to what is going on in the Meeting House no matter where you may be. The next 350 years promises to be as exciting as the last 350 years. We are truly just getting started.

Lastly, I want to thank our Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, **Len Diamond and Delano Paul**, who along with **Leslie Watkins** have carefully watched our church finances in 2019. We are so blessed to have had faithful servants over the years remember South Congregational Church in their estates. Without them, we could be telling a very different story. However, because of their faithfulness, the strength of the economy, and good stewardship by those who hold that responsibility, the budget recommended by the Church Council and presented to you in your packets will meet all of the church's needs for 2020. We are blessed!

As we finish out 2019, I look forward with great anticipation to a very special 2020, and all that God has in store for us. Praise God for all of the members of South Congregational Church who came before us beginning with the original thirty-one who gathered together in 1670, and followed by generation after generation of faithful followers who believe in sharing our faith, and serving our community and beyond!



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

Our Haiti Mission Team is busy getting ready for our June 2020 trip, even though it is six months away. We would really love for the whole church to become part of our “team.” There are several ways you can be part of the “Mission Control” or traveling team.

The first and most important way to be part of our team is to pray for us, constantly. We need prayer for our preparations and for our travel. We also would love for you to pray for our friends at the BEM Church of Camp Perrin Haiti.

Another way to be part of the team is to take a “Be the Change” jar. This is based on Indira Ghandi’s quote, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” This jar will have a mini prayer and a photo of someone from our church in Haiti on the outside. This will be for you to take home and add change to it. We will be giving out the jars in February and collecting them at Easter. You can add as much or as little change as you are able. Every single penny counts. The money from these jars will enable us to do the programs we want to do while we are in Haiti.

We will also be supplying our Haiti church members with Creole Bibles. We can purchase them in Port au Prince when we go in June. You can purchase Bibles for \$10 each and we will place a placard in the front of the Bibles giving the recipient the name of the person from South Church who gifted it. We will place the order before we go and pick them up after we leave the airport. You can purchase one or many!

Being part of our travel team is a great way to be part of this exciting mission! Please see me for more information.

Lastly, there will be many more opportunities. Watch the lobby TV and the morning announcements for information about what is coming next. We would love to have you as part of our “team.”

*Renée Söderberg*

### Cooking for Christ

We are still looking for more people to cook with us on Wednesday nights. We meet in the kitchen at 6:30 pm. On the first Wednesday of the month, we cook with the Go! Kids and BLAST youth group. On the other three weeks we cook for coffee hour or other ministries. It is always something fun and informative.

Please join us... no experience needed!



### Sewing Smiles (aka Creation Station)

Holy Scrap, Sewing Smiles, Card Making (still looking for a name), and any other crafts are the main focus of this group. We love to craft and love our friends. We also love new friends. Join us on Saturdays from 9-3 in the Elmore Room for lots of fun and crafting! Come learn with one of our projects or bring your own. Come for a couple hours or all day (pack your lunch and eat with us too).

If Saturdays don't work for you, there is a group of crafters, the South Church Women, who meet on Wednesday mornings/early afternoon that would love to have you visit.





Happy  
NEW YEAR!

"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,"  
SAYS THE LORD.

"THEY ARE PLANS FOR GOOD  
AND NOT FOR DISASTER,  
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE."

JEREMIAH 29:11



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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  
Contemporary Service: 11:00 am

Coffee Fellowship  
Sunday mornings at 10:30 am  
Robinson Lobby

[facebook.com/SouthChurchHartford](https://facebook.com/SouthChurchHartford)  
instagram: [@scchartford](https://www.instagram.com/scchartford)  
twitter: [@scchartford](https://twitter.com/scchartford)

**Ryan Dafgek** - *Worship Arts Director*

**Moneca Liz** - *Director of Children & Family  
Ministry*

**Darlene Lisella, Lynn Robertson** - *Greeters*

**Christine Melson** - *Organist*

**Kyle Singerman** - *Director of Young Adult  
Ministry*

**Lauren Pouliot** - *Director of Communications*

**Rev. Dr. Adam Söderberg** - *Senior Pastor*

LOVE. EQUIP. SERVE.

## 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. & 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. Dr. Warren S. Archibald  
by his late wife

### February 22

In observance of the 350th 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 29

Florence Bryant  
by the South Church Women

January 

04 - Elaine Johnson  
05 - Gerald Hancock  
06 - Chris Savery  
09 - Shelly Casiano

09 - Carlos Flores  
15 - Lauren Pouliot  
25 - Chris Pascale

February 

01 - Barbara Bradley  
06 - Moneca Liz  
08 - Kelly Travers  
09 - Theresa Carpenter  
12 - Linda Conner

15 - Pam Mautino  
15 - Winston Paul  
22 - South Church  
26 - Marj Weidlich