



Epistle

SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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June 2016

As this month begins, we are getting ready to welcome our summer Peirson intern. The Peirson program—named for a founding family of the church that left a bequest in 1989 for the training of ministers--brings a seminarian to South for the developing of skills and the sharing of gifts. The program commenced in 1992 and since then we have had a variety of students from a half-dozen seminaries. This year our seminarian, Jim Day, is from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge. Jim is on a non-traditional track. He is a creative artist who is pursuing his Master's in Liturgical Arts in order to enrich the life of worship and deepen the life of faith. Jim Day is also a resident here in the Berkshires and a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Jim responded to our ad posted in a number of seminaries that said in part: *"Are you a seminarian with an interest in the arts who is seeking a different kind of ministry experience to enhance your overall pastoral training? South Church, UCC, in Pittsfield, MA, in conjunction with Cathedral in the Night, a local outdoor worshipping community, are together offering an innovative ministry experience that will enable a seminarian to explore the intersection of art, worship, and social justice in a growing collaborative effort."*

Jim will work 20 hours a week with us over the summer to add an artistic dimension to worship on Sundays, share his gifts with our Church School, and bring an artistic presence to the Pantry, St. Joseph's Kitchen, and the ecumenical Outdoor Cathedral community that gathers Sunday afternoons on the lawn of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Jim will not be focused on preaching, teaching, and visiting as would a more traditional seminarian. The wider church is in a time of great change and more non-traditional paths are being explored. Jim offers us the opportunity to walk with one who is exploring the interface of art and faith. In doing so his skills will be strengthened and our vision of ministry will be enlarged. Such ministerial experiments are what the Peirson program enables us to provide. And while I am on vacation this summer pastoral support will be provided by Rev. Art Kaufman, Rev. Bob Skidmore, and Rev. Jenny Gregg.

The world of art has the capacity to strengthen the vision of faith, deepen relationships as people share together in artistic expression, and melt barriers that so easily form between individuals, races, classes, and traditions. For example, our "Take Another Look" photo exhibit by Nick DeCandia, that documented the struggle and dignity seen every week at the Pantry and St. Joe's Kitchen helped our community see our neighbors more clearly. Could deepening our collaborations around artistic expression further the evolving ministry here at South, in our Food Ministry, and with Outdoor Cathedral? This is the question Rev. Jenny Gregg and I discussed after our week-long retreat at Kripalu in February. As the pastor for Outdoor Cathedral Rev. Gregg also had some funding that could be used toward an intern. This summer will be our opportunity to discover where these growing buds of hope, faith, and collaboration are leading. Be sure to greet Jim warmly when he arrives next week. He will be with us through the end of August.

Also in this *Epistle* is an article by Rev. Jenny Gregg as she moves into her new office here at South as an expression of shared ministry. This is another experiment in deepening collaboration.

EPISTLE

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Staff

Editor	Priscilla Anthony
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Pastor	Joel Huntington
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Moderator	Kerry Sullivan
Parish Nurse	Sue Kaufman
May Mattoon	Joyce Brown
Ladies Benevolent	Marge Demary
Men's Forum	John Anthony
Production and Mailing	Paula Haskell

The next *Epistle* deadline is June 26 at 11 a.m.

LECTIONARY FOR JUNE

June 5 – Choir Recognition & Bob Blafield Retirement Sunday

1 Kings 17:8-16, (17-24)
Psalm 146
Galatians 1:11-24
Luke 7:11-17

June 12 – Church School Celebration with the Sacrament of Communion

1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21a
Psalm 5:1-8
Genesis 1:26-31
Luke 7:36-8:3

June 19 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day

Rev. Jenny Gregg, Guest Preacher

Rev. Joel, Liturgist

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a
Psalm 42 and 43
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 26 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9: 51-62

HATS OFF TO SUE KAUFMAN

Susan Kaufman is the recent recipient of the annual **Clinical Excellence Recognition Award** at Berkshire Health Systems,



(BHS.) Recommendations for this award are made by fellow workers, however participants from other areas and departments are involved.

Sue was recognized for:

*Being one of the 2 people who started the wellness program in 2004 which now has 30 nurses and health educators to improve the employee health in the community and for BHS employees.

*First local person to become a health coach in 2006.

* One of the first in the country to be certified as a cardio-vascular nurse

*She worked in outreach for many years in all settings in the community, meeting people from all walks of life and screening for health issues.

*For the past 5 years she has developed and implemented the "get cuffed" grant programs that supply home blood pressure monitors to people in the community. It includes education on the factors that influence BP and how to get BP to goal to prevent organ damage. To date almost 4000 monitors have been given out through classes and individual sessions in the community and at the doctors' practices. Everyone receives follow up to assist in getting their blood pressure to goal.

Among many quotes from co-workers the following was written by Dr. Mark Pettus:

"I have known and worked with Sue for many years. She embodies the values that define BHS mission for providing compassionate care. Susan has created an enormously successful community based "get cuffed" program. Her leadership has added tremendous value to our population health work. She touches many lives and has earned the respect and trust of our provider community. I cannot imagine a more deserving candidate for the 2016 award.

We congratulate you Sue, and wish you a continuing successful and inspiring career.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY



Unit 6 entitled "Easter People" ended on Pentecost Sunday. It was a meaningful unit that explored the path from Easter to Pentecost. The children learned about happenings and events that

led the disciples from the resurrection to the birth of the Christian Church. It was deeply meaningful. A pre-summer session began on May 22. The Logo for this session is "God's World, Our World." Lesson themes include "Caring for Creation," which celebrates the fact that children have a role in caring for God's creation; "Sing a New Song" to sing out with the Psalmist our love for God; and "Compassion for the Poor and Needy" with the purpose of hearing God's call for compassion. I am very excited exploring these themes and ideas with the children as they are very open and willing to read and learn from Bible stories. Proverbs, Kings, Galatians and Luke are a few of the Scripture readings we will be using.

On Mother's Day, May 8th, Bing Honig joined us in Sunday School for an art project. Bing put together a wonderful workshop centered around birds. She lovingly helped the children make beautiful cards for their mothers. Thank you Bing!

Our music series has been moving along nicely with the talented and caring Bev Krol. Currently the children are learning two songs, both written by Bev, "Fill My Heart with Love" and "Lord, Please Help Me Grow." On Sunday, June 12th, the children will share these songs during a special worship service that will celebrate the 2015-2016 Sunday School Year!

During this special service the children will take part as liturgists, ushers and share some reflections from the school year. Volunteers and teachers will also be recognized. Following the service, there will be a special coffee hour with cake, ice cream and balloons! What a great year it has been to celebrate!

Sunday School classes and nursery care will continue each week during the summer months. Hope to see you there.

Ann Roche



GROWING SOUTH CHURCH

We have something very special here at South Church to share with our community. If you have felt the spirit move you in our services or felt God's love in the kindness from others here than you have experienced what many are seeking in their lives.

Our minister is genuinely caring and compassionate with messages each week that inspire. We have a safe and loving children's ministry to help instill faith in the next generation. The food ministry is beyond comprehension and truly a sign of God working in our midst.

We all know the value of faith during times of adversity. We need to grow our congregation for the sake of the future community. Let's shine our light by letting others know who we are and what we have to offer.

We had a Facebook post that was seen by over 3000 people in just one day. Most are seen by less than 200. Social media now plays such a significant role in our society. Let's use it to grow our church as others have been able to do. It is seen as the best advertising available for non-profits. With less than 5- minute a day you can help us build our online presence.

The Networking Team is having a brief 20-minute class after church on 6/26. Please come learn a few very simple tools that you can do. We need your help.

Visit us to "like", "share" & "invite" as often as you can:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthChurchPittsfield/>

Newly constructed website:

<http://southchurchpittsfield/org>

The Networking Team



FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry has been increasingly busy and our clients have asked for some evening hours. Many

work jobs which do not allow them to use the Pantry in the mornings. So now our Pantry hours will be on Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. and again from 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. and on Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. These hours should also benefit our Wednesday night dinner guests. We opened our Pantry this week in the evening and had a great response from our dinner guests. Hopefully others will take advantage of the evening hours.

If you, your neighbors or friends have extra produce from your gardens this summer, please share with the folks at the Pantry. We keep talking about healthy eating, but we need to help by supplying healthy options.

Some of our early guests to the Pantry now have self-supporting jobs and are proud and happy that they don't need to use the Food Pantry. I speak with them in the super markets, etc. and they always say how grateful and thankful they are that the Pantry was there when they needed it.

Thanks to all for supporting the food ministry. If you would like to donate to the Food Pantry this month, toilet paper would be greatly appreciated.

Mary Wheat

A Note of Thanks to Mary Wheat from Berkshire Community College

Dear Mary,

On behalf of the staff and students of Berkshire Community College, we want to thank you for your participation in the Service – Learning Program. Your role as supervisor is greatly appreciated, and we could not have had such a successful spring semester without your help. Your site played a vital role in giving our students the opportunity to learn and serve as part of their lives and education.

Thanks to you, our students now have additional skills and knowledge to take action to improve the future of our community. Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

Berkshire Community College-
Service-Learning Program



MAY MATTOON

May Mattoon met at the Hancock Shaker Village at 12 noon on Tuesday, May 3rd. 15 members and Joel were in attendance. After an enjoyable lunch in the café Mary Rentz took us on a very interesting and informative tour of the village.

Next month's meeting will be held on Monday, June 6th at 6 pm with a potluck supper. Sue Kaufman will speak to us on the subject, "Our Health."

Joyce Brown

ART DISPLAY

A new art display will be hung in June with paintings by Bob Hill.

We are also looking for people, young or old, who are interested in sharing their talent by displaying their art work in our red carpet area for future shows.

If you are interested, please contact the South Church office at 413-442-7357 or Bob Hill at 413-243-1361 to let us know. We all enjoy the displays and it's nice to have new ones.

Pat Hill

LORD AND TAILOR NEWS

We are looking forward to a great summer for the shop. Right now however, we have two volunteers who are ailing. We are grateful that people from our list of substitutes have stepped up to fill in. We're always looking for volunteers to help work in the shop and help when others are out. Thank you in advance for helping.

The shop looks great with all the spring colors. Our donations lately have been especially nice.

We are currently in the midst of a sale on jewelry. All jewelry is half price, and there are some really nice items.

This month we will be giving \$400 to the church.

HAPPY SUMMER!!

Nancy deForest and Audra Kinner



JUNE 5: CELEBRATING THE WORK and MINISTRY OF BOB BLAFIELD

On June 5 our focus will be the celebration of the ministry of music. Our Chancel Choir is concluding another successful year of guiding and deepening worship through the music they offer. And Bob Blafield, after eleven years as Music Director, is retiring. This is both a sad and joyful day. Bob is such a gift and so talented in so many ways, but he is ready to lay down the burdens of weekly rehearsals and services. Bob's tenure has been a shining part of South Church over this past decade and more.

During the June 5 service, we will give voice to all of our gratitude for Bob's heartfelt gifts. Joel's reflections for the day will lift up a musical theme of Scripture and the ministry of Bob Blafield. Special guests Jack Brown, Tracy Wilson, and others will lend their talents to our celebration. After this service, the Diaconate will host coffee hour in Bob's honor. Please join us for this joyous day of celebration!

Summer Music at South

This summer a search committee, chaired by Cindy Dickinson, will undertake the challenging task of finding South's next director of music. In the meantime, summer worship services will showcase the musical talents of several guest organists, including Tracy Wilson.

SPORE (Specialized Program of Research Excellence Award)

Nicholas A. Willis, grandson of Dorothy and Jim Kresge, has been awarded a \$75,000 research grant from The Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center; the grant is a SPORE (Specialized Program of Research Excellence) award, funded by the National Cancer Institute. SPORE grants support research that moves from the laboratory to the clinic, and are designed to speed the application of basic science findings to actual patient treatment. The purpose of this particular DF/HCC award is to develop the careers of young researchers committed to breast cancer.

Nick is a research scientist, whose work focuses on the role of DNA repair genes associated with breast and ovarian cancer, BRCA1 and BRCA2. He conducts his research at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where he holds the title of Staff Scientist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Looking for Young Children's Books Again

Thanks so much to Jean Bousquet's trips here and there, and to her friends, we have kept up with demands for books at the pantry. We're missing her efforts and, even more, her presence. So this is a shout out to everyone to be on the lookout for picture and board books at tag sales and fairs throughout the spring and summer. Sometimes there are real bargains at used bookstores, thrift/consignment stores, and library sales. Once school's out we will be having an influx of kids coming to the pantry. Our mission is to get books in the hands of the youngest so that they get on the path to reading on their own and choosing books before they choose TV or gaming.

Thanks for all you have done from Jean and Sandie!

Sandie Smith

THAT'S MY DAD

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50.'

The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$100.'

The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes six people to collect all the money!'



The Board of Trustees has voted to provide Rev. Jenny Gregg with an office here at South so that as she leaves her ministry at St. Stephen's Episcopal she will have a focal point for her work with Outdoor Cathedral here in Pittsfield and a place to land as she works with Episcopal churches around W. Massachusetts. Rev. Gregg continues to work closely with Rev. Huntington on a number of ministry projects and having an office at South will strengthen such collaborations. Rev. Gregg will preach on a few occasions through the year, share in spiritual support classes, offer back-up pastoral support, and be a presence at the Pantry and our evolving food ministry. You will get to hear her preach on June 19. The following is Rev. Gregg's letter of introduction.

Dear people of South Congregational,

How wonderful it is to join you at South!

For those I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, let me take a moment to introduce myself. I recently finished nine years of service at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church where I served as the Associate Rector. This June, I am embarking on a new adventure as Missioner for Servant Leadership in the diocese. This will include both continued oversight of the outdoor worship service in downtown Pittsfield--currently called Cathedral in the Night--and leadership development in Episcopal parishes throughout Western Massachusetts.

So, why have an office at South? Truth be told, I cannot think of a better place to be. Over the last several years, Rev. Joel and I have co-taught classes on servant leadership and recently we have begun to dream about what it would be like to have some intentional collaboration between the food pantry and the outdoor worship service. As we live more deeply into this era of being church, I am convinced more than ever that we need each other to live into the fullness of what it means to be body of Christ, regardless of denominational affiliation. As I get settled into my new office space, please do not hesitate to stop by and introduce yourself. I look forward to being with you, preaching on June 19th, and getting to know you as we work together to nourish the people of Pittsfield.

Faithfully,

Jen
The Rev. Jennifer Gregg,
Missioner for Servant Leadership



**THANK YOU,
LEE ANN!**

Due to Lee Ann Pettus' gardening skills, and devoted time spent on the grounds in front of the church building, we now have wonderful blossoming flowers. Thank you from all of us for beautifying our church lawn and creating this welcoming sight as we drive along South Street.

Mary Wheat

**What lies behind us and
what lies before us are tiny matters
compared to what lies within us.**

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Contributed by Nancy deForest

**WE ARE PROBABLY THE LAST GENERATION
THAT WILL REMEMBER WHAT A CLOTHESLINE WAS**
(And in lots of places they are illegal.)



A clothesline was a news forecast, to neighbors passing by,
There were no secrets you could keep, when clothes were hung to dry.
It also was a friendly link, for neighbors always knew
If company had stopped on by, to spend a night or two.
For then you'd see the "fancy sheets" and towels upon the line;
You'd see the "company table cloths" with intricate designs.
The line announced a baby's birth, from folks who lived inside,
As brand new infant clothes were hung, so carefully with pride!
The ages of the children could, so readily be known
By watching how the sizes changed, you'd know how much they'd grown!

It also told when illness struck, as extra sheets were hung;
Then nightclothes and a bathrobe too, haphazardly were strung.
It also said, "On vacation now," when lines hung limp and bare.
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged, with not an inch to spare!
New folks in town were scorned upon, if wash was dingy and gray,
As neighbors carefully raised their brows, and looked the other way.
But clotheslines now are of the past, for dryers make work less,
Now what goes on inside a home, is anybody's guess!
I really miss that way of life, it was a friendly sign
When neighbors knew each other best...by what hung on the line.

Don't forget how good the clothes would smell when they dried in the fresh air.

Submitted by Bob Skidmore



What Must I Do?

The temptation is to focus upon what is wrong "out there." Often those who cling to the periphery of our life tell us what is wrong with the church. Usually we can add many things to their little lists because one must be of the family to know all that is wrong. Perhaps a prophetic voice is needed, but if that voice has the power to heal, it will come, as of old, from within the community.... But often the need is not for a prophet; the need is for the person who can ask of God what he must do to be the one through whom new life breaks. "What in *me* blocks the coming of the Holy Spirit?"

taken from Inward/Outward, an online daily devotional



Mark Kelso

JUNE 17, 2016
BREAD & ROSES
COFFEE HOUSE

Mark has been likened to John Lennon and Leonard Cohen. He believes that John and Leonard are better songwriters thus far. However...

When [Michael Jackson's](#) Heal the World Foundation wanted a musician for the World Children's Congress at Michael's Neverland Valley Ranch they asked Mark because of his long standing work with kids and the spirit in his music.

Mark founded [Muddy Angel Music](#), in order to create spirit-inspired works that did not shy away from religious overtones, nor cater to them.

From Madison Square Garden to healing resorts and churches across North America, Mark has brought his gentle wildness to play music for many thousands of people.

His musical scores and songs for award winning video productions have brought viewers to tears, at the [United Nations](#), in Hollywood, on the A&E channel, and in living rooms throughout the world.

Find Mark at [Muddyangel.com](#) or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DbLxo18qH0>

**Admission by
donation to
benefit**

**St. Joe's Kitchen
and Pantry at
South Church**

**Because of our
commitment to
practical faith, we
serve a free hot meal
each Wednesday at
5pm.**

**Each week, we also
provide food for up to
400 families in need
from the pantry.**

**Coffee, tea and variety
of desserts for sale**

**BREAD & ROSES
COFFEE HOUSE**

South Congregational
Church parlor
110 South St, Pittsfield

Southchurchpittsfield.org

Friday, June 17, 2016
7:00 p.m.

June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Food Pantry 7:30 – 11 am Music Together Bridge 12 – 4 pm St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm Food Pantry 6 - 6:30 pm	2 Food Pantry 7:30-11 am Music Together Crafts-Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am UCC Clergy Noon-Lunch Pantry Steering Committee-Noon Craft Fair Meeting 1 pm Bridge 12 – 4 pm Bridge 6 -10 pm	3 Lord & Tailor 10 am-4 pm Bridge 12 – 4 pm AA 6:15 pm	4 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm Al-Anon 7 pm
5 Music Sunday Worship 10 am Choir Recognition Celebration of the Music & Ministry of Bob Blafield Bridge 3 - 7 pm	6 Bridge 6 -10 pm May Mattoon Covered Dish Supper 6 pm NA-There is Hope Group 7 pm	7 Men's Forum 12 noon	8 Food Pantry 7:30 – 11 am Bridge 12 – 4 pm Healthy Pittsfield 2 p.m. St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm Food Pantry 6 - 6:30 pm	9 Food Pantry 7:30-11 am Quilting-Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am Bridge 12 – 4 pm Pittsfield School 6-8 pm Bridge 6 -10 pm	10 Lord & Tailor 10 am-4 pm Bridge 12 – 4 pm AA 6:15 pm	11 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm Al-Anon 7 pm
12 Children's Sunday Worship with Communion 10 am Church School Celebration Book Club Bridge 3 - 7 pm	13 Bridge 6 -10 pm Yarn Spinners 7 pm NA-There is Hope Group 7 pm	14 Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations 9 am Men's Forum 12 noon Diaconate 7 pm	15 Food Pantry 7:30 – 11 am Bridge 12 – 4 pm St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm Food Pantry 6 - 6:30 pm Trustees 6 pm	16 Food Pantry 7:30-11 am Quilting-Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am Bridge 12 – 4 pm Bridge 6 -10 pm	17 Lord & Tailor 10 am-4 pm Bridge 12 – 4 pm Coffee House Concert 7 pm AA 6:15 pm	18 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12 noon – 4 pm Al-Anon 7 pm
19 Father's Day Worship 10 am Coffee Hour Collections for the Language Project Bridge 3 - 7 pm	20 Bridge 6 -10 pm Yarn Spinners 7 pm NA-There is Hope Group 7 pm	21 Summer Men's Forum 12 noon Mission Board 7 pm	22 Food Pantry 7:30 – 11 am Berkshire Place 10:45 am Bridge 12 – 4 pm St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm Food Pantry 6 - 6:30 pm	23 Food Pantry 7:30-11 am Quilting-Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am Bridge 12 – 4 pm Bridge 6 -10 pm	24 Lord & Tailor 10 am-4 pm Bridge 12 – 4 pm AA 6:15 pm	25 AA 10:15 am Wedding 11 am Jennifer Haven & Timothy Johnson Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm Al-Anon 7 pm
26 Worship 10 am Networking Session Bridge 3 - 7 pm Summer Epistle Deadline 11 am	27 Bridge 6 -10 pm Yarn Spinners 7 pm NA-There is Hope Group 7 pm	28 Summer Men's Forum 12 noon Church Council 7 pm	29 Food Pantry 7:30 – 11 am Bridge 12 – 4 pm St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm Food Pantry 6 - 6:30 pm	30 Food Pantry 7:30-11 am Quilting-Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am Bridge 12 – 4 pm Bridge 6 -10 pm		