



Epistle

SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

110 South Street • Pittsfield, MA 01201 • (413)-442-7357 • sochurch@nycap.rr.com

Summer 2013

How is a sabbatical similar to a capital fund drive? To answer that, I take you to the far north woods of Canada. A few years ago Tora and I, along with some good friends, paddled our way into the wilderness. One afternoon we crossed a large lake and headed for a portage trailhead. When we got to the spot where the portage was to begin, there was nothing there but a marsh. One canoe paddled deeply into the swampy area looking for landfall, while others got out and bushwhacked through tangled masses of underbrush. None of us could find the path that would lead to the next lake and our evening campsite. The idea emerged that beaver may have been at work and flooded the trail. We might be in for a night of unpleasant slogging. As we began to resign ourselves to this task, one intrepid soul suggested that, first, we head back out onto the lake and look over the whole scene again. It seemed pointless, but we hoped for the best. When we once again took in the big picture and compared it to our maps, we quickly discovered that a little spit of land a few hundred yards away might actually be our trailhead. And, indeed, it was. Sometimes, stepping back and becoming aware of the larger picture enables a way to open even when it seems obvious there is no way forward.

A sabbatical offers a pastor time to step aside from daily duties and once again take in the big picture. Each sabbatical I have experienced has opened new doors and enabled me to find new trails for my life and the life of ministry we share together. I am sure that without periodic sabbaticals I could easily have led the church into some very soggy swamps. Finding the way for the church in the 21st century is challenging enough without unnecessary excursions! A sabbatical time also offers the church an opportunity to experience fresh pastoral leadership. This is the gift of our Peirson Ministerial Internship. I am excited that South will be guided by Barbara Rice for these two months. She has just graduated from Union Theological in New York and will offer the church a wealth of insight, skill, and experience as she leads you and deepens her own pastoral identity.

But what does this have to do with capital fund drives? It's very wise and healthy for a congregation to step back from the weekly, monthly, and yearly progression of ministry and look once again, with fresh eyes, at the big picture. Who is God calling us to be? Where is the pathway forward? A capital fund drive evokes such questions, because it's not just about raising money, it's about finding our way into God's future. The estates of Granville Pruyne and Edna Dunbar have given us a wondrous push in this direction with their large gifts. This summer you will see new windows in Barrett Hall, Cooke Center, and much of the Parish House. You will see our parking lot paved and improved. And you will see a new walk-in cooler/freezer installed in our pantry. This is from their gifts. But we also need to tend to our steeple, paint the front of the church, and make kitchen improvements. To that end a fund drive feasibility study will be held in September to help shape our way forward. We may be an older church, but this congregation is filled with dynamic energy and a sense of mission even as new pathways are opening. New windows, improved parking, and adequate refrigeration for our pantry all point in a hopeful direction. I imagine Jesus at the head of our portage route saying, "Let your light shine" as he beckons us down this promising path. As you see signs of light shining this summer let those deeper questions come as we seek to discern our way into God's future. I'll be doing the same on my sabbatical sojourn and will rejoin you on this journey to God's promised future in September. Till then, blessings and peace!

**SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Through 6/1/2013

	YTD	ANNUAL
Income	Actual	Budget
Operating	\$ 80,674	\$174,502

	YTD	ANNUAL
Expenses	Actual	Budget
Salaries	\$55,195	\$ 146,230
Operating	<u>\$35,142</u>	<u>\$ 80,200</u>
Total	\$90,337	\$ 226,430

Net Surplus (Deficit) \$(9,663) \$ (51,928)

This statement is a condensed version of the Treasurer's report using YTD data for the first five months of 2013.

Dale Prindle,
Chairman, Board of Trustees



**SAVE THE DATE!
Pittsfield State Forest
Worship Service
Followed by a Pot-Luck
Luncheon**

Sunday, September 8th at 10:30 a.m.

We have reserved the Ski Lodge at the Pittsfield State Forest once again for an outdoor worship service. This yearly experience in such a beautiful setting has been deeply meaningful as an expression of faith. And the pot-luck luncheon and fellowship following the service have been so much fun. So mark your calendars now and watch for additional details.

South Church Web Site

Check out our new South Church Web Site at www.southchurchpittsfield.org. We are developing this piece by piece but it is now beginning to look really cool. Thank you to Mary Rentz, Bob Hill, Paula Haskell and others who are helping us dive into the 21st century! Let us know what you think.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Summer has arrived! On June 16th we had a wonderful service for Children's Sunday. Bible presentations and Teacher recognitions were two of the highlights. The children were instrumental in the running of the service, acting as liturgist and ushers. A special thanks to deacons, Audra and Dick Kinner, for their patient and gentle guidance throughout the service.

Our SERRV Sale after the service was also a great success. A special "thanks" to Sarah Tierney for her responsible handling of my keys and the cash box!

Also, as always I would like to thank all of the congregation for their constant love and support of our children and youth.

A note for the summer months: I will be at the church each Sunday to spend spiritual time with any children and youth of families who are attending Sunday Service.

Bible Presentations:

Children of God Story Bible

*Alexis Aherne
Charlotte Buckley
Lucy Garrison*

Good News Bible – Large Print

*Noah Collingwood
Bryce Denault*

And finally, belated congratulations to *Nancy Tarjick* on her recent graduation from BCC. Best of luck Nancy! We are proud of you.

Enjoy the Summer Fun!

Ann Roche

Capital Fund Drive Update

At the annual meeting in January 2012, our congregation heard a presentation on organizing a capital fund drive by the UCC consultant, Jennifer Davis. After her presentation, we voted to move forward and fund a feasibility study by UCC consultants. This study would help us determine what depth and breadth of commitment we at South Church would have for such an endeavor. Since that time, a committee of Will Garrison, Mary Rentz, Joel, and myself, with input from the Trustees and Church Council, have been putting together a package of needs, desires, and hopes that could be addressed by a capital drive.

South Church was blessed in 2012 with some large memorial gifts that the Trustees earmarked for capital expenditures. These projects are: parking lot repaving, new storm windows for portions of the parish house, and new refrigeration for our bulging food pantry. Other property projects in need of attention include the sanctuary steeple, our flat roofs over the parish house, and the updating of the Barrett Hall kitchen. These repairs and others will require more than what we have been blessed with through memorial donations.

To some, it may seem foolish to spend precious time, talent, and treasure on an aging building with an aging congregation. Preserving and maintaining our physical presence gives us a base in which to support our vibrant and committed congregation that shines a bright Christian light upon our community through our mission work.

The Capital Drive Campaign has contracted with Ms. Davis and Rev. Jay Terbush of the UCC to conduct the feasibility study. They will be working with us to formulate a financial goal and to assure the success of that goal. An important component of the study will take place the last weekend in September. The dates include Friday, the 27th through Sunday, the 29th. That weekend, the consultants will be interviewing many of our members to ascertain their vision and level of support for South Church.

In the coming months, you will be hearing and seeing more information about our Capital Drive as South Church lets the light shine through our faith mission.

John Robertson
Capital Drive Chair



Youth/Adult Mission Outreach to *Cathedral in the Night* Sunday, July 7th at 4:00 p.m.

On Sunday, July 7th youth and adults from South have been invited to join members of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in serving dinner at *Cathedral in the Night*, a ministry for the hungry and homeless of Northampton that includes both a hot meal and a worship service – held on the lawn of the First Churches of Northampton. This weekly ministry has been held for the past two years, and the Berkshire Servant Leadership Center is hoping to start something similar in Pittsfield. Youth and parents from St. Stephen's will be busy during the afternoon preparing sandwiches and a shepherds pie to take along. Barbara is planning on joining Rev. Jenny Gregg and members of St. Stephen's on this outreach mission in Northampton. If anyone else from South would like to join them, please plan on meeting at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 67 East St. at 4:00 p.m. to travel to Northampton. Please speak with Barbara if you would like additional information.

Lectionary for July 2013

July 7 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6 (1-6), 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 14 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 14 – House Church at South

At 7 p.m. the “House Church at South” will meet in the Parlor for an evening of music meditation, and sharing, featuring singer/songwriter Linda Worster.

July 21 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 28 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

Lectionary for August 2013

August 4 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 11 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 18 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 18 – House Church at South

At 7 p.m. the “House Church at South” will meet in the Parlor for an evening of music meditation, and sharing, featuring singer/songwriter Linda Worster.

August 25 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Summer Sessions for “Breathing Underwater”

The Berkshire Servant Leadership Class, “Breathing Underwater: The Twelve Steps for Everyone” that Rev. Huntington and Helene Robillard of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church have been leading will continue during July and August with Barbara Rice and Helene. This exploration of the Twelve Steps of AA as a way of deepening the spiritual life and addressing life challenges in a creative and contemplative way has become a support group that welcomes everyone. Each session, offers anyone who comes, an opportunity for learning a simple meditative practice, reflection on a Twelve Step theme, time for discussion, and, most importantly, time for listening to the deep inner voice of love. This group will meet from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays: July 11 & 25, and August 8 & 22. Come and share the journey of learning to respond to life in deeper, more enriching ways.

The Gardner

Have I lived enough?
Have I laughed enough?
Have I considered Right Action enough,
have I come to any conclusion?
Have I experienced happiness with
sufficient gratitude?
Have I endured loneliness with grace?
I say this, or perhaps I’m just thinking it.
Actually, I probably think too much.
Then I step out into the garden, where the
gardener, who is said to be a simple
man, is tending his children, the roses.

Mary Oliver, *A Thousand Mornings*

July 2013



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	2 Men's Summer Forum Noon	3 Food Pantry 8-11 am St. Joe's Cook Out 5 pm	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY NO Food Pantry	5 Lord & Tailor 10 am AA 6:15 pm	6 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm
7 Worship with Communion 10 am Women's Book Club 11:30 Visit to Cathedral in the Night 4 pm	8 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	9 Men's Summer Forum Noon Diaconate 7 pm	10 Food Pantry 8 – 11 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm "Other Gospels" 6:30 - 8 pm Trustees 6 pm	11 Food Pantry 8:30-11:30 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am Spirituality & the 12 Steps Group 6:30 pm	12 Lord & Tailor 10 am AA 6:15 pm	13 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm
14 Worship 10 am May Mattoon Picnic at Tanglewood 2 pm (12:45 pm for carpooling) "House Church" In the Parlor 7 p.m.	15 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	16 Memorial Service for Alan Grieve 11 am Men's Summer Forum Noon	17 Food Pantry 8-11 am Berkshire Place Worship Service 10:45 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm "Other Gospels" 6:30 - 8 pm	18 Food Pantry 8:30-11:30 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am	19 Lord & Tailor 10 am AA 6:15 pm	20 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm
21 Worship 10 am with Rev. Carolyn Peck	22 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	23 Men's Summer Forum Noon	24 Food Pantry 8-11 am St. Joe's Dinner 5:00 pm	25 Food Pantry 8:30-11:30 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am Spirituality & the 12 Steps Group 6:30 p.m.	26 Lord & Tailor 10 am AA 6:15 pm	27 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm
28 Worship 10 am	29 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	30 Men's Summer Forum Noon Church Council 7pm	31 Food Pantry 8-11 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm "Other Gospels" 6:30 - 8 pm			

August 2013



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 Food Pantry 8:30-11:30 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am	2 Lord & Tailor 10 am AA 6:15 pm	3 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm
4 Worship with Communion 10 am Women's Book Club 11:30 am	5 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	6 Men's Summer Forum Noon	7 Food Pantry 8 – 11 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm "Other Gospels" 6:30 – 8 pm	8 Food Pantry 8:30-11:30 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am Spirituality & the 12 Steps Group 6:30 p.m.	9 Lord & Tailor 10 am AA 6:15 pm	10 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm
11 Worship 10 am with Rev. Robert Skidmore	12 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	13 Men's Summer Forum Noon	14 Food Pantry 8-11 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm Trustees 6 pm	15 Food Pantry 8:30-11:30 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am	16 Lord & Tailor 10 am AA 6:15 pm	17 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm Pittsfield Squares 7pm
18 Worship 10 am "House Church" In the Parlor 7 p.m.	19 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	20 Men's Summer Forum Noon	21 Food Pantry 8-11 am Berkshire Place Worship Service 10:45 am St. Joe's Dinner 5:00 pm	22 Food Pantry 8:30-11:30 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am Spirituality & the 12 Steps Group 6:30 p.m.	23 Lord & Tailor 10 am AA 6:15 pm	24 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm
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