



Epistle

SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastor's Letter purposely left out of this web edition.

EPISTLE

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Food Pantry	Mary Wheat
May Mattoon	Alice Gallup
Ladies Benevolent	Marge Demary
Men's Forum	John Anthony
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The next *Epistle* deadline is August 31st at 11 a.m.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Baptism – Elizabeth Beatrice Isham-Morton on June 1, 2014. Beth is the daughter of Lyndsay Isham-Morton and Michael Morton.



Wedding - Andrew Walker & Tabitha Shank on June 20, 2014. Andrew is the grandson of Walter and Mary Wheat and the son of Betsy and Paul Nichols.

Children's Book Corner

Thank you so much to those who organized the Mary Pope Osborne visit. It was such a delight to see so many families passing through Barrett Hall and heading home with free autographed books.

We had a few books left for the corner too.

I am grateful to Jean Bousquet for covering for me in the book corner during my absence. Jean is one of our most generous donors as well. Thanks, Jean.

If you're going to any book or tag sales this summer, remember the Book Corner and pick up something for the kids who visit our Food Pantry.

Sandie Smith

May Mattoon

Tables were trimmed with the colors of spring – green placemats along with spring bouquets. The decorations always put a smile on each member's face as they enter the parlor – a welcome greeting.

Karen Allendar announced that the Church United Fellowship has disabled and will no longer be collecting pennies (The Least Coin). Since such collections help greatly, it was voted to continue collecting the pennies and forwarding the money directly to the Church Women United headquarters.

Checks in memory of Judy Grady will be forwarded to the Board of Christian Education.

Priscilla Bailey sends a "hello" to members via Mary Rentz who contacted her recently. She has some difficulty walking and climbing stairs, but is otherwise in good health. We all miss you Priscilla and send a "hello" back at you.

Our summer picnic and gathering will be July 13th (Boston Pops) or July 20th (Joshua Bell, violinist) at Tanglewood. Exact date to be decided – stay tuned.

Our speaker at this meeting was Judge Joan McMenemy. This was an excellent program, wonderful speaker, interesting, enlightening and very informative. She is a judge in the Juvenile Court and spoke about how the system functions. The court tries to help young defendants put their lives back together and avoid wrong choices so as not to move into adulthood with a record. If adults are found to be contributing factors in juvenile cases, they can be prosecuted in the same juvenile court. Child abuse cases are tough to deal with and much effort is given to the future care of the abused. Case examples led to our conclusion that juveniles were being well cared for. It would take several pages to cover the complete presentation, and I admit to listening more than taking notes. The judge was interesting and held our rapt attention. We thank her for taking the time from her busy schedule to share her experiences and workings of the Juvenile Court. Judge McMenemy's journey to become a judge was not always smooth, but her determination to strive and pursue her dream paid off and we are fortunate to have such a person in our court system.

Hostesses were Karen Allender and Lois Moore, who served delicious cake and ice cream, after we all participated in the delectable choices from the potluck table.

Alice Gallup

From our Peirson Intern

As a person of faith and a religious professional, I cannot but speak about Monday's Hobby Lobby decision. I woke up this morning disturbed by the reality that certain classes of employers can now choose what portions of my mandated health care coverage I will not be able to receive because of my employers religious beliefs. I am disturbed that this ruling by five men affects women's bodies alone, and am disturbed by class issues implicit in this ruling. Those women who work for Hobby Lobby and other closely-held corporations quick to claim religious objections are mostly hourly and have limited employment options- they cannot afford private insurance, or get a "better" job that allows them the medical coverage they have earned. Those who are already our most vulnerable in the workforce are the ones affected negatively by this ruling, and we as people of faith have an especial duty to care for the poor and the marginalized. I have been horrified by some of the comments I have seen on social media about this case. God's heart isn't a democrat heart or a republican heart-God's heart breaks for the souls of God's people, not a corporation. There has been a slew of articles and comments published today claiming that contraception is anti-biblical, that all contraception is really abortion in disguise, that a women and her doctor should not have control over her own body anyway, and more. These are simply not true assertions; God calls us to care for the least of these, and to give voice to the voiceless. I am, as many of you are, privileged that my employer is not taking away any of my earned insurance benefits, privileged that I am not at the mercy of a place like Hobby Lobby. Our God-ordained responsibility then is to harness and use our place of privilege to work for the rights of those without the same rights, to speak where they cannot. The ramifications of the case are still developing. The UCC and other like minded collections of faithful people (including the Unitarian-universalists) have already put out statements decrying the outcome of this case; we all ought to keep a finger on this case as a place where we may be able to act for justice and the rights of those denied rights here. I have loved my first month at South and I look forward to two more. I have especially enjoyed working at the

community meal and spending time with many of you in discussions and visits. After a really good discussion with many of you post the 'signs of welcome' service, I have decided to hold a series of classes/discussions around gender, sexuality, and identity: "queer?", "understanding alphabet soup (gbtqia+)", "sex vs. gender vs. gender expression", and "expanding our welcome- where could we go from here?" I look forward to further learning and growing and laughing and weeping and celebrating with you all in the coming months.

Tori Jameson

The Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to be very active with many people with great need coming. Today, Wednesday we had 267 different families and with tomorrow we will end up with over 400 families this week. The challenge is trying to give healthy food to that many families.



Lee Ann Pettus is working long hours to get us connected to the computer. Jean Bousquet is substituting for Sandie Smith while Sandie recuperates from surgery. During the month of July a United Way representative is coming each Wednesdays to tell stories, etc. to the children.

We still need *PediaSure* for Elana. The family has found a doctor in New York City who will perform the surgery once she puts on a bit more weight. Also toilet paper is needed for all so please help. Any extra fresh vegetables or fruit that you have would be appreciated for the guests.

Have a wonderful, healthy, happy summer and enjoy all the opportunities summer offers!

Mary Wheat



Church School News

What a wonderful year! The children are growing socially and spiritually! The young ones settled in the nursery, becoming comfortable and happy under Rachael's consistent presence and supervision.

In the classroom, the students used arts and crafts, dramatic play and music to follow the time line from Jesus' birth to the resurrection and to the birth of the new Christian church. Each week an old and new testament scripture was read, followed by an interactive lesson. Thank you again to the May Mattoon for donating the funds in honor of Judy Grady to purchase the new costumes! The children's faces light up with happiness each time they wear them!

Participation in the South Church Christian Ed program is a wonderful experience for children and families. A weekly tradition and family time bonds families together. Art, music and dramatic play build the students' social skills and sense of creativity. Mission projects, especially at a very young age, empower children to feel the greatness of giving and actively making a difference in the community and wider world. Every child possesses the inner desire to be giving. This aspect of a child's character is nurtured through our mission projects. As they grow, the program builds on this sense of giving within that they can carry with them into adulthood.

Participating in a CE program provides children and youth with a spiritual foundation. This foundation is built year by year, providing strength and self confidence to the students. It gives them a church family as well as mentors. These aspects of the program help guide them through peer pressures and life's difficulties. It also leads into the confirmation experience which furthers their spirituality and mentor relationships.

So... spread the word and come join us! We currently have a summer program in place and will resume the 2014-2015 program in early September.

*Blessings,
Ann Roche*



Summer Birthdays:

Beth Isham- Morten, 1 year
Dominik DuBois, 8 years
Ben Tierney, 15 years
Sarah Tierney, 17 years
Belated birthday- Sarah Hill, 11 years



Congratulations College Graduates:

Rebecca Curry from Assumption College
Anna Pettus from MCLA
Marisa Skutnick from Clemson College



Sending Joel on a Silver Summer

Twenty-five years ago this June, Joel Huntington came to South Church to be our pastor. In the intervening years, we have been blessed by his faithful, thoughtful and caring ministry. Joel has shared experiences and Biblical scholarship that have help guide our individual spiritual journeys. Under his open, warm style, we have changed and grown together as a church in ways unimagined twenty-five years ago, and we have seen his leadership in our community take root and grow.

Next Sunday we will be sending Joel off on his well-earned sabbatical. At coffee hour, we will have a small reception to wish him a summer filled with silver moments on that will delight and renew him - unexpected moments on a trail, on a lake, at a family reunion, or under a night sky. If you are in town, please come add your silver wishes and thanks.

Mary Rentz

Lectionary for July

Lectionary for July 6 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Joel Huntington Preaching

Genesis 24

Psalm 145

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 13 –Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Tori Jameson Preaching

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalm 65:1-8, 9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 20 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Robert Skidmore Preaching

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalm 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 27 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Tori Jameson Preaching

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalm 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Thrift Shop News

As we head into summer, the shop is once more taking on a new look. Thanks (again) to Dale Prindle, a display shelf that was given up for dead has been resurrected. We had no problem filling it at once, of course.

Also, we were offered the remainder of a very nice tag sale in the community last weekend. So, we have a lot of new jewelry, as well as many other great things.

This month we were able to give \$400 to the church.

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

Nancy deForest & Audra Kinner

Lectionary for August

Sunday, August 3 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kay Loudon Preaching

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 7 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Carrie Bail Preaching

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalm 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 17 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Tori Jameson Preaching

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

Sunday, August 24 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Joel Huntington Preaching

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124 or

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

August 31–Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Dialogue Sermon with Rev. Joel and Tori Jameson

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

*“The highest form of wisdom
is kindness.”*

-The Talmud

HARVEST CRAFTS FAIR

Save the Dates:

Saturday, November 8, 2014

Thursday – November 6th – set up 6:00 PM

Friday-November 7th-pie baking, sandwiches, soups
etc., luncheon set up

Saturday, Fair Day - 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Luncheon 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Clean up 3:00 PM

We are asking for donations of NEW items to fill Gift Baskets for the Silent Auction, also Gift Cards and/or if you know of someone or an organization that may have something they'd like to donate please ask them on our behalf! We're also accepting donations of non-perishable items for the luncheon: canned tuna, saltine crackers, potato chips, coffee/tea, apple cider, mayonnaise.

There will be more news about the fair as the date nears but while you're enjoying your summer, please keep the Fair in the back of hour mind and we'll see you soon and Save Those Dates!!!!

The Fair Ladies

Raffle to Benefit The Elizabeth Freeman Center

The Elizabeth Freeman Center is holding a raffle In conjunction with the Annual "Walk-A-Mile In Her Shoes" Event. The raffle will take place on Sept. 18th. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the Berkshire Forest Woodworks Third Thursday Booth or at Flavors Restaurant at 62 McKay St., Bagels, Too at 166 North St. or Berkshire Print Shop at 46 McKay St.

1st Prize: A \$1,000 Coffee Table

*(handmade Old Growth Eastern Pine Table donated
by Berkshire Forest Woodworks
& Crafted by Tom & Sarah Tierney)*

2nd Prize: Dinner & Dining in Downtown

*(\$50 Flavours Gift Certificate &
2 Beacon Theatre Tickets)*

3rd Prize: A Lottery Wreath



The 2014 Gather-In – July 19th from 12 noon – 6 at Pitt Park *sponsored by* the Berkshire County Branch of the NAACP

Dear South Congregational Church,

The Berkshire County Branch of the NAACP invites you to participate in the 2014 Gather-In Festival

The event will be held on Saturday, July 19th at Pitt Park from 12 noon – 6 p.m. This is unique opportunity for the community to come together for a day of fun, relaxation, spending time with family and friends and fellowship.

The Gather-In is open to everyone. Festivities include live music, dance teams, savory foods, and vendors and dunk tank. Activities for children include pony rides, a bounce house, face painting, a magic show, games, and more. Talented members of our community will be on had to entertain us..

The Gather-In has historically attracted hundreds of people, with a large percentage of them being families with young children. This event is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity in our community and welcome people to the City's Westside.

We welcome the participation of your church and we encourage church members to bring their families and friends. We would also appreciate additional support from volunteers on the day of the event. Monetary contributions, *while not tax deductible*, are welcomed and needed to help defray the cost of the event. Those interested in helping should contact Henry Lee at 841-0542. Checks should be made payable to the Berkshire County Branch, NAACP and mailed to P.O. Box 605, Pittsfield, MA 01202

Sincerely,
The 2014 Gather-In Committee

July 2014

South Congregational Church

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1 Spiritual Support Group 10 am Men's Summer Forum 12 noon	2 Food Pantry 8 – 11 am St. Joe's Annual 4 th of July Cook Out 5 pm	3 Food Pantry 8-11 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY OFFICE CLOSED Lord & Tailor CLOSED AA 6:15 pm	5 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor CLOSED Al-Anon 7 pm
6 Worship with Communion 10 am Rev. Huntington Preaching	7 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	8 Spiritual Support Group 10 am Men's Summer Forum 12 noon Diaconate 7 pm	9 Food Pantry 8 – 11 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm	10 Food Pantry 8-11 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am	11 OFFICE CLOSED Lord & Tailor 10 am-4 pm AA 6:15 pm	12 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 2-4 pm Al-Anon 7 pm
13 Worship 10 am Tori Jameson Preaching	14 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	15 Spiritual Support Group 10 am Men's Summer Forum 12 noon	16 Food Pantry 8 – 11 am Berkshire Place Worship 10:45 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm	17 Food Pantry 8-11 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am	18 Lord & Tailor 10 am-4pm AA 6:15 pm	19 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm Al-Anon 7 pm
20 Worship 10 am Rev. Robert Skidmore Preaching Coffee Hour Collection for the Language Project	21 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	22 Spiritual Support Group 10 am Men's Summer Forum 12 noon Church Council 7 pm	23 Food Pantry 8-11 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm	24 Food Pantry 8-11 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am	25 Lord & Tailor 10 am-4pm 7 pm. AA 6:15 pm South Church Coffee House Concert 7 pm	26 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm Al-Anon 7 pm
27 Worship 10 am Tori Jameson Preaching	28 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	29 Spiritual Support Group 10 am Men's Summer Forum 12 noon	30 Food Pantry 8-11 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm	31 Food Pantry 8-11 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am		

August 2014

South Congregational Church

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1 Lord & Tailor 10 am-4 pm AA 6:15 pm	2 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm Al-Anon 7:30 pm
3 Worship 10 am with Communion Rev. Kay Loudon Preaching	4 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	5 Spiritual Support Group 10 am Men's Summer Forum 12 Noon	6 Food Pantry 8 – 11 am UCC Clergy Noon St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm	7 Food Pantry 8-11 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am	8 Lord & Tailor 10 am-4 pm AA 6:15 pm	9 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 2-4 pm Al-Anon 7:30 pm
10 Worship 10 am Rev. Carrie Bail Preaching	11 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	12 Spiritual Support Group 10 am Men's Summer Forum 12 Noon Diaconate 7 pm	13 Food Pantry 8 – 11 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm Trustees 6 pm	14 Food Pantry 8-11 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am	15 Lord & Tailor 10 am-4pm AA 6:15 pm South Church Coffee House Concert 7 pm	16 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm Al-Anon 7:30 pm
17 Worship 10 am Tori Jameson Preaching Coffee Hour Collections for the Language Project	18 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	19 Spiritual Support Group 10 am Men's Summer Forum 12 Noon Mission Board 7 pm	20 Food Pantry 8 – 11 am Berkshire Place Worship 10:45 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm	21 Food Pantry 8-11 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am	22 Lord & Tailor 10 am-4pm AA 6:15 pm	23 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm Al-Anon 7:30 pm
24 Worship 10 am Rev. Huntington Preaching House Church 7 pm	25 Yarn Spinners 7 pm	26 Spiritual Support Group 10 am Men's Summer Forum 12 Noon Church Council 7 pm	27 Food Pantry 8-11 am St. Joe's Dinner 5 pm	28 Food Pantry 8-11 am Ladies Benevolent 9:30 am	29 Lord & Tailor 10 am-4pm AA 6:15 pm	30 AA 10:15 am Lord & Tailor 12-4 pm Al-Anon 7:30
31 Worship 10 am Dialogue Sermon with Rev. Huntington & Tori Jameson						

COFFEE HOUSE CONCERTS

WHERE

South Congregational Church

110 South St, Pittsfield, MA 01201

WHEN

Friday, July 25, 2014

7 p.m.

To Benefit **The Kid's Place**

Friday, August 15, 2014

7 p.m.

To Benefit **Redfield House**

FEATURING

Linda Worster • David Grover

Performing a mix of 50's, 60's & 70' music as well as their own compositions



COST

Donation at the door

Light refreshments for sale

