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# THE PARISH PRESS

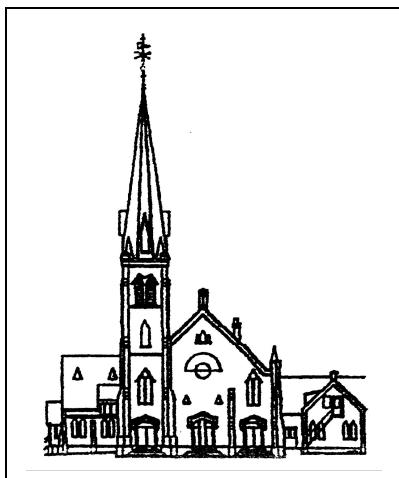
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South Congregational Church

Volume No. 13

Issue No. 8

September 2010 Newsletter



## *Reflections from the Pastor's Parlor*

Dear Friends,

September is here once again. The weather men tell us that we have had a very warm summer. The heat accompanied many South Church events. The warm nights were present for concerts and root beer floats, hog heaven barbecue and motorcycle mania. Warm days accompanied trips to Tanglewood and work at St Vincent de Paul's. Hot days helped our gardens grow and joined us as we collected food for Amazing Grace. The temperatures were warm when we worshipped with our brothers and sisters of First Church. Summer fun, summer outings, summer in Middletown gives us family time, time with friends, and time to take in the beauty of water, mountains, and the spiritual awareness of God's bounty.

And that is not all. Summer has been planning time too. Our Christian Education Board has been working on our new children's education program. This program will offer a variety of opportunities for children and adults to journey together as we experience God, through the scared stories of our faith. Please take a moment to read more about the Rotation Workshop that you will find in this issue of the *Parish Press*.

This summer we said good bye to some and hello to others. This month we welcome Katelyn Macrae, a senior at Yale Divinity School as our new intern. Katelyn will be working approximately 12 hours a week. She has many gifts that will dovetail nicely with the strengths and desires for mission, education and quality worship at South Church. Please take a moment to give Katelyn a warm South Church welcome.

We welcome well here at South Church. We welcome because we know that every life is enhanced when one falls in love with the Divine. We welcome and we invite because our loving God is the one constant in a changing world. We invite because when one is a follower of Christ, one has been called to practice love, to give love again and again and again. My prayer is that we might all take the time to fall in love again. Take the time dear ones because your God is already in love with you.

Blessings always,

*Marybeth*

Rev. Marybeth Marshall

*The South Congregational Church,  
U.C.C.*

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*Rev. Marybeth Marshall, Minister  
Neely and Phyllis Bruce,  
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*Susan Pavis, Treasurer*

*Ken Nichols, Assistant Treasurer  
Dianna Kulmacz,*

*Sunday School Coordinator  
Nancy Liddell,*

*Administrative Assistant*

*Rev. Dr. Mary Decker Klaaren,  
Pastor Emerita*

## **Voucher Deadlines**

**9/12 for payment 9/16**

**9/26 for payment 9/30**

**October Parish Press  
due date: September 19**

## Sunday, September 5, 2010 Worship at South Church 10:00 a.m.

On **September 5** we return to South Church for worship, fellowship and communion. Please join us at 10:00 a.m. We will also welcome Pam Peterson as a new member of South Church. Please take a moment to read Pam's letter in this issue of the *Parish Press* as she describes how your warm welcome moved her to join South Church.

*Marybeth*

### Stewardship Message

#### Catch Fire

*Rekindle the gift of God that is within you...*  
*2 Timothy 1:6*

The second week of September in our church is "Rally Sunday." It's meant to be the day we get all revved up for the new program year of the church. The energy level in the congregation rises that day, as people who have been away for the summer return and greet friends and visitors. As September begins again in the church, everything seems possible!

The start of a new program year is a good time to take Paul's advice and "rekindle" all the gifts of God within not just individual Christians, but the church as a whole. Stoke the fire, is what the word means, take the small flames and find ways to add a little tinder here or a little air there and bring warmth and light. To make a fire strong usually requires adding small things regularly, and sometimes large pieces of wood as other large pieces burn away.

What does your church need to really catch fire this September? What gifts, small or large, do you have to contribute to that fire? Are there people around you who have gifts to give that need your encouragement to step up to the fire? Sometimes, as the old church camp song says, it really does "only take a spark." Is that spark you?

*Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.*



### South Church Tag Sale, Saturday, September 11, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Furniture, small appliances, lamps, rugs, mirrors, home furnishings, needed. Call John Statham at 860-345-2068 to have your items picked up. Volunteers needed for 2 hour shifts. Please contact Brian Rarey at 860-635-1720 or Pat Statham at 860-345-2068 if you can help. Thanks

### Music Recognition Sunday Sunday, September 26, 2010

**September 26** will be music recognition Sunday at South Church. Join us for special music and an opportunity to say a word of thanks to the Senior Choir, Bell Choir and all members of the congregation who help us out with music during the year.

*Phyllis and Neely*

### Spirit Sisters

In September Spirit Sisters will meet at 7 p.m. at the church on Monday, **September 13** and Monday, **September 20**, and will resume its schedule of meeting at 7 p.m. every Monday night except the fourth Monday, when Church Council meets.

The first meeting on September 13 will focus on the reading of a Bible passage using the *lectio divina* method of reflecting on the meaning and personal relevance of the reading.

All women are welcome to come for prayer, mutual support, and study and discussion, with the purpose of deepening our spirituality.

# Board of Education

## Exciting Times for Sunday School

Fun and long-term learning will go hand in hand in a new configuration of Sunday School at South Church beginning this fall.

Under this format (known as the Workshop Rotation Model), many adults in the congregation will take a turn teaching the most important stories of the Old and New Testaments, utilizing a variety of methods.

First, our children in kindergarten through fifth grade will encounter, along with Moses, his narrow escape during infancy and later God's call to him, from the burning bush, to free his people. Through lessons including a "movie-theater" experience (with popcorn!), a cooking project, and a drama session, our kids will locate the story in the Bible, review the events of the narrative, and reflect on the characters' feelings in their journals. In October and November they will learn about the plagues and the escape from Egypt before studying the Israelites' wanderings in the wilderness and Moses' receiving the Ten Commandments. Singing songs, drawing cartoons, putting on a puppet show, doing an Israeli dance, and reenacting the Red Sea crossing with a parachute are in the works for those sessions. In subsequent months, some of the most important stories in the New Testament will receive the same treatment. Occasionally, as they did last year, all children will spend a Sunday working on a mission project.

Congregation members who enjoy a particular activity, such as art, drama, cooking, or dance, will serve as workshop leader on two Sundays, leading the K-2 class in a lesson one Sunday and repeating the same lesson for grades 3-5 another week. They will be provided with a detailed lesson plan and background information. The children's regular Sunday School teacher will "shepherd" them to their lessons each Sunday - for example, to a music room or the kitchen or video "theater" - and will assist the workshop leader in the lesson.

*continued on next column*

The advantages of the Workshop Rotation Model are many. Lessons for this fall have been adapted for South Church by our Board of Education. Rather than pay hundreds of dollars for commercial curriculum each season, we pay \$27 a year for access to the [rotation.org](http://rotation.org) lessons that have been developed by churches all across the country. Our children will learn from many adults and will become thoroughly familiar with each Bible story through repetition and varied approaches. We know many adults in our congregation would like to help with Sunday School but can commit to helping only a couple of Sundays each year. Best of all, the lessons we have selected from the dozens available are going to be fun for children and adults alike. Kids are going to want to bring their friends to try them out.

Parents can register their children for Sunday School during coffee hour on September 12 or during the all-church Education Open House after coffee hour on September 19. The classes on Moses begin on September 26. Guests are always welcome.

If you think you may be interested in leading one of these Sunday School activities or would like to have more information about the Workshop Rotation Model, please contact Dianna Kulmacz at [cdkulmacz@comcast.net](mailto:cdkulmacz@comcast.net) or 860 345-2525.



## Adult Education

**September 19<sup>th</sup>:** Education Open House – Safety Scavenger Hunt

**September 26<sup>th</sup>:** Dead Sea Scrolls - a power point presentation by Ken Nichols.



## Good-bye

Dear South Church Family,  
Many, many thanks to each of you at South Church for the gracious farewells and keepsake gift. I will always treasure my time here at South Church. You have helped me to grow in ministry!  
Blessings all around,  
*Laura Fitzpatrick-Nager*

## And Hello

Greetings South Church!  
I have heard great things about your life together as a community, and I am excited to join you this fall as your ministry intern. As an intern, I will be working closely with Rev. Mary Beth and will be assisting in worship and other programming at the church. The internship goes for the duration of the school year (September-May) and is part of my program of study for my Master's of Divinity at Yale Divinity School in New Haven. I am entering my final year, and am currently in the ordination process for the United Church of Christ.

This summer, I served as a chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Portland, Maine. While it was hard work, it was also a great privilege to work with patients and their families, hear their stories and pray with them. I hope that as your intern, we will have an opportunity to share our stories with each other this year.

To give you a sense of my story, I grew up in Saco, Maine, a town of 18,000 in coastal Southern Maine. Currently I live in New Haven, CT. I have a younger sister who is a senior at the University of New Hampshire. My parents still reside in Saco, and though I've lived other places, I'm a Mainer at heart! Growing up, my family was active in the local UCC church. I attended Pilgrim Lodge, the Maine Conference UCC's summer camp for a week each summer from third grade through my senior year of high school. I attended college at Colgate University in Hamilton, NY where I studied Religion and Anthropology. In college I served on camp staff at Pilgrim Lodge. After college, I moved to Washington, DC for two years, where I worked at a women's homeless shelter and then as a case manager for people with developmental disabilities.

I returned to Maine where I worked at a homeless shelter in Portland, ME for a year before starting seminary in the fall of 2008.

As I enter my final year of seminary, I am still discerning what type of ministry God is calling me to. Despite this uncertainty, it is my hope and prayer that over the course of the year we will be shaped together in our work and worship. As your intern, I bring a passion for justice, excitement about worship and liturgy, enthusiasm for life, and perhaps, a few silly camp songs as well! That's some of my story, but what about you? I look forward to hearing your story, and meeting you in person this fall. Until then, may peace and blessings be yours!

With Joy,  
*Katelyn Macrae*

## Hello and Good-bye

Dear South Church Family,  
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for welcoming me and my grandson Brady with open arms this past spring. From my first phone call to Nancy to find out about worship services and childcare, to the wonderful love that Brady receives in the nursery, to sharing in Bible Study, to celebrating the love of South Church for our earth at our campout at Rocky Neck, to the bus trip to Tanglewood, our experiences here at South Church have confirmed Brady's voice when he said (while pointing to the church from his car seat), "We go to THAT church, Grandma, that's OUR church," to which I say, "AMEN!!"

Having recently moved to Connecticut from Western New York to be closer to my family, it has been refreshing to meet and worship with a body of believers that truly rejoices in the gifts of their baptism. It is with great joy that I have joined the membership at South Church. I look forward to sharing in the life and resurrection of Jesus in the life of our church. I am called to be ordained to the pastorate, and I look forward to making the journey to that pastorate with all of you. While attending seminary in Philadelphia this year, I will come home as often as possible to share in worship, education, and fellowship. While I'm away, please feel free to keep in touch via email ([piperpam6@gmail.com](mailto:piperpam6@gmail.com)) Facebook. Peace and blessings to you all!

*Pam Peterson*

## **Position Opening South Church Nursery**

We regrettably have accepted the resignation of Marge Harris who has served faithfully for more than 22 years in the South Church nursery.

The Board of Education has approved the following notice for nursery staff person:

The nursery staffer will be at the South Church nursery room from 9:45 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. every Sunday.

On most Sundays, the children will be ages newborn – 3 years old, with an occasional 4 or 5 year old. Responsibilities include reading to the children, helping them find toys to enjoy, soothing an upset infant or child, giving snacks, and summoning the parent if necessary.

The staff person will adhere to South Church Safe Church policies and to established routines for hygiene and safety. The staff person will provide evidence of current CPR certification or will take CPR training, to be paid for by the church. A background screening will be performed.

The pay rate will be \$10 per hour for 1½ - 2 hours per Sunday.

Please contact the Church Office (860-346-5006) if you would like further information or if you are interested in applying.

## **Board of Outreach**

### **Shining Hope for Communities**

Jessica Posner, Co-founder and Managing Director of Shining Hope for Communities won the \$100,000 Vh1 Do Something Award for her work in Kibera, Kenya. Dosomething.org honors the nation's best world-changers, ages 25 and under. Last year South Church donated \$1000 to then Wesleyan students, Jessica Posner and Kennedy Odele to help them start the Kibera School for Girls which opened in August 2009. Shining Hope for Communities is using the Kibera School for Girls as the foundation for a community service center in the Kibera slum. Congratulations Jessica!

### **Amazing Grace**

Yes, it is amazing to realize how well Amazing Grace takes care of those who are hungry. South Church provided 141 non perishable food items which I delivered on August 27<sup>th</sup> Food donations were extremely low this summer and our gift was an important contribution. We met our Families Feeding Families pledge with 106 cans of tuna. Thanks to people who donate money to Nan O'Brien to purchase tuna. Nan was able to stretch our dollars to help Amazing Grace.

Ron Krom, director of Amazing Grace and St. Vincent DePaul Place writes: "In 2009 we served 88,445 meals in the Soup Kitchen, distributed 218,180 meals through the Amazing Grace Food Pantry, supported 56 individuals in housing and helped 308 households with more than \$90,000 of emergency assistance to prevent homelessness or maintain heat or electricity in their homes."

Count your blessings and share with those who are less fortunate than you. Thank you for all you do.

*Helen Kuzina*

## Snowflake Fair

The fall begins the push toward the church's largest money making event. Here is an initial list of what we need:

1. Crafts--sewing, knitting, etc.
2. Silent Auction--what you can donate
3. Food--much can be made ahead and frozen
4. Kids--what can you share or think of
5. Tag sale--start the fall cleaning

New Tables:

1. Used books--expanded area for all kids
2. Pet table--toys, food, coats, collars, etc.
3. Wood table--come on men
4. Outdoor living--garden plants or indoor plants--vegetables made into items, etc.

We will be selling pumpkin and apple pies (orders to start soon) and Linda Klemba will be taking orders for Christmas address labels. Any other ideas?

Here are some meeting dates to keep everyone connected and sharing ideas

**Wednesday, Sept. 8: 10-12**

**Tuesday, Sept. 21: 6-8 p.m.**

**Wednesday, Oct. 5: 10 -12**

I'll be looking for a lot of help and we definitely need more tables (6 ft or 8 ft) More details in the next *Parish Press*.

*Martha Nichols*

## GoodSearch

Help support South Church by down loading the GoodSearch toolbar:

“South Congregational Church – Middletown”  
<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/south-congregational-church-middletown>

Each time you search the web with GoodSearch's Yahoo-powered search engine, about a penny will go our account & in late Sept or Oct we receive a check for what ever amount we earn over \$20. You can also bookmark the site if you prefer, after selecting the South Congregational Church – Middletown

Also, every time you shop online at 1,000 participating stores including Amazon, eBay, Target, Apple, Staples, Expedia, etc., a percentage (2-10% on average but can be as high as 30%) of your purchase will be donated for free! The site also has thousands of money-saving coupons!

Please tell 10 friends about the GoodSearch toolbar today. It's been featured in the NY Times, the Wall Street Journal, CNN, Oprah Magazine, Good Morning America and more. The more you search or shop the more we earn!!!

*Ruth Harwood*

## Pathways of Spirituality

*Pathways of Spirituality* is a two-year, four unit program for men and women seeking to broaden and deepen their experience of spirituality. Participants are enriched by exposure to practices and disciplines of various spiritual traditions. The program is experiential in nature and emphasizes the importance of building community in an atmosphere of diversity in order to strengthen the experience of spiritual growth. It is supplemented by a Pathways website which provides links to additional resources.

Participants may register for any one or all of the units; classes meet every other Monday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center, now located at 303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, about a mile from UCONN Health Center. For more information, please go to [www.spiritlifectr.org](http://www.spiritlifectr.org) or contact Rose Petronella at 860-346-6987 or [sacredcircles01@att.net](mailto:sacredcircles01@att.net).

*Rose Petronella*

## Readers' Group

by Pat Long

*Half-Broke Horses*, by Jeannette Walls, will be the topic of discussion at the South Church Readers' Group on Thursday, **September 9**, at 7:30 p.m. at One MacDonough Place. Many readers know this author's best-selling memoir, *The Glass Castle*, about her own astonishing childhood. In *Half-Broke Horses* we hear about the life of Jeannette's grandmother in a fictionalized first-person-point-of-view account.

For the **October 14** meeting, the choice is *Olive Kitteridge*, by Elizabeth Strout, a book of linked short stories about people in a small town in Maine. The title character is a very unusual person - not always likable - but she seems very real. (After all, how many of us are always likable?) Sometimes either she or her husband is the main character in a story, and sometimes she is on the periphery. The writing is masterful (Strout is a Pulitzer Prize winner), and the insights about ourselves and other human beings are - to this reader - sharp and true.

## September Birthdays

- 4 Lois Wilcox
- 5 Kimberly Paluska
- 6 Kathleen Novak
- 11 Margaret Masselli  
Trish Miller
- 12 Marjorie Hawley
- 13 Charlotte Wright
- 15 Bobbie Chapman
- 17 Karma Masselli
- 19 Richard Lord
- 20 Joe Combe
- 21 Patricia Long
- 22 Elizabeth Nocera
- 23 Delia Potter
- 25 Mary Klaaren  
Brandy Klemba
- 26 Jared Paluska
- 27 Emmalyn Lecky
- 30 Carlota Hanson

## Earth Ministry

by Eleanor Poole

### Smart Grids: Helping Us Use Electricity More Efficiently

The term “smart grids” entered my awareness this summer through articles in National Geographic and E. the Environmental Magazine. The electric grid we have penetrates every corner of our lives and we pay no attention to it until something goes wrong, and this can happen very fast. Prime examples: the massive blackout of '65 and the event of August '03. It's too old and not the grid we need for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Power outages currently cost Americans an estimated \$80 billion a year. There is now fear that our grid is vulnerable to terrorist attacks. The current grid is what technical people call “kludge” An awkward contraption that somehow works.

In addition to becoming more reliable, our grid needs to be able to handle green power, be more automated and “self-healing” and be able to store energy. Most important, it would turn us into more knowledge consumers of electricity. More high voltage power lines are needed running to places where its easy to generate clean energy. The smart grid would bring a two-way flow of both energy and information.

For some, making home energy consumption patterns available for analysis may be considered invasive, violating the sanctity of the home. Infrastructure challenges are enormous. A smart meter could cost five times as much as the old style meters. The demand for electricity is expected to double by 2050 and the cost of raw materials needed to operate the grid has tripled since 2006. Though the smart grid's startup costs will be eventually recouped through improved reliability and efficiency, there is the question of who pays initially.

Boulder Colorado is the first to employ a smart grid city-wide and reports impressive savings, increased reliability and excitement for what comes next.

Once the electricity is in the building, its people inside who must learn to use it efficiently. It is always a challenge to change our habits. A public education campaign will be vital to the effectiveness of the smart grid.

# What We Did On Our Summer Vacations

by Pat Statham

It isn't only school kids who have assignments like this! Church members and friends were busy with outreach events of many kinds, not only raising money to help defray the 2010 budget deficit but also by filling the shelves at Amazing Grace and helping families in our congregation in many ways. We truly are a Christian community bound together by our desire to help others. Thanks to all who contributed their ideas, hours, money and their love, all who make South Church such special place. What we do for others we do for Him.

## **Pat Long, Mike Long and Elizabeth Nocera**

On the weekend of June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> South Church campers descended on Rocky Neck for our annual camping trip. First started in the 1970's it is a time for fellowship, making new friends and celebrating the beauty of our surroundings. This year 15 adults and 19 children camped. Many South Churchers joined the campers on Saturday afternoon and stayed for dinner that evening. Our families spent a beautiful day at the beach finding shells, fish, and crabs and staying cool. Kids played baseball, and rode bikes and scooters. On Sunday Mike and Elizabeth led us in worship among the trees before we took down our tents and headed home. Thanks so much to Mike Long and Elizabeth Nocera for buying the food, transporting it and the equipment and organizing our weekend. And thanks to Pat Long who reserved our sites and secured our registrations. It was a great weekend.

## **Pat Statham**

On April 24<sup>th</sup> a number of us provided set up and clean up for the joyful occasion of Eleanor Poole's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Eleanor and her family generously donated \$200 to the Special Events/Special Projects committee for our services. Workers included Elizabeth Nocera, Mary Chubbuck, Karen Trezell, Nan O'Brien, Joan Harvey, and Elaine Harwood

## **Nan O'Brien**

On May 14th Gold Party #1 was held at the O'Brien home. South Church earned 15% of the total sales, a \$100 bonus for surpassing \$1000, and an additional bonus of \$50 for referring Kathy Novak who held Gold Party #2. All of this resulted in a profit of \$1771. We did all the advertising by email, church service reminders and Facebook. Thirty one people came and all went home very happy. Those helping with refreshments were Ginny Soden, Mary Chubbuck, Elizabeth Nocera, and Pat Statham.

## **Mary Chubbuck**

We had a great time on Cruise Night, June 16<sup>th</sup>, bringing back a "bit of Americana", selling Root Beer Floats and Black Cows! We may have begun a new tradition at SC...the Root Beer Float Church. A man even jumped from his car and ran up to ask "What's a Black Cow?" We cleared \$167 after expenses. Those helping were Nina Kretschmer, Linda Klemba, Elaine Harwood and Pat and John Statham.

## **Ruth Harwood and Joan Harvey**

We sold Root Beer Floats and Black Cows for eleven Tuesdays this summer beginning on June 29th. Our customers were folks enjoying the concerts on South Green. It took a few weeks for people to catch on but soon "regulars" began to come over to our stand. We deposited nearly \$350 with a few bills still outstanding. We hope to continue this project for other events in downtown Middletown. Our consistent helpers have been Elaine Harwood, Bev Towns, Nina Kretschmer, Karen Trezell, Nancy Liddell, Linda Klemba, John Statham, and much guidance in "float making" from Mary Chubbuck. Our last sale will be on September 7<sup>th</sup> so come on by!

## **John Statham**

Thanks to everyone who purchased Adirondack chairs. A total of sixteen chairs were sold resulting in a donation in July of \$1200 to the Special Projects/Special Events Fund. Your support was greatly appreciated.

**Barbara Gaylord**

We held a food drive for Amazing Grace on July 24<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Stop and Shop in Middletown and Cromwell. Amazing Grace was in dire need of donations and was extremely pleased to receive the six truck loads of collected foods. Those who volunteered at the sites and at Amazing Grace were Nan and Richard Obrien, Elizabeth Nocera and Mike Long, Jennifer Williams, Kathy Novak, Mitchell Gaylord, Joan Harvey, Edwina Ranganathan, Karen Trezell, Helen Kuzina, Nina Kretschmer, Julie Hurlburt from First Church and others.

**Kathy Novak**

We hosted Gold Party #2. Neighbors, friends, church members and Corey's college friends made this a fun evening. Nan O'Brien's guidance and advice from her party helped to make this a success. Guests were surprised and delighted with their earnings. We raised around \$775.

**Ken and Martha Nichols**

Hog Heaven BBQ was held on August 11<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Motorcycle Mania. Delicious BBQ was prepared by Martha Nichols, Ginny Soden, Joyce and George Kupfer, Barbra Stuart and her friend Ken, Helen Kuzina, and Annette Butterworth. Other volunteers who helped by purchasing items, set-up, sales and clean-up included Luke O'Brien, Nan O'Brien, Mary Chubbuck, Elaine Harwood, Joe Klemba, Marty Knight and John Statham. We made a small profit and donated BBQ for Care Committee use and to church families. The remaining BBQ was frozen and is being sold to church members. If you are interested in buying some contact Martha or Ken Nichols.

**Elizabeth Nocera and Mike Long**

This summer the "South Church Sojourners" became a reality. Mike and Elizabeth organized three bus trips for SC members, friends and others who discovered us in the press and on-line. Our first two trips were to Tanglewood and despite bus problems during the first a good time was had by all. The final trip will be on November 14<sup>th</sup> to Times Square, NYC. There we'll visit the outstanding King Tut exhibit. Plans are being finalized but you may reserve now by contacting Mike or Elizabeth. The final tally for these events will be known after the November event. Thanks to Mike and Elizabeth for their hard work and for providing a venue that offers us unique opportunities to attend cultural events.

**Brian Rarey**

The last summer event is the tag sale scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 2 pm. Please donate furniture and small appliances. Pick up is available. Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts. Please contact Brian Rarey at 860-635-1720 if you are available to help out.

It's been a busy but satisfying summer that provided us with many opportunities for fellowship and outreach. Once again, thanks to all who participated.