



Crossroads

**News from South Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

45 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105
(413) 732-0117 www.sococho.org

October 2009

****SAVE THE DATE****

20th Anniversary

Celebration Luncheon

for

Reverend Peter Heinrichs

Sunday November 15, 2009

Hors d'oeuvres in the Guild Room (following service)

12:15 luncheon (reservation required)

Entertainment by Larry Picard

Let's make this a time to remember and rejoice!

More information to follow in the mail

IN THIS ISSUE

Mustard Seeds.....	2
Annual Meeting Report.....	2
Director of Music Ministries.....	3
Summer Worship Schedule.....	3
South Church Seminarians.....	4
Interview with a member.....	5
South Church Cooks.....	5
July Calendar.....	6

CHRISTIAN ED FAMILY PICNIC!!!

Join us on Sunday, October 4, at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck picnic at the home of Polly Southworth, 16 Longview Drive in Longmeadow. Call the church office or see Polly this Sunday (which is also the first day of Sunday School) for more information and directions.

Mustard Seeds...from the Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of South Church,

It's official. I'm now part of the Blackberry generation. Sort of.

I have long wondered what it might be like to have a spiffy little machine that has email, phone and calendar all in one. Yes, I complain about *the electronic leash* that cell phones can be – I prefer not to be always on call. Yes, I fume and fulminate about drivers who whizz 80 miles an hour past me *while talking and texting and checking in* and putting my life at risk. Yes, my thumbs are *too big and clumsy* to poke out those little texts and numbers. No, I really don't need to know *the latest news or sports headlines* the instant they happen. No, I don't *twitter or tweet or flick*. (How many of us can truly say anything worth reading in 140 characters or less – about two sentences?) No, I really can't imagine *seeing videos or movies* on that tiny screen. (I have enough trouble reading the small print on the comics page of the old-fashioned newspaper).

But this week my cell phone died. And I took advantage of a sale at Verizon to dive into the Blackberry experience. Now I am truly humbled. What was I thinking? The salesman at the store said graciously that I could call him anytime I have a question. But I'm embarrassed to ask which end of the phone to talk into! I'm a big boy; I should know these things. And I'm ashamed to admit that I can't even download a ring-tone, never mind my calendar! Competent adults ask questions about megabytes and networks and applications.

So I have a dilemma. I can persevere with my thumbs until they can navigate my contact list and actually call the right person. I can ask and get directions for the calendar thing. I can learn not to jump a foot every time my Blackberry announces cheerily that I have an email message. I can turn the thing off when I don't want to be reached.

Or I can give up.

My dilemma is more than catching up with a new generation of technology. It's also about *forgiving myself*. Who am I to think that I'm not competent just because a little machine gets the best of me? Who am I to think that I'm too old? Who am I to forget that every change has a learning curve? Why do I feel diminished when other people seem to get it so fast?

Forgiveness, you see, is the first step towards wisdom and freedom. After all, who am I *not* to get through this? Do I not have resources of patience, imagination and a sense of adventure? What is preventing me from using them?

Forgiveness is a big subject. If I start with something as simple as my Blackberry and not give up, maybe I can learn to forgive the big stuff like love and parenting. And then, who knows? Can politics and the culture wars be far behind?

Peter

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All services are at 10a.m. in the Sanctuary.

October 4 (World Communion Sunday)

Rev. Heinrichs
Brandon Marger,
Percussionist

October 11

Rev. Heinrichs

October 18 (Leadership Retreat Follow-up)

Beverly
Prestwood Taylor

October 25 (Reformation Sunday)

Rev. Heinrichs
Aaron Lakota,
Oboist

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour to Standard Time on the first Sunday in November (Nov. 1), so as not to be late for our fall Jazz Sunday!

From the Director of Music Ministries...

As the DMM (see above) here at South Church one of my primary tasks is to encourage everyone to sing. While there are certain times during the service when it is appropriate to listen to the choir sing, most of the time the hymns, psalms, songs and responses are meant to be sung by everyone. I know, sometimes it is more interesting to sit and listen, especially if there are some special instruments playing or the choir sounds particularly good singing a hymn. I also am aware that some of you out there are confirmed non-singers. Maybe you don't enjoy singing or maybe someone told you at some point in your life that you couldn't sing. I'm told that in Africa everybody sings and dances. There is no such thing as a person who can't sing and dance, only people who sing and dance better than others do.

So maybe you only sing the songs you like. Maybe there is music in the service you don't like to sing and other music you wish we could sing more. Maybe you like it better when we speak the psalm rather than sing it. Maybe I should stop saying maybe and get on to the point. Okay, I've been having discussions lately with some of our members about something we sang (as opposed to reciting) recently: the Lord's Prayer. For those of you who are new to South Church, for about six years there has been a tradition of singing the Lord's Prayer on the first Sunday of every month (Communion Sunday) to a popular tune written in 1935 by Albert Hay Malotte, a composer who primarily wrote for Hollywood. It is a memorable, and some would say, catchy tune that was first sung by a baritone named John Charles Thomas. This is significant because the song has a wide range with some notes that are too high for an untrained singer. It is also has long phrases that require good breath control. In other words, it was originally written to be sung as a solo by a trained singer.

So should those of you who haven't taken voice lessons just stand there and listen to the pros? Of course not, especially if it is a song you really like. However, I heard from one South Church member who doesn't like to sing

it because it is so difficult. She told me she can only stand and listen. Stand and listen? To the Lord's Prayer?

In the first paragraph I mentioned the people who don't sing for one reason or another and likely never will. Everyone who has been part of a Christian church of any denomination probably knows how to say the Lord's Prayer as well as the Pledge of Allegiance. It is the one part of the service that nearly everyone, whether their heritage is Congregationalist, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian or even Catholic can say together, and while there are variations in the words, each person can say the version they know without disrupting the whole too much. I have noticed in any church where I have made music that the Lord's Prayer, when spoken, is the only part of the service where I could see everyone's mouth moving.

So, how many of you out there don't sing the Lord's Prayer because it is too difficult for you or you just don't sing? Are you happy to listen to it once a month or do you feel excluded? How about those of you who like to sing it? Does it nourish your soul to the point where you would like to ask the indulgence of our non-singers once a month? If this is a topic of interest to you, let me know what you think. As always, I am lpicard@sococh.org, AKA, **Larry**.



South Church Cooks...

Tuesday, September 15, was a big day for South Church cooks. 204 diners were on hand for lunch as well as volunteers. Lunch was sausage and zucchini bound cake. The cooks were Betsy O'Neill, Glen Rossi, Bob McCarroll, Karen Kress, Elliott Stratton, Dick White, Carol Murphy and Carolyn Sengle.

In the grace before the meal we prayed for all registered voters to make their voices count on an important day – primary day. It was also historic as the first time in 60 years ward representatives rather than at-large candidates were on the ballot. The hope was to have a large field with every ward represented. That did not happen. Not many of the diners have home addresses so the voters were few in number, but the message alerted one woman who wanted to know how to register to vote.

Our next Loaves & Fishes meal is Tuesday, October 13. Come and join us!

Bon Appetit! - Carol Murphy



THE TOP FIVE REASONS TO LOG ON TO WWW.SOCOCH.ORG:

5) Dates and times for meetings and events like Advisory Council, Deacons, Finance, Christian

Education and others are right there on the home page in the left-hand column, along with special music rehearsals and other events. You can also see a calendar of everything happening at South Church, both church-sponsored and with outside groups, *and* if you click on an event in the calendar you can often find more information about it. This is especially useful if you want to schedule your own event and know what space is available for it. You can also check out the Contact Page for ways to communicate with the church staff or get directions.

4) Sermons, sermons, get your sermons here! Did something in the Sunday sermon really resonate with you, to the point where you would like to read it again? Did you miss a Sunday and hear someone say how incredible the preaching was? They're all posted on our website for all to see with links right on the home page. You can also access past issues of Crossroads.

3) Are you new to the Congregational church and the United Church of Christ. Want to know more about who we are and what we believe about God, Jesus Christ and our church? How about our Open & Affirming Status? The Home Page is a great place to start.

2) Coming soon: ministry pages! We currently have a page called **Ministries** that describes various ways to participate in the South Church community. Included are Adult Ministries, Music, Christian Education, Social Justice Outreach and Benevolence. Before too long we hope to have separate pages for some of those ministries that can really go into detail. Are you in the choir and want to know what you will be singing this Sunday? You'll log on to the Music Page. Need to know how to be prepared for a special event for the kids? You'll find it on the Christian Education Page. As our ministries grow, so grow their web pages!

1) The website is always a work in progress! Are you planning a project or ministry and want to get the word out? Do you want to see more of something on the site, like pictures, graphics, or information about a certain aspect of Church Life? Contact Larry and he'll try to turn your ideas into something that grabs folks in an electronic sort-of-way. Call him at 413-732-0117 x28 or lpicard@sococh.org.

Meet two new members of the South Church Choir!

An interview with Hillarie and Tom, O'Toole



How did you two meet and what brought you to the Springfield area? We met in Graz, Austria when we were both performing at the American Institute of Musical Studies Opera Program in 2000. Tom, from Newport Beach, CA then moved to Northampton, MA to study with master teacher Oren Brown. Upon completing her graduate studies at Syracuse University (NY) Hillarie also moved to study with Mr. Brown. . . also conveniently closer to Tom O'Toole and her family in Maine.

What do you enjoy about singing in the South Church Choir? The South Church congregation is a terrifically supportive community with a great appreciation for a wide variety of music and we especially appreciate the Open and Affirming environment.

Last Spring you sang together with the Springfield Symphony. Do you get to sing together often? Have you ever sung on stage together? We do sing together on occasion, although not as often as one might think. We have collaborated together in projects including the premiere of Eric Sawyer's "Our American Cousin" last summer at the Academy of Music with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and have performed in recital together. Hillarie tends to sing lighter repertoire- musical theatre and lighter roles- whereas Tom sings the heavy stuff.

What kind of music do you like best, both to listen to and perform? Hillarie likes to sing just about anything- jazz, musical theatre, opera...but she likes to listen to jazz, blues, folk, alternative, even some hip-hop depending on what mood she's in. Tom likes to sing Verdi and will listen to just about anything!

What do you like to do in your leisure time? We have many similar interests. We love the outdoors, hiking, biking, kayaking, sailing, and snowboarding (that's one of our favorites!!- funny that the man from CA picked up on a snow sport so quickly). We love the theatre, concerts, and just hanging out in our backyard gardens.

Anything special going on in your lives? Anything special? We just celebrated our 5 year wedding anniversary on September 4th- went to California to visit friends and family...we own a very, very old house that always needs some sort of fixin'...we have 2 cats, Mickey and Spunky, that we lovingly refer to as our "furry children"... so, between work & music, life is pretty good and busy.



News from the Prayer Shawl Ministry...

Did you know we have an enthusiastic group of knitters here at South Church? They meet on the first and second Wednesday mornings of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. They have just begun their 9th year of knitting and crocheting Prayer Shawls, hats, mittens, sweaters, and other articles of clothing which are donated to our In-Group, Hospice, Hospitals and other organizations. Want to join? No experience necessary – they will happily get you started. Call the church office for more information.



Why should members of South Congregational Church get involved in health care reform? Jesus spells it out in Matthew 24. Caring for and about the overlooked and the ignored, the least of us, is central to Jesus' ministry. And whenever we feed the hungry, help the homeless, clothe the needy, visit the imprisoned or advocate for health care reform so that all Americans have access to affordable care, we do it for Him. The members of the newly formed social justice task force hope that you will read the following article to learn what you can do.

Sue Rice, Mary Simpson, Elliot Stratton and Janice White

HEALTH CARE REFORM: WHAT CAN PEOPLE OF FAITH DO?

◆ **Be informed.** Understand how our health system works and the injustices that are a part of it. Gather together as people of faith to dialogue and study the issues of health care justice and learn together how to evaluate proposals for reform by asking the difficult questions. Look together at the “myths” perpetuated by those who do not want to see change and challenge those myths with the truth.

◆ **Engage in advocacy.** Now, more than at any time in the past decade, there is an opportunity to make a difference. There is a need for voices of faith to speak out and call for justice. Strong messages emphasizing the moral imperative for health care justice will expose the absence of political will for reform and help transform that resistance into political possibilities.

◆ **Build Bridges.** Even though everyone can agree that health care is a people issue not a partisan issue, the dichotomy of liberal versus conservative is an ever-present force that continues to block the possibility of reform. The faith community has the potential for producing the voices needed for collaboration. We are uniquely positioned to initiate such dialogue and to encourage conversation that transcends ideological difference and political partisanship.

◆ **Offer Hope.** The faith community is suited to offer hope for positive change—even in difficult times. Hope allows persons to imagine what could be. Hope is communal and inherently collaborative. People of faith, “justice-seekers”, are people of Hope. They have a vision of right relationships and are faithful to that vision. Hope is not overcome.

People of faith and the faith communities to which they belong have the right to participate in advocacy activities! Permission is grounded in understanding that lobbying usually refers to protecting one's self-interest, while advocacy is speaking for those whose voices are not heard.

Non-profit faith-based groups may engage in:

- ⇒ Direct lobbying
- ⇒ Grassroots lobbying
- ⇒ Voter education
- ⇒ Voter registration

Non-profit faith-based groups may not:

- ⇒ Endorse political candidates
- ⇒ Align with political parties
- ⇒ Contribute to candidate

Source: Universal Health Care Action Network, *“Seeking Justice in Health Care: a Guide for Advocates in Faith Communities”* <http://www.uhcan.org>.

OCTOBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SA) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:00 AM Health Care Reform Presentation (GR) 1:00 PM Morning Star Church* (Chapel)	28	29 5:00 PM AA Meeting* (PH) 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal (SA) 7:30 PM Health Care Reform Vigil (SA)	30 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (GR) 4:00 PM Sewing Group (PH) 4:00 PM VNA Memorial Service and Meeting (SA & PH) 5:00 PM Youth Music (ML)	1 7:15 PM Advanced Round Dance* (PH)	2 Office Closed	3 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes meal* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes meal* (PH)
4 9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SA) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 11:30 AM Church School Family Picnic (Home of Polly Southworth) 1:00 PM Morning Star Church* (Chapel)	5 4:00 PM Hands Healing Hearts (GS) 7:00 PM Finance Committee (GR)	6 5:00 PM AA Meeting* (PH) 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal (SA)	7 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (GR) 4:00 PM Hands Healing Hearts (GS) 4:00 PM Sewing Group (PH) 5:00 PM Youth Music (ML) 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 7:00 PM Christian Education Committee (GR) 7:15 PM Advanced Round Dance* (PH)	9 Office Closed	10 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes meal* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes meal* (PH)
11 9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SA) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 1:00 PM Morning Star Church* (Chapel)	12 Columbus Day Holiday - Office closed 4:00 PM Hands Healing Hearts (GS)	13 10:30 AM South Church Cooks (Christ Church Cathedral) 5:00 PM AA Meeting* (PH) 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal (SA)	14 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (GR) 4:00 PM Hands Healing Hearts (GS) 4:00 PM Sewing Group (PH) 5:00 PM Youth Music (ML)	15 7:15 PM Advanced Round Dance* (PH)	16 Office Closed	17 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes meal* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes meal* (PH)
18 9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SA) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 1:00 PM Morning Star Church* (Chapel)	19 4:00 PM Hands Healing Hearts (GS)	20 5:00 PM AA Meeting* (PH) 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal (SA)	21 4:00 PM Hands Healing Hearts (GS) 4:00 PM Sewing Group (PH) 5:00 PM Youth Music (ML) 6:00 PM Book Discussion: The Shack (GR)	22 7:00 PM Advisory Committee (GR) 7:15 PM Advanced Round Dance* (PH)	23 Office Closed	24 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes meal* (PH) 2:00 PM Recovering the Promise (Chapel) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes meal* (PH)
25 9:00 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SA) 10:00 AM Sunday Service (SA) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (PH) 1:00 PM Morning Star Church* (Chapel)	26 4:00 PM Hands Healing Hearts (GS)	27 5:00 PM AA Meeting* (PH) 7:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal (SA)	28 4:00 PM Hands Healing Hearts (GS) 4:00 PM Sewing Group (PH) 5:00 PM Youth Music (ML) 6:00 PM Book Discussion: The Shack (GR) 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (SA)	29 7:15 PM Advanced Round Dance* (PH)	30 Office Closed	31 12:00 PM Loaves & Fishes meal* (PH) 5:00 PM Loaves & Fishes meal* (PH)

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
45 MAPLE STREET
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Alax Siqueira	Security
Polly Southworth	Sunday School Superintendent
Marrie Sypher	Licensed Minister

Crossroads is the newsletter of South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Springfield, Massachusetts. Stories and items of Church interest are welcome and are due by the 17th of the month for the next month's issue. Submissions should be sent to Larry Picard at lpicard@sococh.org or by snail mail to his attention at the church address.

*South Congregational Church UCC
A Jesus-centered, Open & Affirming Community*