



the South Wind

March 1, 2010

Dear Friends:

I believe seeing life as it is, is the goal of spirituality. “Look at the birds of the field, they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns,” Jesus says, “Yet your heavenly Creator feeds them.” This is not to diminish the work of the birds I see outside my window. They work aplenty finding the food God has provided. Jesus is simply pointing out that our work, our food, our lives are dependent on all of creation and a trustable Creator-- and this gives hope. Jesus doesn't say the bird wins the lottery and takes an early retirement, lounging about in the branches for the remainder of his days. He is saying, the bird accepts what it means to be a bird and trusts that God will provide enough for life.

Often, we don't see this simple truth because the recession bears down on us, costs rise up, disease shows up at breakfast, and neighbors seem to fare better than we do. Some eclipse this anxiety by saying what really counts is an eternity of heavenly bliss. Jesus does say, “I go to prepare a place for you.” But his marching orders are, “the reign of God is at hand” in this life. But we often don't see it because we believe God's reign means the assurance of security as defined by commercials. Our striving for this security means more anxiety. Reality is full of insecurity, as Lent plainly speaks, ending at the cross. Jesus speaks directly to his disciples of his death, and they cannot accept it. But he does. He sees reality clearly and he accepts it.

If you're still reading, you're probably wondering, “Why is Denny being so morose, such a downer?” Because, there is no real hope unless we are seeing reality as it is: kindness, meanness, birth and death.

Lent is the opportunity to better see ourselves, the world, and God's reign. You can take a better look just by altering your regular life by addition or subtraction. The ancient disciplines subtract, fasting, for instance. And you can fast from TV, cell phones, Facebook...oh, food too. Or you can add: a time of meditation & prayer, a devotional reading time, random acts of kindness, writing letters of encouragement to others...But they are not ends in and of themselves, they are meant to help you see yourself, the world, and God's reign more clearly—and give the opportunity to accept yourself, the world, and God's reign--as they are. Once you accept things as they are-- you will enter the fullness of life that Jesus promised.

Grace and Peace,

Denny Moon

GRANBY FAMILY DANCE SERIES IN ITS FINAL SEASON

The Granby Family Dances on the first Fridays of March, May and June of 2010 will be the last ones in a series of dances taught and called by Jim Gregory and played by the band Heart's Ease since 1992.

If you have never experienced one of the First Friday dances, join us at the South Congregational Church from 7- 9 pm on, March 5th, May 7th and June 4th. The dance in March will be a grandparent's dance, so plan to come and bring all the generations of your family for an unforgettable evening.

THE GRAN-BEE APRIL 9TH AT 6:30 PM

Save the date!!! We hope to have representation from South Church again this year. Stay tuned for more information, or call the church office for details, 653-7289.

Articles for the **April 1st** edition of the *SouthWind* are due in the church office by noon on **Wednesday, March 24th**. Articles for the Sunday bulletin are due by Tuesday of each week. Your help with these deadlines is appreciated.

MARCH/LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 7: 8:30 and 10:30 AM Worship Services; Communion

Speaker: Mrs. Gretchen Nelson; "The Wounded Healer"

Mrs. Nelson is a special needs expert who teaches at the Univ. Hartford and works in the Simsbury School system. She comes as part of the "What Is Welcoming?" series.

March 14: Union Service at First Church in Granby at 10:30 AM

One Great Hour of Sharing Mission; Gale Grayson and Dan Schroeder preaching, choirs singing.

March 21: 8:30 and 10:30 AM Worship Services; Spirit Sunday, Baptism

Text: Isaiah 43:16-21; Sermon: "Doing a New Thing"

March 28: 8:30 and 10:30 AM Worship Services; Palm Sunday

Text: Philippians 2:5-11; Sermon: "Entrances and Exits"

HOLY WEEK: "Godspell" production: Wednesday, March 31, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Black Saturday. Performances 7:00. Tickets \$12.00.

Good Friday Ecumenical Service at Shepherd of the Hills, Simsbury, 12:00-3:00 PM - Rev. Moon is speaking at 12:30 PM.

April 4th: 6:00 AM Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at High Meadows

8:30 and 10:30 AM Worship Services; Easter Sunday

Text: Luke 24:1-12; Sermon: "The Stone Rolled Away"

FAITH FOR LIFE: A LENTEN JOURNEY

Wednesdays - March 3, 10, 17, 24 at 7:00 PM in the Parlor

Lent, like Advent, is a season of preparation when we focus on our inward essence, soul; the grounded, practical, go to work, clean the refrigerator side of faith; and seek to understand its relationship to spirit; our desires, dreams, and hopes that call us into life. This course, led by Rev. Denny Moon, is an attempt to follow the steps Jesus took to grow in faith. Each session will include:

- * understanding a facet of Jesus' life as told by Luke;
- * applying that facet to your own life, and
- * a time of reflection and sharing.

March 3: Luke 3:21&22. Living Beyond Judgment: Loved and Called

March 10: Luke 3:23-38 Owing Your Past: Ancestors of Birth & Choice

March 17: Luke 4:1-15 Powerless Power: Facing Desire

March 24: Luke 4:16-30 Rejection Proof: The Art of Disappearing

Please call the church office, (860) 653-7289 to sign up!

GODSPELL

March 31st, and April 1st, 2nd, 3rd at 7:00 PM

During this year's Holy Week, we have the opportunity to see the gospel story as it is presented by Matthew, through the lens of composer Steven Schwarz. The cast is made up of youth and adults from South Church, as well as youth and adults from the surrounding area. Not only is the cast cross-generational but interfaith as well. Several of the Jewish faith are in the cast as well as a Presbyterian minister.

We are hoping that this is the beginning of a community theatre for Granby that would be part of the ministry of South Church. Come and support this effort as you prepare yourself for the celebration of Easter. Tickets are \$12.

COMEDIAN, DAVE REILLY

April 24th, at 7:00 PM

“The most wasted of all days is one without laughter.” ~e.e. cummings

On Saturday, April 24 at 7 PM, join us for a laughter-filled night as we present nationally known comedian, Dave Reilly, right here in our own Fellowship Hall. Dave has been performing his cavalcade of comedy for over 20 years! TV, Radio, Clubs, Fundraiser, Corporate...you name it, he's done it. We are thrilled to have him here.

This fundraiser is in support of our mission trips. Tickets will be on sale shortly - \$30 per person (21 years and older). Only 100 tickets will be sold – it should be a sellout. So mark your calendars! Questions, contact Maggie Percival at 653-6411 or e-mail: maggie.percival@cox.net.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS – SCHOLARSHIP

Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship: To meet the eligibility requirements for a Fuller Scholarship, you must:

1. Be able to demonstrate financial need (based on FAFSA);
2. Currently be in your senior year in a high school located in Hartford County;
3. Maintain an average grade of 70 or better;
4. Be a confirmed member of a UCC church;
5. Plan to attend a fully accredited 4-year college as a full-time student.

Scholarship packets are available outside the church office or can be obtained by sending an e-mail to: financial-aid@trincoll.edu by March 1st.

Submit completed application and supporting materials by May 1st.

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

SOW AND REAP GARDEN CLUB

The next meeting of Sow and Reap Garden Club will be held on March 4th at 7:30 PM in the Parlor. The program will be “Shade Gardens” presented by Jena Hinman Keller of the Riverside Nursery & Garden Center. All are welcome to attend! The Hostesses for the evening are Sharon Jacobs and Britt Horne.

SPUD SUNDAY

March 21st

On March 21st, the Board of Fellowship will provide Irish soda bread following the 8:30 AM service and baked potatoes (Spud Sunday) and the toppings, after the 10:30 service. Please join us! Questions? Contact Amy York (860-614-0011) or see any member of the Board of Fellowship at coffee hour. Hope to see you there!

SOUP-ER SENIORS

Thursday, March 18th, 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Our next luncheon and discussion will be on March 18th. Diane Hensdorf will be making the soup – bring a sandwich (dessert optional) and join us! We all help clean up. Thanks to Lydia Oliver for preparing the soup at our February meeting.

FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK LUNCH

Sunday, March 28th, 12:30 p.m.

All are welcome to attend this month's Potluck Lunch, sponsored by the Board of Christian Fellowship. If you attend the first worship service, please come back and join us – this is a great opportunity to visit with old friends or to make new ones. You may bring a salad or casserole to share, and dessert and beverages are provided. Casseroles may be heated during church or coffee hour. If you have any questions, please call Rowena York (658-2153) or see her at coffee hour.

PRINCESS & THE PROM is a charitable organization that provides donated prom dresses free to area high school girls. Donated dresses and accessories can be dropped off at any Best Cleaners location, as well as other sites, until March 20th. For information call 860.653.0227 or visit www.PrincessAndTheProm.org for more dress collection sites and donation guidelines.

YOUTH NEWS AND HAPPENINGS!!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Any questions regarding youth fellowship, please contact Robbi Boston, Youth Ministry Coordinator, at 653-4899 or e-mail: robbandy@cox.net.

Youth Fellowship meetings are generally held the first and third Sundays of every month, between 6:30 and 8:30 PM. Upcoming meetings:

♦ **Senior High Youth Fellowship:**

March 7 – Meeting from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

March 21 – Meeting from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

♦ **Junior High Youth Fellowship:**

March 7 – Meeting from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

March 12/13 - “Nightwatch” at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC

March 21 – Meeting from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

♦ **Confirmation Class:**

March 7 – 5:00 – 6:30 PM (dinner provided)

March 21 – 5:00 – 6:30 PM (dinner provided)

♦ **Youth Mission Meetings/ASP & HUH:**

February 28 – Meeting from 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Appalachian Overview

March 28 – Meeting from 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Announce teams/team building

April 11 - Meeting from 6:30 – 8:00 PM: Tool time, work training and pizza

MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISING

BILLS FOR THE HILLS

The premise is very easy, at the end of each day during Lent, we are asking members and friends of South Church to drop their pocket change into the collection can provided - those pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters do add up! (If you write a check, please make it out to South Congregational Church and memo it ASP/HUH.)

This year we are hoping to raise \$2,800 to help support our ASP and Heads Up! Hartford mission trips planned for this summer. On Sunday, April 11th, we will collect the cans before worship service. Thanks for your support!

EASTER CANDY BAFFLE

Starting Sunday, March 7th and continuing through Sunday March 28th, you will have the opportunity to buy tickets for a Munson's Candy Basket. Each year, we've had a different winner – so come try your luck!

PURCHASE THE 2010 SOUTH CHURCH/MISSION TEAM GIFT CARD

This card offers deals and discounts to 21 popular retail businesses in our area, such as Horses and Hounds, Asian Grill, Route 10 Tire, and Bemans. The cost for the gift card is \$20. But for every \$20 gift card we sell, \$10 goes towards our 2010 Summer Mission Trips. This year, we have a group going to Heads Up Hartford and are looking at sending approximately 35 volunteers, youth and adults, to the heart of Appalachia to help those in need by making homes warmer, drier and safer. Cards are available from ASP volunteers or the church office.

KALEIDOSCOPE CORNER

PLANNING MEETING & BREAKFAST Saturday, March 6 - 9:00AM -12 Noon

Mark your calendars for a fun morning of collaboration and creativity and join us for the annual curriculum planning meeting for Kaleidoscope Corner 2010-2011. This meeting offers breakfast, friendship and the opportunity to help craft next year's Sunday School program.

CALENDAR

- ◆ March 7 Family Worship – Children attend worship service
 - ◆ March 14 Union Service at First Church, Granby
 - ◆ March 21– Apr 18 Session 5 - Seeds and Soil
 - ◆ May 2 – 23 Session 6 - Women in the Bible
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SILVER LAKE

It's Time to Register for Summer Conferences

Summer conferences at Silver Lake are life-transforming and spirit-renewing. Do not let your child or young adult miss the opportunity for a truly rewarding week away which is also so affordable! There are no summer overnight camps offering anything like it at such a low cost. To register online for Silver Lake, go to: www.silverlakeect.org. Sign up now, conferences tend to fill up quickly!

WHAT IS WELCOMING?"

By the time you read this issue of the Southwind, we will be two-thirds of the way through our six part educational program which started in December. We hope that you have been able to attend and participate in most, if not all, of these very informative sessions. Our remaining two sessions are:

March 7: Gretchen Nelson "Welcoming People with Special Needs"

April 18: Dr. Uriah Kim "The Old Testament and Homosexuality"

At the same time, your "What is Welcoming?" Committee is close to finalizing a welcoming statement for consideration by the congregation. We expect to have this done by the end of March.

During the month of April, we will have two open forums in which all church members will have a chance to review the proposed welcoming statement, ask questions, and discuss it with the committee. These forums are tentatively scheduled for April 25 and 29. The congregation will then vote on the proposed welcoming statement during a one week period which will commence with our annual meeting in May.

We appreciate your prayers and support as we have worked on this important task over the last several months. As always, please don't hesitate to give me a call (653-2068) if you'd like to discuss any aspect of the committee's work.

Walt Zultowski
Chairperson

THANK YOU!

We appreciate those who take time out of their busy schedules to contribute to our church community. Our thanks go out this month to the following people:

- ♦ **The ASP and HUH Mission Teams and supporters** for a wonderful pasta dinner and dessert auction on February 6th. We raised \$1,700.
- ♦ **Our Board of Fellowship, Steve Lacey, Terry Grayson, Steve & Candy Miltimore, Tim Blair, and Ted Christensen** for the delicious Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast on February 14.

HAITI UPDATE: The UCC members and congregations continue with their overwhelming support of this ravaged nation. As of February 2, more than \$650,000 had been raised by the UCC Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. South Church recently sent in a donation of \$4,000, comprised of donations from the congregation and from the Board of Christian Concern.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing special collection will be on Sunday, March 14 at the union service at First Church and on March 21st at South Church.

OGHS is a UCC ministry that supports international programs aiding response to natural disasters and emergencies, resettling refugees and health education and agriculture development. These monies reach people often in desperate need and/or poverty.

In 2008, OGHS and special offerings raised close to \$4 million with about \$1.8 million going to health/education/agri., \$1.4 million to disasters/emergencies (international & domestic), about \$0.3 million to refugees. Administration included \$0.2 million for staff and coordination, about \$0.2 million for promotional materials and a very small amount to monitor program effectiveness.

Please read the attached brochure. The program is based upon Jesus' last words to the disciples, where he said "Do you love me? Then feed my sheep." He repeated it three times for emphasis. Care for my people that I have given my life for.

Please use the special offering envelope (attached) or there will be envelopes in the church pews on March 14th & 21st.

Thank you for your generous support!

AUSTIN LIBRARY NEWS

Wow, it sure has been snowy this past month! We're glad we're safe inside where it's warm.

We have news about our friend, Perley the church mouse in South Bridgton Congregational Church in South Bridgton, Maine. Perhaps you remember the little church mouse who wrote a book to help repair the steeple on his church. We bought a copy of that book, and it's full of neat stories about his antics and those of his family. He also tells bible stories that he learned in his class. You can find the book in the children's fiction section and we recommend it. But back to the point, we got a post card showing the picture of the church complete with steeple! The message on the card is as follows:

A Happy Ending

As the first rays of the sunrise kissed the church steeple, deep beneath the floor boards a small mouse stirred under his warm quilt. With his belly full of chocolate pie and his heart full of gratitude, young Perley drifted back to sleep knowing his church steeple was restored and all was well.

We thank you for your support, prayers, and generosity.

*Your friends at
South Bridgton Congregational Church,
South Bridgton, Maine*

It makes Alice, me, and Uncle Aloysius feel good that we did something to help another church. About that chocolate pie, mice eat the strangest things, don't they?

Our blessings to all,
AL, Alice, and Uncle Aloysius

TOGETHER BUILDING BRIDGES

Come, **Renew Your Spirit!** Join other women from New England when we gather to celebrate our faith in **Burlington, VT on March 12-14, 2010**. This is a once-every-four-years event. Register at: <http://www.uccwomenscelebration.org>.

MARCH 14TH, BEGINS DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME.
Please remember to turn your clocks *ahead* one hour!

SPIRIT WEEKEND

Friday, March 19th – Sunday, March 21

Save the dates! Spirit weekend is a three day, South Church event designed to inspire and move people into a deeper and richer understanding of their faith, church and community. The theme of the weekend is "Exploring God's Creative Spirit." The weekend will be complete with activities, programs and fellowship opportunities.

We will kick off on Friday evening with a "Create your Own Meal" adventure, followed by songs and stories. Saturday morning will offer workshops for all ages. Later in the day, the Artist's Way group will hold an "Evening of Creativity From the Heart of South Church." Sunday morning worship services will have a special creative dynamic. The popular "Spud Sunday" Fellowship Hour will follow!

Be on the look out for a Spirit Weekend mailing!

MARCH AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, March 2:			Wednesday, March 17:		
<i>Fellowship</i>	Teale Rm	7:00 PM	<i>Quilting Group</i>	Parlor	10:30 AM
<i>Men's Ministry</i>	Library	7:30 PM	<i>Community Meal</i>	Fellowship Hall	4:30 PM
Wednesday, March 3:			<i>Bible Study</i>	Parlor	7:00 PM
<i>Quilting Group</i>	Parlor	10:30 AM	Thursday, March 18:		
<i>Community Meal</i>	Fellowship Hall	4:30 PM	<i>Souper Seniors</i>	Fellowship Hall	12:00 PM
<i>Bible Study</i>	Parlor	7:00 PM	<i>Godspell Reh.</i>	Fellowship Hall	5:30 PM
<i>Property</i>	Library	7:00 PM	<i>Chancel Choir</i>	Choir Room	7:30 PM
Thursday, March 4:			Friday, March 19:		
<i>Godspell Reh.</i>	Fellowship Hall	6:00 PM	<i>Spirit Weekend</i>	Fellowship Hall	6:00 PM
<i>Sow & Reap</i>	Parlor	7:30 PM	Saturday, March 20:		
<i>Chancel Choir</i>	Choir Room	7:30 PM	<i>Handbell Ringers</i>	Sanctuary	9:00 AM
Friday, March 5:			<i>Spirit Weekend</i>		
<i>Contra Dance</i>	Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM	Sunday, March 21:		
Saturday, March 6:			<i>Worship Service</i>	Sanctuary	8:30 & 10:30 AM
<i>Handbell Ringers</i>	Sanctuary	9:00 AM	<i>Artist's Way</i>	Parlor	4:00 PM
Sunday, March 7:			<i>Confirmation</i>	Teale Rm	5:00 PM
<i>Worship Service</i>	Sanctuary	8:30 & 10:30 AM	<i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth Fellowship</i>	6:30 PM	
<i>Godspell Reh.</i>	Fellowship Hall	2:00 PM	Tuesday, March 23:		
<i>Artist's Way</i>	Parlor	4:00 PM	<i>Deacons</i>	Parlor	7:00 PM
<i>Confirmation</i>	Teale Rm	5:00 PM	Wednesday, March 24:		
<i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth Fellowship</i>	6:30 PM		<i>Quilting Group</i>	Parlor	10:30 AM
Tuesday, March 9:			<i>Community Meal</i>	Fellowship Hall	4:30 PM
<i>Christian Ed</i>	Parlor	7:00 PM	<i>Bible Study</i>	Parlor	7:00 PM
<i>Christian Concern</i>	Teale Room	7:00 PM	Thursday, March 25:		

Wednesday, March 10:			<i>Godspell Reh.</i>	Fellowship Hall	5:30 PM
<i>Quilting Group</i>	Parlor	10:30 AM	<i>Chancel Choir</i>	Choir Room	7:30 PM
<i>Community Meal</i>	Fellowship Hall	4:30 PM	Saturday, March 27:		
<i>Youth Ministry</i>	Library	7:00 PM	<i>Handbell Ringers</i>	Sanctuary	9:00 AM
<i>Bible Study</i>	Parlor	7:00 PM	Sunday, March 28:		
Thursday, March 11:			<i>Worship Service</i>	Sanctuary	8:30 & 10:30 AM
<i>Godspell Reh.</i>	Fellowship Hall	6:00 PM	<i>Potluck Lunch</i>	Fellowship Hall	12:30 PM
<i>Chancel Choir</i>	Choir Room	7:30 PM	<i>Godspell Reh</i>	Fellowship Hall	1:30 PM
Saturday, March 13:			<i>Artist's Way</i>	Parlor	4:00 PM
<i>Handbell Ringers</i>	Sanctuary	9:00 AM	Tuesday, March 30:		
Sunday, March 14:			<i>Godspell Reh.</i>	Fellowship Hall	6:00 PM
<i>Union Worship Service</i>	First Church	10:30 AM	<i>Men's Ministry</i>	Library	7:30 PM
<i>Godspell</i>	Fellowship Hall	2:00 PM	Wednesday, March 31:		
Tuesday, March 16:			<i>Quilting Group</i>	Parlor	10:30 AM
<i>Music Committee</i>	Choir Room	6:00 PM	<i>Community Meal</i>	Fellowship Hall	4:30 PM
<i>Steering</i>	Parlor	7:00PM	<i>Godspell</i>	Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM