



The South Wind

December 1, 2011

What Are You Waiting For?

This question can be considered in two ways:

- a. What is it **out there** that you are waiting for that will make you the person you want to be?
- b. What is it **in there** that is keeping you from being the person you want to be?

Possible answers to a. : a facelift; respect; my spouse loving me more; my children behaving; more money; my parents stop bugging me; a person or two disappearing; name your own
_____.

Possible answers to b. : stupidity; guilt; anger; being too nice; lack of discipline; addiction; name your own
_____.

In the Christian tradition the church year begins with a season of waiting that we call “Advent”—and we know precisely, what we are waiting for: Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love. Theologically speaking, we are waiting for God’s will to be done, “on earth as it is in heaven” i.e. shalom, salvation, healing, reconciliation, transformation.

The story of the first Christmas reminds us that God “out there” is connected to us, for the anointed one, Jesus, came humbly in a stable to poor refugees and eventually died on a cross. So we have been valued from the outside. And yet God is “in there” as well, for we are created in God’s image.

These words are from Martin Buber: “That you need God more than anything, you know at all times in your heart. But don’t you know also that God needs you—in the fullness of God’s eternity—YOU.”

What are you waiting for? All you ever really needed: peace, hope, joy, love; is both “out there” and “in there.”

Blessed by God...To Be a Blessing,

Denny Moon

2011 PLEDGES

Final pledge gifts for 2011 should be at the church office by noon on Monday, December 26th in order to be recorded in the 2011 fiscal year. Contributions received after that date will be recorded on your Giving Statement for 2012.

PRELIMINARY PLEDGE REPORT - 2012

As of November 28th, we have received 117 pledges for a total of \$237,194.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to that result. If you have not yet pledged, please send in your commitment as soon as possible. Extra pledge forms are available in the church office. Thank you in advance for your support!

Articles for the **January 10** edition of the *SouthWind* are due in the church office by noon on **Wednesday, December 21st**. Articles for the Sunday bulletin are due by Tuesday of each week. Your help with these deadlines is appreciated.

DECEMBER WORSHIP - ADVENT

Practicing Salvation:

During Advent, we traditionally light the candles of Peace, Hope, Love and Joy. These ideas express the longing which all human beings feel deeply, and together could be called shalom, salvation, healing—that which we believe is caught up in God and the birth of God's anointed one, Jesus. But how do we seek God in the midst of ordinary life, as Jesus was born in the midst of an ordinary barn? What are the candles we light in our own lives, so that the light of God might shine in and through us? Our Advent worship will speak to these questions encouraging us to practice salvation.

Nov. 27: 8:30 and 10:30 AM Worship Services; First Sunday of Advent

Peace through Prayer: Isaiah 40:1-11

Dec. 4: 8:30 and 10:30 AM Worship Services; Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 - Communion; 10:30 - Confirmation

Hope through Justice: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Dec. 11: 8:30 and 10:30 AM Worship Services; Third Sunday of Advent

Love through Community; Luke 1:26-18

Dec. 18: 8:30 and 10:30 AM Worship Services; Fourth Sunday of Advent; Poinsettias

Joy through Worship; Psalm 98:1; 4-9

Dec. 24: 5:00 PM Worship; Family Service

9:00 PM Worship; Communion

Dec. 25: Home Worship; Christmas Day

Christmas Day is on Sunday this year, and given that we have worshipped at church twice on Christmas Eve, we will NOT have a worship service at church this day. Rather, **each of us will worship at home with our families on Christmas.** We are distributing a brief service of worship (see green insert), similar to the Advent Candle Lighting worship, and we will all worship in our own homes at 10:30 on Christmas morning. We will ask some of you to share your experience of home worship the next week in church.

Jan. 1: One Service at 10:30 AM; New Year's Day Worship

Do You Know Someone Who Is Alone on Christmas Day?

We are planning a meal for those who might be home alone for Christmas, at 4:00 PM on December 25th. Christmas means that God is with us and all people should have the opportunity to break bread with others. If you know of someone who is spending Christmas by themselves, please call the church office (860.653.7289) or tell Rev. Moon.

MUSIC NOTES

Bruce Porter has been resting comfortably at home, but his mind and heart are still at South Church. He's been advising Mattie on anthems and details, continuing to contribute his wisdom and experience of 22 years and more. Bruce knows well that Advent/Christmas is the season when many people make a special effort to bring their musical gifts to church, and so we invite you to contact Mattie immediately if you'd like to do this. The Choir plans some special music for "Christmas Sunday" December 18th, as well as Christmas Eve, but we need YOU to make it truly special!

Now is the time to join Chancel Choir rehearsals on Thursday nights, 7:30 to 9:00 PM, and be a part of our musical offerings for the 2011 holiday season. Also, if you have any thoughts for singing a solo or playing an instrument, please contact Mattie Banzhaf as soon as possible: Email: banz@hartford.edu; Telephone: (860) 651-8303; or put a note in the Music Director's mailbox.

A NOTE FROM BRUCE PORTER

Dear members and friends at South Church: I cannot adequately express my delight and amazement at the splendid celebration offered by you on Sunday, November 20. I knew something was afoot, but had no concept of the overwhelming affair this occasion would be!

To Denny, the Music Committee, the Choir, The Handbell Ringers, the trio, Ken Andriesen, Victor, Mattie, the speakers, my thanks goes! To anyone I've omitted, please forgive me.

I have received a veritable shower of get well cards in the past weeks, and I am grateful for all of those welcome wishes, prayers, and thoughts. I have nothing but warm memories for the 20 year of music and achievement we've accomplished together.

With Christian Love,
Bruce Porter, MB, SMM, AAGO

THANK YOU: We appreciate those who take time out of their busy schedules to contribute to our church community. **Our thanks go out to:**

- **Those who helped out church members and friends during the power outage** following the October snowstorm . People brought hot coffee to neighbors, offered up hot showers, invited friends over to sit in front of their fireplaces and shared a hot meal, and lent out generators and chainsaws. We are blessed!
 - **Those who contributed toward the \$1,363 collected for the Holiday Food Baskets.** The baskets will be distributed to needy households here in the Granby area under the direction of Granby's Department of Social Services.
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FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

CHRISTMAS FUND 2011

The **Christmas Fund Offering** helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy families in need and Christmas checks to hundreds of annuitants; administered by the Pension Boards.

Please share some of your blessings with the "Veterans of the Cross" by contributing to the Christmas fund. Please mail in your donation (made out to South Church, with "Christmas Fund" in the memo line) or put it in the collection plate on **December 11th or 18th.**

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The Board of Christian Concern will have gift tags on the church Christmas tree (or in a basket beside the tree) on **December 4th and 11th.** This year we are supporting: **DARE Family Services** - gifts for foster children ranging in age from 5 to 18 years old; **South Park Inn** - gifts of gloves/mittens sets, hand lotion and soap for the women in the homeless shelter; and **Granby Social Services Department** - gifts for children of families who are on a limited budget.

The gifts for DARE can be wrapped or unwrapped, with the tag attached to the gift. The gifts for the women at the South Park Inn and the children of the Holiday Sponsorship Program should be unwrapped with the tag attached to the children's gift. **All the gifts should be placed under the Christmas tree by Sunday December 18th.** Should the weather prevent normal church activities on that day, please bring the gifts into the church office by December 19th.

If you have any questions, please call Diane Hensdorf at (860) 653-7112, or email her at: neudorf@snet.net. Thank you!

GRANBY FOOD BANK

Thanks to those who faithfully support the Granby Food Bank by placing non-perishable goods in the baskets located in the narthex.

In December, there is a particular need for the following items: canned meat, bottled juices, hot cocoa, sugar, cake mixes, and paper products. Currently there are 95 households that come to the Granby food Bank. Thank you for your continued support in helping Granby's less fortunate families

WORSHIP SERVICE ON CD

Recordings of complete Sunday morning worship services are now available on CD. To request a CD, e-mail: office@southchurch.necoxmail.com or call the church office: (860) 653-7289. The cost is \$2.00 per CD.

YOUTH NEWS AND HAPPENINGS!!

SENIOR AND JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:

Happy December! Things to look forward to during the next few months are: the Christmas Party in December; the "Chill Out" retreat for Sr. High at Silver Lake in January; and "Night Watch" for Jr. High in March! We will be sending out Calendars in the mail periodically - so keep an eye out for those!

Any questions regarding junior or senior youth fellowship, please contact Lauren Malecki at: LMalecki@vikings.northpark.edu; or Brian Schramm at: brianschramm@gmail.com.

- ◆ **Senior High Youth Fellowship:** Usually meets every Sunday at 6:30 PM
 - Dec. 4: Gifts God has given us
 - Dec. 11: How we use those gifts for others
 - Dec. 18: Christmas Party - Caroling

- ◆ **Junior High Youth Fellowship:** Usually meets the first and third Monday at 6:30 PM
 - Dec. 5: "Gifts"
 - Dec. 19: Christmas Party - Caroling

CONFIRMATION:

- **10th grade with Rev. Moon**
 - Dec. 3 at 10:30 AM: Reading Statements of Faith; mentors and parents invited.
 - Dec. 4 at 10:30 AM: Confirmation

- **9th grade with Sandra Fischer**
 - Dec. 4 at 5:00 PM
 - Dec. 11 at 5:00 PM

YOUTH MISSIONS - 2012:

- **Heads Up! Hartford:** June 22 – June 29, 2012
- **Appalachian Service Project (ASP):** July 14 – July 22, 2012

Upcoming fundraiser: the Christmas Candy Basket Baffle.

For more information, contact Dick Mullen: email: rhmgael@cox.net (ASP); and Denny Moon: denny@southchurch.necoxmail.com (HUH).

KALEIDOSCOPE CORNER

Each year around Thanksgiving, members of the CE Board visit each Kaleidoscope Corner class and ask the children what part they would like to play in the Christmas Pageant. The Pageant offers places for those who love the limelight and those who are more comfortable behind the scenes. There are places for those who love to sing but the tongue tied are embraced as well. We love the children's responses and we work hard to be sure that EVERYONE gets to visit the baby Jesus, even tigers, lions and ghosts!

“That’s what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown.”

I can hear Linus reciting those words as I think about our kids and how they so openly offer their gifts to us each Sunday. That’s what Kaleidoscope Corner is about too, offering everyone a place and welcoming them wherever and however they are. Just like in the Christmas story.

We hope you can join us on Sunday, December 18 at 4PM in Fellowship Hall for the Children’s Christmas Pageant. It is what Christmas is all about.

Upcoming Schedule:

Dec 4	Rehearsal at 10:30
Dec 11	Rehearsal at 10:30
Dec 18	Rehearsal at 10:30, puppets at 2:30, Pageant at 4:00
Dec 25	In-home service (see green insert)
Jan 1	One service at 10:30, activity for children grades 3 and under
Jan 8	Session 3 – Books of the Bible

FELLOWSHIP HOUR: We have reorganized our Fellowship Hour and all members now have a chance to contribute refreshments. The schedule for the next weeks, **Dec. 4: Q, R, S; Dec. 11: T-Z; Dec. 18: A, B;** Dec. 25: no coffee hour and Jan.1: no coffee hour. (Hosting is still an option – just sign up!)

Thank you to the Board of Membership who hosted fellowship hour for two weeks in a row (Nov. 20 and Nov. 27)!

Thanks to all of you for making this successful!

WANTED: A mirror to hang over the sink in the handicapped bathroom in Fellowship Hall. If you have a mirror you would like to donate, please call the church office: (860) 653-7289. Thank you!

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

The next meeting of the Sow and Reap Garden Club will be on Thursday, December 1st at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. This will be our Christmas potluck dinner – feel free to bring a guest. Christmas Music will be provided. The hostesses are Barbara Casavant, Karen Sun, Lynn Van DeBogart and Rowena York.

THE TUESDAY MORNING CRAFT & CHAT GROUP continues to meet on **Tuesdays from 10 AM to 12 PM** in the Parlor. There is no program, each person works on their own project or shows up just to chat. Please join us!

Our **COOKIES-BY-THE-POUND BAKE SALE IS ON DECEMBER 3RD.** Come buy delicious, beautifully decorated home-made Christmas cookies for your family and friends to enjoy. They also make a wonderful hostess gift during the holidays.

Cookie sales start at 10:00 AM and continue until we are sold out!

CHRISTMAS CARD NIGHT

Tuesday, December 6th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the Teale Room.

Join us for an evening of fun and creativity. Come make Christmas cards with us. There will be many sample cards to try as well as a limited amount of supplies and equipment to share. Bring your creativity, cardstock, adhesives, cutters, stamps, art supplies, old cards (for cutting up) and stickers. Children's table will also be available. Look for the sign up sheet in fellowship hall. Call Pam Pestretto (860) 653-9980 with any questions or to sign up.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: On Sunday, December 18th, all are welcome to join in the fun and bring the gift of music to a few of our members who have a difficult time getting out. We'll meet after the 10:30 AM service and travel to a few homes.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Thursday, December 22, at 7:00 PM

This special service, held at First Church, is designed to help individuals and families who are facing Christmas after a death of a loved one, are feeling overwhelmed, or have experienced trauma. This special service will have a quieter mood than a traditional Christmas worship service. All are welcome.

DECADE OF MINISTRY: WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

Your Decade of Ministry Plan Development Committee continues to work diligently to develop a strategic plan that will guide the activities of our congregation over the upcoming decade. A large part of the Committee's work to date has been interviewing various town officials and opinion leaders regarding the future of Granby and the role that a congregation such as ours might play in serving the needs of our community.

During our Stewardship neighborhood gatherings, held in October and November, you had an opportunity to share your insights on this topic by answering the following questions:

- What first attracted you to South Church? Why do you remain a member?
- What are the strengths of South Church?
- How has Granby changed over the last ten years?
- How will Granby change over the next decade, and what are the implications of these changes for our families, our congregation, and our town?
- How can South Church serve the needs of Granby and our wider community – local, national, and international?
- What do you believe God is calling South Church to be and do in the upcoming decade in order to make it relevant to some of the emerging needs in our area and continue to be a place where existing members want to be and still attract new people?

We greatly appreciate your input! If you were unable to attend a gathering, please don't hesitate to share your thoughts with one of the Committee members: Carole Bernard, Ed Boardman, Sharon Jacobs, Denny Moon, Will Percival, Deb Reelitz, Helen Rice, or Walt Zultowski.

Thanks in advance for your help!
Walt Zultowski

SOUPER SENIORS: We will not meet in December. Our next luncheon and discussion will be on Wednesday, January 18th in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Denny Moon for making the soup for the last luncheon.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Please check your calendars and consider signing up (on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall) to provide altar flowers one Sunday.

*** Although it is rare to have a service or event cancelled at South Church, cancellations can be found on **WFSB's Channel 3 Early Warning Storm Closings**. To cancel an event due to inclement weather, call the church office at: (860) 653-7289. ***



*From your South Church staff: Denny Moon, Maggie Burnett, Linda Calder, Phil Garrity,
Mattie Banzhaf and Victor Evans.*

AUSTIN LIBRARY NEWS

Wow, has it been busy here in the library! They've been painting scenery for the play, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and, of course, we've been watching all the comings and goings. Uncle Al had to get up close so he wouldn't miss anything, and he stuck his head right into the wet paint on the stained glass window. He's small enough that nobody noticed him, and that little smudge he made went undetected by the painters, but *we* sure noticed him. Bookworms don't usually have bright blue heads! Why does he *always* seem to get into trouble? He's worse than the grandkids.

The Christmas season is upon us. Joyce has already put some Christmas books out on the library table in the hall. Hope you don't forget to stop by and pick up a few for your family to enjoy during this hectic time. Remember to look for the lower shelves, on the left of the library door as you come in, to find a large assortment of Christmas stories, old and new.

Unlike Alvin and the chipmunks, we don't want a hula hoop, or any other gift except your presence in the library. We wish you all a wonderful tinsel season. Don't spend it all shopping, but take some time to recall the true meaning of this season, and join the rest of our congregation in joyful song and reflection. Merry Christmas blessings from all of us, including our blue-headed Uncle Aloysius!

Blessings,
AL, Alice, and Uncle Aloysius

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER December 2nd – 11th, in Fellowship Hall

Good Company Theater at South Church is pleased to present their production of "*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*" (titled "The Worst Kids in the World" in Australia, New Zealand and the UK) with permission from Samuel French, Inc. "In this hilarious Christmas tale, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids-- probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem-- and the fun-- when the Herdmans collide with the Christmas story head on!"

Show times are mostly at 7:00 PM (with a few shows at 2:00 PM). Tickets are \$12 for adults, and \$10 for children and seniors and will be on sale during coffee hour and at the Granby Pharmacy; or call: 860-913-1966 or e-mail: goodcompanytheater@gmail.com.



Our much-loved **SERVICE OF CANDLES AND CAROLS** will be offered at **5 PM on Christmas Eve** (note the time change.) This is a favorite service for many and includes familiar carols, scripture readings, a story for the children, and the light of Christ passed candle to candle.

Then at 9 PM on Christmas Eve, a quieter gift is shared as the lessons of the season are read, familiar carols are sung, and communion is offered at our **SERVICE OF CANDLES, CAROLS, AND COMMUNION**.

Note: On Sunday, December 25, we will have "Home Worship." Details inside.

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

Thursday, Dec. 1:			Sunday, Dec. 11:		
<i>Sow & Reap</i>	Fellowship Hall	6:00 PM	<i>Worship Services</i>	Sanctuary	8:30 & 10:30 AM
<i>Chancel Choir</i>	Choir Room	7:30 PM	<i>Confirmation 9</i>	Gathering RM	5:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 2:			<i>Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>		
<i>Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>		7:00 PM	<i>Sr. High Youth</i>	Youth Bldg	6:30 PM
Saturday, Dec. 3:			Tuesday, Dec. 13:		
<i>Weight Watchers</i>	Gathering Rm	8:00 AM	<i>Craft & Chat</i>	Parlor	10:00 AM
<i>Handbell Ringers</i>	Sanctuary	9:00 AM	<i>Stewardship</i>	Library	7:00PM
<i>Cookies By the Pound</i>		10:00 AM	Wednesday, Dec. 14:		
<i>Confirmation</i>	Sanctuary	10:30 AM	<i>Community Meal</i>	Fellowship Hall	4:30 PM
<i>Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>		2 & 7:00 PM	<i>Christian Ed</i>	Parlor	7:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 4:			Thursday, Dec. 15:		
<i>Worship Services</i>	Sanctuary	8:30 & 10:30 AM	<i>Chancel Choir</i>	Choir Room	7:30 PM
<i>Music</i>	Choir Rm	11:45 AM	Saturday, Dec. 17:		
<i>Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>		2:00 PM	<i>Handbell Ringers</i>	Sanctuary	9:00 AM
<i>Confirmation 9</i>	Gathering Rm	5:00 PM	<i>Weight Watchers</i>	Gathering Rm	8:00 AM
<i>Sr. High Youth</i>	Youth Bldg.	6:30 PM	Sunday, Dec. 18:		
Monday, Dec. 5:			<i>Worship Services</i>	Sanctuary	8:30 & 10:30 AM
<i>Caring Ministry</i>	Parlor	3:30 PM	<i>Children's Pageant</i>	Sanctuary	4:00 PM
<i>Jr. High Youth</i>	Youth Bldg	6:30 PM	<i>Sr. High Youth</i>	Youth Bldg	6:30 PM
<i>Christian Outreach</i>	Teale Rm	7:00 PM	Monday, Dec. 19:		
Tuesday, Dec. 6:			<i>Jr. High Youth</i>	Youth Bldg	6:30 PM
<i>Craft & Chat</i>	Parlor	10:00 AM	<i>Finance</i>	Library	7:00 PM
<i>Storytelling</i>	Parlor	7:00 PM	Tuesday, Dec. 20:		
<i>Christmas Card</i>	Teale Rm	7:00 PM	<i>Craft & Chat</i>	Parlor	10:00 AM
Wednesday, Dec. 7:			<i>Church Council</i>	Parlor	7:00 PM
<i>Community Meal</i>	Fellowship Hall	4:30 PM	Wednesday, Dec. 21:		
<i>Property</i>	Library	7:00 PM	<i>Community Meal</i>	Fellowship Hall	4:30 PM
<i>Youth Ministry</i>	Youth Bldg	7:00 PM	Thursday, Dec. 22:		
Thursday, Dec. 8:			<i>Chancel Choir</i>	Choir Room	7:30 PM
<i>Chancel Choir</i>	Choir Room	7:30 PM	Friday, Dec. 23:		
<i>Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>		7:00 PM	<i>Blood Drive</i>	Fellowship Hall	1:00 PM
Friday, Dec. 9:			Saturday, Dec. 24:		
<i>Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>		7:00 PM	<i>Weight Watchers</i>	Gathering Rm	8:00 AM
Saturday, Dec. 10:			<i>Christmas Eve</i>	Sanctuary	5 & 9:00 PM
<i>Weight Watchers</i>	Gathering Rm	8:00 AM	Sunday, Dec. 25:		
<i>Handbell Ringers</i>	Sanctuary	9:00 AM	<i>Home Worship</i>		
<i>Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i>		7:00 PM	Tuesday, Dec. 27:		
			<i>Craft & Chat</i>	Parlor	10:00 AM
			Wednesday, Dec. 28:		
			<i>Community Meal</i>	Fellowship Hall	4:30 PM
			Thursday, Dec. 29:		
			<i>Chancel Choir</i>	Choir Room	7:30 PM

