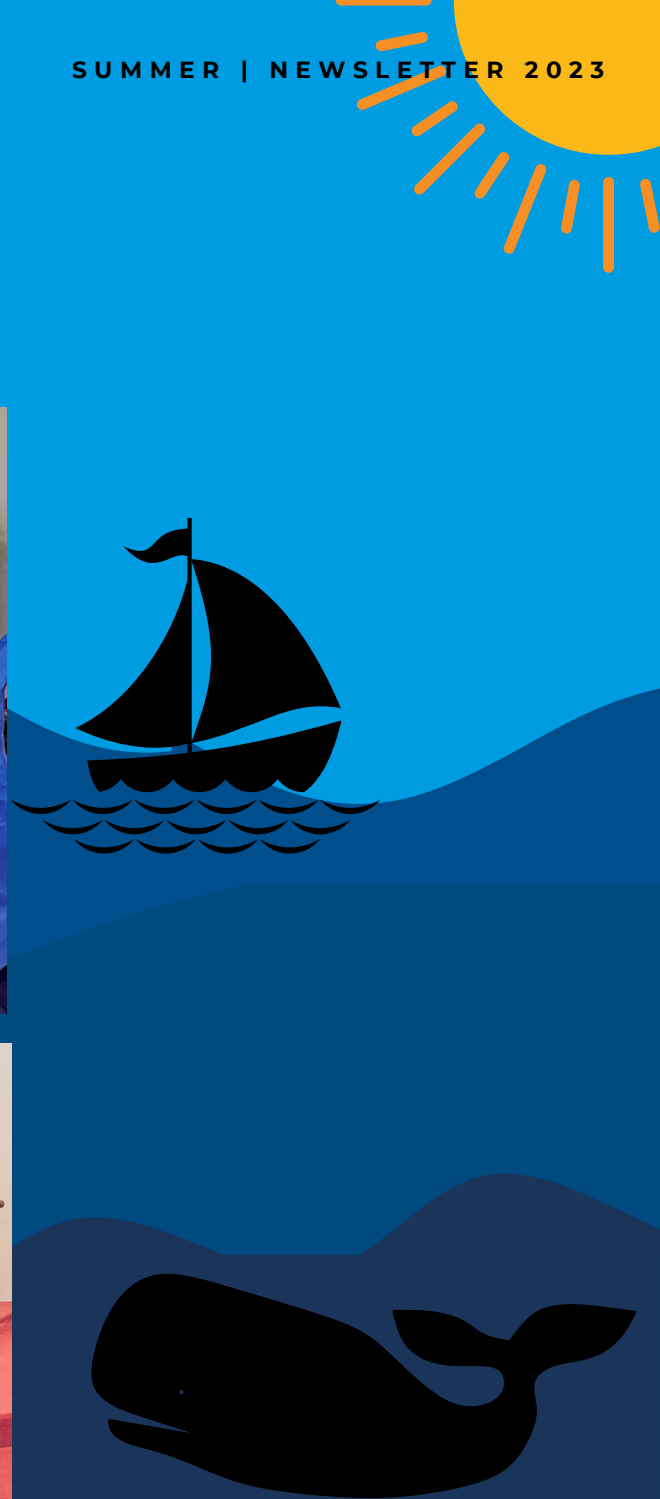


# SOUTH CHURCH *andover*

*boldly embodying God's love and compassion*

SUMMER | NEWSLETTER 2023



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# a note from Dana

*The tale of a whale is a whale of a tale:  
It's the story of the deep blue sea;  
About a fish and a man named Jonah  
And responsibility."*

The "Oh, Jonah!" cantata in worship on May 14th not only featured the joy of children dressed in angel wings, sailor hats, and inside the belly of a whale, but it was also a celebration of months of hard work, practice, learning, and faith formation. What better way to know a Biblical story than to be part of it? Of course, for my own children, I hope they lean into that proclamation of responsibility—especially when it comes to brushing their teeth and putting away their clothes.

When Jonah received God's call to be a prophet to God's people, I doubt he anticipated going down in history as the prophet swallowed by a giant fish only to be regurgitated three days later. Although that time of his life is certainly memorable and worth exploring, Jonah is also deserving of another award: Best Emotional Expression (especially when Leighton Walsh is Jonah!).

Jonah expresses despair, sorrow, regret, guilt, and gratitude to God. Jonah holds nothing back in prayer. He does not minimize what he feels, nor does he offer an explanation. He names his emotions poetically and with detail, all with the purpose of giving voice to what he is experiencing. As Jonah faces his emotions, he is unburdened of them—allowing his perspective to shift and broaden.

The story of Jonah gives us permission to feel what we need to feel and to know that God can handle it all. Biblical prophets tend to be an absurd group. It's easy to giggle or react to their outlandish behavior, whether it's Jonah in the belly of a whale, or Ezekiel eating bread baked on animal excrement or Jeremiah wearing an ox's yoke to meet the king. As my professor and friend, The Rev. Dr. Adam Hearlson, puts it: *"The absurd theater of the prophets is a by-product of two competing and connected devotions. Devotion to a just God and devotion to a broken people."*

As people of faith, we too, dwell in the paradox of loving God and loving imperfect people. Some days, life feels like we're stuck in the belly of a whale: sad, lonely, and homesick. We need the absurdity of Biblical prophets, especially when we feel trapped between a past we cannot return to and a future that is uncertain.

In the days and weeks ahead, when we feel stuck in the hard space between anticipation and realization, let us embrace the courage of the Biblical prophets. Let us bring all that we are and all that we feel to God in prayer.

Peace & hope,

*Dana*



## All Members Are Ministers

Dana Allen Walsh, Senior Pastor  
Genevieve Hosterman, Associate Pastor  
Sherry Tupper, Minister of Visitation  
Cathy Meyer, Minister of Music  
Taylor Graffum, Minister of Youth and Families  
Linda Francalancia Hacker, Office Administrator

Joanne Smith, Finance Administrator  
Nora Pelt, Communications Admin/Volunteer Coord.  
Andy Brien, Facilities Manager  
David Strong, Moderator  
Janna Roop, Treasurer



# Props, Entrances, Whale Transportation

Michaela Barczak, Director of Youth Choirs

Our Mother's Day service this year looked a bit unconventional, as 30 children took over the sanctuary with song, dance, kazoos, and a whale! The Bee Suite, South Church's children's music ministry, spent months preparing *Oh, Jonah!*, a musical cantata telling the story of Jonah and the whale through song. This cantata was led by Cathy Meyer, Minister of Music, and me. Cathy presented me with a daunting task in the spring of 2022; she wanted our students to lead a cantata on Mother's Day 2023. Cathy has led many youth cantatas and she knew that the students here would love the opportunity to learn and share a cantata; and she was right! From the first day we introduced the concept to our choirs, the children were entirely on board.

To prepare, the **Nectar Choir** (grades K-2) read through 10 different depictions of the story of Jonah and the whale. We compared and contrasted the stories to find as many similarities to the *Oh Jonah!* script as we could. Soon every child could tell you that Nineveh was in Assyria and Jonah climbed aboard a boat (a boat, a boat, a boat) to run from God's command. We took time to help each child learn the story to ensure they felt like worship leaders with the important responsibility of teaching the congregation.

Through games, call and response, and choreography, the students began to learn and love the songs. Over April vacation, parents said that their children were singing the songs through a road trip, retelling the story to families, and even proudly singing the sailor song on a model ship at a museum! Everything came together so easily because the students had ownership of the cantata and knew the flow of the story.



Everyone arrived very early in the morning on Mother's Day, donned their matching t-shirts, and worked as an ensemble to piece together the different aspects of the story for the first time. There were pauses for props, entrances, whale transportation—but overall our single run-through couldn't have gone better, and it allowed us to iron out any wrinkles before worship.

**HoneyComb** choir (ages 0-5) introduced the cantata. They were really too young to take a major acting role but had no less of a chance to learn and participate. From February through Mother's Day, they read a new version of the Jonah scripture, each with different pictures and a slightly different retelling. The kids could quickly complete sentences like "The sailors threw Jonah overboard!" and "Jonah was swallowed by a whale!" and "Jonah went to Nineveh to tell about God's love!" Once rowdy kids would happily sit down, intently listening, voluntarily comparing and contrasting the versions. By the time Mother's Day arrived, they were captivated by the youth's re-enactment because they knew the story so well, and enthusiasm grew for when they would be big enough to join the older choirs.

The **Nectar Choir** members were sailors and storytellers, Our **Hive Choir** angels helped narrate and lead Jonah on his way, **Sting Choir** were the Ninivites, and of course we had **Jonah**, played by Leighton Walsh, and the **Whale**, played by Ethan Pelt.

As I watched students taking their bow, I could see them beaming with pride. One child exclaimed, "Next time I want to play Jonah!" A neighbor added, "Oh, I want to be Jonah, too! Or an angel!" Someone said "I want to be the whale!" We reassured them that there are many stories to tell and more cantatas to learn, but maybe, in a few years when they have aged into a new Bee Suite choir, we just might need to revive the Tale of a Whale!

# When authenticity is the foundation, teamwork flows

Taylor Graffum, Minister of Youth & Families

It was powerful to witness how authenticity and teamwork became the foundation of this year's mission trip. Every year I start off the trip by reminding everyone, students and chaperones—that those moments will never happen again. Each trip is completely unique in terms of the combination of people present, the work projects, the conversations, and the moments shared. This uniqueness is truly a gift to be aware of and grateful for as we head into the week.

Everyone seemed to embrace that mentality as they bravely showed up as their unique selves, embodying authenticity. It was beautiful to watch how people who didn't know many others at the start of the trip bond with their roommates, students and chaperones over a card game, and others over similar styles of witty humor. Everyone showed up as their authentic selves and the trip was all the better for it.

The authenticity shared is what kept each other going on long work days when it was 80 degrees with no shade. When tasks felt endless and the tiredness set in, motivation to continue would often blossom out of someone's carefully crafted mission trip playlist, good conversation with a buddy or shared water breaks. As someone who has eyes for the bigger perspective of how the whole team is doing, it brought me great joy to see the relationships that were fostered and the ways that each individual played a crucial role in this year's team...*continued*



## MISSION TRIP CHALLENGES

- The hot days
- Very full days
- Sore arms
- Managing expectations
- Complicated projects
- Ants
- Emotions
- Early breakfast
- One day ramp build



## MISSION TRIP FUN

- Singing around the fire
- Hank's BBQ
- Building
- Ice cream after a hard day
- Movies
- Knockerball
- Giant jar of cheeseballs
- Seven Seas of Flavor





# When authenticity is the foundation, teamwork flows

Taylor Graffum, Minister of Youth & Families

*continued...* When authenticity is the foundation, teamwork flows to be a powerful force. Everyone worked together to get ramps built in one day instead of four, bunk houses taped & mudded, decks built, a house stucco-ed. The projects were big and full of new learning for everyone but the team was able to tackle everything by working together. It was incredible to watch the group seamlessly divvy up tasks and then work together to each accomplish their specific part of the whole project. We couldn't have completed many of the projects without each person recognizing both what they were contributing to the project and that the team mattered. Teamwork was present in every moment along with the authenticity that was the heartbeat of this year's trip.



*"There are moments of growth that can only happen in community with others, because you cannot see everything without the views of others."*

*"I watched first hand as these kids grew, pushed their limits, and did things they didn't know they could do."*

*"I don't have to be a hero. The small things add up."*

*"The mission trip brings out the best parts of our characters and let's them shine."*

YOUTH  
QUOTES



CHAPERONE  
QUOTES

## New Mental Health Ministry

Pastor Genna Hosterman

In recognition of the deep need for mental health resources in our community, we are consolidating some of our ongoing mental health work, and expanding our programs into a new Mental Health Ministry. The primary goal of this shift is to house all of our mental health resources in one easy-to-find place. This is not a replacement for therapy or medication, but rather a recognition of the ways that spiritual community can positively impact mental health. For the most part, we are just consolidating, organizing, and making our resources easier to find.

Our Mental Health Ministry consists of three parts:

1. Small groups—including ongoing support groups like Concern Carriers, Mental Health Caregivers, and our new TransParent Support Group
2. Holistic healing—this will bring together folks who practice mindfulness and mysticism to provide and explore expanded roads to wellness such as music and meditation.
3. Advocacy and events—this includes any upcoming events or training related to mental health and wellness, like our mental health resource panel and fair last fall. It also represents our commitment to continued education and advocacy for mental health issues.



# Pursuing a Dream on Mount Everest



SCAN to read  
Rebecca's blog

Rebecca Long, 29 year old daughter of Graham and Annie Long, who grew up in South Church, quit her finance job to pursue her dreams. In mid-May, she accomplished that by summiting Mount Everest even as her group as dwindled from five climbers down to two. Rebecca writes a spectacular blog documenting her experience with funny/dry wit and a unique perspective.

**March 27:** *So I'm going to attempt to climb Mount Everest this spring. Everest has been a life-long dream for me, and I've had a tendency lately to seize the day; who knows how much time we all have left to do stuff like this? Trying my best to strike a balance between that attitude and some semblance of stability, I fought hard to retain my job after my 2.5 month hiatus, escalating to higher ups and offering to take unpaid leave, but my employer ultimately wouldn't bite, so I resigned in order to climb Everest. YOLO, right?*

**April 19:** *The next morning, I woke up with the usual halo of icy drool surrounding the head of my sleeping bag. I don't think I'll ever get used to these deathly freezing nights in the Himalayas. After lunch, we climbed up to Lobuche High Camp at around 18,500 feet. Halfway through, we got to break out our triple boots and crampons for the first time on the trip. It took a little while to get used to what felt like space boots. But it felt great to have more traction on the snow with the crampons.*





# Small Group Highlights

Our church has been buzzing with new activity! Below is a run-down of some of our new and forming small groups. To learn more about these groups, you can email Pastor Genna at [genna@southchurch.com](mailto:genna@southchurch.com) or visit [southchurch.com/groups](https://southchurch.com/groups).

**20s/30s**—if you're in your 20s or 30s, we invite you to join us as we get to know one another, serve, laugh, and learn together! We meet for brunch after worship every third Sunday of the month at The Friendly Toast restaurant. We also have other events occasionally, like volunteering opportunities, board games, and rock climbing!

**Holistic Healing Group**—This is a new group for those fascinated by the healing miracles of Jesus and who are practitioners of yoga, Reiki, meditation, or other alternative forms of healing. Each month, one or two of our members will share their craft, plus we will have events for the wider church and Andover community a few times each year focusing around healing and education. Email [Cathy@southchurch.com](mailto:Cathy@southchurch.com) if interested.



**Theology on Tap**—Theology on Tap is back! Join us as we meet over drinks (alcoholic or otherwise) to discuss interesting topics and explore our faith together.

**South Church Pride**—South Church Pride isn't a new group in our congregation, but we'll be focusing this coming year on increasing their visibility and activity, and focusing on making a space where allies and queer folk can work together to foster queer justice and joy.

**Sunday Night Bible Study**—we have started another Bible Study group! We gather in the library from 5-6:30pm every other Sunday. We begin with a time of fellowship and potluck desserts, and then spend time reading scripture together—no homework required! We are currently reading through the Book of Esther together. All are welcome!

**TransParent Support Group**—we are in the process of forming a support group for parents of gender-nonconforming—nonbinary, transgender, genderfluid, etc.—children and teens. Supporting children who are navigating their gender identity is hard and holy work in a world that so often refuses to make space for them. This is a supportive place where parents can pray, share, and be heard by others who are familiar with the unique challenges of this work.

**Young Moms Group**—Every month, a group of South Church mothers gather for conversation, reflection, and spiritual practice. Each month, we meet in a different home with a group of usually 8–12 women. The focus has been on mothers of children in the nursery through middle school and we have almost 60 women on our email list. If you're curious to learn more, reach out to Pastor Dana. You don't need to commit to coming every month, you're always welcome when your schedule allows. It's been a wonderful way to connect more deeply with God and one another.



# Volunteer, Pray, Donate:

## An Interview with Laurie Sorota, Outgoing Mission Team Chair

As Laurie Sorota rolls off Team Missions as chair, she talks about how she shaped the program into an excellent model of effective ministry for South Church, the Monthly Mission Partner practice of giving our weekly offering away. The practice began in 2019, proposed by the ministerial staff as a way of broadening our service and mission dollars. Determining who would be the recipient of this monthly offering collection proved to be the challenge, and Team Missions took up the mantle of this responsibility.

### Laurie, how is this responsibility similar to the standard responsibilities of the Missions Team?

We have a process in place to vet both our Core Mission Partners and our Monthly Mission Partners. We look at how closely aligned the organization is with the ministry of South Church, particularly how well they serve their clients and whether they are inclusive. We look at ratings on various charity navigator sites to determine financial transparency as well as overall structure to help us discern longevity and community impact.

### And how is it different financially?

Our Core Mission Partners are funded through the church budget. They receive quarterly disbursements and are expected to share joys and concerns with us. They are also asked annually to provide financials for their organization. The money given to the Monthly Mission Partners is entirely separate from the annual budget and is solely dependent on the generosity of the congregation.

The time in worship for the offering is our best opportunity to educate and even offer volunteer opportunities. Pastor Genna and our Communications Administrator, Nora Pelt, have been terrific in visually sharing an organization's mission across social media and in worship. When we can, we enjoy having a representative visit, speak, and meet the staff and congregation.

### How do you handle the process of who to choose?

We now have a spreadsheet where we can see the history of our monthly mission partners; how many times we've supported them, are they local, national, or international, as well as the mission area they support, for example social justice – hunger, housing, disaster relief, empowerment, environmental, etc. Last year, after starting the spread sheet, I realized that we had never suggested an organization that would support South Church's love for....continued

## RECENT MONTHLY MISSION PARTNERS:



ONETREEPLANTED



All Hands and Hearts  
Smart Response

THE BIKE  
CONNECTOR  
COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP • LOWELL

nami  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
Massachusetts



# Volunteer, Pray, Donate:

## An Interview with Laurie Sorota, Outgoing Mission Team Chair

*continued...*

the environment and Earth Day, so we found a national group that helps reestablish forests after fires.

### **It sounds like you favor 'boots on the ground' partners over broader groups that funnel the money, does that mean you have to rely on faith that it gets where it is intended?**

Yes, we think people are more likely to give when there is a clear mission. When we choose a large, international group, we often designate our funds for a specific program within the organization. With natural disasters, the UCC programming is often one of the best, so we have supported them many times with our monthly mission collection. When the war broke out in Ukraine, World Central Kitchen was already on the ground in Poland, so we did our research, determined they were a solid operation providing much needed food, and dedicated our offering to them.

### **Do you take suggestions for monthly mission partners?**

Absolutely! We currently have a form online that can be completed and sent to the team (just scan the QR code or visit [southchurch.com/give](https://southchurch.com/give)). We ask the person to tell us about their suggested organization and provide us with the necessary contact information and links. We plan each month's partner three to four months in advance so we can build the broadcasting tools. We also look at months with five Sundays as an opportunity to add a very specific collection, often for our own congregation. We support the youth after their annual mission trip and will support the Pastors' Samaritan Fund as we move forward this year.



### **What are you most pleased with as you leave Team Missions?**

The Mission Team takes our responsibility as stewards of South Church's generous donations, both within the annual budget and the monthly collections, very seriously. We are dedicated to educating our congregation and providing them with opportunities for individual involvement; volunteer, prayer, further donation. We are equally dedicated to ensuring the organizations we support are worthy of those opportunities. I think the Mission Team has a great purpose and offers very good role modeling for what it means to work as a committee. We each had individual jobs to perform for the good of the team. We also had a great deal of respect for each other and finally, we had a lot of fun! The Mission Team is being left in great hands with Alyson Shaw and Laura Rex serving as co-chairs.

## Monthly Mission Update

Abby's House	\$3,508 - January (updated)
Voice of Hope	\$2,136 - February
Project Home Again	\$2,626 - March
Red Crescent	\$4,287 - April
Youth Missions	\$585 - April

***Thank you!***

# Summer Programming

## Vacation Bible School: Storytellers

June 27-July 1

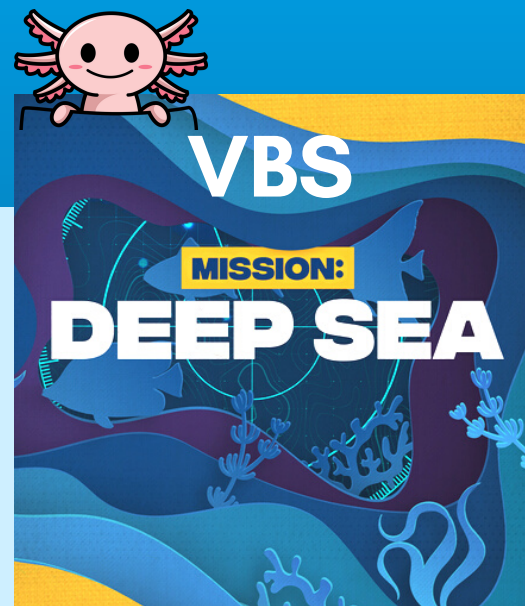
8:30am-12:15pm (optional \$25/day afternoon program until 4:00pm)

Participant/\$175, Counselor/\$50 *scholarships available*

A crew of deep sea explorers from the Sea Exploration Agency are on a mission to explore the deepest depths of the ocean, in search of knowledge about its Creator—and you're invited too, as a SEA agent in training! As our crew travels deeper and deeper below the surface, experience the wonders of creation, face a few challenges, and discover how wide and long and high and deep is God's love. We explore how our faith can grow through crafts, science, gardening, cooking, sports, snacks, drama, with music and dancing!

- **Ages 2-5:** Nursery-aged tots and pre-kindergartners have their own adventures of age-appropriate activities with fun and caring adults in the Preschool Playroom.
- **Rising 1st-6th graders:** Youth will choose projects, stations and activities that appeal most to them to experience Jesus' stories of inclusion, service, celebration, and love.
- **Rising 6th-10th graders:** Youth may register as Counselors; those entering grades 11-12 can choose to be Counselors or Assistant Leaders; those entering the 6th grade may register as campers or counselors.
- **Adults:** Please speak with Taylor about coming to help throughout the week, either on a daily basis or whenever your schedule permits. There is something for everyone!

**Questions about either program? Email Taylor at [taylor@southchurch.com](mailto:taylor@southchurch.com). Don't let the cost keep you from participating – we have financial support available.**



## Summer of Service: Middle & High School Community Service Program

Week One: July 10-14, Week Two: July 17-21, Week Three: July 24-28

8:30am-3:30pm

\$300/week *scholarships available*

Summer of Service is a Haystack award-winning community service program for middle and high schoolers. Participants engage in hands-on local service projects during the morning and the afternoons are filled with fun activities. Fridays are "fun days" where the group gets together to do something fun: a day at the beach, a hike in the woods, water wars or something totally different!

We are committed to offering daily opportunities for service, fun and friendship. Everything we do at SOS revolves around those three values: feeding the hungry, loving our neighbors and caring for creation. We will explore these three values as we discover what it means to seek shalom! Each day, youth will have the opportunity to create connections with other area teens, lean into these values and practice them through acts of service.

Our afternoons together include scavenger hunts, wild games, tie-dye, karaoke, time for reflection and more. It's a full day of service, connection and joy!

We ask that you register for no more than two weeks, so that everyone has a chance to participate. If you'd like a third week, send Taylor an email at [taylor@southchurch.com](mailto:taylor@southchurch.com) to be put on the waitlist for an extra week. High Schoolers who have completed grades 10-12 are invited to apply to be counselors. Visit [southchurch.com/summer](http://southchurch.com/summer) to apply!





# Suggested Summer 2023 Reading List

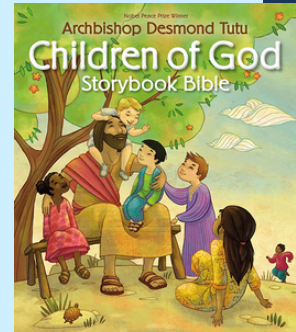
## FOR CHILDREN

Carol-Georgine West, South Church Librarian

**Behold the Trees** by Sue Alexander. The story of the trees of Israel from earliest times when the land was called Canaan. How the lives and interactions of many different peoples played a role in the loss and revival of the trees that grow there. JFIC ALE

**God Gave Us Family** by Lisa Tawn Bergeren. Little Pup learns about different types of families that God created, even as we are all part of God's family, chosen and loved forever. JFIC BER

**Children of God Storybook Bible** by Desmond Tutu. A wonderful collection of many of the Bible stories, illustrated by many different artists from around the world. Each story has a short accompanying prayer. J220.9 TUT



## FOR YOUTH

**Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints** by Daneen Akers. Profiles of people of different faiths and backgrounds who have worked for more love and justice around the world throughout history. Y200.922 AYE

**Wonder** by R.J. Palacio. Inspired by a personal experience and a song called "Wonder," this is a story about a 10-year-old boy with a facial disfigurement and his experiences at school. A moving and uplifting story about acceptance and compassion of those who are different. YFIC PAL

**The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas. A sixteen-year old African American girl witnesses a white police officer shoot and kill her friend Khalil. When a grand jury decides not to indict the police officer, building social tension develops into a riot. YFIC THO

## FOR ADULTS

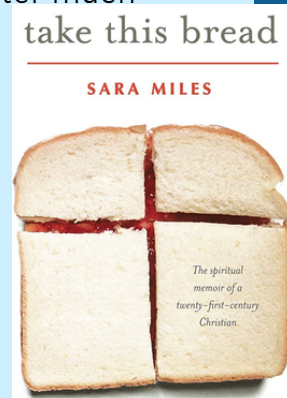
**How to Begin Again When Your World is Ending: A Spiritual Field Guide to Joy DESPITE Everything** by Molly Baskette. Her interactions as a minister with people facing difficult times help her to endure and grow in her own faith when facing aggressive cancer at age 39. 248.86 BAS

**The Book of Longings** by Sue Monk Kidd. Set during the first century, this is the story of Ana, who came from a wealthy family and secretly writes about neglected and silenced women. Expected to marry an older widower, she meets 18-year-old Jesus and her life changes. Written after much research and with much reverence about Jesus's life and humanity. FIC KID

**Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion** by Sara Miles A memoir of the author's unexpected conversion from atheism to Christianity, as her partaking of communion turns into a living communion of Christ. 277.3 MIL

**Living Buddha, Living Christ** by Thich Nh'at Hanh. Explores where Christianity and Buddhism meet in their teachings of compassion and holiness. 294.3 NHA

**Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith** by Henri Nouwen. Nouwen's thoughts on the Christian life as a journey of faith and transformation deepened by accountability, community, and relationships. 253.5 NOU



**Devotions** by Mary Oliver. A collection of Oliver's poems that reflect her passionate and perceptive observations of the natural world. 811.54 OLI

**Beyond Belief: The Secret Gospel of Thomas** by Elaine Pagels. Looks at early Christian texts and breathes new life into Thomas's "secret" gospel—shows how faith invites a diversity of interpretations. 229 PAG

**The Orthodox Heretic and Other Impossible Tales** by Peter Rollins. Parables illustrating Rollins' view of what it means to truly follow Christ. 230 ROL

**God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for our Time** by Desmond Tutu. With personal and historical examples, Tutu shows people of all religious backgrounds that individual and global suffering can be transformed into joy and redemption. 231.7 TUT

# No Idle Chatter, Tea, Pies, or Cakes—Did You Know...

*Char Lyons, South Church Historian*

...That our current Missions Team (formerly the Board of World Service) is celebrating its 210th Anniversary this year? The missionary movement began here in Andover with the first missionaries from the Andover Theological Seminary. The idea for a seminary grew from several members of South Church. In 1808, these businessmen, scholars, entrepreneurs, ministers, and a few wise women created an institution for ministers to change the world. It was the first graduate school established for the sole purpose of training for the ministry, and the first seminary to emphasize the art of preaching. The seminarians, called the Theologues, practiced in our sanctuary.

Several missionary-minded students found they were in a community of persons with the foresight to help harness the missionary spirit into a sustainable ministry and vocation. In the parlor of what is now Phelps House on Main Street at Phillips Academy (then the home of the President of the Seminary), South Church members helped with the business and legal side of drafting the proposal to create the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missionaries (ABCFM) in 1810. They helped with wisdom, caution, criticism, and common sense in making the board a reality with a healthy dose of financial aid.

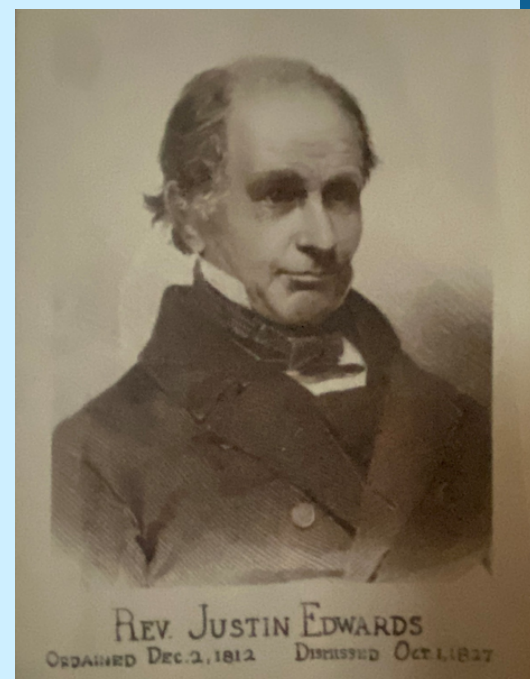
"Go see what good can be done, and do it," was the message given to the first missionaries in their send off, and "DO GOOD" was what the message boiled down to. All discussion to try to contain any wordy message only became wordier, and the board wisely acknowledged that less was more.

Our third minister, Rev. Justin Edwards, ATS class of 1812, was so taken by his brethren seminarians, he introduced the missionary movement to South Church. He brought a sense of self-awareness to be active students and participants in our beliefs. Rev. Edwards harnessed the energy of the congregation with the creation of "The Andover South Parish Society for Doing Good" in 1813.

Rev. Edwards started a Female Beneficent Society, a Juvenile Missionary Society, and a Society for the Reformation of Morals in 1814 and 1815, all under the Society for Doing Good. The missionary movement exploded in the 1820s-1840s, setting the tone well into the 1860s as an Andover endeavor. Rev. Edwards served as the President of the seminary later in his career.

A few gems of wisdom followed in how these societies and missionaries practiced. From the Rules of Order of the Female Beneficent Society: "Where no idle chatter, tea, pies, or cakes shall be allowed as we endeavor to sew for those less fortunate." And this helpful guidance from the ABCFM: In 1830, it was decided that the young men needed to be married for at least two months. They kept a list of eligible young ladies who were: "missionary-minded, young, pious, educated, fit and reasonably good-looking." Many women of the Abbot Female Academy were on this list, which was founded in 1826 by South Church's Sarah Abbot.

The momentum that the Missionary movement gave to Andover is so unique. First, the young theologues gathered sponsors, totally based on faith, then they sailed off, and sent letters of their journeys. When packages were received at the Swift's General Store from a missionary, the Phillips' boys raced to the home of destination to announce their package. Word spread and people gathered to see what was in this package. From the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) came seashells which we modestly displayed as we were the benefactors. It was a discrete way of showing support without...*continued*





# No Idle Chatter, Tea, Pies, or Cakes—Did You Know...

*continued...*

being boastful, as Congregationalists were extremely humble and modest, and no fun. And yet, the letters were read in church for all to hear of the mighty missionary who gave his all.

By 1810, Andover had a paper mill and an ink factory. The Andover Press was started by Deacon Mark Newman and opened the Andover Bookstore (1810) to meet the needs of books and languages from the professors at Phillips Academy (1778) and the Seminary. The first Greek and Hebrew texts printed in America were here. Tracts and texts from our ministers and professors were printed here and contributed to Andover becoming the epicenter of the theological world in the 1800's, it was the place to speak or teach.

We supported the theologues in living in our homes for room and board. They were our first Sunday School teachers. The students from the Andover Theological Seminary and Phillips Academy worked the bellows of our organ during worship. Harriet Beecher Stowe let the seminary students use her barn as a woodworking shop for the exercise and the making of practical items such as coffins to help pay for room and board, as well as learning the trade to build things abroad.

Over the last 200 years, the means of supporting the legacy of "Doing Good" has moved from various society monetary contributions to a more concentrated effort via the Missions Team with education and volunteerism programs, as well as financial support. Please see the article on page 8 to explore how the Missions Team works today.

And now you know...

P.S. How much of an impact did the seminary and the missionaries have on life in Andover back in the day? We have a fuller picture of the realities of the times now, but back then...As missionaries went to the 'foreign' Indian lands of the western US, little Andover children pretended to be ministers preaching from rocks. Instead of playing cowboys and Indians, they engaged in encounters of missionaries and Indians.

## The Social Justice Coalition invites you to attend...

**Celebrate Resilience.  
Strength. Achievement.**

**JUNETEENTH  
2023  
CELEBRATION**

**Presented by Andover Baptist Church**

**Join us for this "Free" event!**

**Monday, June 19th, 2023**  
**4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**  
**Cormier Youth Center**  
**40 Whittier Ct**  
**Andover, MA 01810**

**In partnership with the  
Town of Andover, Andover  
Interfaith Community, MVBV,  
and the DEI Commission.**

**Workshop: 4 pm**  
**Program: 5 pm - 7pm**

**JUNETEENTH 2023  
CELEBRATION**

This year's theme celebrates the Black experience of Resilience, Strength, and Achievement. Come spend the holiday with us and learn about the Black experience through the following activities:

**Keynote Speaker: Mr. Ralph Bledsoe**

**Musical Performances**

**Guest Speakers**

**Juneteenth Inspired Food**

**Vendor Tables**

**Family Fun and Games; Trivia Prizes**

**\*NEW\* Embodied Social  
Justice Workshop (4 pm - 5 pm)**

**+ More!**

For more information email us at [abcandoverbaptist.com](mailto:abcandoverbaptist.com)  
or reach out to us at 978-475-0166

# Congratulations!

We at South Church want to take a moment to celebrate all those completing this school year! You made it! Wherever life takes you in this new season of your life, whether it's to work, or school, or anything else at all - know that we love you, we're praying for you and we believe in you!

## High School Graduates

Greta Abourjaily  
Madelyn Blanchette  
Bae Bryan  
Lauren Conners  
Ryan Cotton  
Sam Flaig  
Kate Harris  
Grace Jungmann  
Dylan MacLean  
Olivia Murphy  
Ethan Pelt  
Noah Stevens

## Congratulations to

Karen Bacchi  
*Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts  
Exemplary Service & 30 Year Member Honors*

Annika Waples  
*Golden High School, Colorado  
Grandchild of Nancy & Don Miller*

## Bachelor Degree Graduates

Mia Galat  
*University of Connecticut*

Ryan McDonald  
*Northeastern University  
(Magna Cum Laude)*

Jillian Schuck  
*Trinity College*

Kara Schuck  
*University of Maine*

## Confirmands

Brooke Adam  
Alexander Beers  
Sarah Beers  
Sawyer Cheverie  
Colin MacLean  
Alexander McClintick  
William Ware





# Caring

## condolences to

- Art Williams & family on the death of his wife/former member **Mary Ann Williams** on Oct. 22nd.
- Lisa Anderman & family on the death of her mother **Kristina Anderman** Feb. 10th.
- Family/friends on the death of former member **Barbara Bolton** Feb. 19th.
- Kath Mason & family on the death of her father **Richard Jarzowski** on Feb. 27th.
- Terry Ebner & family on the death of her step-mother **Millie Truscott** on Mar. 20th.
- Lynn Welbourn & family on the death of her mother **Rhoda Bitzer** on Mar. 20th.
- Friends/family of former member **Karen Postel** on Mar. 20th.
- Karen Parker & family on the death of her mother **Marjorie Lundgren** on Mar. 27th.
- Gary and Mark VanDoran on the death of wife/mother **Karen VanDoran** on April 1st.
- Doug Halstead & family on the death of his wife **Josie Walker** on April 3rd.
- Laura Weiss & family on the death of husband/former member **Josiah Weiss** on April 11th.
- Jane Vondell & family on the recent death of her son-in-law **Bill Richter** in April.
- Cindy Ozirsky & family on the death of her mother **Mary Miller** on April 28th.

## best wishes to

- parents Annelise (Mesler) and Niklas Blomberg on the birth of **Ada Berit Blomberg**, born in Lund, Sweden. Ada joins big sister Esther. Grandparents are Linda and Doug Mesler.

## in gratitude

Thank you for the beautiful daffodil. I watched it bloom so 'spring' through the life cycle. I plan to plant the bulbs when the time is right. I am truly blessed. *Sincerely, Jane Vondell*

Many thanks for the beautiful daffodils. I always feel the warmth and love which lives in South Church. What a great church I've found. *Love, Loanne Hamjie*

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support as a sponsor of our Church. Your contribution has had a significant impact on our community and has allowed us to continue to spread love, hope, and joy! *Calvary Baptist Church, Haverhill*

We are deeply grateful for your generous donation. We appreciate and thank you for helping us support Ukrainian families that have been devastated by the crises in their homeland.

*With thanks & warm regards, Christine Baerl Grants, Mgr. All Hands and Hearts*

Thank you for your generous donations. The items collected during your Goods for Good drive continue to support our newly arrived families. We greatly appreciate your generosity and support creating opportunities for refugees and immigrants in our community to succeed. *Kris Honeycutt, International Institute of New England*

A huge thank you for your generous gift to help change the lives of deserving young men. Now they have hope and a future through education. Your support is greatly appreciated. Continued blessings this spring and as always, many thanks. *Jean Kiser, Only A Child*

Thank you for your generous and faithful support of women and children at Abby's House. Through your gift, women and children can access life-saving safe shelter, supportive housing, and personalized women's services to move forward on their journey. *Stephanie Page, Executive Director, Abby's House*

Thank you for your long-standing support and your 55 year partnership with ABC. You have helped sustain our special program transforming lives one scholar at a time. We couldn't do our work supporting young women without your tireless work in giving us this critical funding. *Bonnie Susan & Gabrielle, ABC of Andover*

# The Legacy Society of South Church

The 4th Century Fund is the Legacy Society of South Church, which recognizes individuals who have made a commitment in their estate plan to ensure that our mission will carry on for future generations. Planned gifts support the Endowment Fund that is professionally managed and invested toward our long-term goals.

The most straightforward way to join your legacy with the good work of South Church is to establish a simple bequest in your will, trust, or estate plan, or to name South Church as the beneficiary of a life insurance or retirement plan. The church office can provide more information and suggested language as a starting point to share with your legal or tax advisor.

Please contact Joanne at [joanne@southchurch.com](mailto:joanne@southchurch.com) if you would like to discuss and explore planned giving options, particularly if you are considering designating a gift for a specific purpose, or if you would like us to know about an existing planned gift to South Church.



4th Century Fund

SOUTH CHURCH  
LEGACY SOCIETY

## the steeple is lit in loving memory of



*in May*

**My friend Judith Hill**  
by Carol Hopkinson

*in June*

**Richard & Catherine Reed**  
by their daughter Charlotte Reed Lyons

*in July*

**My dear friend Joan Orrick**  
by Carol Hopkinson

*in August*

**Our parents Blanche & Gilbert DeMoor**  
by Norma Morava and Marilyn Fitzgerald  
**Reed Holton Henderson**  
by Mom, Dad and Luke

*Please let the office know if you would like to "light the steeple" in memory of one of your loved ones.*

In our increasing efforts to be mindful of our resources, our next newsletter is going digital! If you would still like a paper copy printed and mailed to you, please email [Nora@southchurch.com](mailto:Nora@southchurch.com).



South Church in Andover    An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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