

»» SOUTH CHURCH ANDOVER NEWSLETTER ««

THE CIRCLE

boldly embodying God's love and compassion



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From demo days to a tree from Buffalo, find out what's been happening behind the construction tape at South Church.

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Discover the latest additions to our church library—new books for all ages that inspire, inform, and invite deeper reflection.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DANA

>>> UNTAMED SAINTS & SACRED BEAUTY

Dear Beloved Church:

Most people are surprised to learn that I grew up Catholic. "You? Really?" — cue the raised eyebrows and slight head tilt. I remember a gifted St. Christopher medal to keep me safe when I first started driving and the muttered prayers to St. Anthony when things were lost (the original Find My iPhone).

We often think of saints as flawless and miracle-dispensing figures. Yet, I like to think about saints more expansively - saints can be anyone who is a companion and guide on our own pathway to God. Two years ago, I studied St. Francis & St. Claire in Assisi and that trip was transformative for me. In mid-May of this year, I had the privilege of taking a 12-day pilgrimage to study Teresa of Avila (La Santa) in Toledo, Avila, & Seville led by The Rev. Dr. Mary Luti and Dr. Anne Minton, along with 8 other UCC clergy colleagues. Our days began in shared prayer together, and then we'd journey to various pilgrimage sites, eat delicious tapas, and enjoy a few hours of study together in the evenings.

Here's a little bit of what I learned (and love!) about Teresa of Avila:

Teresa of Avila was a 16th-century nun who broke with the spiritual laxness that she saw around her. She traveled across Spain to found her own Carmelite convents, prevailing on her nuns to live in prayer and reflection. What I love about Teresa is there were no small ambitions for her and her followers.

Teresa embodied beautiful contradictions. Both firmly rooted in this world and soaring as an exuberant mystic, she defied easy categorization. On one hand, she was a savvy businesswoman negotiating property deals; on the other, a profound spiritual writer plumbing mystical depths with uncanny honesty. Her decision to join a

convent wasn't retreat, but revolution—a path to freedom and joy, liberating her from the constraints of social status and gender expectations of 16th-century Spain. Despite wrestling with internal doubts and weathering harsh external criticism, Teresa persevered, driven by an unquenchable love for God. Her life's work focused on transformation and growth—both in her own spiritual journey and in revitalizing the communities she built across Spain.

What draws me to Teresa is her remarkable blend of fierce determination and profound spiritual wisdom. She embodies that rare combination of practical worldliness and mystical depth. Her masterpiece, "The Interior Castle," offers us a compelling metaphor for the spiritual journey that remains as relevant today as it was five centuries ago.

As I left Spain and returned to the rhythms of ordinary life, I carried Teresa with me—that "unstable, restless, disobedient" woman who refused to accept spiritual mediocrity. She *continued on next page*





A NOTE FROM DANA

...reminds me that the journey inward isn't an escape from the world but a deeper engagement with it. Her legacy teaches us that true devotion doesn't diminish our humanity—it expands it. In embracing both mystical contemplation and practical action, Teresa reveals what might be the most beautiful rebellion of all: to seek the divine not by turning away from the world's beauty, but by discovering the sacred already shimmering within the ordinary moments of our everyday lives.

After Teresa's death in 1582, a small handwritten note was found tucked inside her breviary—the prayer book containing the Divine Office that religious were required to recite daily. This simple bookmark contained what has become her most enduring prayer, one that continues to offer comfort and wisdom nearly five centuries later:

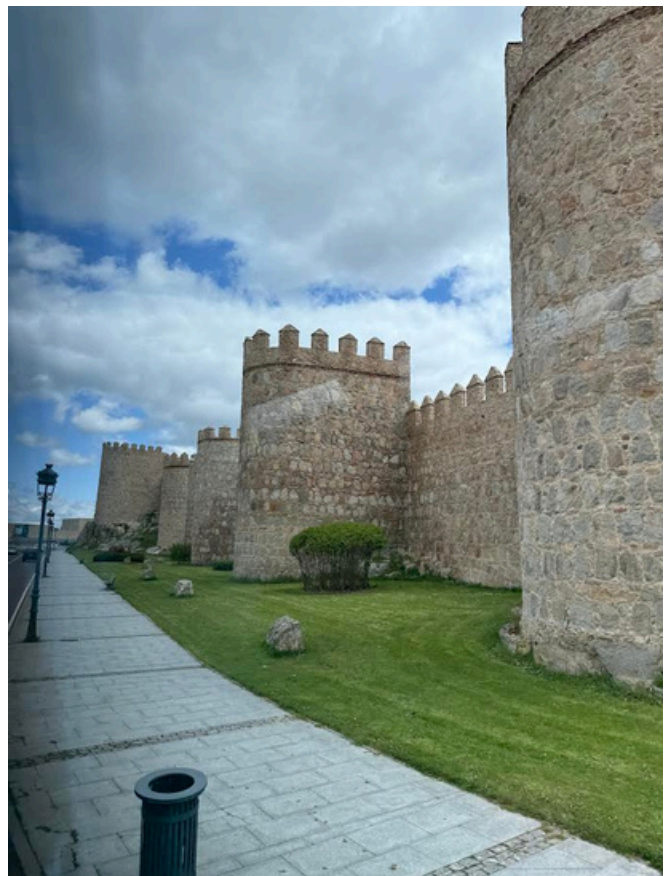
“Nada te turbe, Nada te espante, Todo se pasa, Dios no se muda, La paciencia todo lo alcanza, Quien a Dios tiene Nada le falta: Sólo Dios basta.”

Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things pass away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Those who have God find they lack nothing; God alone suffices.

In a world that often feels overwhelming, these words from a rebellious, determined woman remind us of the calm center God offers us—not by escaping beauty, but by traveling deeper into it.

With love & gratitude,

Dana



Pastor Dana has once again been invited to preach at Union Chapel on Martha's Vineyard on August 24—a meaningful honor at the church where her great uncle once served.

TRANSFORMATION IS UNDERWAY

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CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS AT THE CHURCH

By Nora Kay Pelt, Communications Administrator

Construction at the church began in late April and continues to move forward with exciting progress across multiple areas. Most recently, the thick concrete stage in Fellowship Hall was cut up and hauled out.

In the sanctuary, the organ was dismantled and carefully wrapped for protection, and the pew cushions, carpeting, and a few pews have been removed. Sanctuary windows have been measured for updates. The staging was assembled and fire suppression pipes made a dramatic entrance—literally—through an upper sanctuary window, proving to be the easiest route for installation.

Electrical work is well underway. The kitchen has seen major demolition work. Prep work is progressing for an accessible bathroom, which now has new plumbing. Outside, the Memorial Garden has come to life with the warmer weather, highlighted by the planting of a beautiful new Princeton Elm tree, grown in Buffalo, NY. Signage is in place to keep everyone safe as the transformation continues. Follow South Church on Facebook or Instagram, or visit southchurch.com/projects for updates as we continue these exciting improvements!



PEACEMAKERS IN ACTION

➤➤➤ MISSION TRIP 2025 RECAP

This year's mission trip began with 21 youth stepping into a week centered on the theme *Peacemakers*, drawn from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Rather than seeing peace as simply the absence of conflict, the youth explored how peace could be a way of life—something visible in their actions, words, and presence. In a world that often defines the "good life" by success or status, Jesus offers a different vision: one where those who embody peace are truly blessed. Throughout the week, the mission trippers reflected on how they could bring that peace into the lives of others, not just through service, but by being a living expression of God's love and compassion in every interaction.



➤➤➤ COLIN CURRY

Four years ago I was a different person. I was an athlete who didn't have much experience relating to people that didn't play sports. I tended to only hangout with people that had similar interests to mine. And I stayed away from people that I believed were different.

I still remember the first time when my mom told me that she wanted me to go on Mission trip. At the time I had zero interest in going, the thought of missing my entire spring break with my friends, to go to a southern state in the middle of nowhere and work in the heat for a week with a bunch of people I didn't know sounded pretty horrible to me.

We fought about it for weeks, and I didn't think I was going to go. But those of you who know my mom, Kathleen, know that she can be pretty persuasive. So sure enough I packed my stuff up and got into a van full of people I hardly knew on the road to what I thought would be the worst week of my life. I put my headphones on and tried to shut out the world. But as we were riding down I started to notice the atmosphere in the van was very welcoming. From then on I knew this wasn't going to be what I thought it was.

The four years that I went on mission trip taught me a lot of things. I now know how to use almost every construction tool there is and know how to build almost anything. I have more confidence in myself and my ability to learn new things. Most of all I learned a lot about how much I didn't know about other people. First of all I learned that kids that have different interests than me, are actually kids just like me. They have their own hopes, dreams, fears, insecurities, and *continued on next page*



PEACEMAKERS IN ACTION

... at the end of the day they just want to be heard, understood, and loved for who they are. Some of the best connections that I've made over those four years were with kids that I never would've thought that I would ever even talk to. Second of all, I learned that people that live in poverty aren't any different than anyone else. I remember my sophomore year we were working on stairs for a trailer home. Whenever we were outside the old man that lived there would come outside and try to help us. He would tell us stories and make us laugh, and I realized he was a nice guy who was just grateful to have some help. Over the last four years I've grown to love this trip, and all its hard work, new relationships, and life lessons.

After four short years of going on mission trip I have grown to learn that everyone is human, no matter your background, who you are, what you come from, it doesn't matter, because at the end of the day, we all share similar values, and we are all children of God.



LUCY HENDERSON

I have always loved mission trip. I started going my freshman year and absolutely adored the community bonding, the little traditions and all the good we could do. I spent a year begging anyone I knew to come on the mission trip, to see the magic I had seen.

I went sophomore year and it was fine. Afterwards, I would describe it as, "going to Virginia, doing some construction for a week, and then coming home". I was really disappointed, and even considered not going for my junior year, but I gave it one more shot. Unfortunately, that year I ended up getting strep, and my mission trip experience was mostly lost to sitting in bed.

This year was my last year, and I went into it with no expectations or regrets. When I had strep, I learned to "find the good" in little things everyday. This year, I brought that mentality to the whole trip. I

I was blown away by how much joy, love, and magic was sitting there ready to be found when I was willing to look. This was the week of communication for me, and I spent my days getting to know all of the wonderful people that had surrounded me. It was different, for sure, but over time, I grew to love the things that differentiated this trip from my freshman year, including the all-new people and my new leadership role.

I remember sitting in reflection Wednesday evening, and seeing the entire group participate in a 32 person, impactful and active conversation about the self and how we portray it, and I just thought, "this is mission trip".

Throughout the week, I found joy in not only the magic of my own experience, but in watching other people find it too, and I'm so excited to hand off this tradition to the next South Church generation. This week, I was reminded for the first time since freshman year, that if you make yourself open to change, you can find magic everywhere.



CELEBRATION & BEING TRULY KNOWN

7

REFLECTIONS FROM PRINCETON'S FORUM ON YOUTH MINISTRY

Taylor Graffum, Minister of Youth & Families

Less than 48 hours after returning home from the mission trip, I had the opportunity to go to Princeton Seminary to attend their 30th annual Forum on Youth Ministry. I've attended this conference for three years now, and every year it gets better—not because of the content (which is always superb), but because you become more known. That's the secret ingredient of the conference: the friends you make along the way.

It is meaningful to be in a room full of 75(ish) youth pastors who all want the same thing you do: for youth to flourish in their faith and in their own being. The conversations and reflections during and after seminars and lectures are deep and impactful because of that shared goal. How can we help students know that they are loved and known by the Church and by their Creator?

This year's theme was celebration: celebration as ritual, celebration as activism, celebration as discipline.

During our morning prayer in the chapel, we heard a reflection written by Debie Thomas called "Letters to Prodigals," where she writes letters to the brothers in the Bible story of the prodigal son. There is a quote that has stuck with me, and I think it is powerful for us as a Church to reflect on. In the letter "To the Boy Who Ran," she writes: "To hear we are loved is one thing. To feel ourselves embraced is another."

Later in the service, the speaker talked about how proximity does not mean closeness. We can be near youth, but it does not mean we are close to them. How can we, as a Church, continue to foster belonging—where students are truly known by us and loved by us, where they don't just hear that they are loved, but are embraced by us?

Let us continue to find ways to be a welcoming and safe place for youth—where they are known by name, celebrated abundantly, and loved extravagantly.



LIFE OF THE PARTY

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»» CANTATA COLLABORATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS!

By Michaela Barczak, Director of Youth Choirs

The guiding Bible passage the music staff selected for our year was Psalm 126:2-3, *"We laughed, we sang, we couldn't believe our good fortune. We were the talk of the nations. 'God was wonderful to them!' God was wonderful to us; we are one happy people."* With our focus turned to laughter and song in celebration, we decided to frame this year as a joyful party.

What is the best party you have ever been to? The question enticed the students, kindergarten through fifth grade, who gathered in a circle for the first choir rehearsal of the year. Hands shot up in excitement as students began to list examples of family gatherings and birthday parties.

What made that party so special? We continued to prompt. We received an array of answers, from eating cake, playing in bouncy houses, to singing karaoke, and spending time with family.

The choirs concluded that parties have a special way of bringing people together, to celebrate, to reflect, and very often, to eat. So all four of our youth vocal ensembles, HoneyComb (ages 0-5), The Nectar Choir (K-2), The Hive Choir (3-5), and Sting Choir (6-12), gathered each week to practice music, tell stories, and occasionally eat snacks like chicken fingers. While the ensembles often rehearsed separately, they all came together for the presentation for our third annual Bee Suite cantata: "Life of the Party: The Story Of Mary & Martha." *continued on next page*



Full group photo of "Life of the Party: The Story Of Mary & Martha" featuring all Bee Suite ensembles.



Hive and Nectar choir members waiting in their positions during a run-through in the sanctuary.



Hive and Nectar choir members creating choreography for "Two Peas in a Pod."

...The first song of Tom S. Long and Allen Pote's cantata begins with the text, *"When we all get together around the table to share God's love, we get a little taste of heaven above."* The cantata is the perfect opportunity to bring our ensembles together and present a larger work. Each of the Bee Suite choirs had a role to play in the service and the story. This cantata was led by Cathy Meyer, Minister of Music, and Youth Choir Directors Michaela Barczak and Shannon Eldridge.



Hive and Nectar choir members practicing their staging for the cantata.

With an additional Youth Choir Director this year, we were able to teach the material in a shorter amount of time. Students would work on learning music and movement with Ms. Shannon while Ms. Michaela blocked scenes with the actors playing Mary, Martha, and Jesus. Then, at the end of rehearsals, the groups would come together to share their progress. This process of collaborative rehearsals continued through the final run-throughs, where our Sunday ensembles finally joined with the Wednesday ensembles, and suddenly the sanctuary was filled with over 50 children. The cantata was a testament not just to the collaboration and celebration of the ensembles, but also of the choir directors. We'll just have to wait and see what twists and turns next year's cantata has in store for us!



Nectar choir students using handbells to learn a new song from the cantata.

MEET OUR 2025 SUMMER INTERNS!

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>>> HAZEL AUDE (SHE/HER)

I am Hazel Aude, a student going into sophomore year at Bard College. I am studying electronic music and written arts. I have been going to SOS for years, and attending South Church for even longer! I am extremely interested in leading and helping the counselors get their jobs done with the kids. This will be a summer to be proudly displayed on memory pedestals forever!



>>> CASEY MICHAEL (SHE/HER)

Hi All!! I am so excited and grateful to be one of our summer interns this year for South Church! I am currently going into my sophomore year at the University of Connecticut with a plan to study Special Education. I have had the opportunity to attend many South Church Mission Trips, Summer of Services, and youth groups and I am so hype to become more involved as an intern! I hope everyone is ready for the best summer yet!!



MONTHLY MISSION UPDATE



Dec: Eliot Day Center
\$7,183

Jan: Under The Same Moon
\$2,280

Feb: Power of Flowers
\$1,831

Mar: Direct Relief
CA Fire Relief
\$2,616

Apr:
Village Food Hub \$3,816
Samaritan Fund \$930
Mission Trip Youth \$225

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

>>> ANIL BHANDARI

Anil and his wife Mala are parents to 14 year old Misha. They migrated from India and have been living in Andover for the last 7 years. Mala and Misha love music. Mala is blessed with a melodious voice and Misha has been coming to the South Church for the last 4 years for her violin classes. Anil recently started volunteering at the church on Sundays.



>>> ALICE DHILWAYO

Alice is a divorced mother of 4 and grandmother to 2 boys. She moved to Andover from North Kingston and found a condo here. Alice loves word games, knitting, crossword puzzles, reading, and creative writing.



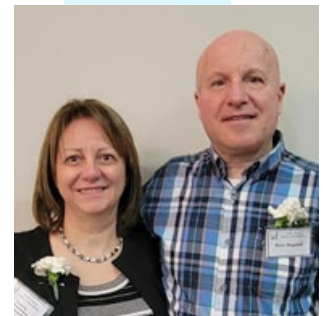
>>> JAY DUMAS AND DEBRA ADAMS DUMAS

Debra recently retired from full time ministry, having served in North Andover and Chelmsford. She and Jay got married four years ago and moved to Andover from Reading. They have been attending South Church since August 2024. They have 5 children and 12 grandchildren. Debra stays busy with gardening, cooking, reading, camping, hiking, and kayaking.



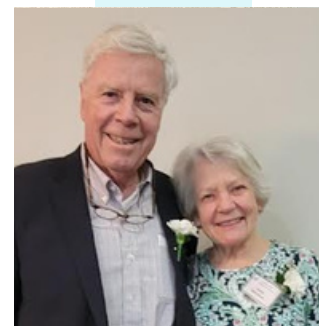
>>> YARA HALASA AND RON RAPPEL

Yara is a dentist, health economist, and health policy analyst who is currently an Assistant Professor and a Research and Evaluation Consultant at UMass. Ron is an electrical engineer currently working for Raytheon doing radar software development. Ron and Yara got married in 2021 in Jordan, where Yara is originally from. In their free time, Yara enjoys hiking, traveling, and reading. She's currently learning about the origins of gnomes. Ron enjoys travelling and home maintenance projects, and he's learning how to play the piano.



>>> TOM AND CATHY NICHOLSON

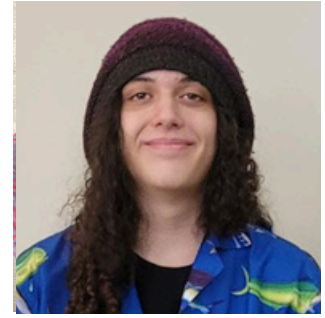
Cathy and Tom recently moved to Edgewood from Weston, MA where they lived for 47 years and raised their 3 children who now all live in the Boston area. Tom was the Co-Moderator of the UCC Village Church in Weston. Cathy is a volunteer for Hospice and a bereavement camp for children called Camp Erin. Tom and Cathy summer in Harpswell, Maine where they enjoy sailing, cruising the Maine coast, and being with their four grandchildren.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

>>> LEO OPPENBERG

Leo is happy to be joining this church. He has been part of the youth group and has been joining us for worship for the past few years. He's learning to play guitar and enjoys singing and serving his community.



>>> MONICA REEDY

Monica is a mom of 2, and step mom of 3. Now that the youngest is 20, Monica says, "I finally have a lot more time to myself." She wants to use this new chapter in her life to meet other progressive Christians for fellowship and service. She is a foodie, a cat lover, and an avid TV watcher.



>>> LINDA SCHERIG

Linda is a retired RN, and an only child. Although she is divorced and has no children, she has found excellent company in her small puppy.

>>> ELEANOR AND SILVIA STORCH

Silvie and Eleanor have been visitors and worshippers at South Church for the last two years, and Eleanor has lived in Andover for 20+ years. Silvie is a sophomore at Andover High School, and Eleanor's other daughter is in her 3rd year of college—and traveling to Italy this semester! The Storchs are a family of 4, plus their dog, Cash. Both Eleanor and Silvie enjoy, to different degrees, food, cooking, health, the outdoors, exercise and getting to the ocean.



>>> JIM SHEEHAN AND RODNEY JOHNSON

Jim, RJ, and Aidan have lived in Andover for 10 years now. Aidan is a 7th grader who stays very busy with musical theatre, show choir, chorus, and church choir; along with keeping active on the YMCA swim team and middle school track & field. RJ is an Events Marketing leader who enjoys getting involved in the community, currently serving on the Board of A Better Chance of Andover and the Doherty Middle School parent association. Jim has spent a career in high tech and real estate. When he's not out on the roads running, he loves to volunteer on many of Aidan's activities.



SOUTH CHURCH LIBRARY

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NEW BOOKS FOR YOU TO CHECK OUT

Carol-Georgine West, South Church Librarian

ADULT

Wendell Berry | *The Peace of Wild Things*

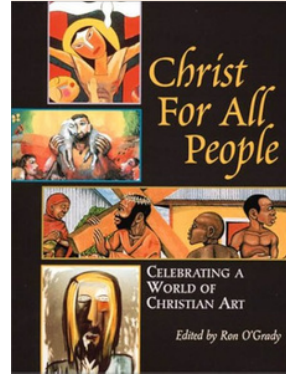
Poems to encourage readers to be more observant of the world around them and appreciate what is good. Call Number: 811.5 BER

Ta-Nehisi Coates | *The Message*

The book reflects on the author's visits to Dakar, Senegal; Chapin, South Carolina; and the West Bank and Jerusalem. Coates explains why he believes the Israeli occupation of the West Bank is a moral crime that burns of racism. Call Number: 070.92 COA

Ron O'Grady, ed. | *Christ for All People: Celebrating a World of Christian Art*

More than 100 works from around the world that show the diversity and creativity of contemporary Christian artists. Call Number: 704.9 OGR



YOUTH

Laurie Halse Anderson | *Speak*

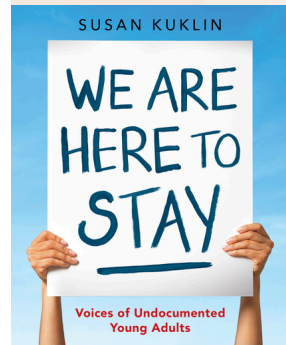
After being raped at a party, a high school freshman feels unable to talk about the trauma she experienced and struggles to understand her identity and self-worth. Call Number: YFIC AND

Kate Bornstein | *Hello, Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks, & Other Outlaws*

With outside-the-box suggestions for coping with life's challenges, the author encourages readers to explore harmless desires (as long as they aren't mean) and choose life. Call Number: Y616.85 BOR

Susan Kuklin | *We Are Here to Stay: Voices of Undocumented Young Adults*

The stories of nine undocumented young adults who came to the U.S. to escape violence and poverty in pursuit of education. Call Number: Y325.73 KUK



Sonia Nazario | *Enrique's Journey: The True Story of a Boy Determined to Reunite with His Mother*

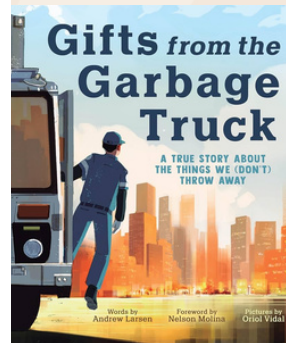
A 16-year-old boy embarks on a dangerous journey from Honduras through Mexico to the U.S. to find his mother who left years earlier in search of work. Call Number: Y973.046 NAZ

Susan Ross | *Kiki and Jacques: A Refugee Story*

Twelve-year-old Jacques struggles with his mother's death and meets Kiki, a Somali Muslim girl. Their budding friendship challenges cultural differences in a small Maine town. Call Number: YFIC ROS

Warren St. John | *Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town*

The inspiring true story of a young Jordanian woman who starts a soccer program in Georgia to help refugee children from around the world integrate and thrive. Call Number: Y796.332 STJ



Michael A. Tompkins & Katherine Martinez | *My Anxious Mind: A Teen's Guide to Managing Anxiety and Panic*

Offers tools and strategies to help teens understand and manage anxiety and panic. Call Number: Y618.92 TOM

Kate Wheeler & Trent Huntington | *Team Trash: A Time Traveler's Guide to Sustainability (a graphic novel)*

Two students travel through time while working on a science project and learn about recycling and managing plastic waste through the ages. Call Number: Y741.5 WHE

CHILDREN

Jaigo Buitrago | *Two White Rabbits*

A young girl describes her journey with her father from Central America through Mexico to the U.S. border. Ages 4–7. Call Number: JFIC BUI

Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, & Ann Hazard | *Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice*

A White family and a Black family discuss the police shooting of a Black man. The story and extensive notes provided can guide discussions with young children about racism. Ages 4–7. Call Number: JFIC CEL

Elise Gravel | *What Is a Refugee?*

Explains in simple terms what a refugee is and the different reasons people become refugees. Ages 3–7. Call Number: J305.9 GRA

Andrew Larsen | *Gifts from the Garbage Truck: A True Story About the Things We (Don't) Throw Away*

An employee of the New York City sanitation department saved thousands of objects from the trash, fixed them, and displayed them in his museum. A story to encourage readers to think differently about consumption, waste, and upcycling. Ages 4–8. Call Number: J629.225 LAR



SOUTH CHURCH BIRTHED PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Char Lyons, South Church Historian

South Church birthed Phillips Academy—where we are now worshipping at Cochran Chapel for the summer while we are under construction.

Our first minister, Rev. Samuel Phillips (1689–1771, minister 1711–1771), and his wife Hannah had sons who made their way in business. Samuel had a grandson, Samuel Jr. (1752–1802), who rose to prominence at Harvard and became a state representative in the Massachusetts legislature at the age of 22. When his grandfather died, Samuel Jr. sought his Harvard classmate, Rev. Jonathan French, to become our second minister.

Samuel Jr. learned of the dire need for gunpowder by Gen. George Washington. In 1777, using his own funds—and even getting his own hands dirty—he built a powder mill in Andover (on the current site of the Post Office). With Rev. French's patriotic blessing, the mill operated seven days a week, even using the church's foot heaters to aid in the production process.

In the midst of the American Revolution, Samuel Jr., Jonathan French, Eliphelet Pearson, many Abbots, and other South Church members founded Phillips Academy in 1778. Their goal was to nurture young men through practical education for the future. Church members provided room and board for the students, who ranged in age from 13 to 20. The school quickly gained a reputation not only as a place of higher learning but also as a finishing school for various trades. Pearson became the Academy's first headmaster and later served as the first president of Andover Theological Seminary, founded in 1807.

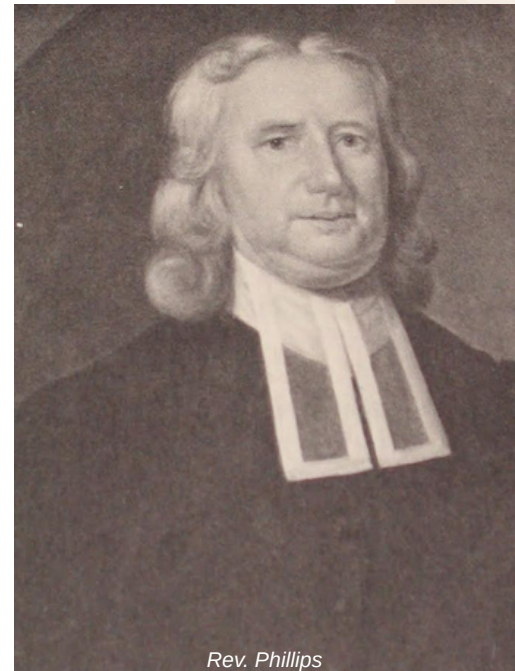
Samuel Jr. went on to become Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts and died in 1802. In 1807, South Church members opened the Andover Theological Seminary, which became a global center for religious education. In 1828, Sarah Abbot opened the doors to Abbot Female Academy.

The Seminary was the first institution of higher learning in the United States devoted solely to ministerial training and the first to emphasize preaching as a professional skill. The American Missionary Movement began here, with the first missionaries departing from Andover in 1812. Student Samuel Smith wrote the lyrics to "America" in his boarding room on Main Street. Harriet Beecher Stowe (whose husband, Rev. Calvin Stowe, taught at the Seminary) allowed students to use her barn to craft wheelbarrows, goods for sale, and even their own caskets.

Abbot Academy arose from a need expressed by professors' families for secondary education for their daughters. Many of these girls later married seminarians and became missionaries themselves. The school kept a list of girls deemed "missionary material"—they were expected to be "pious, educated, in good condition, healthy, and reasonably good looking." (!)

Phebe Foxcroft Phillips, wife of Samuel Jr., was a wise and influential woman who kept the schools running smoothly. She quietly resolved conflicts and built consensus. A master fundraiser, Phebe established several endowed teaching chairs that are still funded today. Every Friday afternoon, she hosted influential figures from the Seminary and the Academy for tea, creating a forum where ideas were exchanged and educational opportunities were forged.

Eliphelet Pearson, a classmate of Samuel Jr., was a chemist who developed the powder mill's manufacturing process. Samuel Jr. arranged for British prisoners of war to work in the mill. They were housed with *continued...*



Rev. Phillips



Phebe Phillips

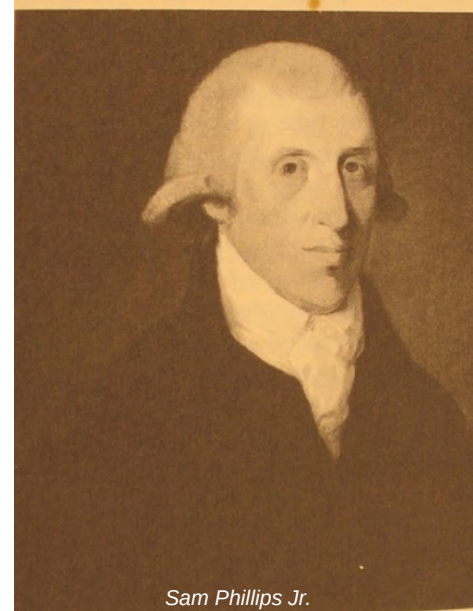
>>> DID YOU KNOW?

continued... local families, though townspeople feared they would be murdered in their sleep or that the POWs would sabotage the mill. Neither occurred. With good food, steady work, shelter, and a sense of belonging, the soldiers came to appreciate life in Andover. Rev. French won them over with his commitment to fairness, faith, and care. He preached a sermon condemning the King's exploitation, which was later published. Our Moderator, Col. George Abbot, emphasized that our quarrel was with the British government—not with individuals—and forbade the mistreatment of any Loyalists in town.

The POWs worshipped with their host families and even joined South Church. Some married and started families. When orders came for a prisoner exchange, Samuel Phillips Jr. wrote a letter on their behalf, stating they had no intention of leaving and that their absence would severely hinder powder production. One POW was so skilled that Samuel appointed him foreman. Samuel ensured that the mill's workers were officially recognized as Patriots and Veterans, earning them modest pensions.

On June 1, 1778, an explosion at the mill claimed three lives. Rev. Jonathan French recorded their deaths the next day: "killed the Day before by ye blowing up of the Drying House & Magz'n of ye Powder Mill. All buried in one grave in the South Church burial yard" Joseph Abbot, Josiah Johnson, and Ebenezer Currier remain a lasting testament to Andover's role in the Revolutionary War.

The Honorable Samuel L. Phillips Jr. led Sunday School sermons between services. He honored his grandfather by using the cemetery to teach lessons for the living. He taught children and mothers who stayed behind while others returned home to tend livestock.



Sam Phillips Jr.

Off Phillips Street, you can see red brick dormitories, the vision of Samuel Farrar—father-in-law to Rev. French's son. Before then, students had studied communally and followed strict schedules. Farrar believed in independent responsibility and felt that private space and personal time for study would lead to greater academic success. His dormitory model is now used universally.

While Phillips Academy produced future captains of industry, the Seminary trained ministers and higher education leaders. Many of our ministers in the 1800s came from the Seminary and went on to roles at PA, ATS, or national leadership positions.

Our eighth minister, Rev. George Mooar, was the only South Church minister who was a native of Andover. He graduated from Phillips Academy, Williams College, and the Seminary.

The "Theologues" (seminarians) pumped the organ bellows, practiced preaching in our sanctuary, and were our first Sunday School teachers. Education was so central to Andover life that children played "Missionaries and Indians," and little boys pretended to be ministers on large rocks.

The Seminary moved to Harvard in 1908 and sold its property and buildings to Phillips Academy. Soon after, alumnus Thomas Cochran (Class of 1890) donated funds for landscaping to integrate the campuses. Cochran Chapel, completed in 1932, was his final gift.

South Church has come full circle in its relationship with Phillips Academy. Today, as we worship in the very place our forbearers helped to create centuries ago, we honor a deep and lasting legacy.

And now you know...

P.S. – Though Samuel Jr. graduated from Governor Dummer Academy in Byfield in 1767, Phillips Academy claims to be the oldest school in the country. How? On a technicality—Phillips was the first to incorporate in 1778. And now you know more...

CONGRATULATIONS!

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We at South Church want to take a moment to celebrate all those milestones! 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 Seniors

Anna Bacchi
Sydney Blanchette
Timothy Connors
Colin Curry
Nicole DeBernado
Charley Harris
Lucy Henderson
Garin Hoenig
Gavin Holbrook
Saige La Tour
Eva Liss
Connor Longo
Brady Maggio
Leo Oppenberg
Luke Organisciak
Audrey Thoma
Spencer Thoma
Neily Ware

Confirmands

Carter Curry
Jonathan Flaig
Charlotte Griffin
Cora Henderson
Gavin Li
Cameron Michael
Owen Price
Micah Repetto
Charlotte Saniuk
Lucy Shows
Clara Strong

Bachelor's Degree Graduates

Caroline Jagger
University of Vermont

James Reedy
Clark University
Psychology, Cum Laude

Master's Degree Graduates

Michaela Barczak, Theatre
Education
Emerson College

Congratulations to

Anna Bacchi
Girl Scout Gold Award
Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts



Confirmation Class of 2025
with Taylor Graffum, Minister of Youth
and Families and Pastor Genna

SUMMER GUEST PREACHER SCHEDULE

This summer, we invite you to come, listen, and be part of a season filled with thoughtful voices and spiritual exploration. Our dynamic guest preachers will share fresh perspectives and meaningful messages.

- Jun 22 – Jill Manning de Sousa
- Jun 29 – Steph Aude
- Jul 20 – Melissa Litton
- Aug 10 – Dave Floreen
- Aug 17 – Janet Clarke
- Aug 24 – Rev. Debra Adams Dumas
- Aug 31 – Rev. Heather Prince Doss
- Sept 7 – Rev. Gina Finocchiaro

THE STEEPLE IS LIT IN LOVING MEMORY OF

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>>> IN JUNE

Richard & Catherine Reed
by their daughter Charlotte Reed Lyons

>>> IN AUGUST

Our parents Blanche & Gilbert DeMoor
by Norma Morava & Marilyn Fitzgerald

Reed Holton Henderson
by Mom, Dad and Luke

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

CARING

>>> CONDOLENCES TO

- the family and friends of 75 year member, **Sally Hudgins**, who died on April 28th.
- the family and friends of **Ed Dooks**, who died on May 21st.

>>> WE CELEBRATE

the baptism of Robert Holden Downing.

>>> IN GRATITUDE

Thank you for your very generous support for Under the Same Moon. We, the principals, staff and students at Bendicion de Dios are deeply grateful. *Best Wishes, Mark Schneider, President*

How wonderful of you to donate again to Honduras Hope. We have purchased some materials to start construction of the water delivery system in San Jose. Thank you. *Blessings Always, Bill Briggs, USA Coordinator*

Thank you for your donation. Your generosity is greatly appreciated in our service to underprivileged youth in Guatemala. *Best regards, James Tice, Only A Child*

Thank you for such generosity in your recent donation. It allows Communities Together to provide ministries such as after school and summer programs for the Greater Lawrence community. *Gratefully, Leslie Burke, Executive Assistant*

ALL MEMBERS ARE MINISTERS

The Rev. Dana Allen Walsh, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Genevieve Hosterman, Associate Pastor
Sherry Tupper, Minister of Visitation
Cathy Meyer, Minister of Music
Taylor Graffum, Minister of Youth and Families
Nora Pelt, Communications Administrator
Joanne Smith, Finance Administrator

Andy Brien, Facilities Manager
Amy Morris, Assistant Office Administrator
Michaela Barczak, Director of Youth Choirs
Shannon Eldridge, Director of Youth Choirs
Dennis Fogue, Moderator
Anne Hemmer, Treasurer

THE BEE SUITE YOUTH MUSIC MINISTRIES INVITES YOU THIS FALL!



HONEYCOMB CHOIR

ages 0-5 with parent/caregiver
Sundays 11:30AM-12:15PM or
Wednesdays 4:30-5:15PM



NECTAR CHOIR

grades K-2
Sundays 11:30AM-12:30PM
or Wednesdays 4:30-5:30PM



HIVE CHOIR

grades 3-5
Wednesdays 4:30-5:30PM



SWARM CHOIR

grades 6-8
Sundays 2:30-3:30PM



STING CHOIR

grades 9-12
Sundays 2:30-3:30PM



SOUTH CHURCH RINGERS TOO

grades 3-8
Sundays 11:30AM-12:30PM
(alternating 4-week sessions)
Youth Handbell Ensemble



SOUTH STRINGS TOO

grades 5+
Sundays 11:30AM-12:30PM
(alternating 4-week sessions)
Youth String Ensemble

