

>>> SOUTH CHURCH ANDOVER NEWSLETTER <<<

THE CIRCLE



boldly embodying God's love and compassion

Sacred Blessings for Real Life

Note from Dana page 2

Lent at South Church pages 3-4

Reflections: Interfaith Action,
Next Generation, Choir Robe
Gift, A Pilgrimage Lesson pages 5-9

What's New in Our Library page 10

Did You Know? pages 11-12

Caring page 13

Steeple Lighting/Mission
Update page 14

>>> READ MORE ON PAGE 2

We're entering Lent in a time when many of us are carrying more than usual. The news feels relentless. Our bodies and spirits are tired. The divisions in our country - and sometimes in our families - feel impossibly wide.

>>> READ MORE ON PAGE 10

From vibrant picture-books that nurture kindness and cultural pride for kids, to inspiring adult titles on resilience, faith, and a greener future, our new books for you offer insight, hope, and unforgettable journeys.

A NOTE FROM DANA

>>> LENTEN BLESSINGS FOR THE REAL STRUGGLES WE LIVE WITH

Good People,

We're entering Lent in a time when many of us are carrying more than usual. The news feels relentless. Our bodies and spirits are tired. The divisions in our country - and sometimes in our families - feel impossibly wide. And if we're honest, the traditional Lenten call to "give something up" can feel like one more thing to fail at when we're already barely holding it together.

So this year, we're doing something different.

Lent has always been a season of preparation - the 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter, when we prepare our hearts for Jesus' death and resurrection that changes everything. Traditionally, it's been a time of fasting, prayer, and self-examination. But at its core, Lent invites us to pay attention to what's true: about ourselves, about God, about the world we live in.

This Lent, we're paying attention to what's really going on in our lives - and offering sacred blessings for it all.

In early February, I preached about Jesus' tiny parables of mustard seeds and yeast - small, ordinary things working their quiet transformation. There's a prayer often attributed to Liberation Theologian, Oscar Romero, that says, "We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities...We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well." That liberation - the freedom of not having to be complete or fixed or fully healed - is what we're claiming this Lent.

Our theme is "Sacred Blessings for Real Life," and each week we'll focus on a different human experience that needs the church's blessing:

- Week 1 (Feb 22): Blessing for the **Anxious** - for those carrying worry, fear, or uncertainty
- Week 2 (March 1): Blessing for the **Exhausted** - for caregivers, parents, students, the overworked, or burnt out
- Week 3 (March 8): Blessing for the **Angry** - for those fighting injustice, betrayal, or righteous anger
- Week 4 (March 15): Blessing for the **Disappointed** - for unmet expectations, failed dreams, unanswered prayers
- Week 5 (March 22): Blessing for the **Broken-Hearted** - for those grieving, divorced, betrayed, or lonely

We're not pretending these realities away. We're not spiritually bypassing them with easy answers. We're naming them, holding them up to the light, and trusting that God meets us exactly where we are - not where we think we should be. Because here's what I've learned: despair is not the opposite of hope. It's an ingredient of it. The places where we feel most incomplete, most overwhelmed, most broken open - those are exactly the places where hope can begin its quiet work.

In a world that tells us to fix ourselves, perform better, try harder, the gospel offers something radically different: you are beloved exactly as you are, anxious and exhausted and angry and disappointed and broken-hearted. And God has a blessing for you anyway.

I hope you'll join us this Lent as we practice receiving what we actually need.

With you in the journey,
Pastor Dana

Dana

A Blessing for the Life You Actually Have

Blessed are you in your questions without answers and your prayers without words.

Blessed are you in your worry at 3am and your rage at the news.

Blessed are you in your exhaustion and your unfinished to-do list.

Blessed are you in your disappointment and your grief that won't lift.

Blessed are you in the life you have, not the life you thought you'd have.

May you know that God is already here, working like yeast in the dough, transforming what is into what will be, in ways too small to see and too powerful to stop.

Amen.



SACRED BLESSINGS FOR REAL LIFE

3

Our Lenten theme this year, **Sacred Blessings for Real Life**, makes space for us to name whatever heaviness we hold—anxiety, exhaustion, anger, disappointment, brokenheartedness. Together we will name what hurts and hear a word of hope, a blessing for that which is tender, knowing that whatever difficult road we walk, we never have to walk it alone.

The season of Lent is an invitation to practice a kind of tenacious hope. We tell the great story of loss at the center of our tradition: the journey to Jerusalem and to Jesus' betrayal, capture, and crucifixion. But even as the road to Easter passes first through the difficult days of Holy Week, we know that the bright hope of resurrection awaits us at the end of the journey. Lent reminds us that difficult days require us to learn how to hold both grief and possibility, one in each hand.

Walk the Labyrinth *weather-permitting* We're inviting you to try a different kind of prayer practice this season: walking our labyrinth. Our labyrinth is located in the Memorial Garden. It's an ancient prayer tool that lets you pray with your whole body, engaging heart and feet together. See the next page for more.

Ash Wednesday, February 18th

- If you would like to receive ashes and a blessing as we prepare our hearts to welcome Lent, come in between **7:00AM-6:00PM**.

- **7:00PM Worship at Edgewood** in North Andover led by Pastor Genna and Rob Heinze

Weekly Prayer Cards As you leave after each Sunday worship during Lent, you are invited to take a special prayer card found in the narthex. Each card reflects that week's theme.

Art Journaling Through Lent *Thursdays (starting 2/19) at 7:00PM* This Lenten season, you are invited to learn something new (instead of giving something up)! Explore Scripture creatively and join us for a six-week journey with simple, colorful prompts—perfect for all skill levels. No art experience needed! The course is free but we ask that you register so we can prepare materials. [Click here](#) or scan to register:



Lenten Drumming Prayer Practice *Sundays (starting 2/22) at 11:30AM in the chapel*

Join us for this intergenerational series to explore how drumming can deepen our connection to one another and to our faith. No drumming experience needed, just an open heart and willingness. [Click here](#) or scan to register:



Palm Sunday, March 29th

Worship at 10:00AM followed by brunch, children's music and story time, and an egg hunt!

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

Worship at 7:00PM in-person and online

Easter Sunday, April 5th Worship

6:00AM outdoor (sunrise service behind South Church)

9:00AM & 11:00AM (in the Sanctuary)

LABYRINTH PRAYER PRACTICE

4

➤➤➤ **JUST SHOW UP, WALK SLOWLY, AND SEE WHAT YOU NOTICE.**

This Lent, as we explore "Sacred Blessings for Real Life," we're inviting you to try a different kind of prayer practice: walking our labyrinth.

Our labyrinth is located in the Memorial Garden (weather permitting - if there's snow, plan to walk it during Eastertide instead!). It's an ancient prayer tool that lets you pray with your whole body, engaging heart and feet together.

Unlike a maze with its dead ends and tricks, a labyrinth has only one path - the way in is the way out. There are no choices to make except one: whether to enter. The winding path leads you to the center and back out again, offering space to quiet your mind, hold your concerns, or simply be present to what this moment offers.

You might walk with an intention - carrying a specific worry or question to the center. You might walk interceding for others, naming people or needs at each turn. Or you might walk meditatively, repeating a simple prayer like "Meet me where I am" or "Christ beside me, Christ before me."

There's no right way to do it. Just show up, walk slowly, and see what you notice.

The labyrinth is open anytime the church grounds are accessible. You'll find more guidance on walking a labyrinth at southchurch.com/walk.



Blessed be as you take this sacred journey.



ALL MEMBERS ARE MINISTERS

PASTORAL STAFF

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

LAY LEADERSHIP

Dennis Forgue, Moderator
Anne Hemmer, Treasurer

SUPPORT STAFF

Nora Pelt, Communications Administrator
Andy Brien, Facilities Manager
Amy Morris, Assistant Office Administrator
Nicole Sirignano, Finance Administrator

DIRECTORS OF YOUTH CHOIRS

Michaela Barczak
Sara Durkin
Shannon Eldridge
Adrien Jipov



FAITH IN ACTION

>>> INTERFAITH ADVOCACY FOR VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS

By Taylor Graffum, Minister of Youth & Families

This January, I attended a prayer gathering of over 200 interfaith leaders in Boston. The Massachusetts Communities Action Network organized the event to hear from faith leaders in the state of Minnesota who are responding to the presence of ICE in their communities. Through their shared words of compassion, human dignity, and neighborly love, it became clear that, as people of faith, we are called to stand in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors, to love and pray, not only with our hearts but also with our feet.

After the time of prayer and conversation, we walked to the State House to ask Governor Healey to take action to keep our Massachusetts communities safe. We joined in prayer, petition, communal sharing across faith traditions, and songs in the State House. A local rabbi said, "Perpetrators ask nothing from us." She shared that we must intentionally and actively care for the vulnerable in our midst, standing in solidarity with our neighbors because of the beliefs our faith traditions hold dear.

Following this action, Governor Healey issued a press release outlining forthcoming legislation to protect Massachusetts residents from ICE abuses.

We do not exist in isolation. We are bound to one another, and our flourishing depends on the flourishing of others. This vigil was not a one-off for faith leaders. It is a call for all people of faith to expand our circles of care, listen to those different from us, and stand and act in solidarity with the most vulnerable.



FROM PSALM 23 TO LAUGHTER

>>> REFLECTIONS ON A COMPASSION-FOCUSED WOMEN'S RETREAT

By Chris Ouimet

The annual Women's Retreat was held from Jan. 30 – Feb. 1 at Rolling Ridge. The committee worked hard to create a program entitled "Centered in Compassion," allowing time to explore compassion for ourselves, each other, and the world. Both Pastors Dana and Genna shared their wisdom and knowledge about this theme, and there was space for reflection and response.

Our scriptural grounding was Psalm 23, read three times reverently, with moments to dwell on the verses that spoke to us, followed by a deeper study later. Throughout the retreat, singing, an art project, and a ritual fostered connection among participants. We enjoyed time outdoors, gathered by the fire, prayed together, and shared the delicious food prepared by the caring staff at the Ridge...all with plenty of laughter!

To close our time together on Sunday morning, Deb Adams led a lovely Communion service. The committee hopes that the circles of sisterhood formed during the retreat will strengthen our sense of belonging to the beloved South Church community.



»»» A COHORT'S EXPERIENCE AT NGLI CORE ARIZONA

by Genevieve Hosterman, Associate Pastor

As part of my ongoing participation in Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI), a leadership initiative through the UCC, I had the opportunity to travel to Arizona to take part in a program we call *Core*. During NGLI Core, the four current NGLI cohorts gather together for a week of learning, fellowship, and renewal.

Each cohort spends the week studying a particular topic with experts in the field.

Last year at Core, my cohort (NGLI *14) studied Family Systems Theory and took time to analyze the family systems we come from and how some of the patterns of our history show up in our ministry contexts today. This year we extended the circle further—shifting from last year's focus on the self and the church to this year's focus on the church and the wider world.

Our cohort learned the basics of Faith-Based Community Organizing under the guidance of Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise-Baker and Demarco Davidson. We studied movement-building strategies, discussed the complicated dynamics of privilege and power, and spent time in individual and shared discernment around the work we feel God calls us to do as ministers.

There was even a section on how to run a good meeting—ensuring that every meeting has a purpose, an agenda, and a way to evaluate success. It sounds simple, but it's deceptively difficult at times!

It was a deeply empowering trip, one that reminded me that every person is called uniquely by God to do their small good in the world, and that a necessary ongoing step in following that call is to get clear on what is and isn't ours to do. Clarity allows us to lead from a place of strength and honesty and opens the door for others to join in, bringing their piece of the puzzle until a picture of the future starts to form, piece by piece.

I left Core grateful for my incredible cohort of friends and colleagues, for the wisdom and guidance of Rev. Dr. Dietra and Demarco, and for my beloved South Church and our continued work together. God is on the move!



A GIFT OF HARMONY

HOW A GENEROUS DONATION TRANSFORMED OUR CHOIR WARDROBE

By Cathy Meyer, Minister of Music

A meaningful memory, a practical need, good timing, and patience all came together in the story behind our beautiful new choir robes.

These robes were made possible through a generous financial gift to the Music Ministry, given in loving memory of Gary and Karen Van Doren by their children, Laura and Mark. Mark often reflects on growing up singing in the South Church youth choirs and the important role music played in shaping his early faith. When Laura and Mark chose to make a memorial gift, they wanted it to support an area of church life that had formed them in lasting ways.

The need for new robes had become increasingly clear. When I arrived at South Church eight years ago, the light blue robes worn by the elementary choirs were found crumpled in a pile in the back corner of a storage space. They were cleaned and pressed so they could continue to be used, but even then it was evident they would not be able to serve long-term. Though they have been happily worn, they are no longer ideal—some are too short for our taller fourth- and fifth-grade singers, and all show their age.

Our middle- and high-school choirs wore cream robes with red stoles, many of which were too long for younger sixth- and seventh-grade singers. In addition, neither the blue nor the cream robes coordinate with the burgundy robes of the Sanctuary Choir, and some congregants have noted that the overall look is “less polished” (to put it politely) in our newly renovated chancel. The Music Team shared a vision for robes that would coordinate across choirs, fit singers well, and feel at home in the renewed worship space.

Thanks to this gift, we were able to purchase matching robes for every school-aged choir singer. Different colored stoles distinguish each ensemble: light blue for Nectar, gold for Hive, silver for Swarm, and white (to match the adults) for Sting. With all children's robes in the same base color, singers of varying heights can be fitted appropriately, creating a more uniform and confident appearance. The robes are stored in the closets that were just given a face-lift (with new doors and paint) by Mike & Cheryl Krale, with the help of Vic Olmstead and the Holy Rollers.

The decision was also made to extend the gift to include new robes for the Sanctuary Choir. Their robes are also blue, but a slightly darker color than the children's. There are five director robes with slit sleeves to make conducting and playing instruments easier. These were introduced at the Candlelight Christmas Concert in December and were warmly received by both choir members and the congregation. The new children's robes are currently in production, and we hope to receive them soon. The children eagerly ask when they will arrive and are genuinely excited to wear robes made just for them.

This gift has had a meaningful impact across the entire music ministry. It meets practical needs, strengthens a growing program, and affirms the value of music offered by people of all ages. We offer our sincere thanks to the donors for their generosity and for the care and thought behind this gift, which will continue to support our music ministry for years to come. We are so thankful for Laura, Mark, Mike and Cheryl, and will continue to remember the impact of Gary and Karen on the South Church community.



SOLO STRIDES TO SHARED STEPS

➤➤➤ A PILGRIMAGE LESSON IN REAL-LIFE BLESSINGS

By Heather Prince Doss

Last fall, I was walking a section of the Camino de Santiago with a group of 16 pilgrims. Our longest day (day 3 of 5) was 18 miles. I hadn't quite gotten that far in my training, and I was anxious about it. Day one brought a rush of adrenaline and a rotating cast of walking companions; the day flew by. "I got this," I thought. Then day two happened. For some very good reasons, I ended up walking most of the day alone. A long uphill slog without a friend in sight was demoralizing. I constantly checked my watch wondering how far behind I was. How would I ever make it 18 miles? On the big day, I gave myself permission to call a taxi if I needed to stop after 10 or 12 miles. I set out with one or two companions in the morning. Five or six of us reconnected over a delicious and convivial lunch before heading out again in ones and twos for the last 10 miles. I still wasn't sure if I would make it, but I walked on with Scott who had a blister on his toe and sciatica flaring up in his left leg. The two of us took turns complaining about the hills and then encouraging one another to the top. In the last 2 miles, we joined other pilgrims soaking their tired feet in a clear, cold stream. Then we tied our laces and climbed one more hill to our beds for the night - we made it!. The hardest day hadn't been the longest day; it had been the day when I was most alone. I'm an introvert, so this surprised me a bit. Mostly, though, it continues to remind me how much all of us need permission to take a break sometimes and a community to help us realize our strength and keep going. These are the gifts of a pilgrimage.

Eric and I have been blessed to be part of the community at South Church since we began worshipping with you in August 2024. After 16 years as a parish minister in the PC(USA), I now carry out my ministry through Progressive Pilgrimage - a travel ministry we founded in 2015 to fill a void in the travel industry for thoughtful, curious religious travelers with a mainline Protestant orientation. Most of our trips are bus pilgrimages and do not

require 18 miles of walking! But all of them invite travelers to become pilgrims: open to new ideas and expressions of faith on the road. We started with pilgrimages to the Holy Land and soon branched out. In 2025 we visited 9 different countries and are continually adding new destinations. If you are interested in traveling in the posture of a pilgrim, we invite you to consider joining one of our open pilgrimages. You can find the current list of openings at progressivepilgrimage.com/public. It is a joy to worship with you in Andover, and we'd love to travel with you abroad, too!



WHAT'S NEW IN OUR LIBRARY

10

YOUTH

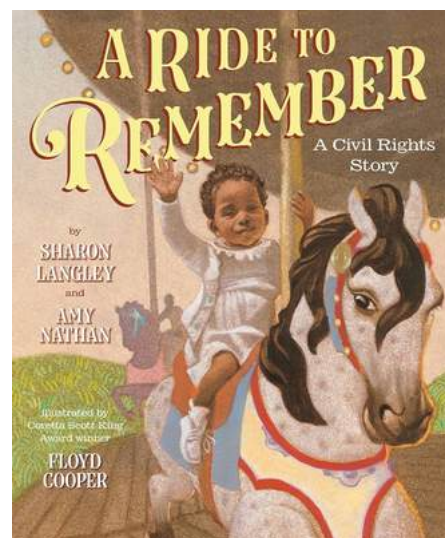
I Am Enough by Grace Byers. Each of us is more than enough; we just need to believe it. A gentle reminder about loving who we are, respecting others, and being kind to one another. Ages 3-7. JFIC BYE

The Book of Belonging: Bible Stories for Kind and Contemplative Kids by Marika Clark. Bible stories that help children understand the rich diversity of God's people. Ages 4+. J220 CLA

A Ride to Remember: A Merry-Go-Round and Its Civil-Rights Story by Sharon Langley. The true story of how, in 1963, a community of Black and white children (including the author at six months old) quietly protested segregation at a Maryland amusement park, leading to its being open to all. Ages 6-9. J305.8 LAN

Freedom, We Sing by Amyra Leon. Explores what it means to be free and how to find hope in difficult times. Ages 3-7. J813.6 LEO

Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race by Megan Madison. Discusses what causes skin color, the concept of race, and racism using simple, interactive text, plus additional resources for extending the conversation. Ages 2+. J305.8 MAD



ADULT

The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend Our Broken Hearts and World by Sharon Brous. Simple practices and ancient Jewish wisdom for a more meaningful, connected, and caring life. 296.3 BRO

Strong Ground by Brené Brown. A leadership book that helps develop essential skills like difficult conversations, strategic thinking, and the ability to unlearn and relearn, so as to build strong, resilient organizations. 658.4 BRO

A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year W edited by Wilda C. Gafney. A single-year lectionary that tells the good news through women's stories in Scripture. 264 GAF

The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt. Examines how a shift from play-based to phone-based childhood has contributed to a mental-illness epidemic, detailing the disastrous impact on youth, families, and society and offering steps to restore a more humane childhood. 305.340 HAI

Holiness and the Feminine Spirit: The Art of Janet McKenzie (edited collection). Paintings by Janet McKenzie with reflections on Jesus' life and the women who gave him birth and spread his message; contributions from Joyce Rupp, Diane Butler Bass, Elizabeth A. Johnson, Ann Patchett, and Katharine Jefferts Schori. 759.13 PER

The Inherited Mind: A Story of Family, Hope, and the Genetics of Mental Illness by James Longman. Explores what is inherited, how environment shapes genetic traits, and how to overcome familial histories of trauma. 616.69 LON

Here Comes the Sun by Bill McKibben. Shows how solar and wind power can provide a pathway out of the climate crisis, offering a more humane future despite opposition from the fossil-fuel industry and its political allies. 333.7923 MCK

You Make a Big Good by local author Mary Todd. The story of how the author and her husband navigated through his years of living with Alzheimer's and vascular dementia. 155.6 TOD

DID YOU KNOW...

THE HOLY ROLLERS VOLUNTEER TEAM PAINTS AROUND THE CHURCH?

By Char Lyons, South Church Historian

Get it—paint rollers, in a church? Sometimes we're just called the Rollers, but we've also been known as the Holy Helpers, Holy Patchers, Holy Cleaners, Holy Do-What-Evers (do whatever is needed), Holy OSHA Worriers (can someone toss me a drill?), Holy Hangers, and, when taking off wallpaper, the Holy Strippers...

After the 1956 addition to the church for offices and classrooms (the building area directly behind the sanctuary and fellowship hall) and the purchase of the parsonage, it became apparent that the maintenance of these properties needed to be managed by more than a sexton. The sexton was the caretaker of the church property, usually focusing on cemetery upkeep and keeping the building clean.

Our Board of Trustees managed the facilities of the church and parsonage. With a larger building came more maintenance issues that required expertise—not just cleaning. When needed, volunteers offered their trade skills to learn about new wiring and heating systems, and to determine what general maintenance could be performed by church members. This has saved the church tons of money by doing work with the sexton. Many familiar names of our elder congregants filled those roles and drew in volunteers for various projects and upgrades.

With each new pastor, a crew freshened the parsonage. Volunteers have stepped up over the decades to make a home to the liking of the new pastor's family—stripping wallpaper, putting up new wallpaper, painting, cleaning, fixing things, updating, etc.

Each time, new volunteers appeared and lent their skills to the greater maintenance of the parsonage and the church building. In 2015, Ellen Arvidson, a Board of Trustees member, asked for volunteers for some painting projects around the church after getting Pastor Dana and family settled, and she drew those volunteers for larger painting projects.

We started with the basement preschool room (formerly called the Rompers), painting the walls in August for the new school year. We then turned our sights on the Fellowship Hall. Do you know what it took to prep that room for painting? We had old, nasty windows, old cabinets, old trim paint, dents, dings, stains, gross stuff, and even ceiling woes. Never, never, never say, "This will be easy." That was 11 years ago, and now we can clean, repair, and repaint easily.

This group became known as the Holy Rollers, mostly a bunch of retirees who like to keep our space looking good. The name came from Lynn Welbourn, who tried to find a sassy name for the people who stepped up (and climbed the ladders) to paint the various rooms around the church in need of repair.

The Rollers have fixed, spackled, primed, and ainted almost all the... continued on next page



... walls (and ceilings) in the building and the parsonage, including the “new” building, which is now 20 years old. We are now on the “Golden State Bridge” of maintenance, mostly. We have sorted and catalogued our paint supply in a spreadsheet to be even more cost-effective and efficient, avoiding wasted volunteer effort. We even tossed a rusted old gallon that had a price tag of \$9.97—definitely not from this century!

You may have noticed that most of the halls and walls are a neutral gray. The wall color in the sanctuary is called *Apparition*. The white trim paint was matched with a window-shade knob, and we named it *Sanctuary White*. The brown pew-bottom boards are *Bitter Chocolate*, but *Pew Brown* is easier to remember. Other real paint names include *Andover Cream*, *Congregational Blue*, and *Going to the Chapel*. Several times, when we couldn’t quite find the right hue, we had it custom-matched, named it, and ended up with *Holy Smoke* and *Ash Wednesday*. We have been known to have fun and often proclaim, “We are workin’ for the Lord.”

The mission statement of South Church says “welcome to all.” That message declares that everyone will feel safe in our building—emotionally, spiritually, and physically—whether it’s their first visit or their hundredth. A clean, freshly painted, decluttered, well-lit area is inviting and puts the most vulnerable at ease.

Our welcoming upkeep complements our programming **within the walls** (from worship to meetings of groups and committees) and **outside the walls** (worldwide missions and local programs and services). And then there are **the walls themselves**.

Today, our Facilities Team and Facilities Manager (Andy Brien) work through a yearly rolling budget of maintenance to keep things serviced and organized. The Holy Rollers take on the painting jobs that save us money while providing an outstanding product that welcomes everyone. With strong leadership and vision (such as last year’s capital-campaign improvements), along with the dedicated efforts of our congregants, we literally support the walls of our 166-year-old treasure. And now you know...



>>> IN CELEBRATION OF

- the November baptism of **Ellis Joy**, child of MK and AJ Dunne.

>>> CONDOLENCES TO

- Jennifer Bouchard on the passing of her mother of **Judy Knoll** on Saturday, December 27th.
- the family and friends of 50+ year South Church member **Jane Johnson** who passed away on Friday, January 30th.

>>> IN GRATITUDE

The beautiful poinsettia you sent refuses to believe Christmas was weeks ago! Thank you for the love and care, *Jane Vondell*

With your contribution, we can continue to inspire disciples, transform our communities through justice work, and spread the great spirit of radical welcome. *Thank you, Lisa Maria Andreoli Steinberg, SNEUCC*

Being on the receiving end of Day of Service made it a glorious day for me. David Strong, Marc Henderson, and others were super heroes ridding my yard of billions of leaves. We also enjoyed the delightful goodie bag from the youngsters. *Our hearts are full, Marilyn Gulla & Cynthia*

Please share our thanks with the congregation and the Board of World Service for the Stop & Shop food drive and collections at church. More than 2000lbs of food collected! *With gratitude, Lisa Smith, Neighbors in Need*

We are so pleased to have your youth ministry as a partner and are grateful that you share in our deep desire to connect with our community. Your generosity is enabling us to make a difference in Harrisonburg, VA. *Grace and Peace, Alexis Owens, RISE Pastor*

My dad (visiting from CT) really enjoyed the service. He said Dana and Genna were both so wonderful and that they never stop smiling! He loved the music and the sermon. *Karen Purtschert*

We greatly appreciate your donation helping us to act as a counterweight to the poverty and lack of opportunity plaguing Guatemala. *We are grateful, Jean Kiser, Board Member, Only A Child*

Thank you for your generous donation helping families put food on the table, find connection, and feel seen. *With gratitude, Helen Gabin, Executive Director, Bread & Roses*

Your donation, and everything Andover, means a great deal to us. We delivered our very first Peer Mentor presentations at Andover High School making your congregation's support feel especially meaningful. *Warmly, Jake Cavanaugh, Executive Director, The NAN Project*

We wish to thank you all for your generous donation helping us further our mission to build new homes so that deserving families can build new lives. *Sincerely, Kevin Hudson, Essex County Habitat for Humanity*

MISSION TRIP REGISTRATION

>>> HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP 2026 | VIRGINIA

We'll leave from South Church at 5am on Sat., April 18th and return late in the day on Sat., April 25th. It is an opportunity for all area high schoolers to serve our neighbors, learn about our innermost selves and build a transformational relationship with God. Register at southchurch.com/family.

HOLDFAST



THE STEEPLE IS LIT IN LOVING MEMORY OF

14

>>> IN APRIL

Joseph and Rose Big

by their daughter Susan Big and granddaughter Alicia Bursey

Loved ones

by the Ziegenbein, Collins, Kea, Flint, and Brosnan families

Marjorie West Emmons

by her daughter, Joanne Smith

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



MONTHLY MISSION UPDATE

Nov: The NAN Project
\$2,491

Dec: Honduras Hope
\$16,326

