

»» SOUTH CHURCH ANDOVER NEWSLETTER ««

THE CIRCLE



boldly embodying God's love and compassion



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Do you know someone at South Church who shows up, pitches in, and makes our community a little brighter — often without anyone noticing? Find out who our first Heart of the Community honoree is!

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One restores antique clocks. The other is headed to the Boston Conservatory. We think you'll love getting to know our new Summer Youth Program Interns!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DANA

➤➤➤ REST, RESILIENCE, AND RISING

Something shifts this time of year — the pace, the light, the way the days seem to stretch just a little longer. For many of us, these months carry a different rhythm. The calendar loosens. The pace slows. There is more sunlight, more bare feet, more time to linger over a cup of coffee or a long walk or a conversation that doesn't have anywhere urgent to be. At South Church, we tend to think of summer as a kind of communal sabbath — a season of reconnection with God, with nature, with the people we love, and with the quiet joy that sometimes gets crowded out during busier times.



And yet. I am also aware that many of you are arriving at this summer carrying heavy things. Grief. Disappointment. A low-grade exhaustion from the relentlessness of the world. Maybe a loss that is still fresh, or an injustice that still stings, or simply the accumulated weight of being a person alive in these times.

I don't want to skip past the hard stuff. But I want to leave you with something to hold while you carry it.

Which is why I keep coming back, this summer, to one of my favorite ancient images: the lotus flower. The lotus is a remarkable thing. It is that stunning pink bloom you may have seen floating on a pond — delicate, luminous, almost otherworldly in its beauty. But here is what makes it extraordinary: it doesn't grow in ideal conditions. It grows from the bottom of a muddy pond. Its roots are in the muck. It pushes up through dark water, through silt and shadow, until it breaks the surface and opens toward the light.

It doesn't escape the muck. It grows from it.

I find that deeply true to the life of faith. We are not promised a path around the hard things. We are promised something better — a love that meets us in the mud, a grace that holds us in the dark water, a light worth rising toward.

So this summer, I invite you to rest when you can. To seek joy without apology. To let nature remind you that beauty and resilience are not opposites. And to trust that even now — especially now — something in you is still reaching toward the light.

With love and gratitude,

Dana

Pastor Dana



SOUTH CHURCH RINGERS SHINE

THE 38TH ANNUAL SPRING RING

By Janna Roop

The bells were ringing on Saturday, April 11th. Sponsored by the Area 1 Handbell Musician Organization led by Abigail Schoppe, it was the 38th annual Spring Ring attended by 26 area handbell choirs. Over 200 ringers arrived at Tewksbury High School at 10 am to begin to set up bell tables, bells, and chairs for the ringers. A high podium ensured that all the ringers could see the invited guest conductor, Kimberlee Strepka. Each choir had a limited time to practice their own solo pieces and all the ringers rehearsed four compositions to play together.

Sixteen members of the South Church Ringers, expertly led by our own Cathy Meyer, attended and played *The Rhythm of Life* by Lloyd Larson. Many more South Church members were in the audience to cheer our ringers on.

Handbells and chimes are each tuned to one specific note. Each ringer is responsible for one to four bells and/or chimes. Each player must ring and silence their instrument at exactly the right time, but as part of their ensemble, they must also pay attention to dynamics and blending with the rest of the ensemble to ensure that the piece has musical expression.



The culmination of the day was a concert at 3 pm for families, friends, and members of the public. Each of the 13 pieces was greeted by enthusiastic applause. A particular favorite was *Sweet Caroline* by Neil Diamond. The audience and fellow ringers tried to constrain themselves to no avail, and as the piece went on, whispers of the Red Sox responses (“whoa, whoa, whoa and so good, so good, so good”) were heard throughout the auditorium. This piece was played by the Union Ringers of Braintree whose choir included several pre-teen ringers.

At the end of the day, the ringers were pleased, but tired as they packed up tables, bells, and chairs, but members are already looking forward to next year’s Spring Ring.



HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

▶▶▶ INTRODUCING SOUTH CHURCH'S NEW VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Do you know someone at South Church who shows up, pitches in, and makes our community a little brighter — often without anyone noticing? Each quarter, we'll celebrate one dedicated volunteer, nominated by you, in our newsletter whose faithful service makes South Church the warm and welcoming place it is. To nominate someone, [click here](#) or contact the office.

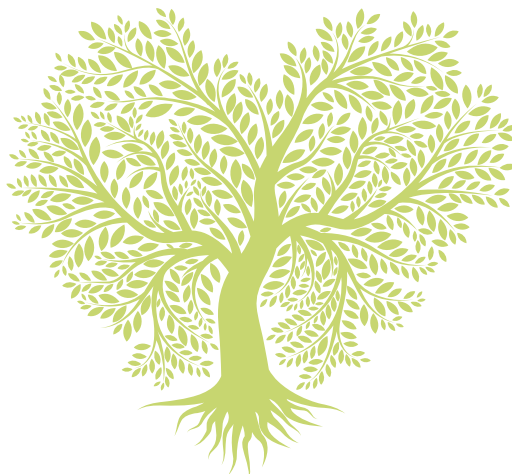
OUR FIRST HONOREE: EILEEN FORGUE

Since 2019, Eileen has been the quiet force behind the Andover Farmers Market's insurance process and most of us never even knew it. Each season, she coordinates insurance certificates for 70+ vendors within a tight 90-day window, with steady persistence and an eye for detail that keeps both the market and South Church protected. She taught herself the farmers market software, built a tracking spreadsheet from scratch, and has saved AFM leadership an estimated 40+ hours of work over the years. Because of her, the market runs with confidence season after season.

And that's just the farmers market. On any given day you'll find Eileen organizing events, cleaning up the kitchen, leading our PRIDE team, overseeing South Church's broader insurance needs — just a few of the countless ways she quietly shows up for this community week after week.

Nominated by AFM Director Fran Healey, Eileen is described as completely reliable, self-sufficient, and a genuine pleasure to work with!

We are so grateful, Eileen — thank you for everything you do!



HEART OF THE COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



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 Kay Pelt, Dir. of Operations & Communications
Andy Brien, Facilities Manager
Amy Morris, Assistant Office Administrator
Nicole Sirignano, Finance Administrator

DIRECTORS OF YOUTH CHOIRS

Michaela Barczak
Sara Durkin
Shannon Eldridge

MODERN LOAVES AND FISHES

FAITH, FOOD, AND COMMUNITY IN ACTION

By Meredith Moody

How does an everyday miracle of loaves and fishes happen at South Church? The answer is through combining generous town funding with attentive town staff expertise, logistical planning from the Social Justice Coalition, and the devoted time of South Church volunteers.

Early in April, after months of planning, the second annual joint Social Justice Coalition and Town of Andover collaborative food distribution event to address local food insecurity came to life. Cases and cases of peanut butter, tuna fish, cheese crackers, and other food items arrived at the church side door to be temporarily stored in towering stacks in the family fellowship room behind the stage. A few days later, Fellowship Hall was transformed into a food sorting warehouse with long tables of non-perishable food systematically arranged to be hand distributed into 200 bags. Then 400 loaves of bread arrived, followed by a truckload of produce with strawberries, romaine lettuce, cucumbers, and more veggies and fruits to fill yet another 200 grocery bags. These brimming bags lined the stage, filled the family room, and hung from hooks in the hall coatracks. As an added surprising delight, 400 pies appeared to top off each bag.

Beyond the uplifting group effort of storing, sorting, and packing these bags, South Church volunteers helped distribute these groceries to individual Andover residents challenged by food insecurity. The success of the 2026 collaborative effort exceeded last year's work by reaching three times as many grateful families. South Church's faith values of sharing God's love, dedicating time and talent to the service of others, and embodying a commitment to justice all merged with Andover's commitment to meet the needs of residents in a creative and generous way. Thank you to the 49 South Church volunteers making the project a success!



LOVE THY NEIGHBOR STANDOUT

With the arrival of longer daylight hours the StandOuts resumed after a winter hiatus. They are each Thursday, 4:30 - 5:30 pm at the corner of School St. and Central St. The Love Thy Neighbor StandOut is a demonstration of support for democracy and humanity, sponsored by the Social Justice Coalition. All are welcome.



VITALITY: CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND FRESH PERSPECTIVES

By Genevieve Hosterman, Associate Pastor

This Spring, I went on a Congregational Vitality Trek as part of my participation in the Next Generation Leadership Initiative. I am in my third year of this six year cohort program, and this is my second Trek. Trek convenes several NGLI cohorts in a chosen city to explore and encounter the different ways that congregations and communities are experiencing vitality in their context.

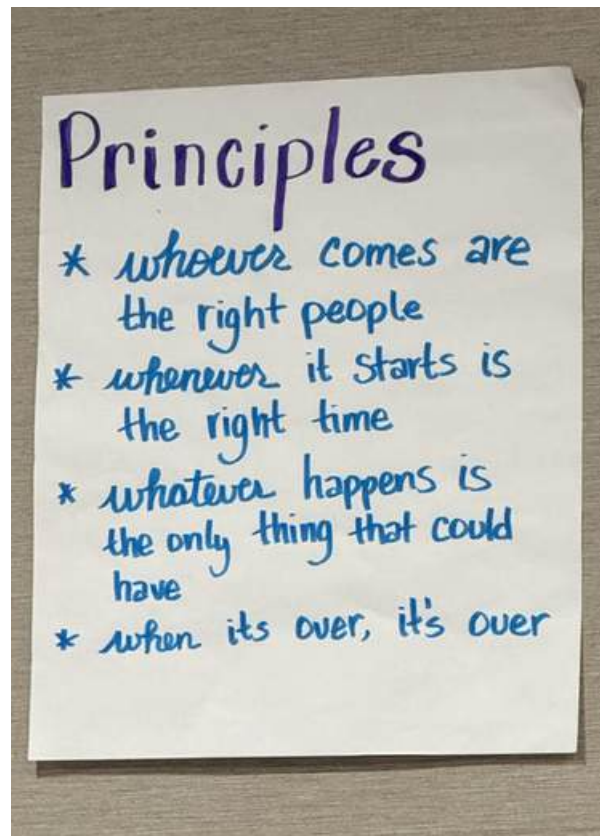
This year, we gathered in Philadelphia, where we met with Rev. Michale Caine (not that one) from Old First UCC, to talk about the vibrant ministry to the unhoused population that has imbued their historic congregation with a sense of modern conviction and purpose.

We also worshiped with Kol Tzedek, a local reconstructionist Jewish temple, and discussed the ways that we as Christian leaders can better show up for our Jewish siblings and counter antisemitic rhetoric in our traditions.

On Sunday, we attended Salt & Light, a joint UCC and PCUSA congregation that is majority black and has a charismatic style to worship (a style I love). Afterward, we had a conversation with two pastors of the church and NGLI alumni, Rev. Cean James and Rev. Sharell Shippen, about the history and founding of their congregation and about the ways that youth ministry works in their context.

There was also time amongst our cohorts to share resources and ideas about everything from bylaws changes to social justice strategies to innovative ideas for online ministry.

As usual, one of the biggest highlights for me was the time I was able to spend with my incredible cohort, NGLI *14, laughing, celebrating the pregnancy of one among us, and sharing stories about the joys and sorrows we had experienced since last we met. I'm so thankful for the ways that these trips continue to contribute to the vitality of our ministry together here at South Church!



WHAT WE BROUGHT HOME

MISSION TRIP 2026 RECAP

Excerpts from Mission Trip Sunday Senior Reflections



ALEX BEERS

Going into the mission trip, I was definitely skeptical. I missed my freshman mission trip because I was "sick" but really I wanted to play baseball. I never really talked during youth group, so I was nervous about going on a week-long trip where the only person I really talked to was my sister. I thought there was no way a mission trip could really be that special. Boy, was I wrong. Mission trip has changed me, brought me close connections, brought me closer to God, and is now a part of my identity.

One main part of my mission trip identity is the connections I have made. When I was sitting in the cozy corner, Colin Curry complimented my Birks, and we started talking and I don't remember stopping. Now those are some of the people I feel closest to, and Colin and I will be together again at Bentley this fall. A mission trip is like one big family. Other experiences that have made me the man I am today are our worksites. I've been taught how to handle drills, every saw you can imagine, installing scaffolding, leveling truss beams, installing roofing, and, most importantly, how to build a ramp. When I was twenty-five feet up on the roof, the ground shaking, feeling like I was not the right person to be up there but after installing the first screw, everything felt normal. These experiences have taught me to push through what is uncomfortable and to be more confident. Mission trip has given me memories I will always cherish. Our work gives people new opportunities, takes away the worry that their home is unsafe, and has a significant impact on someone's life long after we return home.



SARAH BEERS

Over the past four years, one of the main things I have always looked forward to is going on mission trip. When looking back at who I was in my freshman year and comparing it to who I am now, it is hard to tell that we are the same person. In school I was very quiet. I know, me quiet? Hard to imagine, but I was.

Going into my first mission trip, I was honestly really nervous. I went without my brother, with people I barely knew, expecting all I would do is manual labor for a week and come home...that's it. However, that week was so much more than just work. One of my favorite memories was when "Sweet Child O' Mine" came on while I was playing music. I immediately skipped it and thought, "Gosh, Sarah, nobody likes your taste in music." But I can remember Jeff saying, "Put the song back on, it's amazing!" I put it back on, and right as the beat dropped, Kathleen rolled up in the van like something out of a movie scene. That moment was the first time in a while I really let my guard down. The trip really let me be who I am and embrace what I love without any insecurity. My freshman year I came up with the idea of my mission trip persona: the best version of myself, who only fully showed up on the trip. After my fourth mission trip, I can confidently say that person is really who I am today. I will always carry the love, the memories, the laughter, and the connections with me, and I will never forget how seen I felt and how much love I have for myself and for others.



continued...

>>> ARLO KLOCK

I'm going to start by saying just how much the Mission Trip has meant to me. This is my second year on the trip, and I deeply regret that it wasn't my third or fourth. I still can't believe how much I received in such a short time. It went by so quickly, and I wish I could have more time with all of you. That said, I came home filled with satisfaction for the time we spent and the work we did.

Even though I am not a regular Sunday service attendee, I was raised believing that God is Love, and God exists when we come together in service of something greater than ourselves. I don't think there is a better way to be with God than to be with others climbing scaffolding, building a pavilion, dancing to bluegrass music, or playing Coup in the retreat center (although God is probably shocked at how good at lying some of you are). Together we held fast to what is good while doing good deeds in the world.

There could not be a better theme for my final mission trip than Hold Fast. Holding fast to what matters is especially important in this world of impermanence. The Youth Mission Trip is a way to create something lasting, a week to focus on holding fast to our morals, our identities, and our relationships with each other. I've met so many wonderful people and had wonderful experiences, and I want to hold fast to every one of them. To my fellow seniors, to Taylor, to the chaperones, and to everyone who chose to spend their time holding fast to what is good in Mission Trip 2026, thank you for giving me the best senior experience that I could ask for.



>>> BENJAMIN PELT

Imagine taking a stroll after heavy rain has just passed. The world lingers in that softened aftermath, gently washed and reset. And then, for just a moment, you catch a glimpse of a faint rainbow, barely visible through the mist. You look away, and when your eyes return to the sky, it's gone. You're left wondering if it was ever really there at all. It's not the pictures that matter most. It's the feeling of being there: the people, the purpose, the moments you didn't realize were important until they had already passed.

During my first mission trip, I met Richie, a homeowner we built two decks for over the course of the week. Unlike many of the community members we've helped over the years, Richie was always telling stories and asking about people's interests. I came into the trip thinking we would solely do physical work, but seeing Richie's happiness from social connection helped me recognize we were doing something bigger than just building ramps.

Each year since has taught me something new. My sophomore year taught me to appreciate every remaining trip, because you never know what mishaps may occur. My junior year taught me the value of community. And on my final mission trip, I wanted to leave behind a legacy...contributing to the largest labyrinth to date, a record-breaking fundraiser, and structures that will remain at Brethren Woods for years to come. Looking back, what I brought home each year was a new perspective on life and an appreciation for the goodness of the world. Thank you to all the chaperones, parents, and donors whose support gave so many people the opportunity to grow.



MEET OUR 2026 SUMMER INTERNS!

ARLO KLOCK (HE/HIM)

We are excited to introduce Arlo Klock as one of our summer interns! Arlo serves as a program instructor at the Andover Youth Center, where he designs and leads activities that build teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving skills for younger students. An active volunteer and counselor with Summer of Service for 4 years and South Church mission trips for 2 years, he has contributed to community improvement projects and mentored fellow volunteers in leadership roles. Outside of service, Arlo is the Band Manager for the Andover High School Marching Band, participates in both marching and concert band, competes in varsity track and field, and studies antique clock restoration as an apprentice horologist.



RIKA SIEGFRIED (SHE/HER)

We are excited to welcome Rika Siegfried as our summer intern! Rika is a recent graduate of Walnut Hill School for the Arts and an incoming student at the Boston Conservatory. A lifelong lover of theater, music, and community, she has spent her high school years performing, teaching, and helping create meaningful experiences for others through the arts. Whether working as a musical theater camp instructor, welcoming audiences in the box office, or supporting fellow students behind the scenes, she is happiest when bringing people together and helping others feel included. Having grown up in church communities and surrounded by music from an early age, Rika values creativity, connection, and service. She is passionate about building joyful, supportive environments where students can learn, grow, and express themselves.



HAIKU & HIGH ROPES: MEET LAUREL

INTERIM SUMMER DIRECTOR OF YOUTH PROGRAMS

Laurel Oberstadt-Petrik (they/them) is our new Interim Summer Director of Youth Programs. They graduated with their Master of Divinity degree from BU School of Theology in August 2025, and previously worked as Office Administrator for a UCC parish in Newton, MA. Laurel has a wealth of experience as both a summer camp counselor and staffer in their home state of Texas, at a Bible camp, where they most enjoyed working on the ropes course and having spiritual conversations with teens. Laurel will challenge you to a haiku contest if prompted, they are an avid cook and photographer, and enjoy dancing solo in the rain or partnered with their spouse, with whom they share a life and a cat.



KATHRYN FINDLEN & POLARIS FLUTE

»»» SOUTH CHURCH'S MUSICIANS IN RESIDENCE

By Cathy Meyer, Lauren Dooley Sprague, & Zachery Hosterman (Music Team)

ENSEMBLE

South Church is delighted to welcome two exceptional artists as our Musicians-in-Residence: Polaris Flutes and Kathryn Findlen. Their arrival marks an exciting new chapter in our music ministry, bringing creativity, collaboration, and renewed energy to our worship and concert life.

Polaris Flutes is a brand new ensemble, but they will soon be known for their vibrant, engaging programming and distinctive sound. With a repertoire that spans classical works, contemporary pieces, and inventive arrangements, the ensemble offers performances that are both artistically rich and widely appealing. Their presence will add a fresh and colorful dimension to our musical offerings throughout the year. Mark your calendars now for September 27, 2026, as they will kickstart our concert series with a fabulous program that afternoon!

“Amazing vocalist” **Kathryn Findlen** (Classical Voice of North Carolina) is noted for her dramatic performance of contemporary composition and for her artistic interpretations of Symphonic, Oratorio, Opera, and Chamber works. She has received The American Prize for Excellence in the Performance of New Music for her recording of *Songs in the Rear View Mirror* by Kenneth Frazelle, and has been awarded Classical Singer of the Year by the Austin Critics Table. Findlen trained at The Brevard Music Center Opera Program, holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of the North Carolina School of the Arts, and a Master of Music from the University of



Texas at Austin. Findlen has served on the faculty of Southwestern University, founded the Kaleidoscope Chamber Music Series and been presented in recital collaborating with harp, piano and guitar. In the oeuvre of French Chanson, Findlen has taken a particular interest in manuscripts of the french masters, studying at research libraries in the U.S. and The Bibliothèque National de Paris.

Kathryn brings extensive experience and training, along with her thoughtful and communicative approach, to music-making. Kathryn will play an important role in nurturing our choir members, offering vocal coaching sessions and providing individualized guidance and support. She also has plans for workshops that will be open to the public on topics such as vocal technique, audition preparation, wellness, and singing in retirement—opportunities designed to support singers and music lovers at every stage of their journey.

As Musicians-in-Residence at South Church, Polaris Flutes and Kathryn will collaborate with our existing ensembles, contribute to worship, and help shape special programs that invite both congregation and community into deeper musical engagement. Their residency reflects our ongoing commitment to excellence, education, and the transformative power of music.

We are thrilled to welcome these talented artists and look forward to the inspiration and connection they will bring in the months ahead. Please join us in extending them a warm South Church welcome!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

THE HONIG-GARLO FAMILY

Katherine Garlo grew up in NH, where she developed a love of skiing and sailing. In her free time, she enjoys playing Candy Land and Uno with children Ben and Albert.

Aaron Honig grew up in Worcester, MA and is a marine biologist now working as a science teacher. In his free time, he enjoys Home Depot building projects with Albert and Ben, reading The Hobbit, visiting Cape Cod, and hiking in the White Mountains.

Albert loves playing rocket ships with Ben, building Legos with Daddy, and waterslides. Albert skis at Bradford Mountain and mows the lawn in his free time.

Ben attends Bright Horizons, loves experiments in the kitchen, and enjoys reading "Don't Push the Button!" He has traveled by airplane, car, train, and duck boat. Ben also loves waterslides.



ALANA SNYDER

Alana grew up in Rochester, NY, but has lived in Massachusetts for about 43 years. She is thrilled to be joining South Church. Alana loves dogs and has a golden retriever named Midas. She loves to read and explore new things, and she tries to find joy every single day.



MONTHLY MISSION UPDATE

Dec: Honduras Hope
\$16,326

Jan: Re-Member
\$7,754

Feb: Guiding Eyes
\$2,370

**Mar: Political
Asylum/Immigration
Representation**
\$6,776

Apr: Mass Interfaith
\$3,167.50



SOUTH CHURCH LIBRARY

12

➤➤➤ NEW BOOKS FOR YOU TO CHECK OUT

Carol-Georgine West, South Church Librarian

CHILDREN

Andrew J. Bauman | *Floating Away: A Book to Help Children Understand Addiction*

A boy travels in a bubble that represents addiction, journeying through curiosity to isolation and struggle. A simple way for children to understand addiction and how it affects others. Ages 8–12. Call Number: J362.29

Kevin Maillard | *And They Walk On*

A picture book about grief and loss. Based on the Indigenous belief of walking on, the story follows a young boy as he copes with the death of his grandmother. Ages 4–8. Call Number: JFIC MAI

YOUTH

Archie Bongiovanni | *A Quick and Easy Guide to They/Them Pronouns*

Two best friends team up to create a comic guide to understanding and using gender-neutral pronouns, especially they/them. Ages 13–17. Call Number: Y305.3 BON

ADULT

Christopher Beha | *Why I Am Not an Atheist: Confessions of a Skeptical Believer*

The author's quest to understand two rival forms of atheism and his conclusions about faith and human life. Call Number: 211.8 BEH

Jeffrey Foote | *Beyond Addiction: How Science and Kindness Help People Change*

Instead of tough love and confrontation, this book advocates for positive reinforcement, motivational interviewing, and behavioral strategies — emphasizing that staying engaged and using kindness is more effective. Includes information on treatment options based on decades of research and clinical experience. Call Number: 616.86 FOO

David Sheff | *Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction*

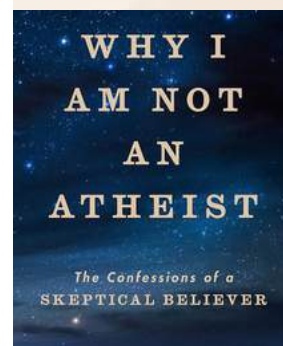
A memoir of a father watching his son become addicted to crystal meth and his efforts to help him recover. Includes information from the author's research and communications with professionals. Call Number: 362.29 SCH

Stephanie Saldana | *What We Remember Will Be Saved: A Story of Refugees and the Things They Carry*

The author tells of meeting refugees from Syria and Iraq and what they salvaged from the lives they escaped. When everything else is lost, hope, home, and stories are saved. Call Number: 362.779



A QUICK & EASY GUIDE TO
**THEY/THEM
PRONOUNS**
ARCHIE BONGIOVANNI & TRISTAN JIMERSON



THE STEEPLE IS LIT IN LOVING MEMORY OF



➤➤➤ 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.

ANDOVER'S HIDDEN HEROES OF 1775

Char Lyons, South Church Historian

Salem Poor of Andover — a former enslaved man who bought his freedom — fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill and was honored with a commemorative postage stamp in 1976 for the 200th anniversary of this country.

The Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17th, 1775, broke the British Army's stronghold, a moment we now mark 251 years later as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. After their defeat at Lexington and Concord on April 19th and retreat to encampments in Boston, skirmishes continued until the British Army sought to suppress the colonial resistance. The battle proved a costly British victory: over 1,000 British casualties and about 450 American. Although the British seized the field on Breed's Hill, the heavy losses — particularly among officers — severely hampered their efforts to break the siege of Boston.



The Provincial Congress, concerned that the British would burn everything in victory or until the Patriots surrendered, ordered the Harvard College library books moved to safety in Andover. Five Andover men could hear the battle as they feverishly carted the books away. The books were stored at Deacon Abbot's home on Central Street and at Samuel Osgood's home in the North Parish.

Our South Parish pastor, Rev. Jonathan French, was also a physician. When word came that several Andover men had been killed and wounded, he took up his physician's bag and left his Sabbath duties to minister both physically and spiritually to the men. Four Andover men were killed in the battle, 12 were wounded (one died five days later), and one was taken prisoner. More Andover Black men fought — eight — than from any other town; some were free, some enslaved. Philip Abbot, a Negro servant of Nathan Abbot, was killed in action. He and all Andover men who died in the Revolutionary War are memorialized on a monument rock on the island at Central and School Streets. The South Parish men are listed as buried in our cemetery, as little is known about whether they were buried here or on the field.

Additional notes on Andover and the Battle of Bunker Hill:

Cato, enslaved by Samuel Cogswell, fought with such merit that his owner freed him. Cato's emancipation papers are held at the Andover Center for Culture and History. He served out the Revolutionary War as a soldier and free man.

When Capt. Charles Furbush was wounded, Lt. Samuel Bailey took up the charge and was killed by a cannonball. Both were initially reported as killed in action. Furbush's family went to retrieve his body, only to find him wounded. They retreated to treat him — and he walked back into battle. Capt. Furbush fought for the rest of the War, never fully recovering from the bullet that remained in his hip for the rest of his life. When Gen. Washington arrived at the Cambridge camp in July, he invited the Captain to dinner to thank and commend him for his service. The family still has the invitation.

When the British officer who shot Furbush raised his fist in triumph and shouted, "The day is ours!", Salem Poor — a free man and servant of John Poor — was so insulted that he put himself in harm's way and shot the officer from his horse. In 1976, the United States Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in his honor.

Charles Furbush, Jr., and his brothers Simeon and James were also at Bunker Hill. James, a drummer boy of 16, witnessed his father being shot. Charles, Jr., was present at the laying of the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument on June 17th, 1825.

William Haggett, son of Thomas and Susannah, was killed at Bunker Hill. William had worked for Isaac Osgood, who received William's military pay — rather than his wife, Mary — claiming lost proceeds. The Haggett men all answered the alarm of April 19th and marched to Lexington, including the father, Thomas. Sons Thomas, Jonathan, and William all remained in the militia in Charlestown.

continued...

▶▶▶ DID YOU KNOW?

continued...

All three sons were killed in service to the Continental Army: William first at Bunker Hill, Thomas at Ticonderoga in 1777, and Jonathan of disease in New Jersey in 1778. This is the same family of Haggetts Pond.

People gathered atop Holt Hill and heard the distant cannons and saw the smoke rising from the battle.

As we celebrate our country's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we must remember the cost of our freedom. What happened 251 years ago at Lexington and Concord, Charlestown, and Boston shaped our nation and our community. Three of the four Andover Militia captains are buried here at South Church, and they fought through the duration of the War. We owe a debt of gratitude to our Andover ancestors for their contributions — beginning with the lives lost at the Battle of Bunker Hill.



ALEX MCCLINTICK MUSIC INTERN

▶▶▶ CHORDS, ROBES, AND REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

By Alex McClintick

My spring internship with South Church's Music Ministry was loads of fun and I really enjoyed it! I send a big thank you to Cathy Meyer for giving me this wonderful, amazing and educational opportunity.

During my internship I did a variety of things including but not limited to organizing and inventorying old and new choir robes, the library of donated pieces of music and the handbell music library. I was also the stage manager for the Cantata and also worked with Cathy and Pastor Genna to create a virtual worship service featuring the South Church Ringers. This included helping to plan out the service and recording people carrying out different parts of the service.

It was interesting to do this internship at this stage in my life and notice the differences between this job-like experience and school. For example, the social dynamic during my internship was intriguing, because it felt like the people who work full time at the church (Taylor, Pastor Dana, Nora, etc.) were my coworkers and equals in a way, while, at school, there is a bit more of a hierarchy (teachers, students, etc).

The main connection for me in this internship was the music and I intend to keep music as a hobby in college and through the rest of my life. I appreciated that since an internship is similar to a job, it gave me some job experience and prepared me for getting a job in the future.



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

Alex Beers
Sarah Beers
Sawyer Cheverie
Alex Clark
Arlo Klock
Alex McClintick
Benjamin Pelt
William Ware

Master's Degree Graduate

Georgia Rex, School Counseling,
Adjustment & Social Work
Merrimack College

Meredith Stewart, Computer Science
UC San Diego

Bachelor's Degree Graduates

Jeffrey Connors, Appl. Math. &
Chinese Studies
Harvard University

Elizabeth Curry, Fashion
LIM College

Lillian Jagger, Anthropol. & French
University of Washington

Tyler Pelt, Env. Science
University of Massachusetts

Braeden Cheverie, Sports Mgmt.
Syracuse University

Jack Fittz, Law & Public Affairs
Lasell University

Doctoral Degree Graduate

Becca Daniels, Exercise Science
Univ. of Delaware

Congratulations to

Tegan Allen
*High School graduate, grandchild of
Gary & Janet Clarke*

Phoenix Clarke
*Bachelor's Degree, Mech. Eng.,
Stanford Univ., grandchild of Gary &
Janet Clarke*

Amber Ferris
*Bachelor's Degree, Animal & Vet. Sci.
Uni. of Vermont, grandchild of Gail
Ralston*

SUMMER GUEST PREACHER SCHEDULE

Our summer worship series will be
Sacred Stories: The Revolutionary Parables of Jesus.
Join us as we explore a new parable each week, and
consider together the ways that Jesus' parables
challenge and invite us to see the world in new, more
expansive ways.

This year's Summer Guest Preachers include:

- James Leahy, UCC Member in Discernment on July 5
- Rev. Renee Manning, West Parish Minister in the Community on August 9
- Rob Heinze, PCUSA Ministry Candidate on August 30
- Linda Mesler, South Church Deacon and Spiritual Life Co-Lead, TBD

»»» CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

- **Judy Knoll**, who died on December 27th.
- **Jane Johnson**, who died on January 30th.
- **Joan Sopp**, who died on March 7th.
- **Deanna Atchinson**, who died on April 6th.
- **Bob Harris**, who died on April 7th.
- **Hazel Aude**, who died on May 6th.

»»» WE CELEBRATE

- the birth of **William Henson**, grandchild of Karen and David Perkins
- the baptism of **Ellis Joy Dunne**, child of MK and AJ
- the baptism of **Thomas Zemlin**, child of Zach and Ashley

»»» IN GRATITUDE

Thank you for always remembering Cynthia and me. The daffodils brightened up my day almost as much as Amy Joyall who delivered them! *My best, Marilyn Gulla*

We are grateful for your generous gift to “Only A Child”. We know you care deeply about working to change the disadvantaged lives of the deserving youth in Guatemala. *Kindly, Jean Kiser, Only A Child*

Thank you for your generous support of Lazarus House Ministries. Your giving helped us serve 30,000 Guests in 2025 with dignity and respect. *Kind regards, Sue Desjardins, Lazarus House Ministries*

Thank you for the beautiful flowers. It really made my day. I hope to see everyone there soon. *Charles Miller*

Thank you for your generous support of the PAIR Project. Your giving helps provide justice, hope, and safety for immigrants in our community. *Kind regards, Yanzie Y. Chow, PAIR Project*

Thank you for your generous support of Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light. Your giving helps bring environmental justice and climate conversations rooted in faith to communities across Massachusetts. *Kind regards, Rev. Michael Reed, Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light*

As a composer from Japan who created "Seed," it brings me immense comfort and hope to see your community embrace love and diversity so gracefully. Thank you for bringing my piece to life on 6/7 with such dedication and artistry. *With my warmest regards, Haruto Katayama, Composer*

Thank you for your generous support of the Village Food Hub. Food insecurity has increased of 30% over the past year in our area. Your giving helps ensure local families have access to nutritious meals and essential resources. *Sincerely, Sherri McLeod, Village Food Hub*

Thank you for your generous gift providing propane to 26 households here on Pine Ridge while we learn from and work alongside the Oglala Lakota people. *Gratefully, Jenn Sklener, Re-Member*

How wonderful to receive your recent gift! We have now completed the water system in San Jose and scores of kids were able to attend school with your aid. *Blessings Always, Bill Briggs, Honduras Hope*

Your decision to become a supporter at such a critical time reminds me that when we come together, there's nothing we can't do. Thank you for making it possible to protect each other and advance justice for all. *With gratitude, Ricardo Martinez, GLAD Law*

Thank you for your generous gift helping us to support those affected by the storms and floods in Alaska. I am deeply grateful. *Sincerely, Cliff Holtz, American Red Cross*

We are so grateful for your consistent support and partnership. It provides meaningful stability to our work. You've been there with us from the start! *With gratitude, Bonnie Zahorik*