

The Steeple

July 2023

A monthly newsletter from South
Congregational Church
Centerville, MA



Rev. John A. Terry ~ Interim Pastor
Karen Crosby ~ Minister of Music
Mary George ~ Soloist

565 Main Street
Centerville, MA 02632
Office Phone ~ 508-775-8332

Pastor's Email:
sochurch.pastor@comcast.net
Office Email:
sochurch@comcast.net

A Message from Pastor Terry...



Dear Members and Friend,

If you were not there, I began worship last Sunday with these words: “Congratulations on calling Rev. Sally Norris as your new settled pastor. I know it took longer than you thought it should, but there is truth in the saying that good things come to those who wait.

“There is a story told about the time James Garfield was President of Hiram College in Ohio. A father came and asked him if you really needed to spend 4 years of study before getting a degree. Isn't there a way of speeding this up? Garfield replied that that depends on what kind of a person you want your son to be. Are you trying to grow an oak tree or summer squash?

“I will be with you until the end of August, which is two years after I first began here at South Church. There will be a few Sundays from now until then when I will be off on vacation. Then I will gladly hand the keys to Rev. Norris to begin your grand adventure together in September.”

As for me, I do not know just what I will be doing. Being an interim pastor gives me the occasion to decide what I would like to do next. Three things stand out for me. First, I want to work on the Cape. In the past I have been an interim in Hanover, Massachusetts and Syracuse, New York. If I do any work, I want to be on the Cape.

Second, after working most every weekend for over a half a century I would like weekends off. I would like to be able to be a worshipper instead of always the worship leader. Also, we have three grandchildren living on the Cape. Weekends are when many of their activities take place. Yes, my grandson's football games are a major consideration.

Third, the words of the theologian Frederick Buechner speak to what I am drawn to. He said, “Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need.” Looking back, the times I treasure most in my ministry are times of service.

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There is a world of hurt out there – hunger and homelessness, illness and addiction and the rest. Somewhere out there is a place where I can help meet those needs. I await what God has in store for me.

Blessings on you all
Dr. John



A Message from Pastor Norris...

Dear Beloved South Congregational Church,

My soul was filled with joy when Bill Coughlin phoned to invite me to serve as your next minister. In getting to know the Search Committee, I discovered deep faith, curious minds, uplifting laughter, and an enthusiastic yearning for the church to shine as a beacon of light and love in your lives as well as beyond the walls of the building to the wider Cape community. How marvelous to be, in the words of your church profile, a “village church with a global perspective!” And so, I am humbled and honored to receive this “call” to join in ministry with you.

I’m a Cape Cod wash-ashore, having grown-up and ministered in New York City. Yes, a native New Yorker and avid Yankee fan. (Wait ‘till we do Baseball Sunday!). I attended the United Nations International School, a rich multi-cultural learning experience for which I am immensely grateful, and then went on to Barnard College and Columbia University for both my undergraduate and graduate degrees. From there I received my M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary, and subsequently served for many years at The Riverside Church. Additionally, I did doctoral work at Oxford University in England, and have served churches on Cape Cod, in Connecticut, and in Maine.

On Cape Cod, I co-founded the MLK Action Team, a racial-justice advocacy group which continues with strength, and I am a long-time volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Cape Cod. I have a passion for making faith real by lifting-up the voices of those who are marginalized. On a personal note, I love music of all genres; delight in being an amateur birder; get refreshed by walks along the bay and ocean and Cape Cod woodlands; try to take out a canoe at least once a year; love non-fiction reading and get excited about baseball and football seasons (as well as the Olympics).

I share my life with the Rev. David Powers, who is a retired UCC minister and historian of colonial New England. We reside in Dennis along with a host of chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, Carolina wrens, sparrows, orioles, woodpeckers, and our cheery seasonal hummingbirds.

I look forward to getting to know each of you and hearing your stories, your journeys, which brought you to this place. I'm excited to work alongside the Leadership Circle, your cherished Music Minister Karen Crosby, and all of you, to create joyous worship, compelling programs, and vibrant outreach to the community. And lest, I forget, I can't wait for my first purchase in the Thrifty Niche!

*With love,
Sally Norris*



July Birthday's

- 10 ~ Vicki Sault**
- 11 ~ Dennis Smith**
- 11 ~ Howard Taubner**
- 14 ~ Brooke Steele**
- 23 ~ Nelson Cook**
- 27 ~ Ryan Weinstein**

August Birthday's

- 1 ~ Pat Coughlin**
- 5 ~ Sean Maguire**
- 9 ~ Allen Morrissey**
- 9 ~ Meredith Wannie**
- 14 ~ Emma Rose Wannie**
- 20 ~ Nancy Lee**



**THE OLD HOME WEEK
VENDOR FAIR** will be held

August 12th and we need volunteers to help with set up and clean up. If anyone can handle the grill, we would like to have hot dogs as well. Please contact Fran Merton if you would like to help or if you would like to be a vendor! This event was very successful last year, and we expect to have many people stopping by the Church this year as well.

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST AND THE BOOK CLUB

will take a summer break and meet up again in September.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ~ Pastor Sally Norris will start her ministry here on September 5th.

My Lord God

*I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end,
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will,
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY							
		<h1>July 2023</h1>				1.	Thrifty Niche 10-1pm						
						2.	Worship Service 10am Fellowship 11:00am	3.	Thrifty Niche 10-3pm		5.	OA ~ 7:30am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm AL ANON 9am	6.
9.	Worship Service 10am Fellowship 11:00am	10.	Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	11.	OA ~ 10am	12.	OA ~ 7:30am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm AL ANON 9am	13.	AL ANON 8am AA ~ 5:30pm	14.	O.A. ~ 10am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	15.	Thrifty Niche 10-1pm
16.	Worship Service 10am Fellowship 11:00am	17.	Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	18.	OA ~ 10am	19.	OA ~ 7:30am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm AL ANON 9am	14.	AL ANON 8am AA ~ 5:30pm	15.	O.A. ~ 10am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	22.	Thrifty Niche 10-1pm
23.	Worship Service 10am Fellowship 11:00am	24.	Thrifty Niche 10-3pm St. Joseph's Casserole Drop Off 9-1pm	25.	OA ~ 10am	26.	OA ~ 7:30am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm AL ANON 9am	27.	AL ANON 8am AA ~ 5:30pm	28.	O.A. ~ 10am Thrifty Niche 10-3pm	29.	Thrifty Niche 10-1pm
30.	Worship Service 10am Fellowship 11:00am	31.	Thrifty Niche 10-3pm										