

STEEPLE

SEPTEMBER 2024



South Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

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The Rev. Sally Norris, Senior Minister Karen Crosby, Minister of Music
Mary George, Soloist
Tony de Fazio, Sexton Karen Morin, Office Administrator

A Reflection from Sally:

Earlier in the summer, I attended a concert with Livingston Taylor and the Cape Cod Symphony. If you wonder who Livingston Taylor is, so did I. I had never heard of him! But in doing some research prior to the concert, I discovered that he is the younger brother of James Taylor. I had no idea what to expect of the concert and I convinced myself that it might be quite boring. To my surprise, the concert was absolutely amazing! Livingston Taylor is an exceptional musician. With guitar and banjo in hand, and with occasional accompaniment by the Cape Cod Symphony, Livingston Taylor performed an array of the most engaging music – from his own compositions to the “Great American Songbook” to even a song by his brother, James. The concert included a medley of “train” songs including “I’ve been Working on the Railroad,” “The Trolley Song,” “Chattanooga ChooChoo,” and “On the Atchinson, Topeka, and the Santa Fe.” And he performed a hilarious medley of “songs that shouldn’t be played on the banjo.” Laughter abounded!

I came away from the concert feeling uplifted and joy-filled! I was strengthened and refreshed to take on the world’s challenges once again. This is exactly the same way I felt after the awesome Peter Mayer concert. And from what many of you have said, you felt the same way!

Livingston Taylor describes his purpose in performing: ***“The rule of performing is that an audience needs to come away from their involvement with you feeling better about themselves than when they walked in.*** That brings us to the question: what do people want? ***Above all else, people want to believe they are seen, that they are heard, that somebody is enthusiastic about their presence, that they are needed, and above all, that they have the power to heal broken hearts.”***

Wow! Sounds like a mission statement for a church!

I wonder – can we take these words from Livingston Taylor and enhance them with the lens of faith and make this our goal when we worship together, when we volunteer together, when plan and envision together, when we have fellowship together, and when we are in mission together?

Let’s make South Church a place where this wisdom from Livingston informs our church life together in this new program year – 2024-2025.

And what about bringing a friend to worship on Sunday? Let’s get the word out

That South Church is a welcoming, nurturing, and mission-focused community.

When it comes to church growth, we are all in it together.

Love

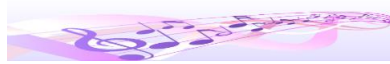
Sally

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

9/4 th	Candace Ruffleth	9/9 th	Jan Fletcher
9/10	Gail Maguire	9/12	Nancy Callahan
9/12	Karen Morin	9/14	Susan Smith
9/17	Elizabeth Simons	9/20	Beverly Brembt
9/24	Jean Bannister	9/26	Alvina Baxter Moran
9/28	Fran Merton		



KAREN'S CORNER



I would like to announce that beginning September 15th, Sally and I are introducing a new “Gloria Patri” to worship at South Church. (“Gloria Patri” comes after the scripture reading.) During the three worship services I attended at my conference this summer, we sang one that was new to me. It immediately resonated with me, and I had it in my head throughout the whole conference and then some. About a week after I returned, Sally said she had just been to a service where the exact same “Gloria Patri” was sung and she asked what I thought about it. I shared with her my enthusiasm for it and how I thought it would add to the vitality of our worship experience. I did a lot of research online. I found it and had the most wonderful correspondence with the composer. I was, also, able to gain permission to use the music and stream it. Both Sally and I are very excited to be adding it to our worship experience at South Church.

BELL CHOIR: Bell Choir will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, September 11th, at 5:30. Bell Choir plays on the last Sunday of the month, as well as special occasions such as the Centerville Stroll and Christmas Eve. I’m sorry, but I can’t invite you to join the Bell Choir as, right now, we have no openings. All the 9 dedicated individuals who played last year are returning. There are only 9 positions in the Bell Choir. As you probably have noticed, each person plays two bells, and we have room for about two and a half octaves, which is 18 bells. We have fun, I think, and I’m always uplifted after a rehearsal or a worship service where the bells play.

ADULT CHOIR: The Adult Choir will begin rehearsing on Sunday, September 15th from 9:00am to about 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall. The Adult Choir sings every Sunday except for the last Sunday of the month which is the “Bell Choir Sunday”. If you are interested, please see me, email me (karenecrosby@me.com) or give me a buzz or text (774-208-8269). It is important I know ahead of time if you would like to join so that I can have music ready, that’s super important. Like the Bell Choir, I think it is a fun group. We do a very eclectic selection of repertoire at all different levels, and I am always energized and fulfilled working with Mary George, our soprano section leader in the Choir, and all the dedicated choir members. The music program at South Church Congregational is an integral part of Parish Life. Both groups contribute significantly to the vitality of the worship experience. I want to thank all the choir members who devote so much time and give so much of themselves to support the music program. It is my honor and privilege to facilitate the music. Thank you so much to Sally and the congregation for all your support, gratitude and encouragement.

**VISIT THE CHURCH ART GALLERY FOR A MARVELOUS EXHIBIT OF WORKS BY
GORDON JONES**

Gordon Jones is a fine artist and teacher for many years. Before attending art school, Gordon was a miner and a truck driver in New Jersey and was in the army during the Korean War. His wife was a Congregational minister, and they lived in Vermont and Massachusetts where she was the minister and he was a school art teacher. Gordon now lives at the Cape Regency and is still working on new paintings!!



(Thank you, Fran Merton, for this article and picture)

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

Sunday, September 8

Worship will include a blessing of the new school year!

We will have a ritual of blessing for Arybella and everyone who is starting school at any level.

Sunday, September 15 Rally Day!

The choir returns New Members are joining

Potluck Lunch Program Fair

We will get the new program year going with joy, energy, grace, and the inspiring presence of the Holy Spirit!

Sunday, September 22

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Helen Nablo

(Sally and David are away at their annual family week in Maine)

You will love Helen Nablo! She is a UCC minister who has served churches in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. She and her husband live in Centerville and are neighbors to Gail Maguire!

She is an awesome preacher and one of Sally's "clergy sisters"

The Rev. Chuck Soule of West Yarmouth Congregational Church will be on pastoral call from Sept 20 – 27. Please call the office or a member of Leadership Circle for his phone number.

Sunday, September 29 Laity Sunday!

Jane de Groot and Bev Fogg and Karen Crosby are planning a beautiful, inspirational worship service led by ... you!

(The word "liturgy" literally means "the work of the people")

SPIRITUAL WALK

Wednesday, September 18 at 10:30 am (*weather permitting*)

Dowses Beach

Join Sally and your church friends for a mid-week spiritual pause. We will gather in the parking lot of Dowses Beach and then slowly walk the beach. We invite you to bring a reading, poem, or prayer to share. All are welcome!

REIKI MINISTRY RETURNS!

Wednesday September 25 at 1:00 pm

Church Library

Reiki practitioners Jan Fletcher and Bev Fogg are offering reiki this month in a new format – a reiki circle (group reiki). Reiki is an ancient eastern healing modality where the practitioner serves as a vessel for God's divine healing energy. Just as Jesus laid his hands on those he healed, reiki employs light touch in the healing process. Reiki circles allow each participant to receive the physical, emotional and spiritual benefits of reiki and more; participation in a circle also provides opportunity to focus intentions and prayers to others in the circle. Collective participation greatly increases the flow of divine healing energy. Questions? See Bev or Jan. Join us on **Wednesday, September 25 at 1:00 pm in the church library.**

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Thursday September 12 and 26

All are welcome!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Thursday, September 10 at 8:00 am

All are welcome!

LIVESTREAM OF WORSHIP!

Our Livestream of Worship will be up and running for the public on Sunday, September 15!

Abundant thanks again to those of you who so generously donated to make this happen.

The livestream will go directly to the church's new You Tube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/@SouthCongregationalChurch_Cent

as well as to Facebook. (We are working on finding a way to get it up on the website.)

We will also send you a direct link each week.

A few notes to bear in mind:

With the livestream, speaking on microphone is everything!

So – if you have an announcement at the beginning of worship, or if you share a celebration / concern, or if you are speaking at the Peace Candle, an usher will bring you the new handheld microphone (thank you, Bill Monroe).

We are so excited. We go “live” on September 15 at 9:55 am – tell your family and friends, especially those who live away from Cape Cod!

It's STEWARDSHIP Season!!

In the next few weeks, the Stewardship Committee (Nancy Beauchamp, Bill Coughlin, and Sally Norris) will be in communication with you. We are excited about the new vitality of the church and look forward to a new year of continued creativity and mission. And mark your calendars for Sunday, October 27 – Stewardship Sunday. Sunday, November 3 – Pledge Sunday with Jazz Worship. Stay-tuned for more details!

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY EVENTS

The COMM Fire Station will hold the ANNUAL 9/11 REMEMBRANCE on
Wednesday, September 11 at 10:00 am.

The Deputy Chief suggests arriving no later than 9:45 to get a seat and parking.

It is a deeply moving ceremony. The community is welcome!



Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills
Fire-Rescue Department

CAPE COD PRIDE FESTIVAL on

Saturday, September 14, 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm,
the Hyannis Village Green.

Let's show our support for the LGBTQ community on Cape Cod by attending!



TUESDAYS AT 2:00 BIBLE STUDY THE PSALMS

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
(Led by Rev. Sally Norris)

Whenever I ask – “what is your favorite book of the Bible” – I inevitably receive the response: “The Psalms.” This is understandable. The Psalms are deeply personal, poignant prayers and songs; they speak viscerally to the heart. They instruct. They bring strength and comfort, and guide us in how to praise God. But there is so much more to the Psalms than you might initially think!

For five weeks in October, we will study this most beloved part of the Bible. Here are the particulars:

- ***What do I need to bring?***

A Bible. Perhaps paper or a commuter for taking notes. But most of all, an open and curious spirit. If you do not have a Bible, let me know and I'll make sure you have one.

- ***Where?***

The Fellowship Room. It will be good to have a table where we can write and easily read our Bibles

- ***Format?***

The first session will set the historical and structural foundation. Of all the sessions, this will be the most lecture-like. But I'll do my best to make it lively. You may even learn a bit of Hebrew! Hopefully you will discover new things about the Psalms. In subsequent sessions we will do closer study of individual Psalms. And who knows – you may be inspired to write your own “Psalm!”

And then **looking ahead**: During **Advent** we will have a three-week Bible Study series on the **Nativity in Art**.

A NOTE ON ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSE

St. Joseph's House Shelter has asked that South Church provide the same dish for all the guests. This new opportunity will enable us to cook together and enjoy each other's company to carry out this mission. activity. Starting on Sept. 23, a group will meet together in the church kitchen to cook for the 60 guests who eat dinner at the shelter. As a pilot project, we plan on buying at BJs which will allow us to buy vegetables, meats, and other items in bulk. We will provide more updates as we get this new system going. If you are interested in helping out on Sept. 23, by helping to pay for the food, or joining in the preparation, please contact Nancy Beauchamp.

HERE NOW MINISTRY

Many thanks to Deb Weinstein for coordinating the refreshments we prepared and served for the Here Now Ministry on Sunday August 25th. Much gratitude to all the South Churchers who participated in this vital ministry the unhoused in Hyannis.

NEW PUBLIC PRAYER BOX



Thanks to Dan Dray for installing our wonderful new public prayer box – on the church Marquee. The prayer box is already at work! Anyone from the wider community or from the church is welcome to write a prayer for themselves, a loved one, or the world. The prayers are anonymous and will be read each Sunday in worship. Thank you, Leadership Circle, for supporting this idea!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2 AT 7:00 PM

SONGS OF RESILIENCE, HOPE, AND JOY

With

HARMONY GROVE

Willie Sordillo, sax Zoë Krohne, vocals
Doug Rich, bass Mark Shilansky, piano



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 AT 7:00 PM

AN EVENING OF MUSIC WITH ELISABETH VON TRAPP

