

Mustard Seeds

I have been clearing out and cleaning out my office. When we moved back to the area from Michigan almost all (some 30 boxes) of my church stuff was packed in our basement because we lived in this tiny house in Bondsville. When I served the Leverett Congregational Church, I didn't have an office so my stuff was still in the basement. When I started at South, I started to move all my church stuff to my nice large office, and when I was called in June 2006, it all came with me. Now it was time to move it again and this time I really started to look at what I had and ask myself if I really needed it. There were many books I used in Seminary that I have never used for sermons or educational programs in the church and so those went away. Some Marisa Brown-Ludwig and Louis Mitchell could use, some I sold, some just went to charity.

Cleaning and clearing out often helps me prioritize what is important to me. It's usually not stuff but people, not possessions but relationships. I remember that at the first staff meeting we had after Lucius Weathersby and I started in January 2006, Lucius asked why a church as beautiful as this one was so junky? That started two major cleanings of the basement. Sometimes we become so used to things as they are that we just don't stop and really look to see if something needs to be cleaned, rearranged or gotten rid of. Do they need some TLC or to be moved into a brighter, sunnier spot. We take things for granted. It's only when we have to move on that maybe we really examine what's important to us.

I know that the relationships that I have with so many of you here at South are what I carry with me and hold dear. Some of those relationships go back to the early 1990s when I was the C.E. director and seminarian. Some are new within the past year or so and they all are important to me.

I was almost speechless at the wonderful dinner and testimonials that were given for me on Friday night, May 1st. I was truly touched by

your generous gifts and all the love that you showered on me. My last day here at South will be Sunday May 31st.

My leaving will bring some changes. First *Crossroads* is changing. I want to thank Karen Kress for all the time and hard work that she has put into the publication. Karen has decided that her days of working on *Crossroads* have ended. For the time being we are consolidating issues. This is May-June and then there will be a July-August. Please take note of the survey in this issue of *Crossroads*. It is important that the church hears from you. If you filled out a survey that was in the Sunday bulletin, thank you. Larry Picard is working on a new Web site and we are trying to determine who might read *Crossroads* either as an attachment to an email or on the Web.

I pray all God's blessings on South Church's people. Keep working for an elevator. That is my biggest disappointment in my time at South.

*Grace and Peace to you,
Pastor Chris*

Notice of Annual Meeting-Part One June 7, 2009

To Members of South Congregational
Church:

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting, Part One of South Congregational Church UCC, 45 Maple Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01105 will be held on Sunday, June 7, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. in the parish hall after the 10:00 o'clock service.

Catherine Rossi, Clerk
May 10, 2009

From the Director of Music Ministries...

It is rather fascinating to me that many of you pay attention to the makeup of the choir each Sunday morning, even asking about the absence of certain members. To keep you up-to-date, then, hear are the details of some of the personnel changes you have seen and will see in the near future. You've already been introduced to **Hillarie O'Toole**, our soprano section leader who sang "Let the Bright Seraphim" so beautifully on Easter Sunday accompanied by trumpet and organ. She replaced **Kelly Danner**, who moved back to Eastern Mass. In addition to being a professional singer, Hillarie is also the manager of the Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra. **Dorie Goldman**, one of our altos, will be taking a year away from us to live in Denmark, the homeland of her husband Peter, who will be on sabbatical. You also know **Greg Lopes** of our tenor section who has played his euphonium frequently in worship. He was just accepted into the Navy Band and he ships out for basic training in early June, so we will be bidding him a sad good-bye on our last choir Sunday on May 31. However, on the Sunday before, May 24, he is doing a full concert here in the South Church sanctuary at 4 p.m. Please come! **Uriah Rodriguez** is working hard on a degree in music at UMass Amherst and found he needed to let go of his position in the South choir in order to devote enough time to studies and performance opportunities at the school. **Tom O'Toole** (Hillarie's husband) and **Bruce Johnson**, former soloist of Old First Church, are finishing the season with us in Uriah's place. Finally, we are welcoming back **Beth Jenkins**, who took a hiatus for health reasons but found she missed singing too much.

Well, it's coming up fast. On May 30 we will be hosting the **New England Ringers**, the region's premier Handbell Choir. They will be here at South Church for most of that day as they will be putting on a handbell clinic for our ringers as well as those from five or six other churches in the area. The parish hall will be crammed with tables and bells and people who ring them.

Later that evening everyone is invited to a full concert by the NER in the sanctuary. Concert time is 7 p.m. and tickets are \$10. If you still have your tickets from the December 21 concert that was cancelled because of the storm, those tickets will be honored at this concert. Those of you who attended the NER concert at Faith United Church a few years back will remember that it was FUN! This group is extremely imaginative and the performances are aurally and visually stimulating. From the calls I've already gotten it looks like there will be a good crowd, so get your tickets as soon as they go on sale, likely the first Sunday in May.

And while I'm on the subject of handbells, many of you have responded positively to our new set of hand chimes. One advantage to hand chimes is that they are more durable than handbells and thus great for work with children. Because of that I'm going to start a young people's chime choir, possibly as early as the summer since I have four children already interested. There is room for up to fifteen ringers in this group, so if you have a child who would like to take part contact me at lpicard@sosoch.org or by calling the church.

And there is always a space for capable singers and ringers in the Chancel and Handbell choirs. Have you been thinking about it? Our summer break is coming up, but we would love to have you join us in the fall!

Larry Picard

**The South Church Sunday School
would like to thank those who
generously contributed to the
Open Pantry Walk.
We were able to donate \$ 594.
to this worthwhile cause.**

Remembrances of Dr. Driftmier

**Nancy J. Willcutt
Jensen Beach, Florida**

The Reverend Dr. Frederick Field Driftmier and his lovely wife Elizabeth Crandall Driftmier live on in our hearts and memories. They each gave their all to South Church and its membership and we in turn have so much for which to be ever grateful, so many great sermons and smiles. Bob and I and our daughters shared some wonderful times with the Driftmiers at their beautiful home on the Stonington River in Pawcatuck, Connecticut and on their beloved sailboat. Bob and I often visited them in Vero Beach as well, going to lunch and on one occasion accompanying them to their church. Oftentimes when we would get together I would quote some portion of a sermon Dr. Driftmier preached and he and Betty would get a kick out of it.

Examples were his love of flowers and all nature...he would look down from the pulpit and tell us that these beautiful flowers with each petal a different size came out of the "Muck and the Mire" of the earth, yet look at the splendor created. When addressing the subject of a person's depression he would say that one should start by cleaning up their house. He would accept one excuse only for a disorderly house and that was if you just moved in, otherwise clean it up. (Dr. Dee, as I affectionately called him, rarely sugar coated things.)

Dr. Driftmier and Rev. Ames both loved to feed and take care of the birds. Dr. Dee often told his radio congregation when a person feeds hungry birds on a cold winter day, they are a host of God. Knowing these very special people as we did and for the many times they so expertly hosted so many people and occasions at their homes, I firmly believe that the Driftmiers will be hosting non other then God himself. God could not ask for a better host and hostess, and when they reach out and shake God's loving hand, God will know his hand was indeed shaken.

Dr. Dee was visiting Sally Felon Young as she was dying. Miss Young (she was the Absorbine Jr. heiress) had traveled the world and being so wealthy was frequently asked to donate to one cause or another or to buy tickets for this raffle or event. Dr. Dee and Miss Young talked of the different adventures they had during their lives and he said to her, "Sally, death may well be your greatest adventure." Sally replied, "And just think, I won't have to buy a ticket."

We last saw our beloved Dr. Dee two weeks before he passed...we said our good-byes and thank yous' and when we walked out with his son David Lloyd and daughter Mary Lea we said that sadly there are so few people of his caliber. It is our fondest hope that Dr. Driftmier and Betty are now sharing their greatest adventure.

**Carl D. Thormeyer
Marina, California**

When reading the April 2009 CROSSROADS, I learned of the death of Dr. Driftmier, who was the Senior Minister at South Church from 1955-1979. Although this is sad news, he had been in poor health for many years and now he is free.

For most of my youth, I grew up in South Church. I joined the church in the fall of 1958 and have remained an absentee member to this day. Dr. Driftmier had a major impact on my life while I was finishing high school in the 1958-60 time frame. After my father unexpectedly passed away in March 1959, Dr. Driftmier became a "father figure" to me and thus had a significant impact on my transition into adulthood. Although I left the area permanently in 1960, we stayed in contact through annual holiday greetings right up through last year.

The church's high school group at the time was known as the "Pilgrim Fellowship", and I was an active participant. Dr. Driftmier was always there and always available to help and guide us. Some of the reminisces I have included:

* In the fall of 1958, he had a juke box installed up in the Church's cavernous second floor recreation room, so we high school students could come by after school, dance, and enjoy the new music known as "rock-'n-roll". Other churches in the area were aghast!

* Dr. Driftmier took us on a trip to a nearby ski resort in winter 1959, where unfortunately he broke his back in a tobogganing accident, and was in a body cast for several months. He had at least two other back injuries over the years, and suffered greatly as a result in his waning years.

* In the summer of 1959, he escorted the Pilgrim Fellowship group to his family lodge in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia for a two-week retreat. It was here that I learned to play cribbage! I also remember that, on the Sunday we were there, we visited a local church in town of a different denomination. He "pre-briefed" us before going in, saying: "They think a little differently than we do when it comes to religion. Try not to laugh!"

* While riding in a car that he was driving, he once rightfully chastised me for changing the station on the car radio without my asking first! Never did that again.... I remember that incident to this day! And he took me to task on any number of other incidents that shall go undescribed... indeed he filled the role of my deceased father on many occasions!

* But perhaps his most important and lasting legacy to our family was the love he showed and support he gave to my brother Alan over the years as Alan slowly succumbed to multiple sclerosis, passing away at age 59 in February 2006. Alan had left South Church after graduating from Springfield College circa 1970, moved to the Washington DC area, and married into a different church denomination. Nonetheless, Dr. Driftmier was always there for my brother by letter or by phone to offer encouragement and advice, regardless of the situation.

Rest in peace, Dr. D. Thank you for taking care of our family when we needed you the most. May God provide for you the very best of heavenly rewards.

Evelyn King Springfield, Massachusetts

My association with Ted and Betty, and they must be remembered together, was multifaceted. He was my minister, my boss and friend. Ted and Betty and my husband Larry and I were co-leaders of the junior youth fellowship for many years, and Larry and I were Fritz sitters. Ted was an opportunist and never let a chance go by.

I requested pledge envelopes, but stated explicitly that we didn't plan to join the church. At 7:30 that night, Ted paid us a visit and didn't leave until he had persuaded us that it didn't make sense to support and attend one church while belonging to a different one. That was 45 years ago and we have never regretted that decision for a second.

When I offered to volunteer in the church office, he instantly hired me as associate secretary- a position I held for 34 years. We were both perfectionists and worked well together.

The four of us were the leaders of the junior youth fellowship and took different members of the group to spend a week at Betty's family lodge in Nova Scotia each year. Even the trip was fun. Ted drove like a bat, and I kept up. Betty and Larry joined us eventually, having traveled at a more legal rate of speed. The young people enjoyed the trip, and frequently mentioned it in their college resumes. They became associated with a different country and lifestyle. One year Dorothea Jameson asked if we would consider taking seniors, and from then on, we took several groups of seniors. They were totally different than the youth but just as much fun. As we drove up one year, Dorothea Jameson dashed into the men's room when we stopped. When I asked her why, she said, "Oh that explains a lot. I've been a school teacher all my life and "G" stands for girls."

Each summer when Ted and Betty went away we took care of their home and Fritz, their handsome, well-disciplined and well behaved Weimarana- at least until we took care of him. Fritz was so happy and excited to see Ted; he dashed across a muddy parking lot, jumped up and put his paws on Ted's shoulders, and slid down the front of his suit to the ground. I don't know who was most surprised- Ted or Fritz but Fritz was the most mortified.

Ted's children's stories were always associated with the sermon and equally anticipated. Ted would call Saturday night to request a two or three foot picture of a butterfly, grasshopper, spider or squidget (whatever that is) for an illustration. My favorite story, and still remembered by many, was dropping a Styrofoam brick on the organist. The organist may have been alerted, but there was a congregation wide gasp as it went over the edge.

Betty was my best friend and we had many things in common. My daughter was just five weeks older than Mary Lea. We were both active in the women's groups. She followed me as president of the Afternoon Guild- a position neither of us should have undertaken because we were too busy. Betty and Ted are gone now, but

Beryl A. Kress
Springfield, Massachusetts

As a 51 year member of South Church, I wish to state that Dr. Driftmier and his wife were sadly missed when Dr. Driftmier retired from South Church. His Children's Stories were loved and looked forward to by the whole congregation, not just the children. Betty was his helpmate, and kept the women actively involved in the congregation. I hope that they are now happily reunited in heaven as they so richly deserve.

(EDITORS NOTE)

Because of space restrictions I apologize for shortening some of the remembrances. On a personal note, while I never met Ted or Betty, when I started as Director of Adult Programming in 1991, Betty sent me the sweetest note. She read about my family and wrote to say that she hoped my daughter would enjoy Alfred University as much as she had during her college years there. It was a touching gesture. CF

South Church Cooks

Because your cooks' efforts are centered in their own kitchens in December, we only cook for Loaves and Fishes for eleven months of the year. Join us when you have the desire and time. If you would like more information please talk to me at Church. Here is the schedule for the remainder of 2009:

May 19th, Tuesday, at Christ Church Cathedral Glen Rossi will be the chef preparing his famous grilled ham and cheese sandwiches.

When my grandson, Walker, was visiting during a school vacation, he described serving lunch to **177 people**, "It teaches one to help others and it's the fun of talking to the people. I hope you do it someday soon." You will have a chance next month. Come join us!

June 20th, Saturday, at South

July 14th, Tuesday, at Christ Church Cathedral

August 11th, Tuesday, at Christ Church Cathedral

September 15th, Tuesday, at Christ Church Cathedral

October 13th, Tuesday, at Christ Church Cathedral

November 10th, Tuesday, at Christ Church Cathedral

Prep time starts at 10:30 AM Lunch is served from noon until 12:45 PM. For cooks lunch is included and there is no dishwashing.

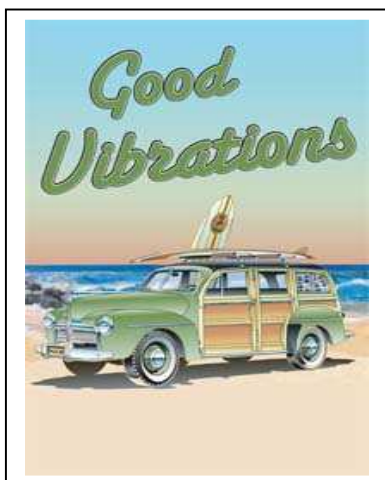
Bon Appetit,
Carol Murphy

The New England Ringers

*In concert, Saturday, May 30, 7 p.m. at
South Congregational Church UCC
45 Maple Street (corner of High Street)
Springfield, MA 01105 413-732-0117*

New England's premier handbell ensemble presents "Good Vibrations," their 2009 Spring tour. Included on the program:

Antiphonal Alleluias	Hart Morris
Passacaglia	G.F. Handel, transcribed by William H. Griffin
Soliloquy for Bells	Karen Lakey Buckwalter
Spiritoso	Arnold B. Sherman
The Sunken Cathedral	C. Debussy, transcribed by Kevin McChesney
Bell Hop Boogie and Blues	Margaret R. Tucker
Prelude in C# Minor	S. Rachmaninoff, transcribed by Douglas F. Smith
Radiance	William A. Payn
Gypsy Song from <i>Carmen</i>	G. Bizet, arr. Elizabeth Watson
Carnivale	Michal J. Glasgow
Good Vibrations	B. Wilson & M. Love, arr. Matthew Prins
In the Mood	J. Garland, arr. Hart Morris



New England Ringers is a thirteen-member handbell ensemble of highly energetic musicians playing the most advanced level of handbell literature. Offering exciting performances, NER amazes listeners and receives enthusiastic reviews from audience members of all ages. NER performances are a blend of lively and diverse musical moods and styles. The outstanding music is matched by touches of entertaining humor and the artful visual presentation of the ensemble. **Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door or in advance. Call Larry Picard at 413-732-0117 or email lpicard@sococh.org.**

Crossroads Newsletter Survey

We would like to make South Church's newsletter as useful as possible for our members. You can help us by answering a few questions and giving your ideas. To encourage your participation, each adult who completes an returns this form by June 1, 2009 will be entered into a drawing for a prize:

1st Place- Red Rose Pizza

2nd Place-Pick a Hymn for Sunday Worship

3rd Place-Pick a Scripture for a Sunday Sermon

Surveys should be returned to the "Crossroads" box on the counter in the church office.

1. In the past year, how often have you read South Church's Crossroads newsletter?
 - Never
 - Some Issues
 - Every Issue
2. Which of the following Statements is most accurate about how much of crossroads you read?
 - Read all of it
 - Read some of it
 - Did not read any of it

3. Please tell us how much the following topics interest you :

Pastor's message/Mustard Seeds

Very much	Somewhat	Neutral
Little	Not at all	

Music Director's message

Very much	Somewhat	Neutral
Little	Not at all	

Church Committee News

Very much	Somewhat	Neutral
Little	Not at all	

Upcoming Events

Very much	Somewhat	Neutral
Little	Not at all	

South Church Cooks

Very much	Somewhat	Neutral
Little	Not at all	

4. Please tell us about other topics you would like to read about:

5. Would you prefer to receive Crossroads electronically rather than a printed version?

- Yes
- No

Note: If you checked "yes" please provide your current email address below so that we can be sure we have the most current information.

Please tell us about yourself:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Which category best describes you:

- Member
- Not a member
- Other, please describe:



The picture above is of some South members at the Pride Parade in Northampton on May 2, 2009.

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School will not be offered this summer. But in conjunction with YSET, we will be offering a **Coin Carnival** on Saturday, **July 18, 2009** from **1:00-5:00 PM**

A few years ago YSET held a Penny Carnival but with inflation we will be offering games, food, and prizes for a nickel, dime, or quarter.

More information will be in the July/August *Crossroads* and in the Sunday bulletin.

Volunteers can contact Carol Murphy.

Summer Worship Schedule 9:30 AM in the Chapel

**Begins June 7 through
September 13**

No Living Waters Worship