

# THE SPIRE

a newsletter of South Congregational Church

June 2009



Alisa Turner

## New blend of coffee house opens June 19

An alternative coffee house geared for the college set and young adults opens June 19 at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Dubbed "The Cellar," the evening will feature original music by Alisa Turner, Avi & Celia, and the What Not. Area artists and poets will also be showcased.

Tickets are \$8 at the door. All profits go to HAWC (Healing Abuse Working for Change.)

Sponsored by the Outreach Ministry, The Cellar is a casual place for young adults to settle in for the evening and listen to some great music with their friends. This is the first of three planned coffee houses this summer.

For more info and to sample the music from the featured artists, go to [www.southchurch.net](http://www.southchurch.net) and follow the link for The Cellar.

### Items needed

To put on the coffee house, the Outreach Ministry needs card tables, futons, and bean bag chairs. If you can loan any of these items, please contact Scott Estabrooks at [scotte34@comcast.net](mailto:scotte34@comcast.net) or 978-774-3051. †

## Looking ahead to some exciting changes

by Scott Estabrooks  
CABINET

Last month the Cabinet held a half-day leadership planning meeting to chart a course for the year ahead. Over coffee and bagels, we took a different approach to the ministry of the church. Rather than starting with what we have been doing, we stepped back to look at who we are as a church and what our calling really should be in the short and long term.

As we discussed and brainstormed, we began to see two objectives emerging for the year ahead. First, all of the ministries will work together to make our Sunday morning worship service the "best hour of the week" for everyone who comes through our doors.

That might mean taking a fresh look at how our service is conducted, as well as how we do chil-

dren's ministry. Two ad-hoc committees will be meeting over the summer to work out the details of this, but the goal is that Sunday morning be a truly meaningful, relevant, and exciting time to worship God and grow deeper together in Him.

Our second objective is to provide opportunities for all of us to exercise our faith. This goes beyond just serving each other here inside the church walls. We want to be of service to our community as well, where we not just talk about our faith, but also *show* the love of God through our service.

Everything is only in the early planning stages. The process is new to us, and there is still much to do just to keep our current work going. Yet you'll be hearing more about this and how it plays out through each of the ministries in the coming months. †

## Putting stewardship into practice in all areas

by Paul Howell  
FINANCE MINISTRY

On May 16 the church family gathered for spaghetti and meatballs and to celebrate what God is doing at South Church. We had an opportunity to hear from those among us about the amazing things God has been doing in the lives of some of His faithful followers.

It was also a time to think about how much work we have ahead of us in fulfilling what God has called us to do through Scripture.

On page 5 you'll find some of the

Scriptures we used to discuss giving, as well as some statistics on our church giving units. We need to pray for God's direction in all that we do here at South Church and as individuals to evaluate where we are at in our own lives regarding stewardship.

The Finance Ministry has responsibility for stewardship but this is not just about money. We are defining stewardship as "Our faithful response to the generosity of Almighty God's love toward us,

STEWARDSHIP, page 5

### Church Financial Report

Jan. 1, 2009, through May 24, 2009

2009 full-year pledge giving required to meet budget	\$ 213,992
Amount required as of 5/24/09 to stay on budget	\$ 86,410
Total tithes and offerings received as of 3/31/09	\$ 83,276

As of 5/24/09 we are behind budget by \$3,134.

Figures provided by Financial Secretary Terry Mello.

# This devoted sports fan now has a new passion

Are you a Red Sox or Patriots fan and like attending their games? What about pro golf tournaments? How about going out to play a round of golf?

If you're saying yes to any of these questions, you might have a new friend who sits in the front, right side of our church on Sunday mornings. These are the things Elaine Clifford enjoys when she isn't working at her job as a Verizon service rep in Boston.

Although Elaine has been attending South Church for nearly six years with her good friends Ada and John Dowd, she did not officially become a member until recently. What led to her decision to become an official member? In part it was her participation in the Alpha program, which culminated with her attending a weekend retreat in New Hampshire where she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.

This past year her dear sister, Brenda, as well as several other close friends went home to be with the Lord. Through her losses Elaine has come to the realization of just how important Jesus is in her life.

And now she affirms that she's "growing spiritually all the time. I'm so thankful to have Jesus on my journey with me."



Elaine is a cancer survivor. Her treatments included surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. As she recalls, "1997 was a very difficult time in my life and I thank God every day that I made it through my ordeal. I try to enjoy every day and consider each day a gift."

Elaine loves traveling to warm



Elaine at last month's "Breakfast at the Hawthorne." For more photos of the event, see page 6.

climates like the Caribbean. Her hopes for the future include retirement with her husband of 31 years, Steve. "I hope we can retire in good health and enjoy the 'golden years' together!" she says. Elaine and Steve have one daughter, Lauren, who works at Hill Holliday in Boston.

One thing we know for sure is that Elaine loves her church. You might be able to guess what she would say if you asked her what she likes best about South Church. You're right—it's you, all of our family here at South Church. She calls us "warm and friendly" and says, "I'm very happy here!" That's about as good as it gets. †

### Seen in a church bulletin . . .

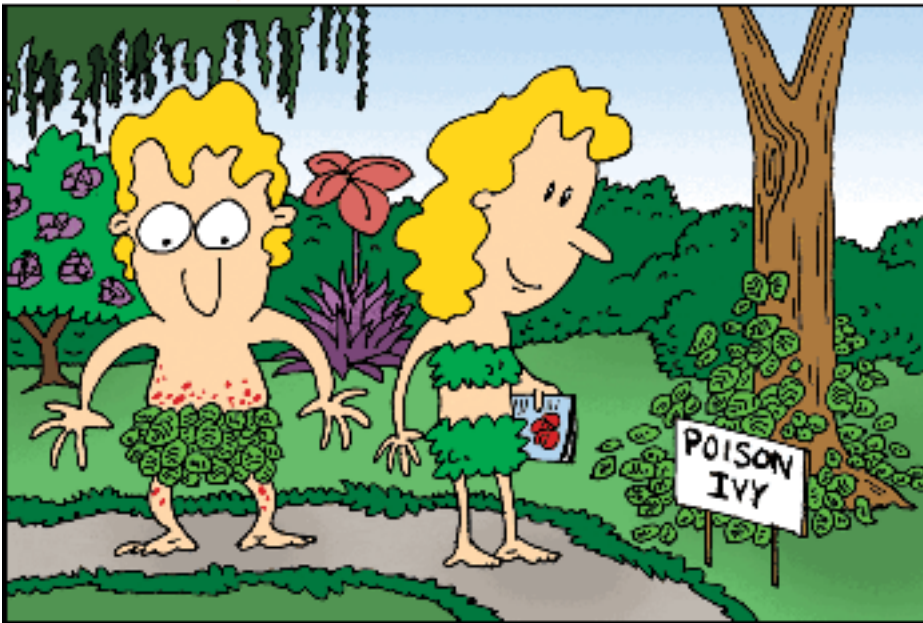
Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Don't let worry kill you off—let the church help!



## REVEREND FUN [WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM](http://WWW.REVERENDFUN.COM)



BIOLOGICAL GARDEN TOUR GONE BAD

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## The Spire

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A colorful garden visitor at Long Hill  
Spire staff photo/Jennifer Estabrooks

## Explore Long Hill June 7

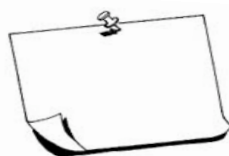
A free garden walk and picnic sponsored by the Fellowship Ministry will take place at Long Hill in Beverly June 7. Wear your walking shoes and outdoors clothes to church and we'll leave right after the service.

At Long Hill, you'll experience a charming children's garden, a fun frog pond, miles of meandering trails that you can explore, stately statuary, a majestic Federal-style mansion, and of course, glorious gardens in spring splendor. For more information on Long Hill and a current list of what's in bloom there, visit [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org).

Bring a picnic lunch (no grills), a picnic blanket, and sunscreen. You also might want to bring a camera to capture the beautiful scenery.

### Directions:

- ◆ Take Route 128 north to exit 18, Route 22 (Essex Street).
- ◆ Turn left onto Route 22 north and go 1.3 miles.
- ◆ Bear left at fork in road.
- ◆ See brick gate posts and Long Hill entrance on left.
- ◆ Parking area is 100 yards up driveway on the left.
- ◆ Walk up sidewalk to the back of the mansion, where we'll picnic on the lawn by the stone wall. †



# Bulletin Board

## Guess who's turning 300?

We are! South Church is looking for anybody willing to serve on an ad-hoc committee to begin planning our 300th anniversary celebration. Contact Dana Watts at 1-978-352-4009 or [dedjthe4watts@msn.com](mailto:dedjthe4watts@msn.com) if interested.

## A note of thanks

Dear Pastor Grant and church family,

Thank you one and all for all the loving kindness you have shown me during my lengthy illness. I have been overwhelmed and deeply grateful for the many cards, notes, and visits I have received, including your prayers.

And God has heard and answered your prayers. I am healing and getting better with each new day. Thank you, God! God bless.

—Clara Tengberg

## Now accepting rummage items

Have you started rummaging through your closets yet? Perhaps you've noticed that some of your most precious outfits for some unknown reason some have a peculiarly unwelcome fit this year? Don't despair! We will happily take care of this situation for you, as we prepare for our annual church rummage sale on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Just put your items into a clean plastic bag marked "rummage sale" and place it on the stage in Fellowship Hall any time *after* June 6. Please be sure your donations are clean and in excellent condition. We will also accept items such as shoes, handbags, belts, hats, linens, towels, and tablecloths. Please note that we cannot accept other miscellaneous items that would be classified as yard sale items, i.e., games, books, toys, and appliances.

We would also like to send out an alert to all of you "bag ladies" (said lovingly, of course!) to start saving all of your plastic or paper bags for our use. Lastly, if you'd like to help us with the rummage sale, we love to have you. Please contact Valerie Eadie at 978-532-8582 if you have any questions.

## I scream for a good cause June 10

The arrival of warmer weather means it's time for Crystal Calderone's annual ice cream social to benefit the NSMC Cancer Center, slated to open this summer. This year's event, sponsored by Cherry Farm Creamery of Danvers, will be held Wednesday, June 10, from 6–9 p.m. at St. John the Baptist School, 19 Chestnut Street, Peabody. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids. Raffle tickets will also be sold.



## Want to own your own home? Here's your opportunity

The city of Peabody is accepting applications until July 13 from eligible applicants who wish to participate in its lottery for the opportunity to purchase affordable housing that may become available through the affordable unit resale process. Applications and an information package can be obtained from the Office of Community Development at City Hall. An informational meeting will be held at June 17 at City Hall from 6–8 p.m. †

## T.E.A.M. Challenge for kids takes off June 28

This summer don't be alarmed during the worship service if you hear the sounds of a battle going on in Fellowship Hall. That might just be our kids re-enacting the battle of Jericho as part of T.E.A.M. Challenge, a radically different kind of summer program that focuses on teamwork and the creative arts.

Launching June 28 (the week after Children's Sunday) and continuing every Sunday for 11 weeks, T.E.A.M. Challenge is for kids in pre-K through high school. Each week they will hear a Bible story from the Old Testament, divide into mixed-age teams, and then dash off to one of several stations such as Drama, Art, Building, or Language Arts to participate in a quick challenge.

For example, the week kids read about Joshua and the battle of Jericho, the drama team might create and act out a news report live from Jericho. The language arts team might write (and sing!) a ballad about the battle. The art team might create and present a comic book of Joshua's heroic exploits. And the building team might recreate the walls of Jericho right in Fellowship Hall—all in 30 minutes or less.



It's all aimed at Totally Engaging And Motivating the kids to make these familiar stories their own and to show us what they've discovered for themselves.

No registration is required, and kids are welcome to bring friends. They should just come downstairs to Fellowship Hall each Sunday when they're dismissed from the worship service—and come prepared to take on the greatest challenge of the summer!

†

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

### One night at Berea June 12

On this no-cost, whirlwind overnight trip to Camp Berea in Hebron, NH, the youth group will be putting paint on walls while putting their faith into action. Some light carpentry and a general cleanup are also planned—anything and everything to help get the camp spruced up and ready for the summer. Leaving Friday, June 12, around 4:30 p.m. and returning the next evening around 8:30. There's no cost for lodging or meals at the camp, but please bring a few bucks to buy fast food on the way up. Contact Pastor Ray if going. RMcDaid@comcast.net or 978-531-1964, ext. 3. †

### This year's VBS is going to be totally swamped



Are your kids ready to sink their teeth into *big fun*? That's just what they'll do at Crocodile Dock, this year's summer day camp (VBS) at South Church, where fearless kids shine God's light!

The program will run Aug. 24–28 from 9 a.m. to noon for children ages 4–10. Preschool-aged children must be toilet trained in order to attend.

Crocodile Dock is filled with incredible Bible-learning that kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Each day at the Docksides Drive-in they'll learn a Bible Point, such as "God is with us" and "God does what he says he'll do," along with a memory verse.

Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs that they'll be singing long after camp is over, and tasty treats are just a few of the other Crocodile Dock activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.)

Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings.™ (Get ready to hear *that* phrase a lot!) They'll also learn

how *they* can actually be a God Sighting themselves.

This year there will be a per child charge for the program with group rate incentives.

- ◆ Register one child and pay \$30.
- ◆ Register with a friend or sibling and pay \$25 each child.
- ◆ Register three or more siblings and pay \$25 each for the first two and \$20 for each additional child.

Right now you can register online by going to the link on our church website at [www.southchurch.net](http://www.southchurch.net). Once you have registered your child, please send a check to the church. Make checks payable to South Congregational Church and write VBS in the memo field. Bring the check by the church office, or mail it to South Congregational Church, c/o Financial Secretary, 60 Prospect St., Peabody, MA 01960.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either Kerri Devine (978-531-1613 or [kerri\\_devine@comcast.net](mailto:kerri_devine@comcast.net)) or Lisa Resendiz (978-535-2362 or [1-craftygirl@comcast.net](mailto:1-craftygirl@comcast.net)). †



# Putting stewardship into practice in all areas of our church from page 1

by way of us committing our time, talent, resources, and treasure/ money to the mission and ministry of God's church."

Please think about the elements of stewardship. Think and pray about an area or areas where you may be able to commit more. As we go through the remainder of 2009, the Finance Ministry plans to update you occasionally on our stewardship progress at South Church.

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### Malachi 3:8-12

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, 'How do we rob you?'

"In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. 'Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,' says the Lord Almighty. 'Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,' says the Lord Almighty."

### 2 Corinthians 8:10-15

"And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

"Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, as it is written: 'He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little.'" †

## Range of Weekly Offering Amounts for 101 Regular Giving Units

Range of \$ Given Each Week	# Units Giving in Range	Mid Range Given by Each Unit	Average Annual Salary If Tithing	Weekly Total
\$1-\$25	60	\$12.50	\$ 6,500	\$ 750.00
\$25-\$50	17	\$37.50	\$ 19,500	\$ 637.50
\$51-\$100	15	\$75.00	\$ 39,000	\$ 1,125.00
\$101-\$150	4	\$125.00	\$ 65,000	\$ 500.00
\$151-\$200	2	\$175.00	\$ 91,000	\$ 350.00
\$201-\$250	3	\$225.00	\$ 117,000	\$ 675.00
<b>Totals:</b>	101			\$ 4,037.50

**Actual Annual Giving Total:** \$209,950.00

## Increase If Each Range Goes Up Just 2%

Range of \$ Given Each Week	# Units Giving in Range	Mid Range Given by Each Unit	Average Annual Salary If Tithing	Weekly Total
\$1-\$25	60	\$12.75	\$ 6,630	\$ 765.00
\$25-\$50	17	\$38.25	\$ 19,890	\$ 650.25
\$51-\$100	15	\$77.00	\$ 40,040	\$ 1,155.00
\$101-\$150	4	\$128.00	\$ 66,560	\$ 512.00
\$151-\$200	2	\$179.00	\$ 93,080	\$ 358.00
\$201-\$250	3	\$230.00	\$ 119,600	\$ 690.00
<b>Totals:</b>	101			\$ 4,130.25

**Projected Annual Giving Total:** \$214,773.00

## CLASSIFIEDS

The Classifieds section runs notices for rentals, employment opportunities, sales of various items, services, and giveaways to the church family. Submit notices to southchurch.spire@comcast.net or in the Spire box in the church office.

### FOR SALE

**Electric power chair.** Jet 7. Hardly used. Paid \$4,200 new. Must sell. \$595. Call Richard Silva 978-921-2055.

### FOR SALE

**2-bedroom mobile home.** West Peabody co-op park. Low park fee. Eat-in kitchen with stainless appliances. Large deck. Open lot on dead end. \$59,900. Call Richard Silva 978-921-2055 for info. Pictures available online www.redcoachrealty.com (white with black trim). Call Rick 781-233-3331 for showing.

South Congregational Church  
60 Prospect Street  
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THE SPIRE  
June 2009



**Strong Faith,  
Strong Families**



### **The Breakfast Club**

The ladies of South Church enjoyed a morning of scrambled eggs and lots of laughs at the Fellowship Ministry's "Breakfast at the Hawthorne" the last weekend in May. At left, sisters Reneé Dempsey and Robin Hincman revel in their splendid surroundings, while at right Anna Waters (center) savors spending the morning surrounded by her daughters Christine, Margaret, Maureen, and Pat. For additional photos, visit [www.southchurch.net](http://www.southchurch.net).

**Spire staff photos/Jennifer Estabrooks**