



South Church Life / October 2017

2018 Stewardship Season: "Live Generously"

"For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich."

– 2 Corinthians 8:9 (NRSV)



Live Generously

What does it mean to be live generously? The media often focuses on sensational or trendy ways to be generous, such as Giving Tuesday, the Ice Bucket Challenge, or quick crowdfunding responses to personal needs or natural disasters. While we certainly don't want to discount any act of giving, as followers of Jesus we are called to practice faithful generosity at a deeper level as a measure of our discipleship.

In his second letter to the church at Corinth, Paul reminded the congregation that Jesus set the example of generosity in his life and ministry. Paul knew what modern research has confirmed: **Generosity is a learned character trait.** Children watch and learn from their parents and grandparents. Children learn to give by being encouraged to give. So, the way we live shapes the people around us.

Likewise, there is more to generosity than money. Generosity also has to do with the way we use our skills and we practice hospitality, with how we offer encouragement, make connections, and use our time to address the needs of others. It's about the stewardship of all of our life.

A lifestyle of generosity is measured by our giving and volunteering as well as the manner in which we nurture relationships and live out our neighborliness. Research now substantiates what the Bible teaches concerning generosity: "In giving we receive and flourish, in grasping we lose!"

As we focus on how to "live generously," here is the schedule for upcoming Sundays:

Sunday, Oct. 15 – Kick-off of the 2018 Stewardship season theme "Live Generously"

Sunday, Oct. 22 & 29– Stewardship focus in worship and pledge cards mailed.

Sunday, Nov. 5 – **Pledge Dedication Sunday**

Please know that every gift, regardless of size, is important to furthering the ministry and mission at here at South Church. If you have questions or comments, please contact elder Bill Henderson or the Rev. Mark Burnham.

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Church Events

Deacon's Meeting

Monday, Oct. 2nd
7:00pm

Committee Meetings

Thursday, Oct. 12th
7:00pm

Family Movie Night

Friday, Oct. 20th
7:00pm

Session Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 26th
7:00pm

Holiday Fair

Saturday, Dec. 2nd
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Save the Date

Our annual Holiday Fair will be on Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 1:00-7:00pm. This is the same day as Bergenfield Holiday in the Park at Cooper's Pond and the Annual Bergenfield High School Concert held in our Sanctuary at 5:30pm.

Newsletter
DEADLINE

for the next issue of
South Church Life
is October 23rd



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear South Church Member & Friends,

I read a news story a few years ago about the completion of the largest dictionary in the world—the 40-volume *Dictionary of the Dutch Language*. Work on the dictionary began in the 19th century and took almost 150 years for Dutch and Flemish lexicographers to complete! It has more than 45,000 pages and documents words going back to the year 1500.

There's just one hitch. The *Dictionary* is only current to 1976, meaning that it is now more than 40 years out of date. Never fear, though, the editors are back at work on a second edition—just don't expect it to be completed in our lifetime.

I'm sure there are many lessons that can be drawn from this story, but mine is this: Some tasks are never done. They just keep going and going and going. I know I feel like that sometimes on Sunday afternoon when I realize that there's yet another sermon to prepare in the less than a week!

The life of a congregation is also an on-going task that's never quite done. While this can lead to weariness and inertia if we're not careful, it also points to the continued life, work, and ministry that we are privileged to share as the body of Christ. Our enduring task of the church is perhaps best summed up in Jesus' last words in Matthew 28: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

This disciple-making work is foundational to all that we do—in worship, mission and outreach, faith development, the care of neighbor, and fellowship. So, I'd like to commend to you the wonderful, on-going work of this congregation that you will find listed in the pages of this edition of the *South Church Life*. I also want to highlight a couple of projects:

The month of October brings us to the beginning of our annual Stewardship season. The theme for this year is **Live Generously**. Sunday, October 15 is the kickoff of our Stewardship emphasis and more details are provided on the cover page of this newsletter.

In worship, we are moving back into the sanctuary on Sunday, October 1 after four months in the Auditorium. We will soon be dedicating our new hymnals, which arrived over the summer. We are also in the third year of using the Narrative Lectionary, which guides us through the Bible from September through May.

The Property Committee has been busy over the summer supervising the exterior renovation of the sanctuary. The repair to the base of the steeple tower is complete, with new copper roofing and new lights for the spire. The old slate has been removed from the main roof. The next phase of work will focus on the tower wood restoration, removal of the protective glass on the windows, wood trim restoration, and the installation of the new slate. In addition, new wood louvers in the tower and damaged wood parts for soffit are being fabricated as well as a new round window frame for the rose window.

Peace and grace,

Mark

OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP

- Oct 1 – Exodus 3:1-15;
World Communion Sunday
- Oct 8 – Exodus 16:1-8
- Oct 15 – 1 Samuel 3:1-21
- Oct 22 – 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- Oct 29 – 1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13



Worship & Parish Life Movie Night

Friday, October 20, 2017, 6 PM

"DisneyNature, in its ongoing quest to bring the natural world to the big screen as never before, presents its most ambitious project to date, taking moviegoers on a grand journey into the wilds of China. 'Born in China' follows the adventures of three animal families – the majestic panda, the savvy golden monkey and the elusive snow leopard.

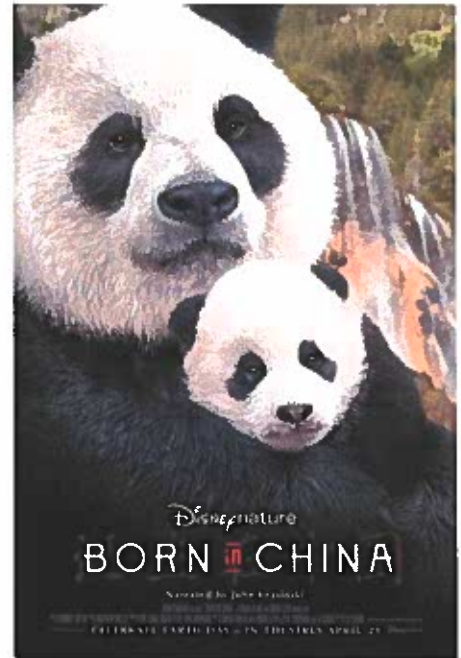
Featuring stunning imagery, the film navigates the vast terrain—from the frigid mountains to the heart of the bamboo forest—on the wings of a red-crowned crane, showcasing remarkably intimate family moments captured on film for the first time ever."

Our evening will begin at 6:00 PM with a pizza dinner.
Soft drinks will be served with dinner.

Born in China will begin at 7:00 PM.

Dinner: Adults - \$6; Children under 12 - free

For more information or to sign up for the dinner,
see Kathy Cerny or call the
church office at (201) 384-8932.



SOUTH CHURCH DEACONS FOOD DRIVE



Collection for the
Center for Food Action
In Englewood, NJ

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Cranberry Sauce
- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Yams
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Hearty Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Cereal

- Dry Milk
- Canned Fruit
- Instant Potatoes
- 100% Juice
- Baby Formula & Diapers
(sizes 4, 5, & 6)
- Bar Soap
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Supermarket Gift Cards

Bring you donations to the
Church House hallway.

Donations will be accepted
during the months of
October, November & December.





CHRISTIAN NURTURE

Bible Study

everyone is welcome

Our fall Adult Bible Study called "Living the Word" continues. We will read together the scripture lesson designated for the next Sunday and spend time studying and discussing it. No preparation needed other than your presence! Please join us on Sunday mornings after worship in the Leiby Lounge.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Next Bible Study

Monday, October 23rd

at 7:15pm

in the South Church

The 2017-2018 PW/Horizons Bible Study, "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews" by Melissa Bane Sevier started in September. Rev. Burnham will be leading the PW Horizons Bible Study in nine lessons. The next meeting will take place on Monday, October 23rd at 7:15pm in the lounge, all are welcome. The author Melissa Bane Sevier invites us to explore major themes found in Hebrews, relate these themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of community. Come and join us along with hundreds of thousands of thoughtful Christians who will be sharing this study together in the coming months.



Want to learn more about PW in our Presbytery and in the Synod?

Listed below are two links that you may want to check out to learn more about the missions and upcoming events sponsored by Presbyterian Women. To read the latest version of "The Patter" the Presbytery newsletter, check out this link on the Presbytery website.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-9bbkwJELZYQkl2MDIibUwyN0k/view>

In August Diane Nafash and Marion Gregg-Whited along with the Coordinating team from our Presbytery, attended the 2017 Synod of the Northeast Triennial Gathering held in Albany New York. The Theme of the gathering was "Household of Faith." While there, Diane made a video to be shown at the Fall Retreat held at the Claremont LaFayette United Presbyterian Church in Jersey City. The video is about 20 minutes long showing clips of some of the speeches and the closing worship service. It covers important topics on racism, immigration, peace and justice, and diversity. If you are interested in watching it on Youtube this is the link.

<https://youtu.be/S-zlFFjhTXY>

Enjoy!

MISSION

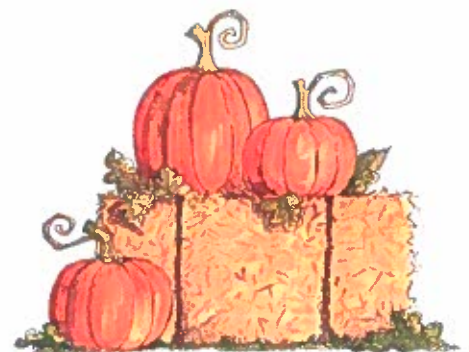
South Church Garden

Thanks to the hard work of
Fred Toeppe
and Mike Woods
our South Church Garden is
flourishing!

Over 800 pounds
of fresh produce

(including eggplant, zucchini, cucumbers,
and more!)

have been donated to the
Center For Food Action in
Englewood.





Let's hug our friends with prayer:

Let us hold in prayer:

Those in nursing homes:
Ceil Barry and Eleanor Hubner,
Woodcrest Health Care Center

Recovering in the care of her family:
Diane Cerny

One undergoing special treatment:
Louis Ocasio

There are no senior birthdays in October.

We give thanks to God for the healing and wholeness of all our members and friends.

Dear Lord, in a world that is filled with such uncertainty and empty promises, where things change from one day to the next, from one hour to the next. You alone are reliable. You alone are unchanging and always present. We can always count on You. You are good all the time. You never leave us on our own. Help us to see that. Help us to truly believe in Your presence in our lives and no longer feel your absence. Help us to stop trying to change You and instead start trying to change us. Help us to look to You, not as a last resort, but as our first choice, in all things. Amen

Diane Cerny and family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, visits and cards during the past four months.



Our South Church Family Prayer List:

Diane Cerny, Varghese KavanaKudiyil, Marilyn Kurtzmann, Bob Nafash, Louis Ocasio, Bob Wills,... and family & friends of our members: Elizabeth Adair, Dennis Campbell, Kenneth Carlson, Lynne Cooke, Sarah Crowley, Isabella DeRosa, Johnny Dwyer, Mary Rose Figueora, Larry Frye, Lynne Gillette, Ursula Handley, Janice Maat, James Pursell, Clinton Sanchez, Austin Stewart, Elyse Stewart, Norman Trass, Roselyn Veltre, Matt Wetherbee, Marion Gregg-Whited, Maryann plus the many others we hold in our hearts.

If you would like to place a name on our prayer list please be sure to get prior permission from them. You may call the Church Office to update the list at any time.

OCTOBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am Communion Worship & Church School 11:15 Bible Study	2 4:15 Gentle Yoga 7:00 Deacon's Mtg.	3 7:30 Troop 180	4 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 8pm AA	5 4:15 Mindful Yoga 7pm Cubs Mtg.	6 3:00 Wedding	7 9am Walking Club
8 10am Worship & Church School 11:15 Bible Study	9 4:15 Gentle Yoga	10 7:30 Troop 180	11 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 8pm AA 8pm Troop 180 - Committee Mtg.	12 4:15 Mindful Yoga 7pm Committee Meetings 7pm Cubs Mtg.	13	14 9am Walking Club 5pm Troop 180 - Court of Honor
15 10am Worship & Church School 11:15 Bible Study	16 4:15 Gentle Yoga	17 7:30 Troop 180	18 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 8pm AA	19 7pm Cubs Mtg.	20 6pm Family Movie Night-"Born in China" 	21 9am Walking Club 4:00 Wedding
22 10am Worship & Church School 11:15 Bible Study	23 4:15 Gentle Yoga 7:15 PW Bible Study	24 7:30 Troop 180	25 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 8pm AA	26 4:15 Mindful Yoga 7pm Session Mtg. 7pm Cubs Mtg.	27	28 9am Walking Club 6pm Cubs - Halloween Party
29 10am Worship & Church School 11:15 Bible Study	30 4:15 Gentle Yoga	31 7:30 Troop 180 - Halloween Movie Night 				



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