

**South Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**
27 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Jared Rardin
Pastor

Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight
Minister of Spiritual Growth



Unabashedly Open, Unapologetically Christian, Decidedly Different

Phone: 603-224-2521 Fax: 603-224-2571 www.sochurch.org

THE OPEN DOOR

Seek...and ye shall find...Ask, and it shall be given...Knock, and the door shall be opened.



**"Mama Mia...You better
plan on being at the
Auction!"**

THAT'S AMORÉ
Saturday
November 14, 2009
5:30 pm

**Great Fun, Great Food,
Great Buys**

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RARDIN

Let Us Talents and Tongues (and Joy) Employ

This slightly modified hymn title came to me as I thought about the new cycle of stewardship we are living into at South Church and particularly this season of prayerfully pondering the talents we can offer to God as part of our life of faith.

Let's begin with **Tongues**. Have you noticed lately? We've had lots of new first-time worshippers each Sunday since Labor Day. Something is going on. The Spirit is moving. People are venturing out of their comfort zones to worship with us. They are coming in part because someone specifically invited them, and in part because they are serious about getting to know God better. So, in this season of pondering our Talents, let's not forget that one talent we all share is the talent of telling our stories. Let us employ our tongues to keep spreading the love we experience in one another's company as we journey with God.

"Talents." I am proud of the way we prayerfully approached the question about whether or not to continue our shelter ministry for another year. People were very "differentiated." Folks listened to one another and were not deflated by the realization that others did not share their opinion. We gave each other ample room to be in different places at the same time, and in fact honored those differences. Those who were energized to continue the ministry were appreciated. Those who simply needed to take a Sabbath or to follow a different sense of calling were equally appreciated.

Recognizing our talents begins with rejoicing in what makes us unique. Think your ability to make high-quality recordings is of no use to God? Talk to the choir about their upcoming recording project. Think your passion for simple conversation is of no help? You'd rethink your answer after spending an hour with a member who is housebound. Whatever uniquely stirs your energies and your imagination, we ask you to share it with South Church...soon! You should have received a green sheet (if not, they abound) asking you to share with us your passions, interests and talents. We're serious about it, so please fill it out and bring it in to church. We will respond!

The wonderful paradox is that the more of us who are truly using our different talents, the more we will feel like we're moving in the same direction. Which brings me to joy.

Joy. This summer, during the Jersey Girl's Parable of the Talents Initiative, I kept recalling Frederick Beuchner's frequently cited definition of a vocation: "Vocation is the place where your deep gladness meets the world's great need." When given free reign to go to our imaginative, "glad" places this summer, the result was an energetic and creative outpouring of self and of joy. Did you feel it?

This fall, let's take the Stewardship Ministry's challenge to heart: let's listen prayerfully to the ways in which our talents can be an outpouring for the good of the church. But in doing so, let's do so for the simple goal of sharing joy. Sometimes the greatest joy occurs when our talents bring us into contact with another child of God.

As the Al Carmines hymn states so well:

*Many gifts, one spirit, one love shown in many ways;
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, one Word, one Spirit, one God
Known in many ways, hallowing our days,
For the Giver for the gifts, Praise, Praise, Praise!*

THAT'S AMORÉ

November 14, 2009 5:30pm
Fellowship Hall and Chapel

Have you noticed how many South Church members are now speaking Italian? Ciao! Have you noticed the attractive, colorful café table in Fellowship Hall as a pre-glimpse of the transformation the hall and chapel will undergo on the eve of November 14th? Have you gone to the South website (www.sochurch.org) and checked out the auction items, as well as the various goods and services that are being offered up in the spirit of "that's amoré"? Did you share the memorable moment of the visit and prayerful blessing extended to South members by "Mama Loren"?

Do you recall the "deelicious" ethnic foods at the 2007 auction? Well this 2009 edition, "That's Amoré," will feature an Italian piazza, a Fountain of Trevi where you can make a wish, as well as mountains of delicious antipasto. One can graze and gaze leisurely whilst browsing the silent auction and speak "grazie, grazie." Also, do ready your wallet or card for spirited bidding when the live auction items appear. Repeat, do visit the church web site (www.sochurch.org) and decide now when you will visit that villa in Tuscany, or where you will place one of the various art objects in your home.

As Mama Loren said, "you

people of South Church have such great passion and love for others, and your many ministries reach out to the needy. God be with you and bless you while you taste the gusto of the Italian antipasto, and shout out your bids with joyful force." She added, " my spirit will be with you, and I shall sing and dance with any children in child care service."

Also, auction booklets can be picked up at the Sanctuary doors as well as in the church office.

Ciao...until Saturday, November 14 at 5:30pm

SOUTH CHURCH GOLF FOR EL SALVADOR

On a recent cold windy Sunday, 12 South golfers gathered in their annual Golf for El Salvador. The players were grouped in ability range and Captained by veteran participants. The format includes a unique feature whereby certain players may exercise an option to throw, toss or roll a ball at no cost of a stroke. This results in some amazing low scores for the contested nine holes. Captain Peter Imse, along with Faye Craighead and newcomer Seth Stoddard notched the winning score of 22, followed closely by team Cilley and Linda Kenison at 23. Oh yes, the group collaboratively raised \$400 to support a youth scholarship through Epilogos, as well as provide a device to enable clean potable water for a family.

FOOD COLLECTIONS

The colder months are coming and the food pantries will be visited by many people needing assistance. Please bring a non-perishable food item with you to worship on Sunday and place it in the collection boxes in the Sanctuary or in the shopping cart in the Outreach Closet. Each month the food gets delivered to a different food pantry within the Concord area. Your donations are extremely important and very much appreciated.

TABLEAU

The Christmas tableau will be on Wednesday, January 6 at 5:30pm. This year we will be performing "Christmas Hangups" by Dennis and Nan Allan. Rehearsal begins on Sunday, November 29 at 12noon in the chapel. All children ages four and older are welcome to participate in this performance. If you have any questions, please contact Alison or Carlos. See the News From the Pews for the full schedule.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

As most of you know, the church server went down. It is restored but we have found a few files missing - one of them being our list of people who do not have computers (if you are one of those people, please let Mae know). Please bear with us during this time..

MUSIC HAPPENINGS



NARNIA

auditions coming up soon!

This spectacular musical by C.S. Lewis will be presented to the South Church community in March 2010. On Sunday, November 8 and November 22 we will be reading through the play right after the 10:00 service in the Sanctuary. This drama is worth your participation - great songs, fun story, wonderful fellowship with other people - it's a microcosm of the Church of Christ all in one!

Auditions will be held on November 22, so think and pray about which part sounds right for you - A Good Guy, a Bad Guy, one of the main characters (Peter, Susan, Edmund, Lucy, The White Witch, Aslan).



Hope to see you
there!

Mark

FISCAL YEAR CHANGES

The Stewardship Committee has proposed changing the fiscal year from January 1-December 31 to July 1-June 30. We need you to make your pledge to cover the January –June 2010 period. Please complete the pledge card sent to you in early October and return it to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you.