



# MARKINGS

JUNE 2017

A publication of  
South Acton  
Congregational  
Church

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Welcome to South Acton Congregational Church. The foundation of our beloved church rests on God's unconditional love and boundless grace. We seek to know God and follow the teachings of Jesus.

We welcome people of every race and culture who are young and old; single, married and divorced. We welcome people of every physical, mental and intellectual ability; sexual orientation and gender identity; every educational background and economic circumstance. We believe diversity enriches our faith community.

All people are made in God's image. You are invited to continue your faith journey with us.

## From Liz...

**In the beginning, God created the earth.** We will be wrestling with what it means to be made in the image of God this June. What we understand about ourselves influences what we believe about God. What we understand about the created world influences what we believe about God.

Did God create mosquitos on purpose, or by mistake? The evolution of species that don't seem to do much "good" to the world challenge our understanding of God. In a larger context, the evolution of people who are willing to harm others can challenge our understanding of God.

What part of us is made in God's image? Are there parts of us that are not God-like? Is there a way for us to connect to that God-image within us? Is there a way for us

to understand God-ness in a deeper way?

For Christians, we have a model of God-ness in Jesus. He is called "son of God" which implies something about his divinity, but he is also called "son of man" which implies something about his human-ness.



Interestingly, Jesus himself says that we can become "born anew" as "children of God". That is, at least to my reading, if he is "son of God" and I am "child of God" then surely we are siblings?

But wait, Jesus seems to be so much more than I am. Jesus seems to be a model, but a model to behavior I cannot actually attain. Thus the theologian Walter Wink suggests that Jesus is "the ultimate human being". He is more human than any human has ever been in living out our "created in the image of God-ness".

If that's getting too philosophical for you, I suggest another question for this June--**what would you do if you thought that what you were doing--all the time--was being God in the world? Would you behave differently? How?** Lets spend some time this month grappling with our God-ness.

~Liz



# From the Diaconate

As we move into Ordinary Time of the church year with the summer months just around the corner and our Annual meeting on **June 11th** the Diaconate will be saying good bye to Sarah Bradbury as she steps down from serving as a deacon. Sarah has been a great help to the deacons, and all of SACC, having served several terms as a deacon. Her calm, knowing manner has helped us work through tough issues and resolve various problems

that have arisen over the course of her tenure. I am personally very indebted to her for saving me from more than one crisis as I often forgot who was supposed to do what when, but Sarah always knew! We thank her for all her years of service as a deacon and ask just one thing of her as she steps down, please let me or your deacon know if you are interested in serving as an Usher or Greeter in the future.

As always, if there are any

issues or needs you wish to bring to the attention of the deacons you can contact your assigned deacon (see below) or let me know at [DeaconChair@SouthActionCC.org](mailto:DeaconChair@SouthActionCC.org).

## Peter Babcock

Deacon Names	Last
Amber Klauer	A & B
Sarah Bradbury	C & E
Bob Van Meter	D, F & G
Judy Hodge	H thru K
Laurie Thibodeau	L thru N
Angela Aaronson	O thru S
Steve Hadden	T thru Z

# Congregational News

Happy Spring! The weather has sure been keeping us on our toes hasn't it? 90 degrees one day, 45 the next! As we are so used to saying, "that's New England weather for you!"

We have our Annual Meeting on Sunday, **June 11** right after church - please make an effort to join us as we will be voting on additions to committees, by-law changes and getting an update from the search committee.

We were so lucky to have gorgeous weather for the recent Church work day. Thank you to Steve

Hadden for organizing it and to all those who were able to come out and do some work for part of the day. There are lots of projects that folks can do anytime. Please check in with Steve if you have a couple hours free on a weeknight or weekend and want to help out.

If you haven't had a chance to stop in and say hi to our Church Administrator Karen Fisk, please do! She is a wonderful addition to our church staff. She is in the office on Tues and Thurs 9 AM - 2 PM for sure.

I'm so thankful for our sweet church and all the thoughtful, caring people. We are truly blessed. Enjoy the summer, and although I'm away all summer, I'm only an email or phone call away if you need me ~ or if you get to the Vineyard, make sure you say hi!

All the best,

**Pam Rogers**  
Board Chair  
[rogers989@verizon.net](mailto:rogers989@verizon.net)  
508.259.4947

# Greetings from the Office!

I have been here for three months now, and I think the dust is starting to settle. I want to take a moment to thank all of you for making me feel so welcome here. This is a wonderful church filled with warm, caring people, and I'm very happy to have found a place here.

One thing I have been working on since my arrival is the calendar. There is a lot more happening at SACC than just worship on Sunday! My goal is to get the

online calendar as complete as possible, so you can always check to see if there is something happening. If you have items to add, or if meeting dates change, please let me know and I will update the calendar. Please check it out at <http://southactoncc.org/events/>.

Another project I'm working on right now is recruiting Liturgists. I have a list of people who have served in the past, but new faces are always welcome! Being new

here, I'm not sure whom to ask. So please, let me know if you're willing to help! I have most Sundays in June and July available. It doesn't take much time, and Sharing the Faith is always optional.

Again, thank you for your warm welcome, and please feel free to stop in and say hello! My hours for the summer (starting the week of June 19th) are Tuesday – Thursday from 10:00 – 2:00.

**Karen Fisk**  
info@southactoncc.org



## Worship for June

### June 4: PENTECOST

Communion Sunday

Wear red to celebrate the coming of the Holy spirit and the birthday of the church!

Acts 2:1-21

### June 11: CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

The story of Abraham and Sarah

### June 18: FATHER'S DAY

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

### June 25: WORSHIP AT 9:30am

at SOUTH ACTON

## Cleaning Teams for June

6/3 Angela Aaronson's Team

6/10 Jane Epstein's Team

6/17 Judy Hodge's Team

6/24 Bill Klauer's Team

7/1 Becky Hadden's Team



# Search Committee Update



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*  
— Margaret Mead

The Search Committee has been meeting weekly and working in between meetings since January to reach our first huge milestone – the completion of our Church Profile. This is the 44-page document that potential candidates will read to learn about us and decide if they are interested in sending us their resume. It contains information about our past, significant events that have shaped us as a church, who we are now, demographics and values of the community around us, demographics and values of our congregation, goals we have for our minister and for us, our financial health, and much more.

The Church Profile is done!! We just sent it off to the Massachusetts UCC Conference. We continue to be grateful for all the work the Interim Committee has done to help pave the way -doing surveys, organizing congregational meetings where we talked about how we want our minister to spend their time and what our individual passions were in our individual

ministries. All that information gathered in advance was extremely helpful to us. Another piece of preparatory work the committee undertook was to interview our community leaders – to help us learn more about the surrounding community, its needs, and its perceptions of us as a church. We will be sharing that in the Annual Report.

The next tasks for the committee will be to write a brief "Want Ad" that the conference will circulate for us and to get training to prepare us for reading resumes, conducting interviews, and coming to consensus. Before too much time passes, we hope to be reading resumes.

In anticipation of welcoming a new minister and embarking on a revitalization process, some of the committee members attended Super Saturday, a UCC Conference with valuable workshops. Two workshops of particular interest were "Signs of a Vital Church" and "Crafting a Mission Statement."

Patti Babcock and Judy McKendry shared what was learned about these topics during Sunday worship this past month.

In both workshops, one message came through loud and clear – Vital churches are churches who are very clear on their reason for being, their vision, their "Why." What they do as an organization grows out of that vision.

As we go through the revitalization process with our new minister, we will develop that vision together. It will be a wonderful opportunity. Our vision will be based on our strengths. It will be a simple statement of our reason for being. Our vision for SACC will be WHY God put our church right where it is, with the people we have, in the period of time we are in, surrounded by the thousands who need God's love. Our vision for SACC will be unique to us.

Submitted by  
**Judy McKendry**,  
on behalf of the Search Committee