



# ON THE COMMON

## October 2024

Newsletter of Slatersville Congregational Church

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## From the Pastor's Desk...

BY PASTOR SEAN

As I sat down in my office to write for this month's newsletter, I noticed the time – and instead of writing, I paused. It was 2:58pm. About a minute later, I began to hum along to the chimes emerging from our church's carillon: it was "The Old Rugged Cross," George Bennard's beloved devotional song. Amidst the crispness of an early autumn afternoon, Slatersville Congregational Church – and the Common, and the streets surrounding our house of worship – were all immersed in that beautiful Christian message.

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame;  
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best, for a world of lost sinners was slain.  
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lie down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday for a crown.

Melodic and sentimental, carillons are multi-belled percussion instruments often housed in a church's belltower or belfry: they're tall, expensive, and often one of the the first things that a church will stop maintaining when money gets tight. Typically, carillons are also a point of debate with those who might live alongside a church – especially if those who live nearby don't attend worship. But for a new or visiting pastor, a working carillon – one that is automated to chime on the hour, for instance – often acts as a testament to the congregation's ability to continue to care for itself: to continue to maintain its history, its commitment to presence and engagement with the outside world, and (of course) its ability to share a musical, soul-stirring Christianity to which no preacher can compare.

(Continued)...



## From the Pastor's Desk ... (Cont.)

Our church's carillon was (per a board of dedication in Globe Hall) "given to the Glory of God and to the Slatersville Congregational Church" in October of 2004 by the Kenoian Family – by Harold, Lillian, Chuck, and Robin Kenoian with additional support from Kevin and Janet Hartman as well as Michael and Kristen Brissette. Of all those mentioned on dedication board, I have only had the pleasure of meeting Lillian – and what a spritely, engaging person she is to this day! The story of the carillon is an interesting one, and I highly advise that you reach out to Lillian to hear it – it's hers to tell, after all. From my perspective, our carillon acts as evidence of the profound impact one person (or one family) can make in a community – an impact we all hear at the end of church service, not to mention the end of every hour. For twenty years, the Kenoian carillon has tickled the ears – and hearts, and minds – of our wider community.

Having spent many hours at the church (with many more to come), the carillon has become one of my many "Slatersville friends": it greets me upon my entry to the church during the week, reminds me when we should be wrapping up service, and never fails to cause me to stop what I'm doing – putting down my hands, resting my fingers away from my laptop, closing whatever book from which I'm taking notes – so that I can listen and reflect. During this period of reflection, my mind wandered to the Kenoians and to Lillian – to members of our congregation, to contributors to the history of Slatersville, who are either no longer in our midst or no longer capable of being with us and yet continue to enrich and inform us. Our church acts as testament to these legacies. In Globe Hall, for instance, one can view a small plaque memorializing those members of our choir who have since passed: those whose voices we might still hear, whose contributions to our church are still felt through memory and history. Folks here don't forget, and rightfully so: your history is beautiful.

(Continued)...

### OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Gretchen Westhoven, Moderator  
Ruth Mills, Clerk  
Jean Meo, Financial Clerk  
Margaret Hanoian, Treasurer

### CHURCH STAFF

Sean Amato, Minister  
Donna Myers, Administrator  
Ropi Manuel, Music Director  
Jill Boday, Handbell Choir  
Patricia Renaud, Organist  
Hope Paul, Nursery Attendant  
Romeo Mendes, Sexton

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Ruth Mills, Caring  
Michell Eskeli, Diaconate  
Jim Robshaw, Hospitality  
Bob Meo, Stewardship  
Martha Hunt, Music  
Rick Stelle, Property  
Terri DeBoise, Missions  
George Briggs, Christian Ed  
Bob Meo, Fundraising, Projects

### DIACONATE

Michell Eskeli, Chairperson  
Christine Bonas  
Marilyn Briggs  
Marsha Brodeur  
Richard Brodeur  
Sandy Gamache  
Martha Hunt  
Darlene Magaw  
April McAllister  
Stephen Wowk





## Sunday School is Back!

Sunday School returns to Slattersville Congregational Church on Sunday, October 13! We are so excited to have your children join us again as we learn more about Jesus and have fun together again this Season! We'll see them in class on the 13th!

## All are Welcome To Try Handbells!

The SCC Handbell Choir will be performing during church services about once per month. We will be playing on October 20 here at church. Our small group will be playing at Mathewson St. Church in Providence on October 27th! We are looking forward to sharing our music!

Please join us: we rehearse every Thursday at 6:30pm!

## From the Pastor's Desk ... (Cont.)

And what delights me, as both a pastor and a churchgoer, is how firmly this congregation wields its own story as it moves forward: how often congregants speak about the church's history when talking about its future, how willing the congregation is to reflect upon what it has been in determining what it will be. And during these times of delight, my mind turns to our carillon and its upcoming 'birthday.' Slattersville, is there any part of our history that you feel deserves more attention – any part of our history that you think we might gain from discussing, gain from reflecting upon?

Let's honor our history by keeping it alive, Slattersville, so that it might enrich the next generation of churchgoers. Joyous carillons, special pews, little plaques, big histories, sheafs of paper and historical Bibles: I urge you (yes, you) to reflect upon not just the past of this church, but how we might utilize the past to make the most of the future.

What part of your time here has been the most enriching, and who might deserve appreciation for having contributed to it? Has your family contributed to the legacy of this place – and if so, how might you hope to be memorialized? As we venture through this new season together, I urge you to reflect: what part of this church do you love...and how might we maintain those parts for who comes next? What will Slattersville 'be' for the next generation?

Let's start to talk about it, friends. In the meantime, I'll be basking in the music of the Kenoian carillon.

Pastor Sean Amato



## Missions Moment

BY TERI DEBOISE

At our September meeting, the Missions Committee voted to donate \$500 to New Beginnings, Inc. The Boston Sunday Globe, in the August 11 issue, ran an article focusing on the difficulties low-income individuals and families in Woonsocket have in obtaining food for themselves and their families. With only one grocery store within the city, and many lacking transportation to the store or money to purchase food, many residents are facing food insecurity and hunger. One in five residents in Woonsocket live in poverty.

New Beginnings is one of the social service agencies in Woonsocket trying to help feed those who are in need in Woonsocket and the surrounding communities. Operating out of St. James Episcopal Church on Hamlet Avenue, New Beginnings provides a hot, healthy lunch Monday through Thursday, serving 84 to 145 meals each day. For many, this is the only meal they will have all day. About 75% of those who come to New Beginnings for meals are homeless, or unhoused. We hope to find other ways to partner with New Beginnings in the future.

The Missions Committee is also preparing for our Blessing Bags Ministry. Please see the article within this month's On-The-Common with details for our packaging date during Coffee Hour on October 20, 2024. We hope to see you there!

## N. Smithfield Food Pantry October

For the month of **October**  
Food Pantry hours are:

Saturday 10/19 @10:00am  
Tuesday 10/22 @ 5:30pm  
Saturday 10/26 @10:00am  
Tuesday 10/29 @ 5:30pm

This month we are asking  
for donations of canned  
soup, dry pasta and tuna.





## Fundraising News... BY JEAN MEO

Pumpkin Fest 2024 is over and, due to the horrible weather, it was not as successful as it has been in past years. We sold about 120 apple dumplings, lost money on the pizzas and did not even offer ice cream sundaes due to the weather. However, the GOOD NEWS is that our reputation and tradition of the apple dumplings continues! At least ten people said that the only reason they came out that day was to get our dumplings!! Hooray and kudos to all!

The Apple Dumpling Gang (kitchen crew) on Friday was terrific. The apples were peeled and cored, the dough was rolled, the apples were wrapped, and the dumplings were baking within a couple of hours. The kitchen and Globe Hall smelled delicious! The Gang outdid themselves as usual and realized (we hope!) the FUN part of Fundraising as they worked so diligently!!

We could not have done it without all the help we received both Friday and Saturday in so many different ways – peeling, coring, rolling dough, setting up our booths, selling our goodies, cleaning up. A huge Thank You to everyone who participated and helped out. Our success is due to your efforts and we appreciate your willingness to show up! It takes a village – and you made it all happen!

The September Trivia Night was a lot of fun and very successful. Dinner was delicious, fellowship was fabulous, trivia questions were very difficult! The winning team, The Flying Magenta Tigers, was led by the Boday Family. Congratulations!! Thanks to Chief Chef Rick Stelle and his planning for this event!

We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions for fun activities and ways to spend time together. Put your thinking caps on and let us know your ideas!!

## Apple Dumplin' Gang - Sept 20th



## North Smithfield Great Pumpkin Festival - Sept 21st





# BLESSING BAGS

## The Blessing Bags Ministry

Come Fill a Bag on [October 20, 2024!](#)

Grab your cup of coffee and come fill a Blessing Bag directly after church during Coffee Hour on October 20, 2024. What is a Blessing Bag? If you're new to a church, it is a continuing ministry our congregation has undertaken to provide a bag of basic essentials to those in need in our community. After collecting the donated items listed below, we will gather as a church family on October 20th and assemble the bags, including an encouragement card, which will then be given out with caring to those without shelter this fall.

What can you do to help? Between now and October 13th, you can drop off your items. **Our greatest needs at this time are Deodorant, Body Wipes, Pouches of Tuna or Chicken Salad, Mini First-Aid Kits and Beef Jerky or Meat Sticks. The full list of needs will be posted Sunday October 6th in Church.** Our congregation is always so generous, and we are looking forward to continuing our message of giving and kindness through this service project. Thank you so much!

BY ALISON PEIRCE AND  
KRISTEN KOLOSKI

### INDIVIDUALLY-WRAPPED FOOD ITEMS

- \*Box of Granola bars
- \*Box of \*Energy bars
- \*Box of Trail mix bags
- \*Tuna/chicken pouches
- \*Beef jerky
- \*Raisins
- \*Fruit cups

### TRAVEL-SIZED TOILETRIES

- \*Toothpaste/Mouthwash
- \*Deodorant
- \*Small Bars of Soap Combs
- \*Bandaid
- \*Chapstick



# What's Happening?

## Upcoming Events...

**Sun October 6** @ 4pm - Hymn Sing  
E. Blackstone Quaker Mtg. House

**Sun October 13** @ 10am -  
1st Day of Sunday School

**Thur October 17** @ 11am -  
Homeless Memorial Service  
Mathewson Street Church

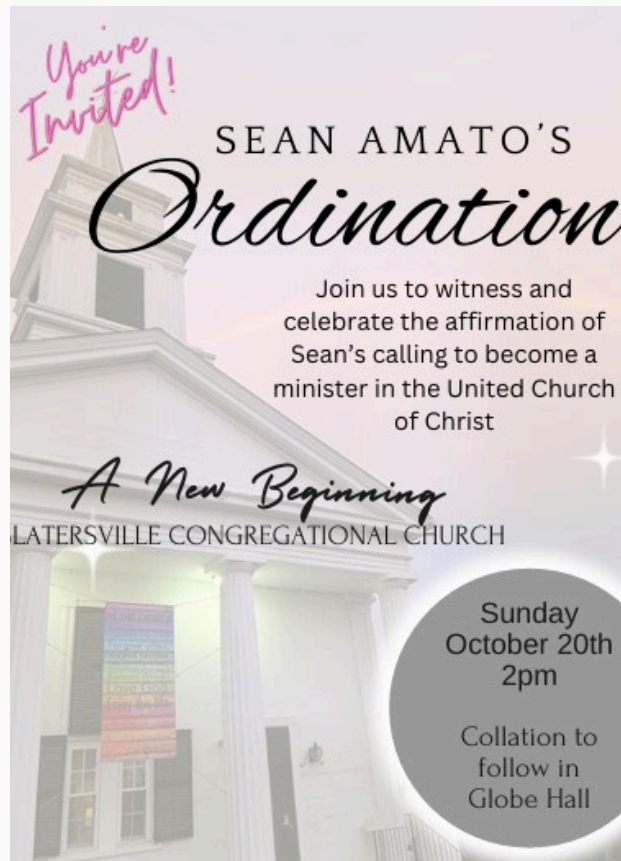
**Sun October 20** @ Coffee Hour  
Blessing Bag Assembly

**Sun October 20** @ 2:00pm, SCC  
Pastor Sean's Ordination Service

**Sun October 27** @ 10am  
SCC Handbells Quintet at Mathewson  
Street Church, Providence

**Sundays** - During Coffee Hour  
Topics Bible Study in Globe Hall

**Tuesdays** on Zoom @ 7:00pm  
Bible Study



## From Our Friends at Mathewson Street Church...

With the cooler temperatures arriving, our unhoused community members are in need of the following items:

### **Coats, Sweaters, Hats, Gloves, Blankets, 1 or 2 Man Tents**

If you have clothes to donate, please contact John Staples at (774) 307-0320 to arrange for pick up. You can also contact Helen Lupu at SCC to drop them off. Helen's phone numbers are: Home: (401) 769-4306 and Cell: (401) 480-3018.

The generosity of SCC is greatly appreciated! Thank You Very Much!

