

September 11, 2025

WEEKLY QUIPS HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER

SOUTH PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC



Pastor Nathan Richards' Message

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?" (Luke 15:3-4)

The parables that are Jesus' response to the pharisees' grumbling still have the power to expose the roots of bitterness that dig their way into us whenever we feel that God is too good to others and not good enough to us. Typically, many people want mercy for themselves but justice for others. The parable of the lost sheep exposes the grudging spirit that prevents us from receiving God's mercy. As Jesus would have us understand, only those who can celebrate God's grace shared with others can experience that mercy themselves.



God's love does not settle for the ninety-nine; it searches tirelessly for the one who is lost, until every heart is found

A Joyful Celebration in the Kennebec River This past Sunday was a very special day in the life of our church family.

Pastor Nathan led a beautiful baptism service in the Kennebec River, where we joyfully welcomed Prince Miranda-Watler and his sister Arianna into the Christian faith through emersion baptism. Surrounded by family, friends, and our supportive church community, Prince and Arianna made their public commitment to follow Christ. The river flowed gently as we witnessed this sacred moment—a reminder of God’s renewing love and the power of new beginnings. Please join us in celebrating and praying for Prince and Arianna as they continue their journey of faith. May their lives be filled with God’s grace, joy, and light.

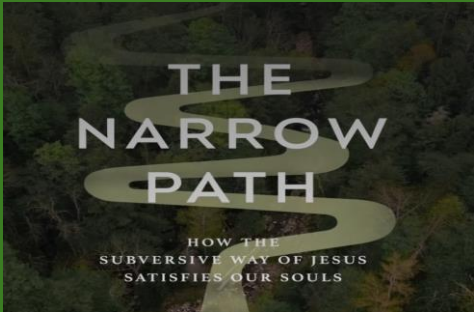


Baptism at South Parish Have you been thinking about baptism? We welcome all who wish to take this step of faith—you do **not** need to be a member of our church.

When the weather permits, we offer **full-emersion baptisms outdoors** as a powerful and memorable expression of new life in Christ.

If you’re interested or would like to learn more, please reach out—we’d love to walk with you on this journey.

Pastor Nathan’s Video Choice of the week



Scan the
QR Code
To Watch



The Narrow Path

Rich Villodas

Description: **How the Subversive Way of Jesus Satisfies Our Souls**

Modern life often overloads us with choices. What we think, how we act, and, ultimately, where our lives are headed are all influenced by what we value. For Christians, if we aren’t intentional with our choices, we can wind up far from where God intends us to be.

Click Here

<https://app.rightnowmedia.or>

Wellness Fair at NRF is always a great time! So many wonderful organizations offering their amazing services to the community! NRF Distributors thank you for invite again this year 🧡💙💜....and the sweet doggy I wanted to take home! She’s up for adoption at the Waterville Humane Society and is just precious 🐶



✦ NOW HIRING! ✦ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR (PART-TIME)

Join Our Team as a Christian Education Director!

South Parish Congregational Church UCC in Augusta, Maine, is seeking a part-time Christian Education Director. This role involves designing and leading faith formation programs for all ages, coordinating Sunday School and seasonal programs, and supporting volunteers.

Ideal Candidate:

- *Passionate about inclusive ministry and spiritual formation*
- *Experienced in Christian education or related fields*
- *Strong communicator and team collaborator*
- *Organized and self-motivated*

To Apply: Send your resume and a brief cover letter to Pastor Nathan Richards at 9 Church Street, Augusta, Maine, or email southparish@gmail.com. Application deadline: September 30th, 2025.

DOWNLOAD APPLICATION HERE

OR SCAN THE QR CODE WITH
YOUR CAMERA



Exploring a Youth Group at Parish—We'd Love Your Input!"

South

Are you ready to spark new connections and adventures for our teens at South Parish?

We're exploring the launch of a Youth Group and want to know if there's interest—and energy—to gather for fun, faith, and fellowship.

What might we do together?

Please let us know!

Email southparish@gmail.com or call Marcel at (207) 622-0552.

Your feedback will shape our first gathering—so don't be shy! Compassion, curiosity, and a sense of humor are all welcome.

Church Bulletin Posting

Calling all teens and parents: interested in a South Parish Youth Group?

Faith • Fun • Fellowship

Email youth@southparish.org or call Marcel at (207) 622-0552 by to express interest.

Help us build something amazing—your ideas count!



“Miss Becky and Miss Beth are wonderful. My daughter loved her time at SPNS!”
Nicole Giroux

Big News, Parents!
We’ve got a new phone number → 207-620-2312

South Parish Nursery School still has a few spots open in our two-day and four-day programs!
We’d love to welcome your little one into our amazing community.

Want to see our school? We’re happy to set up a private tour just for you and your child.

Call us at 207-620-2312
Email: spschool4u@gmail.com

We’re excited to meet you!
Beth Sirabella, Director

“My son Charlie attended preschool at S. Parish. I always say, I could never have left him at any other place! Miss Beth and Miss Becky are the most caring, sweet, kind humans you will ever find! I honestly feel from the beginning he learned to love school from these fabulous ladies! He is now a junior in high school and still loves school! ❤️ Thanks for all of the wonderful memories!
We love Miss Beth and Miss Becky at South Parish Nursery School! ❤️ We will never be able to express our gratitude for all they have done for our family. Thank you, ladies! “

Angela DeSchamp

“We love Miss Beth and Miss Becky at South Parish Nursery School! ❤️ We will never be able to express our gratitude for all they have done for our family. Thank you, ladies!
Miss Beth and Miss Becky are wonderful educators who welcome diversity and love children, gently guiding them in all domains of developmental growth.”

Mary Tibbetts Mohammed

“Miss Beth and Miss Becky are wonderful educators who welcome diversity and love children, gently guiding them in all domains of developmental growth.”

Wendy Merrill Jackson





12 Years Without Judy—
Let's Walk for a Future Without Myeloma
"Step by Step Toward a Cure: Support Our 5K
for Judy,
9/13"



Walk for Judy's Memory – Support Kathy & Dan in the Multiple Myeloma 5K

September is coming up, and the annual Multiple Myeloma Research 5K Walk/Run is 9/13/2025 in Boston.

My team walks in memory of my "little" sister, Judy Bourassa Joy, who died 12 years ago at age 49, after just a 3 month battle with an aggressive form of the disease.



**Step Up with Kathy & Dan
Every Dollar Fights Myeloma**

Funds raised go towards research, in hopes of finding a cure so no one has to go through such a loss again. If you feel you can donate, that would be very much appreciated.
Thank you. Kathy

Scan QR code with your phone's Camera

Together, our footsteps carry the promise of a tomorrow free from myeloma



Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center: Staff Hiring Soon!

The Augusta Emergency Overnight Warming Center is preparing to open its doors for the upcoming season—and we're getting ready to hire and train dedicated staff members to join our team!

If you're passionate about helping others and want to make a difference in our community, stay tuned for more information and upcoming job postings. We'll be sharing details soon about available positions, qualifications, and how to apply.

Keep an eye on our page for updates and help us spread the word!

Together, we can provide warmth, safety, and support to those who need it most.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

OR SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR CAMERA:



Bridging the Gap Monthly Report

AUGUST 2025

TOTAL UNDUPLICATED INDIVIDUALS REACHED IN 2025 TO DATE: 2,971 (ytd in 2024: 2,936)

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS REPORTING “NO PERMANENT RESIDENCE”: 123 (ytd in 2024: 175)

SERVICE STATISTICS FOR JULY

Addie’s Attic:

- Total Households served: 271 (same month 2024: 2)
- Total unduplicated individuals served: 863 (same month 2024: 813)

Basic Essentials Hygiene Pantry:

- Total Households served: 318 (same month 2024: 294 / 7.5% increase)
- Unduplicated individuals served: 1029 (same month 2024: 1014 / 1.47%increase)
- Percentage of individuals who are New Mainers: 43.44%

RESOURCE CONNECTION & SUPPORT

The Resource Department handles multiple calls a day. The nature and outcome of each call is different. People might be directed to a different or additional resource; asked to call back with more information so BTG can better assess and assist; or BTG might agree to assist financially. BTG often works with other funding sources to fully meet a request that is beyond what BTG can support alone. When other agencies’ funds are depleted, BTG must be even more discerning.

Number of calls/emails/walk-ins received: 109+

Number of individuals directly served: 26

Note: The number of individuals served represents hands-on cases, sometimes in collaboration with another program/agency, and/or BTG supported the individual financially. It does not represent the number of individuals who simply received a pamphlet or phone number

August 2025	YEAR TO DATE 2025
Hotel = \$0	Hotel = \$0
Recovery Housing = \$1,928.00	Recovery Housing = \$3,090.00
Rooming House = \$0	Rooming House = \$0
Rental Assistance = \$1,865.00	Rental Assistance = \$5,190.00
Security Deposit = \$0	Security Deposit = \$2,948.00
Housing Other = \$0	Housing Other = \$2,206.00
Utilities = \$785.63	Utilities = \$3,834.20
Heating Assistance = \$0	Heating Assistance = \$3,527.20
ID/Birth Certificate = \$0	ID/Birth Certificate = \$15.00
Car Repairs = \$158.82	Car Repairs = \$1,084.16
Gas = \$40.00	Gas = \$1,030.00
Taxi/Concord/Greyhound = \$317.41	Taxi/Concord/Greyhound = \$629.35
Phone/Phone Service = \$0	Phone/Phone Service = \$277.38
Other = \$385.00	Other = \$2,000.00
August TOTAL = \$5,479.86	August YTD TOTAL = \$25,831.29

Bridging the Gap offered direct/indirect support with matters including:

Moral Support	Greyhound Bus Ticket
Recovery Residence	Gas Cards
Housing	Connecting/Directing to other resources
Rent	Utilities
Car Repair	Septic Tank cleaning

Agency(s) or Person(s) who referred individual to BTG:

1. VOA (Volunteers of America)	7. House FCG
2. ESM. Case Management	8. Augusta General Assistance
3. Kennebec Behavioral Health	9. Maine General
4. Self	10. Water Edge Therapy
5. In House	11. KVCAP
6. Anglez Behavioral Health	12. Community word mouth

Agency(s) or Person (s) BTG referred individuals to:

1. Starfish Village	6. Salvation Army
2. Mid Maine Homeless Shelter	7. Catholic Charities
3. Augusta General Assistance	8. Hope Baptist Church
4. Waterville General Assistance	9. Blessed Hope Church
5. Christ Church	10. MARR

Tabling at Bridging the Gap:

Groups	Sexual Assault & Crisis Support
SMART Recovery	Family Violence Project
CMP Community Connection	Options
Maine General Harm Reduction	SNAP
Maine Family Planning	Reproductive Empowerment Project

Upcoming Bridging the Gap Outreach:

1. In September, the Resource Department will represent Bridging the Gap and showcase our programs at two key community events: the City of Waterville’s 3rd Annual Community Collaborative: Support and Education at Head of Falls, and the Recovery Friendly Workplace Resource Fair at the Augusta Civic Center—a meaningful event, especially since Bridging the Gap became a proud member of the Recovery Friendly Workplace initiative in 2024.
2. The Resource Department will also be participating in the United Way’s Impact2032 Summit on October 28th. This important event brings together community leaders and partners to advance shared goals in health, education, and financial stability, creating lasting, positive change for Kennebec County. Bridging the Gap is thrilled to be part of this collective vision.
3. The Resource Department will be attending the United Way Breakfast on September 10 to help launch the 2025 campaign kick-off. This inspiring event will spotlight the voices and stories of those living the ALICE experience in our community – making ALICE UNIGNORABLE.

TELEHEALTH ACCESS POINT PROJECT

We’ve been in touch with Telehealth!! More on this exciting program launch to come!

VOLUNTEERS

Number of active volunteers in June: 12

Total hours: 1

PASTOR NATHAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Need a moment of prayer, a listening ear, or a friendly hello?



OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays:
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Wednesdays:
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon–Wed: 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Thursday: 7:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

SOUTH PARISH

Pastor Nathan's Office Hours

Looking to connect with Pastor Nathan for prayer, conversation, or pastoral care? He welcomes visits during his dedicated office hours:

- **Tuesdays:** 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Wednesdays:** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Whether you're seeking spiritual guidance or simply want to say hello, Pastor Nathan is here for you.

Church Office Hours

For general inquiries or administrative support, the church office is open:

- **Monday–Wednesday:** 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Thursday:** 7:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

Let's keep building a community of care, connection, and grace—one conversation at a time.

Stay Connected with South Parish Online Worship • Learn • Give • Grow



Watch Sunday Services Online. Join us live or catch up anytime!

Links to Watch

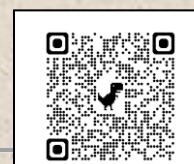
YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@southparishchurch9971>

Facebook

facebook.com/SouthParishAugusta

Scan the QR codes below or on our bulletin board to watch!



Monthly Church Newsletter

Stay inspired with reflections, updates, and events.

- southparishchurch.com
- Sign up for email delivery or download the latest issue.

Scan to read the newsletter now!

Church Website

Explore our ministries, events, and more.

- southparishchurch.com

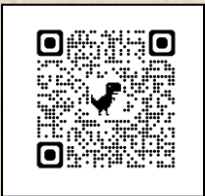
Scan to visit our homepage.



Online Giving

Support our mission with secure online donations.

- <https://southparishchurch.com/donate>
- One-time or recurring gifts welcome.



Scan to give online.

Thank you for being part of our vibrant, inclusive community. Together, we grow in faith—wherever we are.



Welcome to our community events posting!

We have a variety of activities and meetings to enrich your week. Please join us for any of the events listed below:

Weekly Events

Bible Study - Every Tuesday at 5:00 PM

AA Meetings

Monday through Friday at 7:15 AM and 12:00 PM

Monday evenings at 7:00 PM

Men's Breakfast Every Thursday at 6:30 AM

Line Dancing Every Monday at 6:00 PM

Monthly Events Pet Pantry

2nd Saturday of every month from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Trustee's Meeting 1st Tuesday of every month

Council Meeting 3rd Tuesday of every month,

**Deacons Meeting
4th Sunday after Church**

**Community Suppers
The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Saturday of the Month
4:30 pm to 5:30 pm**



“As Christ welcomed all to the table, so do we—with open hearts, open doors, and open arms. Here, there is room for everyone.”

(Inspired by Romans 15:7 – “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”)

