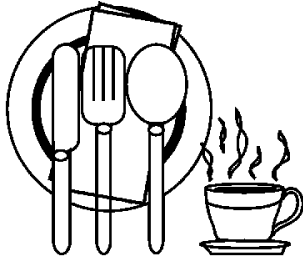


Old South First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
April 2009 Telstar



Remember to look for the sign up sheets posted in the vestry to help with the monthly Community Lunch. This month, lunch will be served on Saturday, April 11.



**I am the
resurrection
and the life**
John 11:25

A thought to take with you:

St. Teresa of Avila's "Bookmark"

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.*

Dear Church Family,

In my childhood and perhaps in yours, we gave something up for Lent. I was taught to give up my favorite food: chocolate. That hollow chocolate Easter bunny was always so delicious when it finally came! I know that some of us continue to practice this Lenten discipline – I have heard from several of you about what you and your children have given up this Lent. Chocolate seems to be a perennial choice, along with soda and other sweets.

A few years back, I realized that there was another choice we might make in Lent: that of taking something on in addition to or instead of giving something up. I read in a recent church newsletter sent to me by a friend from seminary about the large group of members and friends from her church who volunteer every Lenten Saturday in their local soup kitchen. Another church, one that my family attended, took a week each year during Lent to offer overnight hospitality to the homeless people in our area. This week, as I looked around our church, I realized that *we* had taken something on this Lent that is a wonderful gift to our wider community and to ourselves: the Warming Center that has been at Old South for the month of March.

We made the decision to participate in this ecumenical ministry because we wanted to help others. In this winter when the economy has dipped so low, we wanted to welcome in members of our wider community who needed a warm place to be and a hot meal. But I think we underestimated the gift that this would be to our church community. Around thirty volunteers from Old South, several of us in our late seventies and eighties, have participated in this outreach, recognizing the Christ in our guests as well as in each other. Others of us have supported this ministry with prayer and with donations of food. It has been a privilege to see the boundaries blur, as our church has opened to our community and as volunteers and guests have become one Body of Christ.

By the time you read this Telstar, the Warming Center will have ended for this year. But from its ending, there will be a new beginning, as Old South becomes a year-round weekly meal site for Seniors Plus starting on April 23rd. The new life of Easter is very tangible for us this year – thanks be to God!
Blessings and love,
Rev. Cathie

Serve the Lord with Gladness

My dear church family,
I am writing with exciting news. After being 'in discernment' for these three years, I find myself at a destination. The call to share God's word has manifested in my work as a "supply minister" aka "pulpit supply minister" or "fill-in minister" (as opposed to a "filling minister"!). The title isn't important however, what is important is knowing what my call is and what my call is not. It is clear that I am called to avail myself to ministers and congregations who need a fill in and that I am not called as a full-time minister to one church. It is a wonderful ministry both joyful and uncomfortable as God's calls seem to be. I plan to continue taking a class each semester while I fulfill my call to serve the Franklin Association churches as a supply minister. My experiences with the surrounding churches as well as Old South have helped me to see God's Will clearly and Rev. Cathie, Liz Marks, Sherry Jenckes and Stu Cameron have been extremely supportive keeping me on track. Yes, dear church family, you have been part of all of this discerning, your help, prayers, love and questions have been invaluable to me.
Thank you and God's blessings,
Paula Hammerick

Special Thanks!

A big thank you to all who volunteered with the Warming Center! Special thanks to Lynda and Dick Giard, our Kitchen Coordinators, and to Betsy Riley, our Volunteer Coordinator!



Prayer Shawls

Attention knitters and crocheters! We will have a blessing of prayer shawls next Sunday, March 29. If you have any ready, please bring them to church before worship starts. Please call Myrna Vallette at 778-4387 if you have any questions.

In addition, if you would like to join our knitting group for prayer shawls, we gather in Room Matthew in the Newman Wing extension on the first Sunday of every month at 4:00 pm. This month, we will knit with each other on April 5. For more information, contact Donna Wheeler or Patricia Hayden.

The church office will be closed April 16-April 26. Due to this fact, the deadline for the May issue of Telstar is April 10. Thanks for your help!

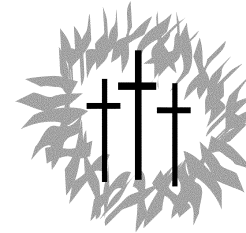
April Committee Meetings

Executive Council – 4/1, 6:30 pm, Holman Parish House
Outreach – 4/5, after worship, Matthew Room
Deacons – 4/5, after worship, youth room
Pastoral Relations – 4/6, 10:30 am, Holman Parish House
Justice and Witness – 4/7, 7 pm, Newman Wing Chapel
Trustees – 4/14, 6 pm, Holman Parish House
Pastoral Care Team – 4/15, 6 pm, Matthew Room

If you have a prayer request that you would like to have added to the prayer list that appears in our bulletin each Sunday, please call the church office (778-0424). Thank you.

We hold in our prayers

Bob Fast and family *Lisa Kautz* *Mary Ann Drach*
Harriett Griffith *Pat Eudy* *Bud Cook*
Gil Riley *Sharon Cram* *Forrest Mann*
Priscilla Ames *Chris Milewski* *Alden Mitchell*
Christian Nickerson *Craig, Kevin and Natalie*
Christopher Scheffler
Phyllis Adams and caregivers Jon and Marti Davis
Cheriese Shanti's Uncle Jim Cary
The Bradford Family
Shannon and the Russo Family
Maggy and Harry Wyckoff
Carol Tucker and her family
Nelia Farmer and her family
DeeDee and Duke Ramsey
Randy Oakley's father, Miles
The family and friends of Everett Vining
Rachel & Gerard Silverstone
Elizabeth Marks and her family
The family and friends of Shirley Shaw
Greg Louvat, awaiting a heart transplant
Service men and women and their families
Linda Fournier's daughter and granddaughters
Mary Catherine Vernig, Dale Bardo's niece
For those who are in abusive relationships
For those with Alzheimer's, and for those who care for them
For those caring for their aging parents, and for those parents
For all who are struggling with substance abuse problems and for
those who love them
The people of El Junco and our brothers and sisters in Honduras



Holy Week at Old South
Maundy Thursday Potluck and Service

On April 9, Maundy Thursday, we will meet in the vestry/assembly room for a potluck at 5:45 pm, which will be followed by worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. This will be a Service of Tenebrae and Holy Communion. The Tenebrae tradition has deep roots in Christian church history, and is a graphic way of envisioning Jesus' experience on the last night of his life. Candles representing each of the twelve disciples (as well as Jesus himself) are lit; as the readings for the night proceed, the twelve disciple candles are extinguished as Jesus is increasingly alone before the cross. We will also share Communion, as Jesus and the disciples did. Please join us for this holy evening.

Good Friday at Old South

On Good Friday, April 10, we will host the Add Verb production about homelessness, "Cast Off!" Some of us will remember "Hear Our Voices, Know Our Names," an earlier incarnation of this offering by homeless and formerly homeless "players." The Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry's purpose in having this production on Good Friday is to recognize one of the places Jesus is being crucified today: in the homeless of our communities. A soup lunch will begin at noon, followed by the "Cast Off" production at 1:00 pm. After the show, there will be a time for quiet music and meditation in the sanctuary approximately 2:00 pm.

Easter Sunday, April 12

We begin with our ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service on Voter Hill, at 6 am. This is a wonderful start to this celebration, as we welcome the sunrise with trumpets and prayer. Old South will be leading a Bible reading. If you drive up Voter Hill Road in West Farmington from Morrison Hill Road, you can't miss us!

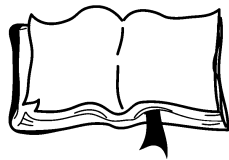


Next on the schedule is our traditional Easter breakfast at Old South, put on by our youth with help from the inimitable Stan Wheeler! This begins at 8:00 am and is followed by our Easter Worship Celebration. Please join us!

Monday Bible Study Schedule

Monday Bible Study, an opportunity for anyone who wishes to drop in and get some perspective on the passages Rev. Cathie will preach on Sunday while sharing their own perspectives, meets at 4:45-6:15 pm in the Newman Wing Chapel. Each session stands alone, so you can come as you are able and feel the urge!

Dates when Bible Study will happen between now and June are as follows: May 4, 11, 18; June 1 and 8.



Lectionary for April

The Revised Common Lectionary is an ecumenical Protestant listing of passages for use on each Sunday in the church year. Reading these passages each week helps us to keep in touch with the flow of our faith. We are continuing now in what is called "Year B" (there are three years of lectionary passages: A, B and C). Most weeks, Rev. Cathie chooses her preaching texts from this resource.

Here are the passages for April:

- **Palms to Passion Sunday, April 5th:** Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:9-11; Mark 14:1-15:47.
We will be sharing Communion seated.
- **Easter Sunday, April 12th:** Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8.
- **Second Sunday of Easter:** Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31.
- **Third Sunday of Easter:** Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48.

metaphor. We set the table for the feast God offers, without the arrogance of assuming we have all the answers, or that everyone's experience of God is identical. We encourage and enable people to listen for God; we do not claim to speak God's voice. Often empowerment comes from recognizing the divine through healthy human connection: Christ is in the eyes and hearts of our brothers and sisters. In seeking, and finding that connection in one another, we recognize it within ourselves. Outdoor ministry has two foundational elements: community and creation. As our culture is increasingly withdrawing from community we believe that intentional periods of living together surrounded by the beauty of the earth, away from the stress and strain of ordinary, technology-centered routines, give our spirits a chance to be open to life in a real and vital manner.

If you have any questions about registering for PL please call the church office at 778-0424 or visit PL website www.pilgrimlodge.org



You are invited to remember your loved ones by providing Easter lilies for the altar on Easter Sunday. Please send or leave this order form at the church office (227 Main Street, Farmington, Maine 04938) or give it to Carolyn Parr with your payment. The price for the lilies this year will be \$14.00 per plant and checks should be made out to the Women of Old South.

_____ Number of Lilies

Ordered by _____

Given in memory/honor/celebration of:

DIACONATE CORNER

It is time to sign up for



Pilgrim Lodge

Program Description

operated by the Maine Church of Christ, is a

Pilgrim Lodge, owned and operated by the Maine Conference of the United

seasonal retreat center and summer camp located on Lake Cobbosseecontee in West Gardiner, Maine. During the summer months Pilgrim Lodge is the central location for the youth ministry program of the Maine Conference.

The program also includes trip camps at other locations and weekend events for adults.

Campers come to Pilgrim Lodge for one week in the summer. Each week is geared toward a particular age group. The youngest campers have finished second grade and our oldest campers are in high school. Camp operations such as lifeguarding, food service, and maintenance are performed by a trained paid staff. The program directors (known as “deans”) and counselors are volunteers from local United Church of Christ congregations. These leaders change weekly, offering fresh and exciting programming. They are screened and trained by the Outdoor Ministries Committee. Pilgrim Lodge offers fun and meaningful programming in addition to all the familiar camp activities such as arts and crafts, swimming, boating, nature education, music, and games. The Pilgrim Lodge experience is rich and rewarding for campers, volunteers and staff. We invite you to join us in Christian fellowship.

Camp Philosophy:

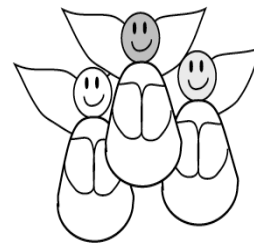
Inspiration is infused into lives through the power of love, nature, and God. Along the shores of Lake Cobbosseecontee, the Maine Conference United Church of Christ is blessed to nurture this ministry of inclusion. Amidst all the fun of summer camp, we teach stories from the Bible, as well as critical thinking. We find creative and fun new ways to bring meaning and enjoyment to worship. We celebrate and explore the awesome power of

Spring is in the air! What a boost to our spirits—the sun is higher, days are longer and the promise of green is a welcome thought. One of the duties of the Deacons, as outlined in the bylaws, is a periodic review of the membership rolls. We are beginning the process of reaching out to members of the church whom we haven't seen or heard from in a few years (in some cases, in many years) to find out if they are interested in coming back into the church community. If they are not, they have the choice of becoming inactive members; or, of relinquishing their membership if they are attending another church. Letters will be sent out in the coming months.

With the recent addition of 9 new members, the Deacons' “flocks” have also expanded. New members, if you have not heard from your deacon, please let Phyllis in the office know and she will contact them.

Note: Please remember to wear your name tags on Sunday morning; not only is this helpful to the new people in our midst, but also to those of us who experience momentary lapses! Communion in April will be seated—all are welcome.

Deacon of the month is Rina Bardo



Our Angel Fund is available to any church member who needs a financial helping hand this winter. Please contact Rev. Cathie or head deacon Ed David to access this fund.

Ecumenical News

We are blessed to have such active lay people and clergy in our Farmington area churches! Rev. Cathie was contacted by the Maine Council of Churches (MCC) and told that our ecumenical community has been chosen as one of five sterling examples in Maine of what churches can do when they work together. Our Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry (FAEM) is being interviewed by MCC to share our "secrets!"

Outreach Ministries

Once again Old South will be forming a team to take part in the North Parish Housing Ministry summer project known as Mission at the Eastward or MATE.

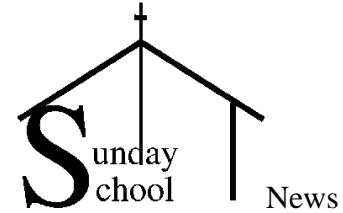
Each summer work groups from all over the Northeast come to the New Portland and greater Farmington area to help repair and rebuild homes for elderly or disabled Mainers, or for those who cannot afford the supplies or are unable to do the work themselves. Last year 323 workers, mostly from Presbyterian churches, came from as far away as New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Please join us in welcoming them to our area. One work group will be using our kitchen and vestry for meals one week in July.

In the past few years our team has painted trim, replaced siding or windows, insulated homes, and done some construction such as replacing steps and adding a bedroom.

If you would like to join us for all or part of the week of Aug 3 thru Aug 7, please sign up on the sheet in the vestry. Any questions? Call Dick or Lynda Giard at 897-6228.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Thank you for your generous contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing on March 22. Due to the timing of Telstar printing, the total amount collected cannot be included here but we will let you know next month! There is still time to contribute if you want - just send your contributions in to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday. Make sure to mark your donations for "One Great Hour".



The Easter season has arrived! We will begin this month with a very special Palm Sunday service in the Chapel. Rev. Dick Waddell will lead us through the Palm Sunday story, with a reenactment of the Last Supper. We will then join the congregation in the sanctuary for communion. A very sincere "thank you" to Rev. Waddell.

We look forward to the excitement of Easter Sunday. As per tradition, there will be an Easter egg hunt amid the Sunday School rooms. When children find the colorful plastic eggs, they can exchange them for small prizes. They can also use them to "vote" for their favorite Heifer International animal (baby chicks or bees). The Sunday School will then make a donation for the winning animal to Heifer International.

In addition, look for a rousing Easter song from Jr. Choir.

Looking ahead, we will be collecting money for Blanket Sunday in May, and preparing for Celebration Sunday in June, which marks the end of the Sunday School year.

YOUTH CORNER



Gourmet Easter Breakfast Join us for Food and Fellowship!

When: Easter
Where: Old South Church
Time: 8:00am-9:00am

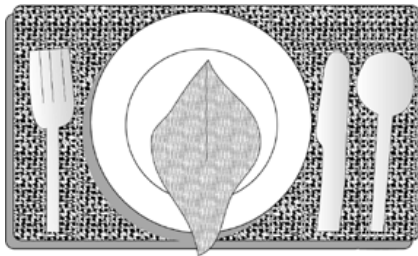
This free breakfast is sponsored by the Youth Group as a Thank You to all the church for supporting us.
See you there....

Women's Retreat Planning Underway – Sign-ups Starting Now!

Our Women's Retreat, "Spirit Seasons," will be held at Rockcraft Retreat Center on Sebago Lake, July 24-26, with Rev. Cathie as retreat leader. This is always a wonderful occasion for spiritual depth, fun and fellowship.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. There are 24 spaces, and 8 are reserved for first timers until May 15th. To reserve your spot, please give or send a \$25 deposit to Phyllis Pederson in the church office. We don't yet know exactly what the final cost is going to be, but Phyllis can fill you in on last year's bottom line. We do have scholarship funds as well – please contact Phyllis or Rev. Cathie about this.

This year's retreat committee is Rina Bardo, Erlane Dyke, Nelia Farmer, Linda Fournier, Shelley Griffith, and Donna Wheeler.



Join in the Fellowship

April Retiree Lunch

Please join us for a potluck lunch on April 6th! You can bring your choice of a main dish or casserole, vegetable, salad, or dessert to share. We will gather in the vestry and begin our meal at Noon. For more information, contact Dick and Lynda Giard at 897-6228.



Justice and Witness

Earth Worship Sunday – On Sunday, April 26, Justice and Witness Ministry will provide a special worship service in praise and thanksgiving to God for all of creation, in confession before God for the ways that we harm all of creation (and ultimately ourselves), and in petition to God for guidance, support, and inspiration as we seek to mend our harmful ways and honor and care for the earth. This service is the first Sunday after Earth Day, which is Wednesday, April 22.

Bread for the World Sunday – Sunday, May 17, there will be an Offering of Letters, after worship, in the vestry. The focus of this year's Bread for the World letter writing is to encourage increased funding for aid to developing countries, and especially for increased collaboration between government funded and privately funded non-government organizations in addressing the needs in the developing world. This collaboration is necessary for a more holistic approach to aid and programming, rather than separate, non-collaborative projects that address one specific need, such as education, while ignoring another, such as hunger.

Literature Rack – In the back corner of the vestry – providing information on various justice issues, to take or borrow.

Are you new to Old South?? – If you are a relative newcomer to Old South and have an interest in what our Justice and Witness Ministry is up to, please join us!!! We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m., in the Newman Wing Chapel. All are welcome.

NOTICE – NEW TIME FOR JUSTICE AND WITNESS MEETINGS – 6:30 PM.

The Justice and Witness Ministry of Old South will be providing a book review in this column. If you have read a book that could be featured here, and want to do a review, please let Sherry Jenckes or Chris Magri know. We are primarily interested in books focusing on justice issues.

Book Review: Jeffrey D. Sachs, *The End of Poverty*

So I'm on an airplane, passing the time with a book by a famous development economist, when it strikes me that reading about hyperinflation, population growth rates, and per capita GNP falls pretty far from my childhood notions of spirituality. Working through Jeffrey Sachs's 2005 book *The End Of Poverty* just doesn't seem to have much in common with reading the Bible; for one thing, the Bible includes fewer graphs. But it's the Justice and Witness ministry that has led me directly to this topic, economics, something I've scrupulously avoided until now, because Sachs is describing how we can end global poverty by 2025 if only we will conscientiously and intelligently implement the kinds of comprehensive strategies that we should already be using to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In fact he headed the U.N. Millennium Project that hammered out such strategies for reaching the MDGs, which would halve poverty by 2015. This and his practical experiences as a high-level consultant to developing nations such as Bolivia, Poland, and India, experiences he recounts in some detail, give his words weight. Best of all, his writing is not only weighty but also clear and readable. And you can skip those graphs if you really want to.

Actually Sachs is proposing that we end *extreme* poverty by 2025: people living on less than \$1 per day, adjusted for cost of living. Nearly one billion people around the world subsist on this pittance.

Plant Sale Fundraiser

Gardeners Take Notice! When the snow goes the green of spring grows. While you are inspecting your garden this spring and start to divide and move plants around in your gardens get some pots out and dig up some of your perennials to donate to our plant sale. If you are unable to dig and pot, please let us know. We are more than happy to roll up our sleeves and "dig in"! Plants need to be identified. Additional information on the tag would be especially helpful like: color, shade or sun. The categories will be Perennials, Shrubs, Annuals, Herbs, Vegetables and Houseplants. Tags will be available mid-April. If you have extra pots please bring them in. There will be a box for pot drop off. If you need some pots use the donated pots. Invite your gardening family, neighbors and friends to donate their extra plants. **PLEASE no invasive plants!**

The Fund Raising Committee will need volunteers to help with sorting, pricing, set up and sales for the plant sale which will be held on the Holman Parish House lawn. If you are available and would like to help contact a member of the Committee listed above.

The proceeds from the plant sale will be used to support Old South's outreach, community service and youth programs. The Committee's goal is to raise \$1000 from this plant sale fundraiser. We need your help...together we can make it a great success! Any questions, please contact a member of the Fundraising Committee: Debbie Davis-Robinson, Linda Fournier and Barb Fortier, Sueli Gaewsky, Wendy Huish, or Brenda Scribner.

Fundraising Ideas???

The Fundraising Committee wants to hear your suggestions for "Fun Raising" events to help raise money to support Old South's Outreach, community service and youth programs. There will be a suggestion box in the Narthex (entrance to Sanctuary). We welcome your ideas.



Need Help Spring Cleaning?

Donate your unwanted items to the annual 2 Day Yard Sale to be held on Friday, June 5th and Saturday June 6th at the Holman Parish House. If you have items to donate please contact the church office or a member of the Fundraising Committee. Assistance is available to transport items that you are unable to, or if you need help moving some large and/or heavy. Donated items must be in good condition, have all parts and pieces (i.e. puzzles and games) and packaged together. Categories will include: housewares, books, games and puzzles, furniture, toys, childrens' recreational equipment (bikes, skis, snowshoes, etc), childrens' sections, collectables, etc. PLEASE NO CLOTHING OR ELECTRONICS. If you have clothing to donate please speak with Debbie or Sueli about the Community Outreach Room or Honduras 2010 partnership trips.

Volunteers will be needed to help sort and price items in preparation for the yard sale. Workers will be needed to help at the yard sale. If you are able to help with the yard sale please let us know or leave your name with the church office. Our goal is to raise \$1500.00 from this event. Proceeds will benefit Old South's Outreach, community service and youth programs.

The Fundraising Committee
Debbie Davis-Robinson, chair, Sueli Gaewsky, Barb Fortier and Linda Fournier, Wendy Huish and Brenda Scribner.

In the developed world, extreme poverty is essentially nonexistent; what we have here is “only” relative poverty, income much lower than that of the average citizen. People in extreme poverty are caught in a “poverty trap” and need the world’s help in order to get out of it, to reach the lowest rung on the development ladder so that they can then lift themselves further through their own efforts.

(Sachs is emphatic that “their own efforts” should be market-based, that nations should embrace capitalism and free trade on a level playing field. Communism was an economic disaster, and India’s former attempts to maintain a state-controlled economy insulated from global markets produced low growth and high poverty.)

How does a poverty trap work? Disease can be a factor: clearly a community or a nation is doomed to extreme poverty if a large fraction of its working-age population is dying of AIDS or is frequently absent from work due to chronic malaria. Disease and poverty lead to high childhood mortality, which then leads people to overcompensate by having many children, worsening poverty. Physical geography might play a role: it’s expensive to transport goods in a nation like Bolivia that is landlocked and has difficult mountain terrain. High levels of foreign debt lead to a government spending all it has on debt interest and nothing on services to its citizens. If this results in, say, poor roads, a rural farming community will have difficulty bringing crops to market. If it results in poor education, future opportunities will be killed off; how, for instance, could India ever have become a leader in information technology had it not had the vision and the funding to educate its future business leaders and engineers? And extreme poverty can itself lead to deepening poverty: if families must spend

everything they have just to stay alive, they cannot save (for new livestock, or a sewing machine, or s

The key to escaping the poverty trap, argues Sachs, is for developed nations to provide official development assistance, lifting a developing nation to that “bottom rung” where families have more than they need for bare-bones survival, so that they can begin to accumulate capital and the government has a sustainable source of income. Given the wide variety of problems a poor developing nation may face, it is essential to diagnose each country’s problems (“clinical economics”) rather than attempting a one-size-fits-all approach. (For this reason Sachs has frequently battled the International Monetary Fund, whose “structural adjustment” agenda focuses on fiscal restraint, privatization, and good governance without acknowledging disease, geography, unfair American and European farm subsidies, etc.)

Then a detailed poverty reduction plan must be created to address the problems, and to address *all* of them simultaneously, as they feed on each other. What good is it to build more schools if the children go hungry all day, or if they must miss school to collect drinking water from a distant source, or if disease is carrying them off? This is the same philosophy that produced the eight interlocking MDGs. Sachs relates the story of the plan that Ghana, a poor, relatively well-run, democratic country, initially submitted, asking for about \$75 per Ghanaian per year for five years, or \$8 billion total. The wealthy donor nations balked, calling the plan unrealistic (because it was too expensive), and eventually the plan was shrunken to \$2 billion. Sachs concludes, “I would have thought that the original plan was realistic because it aimed to accomplish the very goals that the world had endorsed. The final

phenomenal! The money raised will be used to help balance the budget.

Where and when can I buy Scrip?

Scrip orders will be taken on Sunday mornings at the *Scrip* table in the vestry, beginning at 9 am and during coffee hour. Payment is required with your order with checks made payable to “Old South Church”. If you are unable to place your order on Sunday, contact Debbie Davis-Robinson. Cards can be picked up the following Sunday. Old South has a minimum order amount requirement to place orders from *Scrip* and Hannaford and receive the benefits. The Fundraising Committee members can answer questions you have.

For more information, speak to a Fundraising Committee member: Sueli Gaewsky, Barb Fortier, Linda Fournier, Wendy Huish, Debbie Davis Robinson, and Brenda Scribner

Old South Church Fundraising Committee
Hannaford Card Order Form **Date:_____**

Name _____ Tel #:_____

Email_____

Hannaford Grocery Cards can be purchased in \$25.00 increments from \$25.00 to \$250.00 Previously purchased grocery cards can be reloaded if a zero balance is not more than 21 days. Orders are requested to be paid in advance. Orders may be placed before and after worship on Sunday mornings or in the church office or by mail to FRC, Old South Church, 227 Main St., Farmington, ME 04938

Card \$	Qty	New	Reload	Card #	Total \$	Card Rec'd
---------	-----	-----	--------	--------	----------	------------

Stock Card_____

Bonus Card_____

Total Paid:_____

cash__ check#_____

The Fundraising Committee is compiling a list of suggested events and projects. There will be a “Suggestion Box” in the vestry for your ideas on future fundraising events and projects or you can share your idea with a member of the FRC. The committee members ask young and old to think how you could contribute to the energy and workforce of the fundraising for Old South. A volunteer sign up sheet will be placed along side the Suggestion Box.

Yours in Faith- The Fundraising Committee

Scrip

What is Scrip?

Scrip is a fundraising program that works while you shop. *Scrip* is simply a word that means “substitute money” – in other words, *scrip* is gift certificates from national and local retailers. All of us purchase groceries and gifts throughout the year. By purchasing *Scrip* to buy your groceries and other purchases, you are also giving a percentage (different for each retailer) back to the church.

With the Hannaford’s *Scrip*, for every \$1000 purchased, we receive a free \$50 card to sell. This may not seem like much to you, but in our first 3 weeks we received a \$350 bonus! Collectively if we buy \$6,000 worth of Hannaford’s cards each month we will raise \$3,600 annually! These cards can be purchased in \$25 increments up to \$250.00 and recharged within 21 days of having a zero balance.

Are there other items that I can purchase using Scrip?

Yes! There are many local and national businesses that you can purchase *Scrip* cards for. An order form is available for you to look at. Please share this opportunity with your family and friends. You do need to plan your purchases a couple of weeks ahead so you can purchase your *Scrip* cards and our church will receive the benefits. One example: *LL Bean Scrip* – we will receive 18% from each card purchased. Our profit will vary from 1.5% to 18% of cards purchased depending on the company. Wow! The more families buying *Scrip*, the greater our income. The possibilities are

plan seemed *unrealistic* to me, because it can no longer achieve the MDGs. . . . For the donors, realism meant convenience.”

This was the most striking passage in the book for me. Other things jumped out, such as Sachs’s emphatic rejection of protectionism for poor nations (*i.e.*, “globalization” isn’t the root problem), or his claim that sweatshops, however unpleasant by our standards, represent a step up for Bangladeshi women (since they get the women out of their home villages where tradition gives them no freedom, no money, and numerous children). But I keep coming back to that question: What constitutes realism? The developed nations have pledged 0.7% of their income as official development assistance to achieve the MDGs but many of them have come nowhere close to meeting that pledge, and the U.S. is at the bottom of the heap, even with private contributions included. Sachs shows that the pledged money would be enough to fund poor nations’ poverty reduction plans in full. Is it not realistic for the world’s richest nation to contribute less than 1% of its income to eliminate extreme poverty, to address the pain of blighted lives, to prevent millions of needless deaths per year? Is it not realistic to do so rather than allowing poor nations to devolve into failed states that threaten national security? Wasn’t the Marshall Plan realistic? Most of all, is it realistic for Christians to ignore their global brothers and sisters and still say that they’re following Jesus? We are the first generation that has the power to end extreme poverty. Will we do so?

Chris Magri



Hospitality Corner

The Hospitality Committee is looking forward to the celebration of Easter on April 12th. In addition to the Youth Group's pancake breakfast before church, we will provide muffins and quick breads after church. Please join us in the vestry!

Trish Flint is coordinating coffee hour in April. If you're available to help please contact Trish or check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the vestry, near the basement stairs.

Thank you for helping to make coffee hour such a friendly and welcoming part of Sunday morning!

Fundraising Committee Makes It Fun Raising

The newly formed Fundraising Committee has begun to explore creative ways to raise money to help offset Old South's budget deficit by supporting our commitment to outreach, committee service projects and youth programs. The committee members are Debbie Davis-Robinson, Linda Fournier and Barb Fortier, Sueli Gaewsky, Wendy Huish, and Brenda Scribner. The Committee initially met and chose to adopt two programs, the Hannaford Bulk Card Program and the sale of merchant cards from UnitedScrip.com. The committee members felt that both programs would allow Old South to benefit financially without our families and friends spending more money than they normally would.

The Hannaford program rewards Old South with 5% bonus when our families purchase grocery cards through the Fundraising Committee.

Our total card order minimum from Hannafords is \$1000.00. Hannaford sends us bonus grocery cards to sell. During the first three weeks in March, the FRC sold enough Hannaford cards to receive \$325.00 in bonus cards to sell. Grocery cards can be purchased in \$25.00 increments up to \$250. Hannaford allows previously purchased grocery cards to be recharged with this program up to \$250 as long as the card has not had a zero balance for 21 days at the time the order with Hannafords is placed by the FRC.

The second program is from UnitedScrip.com. Through providing the opportunity to purchase merchant cards, Old South receives a percentage of the sale of cards from the extensive list of local and national retailers, restaurants, motels and gas stations. The percentage varies from company to company, ranging from gas cards at 1.5% to LL Bean at 18%. On March 15th the first orders were taken for Scrip earning Old South \$70.00. And this was with only a handful of families placing the initial orders!

Payment in advance for both Hannaford grocery cards and "Scrip" cards are required when the order is placed with the Fundraising Committee. Payment for the Hannaford cards needs to be done separately from the "Scrip" cards. Checks can be written to Old South Church, then write either "Hannafords" or "Scrip" in the memo box. We apologize for this inconvenience. Orders with payment, for both Hannafords and Scrip, can be dropped off or mailed to the church office at 227 Main St., Farmington, ME 04938. Both cards programs will be ongoing...for your weekly, monthly and gift purchases. Just plan a little ahead. The potential of these fundraising programs is phenomenal!!!!

The Committee's goal is to familiarize the families of Old South to the Hannaford and Scrip programs. Inside this Telstar you will find a Scrip order form, an article addressing FAQ's and a Hannaford card order form. It is our intention to have the Hannaford/Scrip table set up in the vestry before and after worship on a regular schedule. It has been suggested to take orders on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month beginning in April. Orders are taken one week and distributed the following week.