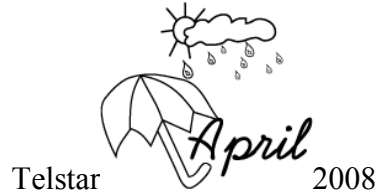


Old South First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



Dear Church Family,

Christ is risen indeed! As always, Easter was a joy-filled occasion at Old South, with our traditional Easter breakfast served by our youth, our Easter Egg Hunt, and our musically joyful worship. Now we are living in the Easter season of the church year, when we celebrate God's abundant life in our community.

The Sunday after Easter, we had a meditation in our bulletin that describes what we are to be about as the church, the Body of Christ in the world, now that the Risen One is here. The founder of Habitat for Humanity, Clarence Jordan, once said: "The proof that God raised Jesus from the dead is not the empty tomb but the full hearts of his transformed disciples. The crowning evidence that he lives is not a vacant grave but a spirit-filled fellowship. Not a rolled-away stone but a carried-away church."

So, my church family, we are to be about the business of resurrection, about the joyful work of offering God's abundant life and love to each other and to our world. The more open we are to the Spirit of the Living God, the more we will have to give our church family, our wider community and our world. So let's get to it, as we worship God, do the work of the church, participate in outreach opportunities, teach our children and love one another. Thanks be to God!

Blessings and love,  
Cathie



### One Great Hour of Sharing News:

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our One Great Hour of Sharing offering! On a snowy Sunday we collected \$578.51! It's not too late to contribute. If you would like to donate to this special offering, please mail your contributions to the church office or place in the offering baskets on Sunday at church. Just be sure to mark your contribution in the memo line for One Great Hour.



### **Food Closet Update**

The Fairbanks Food Closet will be reopening sometime between the end of April and mid-May. They are continuing to take donations of food delivered to Fairbanks Union Church during their office hours; those who need food may come during these same hours to receive pre-packed boxes of food. We will be accepting contributions to help the Food Closet with the costs of reopening during our Easter worship service.

***In addition, don't forget to bring your canned goods and non perishable items to donate to the Food Closet to church on Communion Sunday, April 6! Thank you!***



### *Justice and Witness: Bread for the World*

Last year Old South kicked off its involvement with Bread for the World by holding two Sunday letter-writing sessions in support of Farm Bill reform. While the fate of the Farm Bill has not been resolved as of mid-March, it is already time to embark on the 2008 Offering of Letters. On Sunday, May 4, we will spend coffee hour writing letters to our U.S. senators and representatives regarding a domestic issue with global ramifications: increasing America's poverty-focused development assistance.

Since 1970 the world's wealthy developed nations have repeatedly pledged to give at least 0.7% of their gross national income as official development assistance to poor developing nations. Yet few of them have lived up to these pledges -- and America, at 0.2%, has a particularly large gap between words and deeds. In recent years Congress has increased our giving by \$1 billion, but substantially more is needed. In 2000 we and all other United Nations members adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and the first of these eight goals is to halve extreme poverty (living on the local equivalent of \$1 per day or less) and hunger in the world by 2015. This goal will not be reached at the current rate of progress. In 2007 the House of Representatives passed the Global Poverty Act, which would make the first MDG an official part of U.S. policy; now we must urge the Senate to pass it as well, and to ask both houses to accelerate progress by appropriating an additional \$5 billion in development assistance. (For comparison, the overall federal budget is about \$3 trillion.)

Of course throwing money at a problem is useless if the money is poorly spent. The idea is to address the root causes of poverty rather than to apply band-aids to the latest crisis. The Global Poverty Act calls for a "comprehensive strategy" to achieve the first MDG. This presumably would involve not only direct aid but also debt relief and more generous trade policies; ideally our government would then carry out the strategy in cooperation with other countries, international institutions, faith-based groups, and the private sector. People in the nations receiving the aid should have a say in designing aid programs and setting priorities. The successes achieved in cutting poverty and hunger since 2000 -- the number of people in extreme poverty has dropped below one billion even as the overall world population has risen -- show that, given sufficient funding, intelligent and effective poverty-focused development assistance is possible.

We hope to see you in the vestry after worship on May 4; if that's not possible, we encourage you to write letters at home and to bring them to worship or to the church office. Together we will ask our government to keep its pledges to help our brothers and sisters around the world to lead lives of hope and dignity. Surely God wills abundance for all.



### **Centering Prayer Group Continues Its Journey**

Each Sunday afternoon during Lent, a group facilitated by Rev. Cathie met to practice centering prayer (contemplative, silent, "without words" prayer) and to meditate on passages of scripture. Those involved have decided to continue their prayer journey together until the end of the school year. They will be praying joys and concerns of the church family, as well as the centering prayer which is their reason for being.



### ***Pastoral Care Team – Might God be calling you??***

Based on the model developed during Rev. Cathie’s sabbatical last summer, there is a Pastoral Care Team coming together at Old South. The idea is that each caregiver will have a single “care receiver” to visit two to four times a month. The purpose of the Team is to increase the amount of pastoral care that goes on in our church family.

On Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be a pastoral care training offered at the church by the program director from Living Water Retreat Center in Winslow, Susan McKenzie. The deacons of the church and anyone interested in possibly serving on the Pastoral Care Team are invited to participate in this training. If there are additional spaces, Rev. Cathie will announce this in worship so that we can take full advantage of this opportunity.

Please consider whether God might be calling you to care for our church family. You needn’t be a church member to volunteer in this way – and you don’t need any prior training. Please call or e-mail Rev. Cathie if you have any questions about this opportunity for serving, or if you are ready to volunteer.

### **Deacon's Corner**

The Deacons welcomed two new members, Shirley Waddell and Betsy Riley at our March meeting. We, as a congregation, are fortunate to have these two very talented people join the Diaconate. They will be taking on the flocks of Wendy Huish and Stan Wheeler who retired from the Diaconate this year. Those of you who are effected by the change will be hearing from your new Deacon soon.

As a reminder, each of the twelve deacons has a flock or specific group of church members. Your deacon is available to discuss questions or concerns about the worship at Old South. In addition, your deacon is

available to visit and/or call you should the need arise. If you would like your deacon to contact you for a visit or discussion please feel free to call him/her to arrange a meeting. Because our church has many members, the deacon/flock arrangement benefits you, the deacons, the church as a whole and as importantly, it helps Rev. Cathie with caring for our many members.

This year we here at Old South are hosting the Annual Meeting. The estimate for the attendance is 400 people. This meeting is June 20-22 with the Sunday worship including communion happening at Old South at 10:30. Please be advised that on June 22 the worship is NOT at the usual time but 10:30. As a church we will play a role in this weekend meeting. There will be opportunities for baking cookies and for offering hospitality in your homes. The deacon of the month for April is Paula Hammerick and communion by intinction will be celebrated on April 6 at an intergenerational service. The deacons ask that you wear your name tags as it helps all of us.

**Diaconate 2008**

Rina Bardo  
645-4713  
dnrbardo@gwi.net

Nancy Flick  
779-1866  
bnnflick@beeline-online.net

Roger Condit  
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Paula Hammerick  
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Ed David  
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Amanda Murray  
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778-2564(camp)  
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Shirley Waddell  
778-9915  
shriwad@gwi.net

Betsy Riley  
645-2884  
betgilriley@beeline-online.net

Margaret Gould-Wescott  
778-2608  
mwescott@maine.edu



## **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, 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: April 7, 14 and 21; May 5 and 12; June 2 and 9.

## **Our April Lectionary Readings**

*When she plans Bible Study, Rev. Cathie usually chooses texts from the Revised Common Lectionary that is used by the majority of mainline Protestant churches in the U.S. The lectionary for March, with the themes offered for each Sunday by the United Church of Christ (UCC), is as follows:*

- *April 6, Risen Indeed, Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35*
- **April 13, Roy Scribner is preaching while Rev. Cathie is in Boston with the Confirmation class – thank you, Roy!**
- *April 20, A Place with God, Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14*
- *April 27, Spirited Love, Acts 17:27-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21*

# *We hold in our prayers*

*Forrest Mann*

*The Wallace Family, at the loss of Tim's grandmother*

*Clifford and Frances Ayotte*

*Ashok and Pnyamvada Amin and their two sons*

*Rev. Tim Walmer's brother and the family*

*Lucille Stofan, the Condit's neighbor Lauri, the Condit's niece*

*David Sithole and his daughter Xaviyah at the loss of David's  
mother*

*The Cameron Family*

*Jane Linnell, Sherry Jenckes' mother*

*Joel and Patricia Hayden*

*Betsy and Gil Riley's friends, Sally and Rick Speich*

*Jim Mello's brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Monica*

*Carol Tucker and her family*

*Lewis Holbrook's mother, Sylvia*

*Mary Waddell*

*Shannon and the Russo Family*

*Maggy and Harry Wyckoff*

*Babbie and Stu Cameron's son-in-law, Major Hunter Kellogg*

*USMC*

*Lewis and Shirley Holbrook's granddaughter and her husband,*

*Kim and Dustin, both in Iraq*

*John Anderson, Ruth Haszko's brother, deployed to Iraq*

*Service men and women and their families*

*Victoria Hilton*

*Barbara Keirstead's cousin, Suzanne French*

*Nelia Farmer and her family*

*Candice Giles*

*Rachel & Gerard Silverstone*

*Noah and his children*

*Randall Parsons*

*DeeDee and Duke Ramsey*

*Pattie Schoen's niece, Gabrielle Grace and her family*

*Linda Fournier's daughter and granddaughters*

*Mary Catherine Vernig, Dale Bardo's niece*

*Kathleen, the daughter of Chris Hunter's friend*

*Priscilla Ames*

*Christian Nickerson*

*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 those continuing to be affected by past natural disasters*

*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*

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.



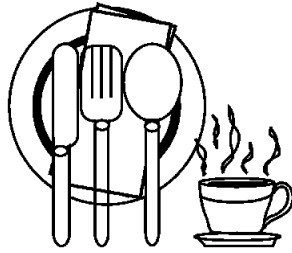
### **Update on Maine Conference Annual Meeting in Farmington**

June 20-22, UMF will be hosting the Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ. Our own Franklin Association will be the church hosts, and Sunday worship will be at Old South on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 am. (For this one Sunday, we are changing our worship time to accommodate our wider church family.)

Rina Bardo has offered to help coordinate an important aspect of our hospitality as a church. Anyone who would like to host visitors to the Conference meeting in their homes should contact Rina at 645- .

There is also an Old South Committee, chaired by Sueli Gaewsky, currently considering possible fundraising

efforts during the course of the weekend. Please contact Sueli with any thoughts on this at 778-0424.



## Community Luncheon

All winter long the Community Luncheons have gotten lucky. With all the snowstorms and generally bad weather, we have not had to cancel a Luncheon, nor did we even come close to having to make the decision to cancel...until the March Luncheon. Here we were, with not one but two storms bearing down on us, with the promise of snow, sleet, freezing rain and who knows what else. And once again, we got lucky. The first storm wasn't as bad as expected, and the second held off until after the Luncheon was over. In fact, the morning was quite pleasant, with some sun and blue skies to cheer us as we labored over the scalloped potatoes. To be sure, the numbers were a little lower, especially the number of people who came in to eat rather than choosing to have their meal delivered. But, at the end of the day, we fed about 120 people, including an enthusiastic group of helpers. We were also VERY blessed to have Patty Schoen's class from Jay come in on Friday to peel potatoes, prepare several pans of apple crisp and set the tables. Thanks very much to Patty and her students!

The April Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The menu will feature Stan's "Regionally Famous" American Chop Suey, with tossed salad, garlic bread and cake for dessert. There will be sign up sheets posted on the door to the kitchen and we invite everyone in our church family to come join us. Come to help set up, serve, clean up...or just come to have a meal and interact with other folks from our community.

Stan Wheeler  
Rocell Marcellino, Co-Chairs



***Planning continues for the 2008 Women's Retreat – August 8-10 at Rockcraft Retreat Center***

The 2008 Retreat Committee (chaired by Penny Hood and co-chaired by Babbie Cameron, Nelia Farmer, Linda Fournier, and Betsy Riley, with Rev. Cathie standing by) has continued planning for our time together in August at the holy ground that is Rockcraft Retreat Center, on Sebago Lake. The theme this year is Mary and Martha – something ALL of us can relate to in one form or another! Sign-ups will begin on May 1<sup>st</sup> – a deposit of \$25 is due in to Phyllis in the church office to reserve your space. There is scholarship money available for those who need it – just speak to Rev. Cathie.



***Women's Potluck Planned for Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>***

Back by popular demand! There will be a women's potluck on Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm in the assembly room/vestry. Please sign up in the assembly room or call the church office. We will gather and break bread, sing and talk. And we will hear a few

words on the next Women's Retreat – though all women are welcome, not just the ones who plan to retreat!

### **NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEES**

We have had some issues with the state fire marshal's office because the Farmington Children's School is leasing space in the Newman Wing. We have addressed or are addressing the concerns. One issue that had to be dealt with was the vestry (gathering room) door. During the week when the children's school is in session, this door will be locked. The main entrance to the Newman Wing will be unlocked during the school day. Please use this entrance to enter the church building. Currently, the emergency exit in the Newman Wing nearest the kitchen can not be used due to the ice. We will correct this problem as soon as weather allows. The leak problem over the kitchen will be fixed at the same time. We have a bid of \$6000 for the two front doors used each Sunday during church hours. We will be discussing this bid at our March meeting and may come to the congregation for fund raising ideas as this amount exceeds our budget.



### **Financial Study Committee Underway**

As discussed at our February 2008 Annual Meeting, the Executive Council appointed a Financial Study Committee to address the deficit we are facing in our budget this year – and the financial issues we face as a church moving forward into future years. This Committee has begun meeting, and needs your prayers: Tom Dean, chair; Charley Murray, assistant chair; Teresa Roberts, secretary; Dale Bardo; Stephanie Flanagan; Chase Gaewski; Sherry Jenckes; Tim Wallace; and Gordie Flint and Rev. Cathie, ex officio.

Moving forward, the Committee will need to hear all of your voices about the various options we have for coping with our

financial situation. To help with this, there will be two **Our Turn meetings on March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on attending one of these meetings – we need your voice!**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter\* Treasurer's Report**

At *Old South's* Annual Meeting held February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Church Membership approved a 2008 budget that included an \$8,250 deficit. In faith, we anticipated that this deficit could be eliminated by a combination of fund-raising and additional giving. This report details our progress as the end of this year's first quarter approaches.

Although most of us give to the Church on a weekly or monthly basis, others donate just once a year (usually before or during January). As a result, the Church experiences an initial surplus of income—a surplus which tapers off as the year progresses.

Similarly, some of our expenses (eg, salaries and loan payments) occur with regularity, while others (eg, property insurance premiums) require lump-sum payment.

To better project how our financial situation will look later in 2008, we have distributed one-time donations and large episodic expenses over the entire year. This manipulation of financial data yields the following:

Adjusted year-to-date income	\$57,625
<u>Adjusted year-to-date expenses</u>	<u>-61,055</u>
Adjusted year-to-date deficit	(3,430)

Based on the budget approved at the annual meeting, we would expect our current deficit to be about \$1,730. However, it appears the deficit may actually be almost double our original projections. This difference is not alarming and could simply result from there having been no five-Sunday months as yet this year. However, it also appears that currently we have not made significant progress in reducing our deficit—and this observation will hopefully remind each of us to keep *Old South* high on our list of financial priorities.

Thank you for your continuing generosity,  
Dale Bardo, Treasurer

\*Because of *Telstar's* March 15<sup>th</sup> submission deadline, this report is based on financial data extending from 1-1-08 through only 3-15-08.



Dear Old South Friends:

Some of you may know that The Farmington Children's School has been renting classroom space from Old South for the past two years. The school is a Montessori-inspired "one-room schoolhouse" stressing joyful learning for children in grades K-12.

I have been doing creative writing instruction with the current crop of students and find the school a lively, challenging and caring place. I've come to believe even more strongly that our area benefits from having educational alternatives for children (and their parents).

The Farmington Children's School Board would like to thank Old South for all its efforts at meeting the schools' space needs, and we'd also like to extend an invitation for you to get more involved.

There are several ways for you to join us in this important enterprise:

1. Volunteer in the classroom: If you have a special talent or skill and would like to help out in the classroom we'd welcome your energy.
2. Join the board: We currently have several board seats open and would welcome Old South members.
3. Assist us with fundraising.

The Farmington Children's School has a current school year fundraising goal of \$5,000.

Given motivation, imagination, and energy the sky is the limit! It is important that everyone be involved in this effort—board members, parents, teachers, friends of the school and students too!

**Direct Donation:** The Farmington Children's School is a nonprofit organization and any donation you make to the school is tax deductible. If you would prefer you can make a direct gift of money to the school in lieu of participating in fundraising activities.

If this is something you would like to do, you may send checks to Phyllis Fischer, Treasurer, Farmington Children's School Board of Directors, 235 Main Street, Farmington, ME, 04938.

Here are a few other fundraising ideas:

**Good Search internet search engine:** If you use the Good Search internet search engine, you can designate a charity that you would like to support. Each time you use the engine, a penny goes to the charity. So far, the Farmington Children's School has raised \$1.87! But we could raise much more. To use the engine, simply search for Good Search, and follow the directions to create a permanent task bar on your computer desktop. You will be asked which charity you would like to fund. Simply type in Farmington Children's School. Tell your friends and family to use it too.

**Concert: Ruth Hill,** a local folk singer, has agreed to do another fundraising concert for the school. In 2006 she helped us raise \$1,000. She has set a concert date for Saturday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Nordica auditorium. We held an auction and sold baked goods and other school-related items at the previous concert, which was held at Old South Church. This time around we could use baked goods and other refreshments to sell at the concert, AND any craft items that might be appropriate.

**BUY YOUR SEEDS AND BULBS FROM THE FARMINGTON CHILDREN'S SCHOOL!** The Parent-Booster Group of the Farmington Children's School has decided to sell bulbs as part of their fundraising effort. The order form for the bulbs will be posted on the bulletin board in the Old South vestry. Please consider supporting the school in this colorful way!

**WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?** If you have a fundraising idea, or would like to participate in one of the activities outlined above, please contact Gretchen Legler (207-897-6701, [Gretchen.legler@maine.edu](mailto:Gretchen.legler@maine.edu)) or another FCS board member.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Legler  
For the FCS Board



### **Confirmation Continues This April**

On April 6th, the Confirmation 2008 class and their sponsors are having their last regular Sunday afternoon meeting for the Spring Session. April 11-13 they will be in Boston, doing mission work in a community garden in Dorchester and attending worship at an African American church in Roxbury. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, they will be gathering to write a group faith statement. Confirmation Sunday is May 11<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the group in your prayers: Rebekah Dunham and Karyl Condit; Abby Flanagan and Chanda Luker; Chase Gaewski and Dick Waddell; Cherokee Luker and Stephanie Flanagan; Jenna Pederson and Rina Bardo;

Alec Wallace and Charley Murray; Matt West and Karen West; and teachers Tim Wallace, youth minister Sueli, and Rev. Cathie.

## YOUTH GROUP CORNER



### **THE MAINE CONFERENCE IS GOING TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT!!**

The Maine Conference will be traveling to the National Youth Event in Knoxville Tennessee leaving on Wednesday, July 23rd and returning on Tuesday, July 29th. We will be traveling by bus – seeing a lot of the countryside, spending one night along the way for each leg of the trip and having fun, important conversation, playing, worshipping, and coming to know UCC young people from all over the country.

This year's theme, "Living the Life", will call many important subjects into discussion.

- What are the issues we face today – and what is our response to them?
- What are we thinking and what do we want people to know?
- How shall we be people of faith in a many splendored, many faceted world?
- What do we have to learn from each other? And how will we put these learnings to work.

Fun, faith and fellowship will be the order of our time together, and we are looking forward to the Maine Conference delegation's trip out to Tennessee, and return with all they will have to tell.

**Here are the Facts as we know them today:**

**Trip Dates: July 23-29, 2007.** This includes travel time by bus. Conferences throughout New England will be traveling by bus, all of us converging on Knoxville on the 24th of July.

All youth between **13 and 18 years of age** are invited.

The Conference Group is limited to the first 100 registrants; 80 young people and 20 adults.

**The cost of the trip is now \$650.** This includes both fees for our travel costs and for the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Many thanks go to the Resourcing the Local Church committee who have made this possible with scholarships of \$100 per young person or chaperone for up to 100 people!!!

**Your registration form, with \$100 non-refundable deposit, is due in the Conference office before April 15th.** If your complete payment is received at the Conference Office by April 15th, you will receive a \$20 discount. They are available from your local church or on the Maine Conference website.

If you have any questions please contact Sueli at 778-0424.



**THANK YOU!!!!**

**A special thank you goes to: Rina Bardo, Lyvia Gaewsky, Tracy Ladd, and Rebekah Dunham for your help with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the early release program. Together, we created a beautiful mural for Easter Sunday. Thank you to all!!!**

## **YOUTH GROUPS SCHEDULES FOR APRIL**

### **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades: FUN WITH THE DRUMS**

Join us for a fun afternoon of drumming with the InnerRhythm drumming group. Wed. April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Early Release Program from 12:30pm-3:00pm at the church in the vestry.



### **6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADES: Pilgrim Lodge-Spring Clean-up**

Join us for fun, fellowship, food and work! Friday, April 25th – Sat., April 26<sup>th</sup> Please contact Sueli for more information. 778-0424



## **Jump Start Weekend PL's Spring Cleanup Event**

**Friday and Saturday, April 25-26**

**Come and work to awaken Pilgrim Lodge  
from a long winter's nap**

Raking leaves, stacking wood, clearing brush, floating docks, sweeping floors, washing windows: there's so much to do to clean up PL after the winter and get ready

for summer! We need your help, and there's something to do for everyone!

Join Old South youth group for a weekend of fun and work. Please speak with Sueli for more information.



## **SUMMER CAMP AT PILGRIM LODGE**

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

**Christ, is a 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 several trip camps at  
other locations.**

**Campers come to Pilgrim Lodge  
for one week in the summer.  
Every week is geared toward a  
particular age group. The youngest  
campers have finished third grade  
and our oldest school age campers  
are in high school. There are also  
special camps for families and  
adults.**

**Brochures are available at the  
church vestry near the Youth  
group's bulletin board. Partial  
scholarships are available for Old  
South church kids. Please call the  
church office for more  
information - 778-0424**



Vacation Bible School

## **GOD IS STILL SPEAKING,**

### Vacation Bible school curriculum

We are challenged to be persons who WELCOME others and CELEBRATE being CALLED to INVITE everyone into our communities of faith. Teachers and children will learn and grow together as they explore how God has spoken in the past and how God is still speaking today. Each day we will begin with activity centers (Bible stories, singing, games and crafts) and end with a worship service.

### **Registration starts now to June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

VBC Starts: Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9am-12 noon

Where: Old South Congregational Church – United Church of Christ

Cost: Free

Registration forms will be available at the church office. If you have questions please call Sueli at 778-0424.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Get ready for a lively Intergenerational Service April 6th! The kids have some energetic new music to sing--plus a surprise or two for the congregation.

This month, our Chapel Time will feature an exploration of Pentecost. We plan to discuss the ways in which the Holy Spirit touches our lives. Also, we will be learning a few new songs, including some "classic hits" from Pilgrim Lodge.

Sueli has launched an exciting new program to mark the birthdays of our Sunday School kids: She will be mailing birthday cards to each of them. We ask parents to please make sure Sueli has your childrens' birth dates. Also, donations of cards are always appreciated!

The Sunday School Superintendents would like to give a hearty "Thank You" to all those who have taught Sunday School classes so far this year. And, of course, we welcome any adults who might be interested in teaching a class.



### **Hospitality Updates Volunteer Sign Ups**

The Hospitality Committee is going to be updating the coffee hour volunteer sign up sheet. The sign up sheet will have space for a co-host(s) to join a member of the Hospitality Committee to offer refreshments in the vestry assembly room after Sunday worship service. There will also be a column to sign up to bring additional food for the coffee hour hosts to offer as refreshments. This will give parents of young children, choir members and other members of our church family to take part in helping to provide the wonderful time of fellowship that takes place after worship each Sunday. The contribution could be cheese, crackers, fruit, baked goods, or juice. Extra baked goods can be dated, marked "Coffee Hour" and put in to the freezer any time. The next column will be for groups, committees and individuals to sign up to help with clean up each week. The signup sheet for each month during the year will be posted nearer to the kitchen. When you sign up please be sure to include your telephone number so that a member of the Hospitality Committee can contact you to coordinate coffee hour.

Donna Wheeler will be compiling an list of potential volunteers to serve as co-hosts, to help provide additional food, and to help with special receptions held at Old South.

It is only through the assistance of volunteers from week to week that the Hospitality Committee can continue to offer the opportunity of fellowship each Sunday following worship and your assistance is greatly appreciated! If you have more questions about coffee hour please contact one of the committee members: Mardy Bogar, Babbie Cameron, Debbie Davis-Robinson, Judy Dunham, Trish Flint, Ruth Haszko, Arin Hilton, Joyce and Dick Morton, or Donna Wheeler.

### **Gifts of Time and Talent**

On the last Sunday of each month, Wendy Huish is offering free blood pressure checks to anyone who would like one! Please meet Wendy in Room Matthew in the extension following our morning worship service if you would like to have your blood pressure checked!



### **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

Every April our church participates in the Material Aids Project through the Outreach Committee. For those who are not familiar with this project, we make up school kits, health kits and baby layettes to be distributed by Church World Service to any area here in our country or in other parts of the world when a disaster strikes.

Watch for our display in the assembly room on Sunday in April so that you may learn more about this project and see what goes into the kits. Following is a list of the items we will need:

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| hand towels | blunt scissors |
| wash cloths | rulers         |
| combs       | pencils        |

soap(bath size)  
toothbrushes  
4-7 oz. toothpaste  
metal nail files or clippers  
cloth diapers

pencil sharpeners  
erasers  
crayons (24 count)



When you are shopping, please remember our material aids project and include a few of these items in your purchase. A box will be in the assembly room all during the month of April for the donated items. Monetary contributions are also welcome. The kits must be completed by May 1<sup>st</sup> as that is when they are picked up and delivered to the CWS distribution center in Maryland. If you have any questions please contact Polly Howatt or Peg Adams.

Thank you.

### ***May Telstar deadline***

*Please have all articles for the May Telstar to Phyllis in the church office no later than April 15! Thank you!*

### ***A thought to take with you***

*By the time of the New Testament, resurrection of the dead had become a completely available conviction among Jews (see Mark 12:18-27). Most unfortunately, though, in modern uncritical Christian thought, resurrection has become a rather trivial, feel-good belief about “seeing one’s loved ones again.” A biblical sense of the resurrection of the dead is focused, in contrast to popular notions, on the sure power and fidelity of God in the face of every negation of death. Trivialization of that conviction is an enormous temptation in an acculturated, comfortable church that seeks to rationalize faith so as not to disrupt anything “natural.” In the end, nothing is*

*“natural” about God’s defeat of the power of death.  
That confident anticipation of victory is not “natural,” but  
is welcomed by Israel in its conviction about God’s sure  
rule over the future.*

Walter Bruggemann,  
Reverberations of Faith  
Westminster John Knox, 2002, p.174

