

**Old South First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**



Telstar DECEMBER 2007

Dear Church Family,

What a busy place we are! Packing Thanksgiving baskets for the Food Pantry, doing our Christmas shopping while supporting Third World artisans and workers, dressing our church for the holidays at the Hanging of the Greens, cooking and serving our holiday Community Lunch, and preparing to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the babe of Nazareth in a variety of worship and fellowship opportunities...Be sure to check out our Christmas schedule in this issue of Telstar!

But Advent, the season in the church year that stretches between December 2nd and Christmas Day in 2007, is about far more than serving our community, and having fun together, and coming to church each Sunday. It is a time to pay attention for signs of God's work among us. It is a time to claim quiet moments when we can appreciate God's presence in our lives and in the lives of those around us, even as we wait for God to come to us in the ordinary life of the babe of Nazareth.

How can we find such moments? I find that I have to schedule prayer and reflection time just like I would an appointment with one of you. And I find that when I do, when I put God first in my day, I am far more sensitive to the "God moments" that come along in a mere twenty-four hours. How do you set aside time for God? What might you do to get the time you need in this busy month?

Our Bible tells us that we are to be "like a watchman on the ramparts of a city, scanning the dark sky for hints of dawn and the safety of morning's light (Psalm 130:6); like wise servants preparing for the arrival of the householder (Luke 12: 35-40); like those who know the hour has come to wake from sleep (Romans 13: 11)." (from Weavings December issue)

In the midst of our celebrations and busy-ness, let's stop this

season to watch and to listen. Who knows what we will see and hear?

Thanks be to God!
Blessings and love,
Cathie



Christmas is coming – thanks be to God!

On December 1st, we will begin the season with the annual *Hanging of the Greens* and *pancake breakfast*, when we dress our church up for Advent. Breakfast will begin at 8:00am. Following breakfast we will decorate the assembly room and sanctuary in preparation for Christmas. Please join us - all are welcome!

On December 1st from 11-4, we will be holding a Fair Trade Gift Fair which is open to the public. On **December 2nd**, the sale will continue after church.

On December 1st 7:30 pm and **December 2nd** at 3 pm, the Community Chorus will be holding their annual holiday concert in our sanctuary.

On Saturday, December 8th, we will be holding our Christmas Community Lunch – come and help, come and eat!

On Thursday, December 13th at 7:15 pm, we will be holding our now traditional beginning-of-Advent healing prayer service in the Newman Wing Chapel. If you have questions about this service or about healing prayer in general, please call Rev. Cathie (778-0424).

On Saturday, December 15th, at 10 am, we will be holding our first annual Old South Cookie Swap! We will sip coffee, say a prayer, sing a few carols and trade cookies. Come and bring 6 dozen cookies from a favorite recipe – we will exchange cookies and walk away with a variety for holiday entertaining. There is a sign up in the assembly room – we need at least a dozen of us to float this yummy plan!

On December 23rd, our Christmas Pageant will be our worship centerpiece, with our children and youth singing some of our favorite carols, and at times inviting us to sing along!

On December 24th in the evening, we will have our now traditional 5:30 pm Christmas Eve service for families, with the Christmas Eve scripture readings and carols, the Junior Choir and soloists, and a short meditation; and our 11 pm Service of Word, Song and Communion – our senior choir will be singing.

On January 6th, we will have a special celebration of Epiphany, the coming of the wise men to baby Jesus. We will bring our Time and Talent questionnaires to the manger, in addition to our usual offering.

Please join us for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany at Old South!

FROM THE MODERATOR

As we approach the end of our fiscal year (December 31), it has become increasingly apparent that our income is lagging behind the 2007 budget by a fairly significant margin. The primary culprit has been the pledge income category: Our budget approved at the annual meeting assumed pledges of \$170,000 while the final amount pledged in last year's Stewardship Campaign eventually came in at about \$148,000.

The shortfall is in part covered by a carry-over surplus from 2006 in the amount of \$12,858. However, with higher maintenance, utility, and insurance expenses than expected in addition to the unbudgeted cost of repairs for the lightening strike earlier this year (at least some of which will be eventually reimbursed by insurance), we have been unable to close the gap between expenses and income.

Accordingly, faced with a projected operating deficit of over \$12,000 by year-end, the Executive Committee voted to institute a freeze on discretionary spending at its November meeting for the balance of the year. To that end, all Church committees and departments have been asked to spend only what is absolutely necessary and committed.

We have scrutinized the budget line item by line item, and several areas of savings have been identified which will have little or no impact on the life and programs of our Church. Also, we have several funded "off-budget" accounts outside of our endowment which can be transferred to operating income as necessary to help us end the year in the black. The Treasurer, Moderator and Financial Secretary will continue to monitor our financial situation on a weekly basis for the rest of the year.

Needless to say, timely payments on pledge balances will be a great help as we strive to balance the books with as little disruption as possible to our programs, stewardship and outreach activities.

Of course, we must be mindful that work is also now progressing on the 2008 budget, and the Church will not have the benefit of a carry-over surplus this year. The costs of operating Old South

have been subject to the same upward pressures that we are feeling in our personal budgets at home, and next year looks to be a challenging one for all of us and our Church.

Gordie Flint
Moderator

The logo for the Financial Report features the words "Financial" and "Report" in a serif font, stacked vertically. The text is surrounded by several small, stylized coins or tokens arranged in a semi-circle around the words.

Financial Report

From the Treasurer

General Budget Information ~ this will be updated monthly to help us stay aware of the finances of our church.

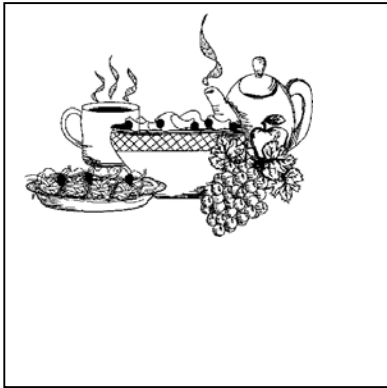
2007 Year to Date (Nov. 24) Income from all sources:	\$241,593.38
2006 Year to Date:	\$253,628.38

2007 Year to Date (Nov. 24) Expenses:	\$238,382.47
2006 Year to Date:	\$232,972.13

Income includes prepaid pledges for 2006 (some of us pay all of our pledge at one time), monthly investment distributions, weekly offerings, church use, rental income, etc.

Expenses include everything from our monthly loan payment, monthly fuel payments, electricity, pay for our employees, support for Our Church's Wider Mission, Outreach Ministries and more!

Please note, that although at the time of Telstar printing, we still have more income than expenses, all expenses for the month of November have not all been posted yet. For detailed information regarding the budget, please contact Charley Murray or Gordie Flint.



Attention Retirees:

Please join us at the November Retiree Luncheon on Monday, December 3rd. Please bring a desert or side dish to share with others at this fellowship meal.

We look forward to seeing you there!

HARVEST SUPPER



WE RAISED A TOTAL OF \$1,346.00 for the Pilgrim Lodge Scholarships!

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this year's Harvest Supper from those who distributed posters, signed up to cook, set up tables, helped cut pies, carve, serve beverages, prepare the food for the tables, help with dishes and clean up, spread the word about the supper AND came to eat. Even though the weather did not cooperate and we were little worried about the turnout, we believe that we served around 160 meals.

A special thank you to Stan Wheeler and Rocky Marcellino who help coordinate the supper and to Sherry Jenckes who always helps me with the last minute details.

Brenda

Scribner



Old South gives thanks to those of you who have been giving your time and talents in service of the church. In early September, **Amanda Hilton** could be found painting in the old nursery, **Roger Condit and Dick Giard** installed vinyl siding on the side door entryway, and **Karyl Condit and**

Shirley Waddell painted the inside of the entryway. In October and November, we saw **Roger Condit and Shirley Waddell** cleaning the windows in the vestry. **Pat Durham and Ed Davis** spent a day cleaning up the lawns of the church properties. **David**

Jenckes has spent quite a few hours meeting with the fire alarm company and working on the phone lines. Thank you to those named and the **many of you who are unnamed** but have been giving freely of your time in service of the church! We appreciate your efforts!



Alternative Gift Market and Fair Trade Handcraft Sale

Public Sale – Sat., Dec. 1, 11-4

Old South Sale – Sun., Dec. 2, after worship

In the Vestry

Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolate and Tea, Heifer, Fair Trade Gift items from Palestine, Greater Gift and Partners for Just Trade

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP!!

Party's In The Kitchen

The members of the Kitchen Remodeling Committee invite our family and friends of Old South to help us celebrate the completion of our new kitchen during coffee hour on Sunday, January 13, 2008 and commemorate loved ones whose memories the kitchen holds within its walls. This celebration represents the culmination of 4 years of planning, fundraising, construction, and more planning, and more fundraising and and more construction...and thank God it's done! A world of thanks to all those who have lent a hand along the way-

The Kitchen Remodeling Committee: Co- Chairs Amanda Murray and Debbie Davis-Robinson, Karyl Condit, Pat Durham, Shirley Holbrook, Sherry Jenckes, Regina Longyear, Liz Marks, Carolyn Parr and the late Gerry Parr, Brenda Scribner, and Stan Wheeler.



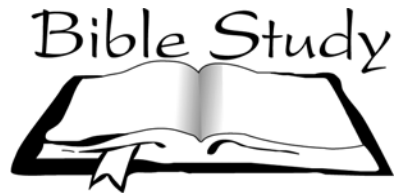
Deacon's Corner:

Curbside parking on Sunday mornings is reserved using four red cones along with the two signs on tall stands in front of the church on Main Street. This space is reserved to those of you who want easier access between your car and church. A convenient approach to the curb in front of Old South Church is to drive down Main Street from the traffic light at Broadway.

Please get word to your "flock deacon" if you are hospitalized or have any particular desire for support. Or, you may let Phyllis Pederson know at the church office, 778-0424.

On Monday, December 24, two Christmas Eve services will be held at Old South, an all family worship service at 5:30 PM and a second service at 11:00 PM.

The Deacon of the Month for December is Roger Condit. You may reach Roger at 778-3722.



Bible Study in December

Monday Bible Study will continue on December 3rd and 10th, 4:45-6:15 pm at Holman Parish House. On the 3rd, we will be looking at Matthew 24:36-44 and Isaiah 2:1-5; on the 10th, Matthew 3:1-12 and Isaiah 11:1-10. Please join us to learn about these passages and to share how they intersect with your life and the life of our church family.



We Celebrate Our Confirmation Class

During the months of November and December, our confirmands and their sponsors are part of our worship celebration, ushering, lighting candles, and reading scripture. Please keep the class in your prayers this Christmas season, and during our break between Christmas and the beginning of March. The class includes 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 Sueli Gaewsky, and Tim and Cathie Wallace.

Lay Pastoral Care Group in Old South's Near Future

This past summer when Rev. Cathie was on sabbatical, Old South learned that lay people can care very effectively for other lay people. Since then, that sabbatical group and Rev.

Cathie have been discussing how to continue this level of care from the summer.

In a recent meeting, the group came up with a model that we believe will work well. Those who wish to serve as a caregiver will, after training, be matched with someone who is shut in or going through a difficult time, to develop a one-on-one relationship. Each caregiver will have only one care receiver, and will visit with that person two-to-four times a month. The caregivers will have a monthly meeting to receive care themselves.

Rev. Cathie will, of course, continue her regular visitation, just as the Deacons will continue to be a connection to the church for the members of their flock. This new group will simply add another circle of care to those that already exist. In this way, we hope to continue growing in our service to and love for each other.

Rev. Cathie is in the process of working out a training for anyone interested in this group in the new year. If you wish to serve in this way, or have questions about the group, please contact her (778-0424 or cathiewallace@aol.com).



We Love to Break Bread Together!!!

By Rev. Cathie

Have you noticed how often we break bread together in this church family? I think we set a record, however, the week of November 3-10. Here is a list of the events that occurred and the number of meals served:

- The Harvest Supper, November 3rd: 160
- The Retirees Lunch, November 5th: 36
- The Women's Potluck, November 8: 30
- The Community Lunch, November 10: over 130

And at all those meals, in all of that eating, we felt God's presence in those who cooked and served and cleaned up, as well as in those who simply love to eat! Thanks be to God!

Stewardship for 2008 and for 2007

This article is being written before the conclusion of this fall's Stewardship season; however, the pledges submitted thus far suggest that the *Old South* community may indeed reach its goal for increased 2008 giving. If so, we will have built well on the foundation laid by previous generations, and we can ensure that our children and grandchildren will inherit a church that is not burdened with debt.

If you have not yet responded, your pledge for 2008 will be gratefully received at any time. It can be placed in the Sunday offering or mailed to the Church office to the attention of our financial secretaries.

Although our focus has been on budgeting and planning for next year, all of us need to intently continue our giving to *Old South* for the remainder of 2007. For our debt-reduction strategy to proceed effectively, it is vital that we start 2008 with no lingering deficit from the 2007 fiscal year.

Your response to this year's Stewardship effort has been very gratifying. Thanks be to God for everyone's support and generosity.

The Stewardship Committee

Carl Backman
Rocell Marcellino
Stu Cameron

Megan Roberts
Eric Gunther
Dale Bardo

New Time and Talent Survey

St. Teresa of Avila, a voice from the 14th century reminds us that,
“God has no hands but our hands to do his work today;
God has no feet but our feet to lead others in his way;
God has no voice but our voice to tell others how he died;
And God has no help but our help to lead them to his side”.

All of us have skills which bring us satisfaction and interests that we find enjoyable to pursue. We can enhance the life of our church family and that of our wider community by using our interests and skills as a gift to God here at *Old South*.

On the opposite side of this page is a *Time and Talent Survey*, newly revised by program coordinators, Betsy Riley and Shirley Waddell, and by the Outreach Committee's Shelley Griffith and the Stewardship Committee's Stu Cameron.

The *Survey* allows you to note the ways in which you would like to be of service, and your responses will be both catalogued in the Church office and distributed to appropriate committee chairpersons and project leaders. The *Survey* is a tool which facilitates matching a wide variety of needs with our willingness to help.

We will be dedicating our gifts of time and talent on Epiphany. You can fill out this *Survey* form and bring it with you to worship

on January 6. The same form will be included in that Sunday's bulletin and can be completed before worship begins.

At the offering time, our gifts of time and talents will be brought up the aisle to put in the manger that Stu Cameron lovingly created for us before he and Babbie left for Arizona. Just as the wise men of old brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to baby Jesus, during worship on Epiphany we will offer our gifts of love and service to the God we worship. Thanks be to God!

* * * * *

If you are unable to attend worship on January 6, please fill out the *Survey* and mail it to the Church office to the attention of Betsy Riley and Shirley Waddell.



Whatsoever you do
to the least of my people,
that you do unto me



BREAD FOR THE WORLD UPDATE ON THE FARM BILL

The Farm Bill is currently stalled in the Senate as of the date of this writing. On November 11th, several people from the Congregation joined the Justice & Witness Committee and we again wrote letters to our Senators, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins urging them to support the following Amendments to the Farm Bill:

Lugar/Lautenberg Amendment. This would broaden the agricultural safety net by making a free revenue insurance program available to all farmers, saving billions of dollars to be used for nutrition, conservation, the McGovern-Dole international school meals program and more.

Grassley/Durgan Amendment. This would cap commodity payments at \$250,000 per household, helping ensure that payments are targeted to those who need them.

The Senate vote on the farm bill is very important as it will make a big difference in whether the farm bill will include changes that will benefit the hungry and poor people of the United States and around the world as well as make more programs more fair for U.S. farmers and rural families.

You can keep informed of the developments of the Farm Bill by logging on to www.bread.org and then click on "Recent Developments".



A Message from Justice and Witness By Babbie Cameron

A sign in the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC reads:

"Thou shalt not be a victim. Thou shalt not be a perpetrator. Thou shalt not be a bystander."

"Thou shalt not be a bystander" - a new commandment for Christians in a time of corrosive anxiety and uncertainty. At the General Synod of the United Church of Christ last June in Hartford, CT which was attended by many from Old South Church, a powerful keynote address was given by broadcaster Bill Moyers. Moyers minced no words in calling the UCC to be a church of national conscience in an age where conscience has too often been endangered, co-opted, silenced. In his address we hear the voice of the prophet, calling the church back to live as challengers of the established political and socioeconomic order, and not to capitulate into becoming bystanders to injustice.

"Thou shalt not be a bystander" is often the role of the Justice and Witness Committee at Old South Congregational Church. This group meets monthly to engage with issues of peacemaking, ending hunger, Fair Trade, the human cost of war, etc. On many occasions our UCC denomination requests that important information concerning one of these topics be conveyed to the local church as a part of our connectional system. These announcements are informational and non-pressuring to our members, yet there are some in the church who say "we don't want disturbing or political discussions in the church. Period." While this opinion is certainly respected and considered before

any announcement is made, our committee WILL strive to be the conscience that Moyers challenges us to be.

As Marcus Borg writes in *The Heart of Christianity*, the fall study book at Old South, "the God of love is also the God of justice. The two are related for in the Bible justice is the social form of love. Thus the God of love is not simply 'nice' but has an edge, a passion for justice... To take the God of love and justice seriously means to take justice seriously and to be aware that prolonged injustice has consequences."

"Thou shalt not be a bystander". This coming year, the talk in every corner of our lives will be about who will govern this country and what a vision for a future of peace and justice might look like. The Justice and Witness Committee invites your comments, your participation with us in this pivotal year of confronting the deep issues of our day. We are called to be a church of conscience. We are called away from bystanding, from just being nice to daring to be Christians engaged in the hard but vital issues of our time.

"God calls us: he locks us in; but He never leaves us alone. He goes with us. He sustains us. That is the only assurance we have." (John Perkins in *With Justice for All*)

Honduras



Missions

There are two Honduras mission trips scheduled for January 2008. The first group will depart on 1/7 and return on 1/14. The second group departs on 1/16 and return on 1/23. There are openings for six more participants on the first trip. The cost is projected to be under \$1000, including airfare, meals, room and board and ground

transportation. Serious inquiries should be made to Rev. Marcia Charles at 474-7383 or rvmcharles@zwi.net. Youth scholarships are available.

The mission projects will be centered in the village of El Hunco. Water cisterns (pilas) will be built for 22 families. Medical clinics will be provided as well.

A Chicken Marbella public supper on Nov. 17 was offered as a fundraiser for supplies and materials for the trip. Currently, note cards are being printed using four different photographs from El Hunco. They will be sold in packages of 8 and 12, and individually. These lovely note cards will be available beginning the end of the November.

Please watch for further updates on trip plans and items needed.

For more information, you can contact Old South's representatives to the Franklin Association Honduras Missions, Debbie Davis-Robinson, Wendy Huish, and Sherry Jenckes.



For buying building supplies in Honduras for our partnership projects there, we continue collecting returnable cans and bottles. They may be put in the four-foot tall box at the bottom of the stairs below the vestry, or in the smaller box in the vestry. Thank you for raising \$500 in the past 3 years!

Roger Condit





Community Luncheon

The November Community Luncheon went extremely well, especially considering that it was the weekend following the Harvest Supper and Veteran's Day weekend as well. We tried a new menu item for the first time, serving baked macaroni and cheese with ham, green beans, rolls and butter and yummy apple crisps for dessert! Thanks to all those who donated apple crisp! We served a total of about 125 meals, including about 30 takeouts. It's heartening to know that we are now sending meals up to the Ethel Walton/Hazel Thompson apartment complexes and they seem to be well received there.

Our next luncheon will be on December 8th and the menu will be meat loaf with mashed potatoes, veggies, rolls and butter. Dessert will be decided soon. As usual, we will have a peeling party on Friday the 7th and volunteers (especially new faces) are needed for that portion of this ministry as well. Watch the kitchen door for sign up sheets.

Many thanks to all those who came out to help with the setting up, serving and cleaning up. We could never do this ministry without all those helping hands.

Stan Wheeler
Rocell Marcellino Co-chairs

YOUTH CORNER NEWS

Dear Congregation,

The month of November was a very busy one for the youth at Old South. I would like to thank all of you who worked on various mission opportunities here at the church and out in the community.

TEAM EFFORT AND CARE.....

Three years ago the Old South Youth group received a grant from the Outreach Committee to do some local mission work. This money came from an anonymous donor who each year has helped us to carry out our mission here in Farmington and in the world.

After going to a Share and Care Food Pantry committee meeting in the Fall 2004 I learned about the need they had to put together 200 Thanksgiving baskets. I put my hand up and said... Old South youth can put together 50 baskets!!!! Three years later with your help we have been able to continue this important ministry.

The Montessori school has for the past two years contributed with one full basket of food and will do it again!

This year we are thrilled to have the participation of the Saint Joseph's senior high youth group who baked 50 homemade pies for the baskets.

The Old South youth groups gather food for the 51 thanksgiving baskets, purchasing 90 turkeys (over 1000 pounds), 500 cans of food, 300 pounds of potatoes, 500 pounds of apples, 765 dinner rolls and 60 pounds of margarine.

Saint Joseph and Old South Youth had a pizza party on Nov. 18th. After eating we got to work and bagged potatoes, apples, assembled the baskets and delivered to the food pantry.

THANK YOU to the entire congregation who made it possible for us to put together all this thanksgiving baskets. Jointly we have made a difference in our community and our world.

Sueli

HARVEST SUPPER

Thanks go to all the youth who work serving refreshments at the Harvest supper. Work well done!

COAT DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of coats at the Care and Share food pantry on Nov. 19th was a great success, special thanks Linda Giard and Teresa Berry for all your hard work helping to move all the coats from the church to the food pantry. **We distributed over 200 coats, hats, etc...** The coat closet here at Old South is a continuing ministry throughout the year. Please continue to bring your clean coats to support this ministry. Thank you.

Operation Santa Claus/Abused Women Advocacy Projects are here soon and we need your help!

Once again the Youth groups will be shopping for Christmas presents for kids in need who live in Franklin County and for families in our community with children from the AWAP project.

We need you financial support. Please write a check to: Old South Church and on the memo line please write: Youth Group Dec. Project. Unless you specify which cause you want to support the money will be divided between the two projects.

If you and your family would like to go shopping for the AWAP families there is an opportunity! We will be putting gift tags on our Christmas tree located in the church vestry. You can buy the gifts, wrap them, write a card saying Merry Christmas and put the gift back under the Christmas tree at the church. Please tape the original tag on the gift. Thank you very much!

I wish you a...



Sueli

Sunday School and Jr. Choir News:

After several lively discussions during Chapel Time, the kids of Old South have voted to try to raise enough money to buy a water buffalo through the Heifer Project as our Christmas mission work. We are getting close to the goal--\$250--and may even raise enough money to purchase extra chickens, bees, or rabbits.

This month, we will be hard at work practicing for the Christmas pageant. The pageant, called the Jesse Tree, recalls the people and events of the Old Testament that lead to the coming of the Messiah. With a mix of new music and traditional carols, the pageant will include our entire Sunday School--and perhaps a few adults. We will be rehearsing during our regular Sunday School hour, with a dress rehearsal and pizza party on Saturday, December 22 at 9:00 am. The performance will take place Sunday, Dec. 23, during the regular worship service time.



Christmas Play

Jesse Trees: Preparation for our Christmas Pageant

Jesse Trees show the genealogy of Jesus Christ in the form of a family tree. There are two biblical genealogies of Jesus: in Matthew 1:1-17 and in Luke 3:23-38. Depictions of Jesse Trees can be found in stone carvings and stained glass windows in medieval and modern churches and cathedrals.

Jesse Trees can be created on a poster or a banner; or, a small tree can be used. Symbols representing people or events in Jesus' life are hung on the tree or stuck on the poster/banner. The symbols are often made of cardboard and painted, or cut from material, postcards or old Christmas cards.

On December 23rd in our time of worship, the Christmas Pageant will revolve around a Jesse Tree – now you know ahead of time what one is!

InnerRhythm Beat – Karyl Condit

In this column, I have been sharing from the book **When the Drummers were Women: A Spiritual History of Rhythm**, by Layne Redmond. (Our drums are Layne Redmond drums).

There are multi-layers of symbolism associated with the frame drum and/or the tambourine (a frame drum with jingles).

The drum is moon-shaped, as well as resembling a grain sieve, a woman's tool

The drum is a circle, representing the circularity and wholeness of feminine spirituality

The beat represents the inner pulse of all life, and the primordial heart beat

The wood of the frame represents the Tree of Life

The Shaman's drums were made of wood struck by lightning, to symbolize the psychic energy continued within them

The Lotus symbol in our Layne Redmond drums is an ancient symbol of creation and birth

Drumheads were painted red, the color of blood and color of life

The drum strokes represent the four elements of earth, water, fire and air

The jingles were added to the frame drum by the Goddess Cybele in Roman times to represent a "sistrum", a metallic instrument used to cleanse the worship space and call on the Divine

The first known depiction of a drum in a painting in a shrine is dated to 5800 B.C. (Catal Huyuk, Asia Minor). The frame drum emerged from women's religions of prehistory to become the symbol of the goddess as creatress of the universe. The drum in the hands of the goddess or her priestess represented her power to create the universe with one stroke on her drum—the one beat that represents the first heartbeat in time, the sustaining rhythm of life.

Drumming, dancing, and chanting throughout history have been "spiritual technology" for communing with the Divine. In InnerRhythm, we find playing the drums to be meditative and prayerful. It is also fellowship and fun, challenging and

stimulating. We welcome new members at any time. Drums are available. We practice on Tuesdays at 5:30 P.M. in the Nursery of the Newman Extension. For more information, feel free to call Karyl at 778-3722.

The Foothills Freestyle Drum Circle, featuring a variety of percussion, meets the first Friday of the month at 6:30 P.M. in the chapel of the Newman Wing. Come join us!



Altar Flowers

On November 11th, altar flowers were provided by Jeanne Stowe in loving memory of Clifford and Mary Ella Rounds. If you would like to sign up to provide flowers, please see the sign up sheet posted in the vestry to sign up for a date. You can make the arrangements for the flowers to be delivered to the church or bring them to the church on Sunday mornings. If you would like your flowers noted in the bulletin as a memorial or celebration, contact Phyllis at 778-0424 by Wednesday of each week. Thank you!



Poinsettia Memorials will be listed in the January Telstar and a list will also be available in the narthex sometime in early December.

The deadline for the January, 2008, Telstar is December 15. Please have all articles to Phyllis in the church office by Dec. 15! Thank you.

Lent??? Already?

No, not really...But Lent does start early this year – Wednesday, February 6th. And so it is not too soon to think about how we will walk the 40 days of Lent, with Jesus in the wilderness. This Lent, for those who are interested, Rev. Cathie would like to share as well as she can the joy and challenge of centering prayer that she discovered on her sabbatical this past summer.

Using the book Forty Days to a Closer Walk with God by J. David Muyskens, we will set aside at least a half hour a day for reading and prayer on our own, starting on Ash Wednesday (February 6th). The group will meet for an hour and a half on the six Lenten Sundays for prayer, reflection and sharing.

Because we will need to order books by mid-January, Rev. Cathie is posting a sign-up in mid-December. If you have questions about this group opportunity, don't hesitate to call or e-mail her (778-0424, cathiewallace@aol.com).

A thought to take with you...

*Maybe it is in the waiting for God,
not in the wandering from store to store,
that we find our way.*

*Maybe it is in the friendship of God,
not in the frenzy of the crowds,
that we are led to the manger.*

*Maybe it is in the steadfast love of God,
and not in the pile of stuff under the tree,
that we find what we have been searching for all our lives.*

*Maybe, just maybe, God of Advent,
this year will be different.*

*Maybe, just maybe,
we will let you lead us to the manger.*

Thom M. Shuman

