

Old South First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

June Telstar 2008

Dear Church Family,

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of May and June, I am deeply aware of our need to return to the center which is God. Taking a few moments or longer a day just to be with God can give us the spiritual energy we need to live our faith in our lives.

It is way too easy to forget that God travels with us when we get caught up in the busyness of life. Much of the busyness that I sense around me these days is joyful: Confirmation, graduation, weddings planned, family get-togethers on the calendar. Some of the busyness that you tell me about is not so happy: medical tests done and results awaited, surgeries planned, older folk having to move to nursing homes, worries about children.

Here at the church we are finishing up the church school year, planning for Baccalaureate on June 2nd, Celebration Sunday on June 8th, and Vacation Bible School June 23rd-25th. The Financial Study Committee is wrapping up their work and readying a recommendation for Executive Council to be presented at the June 4th meeting. We are getting ready for the Maine Conference Annual Meeting here in Farmington June 20-22nd, and for the closing worship which is at our church at 10:30 am on the 22nd in place of our usual 9:30 am worship. And in all this busyness we do our best to hold to God at our center.

This past week I sat with a parishioner beside a lake. Our conversation ranged from our families to the deep questions of our faith, and God was present in it all. The natural beauty around us can hold us in the Presence, whether it is in the lake nearest you, or in your garden, or in an early morning walk, or in the night stars. "Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46)," the Holy One calls

to us. Be still and remember who you are – my beloved child, called to live my love.

May each one of us find God in the midst of all that we do.
Blessings and love,
Cathie

Rev. Cathie will be on vacation June 24-July 6. In her absence, please call the church office in a pastoral emergency. On Sunday, June 29th, Paula Hammerick will be preaching; on July 6th, Babbie Cameron will offer the sermon. Thank you to both!



Monday Bible Study Schedule

Monday Bible Study is a chance to get together for some perspective on the passage Rev. Cathie will be preaching. Please join us on June 2 and 9 at Holman Parish House, 4:45-6:15 pm.

June Lectionary Readings and worship information

June 1, "Waters of New Life": *Genesis 6:9-22; 7:24; 8:14-19; Psalm 46 or Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28; Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24; Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28, (29-31); Matthew 7:21-2*

Senior Recognition Sunday, Strengthen the Church Special Offering; Communion Sunday and Food Closet collection



Don't forget to bring your canned good and hygiene product donations for the food closet on June 1st and every Communion Sunday! Thank you!

June 8, "Restoring Love": *Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12 or Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13; 18-26*

Sunday school Celebration Sunday with cookout following worship service

June 15, "Named for Purpose": *Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 or Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)*

Father's Day and last Choir Sunday until fall

June 22, "Daring Discipleship": *Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 or Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39*

10:00 am Annual Meeting Worship Service at Old South with Barbeque fundraiser following service

June 29, "Gifts of Compassion": *Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13 or Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42*

Paula Hammerick, preaching



Prayers, Celebrations and Concerns

The Cameron Family

Carol Tucker and her family

Lewis Holbrook's mother, Sylvia

Shannon and the Russo Family

Rachel & Gerard Silverstone

Forrest Mann

Steve and Monica

Victoria Hilton

Christian Nickerson

Roxanne Mixer

Joel and Patricia Hayden

Mary Waddell

Maggy and Harry Wyckoff

Nelia Farmer and her family

DeeDee and Duke Ramsey

Barbara Graff

Michal and Michele

Randall Parsons

Carolyn Lake

Priscilla Ames

Ava McKensie

Leroy Gilbanks' son and the family

Melody Bonnema, a friend of the Camerons

Beth Hatcher's family and her brother, David Gill

Tamara Hoke, and the family & friends of Susan McConnell

Mildred Case, Pat Durham's sister-in-law

Lucille Stofan, the Condit's neighbor

Lauri, the Condit's niece

Barbara Keirstead's cousin, Suzanne French

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

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

For those who are in abusive relationships

For victims of natural disasters

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

If you have a prayer request that you would like to have added to this list, please call the church office (778-0424). Thank you.

Benefit Gala a Great Success!

Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the benefit dinner and concert for our Window Restoration Fund. Eighty-five dinners were served in the vestry. We raised \$1709 dollars from the dinner and donations and received an additional \$1000 donation the next day. These amounts will be matched by a generous donor, bringing our total to \$5417.00 for this event!

Stan Wheeler and his crew were in the kitchen at 7:30 A.M. on Saturday a.m. By 9 A.M. the pears for dessert were already poached in a delicious nectar. The tables were set up by Rocell Marcellino and her crew with colored cloths and napkins and potted plants (later raffled off to 12 lucky guests). The doors between the vestry and sanctuary were raised, opening up the entire space for the festivities -- and drawing our attention to the newly restored Good Shepherd window installed just in time for the evening. After gourmet appetizers and punch, Tim Wallace talked to us briefly about the church members who are memorialized by our windows. Restoring these windows continue to honor their contributions to the church and this community. Our youth and young adults served the delicious meal in style. Special gratitude was given to Joe and Brenda Holman for their donation of restoring the Good Shepherd Window and to individual "lead" donors Elaine Wing, Pat Durham, and Ed Davis. Many hands made the process of serving and cleaning up go smoothly so that all could enjoy the following concert by Ruth Hill, and friends, Leslie and Larry.

Thanks to the Committee (Charlie Murray, Ed David, Bob Vallette, Marilyn Hylan, Tim Wallace) for assisting with details of the evening and selling tickets; to Debbie Davis-Robinson for publicity and banners and the punch bowl; to Sueli Gaewsky for organizing the servers; Stephanie Flanagan and youth for child care; Tim Wallace for the beautiful brochure about the windows and event details; Rocell Marcellino for managing the "dining room"; for Stan Wheeler and all the volunteer hosts and hostesses and crew who cooked and cleaned up.

For the Stained Glass Window Restoration Committee,
Karyl Condit

Treasurer's Report

At *Old South's* Annual Meeting held February 10th, 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.

At the end of April, our projected deficit seemed to be getting smaller, but three weeks later (May 21st) it had expanded again.

Upcoming fund-raising activities will diminish the gap between income and expenses, but our faithful giving remains the real key to the Church's financial stability.

Thank you for your continuing generosity,
Dale Bardo, Treasurer



WOMEN'S RETREAT SIGN-UPS UNDERWAY

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

Please join us if you can – a deposit of \$25 is due in to Phyllis in the church office to reserve your space. There is scholarship money available – please speak to Rev. Cathie on that. We will save 8 spots (one-third of the 24 spots available) for women who have never been on the retreat – please consider coming if you have never been!

INNER RHYTHM GATHERS IN THE NURSERY EVERY TUESDAY AT 5:30 PM FOR DRUMMING. THEY ALSO MEET WITH OTHER INTERESTED DRUMMERS EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR FOOTHILLS FREESTYLE DRUMMING CIRCLE AT 6:30 PM IN NEWMAN WING CHAPEL. THE NEXT FOOTHILLS FREESTYLE DRUMMING CIRCLE WILL MEET ON FRIDAY, JUNE 6. PLEASE CONTACT SHERRY JENCKES(778-6554) OR KARYL CONDIT(778-3722) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Celebration Sunday

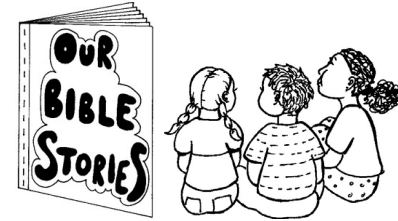
Celebration Sunday just around the corner! We will wrap up the Sunday School year with a potluck picnic lunch following the Intergenerational Service on June 8. Bring something to share:

sandwiches, fruit, veggies, beverages, chips, cookies, salads or your choice of a potluck dish, and we will celebrate another year together as a church family!

The Christian Ed committee would like to extend our very heartfelt "Thanks" to all of our talented and dedicated Sunday School teachers. This year, 14 teachers devoted time and energy to make the Sunday School hour a time of learning, fun, and fellowship. We'd like to thank: Tom Dean, Arin Hilton, Theresa Roberts, Joan Gilbert, Karri McCarthy, Joanna and Carl Backman, Jeannette Dyer, Anne Charles, Heather McFarlane, Ellen Marlow, and our newest teacher, Rebekah Dunham. We appreciate your gifts to the children of Old South!

Sincerely,

Superintendents Diane Dunham, Amanda Hilton, and Jodie Gunther



Vacation Bible School: GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

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 15th.

VBC Starts: Monday, June 23rd – Wednesday, June 25th, 2008

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.

Outreach Ministry

TOOLS AND BLANKETS

On Mother's Day we collected \$563 for our Tools and Blankets offering. A big "thank you" to everybody who contributed! Donations are still being accepted if you would like to contribute!

WHERE DOES OUR OUTREACH MONEY GO?

April was "Child Abuse Prevention" Month and so early in May, Old South made its annual donation of \$600 to the Franklin County Children's Task Force. The Children's Task Force began as a grass-roots organization 30 years ago. Since then it has grown into a position of leadership in the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Franklin County.

Programs include:

- *work with local schools to prevent bullying,
- *Coffee Klatches" for new parents and their infants,
- *Story and playgroups for parents and young children,
- *many parent education opportunities,
- *The Clothing Exchange: an opportunity for parents to exchange children's clothing through a bring a bag, take a bag program,
- *the popular Children's Festival, which celebrated its 25th year in February, 2008.

For more information see the Children's Task Force website: www.fctcf.org.



JUSTICE AND WITNESS

Bread for the World On Sunday, May 4, folks gathered in the vestry during coffee hour to write letters to our senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress, urging them to support an increase in poverty focused development funding as part of our commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goal to cut global poverty in half by the year 2015. We also addressed support of the Global Poverty Act that calls for cooperative policies with other U. N. countries, and accountability to Congress for our commitment. About ninety letters were written.

The Farm Bill, which was the focus of our Bread for the World letter writing last year, is still making its slow progress through the legislative system. House and Senate negotiators finally ironed out

their differences in conference; on May 14 the House passed this bill, and the Senate is expected to do the same on May 16. The bill is being referred to by Bread for the World as "half a loaf": although it includes some important changes, such as increased funding for vital nutrition programs, it fails to reform the current commodity subsidy program that allots huge farm subsidies to some of the country's wealthiest landowners.

Movie Night On Tuesday, May 13, J&W showed the documentary film, "Standing Silent Nation," which follows the struggles of a Native American family trying to grow industrial hemp as a sustainable source of income. The movie was followed by discussion.

UCC Annual Meeting Justice and Witness will have a display table at the upcoming annual meeting of the Maine Conference here in Farmington.

The last meeting of the Justice and Witness Committee until the fall will be Tuesday, June 10. There will be a potluck at 6:00 pm, followed by a meeting at 7:00. Justice and Witness is an open ministry of Old South; everyone is welcome to attend.

Community Luncheon

We completed another successful Community Luncheon for May, with a menu of Citrus Chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed veggies and lemon bars for dessert. This was the closest we have ever come to running out of food! We had 123 pieces of chicken and served 122 meals! Wow!

As always, a very special thank you to all those who helped in the kitchen, the dining room and with the clean up. It is very rewarding to see so many people willing to help out with this ministry.

Our Community Luncheon "year" will come to a close with the meal on June 14th. We will serve what has become a tradition: Hamburgers, hot dogs, Italian sausages w/onions and peppers, cole slaw and bars/cookies for dessert.

We hope you will be able to join us for this fun cookout.

Stan Wheeler and Rocell Marcellino, Co-Chairs

Spread the Love

Strengthen the Church Special Offering

On Sunday, June 1, we will be accepting contributions for the United Church of Christ Special Offering, *Strengthen the Church*. Envelopes for this offering were mailed to you in your May Telstar. On Sunday, June 1, white envelopes will be available in your church bulletin. Your gift to *Strengthen the Church* builds the UCC's future. From funding new congregations to invigorating existing ones, from fostering tomorrow's leaders to nurturing today's, *Strengthen the Church* grows our presence as a vibrant community of extravagant welcome. Your offerings are directed to the Maine Conference, Local Church Ministries and for the first time this year, The Still Speaking Ministry. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Telstar News

The next mailed Telstar will be the September issue. However, there will be an electronically sent newsletter sometime this summer. If you would like to be added to our email list, please send your email address to:

farmingtonucc@verizon.net

Thank you!

A Thought to take with you:

“Let Your God Love You,” by Edwina Gateley

Be silent.

Be still.

Alone.

Empty

Before your God.

Say nothing.

Ask nothing.

Be silent.

Be still.

Let your God look upon you.

That is all.

God knows.

God understands.

God loves you

With an enormous love.

And only wants

To look upon you

With that love.

Quiet.

Still. Be.

Let your God – Love you.

