

Old South First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

March Telstar 2008

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to you in the church season of Lent, heading toward an early Easter on March 23rd. For the first two weeks of this month, we will continue our Lenten journey with God, a time of remembering who and whose we are...a time of claiming our identities as God's beloved children, and asking our God where we are called in our lives to live God's love.

Before we know it, we will be in Holy Week, when we journey with Jesus from acclamation as he entered Jerusalem to shouts of joy and waving palms; to a candlelit table where he blessed and broke bread and offered his disciples the cup of blessing; to a dark garden and anguished prayer; to the cross on Golgotha; to the silence of Holy Saturday; to the joy of God's new life on Easter morning. This is a journey well worth taking – as Christians, we follow Jesus closely in his death and new life, knowing that God's intention for us all is wholeness and renewal. The opportunities for worship and fellowship in the journey of Holy Week are described in this issue of Telstar.

Even as we continue the Lenten journey that leads to Easter, we "Old Southerners" are envisioning God's intentions for us as our new Financial Study Committee undertakes its call: to faithfully explore different possible solutions to Old South's financial situation. All of us will have opportunities to add to this conversation through Our Turn meetings; when the committee first meets, it will discuss possible dates for these gatherings.

One thing we know with certain faith: as we prayerfully consider where we are headed as a church, and as we walk the road to the cross and beyond, our God is surely with us – and so, all will be well, all will be exceedingly well.

Thanks be to God!

Blessings and love,
Cathie

Old South Annual Meeting Update

At our Annual Meeting this past Sunday, February 10th, we:

- Approved the 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes (Annual Meeting Feb. 2007)
- Received and considered annual reports for 2007. It was noted that Teen Faith and the Sunday School reports had not been included. These will be made available at a later date.
- Elected officers and members of boards and committees
- Approved the annual budget for 2008 – This involved a lot of discussion, since this is a deficit budget (the difference is - \$8,247, which would be -\$23,000 if it weren't for taking over \$15,000 from other church funds). The Executive Council cut as much as they felt was possible, without getting into staff and programs.
- Approved Executive Council's appointing of a Financial Study Committee of 8 that will faithfully explore different possible solutions to Old South's financial situation, with an eye to the long-term future of the church as a part of God's kingdom in the world. Their exploration will include Our Turn meetings.
- Approved the recommended changes to the current By-Laws.

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 22nd at 10:30 am! For this one Sunday, we are changing our worship time to accommodate our wider church family.

One possibility for each of you to consider as the UCC churches of Maine gather in Farmington, is whether you would like to offer to host visitors in your home. They would take their meals elsewhere (except, if you wanted to offer it, breakfast), and would be attending meetings all day, so this would be evening and morning hospitality. Please contact Rev. Cathie (778-0424 or cathiewallace@aol.com) if you would like to be a part of this hospitality offering by Old South.

On March 9th, the Franklin Association Executive Committee meets in Phillips, and will discuss other plans and needs for this exciting weekend.



Somewhere between Lent and Easter

Easter, when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection after his death on the cross, is very early this year: March 23rd! So this month, we are "somewhere between Lent and Easter."

Lent, forty days plus Sundays, is traditionally a time of introspection, a church season when we examine our relationship with God through prayer and worship and other spiritual disciplines like fasting and journaling. Fasting sounds daunting, but it can take many forms. One way to think about fasting is that it is a letting go of something that can be an obstacle between us and God. Perhaps television. Perhaps a relationship that is not healthy for us. Perhaps reading the news and substituting prayer).

Here at Old South we have a Wednesday evening worship service during Lent, so that we can accompany each other on the Lenten journey for more than just Sundays.

Before we know it, though, it will be Holy Week: the time when Jesus enters Jerusalem to acclamation, and is shortly denounced, betrayed and crucified. This is the time between our Palms to Passion Sunday service on March 16th; our Maundy Thursday worship on March 20th; and the ecumenical Good Friday worship (at Henderson Memorial Baptist this year).

And then – God be praised! – it is Easter, when we celebrate God's new life with an ecumenical dawn worship up on Voter Hill; a celebratory Easter Breakfast offered by the youth of Old South; and our joyful Easter

worship celebration at 9:30 am. It is good to have companions on the journey!



Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship *March 5th and 12th*

Our Lenten journey continues with our Wednesday evening worship services, at 6 pm in the Newman Wing Chapel. Each service includes prayer and responsive music, drawn from the Taize and Iona communities. Please join us, and let Rev. Cathie know if you would like childcare provided for this or any other Lenten worship opportunity.



Maundy Thursday Potluck and Service

On March 20, Maundy Thursday, we will meet in the registry/assembly room for a potluck at 5:30 pm, which will be followed by worship in the Newman Wing Chapel at 6:30 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.



Our Lenten Worship Calendar (in addition to our regular Sunday worship celebrations)

- Wednesday evening Lenten services: March 5 and 12.
- Maundy Thursday Worship, March 20th, 6 pm.
- Good Friday Ecumenical Service, March 21st at noon, at Henderson Memorial Baptist.
- Easter Sunrise Service on Voter Hill.
- Easter Worship Celebration, 9:30 am (after our traditional Easter Breakfast!)

2008 Lenten Reflection Book Available

Thanks to our dear Stu Cameron, who has collected and collated this year's Lenten Reflection Book, you can still pick up a copy in the narthex. Thank you, Stu!

Lenten Centering Prayer Group Underway

Each Sunday afternoon during Lent, a group is meeting in the Newman Ming Chapel to practice centering prayer (contemplative, silent, "without words" prayer) and to meditate on passages of scripture. The group is facilitated by Rev. Cathie and includes Nelia Farmer, Tom and Sara Jean, Roger Condit, Beth Hatcher, Pebble Brooks, Anstiss Morrill, Wendy Oakley, Shelley Griffith, Amanda Murray, Donna Wheeler and Gretchen Egler.

The Annual Easter Sunrise Service sponsored by Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry will be held on Easter Sunday, March 23rd, at approximately 6:38 am. For over

thirty years, we have gathered to welcome the sun and the light of Christ into our lives along with area brass and bagpipers. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Irene Berry at 778-3621

Confirmation Begins Spring Session

During March and into April, the Confirmation 2008 class and their sponsors are meeting for the Spring Session. Taught by Rev. Cathie, youth minister Sueli and Tim Wallace, they will gather from 5-7 pm in the Matthew Room on the following Sundays: March 2, 9, 16 and 30; and April 6. The Confirmation retreat and mission trip to Boston is April 11-13; and there is a meeting on April 29, 5:30-7:30 pm, for the writing of a group faith statement.

Please keep the class and their sponsors 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.

Peace Globe Introduced on February 3rd

On Transfiguration Sunday, we introduced our new Peace Globe, and on Annual Meeting Sunday, February 10th, spoke about it with our children and youth. They understood right away what the globe means and why we have it as a symbol in our worship space: God is everywhere! We had fun together, kids and adults, as we sang "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." And the globe has been a focus in our prayer time as we have lifted up the Middle East, refugees in Chad and Darfur, and those of God's children who are hungry and homeless around the globe.



Franklin Association Mission: El Junco, Honduras,

This January, two mission groups from the Franklin Association of the United Church of Christ traveled to Honduras. Several members and friends of Old South made the journey. When both groups had returned to the United States, we celebrated their work and the relationships that have been forged with the people of Honduras in church. Debbie Davis Robinson and Dick Waddell spoke to us about their experiences. For those of us who were unable to be in church on that Sunday, they have provided a written account for this month's Telstar.

How has God called me to Honduras? Debbie Davis Robinson
For two years I felt the excitement and heard the stories that past partnership team members had shared about their life changing experiences during their mission trips to Honduras. I have never done anything like that before. I didn't know Spanish except from what I picked up from our grand kids who introduced me to Dora the Explorer. I had never traveled to Central America and had heard talk about all the immunizations that people got and the possible illnesses associated with ingesting the local water and eating fresh produce. I really enjoyed working with children having served as Old South's church school superintendent. I knew I wanted to experience the Maine Honduras partnership. I would really be stepping outside my comfort zone as I know others before me had done. Now I have just returned from my 3rd trip to Honduras. Return trips have built upon the one before, gaining

nore information about the culture of the people whom we serve, and learning a little bit more of their language. What calls me back to Honduras is the people whose suffering is apparent and yet at the same time they are proud and giving. Last year as we arrived in El Junco we saw sadness in the eyes of the children and despair and hopelessness in the eyes of the adults. I had seen poverty in Kashmir the year before, but I was not prepared for the glimpses of poverty that were present in El Junco. Last year our team learned that there was an Evangelical Reformed Church in El Junco. Pastor Julio stated that El Junco was a place of forgotten people; El Junco was not on the map of Honduras; forgotten by their government and by God. At the end of our week last year a partnership with the people of El Junco had begun, we assured them that they were beloved children of God and that they would be held in our prayers and not forgotten. I knew I wanted to continue to be a part of helping make a difference in the lives of the people of El Junco.

What Has Been Special About This Mission?

This year as our team arrived in El Junco we were met by children with sparkling eyes and smiling faces and adults with outreached hands, hugs and words of welcome. It was obvious that we have brought hope to a village that was once hopeless through our commitment in the Franklin Association Maine Honduras Partnership. We have renewed the spirit of God through our friendship and compassion. Carl Wegner of Wilton, with the assistance of Oscar, the 1st Selectman and project supervisor, made a map of El Junco, gathering names of all the family members and property owners. While working with the people of El Junco on his year's project which was to provide a water holding tank, known as a peila for 22 homes, it was very evident that residents of all ages would be responsible for its success. The entire community had taken part in the preparation for "our" project and many helped in the construction working side by side with members of the construction team. The people of El Junco are hard working and proud. They extended gracious hospitality to us daily offering wonderful coffee, treats, and fresh fruit. Near the end of

our last day in El Junco, I invited Becky Muller a Colby College student from Rangely, one of the group's translators, to help me teach the children who had gathered some games. The children were at first reluctant, but quickly became enthusiastic. We taught them songs like "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes", the Hokie Yokie, and games like Duck, Duck, Goose which Becky changed to Bato, Bato, Gailena or Duck, Duck, Chicken, and Red Light - Green Light. The children were eager to teach us some of their favorite games. Lots of laughter filled the air. And then came the time for tear filled goodbyes.

What justice issues touched me?

Pinalejo, the town where the mission house and clinic is located in which we stay, offers street side markets with fresh produce. There are stores offering hardware, clothes, and groceries throughout the town. There is also a bakery and internet café and restaurants. In the mountain side village of El Junco, approximately 7 miles from Pinalejo up a winding, potentially dangerous dirt road you don't find produce vendors, grocery stores or restaurants. The residents must walk, ride a bike or may be lucky enough to catch a ride in the back of someone's truck to get to Pinalejo. There are very limited income opportunities in El Junco. Many people leave their village for long periods of time to make a meager income to support their families, often having to travel long distances. The people of El Junco make the most with their limited resources. Safe water is a concern with levels of bacteria and pesticides found in a recent test. Water is supplied by a spring at the top of the mountain. The new pelias will eliminate the need for households to carry water and provide the opportunity to store water and to do the family's laundry in a safer environment. Income levels of the families of El Junco don't allow for even some of the basic essentials like clothing. Donated clothing for children and adults were distributed throughout the community. Oscar helped to organize a distribution of donated shoes in conjunction with the household buckets. School supplies were given to each school age child with other supplies and books left for the teacher. Our partnership team learned that the Honduran

government had cut back on the supplies of rice, beans and corn for meals cooked during the school year. 100#s of rice, beans and dried corn were purchased near the end of our stay and left for the school children. Together we can be partners and help make a difference in the life of our beloved brothers and sisters in Honduras, one project at a time.

How has God called me to Honduras? Dick Waddell

God began shaping me into someone who would respond to invitations to go to Honduras from the beginning of my life by starting me and nurturing me in the Latin American environment of Brazil. Some of that time was spent growing up in the simple settings of the poverty of the Brazilian Northeast, in the humble backwoods of western Bahia. I am emotionally predisposed to go to places like those in which I grew up. El Junco is such a place. El Playon (La Vueltoza) is such a place. Another benefit of growing up in Brazil is that I learned Portuguese, which prepared my ear and tongue for learning Spanish. God also set me up to be comfortable when engaged in what some people would call "roughing it" by so shaping my life that I find joy in camping out and backpacking in the woods.

God gave me a body that tolerates hard labor. God has also located me in a Conference with a leader who has worked in and loves Brazil, and who was primed to respond to the emergency need of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras, then to follow up with the development of the Maine-Honduras partnership. God has placed me in a church with outreach and mission in its soul—this church. And God has given me discretionary time (retirement) and discretionary funds (part time work) to make travel possible.

All of these elements together constitute the form of God's call to me to be a part of the projects of the Maine-Honduras partnership.

What has been special about this mission?

The project given to us for this mission—building a cistern in the yard of each one of the households in El Junco—provided consequences that may have been foreseen by some, but for me proved to be personally very powerful. It meant that we would be in the yard and in close contact with most of the families of El Junco. It meant that we could absorb the geography and the demography of the village as we worked with the families and walked the village paths day after day. It meant that for a brief moment we became a part of daily village life in El Junco. The emotional place in me prepared by my life in the Brazilian interior was deeply touched as we entered into the lives of the people of El Junco.

Some examples: The moment I walked into the little church with no electricity, but lit by candles and oil lamp and a lamp with a glowing mantle that I knew as a kid by the name of Aladdin Lamp, it threw me back into the little churches and congregations of my childhood. I was moved. I was also moved by the growing friendship with Oscar, chief mason, president of the Patronato (like our Bd. of Selectmen) A relationship that began cautiously and formally became one full of joking, teasing, laughter, and hard work. Both of us had moist eyes when it came time to say goodbye.

What justice issues touched me this time in a way they have not in the past? Why?

Suelí, Debbie and I have had some strong emotions about this mission to El Junco. As we were planning our presentation we proposed at first that Suelí would handle the computer and project the photos, I would speak the words, and Debbie would do the crying. There is much about which to weep—both tears of anger and sorrow as well as tears of joy.

On the day some of us were going to Copán and others to finish a ‘pila’ in El Junco rain poured down making for treacherous roads. So we went to San Pedro Sula for a little R&R. In the course of

he day we dropped by the City Mall—a very upscale mall, indeed. After three days in El Junco where one recently wed couple had to borrow cups from the neighbors to serve us coffee (delicious coffee, by the way, often grown on their own bushes) the high scale shops and crowds of big spenders was obscene. It was sickening. Carl Wegner and I mightily confused a young clerk as we attempted to purchase, at a 10% discount, an incomplete cup and saucer set (one cup was missing, and the clerk could not understand my explanation that an extra saucer is not a bad thing because saucers break). We were determined that young couple was going to have a couple of cups and saucers in which to serve coffee the next time gringos, or anyone, came calling. It's enough to make one weep.

I've already said that I developed a real fondness for Oscar. His leadership, construction skills, love and appreciation for his family, and the friendship he was willing to share with me touched me deeply. I spent part of a day working with him laying the foundation for one of the “pilas” in his front yard. I got to know his wife, child and stepdaughter, I saw his house, how small it was and how snugly it fit on the small lot, tucked in against the rocky hillside. When Shirley and I moved to our present house we had no room for our dining table and chairs. They sat in the garage for a few years until we decided to add a room to the house to be the living room. The old living room would become the dining area. I figure that the cost of adding a room so that we would have a place to put our dining table and chairs was as much, if not more, than what Oscar will earn in his lifetime. Not only that, but I figure that the square footage of our living room exceeds the square footage of Oscar and Rosa's house. It's enough to make one weep.

Most evenings we gathered after the dinner dishes were washed to debrief the day's events. One evening, full of emotion, much of it anger, Suelí told us about a woman who had come to the clinic held in Pinalejo. She was a single mother of four children who came to the clinic complaining of aches in her joints and all over. No wonder. It turns out that to bring in something to feed her kids she works at a job bagging coffee beans. She gets one penny per bag. She needs to make \$5.00/day so she fills 500 bags a day. A

machine pours the coffee beans into the bag; she sows the top closed, pushes the bag on and positions another bag to be filled. Five hundred times a day for \$5.00 or approximately 100 lempira. Some of you contributed a bucket-load of household supplies for each family in El Junco. We found sturdy buckets—like spackle buckets—for the price of 60 lempira per bucket. We talked the guy down to 50 lempira and bought 30 buckets. With her day's wages that mother of four wouldn't even be able to buy two buckets unless she were able to sweet-talk the seller into giving her the same discount we received for 30 buckets. What could she buy with her 100 lempira? 100 bananas, or 5 ice cream sundaes, one for her and one for each of her four children, or five loaves of bread. 500 bags of coffee beans a day. No wonder the woman was complaining of aches all over. It's enough to make one weep.

To what mission of justice is God calling you?



If You Haven't Already, Mark Your Calendars 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 met and begun planning for our time together in August at the holy ground that is Rockcraft Retreat Center, on Sebago Lake. Sign-ups will begin in April. Keep an eye out for them and mark your calendars!



Women's Potluck Planned for Thursday, April 17th

Back by popular demand! There will be a women's potluck on Thursday April 17th, at 6 pm in the assembly room/vestry. We will gather and break bread, sing and talk. What could be better??!

Deacon's Corner

It's almost spring! Isn't it wonderful to have the days getting longer?

Spring is a time of renewal and so it is with the Diaconate. Even as we say farewell to our faithful deacons, Wendy Huish and Stan Wheeler, we welcome on board, Shirley Waddell and Betsy Riley. We look forward to serving together!

The deacons are looking ahead to participating in a workshop on pastoral care on Saturday, April 26, from 9:30 to 3:30 in the vestry at Old South (bring your own lunch). The workshop will be led by Susan Mackenzie, Director of Programming at the Living Water Retreat Center in Winslow, Maine. This ties in with one of the functions of the deacons, which is to be a facilitator of supportive care of their "flock". In addition to the deacons, anyone interested in being part of the developing pastoral care group is welcome to attend this event. As you may know, during Rev. Cathie's sabbatical last summer, several individuals were involved in one-on-one visits with parishioners who needed extra care; this group will be expanding the role of lay members as pastoral caregivers/friends. More information will be available in the April Telstar.

If you are a friend of Old South not currently assigned to a leaçon's "flock" and would like to be included, please notify Phyllis in the church office (778-0424).

Deacon of the month for March is Rina Bardo.



Communion will be served to us as we sit in the pews in March. In April, we will receive communion by Intinction.



Don't forget to bring your food closet offerings of canned food and other supplies to church on Communion Sunday! The food closet will be reopening soon and it is predicted that they will have difficulty meeting the needs of our community.



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: March 24; April 7, 14 and 21; May 5 and 12; June 2 and 9.

Our March 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:

- *March 2, No Limits on Love, 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41*
- *March 9, Out of the Depths, Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45*
- *March 16, Palms to Passion. Liturgy of the Palms: Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29. Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27 or Matthew 27:11-54.*
- *March 23, Easter, Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10.*
- *March 30, Faithful Doubt, Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31*

Thanks to our new committee volunteers!

We are thankful for those who have volunteered to serve our church family over the next year. The following folks are new in their volunteer roles as of our February 10th Annual Meeting.

Treasurer: Dale Bardo

Hospitality: Joyce Morton, Dick Morton,
Yvette Robinson, Andy Robinson

Stewardship: Dennis Haszko

Diaconate: Shirley Waddell and Betsy Riley

Outreach: Beth Hatcher

Franklin Association: Paula Hammerick

We still have a few openings on our committees: we need one member for the Outreach Committee, and one Franklin Association representative. Might you be called to one of these positions? If you have questions about either one, please call Rev. Cathie (778-0424).

We hold in our prayers

*Jim Mello's brother Steve and his wife Monica
Carol Tucker and her family
Arin Hilton's mother, Jackie Ranco, on the loss of her husband
Tom Marcellino's mother
Lewis Holbrook's mother, Sylvia
Roy, Brenda and Michelle Scribner, and Chris Hunter
The Waddell Family on the loss of Dick's brother, Bill
Shannon and the Russo Family
Maggy and Harry Wyckoff
Michal and Michele
Babbie and Stu Cameron's son-in-law, Major Hunter Kellogg
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
Carrie, Carl Backman's cousin, on the death of her husband
Nelia Farmer and her family
Rachel & Gerard Silverstone
Noah and his children
Chris Merchant's family at the loss of her mother
Gretchen Legler and her mother
Noah and the Folger family
Patricia Hayden's granddaughter, Brieanna
Randall Parsons
DeeDee and Duke Ramsey
Pattie Schoen's niece, Gabrielle Grace and her family
Cheriese's friend, Melissa
Tom and Rocell Marcellino's aunt, Norma "Bunny" Saltmarsh
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

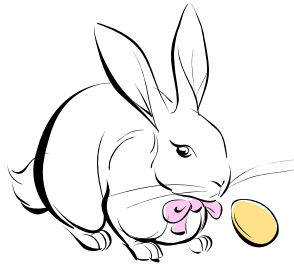
For those continuing to be affected by past natural disasters

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

YOUTH CORNER



GOURMET EASTER

BREAKFAST

Join us for Food and Fellowship

When: Easter

Where: Old South Church

Time: 8:00am

*This breakfast is sponsored
by the Youth Group to
thank you for supporting us!*

The breakfast is free, however, a free will donation will be collected. Any money collected will be used to help the church pay for fair trade coffee that is used during church functions such as this breakfast and coffee hour. Thank you!

See you there!



EASTER EGG COLORING

Holy Saturday –March 22nd

Easter egg Coloring at the church for grades 4th thru 8th from 10:00am -12:00noon. We will color eggs and decorate the tables or the Easter breakfast the following day.

On Easter Sunday, there will be an Easter egg hunt for children. Stay tuned to your bulletin for more details!



I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. .owen, Emily Gaewsky and Ellen Marlow for all your help with the 4th and 5th grades youth group. We had a great time bowling! Our next Early Release program will be March 12th from 12:30-3:00pm. We will be making Easter crafts. Join us for fun and fellowship. For more information call Sueli at 778-0424

Children and Baptism

In the center of this issue of Felstar (just behind the pull out calendar), you will find a pull out section for parents and their children about baptism. This is a teaching tool that can be used to help our children learn about the sacrament of baptism. Please take time to review it with your family!

Yard sale to benefit the general fund

In a direct response to this year's budget situation, Youth Minister Sueli Gaewsky has decided to roll up her sleeves and tackle the situation with a fundraiser to benefit the general fund. Sueli is accepting contributions for a yard sale that will take place in May. All proceeds will be applied to the budget in support of our ministries and programs. Please bring your CLEAN AND IN GOOD REPAIR donations to the Holman Parish House. Call ahead (778-0424) to make sure one of us is available to help unload your car and to make sure HPH is open! *If you would be willing to help with this project, please contact Sueli.*

Sorry ~ We cannot accept computer items, televisions, cassettes, vhs tapes, clothing, mattresses or any items that are in need of repair.



MARCH 2, 2008

What a GREAT offering! Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we and 6,000 other UCC churches are able to channel more than 3 million dollars to humanitarian needs around the world.

In the 21st century, Old South's contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing has increased steadily from \$552 in 2001 to \$1800 in 2006. That's a per capita gift of \$7.80 per member. If we each increased our personal gift to \$10 Old South could send \$2310 into the world to ease hunger, sickness and poverty.

In this lean year of balancing Old South's budget, I propose that we look inside ourselves and find our BIG HEARTS, hearts that are 'as wide as a watermelon but wise as birth", as Anne Sexton would say. On March 2nd, the day of One Great Hour of Sharing, I propose that we pour our love for our world into this incredible offering!

On behalf of the Outreach Committee,
Shelley Griffith



Justice and Witness

At the February meeting of J&W, it was decided to focus on the Millenium Development Goals, the commitment from the U.S., as well as many other countries to alleviate world poverty and hunger through poverty focused development assistance programs by 2015. J&W will be offering detailed information about the goals and their proposed impact on impoverished communities such as El Hunco, Honduras, in the coming months, beginning with a

Justice Moment and take-home bulletin insert on Sunday, March 30.

**Save the Date for
MARCH MOVIE NIGHT
Friday, March 28
Inspiration film – to be announced**



Retiree Lunch Date Change for March

The Retiree Lunch will be held on **March 10th** at noon in the vestry of Old South. Please note this is a date change from our traditional first Monday of the Month schedule. Please bring a dish to share! For more information, you may contact Lynda and Dick Giard at 97-6228.



Community Luncheon

The February Community Luncheon was a smashing success. We served boneless pork loin with all the fixings to over 140 guests and friends. We were also blessed to have several new

people working with us for the first time and several first time guests as well.

The menu for March 8th will be Roast Ham with scalloped potatoes, green beans, rolls and butter with apple crisp for dessert. Patty Schoen has offered to bring her class up for a “field trip” and community service time on Friday prior to the luncheon and they will be setting up tables, prepping the potatoes and onions, and fixing some of the apple crisp. What a great offer from Patty!

As always, there will be a sign up sheet posted on the door of the kitchen. We will need donations of potatoes and onions as well as pans of apple crisp. And of course, we always need YOUR help with setting up, serving our guests and cleaning up. If you have never helped in this ministry, there’s no better time than now to sign up.

Stan Wheeler
Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs

Stained Glass Windows Update

As head of the stained glass committee, I’ve been asked two questions about the windows restoration:

- 1) When is the Good Shepherd Window going to be reinstalled? We were informed this week that this will not happen until the spring. While that’s disappointing news to many of us, the reason should be as clear as looking outside: Willet Hauser, which is doing the repair, does not want to risk any work with snow on the ground. Also, they are reluctant about putting the glass in place when the weather is below freezing. The good news is that our window is just about completely repaired and just waiting for the right weather. I think that we should be conservative about our expectations; my guess is that we are looking at a May timeframe at the earliest. I can promise you that we will be pushing once we see green!
- 2) Where do we stand on repairing the rest of the windows? “Phase two” of the project will address the group of three windows on the

north wall of the sanctuary (those closest to the altar). Here is where we stand. We have been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Sandy River Foundation as well as a \$30,000 matching grant from an anonymous donor. Work on the Good Shepherd Window was donated by a generous donor and in addition, we have received close to \$8,000 in gifts from several other generous parishioners. So we are well on the way toward beginning this phase of the work. Still, more fundraising is needed – we still need about \$14,000 in total. We will be embarking on events to reach this goal.

If anyone is willing or interested in getting involved in our efforts, please let me know. As always, I'm happy to answer any questions.

For the stained glass committee,
Tim Wallace



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. The deadline for orders is March 4.

_____ Number of Lilies

Given in memory/honor of/celebration of

We ask that you pick up your flowers on Easter Sunday following the worship service. All lilies which are left will be distributed to

ocal nursing homes and assisted living facilities or perhaps
planted on the grounds of Old South. Thank you.

April Telstar deadline

Please have all April Telstar articles to Phyllis by March 15. Thank you!

A thought to take with you

*Bless to us, O God,
The morning sun that is above us,
The good earth that is beneath us,
The friends that are around us,
Your image deep within us,
The day which is before us.*

Iona blessing