

Old South First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Farmington, Maine



Dear Church Family,

Writing to you shortly after the United Church of Christ (UCC) Maine Conference Annual Meeting, and while I am preparing for our own Franklin Association fall meeting, I am especially aware of our connection to the wider church. You will find that this is one of the themes of this issue of Telstar. We have included our Conference Minister's State of the Conference Address, which I hope you find as interesting and compelling as I did; and our delegate Gordie Flint's article summarizing the meeting.

According to our Congregational polity, we are an independent local church – we are not bound by any decisions taken at an Association or Conference or national General Synod level – but we are “in covenant” with all other UCC churches. “Covenant,” “a binding agreement under God,” means that we listen to one another carefully and discern how God is speaking to us through each other.

Just a few examples of how Old South has listened to God speaking through the wider church include our outreach programs on fair trade coffee and gifts; our participation in mission efforts when natural disasters like Katrina strike; and our consensus that we are an Open and Affirming Church. As our Franklin Association, the Maine Conference and the bi-annual General Synod offer us their discussions and decisions, we have the opportunity of learning from them, and of seeking God's wisdom for us as the independent church family of Old South.

But that is not the only benefit we reap from our covenant with the wider church. Through the national UCC, we regularly offer a part of our resources to help those in our world who need it – they have already done the research for us into where there is the greatest need. Through the

Maine Conference's Resourcing the Local Church, we have recently received a grant of over \$4,700 to finish our kitchen – the largest grant given this year, due to the many ways our kitchen benefits the wider Farmington community. Through our Franklin Association, we are planning two more mission trips to Honduras for this January.

It is good to know that we are not alone – that we are part of a wider church that offers us fellowship, help when needed, new ideas, and wisdom. Thanks be to God!

Blessings and love,
Cathie



The 76th Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference, UCC
As your Moderator, it was my privilege to represent Old South Congregational Church as a delegate to the 2007 Maine Conference UCC Annual Meeting held at Sunday River in Newry on September 28-30. With a full agenda of workshops, reports, speeches, Conference business and worship, it was a stimulating experience and a strong demonstration of the energy and vitality of our wider Church in Maine. What follows are some of my personal reflections and observations on several of the many compelling discussions and presentations.

The keynote event on Friday evening was the “State of the Conference” given by the Conference Minister, our very own Rev. David Gaewski. David’s address is reprinted in its entirety in this issue of Telstar, and I believe that it is a must read for all of us at Old South as well as for all UCC members throughout Maine.

Starting with a bit of history of the UCC in Maine, David noted that the Conference grew out of the Maine Missionary Society which was founded in Hallowell in 1807, a time when much of our State was still sparsely settled wilderness. He suggested that it was time for the Conference to return to those roots, reaching out to grow the Church in Maine, just as those early Congregationalists

from the Maine Missionary Society were determined to spread the gospel in the wilds of Maine at the dawn of the 19th century. Seeing a strong need for the revitalization of our small, rural churches and the start of new churches in areas not now served by active congregations, David challenged the Conference churches to step to the plate, literally and figuratively, in that ambitious effort. While each congregation must determine where they are and what they want to be, he made it clear that standing still isn't an option. He called for us to be dynamic, energetic UCC congregations reaching out to grow in the spirit of our pioneer Maine Missionaries, not just "caretakers of museums" comfortable with the status quo.

Saturday morning brought us the rousing atmosphere of an old-fashioned country revival meeting, with a spirited address by Rev. David Schoen, Coordinator of the Congregational Vitality Initiative of the National Synod of the UCC. "Ready, Set, Grow" was his subject; "God is Still Speaking" and "Let it Shine" were his messages. Coming from the evangelical wing of the UCC, Rev. Schoen spoke of the need for UCC members to display a missionary zeal, letting our Christianity shine as we go about our daily lives. He called for all UCC Churches to be vital and welcoming places of worship, as our future lies in creating a "Community of Faith" where the unchurched can find intimate and relevant Christian fellowship and a strong sense of belonging. As David spoke about growing our membership, it occurred to me that he was showing us the path to follow and the tools we will need to meet the challenges given us so forcefully the night before by Rev. Gaewski.

Of course, an annual meeting is more than powerful speeches and stirring exhortations meet the demands of the times. There are the details of the business of operating the organization to deal with, the financial reports, budgets, nominations and the like, and, as a banker, I will admit to having perhaps a bit more interest in the mundane financial aspects of the Maine Conference than many of the delegates. Rev. Linda Gard, Treasurer, outlined the 2006 financials in her report, and the results were somewhat

disappointing. Total income for the Conference was off slightly from 2005 results and 6% under budget. At the same time, expenses, while up 5% over the previous year, were less than budget as the financial belt was tightened during the year as the declining income trend became more apparent. The bottom line was an operating deficit of a little over \$58,000, with lower revenues from the Rockcraft Retreat Center and lower OCWM (Our Churches Wider Missions) contributions from the Conference Churches the primary culprits.

Mindful of the financial realities of maintaining two major facilities in Pilgrim Lodge and Rockcraft as well as the Conference offices in Yarmouth along with its many programs and ministries, the Conference has initiated a comprehensive study of its assets. This initiative will include conducting a series of Town Meetings at churches throughout Maine, including Old South on November 4, where members can share their opinions on the assets and properties owned or leased by the Conference. Difficult decisions having major impact on existing programs and services may lie ahead, and I would urge all of our members to keep an eye the initiative. Don't hesitate to let your voices be heard.

The Saturday Plenary Session was primarily devoted to an open discussion on a Resolution calling for the end of the American War in Iraq. Presented by the Maine Conference UCC Commission for Witness Life, needless to say, the Resolution engendered much discussion, pro and con, and the Conference Parliamentarian was kept busy with amendments upon amendments offered by the delegates. While it appeared that the prevailing feeling of the assembly was that the war should be ended and all American and coalition troops and foreign combatants should be withdrawn from Iraq, finding the specific wording and terms that would be acceptable to a majority proved quite difficult to achieve. No doubt in tribute to our Congregational heritage, there were almost as many amendments offered as opinions!

In the end, however, a large plurality approved a Resolution which did call for an end to war and the withdrawal of all combatants.

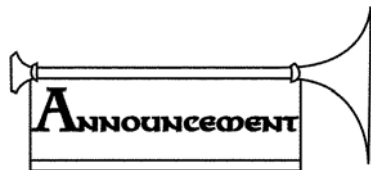
Given its length and complexity, I would encourage everyone to visit the Maine UCC website (maineucc.org) to view the complete Resolution.

The Conference wrapped up its work on Sunday morning prior to worship time with more routine annual business as well as a report on the Conference missions work in Honduras (which is separate from our own missionary endeavors through the Franklin Association). It was also the time to recognize member churches, and I am pleased to note that Old South was one of a number of churches honored with a “5 for 5” designation, having participated in all five of the Conference-wide Sunday collection offerings last year. A good Conference trivia question would be to name all five!

Old South was also given accolades as one of the churches which increased its OCWM contributions to the conference in 2006, and we received a Certificate for the \$4,765 grant awarded our church from the Resourcing the Local Church Committee for our kitchen remodeling project. Finally, the success of the Honduras mission work of the Franklin Association was noted several times during the Conference. All in all, I think that Old South and our Franklin Association have good reason to be pleased with our contributions to the success of the Conference and its work for the common good. We are fulfilling the goals of the Maine Missionary Society established so many generations ago.



Next Year's Maine Conference Annual Meeting is here in Farmington! Your Executive Council is forming a committee to brainstorm ways that Old South can be an integral part of the meeting, which is June 20-22, 2008. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact the church office!



Maine Conference UCC Town Meeting at Old South, November 4th, 3 pm

The Maine Conference is in a quandary over finances, and the time is coming for an important decision on how best to use our resources. We may have to reconfigure ourselves, and it is becoming ever more likely that we will have to sell one of our properties along the way. These include our offices in Yarmouth, Pilgrim Lodge and Rockcraft Retreat Center.

On Sunday, November 4th, there will be a presentation by the Maine Conference Coordinating Council on our properties and their finances. This will be followed by a town-meeting style discussion - we need your input!

So PLEASE come on the 4th, learn what is at stake, and make your views known!

FAEM To Show New Interfaith Power & Light Film, November 29th

On Thursday, November 29th at 7 pm, the Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry (FAEM) will show the new Interfaith Power & Light film, "Green: the New Red, White and Blue." Intended as a follow-up to Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," which was shown by the individual churches in a program offered by Interfaith Power & Light, our hope is that we will continue the conversation about what we can do to respond to the challenges of global warming. So please join us in the Old South sanctuary on November 29th at 7 pm for the sixty-five minute film and a discussion to follow!

Deacon's Corner

Your Deacons continue to meet monthly and consider the details of our worship among other things. A couple of specific items from our October meeting are these. We have decided that our Old South Statement of Identity deserves permanent display so we will have it transcribed and framed and hung in an appropriate place in the Narthex or Vestry. Each Sunday morning we will be clearly marking four parking spaces on Main Street to be saved for those that can use direct access to the front door. In addition we have noted that the Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference of the UCC will be held in Farmington next June; we are discussing how to welcome them and will probably invite them to worship with us Sunday June 22. As always, the Deacons are very willing to hear your comments and requests about our worship service.

The Deacon of the Month for November is Ed David.

Attention!

Parking is difficult for some of us – and so we are reserving four parking spots in front of our sanctuary building for our much-loved elders, or for anyone who has been injured. You will see these spots marked by signs and parking cones. Thank you for leaving them for those who need them!

Lectionary Readings for November

Most Sundays, Rev. Cathie preaches from the Revised Common Lectionary, choosing between the Bible texts recommended for each individual Sunday by an ecumenical committee. The advantages of preaching this way are that the pastor can't just choose her favorite passages, and that we are hearing some of the same Bible readings at Old South as our brothers and sisters in Christ in other places. Our choir director, Bruce McInnes, also chooses his choral music according to the lectionary, which unifies our worship.

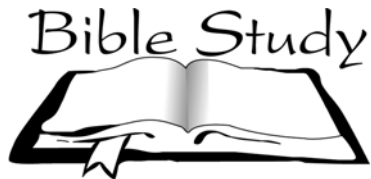
The lectionary includes choices of Hebrew Scripture readings; at least one Psalm for each Sunday; an epistle reading; and a Gospel reading. Here are the lectionary readings for November:

November 4th – Habakkuk 1:1-4 and 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144 or Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 32:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10.

November 11th – Haggai 1:5b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98 or Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38.

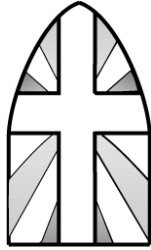
November 18th – Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12 or Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19.

November 25th – Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43.



Bible Study Schedule for November – Join us!

Bible Study at Old South is an opportunity to hear from Rev. Cathie about the passages she will be preaching on the following Sunday, and then to enter into discussion about how the Bible texts intersect with our lives. Each session is freestanding – no preparation is necessary. In November, we will be meeting on the 5th, 12th and 26th at Holman Parish House, 4:45-6:15 pm. So please, come when you can!



Please keep the Confirmation class and their sponsors in your prayers!

During October and November, the Confirmation class will be meeting most Sunday afternoons. Please keep them and their teachers in your prayers: Rebekah Dunham and her sponsor, Karyl Condit; Abby Flanagan and her sponsor, Chanda Luker; Chase Gaewski and his sponsor, Dick Waddell; Cherokee Luker and her sponsor, Stephanie Flanagan; Jenna Pederson and her sponsor, Rina Bardo; Alec Wallace and his sponsor, Charley Murray; Matt West and his sponsor, Karen West. The class is being co-taught by Rev. Cathie, Sueli Gaewsky and Tim Wallace. Confirmation Sunday is Mother's Day, May 11, 2008.

Generations of Giving

Christian stewardship implies using what we have been given to achieve the greatest possible good. Each autumn we renew our good-steward's commitment—to become more effective members of God's Church.

We are at the mid-point of "stewardship season." The Stewardship Committee has described how the generosity of previous generations allows us to flourish as the church community we

know today. Further, the Committee has explained how our own generosity today—in the form of debt reduction—could foster a climate in which *Old South's* next generation might continue to thrive and grow.

By the conclusion of this “season” we will have heard church stories embedded in the memories of our older members. We will have listened to the current ideas and aspirations of younger and middle-aged adults. And, we will have seen the dreams and visions that our children and youth hold for this church. In essence, we will have witnessed at least three generations of giving.

We appreciate the response of those who have already submitted their pledges for giving in 2008, and certainly, we anticipate receiving many more pledges by the “season’s” end. You can watch our pledges join and grow on the large *Building Old South Now, and for Future Generations* chart in the Church vestry. And—please join in the dedication of all of our pledges to God during worship on November 18th.

Thanks be to God for your continuing generosity!

The Stewardship Committee,

Rocell Marcellino Eric Gunther Stu Cameron
Carl Backman Megan Roberts Dale Bardo



**ALTERNATIVE GIVING
AND**



FAIR TRADE SALES

Sunday, Nov. 18 and Sunday, Dec. 2 Old South Vestry, After Worship
Saturday, Dec. 1, 11 am – 4 pm Old South Vestry (Public Sale) Old South's annual alternative gift sale is expanding to include a public sale, as well as more gift items. This year's sales will include baskets from Zambia, through a social entrepreneurship project at UMF, Greater Gift items, Partner's for Just Trade items, beautiful olivewood pieces from Palestine, Equal Exchange fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate products, and Heifer alternative gift cards. Your holiday giving can help to provide a fair income and fair working conditions for growers and artisans in developing countries. If you are interested in helping with these sales, please contact Shelley Griffith at 639-2013, or Sherry Jenckes at 778-6554.



Hat and Mitten collection

For the past few years we have been collecting hats and mittens for the school children in SAD 9. these are distributed to the teachers of the younger grades to be given to the children who need warm clothing or who forgot their mittens and need a loan on a snowy day. these may be new or used as long as they are in good condition and in sizes for a child 5 to 10 years old. A box will be in the assembly room during the month of December. Thank you for any donations that you give.

For the Outreach Committee, Polly Howatt



Missions

MINISTRIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: THE PEOPLE WHOM WE MEET EACH DAY.....

The tables stretch out in three long lines from the front to the back of the vestry. On the second Saturday of every month these tables fill with older folks, younger folks, families with little children, Old South members with family and friends, even members of the local police force and participants in the Franklin Co. Jail's Work to Release program. They gather to enjoy a hearty meal at one of Old South's thriving local ministries: The Community Luncheon. At a typical luncheon more than 100 meals are served or delivered to those who can't get out. Friendships are made or renewed at those long tables and jokes are exchanged between "regulars" and Old South cooks and servers. People linger after the meal is over to finish their conversations...

If you venture down the vestry stairs and follow the signs they will eventually lead you to the Coat Closet. Tables and racks hold winter coats, mittens, hats, boots, sweaters, jackets and blankets. This lesser-known Old South ministry began several years ago as an expansion of the Community Luncheon program. During the chilly days of Fall and Winter, we invited our Community Luncheon guests to take home a warm coat, sweater or blanket. At first, it was hard to convince people to make that arduous journey! But, gradually, the Coat Closet caught on. At last Fall's luncheons a steady stream of guests made their way to the Coat Closet and left a little better prepared for winter's bitter cold. Last Fall, too, the Coat Closet went on the road. On one occasion every last coat was given away at the local Food pantry! This year the Coat Closet will be a regular feature at the Food Pantry and plans are in the works to bring warm winter wear right to lower income neighborhoods in Farmington and Wilton.

The Care and Share Food Pantry has struggled for many years to combat rural poverty and hunger in the Farmington area. In recent years, while funding has diminished, the number of families served by the food pantry has sky-rocketed. One can see the stress in the faces of the food pantry volunteers as there is not enough food on the shelves to meet the need. More than ever, the food pantry needs donations from local churches and Old South has answered the call. Last Fall we passed out red canvas collection bags to help families put food away for their monthly donations. Children and Youth assembled special Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Some months we collected over 200 items! Our renewed and growing commitment to strengthen and support existing programs such as the food pantry is one of the most important ways we can help our neighbors.

Another well-established local program, Mission at the Eastward, has offered a housing ministry for a number of years. For the past two summers, Old South has sent a work crew to participate in this program which helps elderly and low-income folks with carpentry projects and repairs. Working alongside other caring people for the betterment of our community has built more than decks and additions; it has built bridges between local organizations and a sense of how much more effective we can be if we join hands.

There are many other local programs in which Old South plays an active role: the community garden, Keep ME Warm and Operation Santa Claus to name a few. In 2007 Old South will contribute more than \$7,000 to local organizations which address the basic needs of food, shelter, warmth and safety for the community's most vulnerable residents. Old South's commitment to offer financial support to these programs is indeed an important aspect of our local mission. But, as always, there is so much more to be done!

Do you have an idea that you would like to see become a reality? Come and talk to the Outreach Committee about it.

Shelley Griffith

Justice and Witness

We, the Justice and Witness Committee have been following the legislative process regarding the 2007 Farm Bill over the past few months. During the summer the House of Representatives produced a revised Farm Bill. HR2419 made some improvements to the farm legislation, but not nearly enough. The House did not address the inequities of the commodity payment system. It also lacks any significant improvements to nutrition programs, rural development programs and conservation programs.

The Senate will soon be taking up renewal of the Farm Bill and we are optimistically hoping that more attention will be paid to these important issues. As the gap between the rich and poor widens in our country, we must do more to help this growing portion of our population as well as those in developing countries struggling to make a living farming.

It is time to let the Senate know that we are counting on them to revise and improve the Farm Bill by addressing these crucial issues. The bill will be in effect for five years, which is a long time when you are hungry, unemployed or underemployed. We need a better bill from the Senate and they need to hear from us. The Senate will undoubtedly pass its own version of a Farm Bill and then go into Conference Committee with the House to produce the final bill before the end of the year.

The Justice and Witness Committee of Old South will be holding another letter writing session after church on November 11 with an Offering of Letters to follow. The goal will be to write to our two Senators urging them to support these revisions to the farm commodity payment system, nutrition programs as well as the rural development and conservation programs.

We will have a display table in the vestry on Sunday November 4. Come visit us! We will have sample letters available that you can use or we encourage you to write your own. Please join us in helping our brothers and sisters in need. If you can not be there on

the 11th, we ask that you take it home and get it back to us so we can bless them and mail them together.

Peace be with you.



NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP
“Speaking Peace in a World of Conflict”
Peggy Smith, Trainer

Friday, Jan. 25, 7-9 pm, Saturday, Jan. 26, 9-5, and
Sunday, Jan. 27, 11-3

Fee: \$100

Old South Church, Farmington

The Justice and Witness Ministry of Old South and the Maine Campaign for a U.S. Department of Peace are sponsoring this weekend workshop here in Farmington. Peggy Smith is trained in NVC with Marshall Rosenberg and the Non-violent Communication Trainers Institute. “NVC teaches simple skills that enable people to connect with their own and other needs in a way that inspires compassionate response and the possibility for peace – interpersonally and in the wide community.” More information, brochures and registration forms will be available soon. Please contact Sherry Jenckes at 778-6554, or jenckes@tdstelme.net for more information.

Neighbors in Need Special Offering

Thank you to all who were so generous in helping with our UCC Neighbors in Need offering, a wonderful outreach to those in our world who need our help. The total given for this special offering was \$878.00.



Bill Jones CDs for Home Listening

Last month, many of us had the joy of hearing Bill Jones, the storyteller introduced to Old South by Pete and Fran Addicott, beguile us with tales from junior high school and his family. Thanks to the Addicotts, Rev. Cathie has Bill Jones CDs to share - five different ones! If you would like to borrow one, please give her a call (778-0424) or stop by the church office.

A Bit of History:

The Old South Kitchen Renovation of 1981-1982

Our Old South kitchen has seen more than one renovation over time - and thankfully, we have a church member who recalls the last one, in 1981-1982! Marian Mitchell has some wonderful photos of the kitchen as it was finished then. The renovation included new cupboards, sinks (including a deep one for those big pots!), flooring, wallboard and curtains. There was also a dumbwaiter that was taken out, to the right of the entrance door to the kitchen; it was replaced with a dish cupboard. Our kitchen has certainly seen a lot of action in its time! Thanks be to God!

Youth Corner



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 the Franklin County and for families in our community with children from the AWAP project. We need your financial support. Please make your contributions to: Old South Church and on the memo line please write: Youth Group Dec. Project.



BASKETS

The youth groups from Old South church is once again in a campaign for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Last year we met our goal of 50 dinners and going even beyond what we expected. We provided 53 baskets to the local food pantry. This Thanksgiving our goal is again 50 baskets. We need your help for that to happen! Every Sunday you will have the opportunity to bring an item or two for the baskets or you can give a check made out to Old South Church – memo line: Thanksgiving Basket. Any amount will be very much appreciated. We will be accepting donations until Sunday November 18th.



The youth group/Sunday school kids of Old South Church would like to express our THANK YOU to Mr. Roger Condit for fixing our ping pong and fuse ball tables.



Jr. Choir

Once again, kids are meeting directly after church during coffee hour for enthusiastic singing! Jr. Choir kids are practicing some old favorites as well as new material. They will perform in October and November, and then will combine with the Sunday School to produce this year's Christmas Pageant. All children ages four and older are invited to join the fun! For more information, contact Jodie Gunther at 778-8515 or Amanda Hilton at 645-9718.



On September 15, Sunday School teachers gathered for an energizing training workshop with leader Annette Mott, director of Local Church Resources for the Maine Conference of the UCC. Eleven teachers attended, including a representative from the New Sharon UCC church. Together, we discussed ways to make lessons engaging and fun, as well as informative. Annette reminded us that "every child needs one adult who is crazy about them."

Sunday school classes are off to a great start, with reorganized classrooms and new music at Chapel time. We are gearing up for our Heifer Project donation for the year. We have started having conversations about what animals we would like to purchase this year. The children are always very excited about the animals and learning about how we can help other countries.

Sunday School is available for students from Nursery School to High School. --- Old South First Congregational Church

CHICKEN MARBELLA/
VEGETARIAN DINNER -
BRAZILIAN RICE AND BEANS
AND COLESLAW



Join us for an evening of fellowship and good food!!!!

DATE: NOVEMBER 17TH, 2007

TIME: 5:00PM-6:00PM

PLACE; OLD SOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH -
UCC

ADULTS: \$8.00

CHILDREN UNDER 12: \$4.00

**ALL PROCEEDS ARE TO SUPPORT THE FRANKLIN
ASSOCIATION HONDURAS MISSION TRIP
JANUARY 2008**

The InnerRhythm Beat

by Karyl Condit

Our new Layne Redmond drums will be blessed during worship on November 4.

This year we are focusing on 1) learning specific rhythms well and becoming more confident drummers; 2) bringing the spirit of rhythm to as many people as possible, in the church and in the community; 3) welcoming new members 4) adding other percussion to our rhythms, such as the djembe; and 5) nurturing our bonds as a group.

We have been practicing rhythms for worship at Old South and also for November 17 at the Belgrade Community Center at 7:30 P.M. This will be a benefit performance for the Belgrade Library. Sarah Carlson's friends in the vocal group Zemyah invited us to share this performance with them and other women musicians. The public is welcome to attend!

InnerRhythm purchased the book by Layne Redmond, **When the Drummers were Women: A Spiritual History of Rhythm.** In this space each month, we'd like to share with you from this book some of the ancient history of playing of drums in sacred ritual, and the place of drums in modern day worship...

To briefly summarize thousands of years of civilization before Christ-----The nomadic lives of our prehistoric ancestors in Europe and the Middle East relied heavily on the rhythms of the earth to gather and hunt for food. Their homes followed the seasons and the cycles of the moon. The female power to give birth, as well as the physical cycles of her body which parallel the lunar cycle, inspired great awe. Elaborate mythology and symbolism developed representing the mystery of the Divine Feminine. Sacred rites worshipped Goddesses. As society progressed through the millennia, artistic expression was thought to spring from the Divine Feminine. Drums were the primary means of inspiring connection to the Divine. The drum was used to summon the Goddess and was also the instrument through which she spoke. In Greek mythology, deities were called back

from the underworld to renewed life by the rhythms of the frame drum. Drums were played over sown seeds to hasten their germination, and later in the growing cycle to enhance the growth. Drumming drove away evil spirits and created a purified, healthy space of well-being. Rhythm often accompanied travelers and laborers, boaters and gatherers.

The frame drum is shaped like the full Moon, the ultimate symbol of the Earth's rhythm that controls the tides and monthly cycles of women. The moon is the oldest way of marking time. The diurnal (day and night) cycle of the sun marked the daily rhythms, but the moon's phases became a means of counting the cycles of the days. The 5 sets of jingles on our Middle Eastern style tambourines are believed to be symbols of the five phases of the moon: birth, growth, fruition, dissolution, and death, always followed by a new cycle.

These ancestors celebrated and worshipped the sacredness of the earth, the heavens and the generosity of life with the rhythm of the frame drum.

FOOTHILLS FREESTYLE DRUMMING CIRCLE

*The First Friday of Every Month, Old South
Church, Newman Wing Chapel*

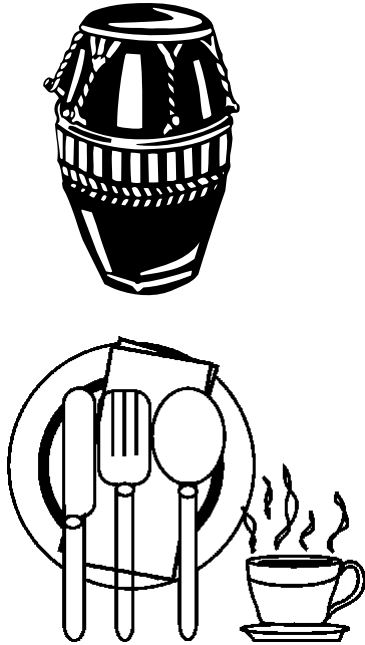
6:00 pm

Please join us for a freestyle percussion jam!

**Drums, shakers, voice, dance,
soft wind instruments welcome
Bring family or friends!**

For more information, please contact:

Lori Ireland 778-5066 or Sherry Jenckes 778-6554



Community Luncheon

The October Community Luncheon started off our season with a rousing success. We served a traditional New England boiled dinner to 130 members of the community. We had received phone orders for 24 meals before we even got started, we had 60 plus guests dine with us in-house, plus some 20 folks who were there to help prepare the meal, set up tables and serve, and clean up. (I know that doesn't add up to 130, but many of the folks who dine with us take one or more meals home with them).

Our meal next month will be on November 10th, and the menu will be baked macaroni and cheese with ham, mixed vegetables, rolls and butter plus apple crisp for dessert. Look for sign up sheets posted on the door of the kitchen!

Many thanks to the wonderful folks who contributed to this meal: those who donated vegetables and desserts, those who peeled the veggies, the intrepid kitchen crew, and those who came in on a beautiful Saturday to give of their time and energy to help set up, serve and clean up. You are all a big part of this ministry, and without you we could not do this.

Stan Wheeler
Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs



**Family Worship and Fellowship Night, Tuesday,
November 27th, 6:30 pm - informal worship with
kid-friendly activities around the question: what
are we thankful for?**

To all Women of Old South Church

You are invited to a Women's Pot Luck on Thursday,
November 8 at 6 PM in the church vestry. Dinner will begin
at 6:30. Please come! Bring a friend! Enjoy a night out with
the girls - fellowship and fun, singing and good eats. Bring a
dish to share; beverages will be provided. Childcare will be
provided from 6-8pm. Sponsored by the participants of the
Women's Retreat.

JOIN US!

The Men's Fellowship got off to a good start in October, meeting for a nice breakfast of pancakes and sausage (not to mention good fellowship). We discussed the possibility of getting away for a weekend to either Pilgrim Lodge or Rockcraft Retreat Center to exchange our labors in "spiffing up" for some lodging/food. This will continue to be a possibility as there seemed to be some positive energy for such a project.

Because our cook's schedule only allows him two weekends off each month, and because both of those weekends are taken up with the Harvest Supper and the Community Luncheon, we will not be meeting in November. Look for us in December! All men of the church are welcome to



Beauty in the Sanctuary

Every Sunday, we enjoy beautiful flowers on our altar. By tradition, these flowers are provided by members and friends of our church family. Sometimes, the flowers are given in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an event or a family. This summer, the flowers of Debbie Davis Robinson's yard often graced our altar. ***We invite you to share your flowers, blooming plants or to order flowers from your favorite florist for the altar.*** When you provide flowers, they are yours to take home at the end of the service, share with a friend, donate to a local nursing home, or place in the Holman Parish House for the life of the bouquet!

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!



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 (Oct.27) Income from all sources: \$224,467.03

2007 Year to Date (Oct.27) Expenses: \$216,214.03

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!



Attention Retirees:

Please join us at the November Retiree Luncheon on Monday, November 5th. The menu includes baked ham and scalloped potatoes. Please bring a desert or side dish to share with others at this fellowship meal. We look forward to seeing you there!



Hanging of the Greens – Join us on December 1st!

Our annual Hanging of the Greens, the decoration of our church for Christmas, will take place on Saturday, December 1st, from 8-10 am. We begin with a pancake breakfast prepared by Allan Smith and his helpers, which gives us plenty of energy to make our holy spaces beautiful! This is a great opportunity for families to get together – there are tasks for all ages, including the decorating of our Christmas tree in the assembly room/vestry. Please plan to join us!

December Telstar Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the December Telstar is Nov. 15. Please have all articles to Phyllis in the church office no later than Nov. 15. Thank you!

A Thought to Take with You

Focused stillness creates an empty space in which to test the rough edges of experience and to discover wider perspectives... Without cultivating times of silence and solitude, we cannot create an environment of obedient listening in which to hearken to God's voice.

Thomas R. Hawkins