

A Thought to Take with You:

“When I Am Among the Trees”

*When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.*

*I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.*

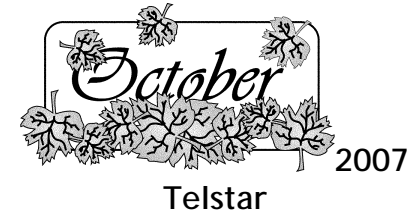
*Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, “Stay awhile.”
The light flows from their branches.*

*And they call again, “It’s simple,” they say,
“and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine.”*

~ Mary Oliver



Old South First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



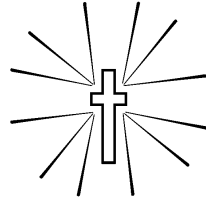
Dear Church Family,

I write to you on the heels of Welcome Back Sunday. What a joy to see the beautiful, lively faces of our children beaming on the chancel steps, and to hear them talk about discipleship and what it means! What a blessing we have at Old South in our teachers and Sunday School Superintendents, in our choir and musicians, in our volunteers and in our staff! And to top all this off, we have the gift of a new school and church year in which to answer to the best of our ability God’s call to us: to love God and to love and serve our neighbors - both near and far.

It is very easy for me to see all of these blessings clearly, as I return from my three-month sabbatical, with new energy for and excitement about our journey together. In my time away, the Old South Pastoral Care Group, the Worship Coordinators and our lay preachers have served this church beautifully and well. There is a new richness here, a new empowerment, a lovely and loving spirit of good discipleship and care. It is wonderful to witness. And I know that it will continue in ways that we can’t yet envision.

And we are hitting the ground running in our programming for youth and adults. In our Sunday School and Confirmation classes, in our Bible Study for adults and our Heart of Christianity discussions, we will explore what being disciples of Jesus means. And we will continue to listen for the voice of the living God, calling us onward to be church in old and new ways.

Blessings and love,
Cathie



Thanks to the Sabbatical Ministers of Old South –
God is Good!

This church family offers thanksgiving for those who served Old South during Rev. Cathie's sabbatical!

We thank our gifted Worship Coordinators, Paula Hammerick and Roy Scribner, who helped our preachers and made sure that all elements of worship were well covered each Sunday. And we thank our preachers, who offered us a variety of faithful voices and perspectives – a rich experience! They are Arin Hilton, Bob Flick, Anstiss Morrill, Dick Waddell, David Jenckes, Tom Dean, Sherwood Anderson, Paula Hammerick, Stan Wheeler, Roy Scribner, Ed David, Babbie Cameron, and Stu Cameron.

We also thank our spirit-filled pastoral care team, headed by Nelia Farmer and Penny Hood, and including Babbie Cameron, Stu Cameron, Karyl Condit, Ed David, Barbara Mispilkin and Stan Wheeler.

God has blessed us richly in these and all of our volunteers – thanks be to God!



Rev. Cathie's Door is Always Open!

While Rev. Cathie has official office hours one day a week, her door is always open by appointment, so please don't hesitate to call (778-0424) or e-mail (cathiewallace@aol.com)!

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 (Sept. 24) Income from all sources:

\$196,417.54

2007 Year to Date (Sept. 24) Expenses:

\$191,383.18

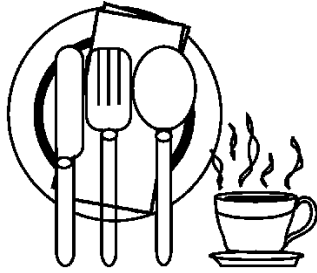
Income includes prepaid pledges for 2006 (some of us pay all of our pledge at one time), monthly investment distributions, weekly offerings, church use, rental income, etc.

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!

November Telstar Deadline:

Please have all submissions for the November Telstar to Phyllis in the church office no later than November 15. Thank you! Phyllis appreciates the efforts that you make to get your articles to her on time!



Community Luncheon

Recently, the Waterville Sentinel ran a series of articles highlighting the problem of hunger in Maine. I hope all of you had a chance to read at least some of them. They really brought home the facts of hunger in Maine, and particularly the problems of inadequate nutrition that face people with limited resources. Healthy and wholesome foods are far more expensive than sugar-laden processed foods. Food banks are all facing increasing demand and decreasing resources and donations.

One of our goals in the Community Luncheon ministry is to provide healthy and nutritious meals to anyone in our community. Often, our meals are served to folks who ask to take home several servings, either for other family members or to help them make it through the week. Additionally, our meals provide opportunities for people who are lonely to interact with others around the table, sharing not only a meal but conversation.

And this is a ministry of the entire church, not just a small group. We do have a core of people who are “regulars” but we always need more help. This month’s meal will be served on October 13th and we will have a New England boiled dinner with corned beef, cabbage, onions, potatoes and carrots; rolls and butter; and assorted cakes for dessert. Since the corned beef is rather expensive, we are asking for lots of donations for the other items. Please see the sign up sheets posted at the door to the (newly renovated) kitchen. We also need lots of help, with a peeling party on Friday morning and people to help set up/serve and clean up.

If you have never been a part of this ministry, now is a great time to start. We always manage to have fun, so join us!

Stan Wheeler
Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs



Deacon’s corner:

Our first meeting was cheerful and productive. We welcomed our Rev. Cathie back with joy. We covered subjects ranging from parking, to the sound system, how the Deacons can be attentive to our Flocks, to figuring out the delicate dance of the Acolytes, the Choir and the Deacons at the end of a communion Sunday. We cover all aspects of worship and so let us offer this invitation. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about worship and music, please let one of the 12 Deacons know and we will follow up on it.

Blessings!!!

Deacons of the Month (October)

Chris Magri and Paula Hammerick

Deacons:

Rina Bardo 645-4713	Chris Magri 779-1015
Roger Condit 778-3722	Barbara Mispilkin 684-2961
Ed David 778-2037	Amanda Murray 778-2464
Nancy Flick 779-1866	Roy Scribner 778-4525
Paula Hammerick 645-2980	Margaret Gould-Wescott 778-2608
Wendy Huish 778-2586	Stan Wheeler 778-3642



The Book of A.C.T.S.

(The book of A Crazy Theology Student)

Week 3 of classes coming up. The getting up and out the door at 5:30 or so on Wednesday mornings has proven to be a challenge. Many of you have offered to drive me to Bangor for my classes and for that I am so very grateful (I didn’t have the heart to tell you what time we would have to leave!). The first class is “The

Psalms”. I confess I have not spent a lot of time reading them and so with much to learn, it ought to be a fantastic course. One drawback is that the professor is soft spoken with little inflection and so at 8:00 in the morning after a 2 hour drive, you can imagine coffee is not just enjoyable but essential! He is a scholar in the Psalms and his insight is wonderful. I would hate to miss anything he had to say because of dozing off, never mind that there are only 6 people in the class and it would be terribly noticeable. I really look forward to digging in. The 1:00 class is “The Gospel of Matthew”. With this class comes an unusual homework assignment. We are to read a chapter in Matthew each day and then keep a journal of one question we would ask the author. It is not always easy to come up with questions for the author, I would much rather ask questions of Jesus! Of course I would have trouble limiting my questions to one!

As always, thank you so much for supporting me with prayers, offers of rides, ears to listen, and interest in my journey.

Blessings and Shalom

Paula Hammerick



Generations of Giving

The church we know today as *Old South* plays multiple roles in our lives—a community of diverse individuals bound together by God’s universal love, a place where our faith is encouraged to grow, an environment which fosters ideals we would encourage our children to absorb, a refuge from our secular society’s discord, a springboard to our advocating for social justice and reaching out to those in need.

Probably many of *Old South’s* attributes could not exist today without the God-inspired generosity of its members from previous generations. In essence, those women and men provided the platform on which we can continue to build.



2008 Women’s Retreat

The dates for the 2008 Women’s Retreat have been set. Next year, we will gather together at Rockcraft Lodge on the shores of Sebago Lake **August 8-10**. We are trying to give you plenty of notice as this is a different weekend than our usual July one. Rockcraft is booked solid for weekends in July next year already! Save the date and plan to join us for this our fifth annual women’s retreat!



Retiree Potluck Lunch

Retiree Lunches will begin again this month! Please join us for fellowship every first Monday of each month, October through May, at noon in the vestry of Old South. If you like to plan ahead here are the dates: Oct.1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 3, April 7 and May 5. Please join us and bring a dish to share if you are able!



Men’s Fellowship

The next Men’s Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 6th at 8:00 a.m. All men of the church are invited. The menu is yet to be determined, but suggestions are allowed. Contact Stan Wheeler (stan.wheeler@verizon.net or 778-3642) to let him know if you can come or to make menu suggestions.

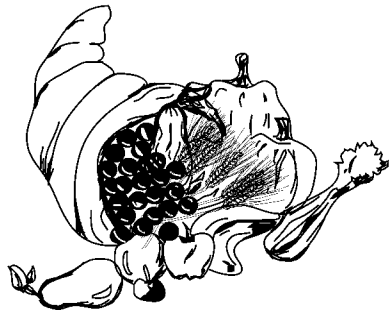


THANKSGIVING BASKETS

The youth groups from Old South church are once again in a campaign for Thanksgiving Baskets for the local food pantry. 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! Here are ways you can contribute:

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 use the money to shop for items for the baskets.



UPDATE -- HARVEST SUPPER

The Harvest Supper will happen on Saturday, November 3, 2007 from 5 to 6:00 p.m. BUT before that can happen, there are lots of opportunities for our Church family to help. Look for "Sign-up Sheets" in the Assembly Room during Coffee Hour in October. We need cooked turkeys, hams, potatoes, squash, onions, stuffing and pies, as well as many other items. Please stop by the table to see what you would like to sign up to prepare or do for this fun event. The proceeds from this supper go toward scholarships for campers attending Pilgrim Lodge. If you have any questions, you can contact Brenda Scribner in the evenings @ 778-4525.

Certainly we, as current members and friends of *Old South*, have sufficient incentive to maintain—and even expand—what this church has to offer today. The Stewardship Committee would suggest that we are also obliged to assure that the Church remains strong and vital for subsequent generations.

In studying the Church's budget the Committee notes that our single largest expense is debt payment for the Newman Wing extension and Holman Parish House—a fixed expense that will extend for approximately 20 years.

The question the Stewardship Committee poses to members and friends of *Old South* is this—can we raise enough additional money to more rapidly pay down our loan? Can we in essence, give forward, thus eliminating the burden of debt for the next generation?

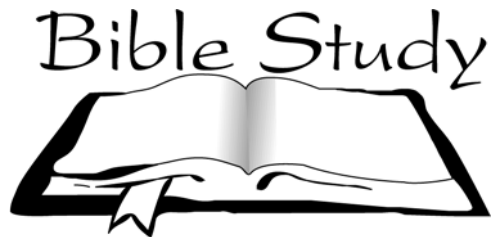
We believe that answer can be a definitive, "Yes!" If each of us modestly increases our giving, our loan can be more quickly retired, and substantial savings can be redirected for God's work both within and outside the walls of *Old South*.

As this fall's Stewardship campaign progresses, we invite you to travel with us as we attempt to demonstrate the potentially dramatic effects of forward giving.

Rocell Marcellino
Megan Roberts
Stu Cameron

Carl Backman
Eric Gunther
Dale Bardo





Monday Bible Study – Give it a try!

Monday Bible Study is an easy way to connect with people and the Bible without having to sign up for an ongoing group or undertake any study on your own. Just show up at Holman Parish House on a Monday at 4:45 pm and enjoy gaining a little knowledge and hearing how others connect to the passage under discussion – and walk out with NO homework at 6:15! For more information, please contact Cathie (778-0424, cathiewallace@aol.com).



InnerRhythm News

InnerRhythm is Old South's own tambourine processional group. Inspired by the ancient tradition of hand-drums in women's spiritual expression, their rhythms celebrate women's roots in sacred ritual and the role of drums sacred ceremony and worship. Hand-drum rhythms tap the rhythm that is within us always, starting with our God-given heart beat. These rhythms played at the beginning of the worship service help to center us for worship. The singing bowl and the jingles on the drum symbolically clear the space for the presence of the Holy.

Organized in 2005, InnerRhythm practices weekly from September to June and can be heard in Old South sanctuary on Communion Sundays and at our Contemporary Services.



The youth group of Old South Church would like to express our THANK YOU to Mr. Richard Robinson and to the Roberts family for moving furniture from the Holman Parish House to the youth room at the church. The room looks great!

4TH AND 5TH GRADES YOUTH GROUP

Halloween Party!!!!



Fun, food, games, pumpkin carving etc...

When: Wednesday, October 24th, 2007

Time: 12:30pm-3:00pm

Place: Old South Church

Please bring a pumpkin to carve!

YOUTH CORNER



CALLING ALL...

ADULTS AND YOUTH 6TH AND UP!
PILGRIM LODGE - FALLWORK DAY

OCTOBER 27TH

FUN AND WORK!!!

After a full season it will be time to put PL to bed for the winter. Join us for a day of work, fun and fellowship!

Departure from: Old South Church at 8:00am

Pick up time at Old South: Saturday 4:00pm

Meal: Bring your lunch and water bottle. Sueli will provide snacks for the day.

Please dress according to the weather.

Please do not bring any electronic items!

Drivers and chaperones are need. Please contact Sueli (778-0424) if you are interested in helping.

InnerRhythm has also played its rhythms at the Nordica Celebration of Women and the Arts at UMF in 2006, at the Solstice Celebration at the Auburn First Universalist Church in December 2006, at the Vienna Historical Society Talent Show in March, and has been heard "touring" Clearwater Lake in a motor boat on a summer evening. A very successful Drum-a-thon event last March raised money to help us graduate from our beginner drums to Layne Remond drums. We have attended three tambourine workshops this summer with Barbara Gail of The Silo in Mt. Vernon. Several drummers have studied the djembe this summer as well.

The drummers gathered for a pot-luck dinner in September to do some planning for the year. We are still prioritizing the many ideas expressed for our ministry and activities this year. InnerRhythm will be playing for a fund-raiser in Belgrade Lakes on November 17 with other women's singing and instrumental ensembles. On December 15, they will be playing again at the Solstice evening in Auburn. If you know of other community opportunities for InnerRhythm to drum, do let us know. We love drumming and sharing our rhythms with others.

New members are always welcome to join InnerRhythm. Previous drumming experience is not necessary. Practices are on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7 P.M. in the Nursery of the Newman Extension. You may contact any of our members for more information: Peggy Adams, Mardy Bogar, Pebble Brooks, Sarah Carlson, Karyl Condit, Wendy Huish, Lori Ireland, Sherry Jenckes, Sheri Leahan, Brenda Scribner and Donna Wheeler.



Justice and Witness

On Sept. 11, several folks from the Justice and Witness Ministry helped at the Maine Campaign for a Department of Peace presentation at UMF. The evening included a short film about Gandhi's initiative of non-violent activism, "Satyagrah", followed by a concert by "emma's revolution".

The next meeting of Justice and Witness will be on Tues. Oct. 9. We will have a short planning meeting beginning at 7 pm, followed by a showing of a film from this year's General Synod, including the speech by Bill Moyers at that event. The general church membership will be invited to join us for the film.

Justice and Witness is an open ministry at Old South, welcoming folks to join us whenever they wish. Meetings are generally the second Tuesday of each month, at 7 pm, in the Newman Wing chapel.

Sherry Jenckes and Nelia Farmer, Co-Chairs

Bill Moyer's Speech from General Synod Offered by Justice and Witness

**Please join the Justice and Witness ministry of Old South to watch a
DVD of Bill Moyer's Speech from this year's General Synod**

**Tues. October 9
7:30 pm
at the church**



PEACE

Old South will be participating in the Fair Trade Handcraft Sale at Franklin Memorial Hospital on October 27, with a sales table for fair trade coffee and chocolate products, as well as an informational table about our Honduran Mission projects. Please come and support this wonderful opportunity to promote fair trade and raise awareness about the fair trade industry.