

Old South First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Telstar

September  2008

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to you a few weeks after my return from a medical leave. And all I can say is, the Spirit of God has been powerfully present in this church, as members and friends have offered their gifts to keep our worship vibrant and our pastoral care effective in my absence!

Now we are diving into a new program year. This Telstar offers details on a number of opportunities for involvement, as we celebrate Welcome Back Sunday and begin Sunday School, youth programming and committee meetings. It's time to think about whether you might teach this year, or sing in the choir, or participate in a study on the apostle Paul, or help with a Community Lunch, or share some of your stories about the historic church, or go on a mission trip to Honduras!

In one article, you will see that we are now at a time of rethinking how we as a church family organize our outreach and mission giving and volunteer activities. I urge you to join us on September 21<sup>st</sup> after worship to help in making this important decision.

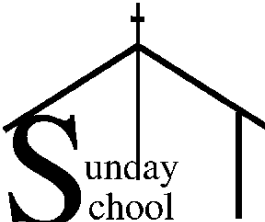
As we move into the fall, I look forward to catching up with you. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with me if you would like to get together. I promise you that I am feeling better and am ready to roll!

Blessings and love,  
Rev. Cathie

Worship  
With Us

### **Welcome Back Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

Please join us in worship on September 7<sup>th</sup>! We will have an intergenerational Communion service, complete with the Senior Choir's first Sunday back, as well as music by Shepherd's Pie and InnerRhythm. Rev. Cathie will offer the meditation. This is also a time for families to sign up for Sunday School and youth group. Hope you can be with us!

Sunday  
School

### **Sunday School News**

Get ready to join in the fun and joy of Sunday School! We welcome back all of our church kids, and we welcome back our teachers, who make this all possible. Look for a few surprises to help us energize and focus our time together, which will begin the week after the Welcome Back Sunday Intergenerational Service, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Parents: please remember to register your kids for Sunday School on that day.

In addition, we are excited to have Kyla Wheeler head up our nursery this year. Kyla has extensive experience working with young children, and will continue to make our nursery a safe and comforting place for little ones.

## BIBLE STUDY



### Monday Bible Study Begins Again!

How is it that our lives intersect with the Bible, the "living Word of God?" This is the question we ask as we explore the Bible passages to be preached the following Sunday. This fall, Monday Bible Study will meet at Holman Parish House from 4:45-6pm. Rev. Cathie offers some background on the texts, followed by a time for questions and discussion. Bible Study dates for the remainder of 2008 are as follows: September 15 and 22; October 6, 13, 20, 27; and November 3, 10 and 17. Please join us!



### Lectionary for September

Each week, Rev. Cathie chooses passages for preaching. They are almost always drawn from the Revised Common Lectionary, a listing of Bible passages (one from the Hebrew Scripture, a Psalm, a reading from the epistles and a gospel reading) followed by the majority of mainline Christian churches. Here are the lectionary readings for the month of September:

- September 7<sup>th</sup>: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149 or Ezekiel 33:7-11; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
- September 14<sup>th</sup>: Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 103:8-13; Romans: 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
- September 21<sup>st</sup>: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16
- September 28<sup>th</sup>: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32



### Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome and the Kingdom of God

This fall, Rev. Cathie is offering a twelve-week adult study opportunity on Thursday evenings from 5-6:30 pm. Featuring biblical scholars John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg, the study focuses on the apostle Paul and the world around him. Each week, there is a short reading, and a session that will include a DVD segment (sort of like a travelogue with historical commentary), discussion, and prayer. The group will meet on the following Thursdays: September 18 and 25; October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30; November 6, 13 and 20; and December 4 and 11. If you know little about Paul, or if you have always found Paul to be "appalling," this study might be for you! A sign-up sheet will be on the board in the assembly room starting in mid-August. Or call or e-mail Cathie with questions or to sign up (778-0424; cathiewallace@aol.com).



### Deacons' Corner

The Deacons will resume their monthly meetings September 14. We ended the 2007-2008 year with a wonderful meeting. Roy Scribner presented his request and faith journey to us for consideration as a Member in Discernment. We whole heartedly and unanimously voted to accept Roy's request on behalf of the church! A "Member in Discernment" is the new term for a Member in Care. The change in term is a welcome one as it

more accurately describes the purpose of the designation for the member and the church. A Member in Discernment is a person who is acknowledging that they have a call on their life for a ministry. There are so many pathways and so many ministries God can call each of us to, this designation of Member in Discernment recognizes that God has called a person to be a leader of some type in God's church. Our role as members and friends of Old South is to support the member during this 'journey into the unknown' by way of encouragement, questions and comments. We are to be sure that we are not assuming or directing the path with our comments and questions but that we are simply there along side the member as they listen and take the next step directed by God. A Member in Discernment has a committee of three called to be a support system. Roy has made it clear that he is taking one step at a time as God directs, where those steps are going is not known to him. He is enrolled in the Academy of Congregational Life and Leadership beginning in September. I will be joining Roy at this three-year program of the UCC Maine Conference which prepares lay folk for church ministry of various kinds. We, as a church, will formally accept Roy as a Member in Discernment during our Sunday worship on September 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a reason for celebration. On a personal note, it is a joy for me to be a Member in Discernment at Old South. To have Roy as a companion on that journey is a comfort since neither Roy or I know where we are to be called to ultimately. Thanks be to God for His love and guidance in our lives!

***Please join us for worship on September 21<sup>st</sup> as we celebrate Roy's discernment process and offer him our love and support!***

Paula Hammerick.

The Deacon of the Month of September is Margaret Gould Wescott.

# REACH OUT

## **Fellowship Volunteer Opportunity**

***Might you be willing to spend some time sitting quietly with one of our dear elders at Old South so that the spouse and caregiver can get out for a bit? (No skills required!) If so, please contact Rev. Cathie (778-0424, cathiewallace@aol.com)***



## **Rethinking Outreach:**

**A new era in Old South's outreach and mission  
Come on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> after worship!**

*Old South is an incredibly giving church. We have many opportunities for mission and outreach. Even over the summer, traditionally a quiet time in the church's life outside worship, we have participated in the Mission at the Eastward housing project, as well as instituting a summer Community Lunch. During the school year, there are many outreach and offering programs for us to choose from as we plan our volunteer time and our financial giving.*

*What we are finding at this point in our church's history is that small groups of us are interested in particular mission activities: we have "regulars" who help out with our Community Lunches and who are interested in expanding our "feeding program." We have a group who are interested in Honduras mission trips. We have people who are interested in our Greater Gift sales and our fair trade coffee program. The list goes on and on.*

*The effect of this is that our regular Outreach Committee structure may not serve our church's interests at this time. While more of us are involved in mission all the time, it is difficult for our Nominating Committee to find people to serve on the Outreach Committee. It is now time for our dedicated and gifted chair, Shelley Griffith, to retire from this position. Our committee is already small, and we have not identified a volunteer to take Shelley's place.*

*And so, we are having an Our Turn meeting on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, to decide how we want to organize our outreach and mission giving and activities in the future. Please come after worship that day to help in this important decision-making process for our church family!*



### **JUSTICE AND WITNESS**

The Justice and Witness Ministry will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 9, for its first meeting after a summer break. As one of our fall projects, we will be working on putting together a comprehensive educational booklet on the Millennium Development Goals. Look for information and resources on various justice issues in the new Justice and Witness literature stand in the vestry.

The UCC website has a link called "Our faith, Our vote" that offers information and guidance re: the upcoming election. Check it out.

Justice and Witness meets the second Tuesday of each month, at 7pm, in the Newman Wing chapel. It is an open ministry, all are welcome. Please join us. Contact Chris Magri or Sherry Jenckes if you would like more information about this ministry.



## **Community Luncheon**

Our feeding ministry known as "The Community Luncheon" has been struggling with the question of how we might expand our efforts to provide more food for folks in our community who may be struggling to make ends meet. We have always recognized that some portion of the folks who join us for our meals do so as much for fellowship and companionship as anything else, but there is also clearly a portion of our regulars who need extra help in stretching their food dollars.

The first step that we have taken is to continue our Community Luncheons into the summer months, offering meals in July, August and September. The July Luncheon was not as well attended as we had hoped, partially because of some confusion about changing the date. As I write this, we are preparing for our August Luncheon and have hopes that attendance will be somewhat better.

Our summer offerings have been "lighter" fare, with sandwiches and salads being featured in July and the August menu will be baked beans and hot dogs, with bread, cole slaw and dessert. The September menu hasn't been set at this time, but it will possibly be barbecued chicken such as we served at the Maine Conference meeting.

We are also looking at ways in which we might continue to expand our food ministry. One idea that is under consideration is to begin a "Soup/Sandwich" program one night a week. While there is enthusiasm for such an undertaking, we also realize that there would be considerably more work involved, so we are also exploring ways in which we might get other groups/churches/businesses involved.

We welcome any ideas that you might have, or any concerns that you might want us to consider. Please feel free to speak with either of us.

Stan Wheeler,  
Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs

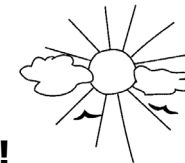


### **Honduras Plans Underway for 2009-2010**

The Maine-Honduras Partnership is seeking donations of pre-natal vitamins with folic acid, children's vitamins, multiple daily vitamins and other over the counter medications. The Franklin Association contingency will receive confirmation regarding the dates for the Youth Franklin Association mission partnership trip and a second week that will run either before or after the youth week. Reverend Marcia Charles, of Shorey Chapel and New Sharon, will be meeting with the Franklin Association Maine-Honduras Partnership Committee to establish other donations that will be needed. There are drop off boxes down stairs at Old South for returnable bottles. Please rinse the bottles before you leave them. The money from this ongoing bottle drive will be used to purchase medical supplies for our Honduran our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Note cards featuring 4 scenes from past Franklin Association Maine-Honduras Partnership trips are available to purchase. These cards are packed in sets of 4 or individually. The price is \$1.50 each or a set of 4 for \$4.00. Proceeds from the note card sale will be used to purchase supplies to be sent to Honduras during the 2009-2010 Partnership trips. Note cards are available through the church office or through members of the Franklin Association Maine-Honduras Partnership committee.

If you have any questions about requested supplies for the Franklin Association Maine-Honduras Partnership winter 2009 trips or are interested in being a team member contact one of the following Old South representatives to the Franklin Association Maine-Honduras Partnership committee members Sherry Jenckes or Debbie Davis-Robinson. Organizational meetings will begin early fall.



### **Women's Retreaters See the Sun!**

Eighteen Old South women explored the Mary and Martha stories from the Bible (Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-44; and John 12:1-8) and shared their lives, at Rockcraft Retreat Center August 8-10. We even saw the sun – Saturday was mostly a beautiful day, and Sunday morning had its moments! A big “thank you” to our committee: Penny Hood, Babbie Cameron, Nelia Farmer, Linda Fournier, Betsy Riley and Rev. Cathie! The follow-up will be a Women's Potluck on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 pm open to all of the women of the church.



### **INNERRHYTHM NEWS**

InnerRhythm has had a full summer of practicing, performing, and socializing together. For the Summer Solstice in June, Sheri Leahan and Karyl Condit culminated a 6-month drumming “seminar” with a performance with Inanna, a women's drum group in the Portland area. Six of their drumming “sisters” from that seminar, including Deborah Breault (our interim minister 2000-2002) came to Farmington to perform with InnerRhythm at the Strawberry Festival and as Special Music in church on July 27. We had the pleasure of playing with Bob Underwood of Farmington, who played the native American flute with us. InnerRhythm made its second annual tour of Clearwater Lake, aboard the Bogar boat, drumming to Pastor Cathie and others around the lake. Four drummers have studied the djembe this summer with Barbara Gail in Mt. Vernon

InnerRhythm drummers are learning how to play the Tar, a large frame drum with no jingles. You will be hearing them in church as well as the djembe and small percussion instruments. We customarily play the first Sunday of the month for our Communion service. Drums historically have been played in sacred rites and worship services. InnerRhythm gives voice to that Sacred pulse within each one of us and prepares us for closer connection with God.

This year we are looking forward to playing the drums with/for residents of nursing homes more regularly as part of our ministry. Our drummers continue to learn, both in our own weekly practices and privately.

We welcome new members at any time. No previous experience is necessary. We practice weekly in the nursery of the Newman Extension at 5:30 P.M. Feel free to stop in or ask any of us if you have questions or would like more information.

Peggy Adams, Mardy Bogar, Sarah Carlson, Kary Condit, Wendy Huish, Lori Ireland, Sherry Jenckes, Sheri Leahan, Becky Perkins, Brenda Scribner, Donna Wheeler

### **Small Dinner Groups: *An opportunity to socialize with members of the Old South family!***

Would you like to have a meal with six-to-eight other Old Southerners once a month or so? Then sign up in the assembly room and the church office will be in touch with you! We will put the groups together and let you know who is in your group; we will ask that you indicate on the sign-up list if you are willing to plan the first meal. The groups meet either at Holman Parish House or in your home. The host provides the main course and the others bring side dishes and dessert. This is an easy way to get to know some of the church family in a casual setting. If you have questions or want to sign up by phone (778-0424) or by e-mail (cathiewallace@aol.com), please be in touch. Or, just sign up on Sunday! The “deadline (though we always take latecomers!)” is Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

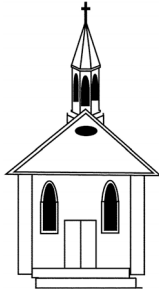


### **Volunteers Needed For Coffee Hour**

The members of the Hospitality Committee need the help of Old South family and friends with the coffee hour that is offered after Sunday worship in the Vestry/Assembly Room. The Hospitality Committee is short 2 members of being fully-staffed. Coffee hour provides the opportunity to meet new people, catch up with old friends and enjoy the all the great fellowship that is to be had each Sunday. The sign up sheet, located on the bulletin in the Vestry/Assembly Room near the side parking lot door, has a column for Sunday morning coffee hour co-host(s), food donations, and clean up help. There is always a member of the Hospitality Committee available to host and to work with the volunteers each Sunday. The Committee realizes that Old South is a very involved Christian Community, but if everyone could sign up to help in some way during the course of the year it would ensure that food for the soul will be there each and every Sunday, 52 weeks of the year. If you have any questions about how you can help with Coffee hour contact one of the following Hospitality Committee members or stop by the kitchen before or after church. The committee members are: Mardy Bogar, Babbie Cameron, Debbie Davis-Robinson, Judy Dunham, Trish Flint, Ruth Haszko, Arin Hilton, Joyce and Dick Morton and Donna Wheeler.



**By popular request, Dick Waddell will share his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain with the church family on Thursday, September 11, at 7 pm. Bring a dessert to share if you'd like, and gather in the assembly room/vestry of the church!**



### **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OLD SOUTH'S HISTORY?**

Old South's written history, by Ben and Natalie Butler, ends in 1965. We don't have an official Old South historian at this point in the life of our church, but many of us are interested in the roots and stories of Old South. And so, we are planning a series of "history gatherings" at 11 am before our Monday Retirees' Lunches. Liz Marks is helping Rev. Cathie to organize these meetings, which will take place in the Newman Wing Chapel starting on the day of the October lunch. Except for September, Retirees' Lunches are on the first Monday of the month. There will be more info on this at the September Retirees' Lunch, on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Sound interesting?



### **First Retirees Luncheon:**

***Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon!!!***

Join us! For more information, contact Dick and Lynda Giard.



### **Attention All Gardeners!**

There will be a spring plant sale in conjunction with the 2009 spring yard sale. As you are dividing your perennials or houseplants this fall and next spring please keep this in mind and earmark some of your newly divided plants for the plant sale. A plant name and description and as to whether it is for shade, part shade/part sun or full sun is helpful to the volunteers and buyers, especially new gardeners! Recycled plant pots will be made available for those that need them in the spring. Potted plants are more appealing and easier to handle rather than bags (in most cases). If you have plants to donate and/or would like to help with the plant sale for spring 2009 please contact Debbie Davis-Robinson at 778-5948 or Sueli Gaewsky at 778-0424. The plant sale has been done every other year with great success with a potential income of up to \$2000.00+. So dig in and pot 'em up! The proceeds will benefit Old South's programs.



### **Harvest Supper Fundraiser**

To benefit Pilgrim Lodge Camperships

**When: Saturday, November 1, 2008**

**Time: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Where: The vestry of Old South**

Please mark your calendars and look for sign up sheets at the church in early October. There will be lots of opportunities to help with this annual event by donating time and food, helping with preparation, serving and cleaning up. For more information, please contact Brenda Scribner at 778-4525.

## **September Committee Meetings**

As the school year gets underway, some of our committees are meeting for the first time since June, and others are continuing their good work. Here are the meeting dates for September:

- Executive Council: Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm, HPH
- Sunday School Teachers: Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> after church
- Justice and Witness: Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, chapel
- Deacons: Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, Matthew Room
- Trustees: Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, HPH
- Outreach: Fall Retreat/Potluck at Clearwater the 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 am-1 pm

### **Treasurer's Report**

At *Old South's* Annual Meeting held February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Church Membership approved a 2008 budget that included an \$8,250 deficit.

In faith, we anticipated that this deficit could be eliminated by a combination of fund-raising and additional giving.

Financial data at the end of July suggests that we could reach the end of 2008 with a deficit of about \$6,000. This is good news—our continuing generosity should allow God's word and work to flourish here.

Dale Bardo, Treasurer

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FINANCIAL STUDY COMMITTEE, WHO HAVE CONTINUED THEIR WORK OVER THE SUMMER! THEY ARE: TOM DEAN, CHAIR; DALE BARDO; STEPHANIE FLANAGAN; SHERRY JENCKES; CHARLEY MURRAY; RICH ROBINSON; TERESA ROBERTS, secretary; AND REV. CATHIE AND GORDIE FLINT, EX OFFICIO.**

*The Financial Study Committee is presenting the results of their expanded study of church finances, approved in the congregational meeting of June 15, to the Executive Council on September 3rd. Stay tuned for more information!*



THE CHOIR WILL BEGIN THEIR WEDNESDAY NIGHT REHEARSALS ON SEPT. 3 AT 7:00 PM IN THE CHAPEL AT THE CHURCH (EXTENSION IN THE REAR OF THE BUILDING, LOWER FLOOR). NEW VOICES ARE WELCOME! PLEASE JOIN THEM! FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 778-0424

### **OCTOBER TELSTAR DEADLINE**

PLEASE HAVE ALL ARTICLES TO PHYLLIS IN THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15 FOR THE OCTOBER TELSTAR. SUBMISSIONS MAY BE SENT TO 227 MAIN STREET, FARMINGTON OR VIA EMAIL TO: [farmingtonucc@verizon.net](mailto:farmingtonucc@verizon.net)



**A thought to take with you**  
May the longtime Son shine upon you,  
All Love surround you;  
And the pure, pure light that's within you  
Guide your way home.

Sara Thomsen