

Old South First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

September  2007

Telstar

Dear Congregation,

I hope that all of you had a blessed and relaxing summer!

As we start the fall season we all will have new things ahead of us. Some of you will be sending children to school perhaps for the first time, some going back to work. I will be sending my two girls to college, one for the first time, and my son to first year of high school. Whatever the new season brings we can trust that God will be there to guide us.

I hope that church services and our Christian education programs will be a part of your life this fall.

Education is in every facet of our lives as a worshiping community. As we learn to live together, play together, work together and serve together, God continues to instruct and lead us.

Here at Old South we are very excited and busy getting ready for a new church fall season. Before Rev. Cathie left for sabbatical we had a chance to meet and make plans for the church programs for the fall.

Sunday school registration will take place on September 2nd and September 9th. Sunday school classes will begin on September 9th. A schedule for the season will be given to the parents on the first day of Sunday school classes.

A new 4th and 5th grade youth program will be offered this fall. And we will continue with the 7th and 8th grade youth group plus the early release program for 4th-8th grades.

A new acolyte training class will be offered this fall for kids in 3rd and 4th grades.

Confirmation classes will be offered to 9th and 10th grade students. Teen Faith Exploration for all high school students will meet again this fall and next spring.

The adult program will offer a variety of opportunities this fall. Rev. Cathie will be leading these opportunities for spiritual growth programs such as bible study and a book discussion on The Heart of Christianity. Other programs will be available also such as dinner and brunch groups as well as lunch for retirees.

We are blessed to have so many opportunities for spiritual growth. I hope you will prayerfully consider attending one or more of these programs.

Peace and Love,
Sueli



Fall Celebration Sunday
September 9th, 2007

Please join us at all church potluck celebrating the beginning of a new church school year and the return of Rev. Cathie from her sabbatical. Bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided.

Join Us for an Evening of Fun and Fellowship

Old South Church will be bubbling with the stories of Bill Jones, a renowned storyteller from Memphis, Tennessee, on Tuesday, September 25 from 6:30 to 8 pm. Bill Jones is a Presbyterian Minister, a husband, a father, a grand father, a wilderness canoeing guide and a magical story teller. His stories touch the lives of all ages from the young in age to the young at heart. Bill has presented programs to all ages including story telling and story writing instruction, teacher and leader workshops, shared his stories during worship and at retreats, and presented after dinner programs. Old South is privileged to have Bill with us. He is a friend of Fran and Pete Addicott's. The final details for the evening have not been completed but it is hoped to include some of Old South's own musical talent as part of the program. There will be an intermission with cookies and juice. Bill will offer his cds for sale during the evening and be available to answer questions and autographs. Suggested admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12, and \$15.00 for family. Come and experience the magical images of Bill's stories in your head like Isable, a kindergarten student from Memphis, Tennessee. The proceeds will benefit the Kitchen Remodeling Fund and the Stained Glass Restoration Project.



Thursday, Sept. 13 5-7:00pm Heart of Christianity
7:00pm AA/fireplace room

Saturday, Sept. 15 9am-NOON Teacher training/vestry
OCTOBER TELSTAR DEADLINE

Sunday, Sept. 16 9:30am Morning Worship
Deacon's meeting following worship

Monday, Sept. 17 4:45pm Bible Study/Holman Parish House

Tuesday, Sept. 18 6:30pm Trustees/Holman Parish House

Wednesday, Sept 19 7:00pm choir rehearsal/vestry

Thursday, Sept. 20 1:00pm FAEM/Holman Parish House
6:30pm Contemporary Worship/church
7:00pm AA/fireplace room

Sunday, Sept. 23 9:30am Morning Worship
11:15am Confirmation meeting
(students and parents)

Monday, Sept. 24 4:45pm Bible Study/Holman Parish House

Tuesday, Sept. 25 1-3:00pm Poverty Busters/HPH
Story Night: look for details in your Sunday bulletins!

Wednesday, Sept. 26 7:00pm Choir rehearsal/vestry

Thursday, Sept. 27 5:00pm Heart of Christianity/HPH
7:00pm AA/fireplace room

Friday, Sept. 28 Annual Meeting at Sunday River through
Sunday, September 30

Sunday, Sept. 30 9:30am Morning Worship

October Telstar deadline

The deadline for submissions for the October Telstar is Saturday, Sept. 15. Please have all articles to Phyllis in the church office no later than this date. Thank you.

Our church contact information:

Old South First Congregational Church
vze9p12dfcm@verizon.net OR info@farmingtonucc.org
227 Main Street
Farmington, ME 04938
(207)778-0424
website: <http://www.farmingtonucc.org/>

From the Worship Coordinators

We are coming to the end of Rev. Cathie's sabbatical and so it's a good time to look at how we did, on our own!

When I was in seventh grade, I got my report card and there it was, a D in math. I was quite sure that life as I knew it would never be the same as surely my parents would ground me for life. Well, they didn't and there was no punishment just extra help on my homework and I survived what I thought was earth shattering event.

I thought of this as I wondered what our 'grade' would be, what letter would best reflect our effort in Rev. Cathie's stead.

Well, my dear church family, we also rated a 'D'. 'D' for dear as with the dear faces of the children listening intently to Sherwood Anderson read a Bible story. "D" for dignified, as when Dick Waddell led us in worship. "D" for disarming as in our young Gabe telling us he prays that people would accept and include one another. "D" for discovery as with David Jenckes finding joy in preparing to lead worship. "D" for devoted and dependable as with the Pastoral Care Team, headed by Nelia Farmer and Penny Hood. "D" for distinct as with our church being distinctly blessed to have all of our Sunday Worship services led by members of our own church family. "D" for delightful as with our special music, including the Summer Choir, Jen Wallace singing of a 'life uncommon', Sara Dean singing of Grace and Ruth Hill and Wendy Oakley singing soothing and spiritual duets.

'D' for dignified, deliberate, devout, discomfort, discerning, dedicated, desirous, distinguished, and so on. "D" is an appropriate letter for us this sabbatical season as God has shown through Divinely in all of the Sunday Worship Services.

Perhaps the 'D' I received in Math didn't change life as I knew it but all the "Ds" we have experienced from each other this

sabbatical season may well be Church-life changing. Thank you for making the worship so rich, for sharing your gifts and stories and for letting God work so beautifully in our worship service. And Roy and I thank you for making our job simple and delightful!

Blessings, Roy Scribner and Paula Hammerick



The Deacon's Corner

In the spring, the Deacons and the entire church held a wonderful retirement party for our beloved choir director of many years, Joel Hayden. Joel's wonderful spirit and his gift of music have long been an important part of our life together as a community of faith, and his legacy here will surely continue well into the future.

And as we wished Joel well in his coming retirement, the Diaconate also undertook the staggering task of finding a replacement. We are very pleased to welcome Mr. Bruce McInnes as our new Choir Director. Mr. McInnes has been spending summers in Weld for 25 years and recently retired to Farmington and has purchased the Tyler home, just a few doors down from the church.

One of Mr. McInnes' on-going tasks is as Director of the Mastersingers USA, a men's chorus of alumni from Amherst College, Yale, Pacific University and the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, as well as his choirs at Grace Church in New York. He was a Fulbright Scholar and the Universite' de Paris and holds an undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College and completed his graduate studies at Yale School of Music.

Please join the Diaconate in welcoming Mr. McInnes to our staff and to our community.



September Deacon of the Month: Margaret Gould Wescott



Attention – Harvest Supper

Please mark calendars and look for sign-up sheets in early October

When: Saturday – November 3, 2007 (5-6:00p.m.)

Where: Old South Church

Price: \$7.00 (Adults) - \$4.00 (children under 12)

There are a lot of opportunities to help such as donating and cooking the food, helping to serve and clean up. You can sign up at church or by contacting Brenda Scribner @ 778-4525 for more information.

The best part is we that we use the proceeds from the supper for scholarships for our youth who attend Pilgrim Lodge during the summer!

September Calendar

Sunday, Sept. 2	9:30am Morning Worship with Stu Cameron
Tuesday, Sept. 4	Rev. Cathie returns from her sabbatical
Wednesday, Sept. 5	12:30pm Clergy lunch/HPH 2:00pm Committee on Ministry/HPH 6:30pm Exec/Holman Parish House 7:00pm Choir rehearsal/vestry
Thursday, Sept. 6	7:00pm AA/fireplace room
Sunday, Sept. 9	9:30am Morning Worship All Church Potluck following worship 2:00pm Franklin Association Exec
Monday, Sept. 10	10:30am Pastoral Relations/HPH 1-3:30pm Monday club/kitchen & vestry 4:45pm Bible Study/Holman Parish House
Tuesday, Sept. 11	4:00pm Outreach Committee 7:00pm Justice and Witness
Wednesday, Sept. 12	7:00pm Choir rehearsal/vestry

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 (Aug. 25) Income from all sources: \$182,709.36
2007 Year to Date (Aug. 25) Expenses: \$173,434.15

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 and more!



Old South First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Contemporary Worship
235 Main Street
Farmington

September 20th, 6:30 pm

All are welcome!



The Book of A.C.T.S.

(The book of A Crazy Theology Student)

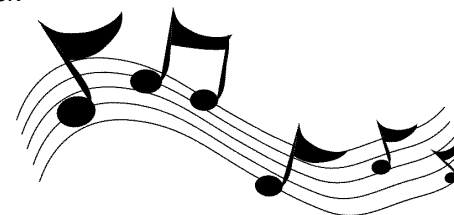
The Fall semester is beginning September 5, ready or not. The two courses I am taking this Fall are The Psalms and The Gospel of Matthew. Fortunately both courses are given on Wednesdays, unfortunately the first class starts at 8:00 in the morning!?! I am so looking forward to classes again, each has been eye-opening and perception-changing.

Thank you to my In-Care committee and all of you who keep me in your prayers, I want you to know you are in my prayer of thanks and Old South is a solid foundation to stand on.

Love and blessings to you

Shalom--

Paula Hammerick

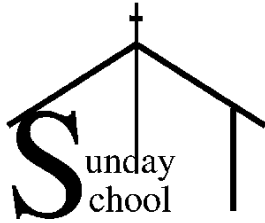


Senior Choir Begins Again, with Bruce McInnes!

It's time to sing again! The choir's first Sunday is September 9th, with the first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 5th, 7 pm, in the assembly room of the church. If you are high school age or older, can commit fairly regularly to the Wednesday evening rehearsals and are a singer, join choir director, Bruce McInnes, and organist, Patricia Hayden, on the 5th!



All God's Little Critters got a place in our Old South Junior Choir. All young singers are welcome. Parents and kids - be looking for a start date once Sunday school starts. We have traditionally rehearsed on Sunday Mornings right after Sunday School for 20 - 30 minutes. We'll also be entertaining the idea of fundraising for new robes -- all suggestions welcome.



Calling all Adults of the church who have ever even thought about teaching Sunday School - the youth of Old South want YOU!!!

Teacher training will be Saturday, September 15 from 9 - Noon at the church. We are fortunate to have Annette Mott from the Maine Conference office joining us again for part of this training. Even if you aren't ready to commit to teaching sometime in the coming year - you are welcome to join us. Also, we have reconfigured the classes a little and have changed how teachers will be scheduled. Come to this training or contact one of us for more information or to sign up.

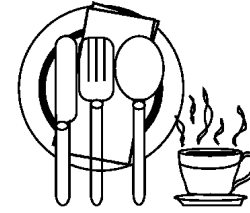


Calling all Youth of the church

Sunday school will start on September 9th this year. Registration will be on September 2nd, but, of course, you can register at any time. Bring your friends - the more the merrier! And, don't forget to stay after church on the 9th for the Welcome Back Church Potluck -- to welcome all of you back for the school year, and to welcome Rev. Cathie back from Sabbatical!! Hope to see you there!

Any questions?

Call or email Amanda Hilton, Diane Dunham, or Jodie Gunther



Retiree Luncheon

As we begin our fall fellowship programming, it is time to resume the Retiree Lunch. Our first gathering will be on Monday, Oct 1st at 12:00. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share, or we will have a basket out for donations. Please call Lynda Giard (897-6228) for more information.

Stewardship Committee News

Perhaps every person who enters the Old South sanctuary is visually drawn to the "Good Shepherd" window above the altar. Its depiction of Christ suggests that we should be of service to those who are the most vulnerable. Closer inspection reveals that the window is also a memorial for Isaac Rogers, who served this church as pastor from 1826 until 1858.

This fall the Stewardship Committee will be asking members and friends of Old South to recognize that previous contributions of many – including Rev. Rogers – allow us today to experience the inspiration and haven this church provides. Furthermore, the Committee will be encouraging each of us to contribute freely of our time, talent, and financial resources so that the Church might continue to serve those in need – and simultaneously remain strong and vital for future generations.

These paragraphs are a brief introduction to our thoughts and activities. More details will emerge during the next few months.

Rocell Marcellino
Eric Gunther

Carl Backman
Stu Cameron

Megan Roberts
Dale Bardo

coffee and tea started, the table set, and to provide (or solicit donations) juice, creamer, light snacks (sweets, fruit, cheese and crackers, etc.). Familiarity with the kitchen is a help but not a requirement. There are always willing hands around. Following the end of coffee hour clean up involves the host, hostess and anyone who is willing to pitch in.

2. One volunteer to be the co-host. This involves coordinating food donations with the host/hostess, being in the kitchen at 8:30, and generally doing whatever is needed.

3. One volunteer to bring extra food so that the hosts are not overwhelmed. The food donations may be left off earlier in the week and marked accordingly.

What coffee hour is NOT:

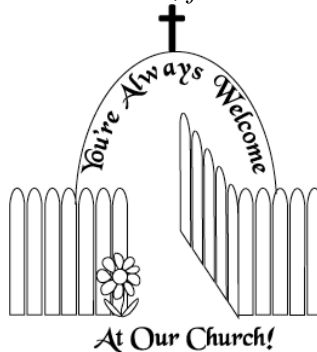
1. A formal tea or coffee. Homemade sweets are always welcomed but not necessary. It's not a competition from week to week, host to host - it's a time of community outreach and sharing simple delights together.

2. It is not limited to those who are member of Old South. I joined the Hospitality Committee before I joined the church. It was a wonderful way to meet new people and to work into the fellowship by serving others.

3. It is not limited to those who have hosted before. New hands and faces in the kitchen are the best of all as we begin a new church year.

Watch for the sign up sheets in the vestry and please sign up. Welcome on board an important ministry of Old South Church!

Babbie Cameron, for the Hospitality Committee



Interested in being an Acolyte? Acolyte training will be given to anyone in grades 3rd-4th who would like to become an Acolyte. To participate, you and your parents need to attend a training session. The acolyte task is to light the candles before church begins and then to extinguish them at the end of the church service. Please call Sueli for more information.

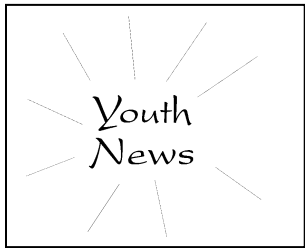


VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

I would like to say THANK YOU to all of you who helped with VBS. We had 11 kids who participated. Special thanks go to: Rebekah Dunham, Laura Dunham, Michelle Scribner and Jonah Roberts for helping with the VBS program. It was a great success!

Sueli





NEW YOUTH PROGRAM FOR 4TH AND 5TH GRADES

Old South church is offering a new youth group program for all youth in 4th and 5th graders. The youth will meet twice a month for fun, fellowship, games, food and more...More information will be sent home to parents of kids in these grades soon. If you have any question please call Sueli at 778-0424.

Attention!

CALLING ALL....

6th to 8th GRADES YOUTH

We continue offering youth group meetings. This is an opportunity for: Fun, fellowship, faith development and mission outreach. I hope you will join us...

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

For our High School students, both Confirmation and Teen Faith Exploration will be offered in the fall. Please stay tuned to your Telstar and Sunday bulletins for information regarding high school programming.



2007 Women's Retreat: "Come to the Well"

Nineteen women from Old South participated in the fourth Old South Women's Retreat at Rockcraft Retreat Center July 20 - 22nd. Discussions centered on Christ's offer of "Living Water" and his recognition of each of our authentic selves. There was also plenty of time for eating excellent food prepared by the retreat staff (the best ever), learning and singing new songs, getting to know one another more deeply in a relaxed and beautiful setting, evening and Sunday morning worship services, napping, killer croquet and other games, art work including nail painting, knitting, morning walks and swims, and individual quiet time. We packed a lot of thought and fun into 48 hours that flew by leaving gentle memories of a blessed time.

Retreat participants will be hosting a pot-luck for all the women of Old South in October to embrace all of our sisters in Christ. Watch for an up-coming invitation and date to be announced.

Hospitality and Fellowship

Coffee hour is a vital part of our congregation's life on Sunday mornings. It provides us with opportunities to welcome new families and individuals into our church family, it gives us a half hour or so to catch up on the news of our friends, to watch our children at play as we drink coffee and share yummy goodies together! This cannot happen week after week in a church of our size without the willing hands of many volunteers. The Hospitality Committee is looking for HELP to spread the work around since we often serve over 150 people on a Sunday morning. Here is what is needed each Sunday:

1. One member from the Hospitality Committee to coordinate the coffee hour. . This requires being in the kitchen at 8:30 to get

to the call for a more equitable U.S. Farm Bill. Join Justice and Witness in writing letters to U.S. Reps Tom Allen and Michael Michaud thanking them for their support of the Fairness Amendment. Follow the Farm Bill's progress on Bread For The World's website, www.bread.org. Watch for further opportunities to participate in Bread for the World activities at Old South.

Shelley Griffith



HONDURAS MISSION

It's time to sign up for the 2008 Franklin Association Honduras project trips to El Junco where we will be working on a project to improve and increase the water supply to the community as well as providing medical care at the Pinalejo clinic. Two trips are being planned: January 7-14 and January 16-23. We can accept a maximum of 15 people on each trip – first come/first serve. We will also accept applications for a limited number to sign up for both trips. While our dates do not come during school vacation, we welcome youth participation with parent permission. Estimated approximate cost per person will be \$1000 to \$1100 (subject to cost of airfare). Registration deadline is September 15. To sign up, or if you have questions, please contact Rev. Marcia Charles at revmcharles@gwi.net or 474-7383.



Prayer Shawls

Though knitting continued through the summer, our group meetings took a summer break. The Prayer Shawl Knitting Group will begin meeting again on Sunday October 7th at 4PM at the Holman House. Knitters, crocheters, and those who would like to learn are invited to come and work on prayer shawls to be given to those in need of a warm reminder of God's love. This is an informal drop-in group. We continue to knit all month but meet once each month for encouragement, new ideas, and companionship. All are welcome!

JUSTICE AND WITNESS NEWS

On Aug. 14 the J&W Ministry, together with Stu and Babbie Cameron, hosted a potluck supper and showing of the film "Beyond the Call", at Old South. The movie is a fascinating story of three men, former soldiers, whose mission is to deliver humanitarian aid to remote and dangerous areas of the world. It is an inspiring story, provoking some interesting dialogue after the show, such as the place of "Band-Aid" type missions vs. sustainable mission work. Stu prompted the discussion with the question, "How are we called?"

On Tuesday, September 11, J&W will support the Maine Department of Peace organization in presenting a concert at UMF by Emma's Revolution. There will be speakers at 6:30, followed by music from Ruth Hill, and then the concert. Lynn Ellis, Coordinator for the Maine DOP campaign has requested our help for various jobs at the concert, as well as providing baked goods, spreading the word, and attending. The cost is \$10. Please mark your calendars and let Nelia or me know if you can help in any way.

The UMF/Old South fair trade collaborative is moving forward with two fair trade events this fall. The first is participation in the fair trade sale that Babbie Cameron and Dr. Connie Adler are hosting on Oct. 27 and the hospital. UMF will provide baskets from Zambia and help with the sale. Old South will provide a fair trade coffee sale and informational table as well as information about our Honduran mission projects. The other event will be a public fair trade sale on Sat. Dec. 1, in the vestry at Old South. Watch for more information about these events.

The next regular meeting of the Justice and Witness Ministry will be Tues., Oct. 9, 7 pm in the downstairs chapel. This is an open ministry. Everyone is welcome. Please let Nelia or me know if you have anything you would like us to put on the agenda for that meeting.

In peace,
Sherry Jenckes and Nelia Farmer, Co-coordinators

BREAD FOR THE WORLD: UPDATE

"...An abiding commitment to bring 'bread to those who are hungry and hunger for justice to those who have bread'"

from Bread For the World's Gathering 2007 convocation

BACKGROUND

On Sunday, May 6, members of Old South wrote 120 letters to Maine Senators and Congresspersons as part of Bread For The World's "Offering of Letters" campaign. The Offering of Letters is an opportunity for people of faith to voice concerns to their legislators and thus to witness for people who live with hunger and poverty.

This year's campaign, "Seeds of Change" focuses on revision to the U.S. Farm Bill to include a Fairness in Food and Farm Policy Amendment. The amendment advocates for changes in the U.S. Commodity Program to better reflect the needs of rural America, to increase sensitivity to the affects of our commodity program on developing countries and to revise the Food Stamp Program to improve nutrition for low-income Americans.

In June, Bread for the World's "Seeds of Change" campaign culminated in a 4-day event in Washington, D.C. The convocation for Gathering 2007, as it was called, was attended by 1,000 worshippers from 45 states and diverse faith traditions. Participants visited the Washington offices of 211 members of congress to urge Farm Bill reform.

These efforts, as well as those of other religious organizations, Fair Trade groups, environmentalists and even fiscal conservatives, united to send a message to Congress that there is widespread public support for changes to the U.S. Farm Subsidy Program.

CURRENT STATUS

On June 19th, however, a House Agriculture subcommittee rejected reform proposals and voted to extend the current Farm Subsidy Program into the 2007 U.S Farm Bill. Committee members cited budgetary constraints and lack of consensus among farm groups as reasons for their decisions.

On July 26th, the House of Representatives followed suit and defeated the Fairness in Food and Farm Policy Amendment in a vote of 117 to

309. Tom Allen and Mike Michaud voted in favor of the amendment.

Although the amendment didn't pass, grass-roots reform efforts did pressure congress to include modest provisions in the House bill that will benefit underserved populations:

- * Increase current food stamp stipends to adjust (belatedly) for inflation (the 1996 Welfare Reform Act downgraded allocations to \$1 per meal.)
- * Expand the fruit and vegetable school snack program..
- * Establish \$2 million to support crops other than those included in the current commodities program.
- * Allocate additional money for U.S. hunger-aid programs abroad.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

The work on Farm Bill reform is far from over. In September the House version of the bill goes to the Senate where additional changes will be made. The Senate and the House must agree on the final version of the bill that is then presented to the President

One key area of conflict lies in the source of funds for the House's \$4 billion increase in support of nutrition programs. The House version recommends that the funds be raised by closing corporate tax loopholes. The President has stated that he would veto this plan. Senators pushing for Farm Bill reform have suggested that funds for the nutrition program be created by decreasing the number of farmers with income eligibility for farm subsidies. Traditional farm states, however, view changes in the farm subsidy program as threats to their livelihoods. Caught between these interest groups, Farm Bill reform may face an uphill struggle in the Senate.

Those of us who feel called to witness for the hungry at the legislative level will have further opportunities to lend our voices