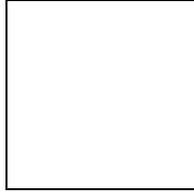


Old South First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Telstar 2013

From Pastor Alexis

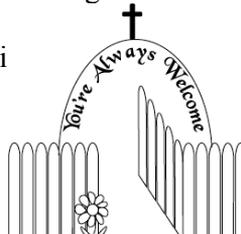
Not long ago, I read an article entitled “What’s the least amount I have to believe to be a Christian?” Behind the eye-catching title I found deep questions that many share. Am I a Christian? Do I believe enough of what Christianity purports to claim it as my path? What if I believe some of it, but not all of it? What if I see Jesus as a model for my life, but the word *Christian* has become too loaded a term for me to claim?

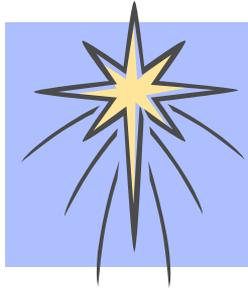
Brother Toby McCarroll from the Starcross Monastery in Annapolis, CA recently wrote: “Before the term ‘Christian’ came into vogue, those attempting to participate in the experience of a Jew named Jesus were called ‘Followers of the Way,’” a reference to Acts 9:2. “The essence of any spiritual path is not something we reason out. It must be something we walk.”

Maybe “Christian” implies that we’ve arrived at an answer, whereas “Followers of the Way” describes people on a journey. I suspect that as we practice following the Way we’ll find our focus shifting from how much or little we believe to the richness that emerges when we engage our path with integrity. Followers of the Way are committed to living into the questions of each day and discerning the most loving response to the needs that arise; they are people who try and fail and try again. Following the Way means cultivating communal habits, attitudes, and actions that help us connect deeply with others, and engaging centuries-old habits that are still practiced in Christian churches around the world.

Rev. Alexis will be away through January 3. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact your deacon or Rev. Susan Kigher-Sabers, including 553-5333.

- Generosity
- Healing and reconciliati
- Contemplation
- Seeking justice





From the Moderator

Thank you all for your presence and input at the special church meeting on December 2. We covered a lot of important business for the church, and made changes that will affect the way we operate in 2013.

Notably, we hired Jodi Gunther for this 2012-2013 church school year as the Interim Christian Education Coordinator. Jodi has been co-leading our Sunday School with Amanda Hilton and has brought great energy and enthusiasm to the task, including her artistic and musical talents. We are blessed to have her working so devotedly with our youth.

We also changed the format of our annual meeting to a two part meeting. The February meeting will be dedicated to the finances of the church; projected income, expenses, budget, and

interactions of these with the Holman Parish Trust, the capital campaign and the endowment. A deeper understanding of our members and friends of *Old South* to consider increasing their 2013 community finances will be gained by all. The new May meeting will be dedicated to our programs, committees and staffing, highlighting the amazing work we do together in the church and community as a spiritual family.

First, several households, which had not pledged in 2012, submitted pledges for 2013. We also moved some varied accumulated monies into the endowment to incrementally improve our long term financial prospects. Second, nearly half of households, which pledged in 2012, increased their 2013 pledge by an average of more than the requested 5%.

We have much to look forward to in the New Year and approach the changing year with faith and anticipation. Wishing you all the very best in 2013!

Specific 2013 pledging data, as of December 20, showed:

Total pledged by those increasing pledge from 2012	\$88,300
Number of pledging units	48

Time and Talent

Please fill out your Time and Talent sheet (included in this Telstar) and bring it to church with you on Epiphany Sunday, January 6, 2013! Or, drop it by or mail it to the church office. Lost your sheet? Not to worry! Copies are available in the church office and will also be included in our bulletins on Jan. 6. Thank you for being a part of our offering of time and talent!

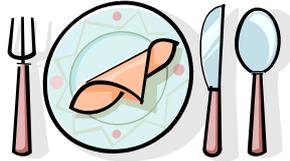


Worship Service Leaders Welcome! Outreach Corner

Feeling called to lead a worship service? What a wonderful way to share your time and talent with Old South! If you are interested in providing coverage for a service, please let us know. You may feel called to write and deliver a sermon or perhaps you want to put in a complete Order of Worship together including the choosing your own hymns. Service outlines are available from the church office and assistance is available to help you organize a service if you are feeling nudged in this direction! Please contact Pastor Alexis or the Chair of the Deacons, Ed David, if you are interested. In addition, we thank you for your support of the many different mission giving opportunities at Old South during November and December. With your help, we have supported local missions such as Operation Santa Claus, the Ecumenical Heating Fund and the Care and Share Food Closet, including an immensely successful Coat Distribution. We also supported global ministries through Church World Service, Heifer International donations, and by supporting the sale of Fair Trade chocolates, coffees, and tea.

A special opportunity was brought to our attention by Trish Flint

January 6: *Communion Sunday Food Closet Offering*
Remember to bring your canned goods, non perishable items, and/or financial donations to church on Communion Sunday. A volunteer will deliver our donations to the food pantry. Thank you!



Community Luncheon Report

WOW! We did it! We broke the 200 meal barrier! Our December Luncheon served 202 meals! We were also blessed with the presence of the Mt. Blue Chamber Singers, directed by Carol Shumway and accompanied by our own Patricia Hayden. What a very talented and dedicated group of young singers. They provided a wonderful program of music while our guests enjoyed their meal.

The January menu will be Stan's "regionally famous" American Chop Suey, with garlic bread, tossed salad and brownies and will be held on January 12th. We hope you will be able to join us, either to help with setting up and serving, or just to enjoy the meal and the company.

One of the most "community" is the will cakes short with the sign include a plea for cakes morning, people kept w was plenty left over to s a privilege to be a part o



about our Old South and help. I was a few yllis if she would mail." On Saturday another cake! So, there on Sunday. It is such a community of faith.

See you next month!

Justice and Witness Ministry

Justice and Witness Ministry will meet on Tuesday, January 8, at 6:30 pm in the Newman Wing Chapel at Old South Church. This ministry is an open ministry, welcoming anyone to come for one meeting or many and to participate as you are called. Please join us and contribute your ideas and your energy!

"The Least of These": An Economic Justice Program
Kickoff date: Sunday, January 20, 2013

to view films, discuss books, take part in presentations, write letters, upgrade your financial literacy, and so on. We hope to combine items that are local and national and global, to engage in education and discussion and action.

While the details are still being hammered out as of this writing, we can tell you that the kickoff date for our program will be Sunday, January 20, 2013. During worship that morning Ed David will offer a sermon on the distinction between charity and justice, and during the coffee hour following worship we will have a display table set up to illustrate the wide range of issues that fall under the economic justice umbrella. Appropriately enough, the following day will be Martin Luther King Day, when we honor a servant of God who was killed in 1968 while organizing a "Poor People's Campaign" to remedy economic injustice. We hope you will join us as we investigate our economic state of affairs 45 years later -- and as we listen for God's still-speaking voice telling us what to do about it.

Green Tip from the Justice and Witness Committee

If you love cotton *and* uncontaminated health and clean drinking water, organic cotton is for you. Conventional cotton growing is incredibly insecticide, fungicide, pesticide, and herbicide intensive as well as being treated with synthetic fertilizers. A defoliant from a crop duster is used before harvesting so the leaves drop off. During processing cotton is washed and scoured with bleach and toxic scouring chemicals to soften the fibers. It is finished with formaldehyde for wrinkle resistance and flame retardant. Wash all new (non-organic) cotton clothing, sheets, towels, and materials at least once before wearing or using to slough off and wash out some of the chemical finishes. It is probably difficult to purchase organic cotton products in our area but the internet brings it all home.

Consider these green benefits of organic cotton:

- Grown using methods and materials that have a lower impact on the environment and on us humans, both directly and indirectly.
- Grown using production methods that replenish and maintain soil fertility.
- Free of toxic and persistent chemical pesticides, insecticides, and processing chemicals.

resumes on January 6th with a Sunday Kids' Theater lesson; our first curriculum lesson will be on January 13th.

BBC: In December, our teen discussion group wrapped up a unit that had begun with a study of the United Church of Christ, led by Paula Hammerick, and ended with a survey of world religions, led by Linda Beck and Patty Schoen. In addition, the teens spent one class reflecting on some of the questions posted by members of the congregation on the Wrestling Wall, displayed in the Vestry. Thanks to Bob Pederson, who joined in this discussion on December 9th.

In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., we'll be focusing on civil rights and the work of the UCC in January. We'll also be reviewing the teens' end-of-semester evaluations to plan and prepare new topics of discussion in the new year.

Operation Santa Claus



expertise at gift wrapping to help prepare Operation Santa gifts for delivery by Santa himself.

Youth Groups: Hooray! We had 13 brave Youth Groupers take the Polar Plunge at Glenwater Lake on December 9th. This supplied the Senior Youth Group to "earn" \$260 toward an Operation Santa shopping "spree" at Reny's the following day. (An additional \$20 was "earned" when one teen "plunged" into a very deep puddle during the shopping trip!) If you missed the festivities at Glenwater, check out the "Red Yuletide" by the Matthews Room at the Carpenters Food Center followed by a "Polar Plunge" at the Pinky Pong Bar at Anna and Kim Charles' house. The sign granted to become a "Red Yuletide" sponsor to "Ker! North Pole" on December 9th and

Net to be shown in the holiday, flying the Middle Youth Group made a special trip to the North Pole on Dec 9th, lending their

Mark your calendar! Get out your dancing shoes and rock the night on Saturday, March 23rd with Shepherd's Pie at the UMF North Dining Hall. Cash bar. Proceeds will benefit the Old South Church Handicapped



Poinsettia Memorials

In loving memory of Mitch Boulette by Jill and Family

In loving memory of Frank and Mabel Daley by Peter and Diane Johnson

In loving memory of Jill York Bowen by Richard and Nancy Bowen

In loving memory of Lisa Beck by Linda Beck and Family

In loving memory of Emma David by Ed David

In loving memory of Alford and Elizabeth Johnson by Peter and Diane Johnson

In loving memory of Family by Sherry Jenckes

In loving memory of Polly Flint by Jill Perry and Judy Bjorn

In loving memory of Jim and Barbara Flint by Jill Perry and Judy Bjorn

In loving memory of my mother, Joy Gilbank, by Dotti Unkles

In loving memory of Joy Gilbank by LeRoy Gilbank

In loving memory of Joseph Holman by Brenda Holman

In loving memory of Phyllis and Jerry Hylan by Marilyn and Dan Hylan

In loving memory of Frank and Elizabeth Johnson by Peter and Diane Johnson

In loving memory of Ann Johnson by Ruth and Gretchen

In loving memory of Paul Johnson by Family

In loving memory of Emma S. Max by Linda Beck and Family

In loving memory of Richard and Barbara Morton by Marilyn and Dan Hylan

In loving memory and celebration of Sandy Farmer by Nelia Farmer

In loving memory of our parents by Dick and Shirley Waddell

In loving memory and celebration of Papa and Grandma by Joanne by the Robert Stowe family

In loving memory of Maurice and Fannie Taylor by Debbie Davis-Robinson

In celebration of our children and grandchildren by Debbie and Rich Robinson

In celebration of Susan E. Johnson by Ruth Hill

In celebration of Old South by Roger and Karyl Condit



Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry News

Check out the new FAEM website!

<http://faemchurches.org/about>

Special Service

The ecumenical Martin Luther King service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church on Monday, January 21, at noon. The service will last approximately one hour. Please join FAEM at noon for this special time of worship in memory of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Warming Center:

As the temperature falls and the snow piles up, it is time for us to offer a warm and welcoming place for some of our friends here in Farmington. January 3rd will mark the opening of our Warming Center here at Old South for the fourth year.

Every Thursday during January, February, and March we will be open, serving soup, hot meals, coffee, and snacks from

10:00am until 2:00pm to all those who stop in. There will be puzzles, games to play, hot chocolate, and someone to talk to.

There will be knitting, cookies, cards, and friends to meet.

Mark your calendars and save the date for Friday, FEBRUARY 1 for a special evening of music and dancing at the UMC Home Dining Hall. If you can't remember last year's event, which was arguably the community event of the year, drawing 300 stars and starters, including Marilyn Monroe, Warming Center. If you are able to provide a pot of soup, please call Betty Riley at 645-2881. Keep in mind, the soup can be made, dropped off at the church, and kept frozen until needed if time is a constraint for you. If you have any questions, check with Phyllis in the church office (778-0424) or Betty Riley (645-2884). Thanks for your help.

Second Annual Hollywood Benefit Dance

Old South Statement of Identity

The Warming Center will also be open on Tuesdays, January 8th – February 10th at Henderson Memorial Baptist Church and February 19th through March 26th at St. Joseph's Church.

"In Christ there is no longer Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one..." (Galatians 3:28)

Walking toward God, we, the members of (Old South) First

farmingtonucc@myfairpoint.net