

Old South First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



Telstar

*MARCH* 2013

Beloved Old South,

So here we are, entering March, the first third of Lent behind us. A number of you have mentioned different practices you're observing for the season. Some have given up chocolate or are trying to limit your screen time. Others are adding more Sabbath into your lives.

A number of you haven't made a commitment to a specific practice yet, and I'm here to remind you that it's not too late. Lent is a time to deepen our spiritual lives and our connection to the Holy. Often it's easiest to do that during a set period of time, like Lent, but in truth, there's never a wrong time to start.

One question I'm often asked is, "What should I give up?" My answer is two-fold. First, it's not always about subtraction. Sometimes the most powerful practices are those that you add. Secondly, it should bring you closer to living out the Great

Commandment. Here are a few questions you might ask yourself as you discern how God is inviting you to observe Lent this year:

- Rather than focusing on myself this Lent, is it time to shift my focus outwards? Can I try to do one thing each day that:
  - strengthens my relationship with God or with my neighbor?
  - What is keeping me from being as caring/compassionate/open a person as I was created to be? Do I need to add in a practice to achieve that (ex: a daily gratitude list)? Or would a more receiving and giving love (ex: shame, resentment, or perfectionism) be a more effective approach to subtract something from my life (ex: giving up gossip)?
  - Can Lent be an opportunity for me to engage in justice work?
- What are the vices I turn to instead of God when I feel sad, hurt, or disappointed (ex: Facebook, retail therapy, or Bombay access to the privileges I enjoy daily (ex: the right to marry, or Sapphire martinis)? Can I make a conscious effort to avoid those temptations when I need self-care and examine my feelings in a constructive way instead?

Remember friends, the hallmark of a good Lenten practice isn't whether or not we are able to keep it up for the whole time, but rather, whether or not it continues to change us once Lent is over. Easter isn't the finish line for Lent, but rather the starting line for resurrection.<sup>1</sup>

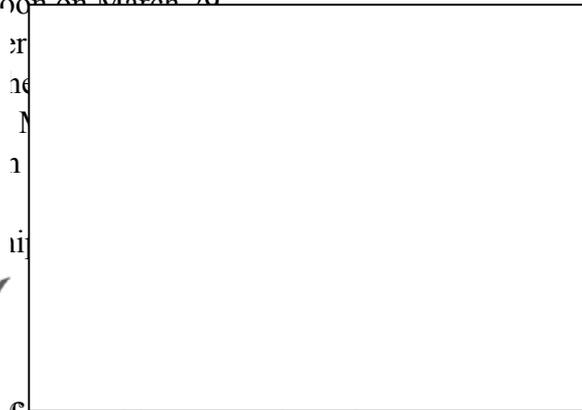
Blessings to each of you as you make your way towards the promise

## New Member Classes Offered

A new member class will be offered on Saturday, March 2 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, including lunch. In case of cancellation due to snow, the back up date is March 16. The class will explore our church and UCC history, questions of faith and theology, organizational structure, and the meaning of church membership. After taking the class, those interested in joining Old South will be received into membership on Easter Sunday. If you are interested, please let Pastor Alexis (778-0424) know!

## Lent and Holy Week Scheduling

- Sunday worship at 9:30 am
- *Living the Questions* Study Group (group meeting mainly on Tuesdays throughout Lent)
- Maundy Thursday, March 28: A simple, silent soup supper will be served at 5:30 pm followed by the Maundy Thursday worship service (approximately 6:15 pm). *If you are able to provide soup or bread, please contact Rev. Alexis or a deacon.*
- Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry (FAEM) Good Friday Stations of the Cross service at Henderson Memorial Baptist Church at noon on March 29.



from the moderator

Thanks to all who were able to attend the February Financial Annual Meeting. Dale Bardo did a great job explaining how we arrived at a balanced budget this year! We have leapt a great number of financial hurdles to arrive at this point and will continue to carefully monitor our church finances and projections to keep us on an even keel.

In March, we will be meeting with our investment managers to follow up the request made at the Financial Annual Meeting in February to determine how our portfolio rates in terms of investing with economic and social justice issues in mind. We will also hear about additional opportunities to manage our funds with these concerns in mind. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please call Phyllis in the church office(778-0424) for more information. We will report our findings to you at the May Annual Business meeting.



## Deacons' Corner

There will be two mid-week services. On March 28 there will be a mid-week service in the Old South Church. With Jesus and his disciples, we will meet at 5:30 pm, with worship and prayer.



Services are held during Holy Week. On March 29, we will have a mid-week meal and worship service. We shared a last supper "lenten soup supper" starting at 5:30 pm. We are looking for volunteers to help with the meal.

*Our Angel Fund is available to any church member who needs a financial helping hand. Please contact Rev. Alexis (778-0424) or speak to head deacon Ed David to*

The next day, March 29, an ecumenical Good Friday service will be held at Henderson Memorial Baptist Church in Farmington, starting at noon.

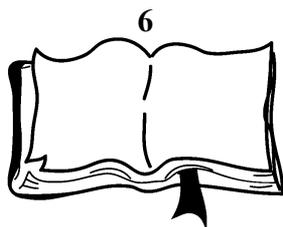
Chris Magri  
Deacon of the Month for March



the model for theological education followed by virtually all graduate seminaries ever since.

Rev. Carter is one of the foremost authorities on church and culture and has a passion to help churches build what he calls “interfaith border crossing skills” – the ability to meaningfully engage and work with people who think, speak and worship differently. You may read more about Rev. Carter on the following web page:

<http://www.ants.edu/faculty/bio/carter-president-nick>



### Lectionary for March

The Revised Common Lectionary is an ecumenical Protestant listing of passages for use on each Sunday in the church year. Reading these passages each week helps us to keep in touch with the flow of our faith. We are continuing now in what is called “Year C” (there are three years of lectionary passages: A, B and C). Most weeks, Rev. Alexis chooses her preaching texts from this resource. Here are the

passages for March:

*Liturgy of the Passion*

Sixth Sunday in Lent

March 5: *Third Sunday in Lent*

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11  
Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9  
Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

March 10: *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

March 31: *Easter Sunday*

Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32:2, Corinthians 5:16-21  
Acts 10:34-43, or Isaiah 65:1-25; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32  
15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

March 17: *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Outreach News

Isaiah 45:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 2:4b-14, John 12:1-8

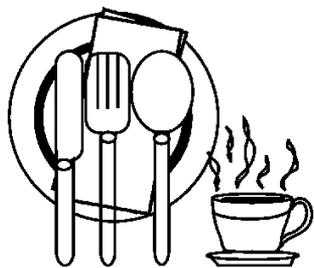


Please give as generously as possible on March 10th, 2013 when we receive this special offering!

### **Communion Sunday Food Closet Offering**

On the first Sunday of every month, when we receive communion at Old South, we invite all to bring donations for the Care and Share food closet. You may contribute food items, toiletry articles such as sealed toothpaste, shampoo and soap or financial gifts to Care and Share. Your contributions will be delivered to the food closet by a volunteer. Thank you for you continued support.

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folks to come in to set up tables, serve our guests, and help with the clean up effort.

If you are new to Old South, this is a wonderful way to get to know more people, and to help the community at the same time!

For the first time in the history of our Community Luncheon ministry, we cancelled the Luncheon due to weather. Most of you probably recall the blizzard that hit Maine on the weekend of February 9<sup>th</sup>. And, while it was much more severe farther to our south, forecasts of high winds and blowing and drifting snow caused us to cancel.

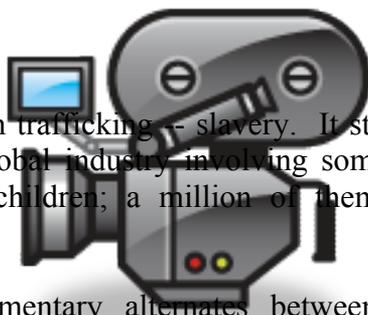
The March Community Luncheon will feature the same menu we had planned for February: Meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans with chocolate cake for dessert. We will again be putting up a poster on the door leading into the kitchen, and we ask that if you can possibly help out with any of the food items or with adding your own time and talents, please see Stan Wheeler, Rocell Marcellino, Co-chairs. We are always in need of



congregations and individuals can do a better job of caring for God's Creation.

As part of our economic justice program, on April 16 we will begin a four-week book group centered on *Everyday Justice* by Julie Clawson. This book covers a range of economic issues, some of which have received a lot of attention at Old South and some of which haven't: fair trade coffee, sweatshops, cars and gas consumption, local foods, recycling and precycling, global debt relief.... Clawson doesn't limit herself to providing information but goes on to place it in the context of our faith and to suggest actions that each of us can take to bring about a more just world. Stay tuned for the signup sheet.

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Forced labor, human trafficking -- slavery. It still exists, and in fact it's a \$32 billion global industry involving some 27 million slaves. Half of them are children; a million of them live right here in America.

This unusual documentary alternates between people presenting information and popular musicians offering their artistic response to the problem. It focuses on sex slavery but also covers other areas such as forced farm labor. Note that while the topic is difficult the images aren't graphic, and April 2 could particularly benefit from viewing the film.

**MOVIE NIGHT**

**Tuesday, April 2 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Newman Wing Chapel**

Presented by Justice and Witness Ministry

**"CALL AND RESPONSE"**  
**JOIN US!!!**

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with or destructively leaching into the food cooked in them. For example, stainless steel, glass and enameled cast iron conduct heat brilliantly and remain inert no matter how high the temperature. On the other hand aluminum and Teflon-coated or other nonstick pots and pans are not benign and can leach substances in the food and cause toxic fumes, respectively. Although aluminum conducts heat excellently, it is reactive when heated. With an inside coating of stainless steel, however, aluminum can do its job safely without coming into contact with food. Copper is another material that is better used when coated with stainless steel because it is also highly conductive but reactive and can leach into food. Though a little bit of copper isn't bad for you, too much can be poisonous. Cast iron, on the other hand, offers you a little iron that is actually good for your body and blood.

More on choosing cookware next month.  
 (from Easy Green Living by Renee Loux)

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The next order deadline for Fair Trade Certified products from Equal Exchange will be 10 am ~~Monday~~ ~~March 2~~ ~~2010~~. If you would like to order a case of coffee, tea or chocolate at the wholesale price, please submit your order to Myrna Vallette either by email at [myrna.vallette@gmail.com](mailto:myrna.vallette@gmail.com) or by phone at 778-4387.

### Hospitality at Old South

As always, we need people to help Hospitality Committee members with coffee and in the vestry room.



### Retiree Lunch

The menu for the March Retiree Lunch is spaghetti and meatballs. Please bring a side dish such as salad, bread or dessert to share and join us at Noon on March 4 in the Vestry at Old South! For more information, call Equal Exchange Coffee Order.

## BBC

After a bit of a hiatus in February (due to school vacation days and that whopper of a snowstorm), classes resume with Linda Beck and Patty Schoen. The book “My Friend’s Faith” has arrived!

## Youth Groups

The Senior Youth Group kicks off the month with a **Faith and Cinema** event. We’ll be meeting at the Gunther’s house on Friday, March 1 at 5:30 pm to watch the 2008 Academy Award nominated film “Doubt,” starring Meryl Streep. After the movie, Pastor Alexis will lead a discussion of questions raised in the film. For directions to the Gunther’s house, call 778-8515.

The Middlers will show off their balloon-blowing skills on Saturday, March 23, as they help decorate the UMF North Dining Hall for the Fundraising Committee’s Sock Hop dance. Meet at the UMF Student Center at 5:00 pm. Needless to say, pizza will be served!

Both Senior and Middler Youth Groups will come together to start a new holiday tradition, The Easter Eggs-travaganza Party, on Saturday, March 30, 10:00 am to noon. The teens will be hosting area children in a party that includes face painting, mazes, an egg drop in the elevator shaft, and all sorts of fun activities. We’ll have a special service in the Chapel, and all of the budding artists on the stage will be invited to share their talents. All money raised will help the Senior Youth Group prepare for a mission trip to Boston next fall.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 1—Friday—Sr. Youth Group Movies-With-The-Minister night with discussion led by Pastor Alexis at the Gunther’s house (call 778-8515 for directions)

March 3—Sunday Kids’ Theater—Missionopoly returns!—no BBC

March 17—Sunday School—BBC; Youth Choir sings in worship service; Youth Orchestra rehearsals begin today

March 23—Saturday—Middler Youth Group decorates UMF North Dining Hall for fundraising Sock Hop dance 5:00 pm  
March 24—Palm Sunday; early Easter Egg hunt/Heifer vote during Sunday School hour, as well as “Kids’ Communion” with Pastor



May 4: Saturday—“PL in a Nutshell” Activities to introduce younger kids to Pilgrim Lodge

May 5: “PL Sunday” worship service, with music, prayers, and communion “PL” style; Middler Youth Group 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

May 12: Sunday School and BBC; Youth Orchestra rehearsal 8:30 am to 9:15 am

May 19: Sunday School and BBC; Sr. Youth Group meeting (to be determined); Youth Orchestra rehearsal 8:30 am

May 26: Memorial Day weekend, no youth programs

June 2: Children’s Sunday “prep” day during Sunday School hour; no BBC; end-of-year party 11:00 am; Youth Orchestra rehearsal 8:30 am; End-of-Year Party—all children invited!

June 9: Children’s Sunday worship service

## 16

*It is the mission of Teen Faith Exploration (TFE) to provide a safe space for high school teens (grades 9-12) to*

*explore a variety of religions, including Christian traditions,*

*and to explore spirituality and forms of the human search for meaning and understanding. As the youth learn about*

*the beliefs and values of practitioners of different*

*religions, spiritualities, and philosophies, in a spirit of*

*respectful listening and questioning, they will experience a*

*context within which to make choices about their own values*

*and beliefs. The breadth of exploration is expected to be*

*as wide as the curiosity of the teens themselves.*

*Followed by the presentation and discussion at 6:30. We wrap*

*up at 8:00 p.m.*

*Come have a chat with us beginning in March. If you have*

*any questions, contact Karen West 778-0435 or the church*

*office 778-0424. TFE can also be found on Facebook.*

# Fundraising Activities



## New Notecard Designs Available at Fundraising Committee Table

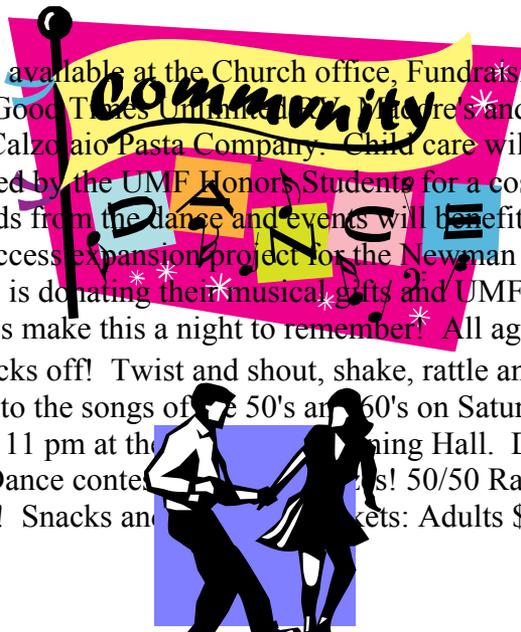
Check out the new Gil Riley note cards...new collections...old favorites revised...gorgeous...available in a variety of themes in sets of 6, 8 or 10 or as single cards awaiting your special messages! Sets include the bell restoration, several floral themes, Maple Syrup, Easter, skies, coastal themes, and more! Available for viewing at the Fundraising Table or at the Church office.

door) and Family \$25 (\$30 at door) for 2 adults and school age children).

Tickets will be available at the Church office, Fundraising Table, Calico Patch, Good Times Unlimited, Fire's and Ron's Markets, and Calzo aio Pasta Company. Child care will be available on site, provided by the UMF Honor Students for a cost of \$10 per child. Proceeds from the dance and events will benefit the handicapped access expansion project for the Newman Wing.

Shepherds Pie is donating their musical gifts and UMF is donating the space...Let's make this a night to remember! All ages are

welcome! Dance your socks off! Twist and shout, shake, rattle and roll with Shepherds Pie to the songs of the 50's and 60's on Saturday, March 23rd from 7 to 11 pm at the Training Hall. Dress up or dress down! Dance contest! 50/50 Raffle! Silent Auction Table! Snacks and drinks: Adults \$10 (\$13 at



Ruby Tuesdays, Barnes and Nobles, and Rite Aide. Old South benefits from between 2%-18% of the value of the cards purchased. For a complete list of retailers visit [www.unitedscrip.com](http://www.unitedscrip.com).

The proceeds from the Hannaford and United Scrip merchant cards help support our church's mission to our brothers and sisters in Christ near and far. We invite you to shop with vision and intention in support of these programs! Cards are available in the Church office and at the Fundraising Table Sunday mornings.



## E-Waste Recycling

A tentative date for the E-Waste Recycling and Disposal Annual Event has been scheduled for Saturday, April 27th from 9 to 1. The Fundraising Committee and volunteers will be working with E-Waste Solutions of Maine collecting TV's, computer components, stereo components, microwaves, phones and other electronics. Recycle responsibly. There are no set fees; donations are accepted. All proceeds benefit the mission of Old South Church.

If you are able to volunteer your time and energy to coordinate the effort of organizing the annual yard sale, the Fundraising Committee wants to hear from you! Please contact a member of the Fundraising Committee as soon as possible so organization can begin; the Fundraising Committee members will be available to assist the work. Committee members: Debbie Davis-Robinson, Barb Fortier, Linda Fournier, Brenda Scribner, Sally Utans, Susan Wahlstrom, and Hallie Yorks.



## 2013 Women's Retreat

Yes, that does say OCTOBER! It may only be March but plans are already underway for the 2013 Women's Retreat. We will be



worship, sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. We are an open and affirming church: open to all, and affirming of all God's beloved children. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



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