



Old South Church

United Church of Christ

Telstar, April 2016

Rooted in faith, Growing in love, Reaching for justice

Beloved Old South,

The other day I was talking with a friend about something that was worrying me; nothing earth-shattering, not an imminent crisis, but a stress and a source of low-level anxiety. After listening to me talk and explain what I was concerned about, and why I found it stressful, she said, "Have you prayed about it?"

It was such a simple question, but it stopped me short, as I realized, that no, I hadn't prayed about it. In fact it hadn't even crossed my mind to pray about it. But as soon as she asked me, I realized that of course prayer would be a helpful and obvious thing to do.

So I did. My prayer was nothing elaborate or profound, just a simple request asking God to help me with the situation that I was worrying about. I didn't go into the details, because I didn't need to, since as the Psalmist says to God in Psalm 139:

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

God knows us intimately and completely, and in that moment God already knew all about my problem, surely understanding it far better than I did myself. So my prayer didn't need explanation or detail. And it certainly didn't need eloquence or elaborate theological language—not with the God who knows my every thought. It just needed to be real. It needed to be sincere. I simply asked God to help me – and you know what? God did. I felt a lightness about that issue, and a reassurance that God was with me as I dealt with it. I was able to set my worries down and move on with my day with a much lighter spirit.

It was a powerful reminder to me that our relationship with God is not like a glass box labeled "In Case of Emergency Break Glass." We don't have to save up our prayer requests for the big ones like a child's health crisis or a friend's broken marriage or a family member's addiction. We can go to God with our big fears AND with our little ones, too—with all the daily stresses and worries that weigh us down when we fall for the seductive but dangerous idea that we have to handle them all on our own.

So today I'll ask you that simple question that my dear friend asked me: "Have you prayed about it?" If you haven't, why not give it a try?

Blessings on the journey,

Alexis

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Congregational Church

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Brian K. McGowan

Design & Editing

"Old South Church is called to be a spiritual home where diverse hearts and minds are welcomed, nourished, and formed by God to transform the world."



From the Moderator

Moderator Report

The work of group discernment is hard. And, when the group is multi-generational, diverse in history, economics, and many other ways, it is really hard. So, we need to give ourselves some slack, I think, when we become frustrated that change or new projects at church take so long. How many times have you heard, or perhaps said, "It took forever to get handicapped bathrooms," or "we've been talking about accessibility for years," or "I can't believe we're still talking about the Holman House."

It does take time, if we are to be sensitive to our diversity and move through our process being mindful and loving each other. After all, in the midst of our diversity, we share something so much greater, more enduring and sustaining than our property or our programs. We share our faith, and faith moves in God's time.

Please refer to the article in this Telstar entitled, "What's Next?"

Sherry Jenckes



What's Next



WHAT'S NEXT??

Where our discussions about our spaces, property and vision and possible sale of the Holman Parish House are leading us..

To date we have had two Our Turns with discussions about our vision items, how those are supported by our space, and the flexibility of our space. **On April 10 there will be a third Our Turn**, this one having two purposes.

First, we will look at various financial scenarios as they play out with a sale of HPH, or no sale. This financial information will be sent out in advance of the Our Turn, so folks can have an opportunity to study and understand it, and to come with questions and suggestions.

In the second part of this Our Turn, we will have a more open and less focused discussion, where people can offer their thoughts on the "big picture" in the light of everything we have heard during all three Our Turns: Should we move forward with plans to sell HPH? Why or why not? What other factors do we need to consider besides our vision and our finances?

Then.....

At the May 15 Annual Program Meeting, the Executive Council will ask the congregation to vote on whether we should move forward with developing a more comprehensive plan to sell HPH. This IS NOT a vote to sell or not sell. There are a lot of details to work out if we are to consider selling this property, such as when to put it on the market, what the asking price should be, and where the church offices should be moved. Before undertaking this work we want to be sure that the congregation wishes us to do so, that it wants to *consider* the possibility of a sale. The vote on May 15th will be by simple majority in order to determine if there is enough support to move forward with planning.

Then.....

If the May 15th vote indicates we should move forward, the planning work will be carried out during the summer. Our goal will be to present a concrete proposal to the congregation, and to hold a vote to sell or not sell the property, at some point this fall. Executive Council recommends that this vote will require a 2/3 majority to pass.

As we continue to move through this process, we seek God's guidance. How are we called to be God's church, honor and hold onto the history that has been foundational to Old South, and ensure that Old South can live fully into God's call moving forward?

If you are unable to attend the April 10 Our Turn, but would like to share your thoughts, please send them in writing to the church office, marked "Our Turn," prior to that meeting and we will present them.

Executive Council



News & Upcoming Events

Our Turn, April 10

Don't miss the upcoming "Our Turn" following the church service on April 10. For more information, please see the "What's Next?" page in this issue of Telstar.



E Waste Recycling Event
Saturday, April 23 ~ 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Parking Lot in front of Olympia Sports, next to the Hannaford's parking area

See Fundraising page for more information!

Golden Oak Concert

Please join us for a concert featuring the local group, Golden Oak, on Saturday, April 30. Adults \$15, students \$8 (UMF with ID). Proceeds will benefit the Handicap Accessibility fund. For more information, refer to the Fundraising page.



From the Property Trustees

We have begun tackling items which were approved in the 2016 Annual Budget.

Specifically, four new assistive hearing devices have been ordered, received and are now in use in the Sanctuary.

The contractor for the church foundation wall support project has been contacted and the cement pouring in the old oil tank room is scheduled to begin by March 18th.

Clean-out of the church basement has been completed. After three dumpsters full of junk was thrown out an inventory of salvageable items was made and posted in the Vestry. These "free for the taking" to the congregation items need to be claimed and removed from the premises before April 30th. The remaining items will be placed in the Annual Yard sale in May, or otherwise disposed of.

We are pleased to announce that Angie Blevins has been approved as the replacement to our board for the vacancy created when Rick Hays decided to resign due to schedule conflicts with our meeting dates.



Spiritual Direction: An Opportunity

Would you be interested in participating in a spiritual direction small group? Carole Trickett is looking for 3-4 participants who will commit to meeting for 4 sessions over the course of 8 weeks to listen together for where God might be speaking in your lives. Carole is currently training Spiritual Direction at the Alycon Center on Mount Desert Island. Carole shares the following about spiritual direction:

Working with a spiritual director provides one with a companion who will explore life in the light of faith. Through this conversation people explore their personal relationship with God, have an opportunity to sort out their many questions, their fears, their joys, and even find clarity in this fast changing world. Working with a spiritual companion could be an exploration into deep waters which, somehow is surprisingly, freeing.

If you are interested in learning more about participating in the spiritual direction small group, please email Carole at cwtrickett@gmail.com or speak with her at church.

Don't miss the Retirees Lunch on April 4 at Noon in the Vestry.
Please call the office (778-0424) for more information!



Christian Ed
Deacons
Executive Council
Financial Trustees
Outreach, Justice and Witness
Property Trustees

To be announced
Sunday the 3rd at 11:00 am in the Matthew Room
Thursday the 7th at 6:30 pm at the Holman Parish House
To be announced
Sunday the 17th following worship in the Matthew Room
Tuesday the 19th at 6:30 pm at the Holman Parish House

The deadline to submit articles for the May Telstar is April 10. Thank you for getting your articles in on time!



Mission and Outreach



Outreach, Justice and Witness will be meeting in the Matthew Room at 11:00 on Sunday, April 17. This is an open ministry with no fixed membership, and we encourage you to stop in, see what we're up to, and help us to serve God's people both locally and globally.

FOOD CLOSET ITEM(S) FOR APRIL
Pasta and pasta sauce
Bring to church on Sunday – or anytime!



Thank you for your generous giving to One Great Hour of Sharing on March 6. As of March 8, we received \$439.00 for this mission offering.

Homeless Shelter Needs

The local shelter is full and in need of supplies. Items may be brought directly to the shelter or dropped off at the church office. Requested items include: heavy duty stapler, dryer sheets, baby monitors, potty chairs, scotch tape, men's deodorant, blue painter's tape, gas cards, dish washing gloves, 3 ring binders, scissors, laundry baskets, sugar, wide masking tape, sharpies, size 5 diapers, and all sizes of pull ups. Thank you for your support.



Community Luncheon

The March Community Luncheon was held on March 13th, and we served over 160 meals, including over 70 meals delivered. As always, we thank all those folks who helped, either with donating food or time and energy to make this ministry happen. And it is heartwarming to go around the dining room after everyone has been served and receive comments of gratitude and appreciation for all those who have come to share in a meal.

Our April Community Luncheon will be held on April 9th. The menu will feature meat loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, and green beans. As usual, we will entrust the preparation of dessert to God's Kitchen Crew. This church community is SO BLESSED to have such a wonderful group of kids and such wonderful leadership for them.

As always, if you are able to help out in any way, please see the sign up sheets that will be posted on the door to the kitchen. And if I had ONE WISH for this ministry, it would be that more members of Old South would come to the meals just to share in the fellowship around the table. Please believe me when I tell you that the folks who come to our meals really appreciate, not only the food but the fellowship.



Children & Youth



Sunday School and BBC

Now that we've celebrated together in the joy of Easter morning, we turn to look at the church, and our work to build a faith community together. Our Sunday School lessons will continue to move through the New Testament, studying more of the parables Jesus taught. Old South teens, meanwhile, continue traveling together through the Gospel of Mark.

Please note that we'll have a few "irregularities" to our normal routine. Sunday, April 3, will not be a Family Worship day, but a "normal" Sunday School day. Also, there will be no Sunday School or BBC lessons April 17 and 24, as we'll be "off" for school spring break.



Youth Group (and Faith & Cinema, too!)

Youth Group reconvenes on April 10th for another "Faith & Cinema" evening. Stay tuned for the movie title (we have several great options to choose from!); mark your calendars to meet up at 5 pm. We'll be asking for a "host" family that would be willing to allow 10 - 15 teens to crowd around their television.



God's Kitchen Crew

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 6 for an "Earth Day" themed afternoon. Once again, our cakes will be served at the Community Luncheon later that week. All kids in grades 2 - 5 are warmly invited to join us! The fun begins at 3:00 pm.

Old South Movie Studio

It's the final filming session of the year—unday, April 10th—immediately following the worship service. Come find out the "mystery" title of this not-to-be-missed movie-making activity. All children are warmly invited to join in the fun. (And, in May, we'll invite the entire church to watch our Movie Studio work of the 2015-2016 season.)

How Do I Find Out More?

Don't miss a single youth activity! Sign up for our email newsletter, "Old South Kids This Week," to receive updates, news, photos, and more. Just send a note to Jodie@FarmingtonUCC.org. Students in middle and high school can also check out our new (open community) Facebook page, "Students at Old South," for Youth Group updates and more!





Fundraising



Have any shopping to do on Amazon?

Be sure to do your shopping through Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate .5% of your total to Old South. There's no cost to you and once you choose Old South as your charity, there's nothing else you need to do. You can go to smile.amazon.com and click select on First Congregational of Farmington

Thank you to those of you who have been utilizing this giving method already! To date, we have earned \$27 through this process. Every bit helps!

Saturday, April 23 ~ 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Parking Lot in front of Olympia Sports, next to the Hannaford's parking area

Don't throw those old and broken computers, monitors, TVs and other electronics out! Old or broken electronics, also referred to "e-waste", will be collected at the annual Earth Day Every Day! Disposal and recycling event . Anyone can bring in their old or broken electronics for free. Businesses that have a large number of electronic components should contact eWaste Recycling Solutions at 207-449-1709. A detailed list of allowed items is available at www.ewastemaine.com.

This event is co-sponsored by the Fundraising Committee and the Outreach, Justice and Witness Committee. Free will monetary donations will be accepted to assist in supporting the church's community service, outreach and youth programs.



Golden Oak in Concert—Saturday, April 30th

Golden Oak will be performing on Saturday, April 30th at 7 p.m. at Old South. Golden Oak's cd release concert will include locals Seth Wegner, Zak Kendal, Lena Kendall joined by Julian Stearns. Adults \$15, students \$8 (UMF with id). Proceeds will benefit the Newman Wing handicapped accessibility fund.

Volunteers will be needed to provide meal, as well as donations for intermission refreshments, staffing for concert and sponsor(s) for sound and lights. See Debbie Davis-Robinson, Hallie Yorks or stop by the Fundraising Table for more information.

Church Yard Sale – June 3 and 4

It's time to start collecting items for the Annual Church Yard Sale! Set aside those unused dishes, vases, books, Knick knacks, candlesticks and more to donate to a worthy cause. At this time, we are not accepting clothing and electronic items are not collected for the yard sale. Donations may be dropped off at the Holman Parish House during office hours (Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm) beginning May 3. Additional evening and weekend drop off times will be announced in May.

Helping hands are welcome to sort and set up for the yard sale, work the day of the event and clean up after the event is over. If you can help, please contact Linda Fournier at 491-9258.





Worship & Music



Easter Lily Memorials and Celebrations

- Given in loving memory of Mitch Boulette by Jill Boulette
- Given in loving memory of Emma David by Ed David
- Given in loving memory of Gayle Davis by Jill Boulette and Debbie Davis Robinson
- Given in loving memory of Mary Ann Drach by Ernst and Kathleen Lynch
- Given in loving memory of Pauline Flint by Jill Perry and Judy Bjorn
- Given in loving memory of our parents by Ernst and Kathleen Lynch
- Given in loving memory of Arthur Perry by Jill Perry and Judy Bjorn
- Given in loving memory of Bill and Dolores Robinson by Rich and Debbie Davis Robinson
- Given in loving memory of Claire Sundeen by Donna Wheeler
- Given in celebration of a new baby girl, granddaughter Avalon James Parr, by Carolyn Parr
- Given in loving memory of Gwil and Pat Roberts and Pauline Hebert by Megan Roberts



Raphael, 1483-1520. Miraculous Draught of Fishes, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55341> [retrieved March 8, 2016]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Raphael,_The_Miraculous_Draught_of_Fishes._Vatican_Museums.jpg.



Revised Common Lectionary Readings for April

The Revised Common Lectionary are the readings from the Bible selected for use in worship which are utilized by many church denominations including the United Church of Christ. Each week, a passage typically from the Old Testament; a passage from one of the Psalms; another from either the Epistles or the Book of Revelation; and finally a passage from one of the four Gospels are included. The major principle behind the lectionary is that on a Sunday members of congregations should be able to hear the voice of each writer week by week, rather than readings being selected according to a theme. Below you will find the Revised Common Lectionary readings for the month of April.

Second Sunday of Easter April 3, 2016	*Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
Third Sunday of Easter April 10, 2016	*Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
Fourth Sunday of Easter April 17, 2016	*Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
Fifth Sunday of Easter April 24, 2016	*Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35



Get Connected



OLD SOUTH CHURCH

First Congregational Church of Farmington
235 MAIN ST. (Church) ~ 227 MAIN ST. (Office)
FARMINGTON, ME 04938
TEL: (207) 778-0424

WORSHIP: 9:30 AM SUNDAYS



<http://www.farmingtonucc.org/>



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Find us on Pinterest: [pinterest.com/OldSouthChurch](https://www.pinterest.com/OldSouthChurch)



Get Connected

Church Office Hours

The church office is open Tuesday through Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Rev. Alexis Fuller-Wright, Minister:	Alexis@FarmingtonUCC.org
Jodie Gunther, Dir. Youth & Children:	Jodie@FarmingtonUCC.org
Kate Clark, Communications:	Kate@FarmingtonUCC.org
Phyllis Pederson, Church Office:	Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org

Old South Statement of Identity

"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 Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Farmington, Maine, seek through God's Grace to be a congregation that includes all persons who desire to live God's Love, as shown to us through the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. We respect and embrace differences of gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identification, mental and physical ability, as well as racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic background. We welcome all to share fully in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, 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.



Would you like to learn more about the United Church of Christ? Please check the United Church of Christ website for more information about our denomination: <http://www.ucc.org>



Calendar

April 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30am Worship (Sunday School Classes meet in Newman Wing) (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (Holman Parish House) 11:00am Deacons' Meeting (Matthew Room)	4 12:00pm Retirees Lunch (Vestry) 6:00pm Zen Buddhist sanga (John Room (next to Chapel))	5 5:15pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	6 2:30pm Bereavement Support Group (Chapel) 5:00pm Human Traffic Organizers Meal (Holman Parish House) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	7 6:30pm Shepherd's Pie (Chapel) 6:30pm Executive Council (HPH Meeting Room)	8 9:30am Peeling Party (Kitchen)	9 12:00pm Community Lunch (Kitchen, Vestry)
10 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (Holman Parish House) 11:00am "Our Turn" (Vestry) 11:00am Old South Movie Studio (Old South Church)	11 6:00pm Zen Buddhist sanga (John Room (next to Chapel))	12 9:30am Pastoral Meeting (Chapel) 2:30pm Just Friends (HPH Gathering Room) 5:15pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	13 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	14 6:30pm Shepherd's Pie (Chapel)	15	16
17 9:30am Farmington Friends (Holman Parish House) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00am Outreach, Justice and Witness (Matthew Room)	18 6:00pm Zen Buddhist sanga (John Room (next to Chapel))	19 5:15pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:00pm Property Trustees (Holman Parish House)	20 10:00am Staff Meeting (HPH Meeting Room) 2:30pm Bereavement Support Group (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	21 6:30pm Shepherd's Pie (Chapel)	22	23 E Waste Recycling Event (Offsite)
24 9:30am Farmington Friends (Holman Parish House) 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary)	25 6:00pm March for Violence Free Community Rally with Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services (Vestry) 6:00pm Zen Buddhist sanga (John Room (next to Chapel))	26 5:15pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	27 7:00pm Choir (Matthew Room)	28 6:30pm Shepherd's Pie (Chapel)	29	30 7:00pm Golden Oak Concert (Sanctuary)