



Old South Church

United Church of Christ

Telstar, September 2016

Rooted in faith, Growing in love, reaching for justice

Beloved Old South,

Welcome to September and the kick off of a new program year! This fall we will explore the book of Acts and mine the wisdom the early church offers our 21st century faith community.

Many of you have asked, “Why Acts? For that matter, what exactly is the book of Acts?”

Well, if the four gospels tell the story of Jesus’s ministry, death, and resurrection, the Acts of the Apostles tell us how Jesus’s students and followers grew this nascent community after Jesus’ earthly ministry ended. In this early church, the “followers of the Way” shared all they had: prayers, possessions, food, and more. They challenged established authority in the name and spirit of Christ.

The early church was dynamic and alive, not static or stuck. One consequence of this early dynamism was that the church confronted conflicts over questions of leadership, mission, and how – or, for some, *whether* – to draw the circle wider to embrace those who hadn’t been traditionally included.

Ultimately, the Book of Acts teaches us that unity does not require uniformity. Even when we deeply disagree – and perhaps even dislike or distrust the people we disagree with – we are still called to love God and love our neighbor because our overarching creed is love.

And in a world like ours, so marked by gulfs – between liberals and conservatives, between literalists and relativists, between “us” and “them” – this Christian model of covenant is ripe with wisdom for us.

I hope you will join us on Sundays as we explore these texts from Acts in worship, but please also mark your calendars with the following events as we strive to deepen our covenant with one another and draw our circle wider (see next page):

**Rev. Alexis Fuller-
Wright**

Pastor
Alexis@FarmingtonUcc.org

Jodie Gunther

Director of Children and
Youth Ministries
Jodie@FarmingtonUcc.org

Phyllis Pederson

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Old South Church

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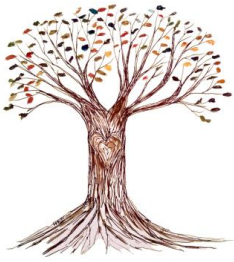
**Find us on Facebook
at:**

Old South First
Congregational Church

Find us on the web at:

www.FarmingtonUcc.org

“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.”



Discussion Group – “Civility: American Politics and Christian Response”

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Beloved, I sincerely hope you will join us for this journey together.

If you are hungry for a message that is incredibly relevant for our cultural climate, join us.

If you yearn to be uplifted and reminded of the possibility for new life, join us.

If you long to build heaven here on earth, join us.

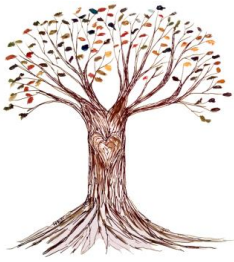
If you thirst for deeper connection, join us.

Join us as we remember the stories of our ancestors in faith and re-member – reassemble – ourselves as the Body of Christ. It takes all of us to do the hard and holy work of faith. I’m all in – are you?

On the journey,

Alexis

Would you like to schedule a check-in with Pastor Alexis? Please contact her by phone at 778-0424 or email at alexis@farmingtonucc.org to schedule a visit. You may also stop by during her office hours on Tuesdays between 12-3.



From The Moderator

By the time you read this message the summer will be just about over, and here's hoping that the season relaxed and refreshed you. My own summer has alternated between work and play: attend meeting devoted to the Holman Parish House; go for hike; visit attorney to discuss HPH; paddle kayak around lake; pester Phyllis for old documents regarding HPH; stretch out on porch with book and beverage; edit budget projections involving HPH. . . .

Yes, there's been a theme. The best part of all that work has been listening to the ideas that various members of the congregation are coming up with on the HPH question. Creativity is a marvelous thing to witness! A lot of people are putting a lot of energy into our future, into helping us decide whether we should keep the building and, if so, how we should use it. I'm grateful to everyone involved, and our fall discussions will benefit from being focused on concrete proposals.

Now about those discussions: although the dates are still tentative as of this writing, you can anticipate two Our Turns. On September 25 we'll present all proposals and begin the conversation, and then on October 16 we'll continue the discussion. Then, on October 30, we'll vote.

And then in November we'll run the capital campaign we voted on in February. But for now let's focus on HPH and discern the best way to be God's hands and feet in the world while also stewarding our resources for the next generation.

It promises to be an eventful fall at Old South. While it may be less relaxing than summer was, I think we can count on it being invigorating, and my hope is that in the end it will be inspiring.

Chris Magri



From Your Treasurer

I hope everyone had a wonderful, fantastic, adventurous, energizing summer. I know this summer season was and continues to be difficult for our farms, gardens, and wells with the severe lack of rain and snow melt we have had this year. I am hoping and praying for relief to soon fall from the sky, literally.

I would like to take a little time this Telstar to introduce myself to you as your new Treasurer. In coming issue, I hope to be able to update you with financial news and progress.

I was born and raised way down South in Mobile, Alabama. I moved to Maine in December 2014 to be with my partner, Mary. I had first visited Maine in 2009 and instantly fell in love with all it had to offer. While the decision to relocate was difficult in terms of leaving my family, I looked forward to this new adventure with excitement. When I visited in June 2014, Mary told me I had to come visit the church she had been attending. I can't describe the feeling very well in words, but I was overwhelmed by the love and support I felt that first Sunday. I knew this was the place for me. Maine has not disappointed me at all. It has been everything I knew it would be. The adventures are just outside your door and the love of the people in this community is contagious.

On the more boring side of my life, I graduated from the University of Mobile with a Bachelor's in Religion. Naturally, I became a bookkeeper, right? I worked for 15 years in Mobile as a bookkeeper/HR/personal assistant/manager/"whatever-else-they-threw-at-me" at the company I worked for in college. After moving to Maine, I was hired by a small family office working as a bookkeeper for their family Trusts and that's where I am today! Mary and I currently live in Farmington and love every minute of it.

In closing, I would like to say a little bit in appreciation of you, Old South. I know we chose "Pledge Your Passion" as our stewardship motto last year, but it fits this church so well. You, the beautiful people of Old South, are passionate. You are passionate about everything, you put your heart and soul into all you do and I LOVE THAT. You prove to the outside world that the Church is much more than just bricks and mortar. It is like a family and a place of safety and acceptance. Like with all families, we may not see eye-to-eye on everything but we never stop loving each other. We never stop supporting each other. We never stop believing in each other. We never stop. I want to thank you all for your support of our ministry through your continuous, generous, and, yes, passionate giving of yourselves, whether it be through your time or finances. It is all appreciated. Old South would not survive without you, each and every one of you, from the youngest to the oldest – YOU are Old South. I look forward to serving as your Treasurer and will try my best to fill the enormous shoes of my predecessors.

Many Blessings,
Amanda Adams



Deacons' Corner

WELCOME BACK ON BEHALF OF YOUR DEACONS!

This summer the Diaconate held a one-day retreat to plan for the new church year at Old South. As we sat on the front porch of the Condit's camp we turned our thoughts to the Book of Acts: to the beginnings of the Church, only a few weeks after Jesus' resurrection, to the stories of the early Church's impassioned ministry and to the creation of the very first Diaconate.

The story goes like this:

Not only was the early Church dedicated to spreading the Word, they were also committed to caring for one another. In Acts 2:45, The Message tells us: "They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met."

As time passed, the community of disciples increased rapidly and became more diverse. It was difficult to meet all needs equally and some people began to feel that they were victims of discrimination. When a conflict broke out over the distribution of food, the Apostles called a meeting of the disciples, saying, "...friends, choose seven men from among you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense and we'll assign (the task of food distribution) to them." The Message Acts 6:3. With this, the first Diaconate was created and charged with the mission of caring for the needs of the faith community and making sure that everyone's voice was heard.

As Pastor Alexis has suggested, Old South in 2016 is like the early Church in many ways. Our faith community is full of the excitement of responding to God's call and our faith community is growing and changing all the time.

Like the early Church, we feel a deep need to care for one another, but, in the midst of change, we are sometimes challenged to keep the bonds of our community strong.

For those of us who are deacons at Old South, these comparisons with the early Church offer an invitation: to seek new ways to serve our church family that address the needs of these times. How might we embrace the excitement of growth and change without losing sight of our church's commitment to care for each of its members? How might we help to strengthen the bonds of our community so that all voices can be heard with love?

These are some of the many questions we will be asking ourselves this fall.

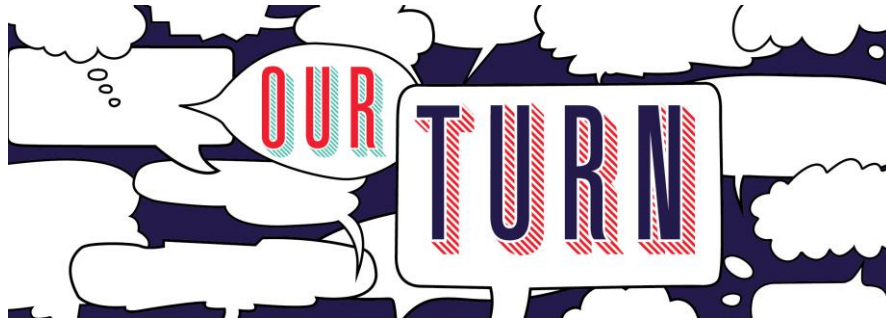
The long and short of it is: how can we, as deacons, have a role in helping our family of faith to live into its vision "to be a spiritual home where diverse hearts and minds are welcomed, nourished, and formed by God to transform the world"?

Shelley Griffith

Your deacons: Rina Bardo, Roger Condit, Michelle Scribner, Ryan Westbrook-Vigue, Betsy Riley, Fred O. Smith, Mary Sinclair, Gretchen Legler, Carole Trickett, Linda Fournier, Thad Gunther, Jr Deacon, Shelley Griffith



News & Upcoming Events



*****Our Turn Gatherings Scheduled*****

There will be two “Our Turns” to discuss ideas regarding Old South’s properties as they relate to our present, future, and finances. Don’t miss out on this important conversation! These gatherings will be held on September 25 and October 16, immediately following our church service. At these meetings, information regarding the possible repurposing of space, rededication of use, or sale of the Holman Parish House will be shared and discussed. A Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 30, for the formal vote. Childcare will be provided at both “Our Turn” meetings and the Business Meeting.

Thank you

A special note of thanks to those of you who provided special music during the summer months. We thank: Tim Wallace and Patty Schoen, the Mastersingers, Ryan Westbrook-Vigue, Bruce McInnes, Ruth Hill and Amanda Adams, Fran and Pete Addicott, Robin Beck, and Patricia Hayden.



Moving but Not Leaving

Kate Clark will be moving at the end of August. While we will miss the joy of seeing Kate and Olivia, we have good news to share too. Kate will continue to work on communication material remotely from her new home in Georgia. She will send our weekly emails, maintain our Facebook, Pinterest, and Instagram accounts, and update our website as needed. You may continue to reach Kate by emailing her at Kate@FarmingtonUCC.org.

Blessings to Kate and Olivia on their journey. We will miss your joyful presence with us each week and send you off with our love! Thank you and prayers for a safe journey from your Old South family and friends.



News and Upcoming Events

Welcome Home Sunday!

Please join us in worship on September 11 for the start of a new Sunday School year at Old South. The choir will be singing and our youth will begin their Sunday school classes. Please join us!



One-Day Women's Retreat—September 17

A one-day women's retreat will be held Saturday, September 17 in Carthage, ME. The theme is "Play as Prayer" and the cost is \$25. Contact the office if you are interested in attending.

Small Dinner Groups

Would you like to have a meal with six-to-eight other Old Southerners once a month or so? Sign up on the sheet posted in the Vestry, 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. 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 a great way to get to know some of the church family in a casual setting. If you have questions or want to sign up by e-mail (Phyllis@farmingtonucc.org) or by phone (778-0424) please be in touch. Or, just sign up on Sunday! The "deadline (though we always take latecomers!)" is Sunday, September 25.



Retirees Lunch Gatherings Begin in October

Please come for the fun and fellowship and food at the Retirees Lunch as we begin our fall gatherings on Monday, October 3, at noon in the Vestry of Old South. Mark your calendar and please join us!



News & Upcoming Events



Annual Franklin Association Outdoor Worship

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 18, at 10:00 am and join us and our Franklin Association UCC brothers and sisters for worship at Titcomb Mountain. Following worship, we will share a potluck meal. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held inside the Titcomb Lodge. We recommend bringing a hat or visor, as well as water to stay hydrated. Shepherd's Pie will provide the music. Plan to arrive at 8:30 if you'd like to be part of the pick-up choir.

Sep/Oct Discussion Group – “Civility: American Politics and Christian Response”

What happened to civility in public discourse? While civility has long been a factor of Christianity and even in American politics, more recently it seems that our society and many of its leaders suffer from an appalling lack of it. When everyone is screaming at each other it becomes difficult to conceive of a different, better way of thinking about politics and public debate. This 3-week discussion-based small group will consider ways to think about political discussion between people who disagree in light of the four virtues of civility and the principles of civility found in Christianity. We will meet on Tuesday September 27, October 4 & 11 from 6-7:30 pm in Matthew Rm.



2016 Concert Schedule

In partnership with New England Celtic Arts, the following concerts will be hosted at Old South Church. All shows begin at 7 PM. Proceeds from the concerts will benefit the Handicap Accessibility Fund.

September 11	Tartan Terrors (6:15 jam)
September 20	Acoustic Eidolon
October 20	Bonnhomme Setter (6:15 jam)
November 03	Dardenelles (6:15 jam)
December 06	Coig -Ecu Heat share benefit (6:15 jam)

There are many volunteer opportunities to help with the concert series at Old South. If you would like to volunteer time at one or all of the concerts, please contact Debbie Davis Robinson or Hallie Yorks.



News & Upcoming Events



Agape Meals: Starting on October 2, we will “extend the table” on Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of the month) to include a church-wide lunch after worship. Our middle school *Soup Group* will prepare two types of soup for us to share and others are welcome to contribute a dish to share **if they wish** but it is not expected. This will be an opportunity for intergenerational relationship-building and deeper discussions about our faith. Old South Movie Studio will meet at the same time so parents will be free to attend.

Traci Blackmon | John Dorhauer

Da Vita McCallister | John Paddock | Stephen G. Ray

WHITE PRIVILEGE let's talk

A Resource for Transformational Dialogue

Oct/Nov Discussion Group - "White Privilege - Let's Talk"

OJW and Pastor Alexis are partnering to offer this new UCC curriculum, which is designed to invite members to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive and bold conversations on race. The curriculum and the webinars will lead participants through four areas of focus:

- telling the story of your spiritual journey through the lens of race;
- looking at the dynamic of a culture in which whiteness is the established norm;
- learning how America attaches a cash value to whiteness;
- inviting the participants to commit to becoming an ally in the pursuit of racial equity.

These four sessions will take place on Thursday October 27, November 3, 10, and 17 from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Matthew Rm. We will also plan to attend a day-long Anti-Racism Training held by the Maine Conference on Saturday, November 5 in Auburn.

Telstar Deadline for October

The deadline for submissions for the October Telstar is September 10. Please submit all articles to Phyllis (Phyllis@FarmingtonUCC.org) no later than Sept. 10. Thank you.



Holman Parish House



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

This past May at the Annual Program and Committee Meeting, the future of the Holman Parish House (HPH) was discussed; its viability, and more importantly, how the HPH serves our vision of becoming radically relevant to the Farmington community and the surrounding area.

There are two sets of information and beliefs concerning how the HPH serves our church and community. A vote was taken, with majority ruling, to allow the Executive Council to proceed with information gathering which would be used to present a proposal to sell the Holman Parish House in the fall. We all were invited to make a case for our positions and present alternative proposals for consideration by church members. A group of Holman Parish House supporters was formed; our goal is to research the history and self-sustaining finances of the HPH, as well as to explore the emotional and spiritual connections of HPH to individuals and the community.

This is the first of three packets that have been organized by this group to make our case. It addresses the history of the HPH; the second is designed to clarify the facts around whether or not the HPH is a financial drain on Old South; the third packet will consist of testimonials given by individuals and groups who have been served by Old South through the care and comfort that was received at the HPH.

As we read earlier documents concerning the HPH and its purchase, we were struck with the enthusiastic energy and depth of commitment. The Holman House was strongly embraced by the spirit of Old South. There was a tremendous investment of spirit in this project of claiming the Holman House. We could almost hear the rock and roll of the building as the needed renovations were made, by gifts of furnishings and fixtures, time and money. The list of gifts is truly amazing; gifts given in love and hope so that the HPH could provide hospitality for community needs, as well as spiritual care. The HPH became a place of relevance to the community and to Old South needs, provided with joy.

We would like to invite anyone interested to join this group's next discussion on Wednesday, August 24, at 6:30 pm in the Holman House Conference Room.

Peace,

Edgar Davis, Debbie Davis-Robinson, Pat Durham, Sarah Parr-Ellsworth, Wendy Huish, Marilyn Hylan, Regina Longyear, Paul Mills, Dick Morton, Rich Robinson, Carole Trickett and Halcyon Yorks.



Holman Parish House

A Little Holman Family History

On a shady spot on Main Street stands one of Farmington's grandest homes, just south of downtown and across the street from the University of Maine at Farmington campus . For three generations the three story Victorian era structure has been known as the Holman House.

The house was built in 1896, over one hundred and twenty-five years after the Great Fire destroyed the buildings along the block. Joseph C. Holman took this opportunity to build his dream house for his family here. He hired Lewiston architect George M. Coombs, designer of Old South Church, to design his new home. The porch was said to have been constructed by Joseph C. Holman in anticipation of his run for Maine's Governor. After the death of Joseph C. Holman's son, Currier and daughter-in-law Rosa, the home became the property of their son, Joseph H. Holman.

The first thing a visitor notes upon entering the home is the beautifully carved woodwork, beginning with the huge, solid oak doors at the front entrance and continuing throughout many of the rooms. The natural oak woodwork has been preserved and looks as impressive as it did more than a century ago. The formal dining room boasts cypress paneling, while the gracious central staircase is built from golden oak.

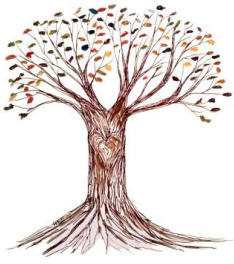
Other striking features include the stained glass windows and their amazing original woodwork. The woodwork adorns these windows and the stairway banisters is original to the home. A repeating spindle pattern of three different styles frames the stairway.

Built-in bookcases and a fireplace grace the library, while across the hallway the front parlor is located in the large turret, opening onto a back parlor. The Holman House includes 14 large, spacious rooms, wide central hallways on both floors, and a full attic on the third floor.

The large two story carriage house (barn), connected to the main house by a second story sun room, had two side-by-side horse stalls and one box stall with room for a large supply of hay in the barn chamber. The chicken coop, which still stands today, is located at the back of the carriage house.

The Old South Connection

In the early 1950's, the property next door to the Old South Church vestry, where the parking lot is today, came up for sale for the sum of \$5000. According to town historians, the church did not consider the purchase, possibly due to the cost of recent remodeling of the basement in 1949. Eventually the property was purchased by the University of Maine at Farmington.



Holman Parish House

Congregational input was collected from 1995 through 1996, and recommendations were made to the Building for 2000 Committee that included concerns for improved parking as the number one priority, and the need to connect to the wider community. These two items were envisioned to be vital to our church's survival then and in the future.

In 1997 the Diaconate recommended an architect be hired. The architect's initial plans for the church focused on basement renovations. These plans were continually thwarted by low ceiling height and support, air quality issues, and the cost vs benefits of a remodel.

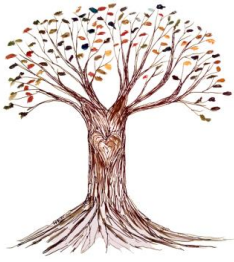
On June 5, 1998 the Old South Executive Council called for the establishment of a committee to present "a proposal for a church facility that will serve present and anticipated needs in a functional and hospitable manner." The church was experiencing growth and considerable space and functionality inadequacies, causing a high level of discomfort. A long list of uses and needs, current and future, was in the committee's Charge from the Executive Council. Major needs identified included kitchen remodeling, comfortable meeting spaces, a small chapel, an office for the minister, office space for the Administrative Assistant, and improved bathroom facilities. Another major need identified was parking, as the church only had six off-street spaces, gratuitously allowed by UMF in their lot adjacent to the church.

Also in 1998, a written vote was taken and lacked only 3 votes to pass to purchase the Holman House. The property was soon sold to the Pierce House, Farmington Home for the Aged.

In 2002, the Pierce House approached Old South Church about purchasing the Holman House. At a special congregational meeting a written vote passed by 13 votes to purchase the Holman House from the Pierce House for the amount of \$250,000. The purchase was funded through a withdrawal from the church endowment. A committee was formed to plan and oversee renovations and use of the Holman House property.

Prior to the purchase of the Holman House, the driveway was not used by the church. There was no parking area, only a small lawn. The only off-street parking at this time was the aforementioned UMF-designated six spaces in the parking lot on the south side of the church.

Magnanimous gifts, worth tens of thousands of dollars, were received for house improvements. These included furnishings and carpet for the Peace and Meditation Room, dining service for thirty-six, kitchenware, utensils, small and large appliances, and lighting. A complete kitchen renovation was made possible through donations. Wooden card tables with matching chairs were also received as gifts, as well as carpentry, landscaping and a host of services. Major gifts of new vinyl siding and replacement windows with shutters, valued at approximately \$100,000, were given by Joe and Brenda Holman. Kevin and Judy Vining generously contributed materials and labor to construct the new parking lot. The generosity and support of parishioners with the gifts of time, talent and money was extraordinary.



Holman Parish House

The name of the newly acquired property officially became the Holman Parish House. A beautiful new sign was installed to identify the impressive house. During its first year of operation, the building was used by the church and the community, and the church offices were moved out of the church basement onto the first floor of the Holman House. There was an adjoining work room/meeting room adjacent to the Administrative Assistant's office. The Gathering Room (dining room) was being used for Bible study, prayer meetings and special functions. Church youth and the Youth Minister's office initially used space on the second floor, leaving two rooms on that floor available to rent to non-profit groups.

On January 14, 2003 during the Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to take out a bank loan for necessary renovations and repairs to the Holman House which included \$25,000 for porch replacement with handicapped accessibility; \$10,000 for insulation; \$20,000 for complete electrical rewiring, including phone line and automatic porch and ramp lighting; and \$9000 for a replacement boiler.

On February 9, 2004 it was voted (71 yes and 1 no) that the remaining loan balance of \$70,000 be rolled into the loan for the new church wing construction. It was noted in a Holman House Committee report that "We are growing and our emphasis is in the right place-on our youth.

With the proposed Annex and the house property we have the room to grow." "A goal for the Vision 2000 (and the fifty years beyond) Committee was to plan for a church that was more visible and involved in the community if we are to continue and grow. The proposed annex uses and the house property and its use indicate that this is happening."

Prior to his death, Joe Holman established a Trust in the amount of \$250,000. The income from this Trust is specifically designated for the maintenance, improvements and alterations of the Holman Parish House. This very generous gift was accepted by the congregation at the Annual Meeting held on February 8, 2008.

With the completion of the newly constructed church annex, the Hazel Newman Wing, the youth were moved from the second floor of the Holman Parish House to the new wing, and the Youth Minister's office was moved into the Peace and Mediation room. This left the entire second floor as rental space for non-profit organizations. In 2009, the group now called SAPARS rented the second floor. Kitchen, and dining room space are shared. That same year a handicapped-accessible bathroom was constructed off the kitchen; this was made possible primarily through Jerry Parr memorial donations.



Holman Parish House

The Holman Parish House is a SELF-SUSTAINING part of the Old South Church Campus. It is used as church offices, offers work and meeting space, hosts youth group programs, and fundraising events, including yard/plant sales and Pie On the Porch. The carriage barn provides storage for church property, equipment, tools and yard sale items. Located next to the carriage barn is Annie's Beanpole which is a durable medical equipment-lending ministry. The expanded church property footprint now affords additional parking for the church and groups using HPH. Non-profit tenants and groups that currently use space include:

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services SAPARS: Works to prevent and eliminate sexual violence and promote healing and empowerment for people of all genders and ages who are affected by rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, stalking, and sexual harassment.

Farmington Friends (The Quakers): A religious community that meets weekly.

Traumatic Incident Reduction (TIR): Trained facilitator is Lynn Caldwell .

Poverty Busters: A group out of Western Maine Community Action comprised of local ministers, and non-profits such as the United Way.

Annie's Bean Pole: Free loan program of durable medical equipment managed by the Old South Church Justice and Witness Committee and volunteers.

Buttons for Babes: Project founded by Christine Bourassa supports the unmet needs of children in greater Franklin County through the sale of one-of-a-kind bracelets made from recycled buttons.



Mission & Outreach

Outreach, Justice and Witness will be meeting in the Matthew Room at 11:00 am on Sunday, Sept. 18. 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. Please join us!



We thank all the volunteers of Old South and the Farmington community who volunteered at the free lunch program serving meals to students and their families Monday through Thursday during June and July in Bjorn Park.



Our summer break is over, and it is time for our Community Lunch ministry to begin again! Please join us on September 10 at noon for the meal. Look for the signup sheet posted on the door between the church kitchen and vestry to find out about our donation needs for this meal. If you can lend a hand to help set up, serve, deliver meals and/or clean up, please contact Stan Wheeler at wheelerstan9@gmail.com today. Thank you!



Neighbors in Need Special Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. One-third of NIN dollars support the Council for American Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. We will receive an offering for the United Church of Christ NIN offering on October 2 at Old South. Thank you for your support.



Mission & Outreach

This Month's Item



Pasta and
Pasta Sauce

Please bring your donations to the church on Sundays or to the church office during office hours and items will be delivered to the Food Closet. Thank you.

Called to Serve?

Here are just a few of the opportunities to lend a helping hand to ministries and program needs of Old South:

Annie's Beanpole – medical equipment loan program

Community Lunch – free monthly meal for the community

Food Closet – help distribute food to our community

Sunday School Teacher – classes begin Sept. 11

Kitchen Crew – help to keep the church kitchen in tip top shape!

Coffee Hour – host coffee hour with a friend

Sign Board – be a substitute helper to maintain the event calendar in front of the church

Concert Series – Help distribute promotional material, providing and serving a meal for the performers, provide refreshments, cashier, greeters, clean up and more

Coat Closet – Donate your gently used jackets, coats and hats to help provide warmth to another

Do you have a special skill that you would like to share with your church family? Please contact us in the church office (778-0424). Thank you!



Children & Youth

Sunday School & BBC

Lessons return this month, with Sunday School for kids in grades K - 4 and Bible Breakfast Club (BBC) programs for students in grades 5 - 8 and 9 - 12. **Our first classes will be held on "Welcome Home Sunday," Sept. 11, during the** worship service (the lessons begin at approximately 9:45 am, after the Time with the Children in the sanctuary). This year, our kids splash into a new curriculum, offered by the same folks who produce the "Deep Blue" Bibles we use in our classrooms. Our lessons will begin with a study of Jacob and Esau, with crafts, games, videos, and even a bit of cooking!

For students in grades 5-8, we'll be exploring the Gospels in a unique way: watching segments of DVDs that portray the life of Jesus, then comparing these film versions with Biblical texts. Do the films provide us with a deeper understanding of Jesus? Do they accurately portray the Gospel accounts? Move over, Siskel and Ebert!

Last year, high schoolers sketched out the Gospel of Mark. This year, we turn our Sharpie pens to the Book of Acts. Get ready for a whirlwind story, full of action, mystery, bravery, and a shipwreck or two. **Along the way, we'll be talking about these first "baby steps" of the new church, and what lessons these stories have for us today.**



God's Kitchen Crew: Return of the Kitchen Gang

Calling all kids in grades 2 - 5: We have 12 cakes to bake for the September Community Luncheon, and **we need your help!** As in seasons past, we'll mix in some silly games and crafts, too, for a fun-filled afternoon. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 7, from 3:00 pm to 4:45 pm. Bring along a friend!

For kids grades 2-5

Begins Wednesday Sept. 7

3:00 pm to 4:45 pm

Acolytes: Carrying the Light of God into the Sanctuary

Children in grades 3 - 6 **are invited to help participate in each Sunday's worship service by serving as** acolytes, carrying the light of God into the sanctuary at 9:25 am. We will be posting a new fall schedule soon---**if you'd like to be included, but need training, please contact us!** We'll arrange a training session for our "new recruits" early in September.

For kids in grade 3-6

Begins Sunday, Sept. 11



Children & Youth

Confirmation Meets Youth Group and Faith & Cinema....!

We're taking the best parts of Youth Group and Confirmation---and combining them! This fall, we'll begin meeting Sunday evenings 6:30 -- 8:00 pm. The first Sunday of each month will be a Confirmation meeting, where we'll introduce different core elements of our faith---scripture, prayer, faith, tradition, sacraments, and mission. Then, subsequent Youth Group Sundays will dig deeper into these elements, using movies, "TED Talks," art, music, special guests and more. For students in grades 9 and above, we encourage you to participate as part of a two-year Confirmation journey, culminating with an invitation to become a member of the church in May 2018.

For students in grades 7-12

Begins Sunday, Sept. 11

11:00 am to noon

Soup Group

Kinda like "God's Kitchen Crew," only a little more "culinarily sophisticated," for students in grades 5-8.

Once a month, we'll be stirring up some mega batches of soup (which will be used by the church for another great new program...more info on this soon!) Each month, we'll kick things off by heading to Tranten's at 2 pm to shop. Then, at 3 pm, we'll roll up our sleeves and get to work in the church kitchen.

After the dishes are washed, we'll enjoy a snack, a quick game, and more!

For kids in grades 5-8 Begins Thursday, Sept. 29 2:00 pm (3:00 pm for 5th graders) to 4:45 pm



Mission Trips: Twice as Nice!

Mission #1: Ecclesia CityReach (Boston)

For students in grades 9-12

November 18-20

We help serve food, clothing, and companionship to folks on the streets of Boston. We may extend our visit to Sunday, too, so we can participate in the *common cathedral* worship service on The Boston Commons.

Mission #2: Preble Street (Portland)

For students in grades 7-12

March 17-18

It's hard work, but incredibly rewarding too---spending hours in the kitchen of Portland's largest soup kitchen. We'll leave early Friday morning and return Saturday evening, serving three meals to more than 300 hungry men, women, and children.



Children & Youth

Bread for Benefit

It's one of our tastiest assignments---making freshly baked bread to sell after the worship service Sunday mornings. **This year, we'll be selling bread two times each month, on the second and fourth Sundays.**

We'll need all youth group members to lend a hand to keep this highly successful program running smoothly. Look for a complete assignment schedule--sent via email and posted on Facebook---soon!

For students in grades 7-12

2nd and 4th Sundays each month

Bread-prep shift 8:30 am; Bread-selling shift: 10:45 am; Pot Washer shift: 10:45 am

Share Your Joy: Become a Sunday School Teacher!

It's an easy way to make a big difference in a child's life: become a Sunday School teacher at Old South.

The Christian Education Committee is looking for new teachers who'd be willing to serve just once or twice each month. We have engaging curriculum, plenty of supplies, and flexible dates. Please contact Jodie at Jodie@FarmingtonUCC.org or Arin Hilton at Arinhilton@gmail.com.

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.



Youth Programming Schedule: Fall 2016

(Please note: We may need to adjust this schedule as we respond to other events and activities within the church community.)

September

- Sunday, Sept. 4: *holiday weekend, no youth programs*
Wed. Sept 7: God's Kitchen Crew 3-5 pm
Sunday, Sept. 11: Sunday School, BBC classes resume
Bread-for-Benefit (8:30 -11:00 am)
Movie Studio (11:00 - noon)
Youth Group (6:30 - 8:00 pm)
Sunday, Sept. 18: Sunday School, BBC classes
Youth Group (6:30 - 8:00 pm)
Sunday, Sept. 25: Sunday School, BBC classes
Bread-for-Benefit (8:30 -11:00 am)
Youth Group (6:30 - 8:00 pm)
Thurs., Sept. 29: Soup Group (2-5 pm)

October

- Sunday, Oct. 2: Sunday School, BBC classes
Movie Studio (11-noon)
Wed. Oct. 5: God's Kitchen Crew (3-5 pm)
Sunday Oct 9: Sunday School, BBC classes
(no youth group today--holiday weekend)
Sunday, Oct. 16: Sunday School, BBC classes
Youth Group (6:30-8:00)
Sunday, Oct. 23: Sunday School, BBC classes
Bread-for-Benefit (8:30 - 11:00 am)
Youth Group (6:30 - 8:00 pm)
Thurs., Oct. 27: Soup Group (2-5 pm)
Sunday, Oct. 30: Sunday School, BBC classes
Youth Group (6:30 - 8:00 pm)

November

- Sunday, Nov. 6: Sunday School, BBC classes
Movie Studio (11-noon)
Youth Group (6:30 - 8:00)
Wed. Nov. 9: God's Kitchen Crew (3-5 pm)
Sunday, Nov. 13: Sunday School, BBC classes
Bread for Benefit (8:30 - 11:00)
Youth Group (6:30 - 8:00 pm)
Thurs. Nov. 17: Soup Group (2-5 pm)
Fri-Sat., Nov. 18-19: Youth Group Ecclesia/Boston mission trip (high school)
Sunday, Nov. 20: Sunday School, BBC
(no Youth Group tonight!)
Sunday, Nov. 27: *(no Sunday School or youth programs--holiday weekend)*

December

- Sunday, Dec. 4: Sunday School, BBC classes
Movie Studio (11 - noon)
Wed. Dec. 7: God's Kitchen Crew (3-5)
Sunday, Dec. 11: Sunday School, BBC classes
Bread-for-Benefit (8:30 - 11)
Youth Group (6:30 - 8:00)
Thurs. Dec. 15: Soup Group (2-5)
Sunday, Dec. 18: **Pageant Sunday**
Youth Group (6:30 -8:00)
Sunday, Dec. 25: Merry Christmas! *(no Sunday School, BBC, or Youth Group today)*



Fundraising

Old South Concert Series Continues

The September concerts in partnership with New England Celtic Arts will bring a musical contrast to the stage at Old South. On September 11, the Tartan Terrors come to town for a 7 pm concert. A pre-jam will take place in the vestry beginning at 6:15 pm. The Tartan Terrors, are known for taking traditional Celtic music and dance, mixing it with rock and roll beats and blending in their own unique Scottish Comedy. The Tartan Terrors are also steeped with a tradition of giving back to the community and have raised over \$200,000 for charities within North America. A cause close to their heart is Breast Cancer Research, and with a portion of all their CD sales going to this worthy fight.

The Tartan Terrors



Acoustic Eidolon

On Tuesday, September 20, Acoustic Eidolon will perform at 7:00 pm. Acoustic Eidolon, featuring Joe Scott and Hannah Alkire have graced stages throughout the US, Europe, Australia and Canada. With eleven CDs and a DVD to their credit, these masterful artists continue to captivate audiences throughout the world with their signature “new acoustic” sound and boundless possibilities in blending Celtic, Americana, World & Flamenco musical influences.

For these two concerts adult tickets will be \$20.00 and students \$10 (including UMF students with ID) and worth every penny! Reservations are highly recommended by calling Debbie Davis-Robinson 491-5919 or Hallie Yorks 778-0111. Old South's portion of the proceeds will benefit the Newman Wing handicapped accessibility fund.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering, refreshment donations and sound and light sponsorships contact Debbie Davis-Robinson.



Worship & Music



Adult Choir

New members would be a great addition and would be joyfully welcomed to our adult choir. Our first rehearsal this fall will be on Wednesday evening, September 7, at 7:00 in the Matthew room. Previous experience is not a requirement, just a love of singing together with a group of very friendly folks. Come along and give yourself a shot at a most rewarding musical experience!

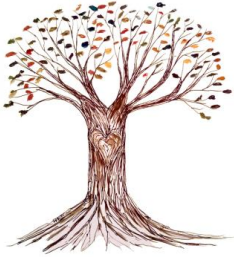
Communion Sunday, September 11

In September, we will be serving communion on the second Sunday of the month (9/11). We will celebrate Welcome Home Sunday by sharing at the table of God's grace together. Please join us.



September Worship

September 4 – Colossians 3:15-17, Hymn Sing
September 11 – Acts 2:37-47, Welcome Home Sunday and Communion
September 18 – Association Outdoor worship at Titcomb, 10:00 am
September 25 – Acts 5:12-21a



Worship & Music

Revised Common Lectionary

We are in the season after Pentecost in Year C according to the Revised Common Lectionary. The Revised Common Lectionary is a list of Bible passages followed by the majority of mainline Christian churches, including the United Church of Christ. Although Rev. Alexis often draws upon the Revised Common Lectionary, worship service planning is also often based on themes relevant to the life of the church. If you would like to study the lectionary that will be used in church each Sunday, please contact Phyllis in the church office. Below, you will find the Revised Common Lectionary for the month of September.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 4, 2016	<u>Jeremiah 18:1-11</u> <u>Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18</u>	<u>Deuteronomy 30:15-20</u> <u>Psalm 1</u>	<u>Philemon 1:1-1:21</u>	<u>Luke 14:25-33</u>
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 11, 2016	<u>Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28</u> <u>Psalm 14</u>	<u>Exodus 32:7-14</u> <u>Psalm 51:1-10</u>	<u>1 Timothy 1:12-17</u>	<u>Luke 15:1-10</u>
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 18, 2016	<u>Jeremiah 8:18-9:1</u> <u>Psalm 79:1-9</u>	<u>Amos 8:4-7</u> <u>Psalm 113</u>	<u>1 Timothy 2:1-7</u>	<u>Luke 16:1-13</u>
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 25, 2016	<u>Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15</u> <u>Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16</u>	<u>Amos 6:1a, 4-7</u> <u>Psalm 146</u>	<u>1 Timothy 6:6-19</u>	<u>Luke 16:19-31</u>

Revised Common Lectionary readings may be reviewed at:
lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu

For each week, the RCL website has added scriptural reflections based on a featured art image as well as prayers. We select one image to share in Telstar each month and post it with the lectionary readings.

You may also elect to receive devotions based on the revised common lectionary readings from the United Church of Christ by signing up at
www.ucc.org/daily_devotional



Maine Conference and the UCC

From Your Maine Conference Deacon

Rev. Cathie Wallace

What a joy it was to be with you on June 19th, and to hear about the Old South of today!

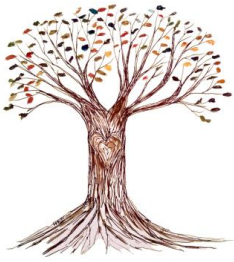
I was present with you as a representative of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC), composed of 157 churches and soon-to-be seven Associations. As a Conference Deacon, my job is to be your connector to the other 156 churches: to share your good program ideas and to bring you others, and to be supportive of you and your pastor through prayer and presence in good times and not-so-good times. On June 19th after worship, 31 of you met with me for information and to answer just a few questions.

Your list of the ways you find God's presence at Old South was long and joyful. Here are a few of them:

- Coffee hour and all the ways we feed our souls and our tummies too
- The music
- The way we educate and embrace children
- The genuine warmth and welcome of the congregation
- Outreach and justice
- Annie's Beanpole (an example of the good program news I will carry to the next Conference Deacons meeting)
- Hearing the word of God preached in the sermon and having it be important in terms of the context of our lives
- The ever-present guiding force of compassion in this church
- Offering our space and connecting with the community; bringing people in to see what Old South welcome is
- Not needing to be dressed up, just being ourselves
- Our ability to address even difficult issues
- The seriousness of the spiritual inquiry that is available here
- The way Old South balances being both contemporary and traditional

Your response to my question about challenges the church is facing was much shorter, and held less energy than the joys. Most of the challenges you mentioned are also being addressed at many other churches in the Maine Conference: finances and the expense of buildings; a hunger for adult spiritual growth; wanting to attract young families in a way that works for their busy lives; attracting non-parent helpers in Christian Education; wanting more time with your busy pastor; and making hard decisions about church buildings.

As both Conference Deacon and a new member of Old South, I was so moved by your transparency and the joyfulness in your corner of the wider Body of Christ. Thank you for being with me on June 19th – I look forward to seeing you soon!



Maine Conference and the UCC

*From the Franklin Association Moderator
Rev. Cathie Wallace*

This is an exciting time in the life of the Franklin Association of churches!

As a reminder, we are the seven United Church of Christ (UCC) churches of Franklin County: Old South, First Congregational in Wilton, Shorey Chapel in Industry, New Sharon Congregational, Phillips Community Church, First Congregational in Weld, and Rangeley Congregational.

For the past year, we have been in conversation with the eleven churches of the Kennebec Valley Association about union. Representatives from all but one of both Associations' churches came together in February at Old South and reached consensus to move ahead with this. Here are some of the reasons:

- Enhanced community
- Best-practice sharing; more ideas to share and percolate
- Opportunities for Members in Discernment (MiDs) to serve a variety of churches; increased opportunities for part-time ministers to work at two or more churches.
- Enhanced mission work and Association worship
- MORE FUN!
- Filling Association committees, particularly the crucial Committee on Ministry (oversees and supports both ministers and the health of the churches)
- Getting to Resurrection – dying as Kennebec Valley and Franklin Associations and rising as a new, spirit-filled Body of Christ.

On Sunday, October 2nd at 2 pm at South Parish, Augusta, both Associations will have brief Fall Meetings separately, and vote to dissolve in order to come together. Then, a short meeting of the combined Associations will focus on a vote for union, and the Living Water Association of UCC churches will be born!

All are welcome to attend! The celebration worship that follows our business meetings will introduce us to each other in God's deep space, so please mark your calendars and plan to attend.



Maine Conference and the UCC



MAINE CONFERENCE Anti-Racism Resource Team **ANTI-RACISM TRAINING**

Where: High Street Congregational Church, UCC (106 Pleasant St, Auburn)
When: November 5th, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Cost: \$10 (lunch provided)
Facilitator: The Rev. Da Vita D. McCallister from the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ

Rev. Da Vita "Day" McCallister is a partner, mother, ordained minister, entrepreneur, philanthropist, writer, and advocate for marginalized communities. She currently serves as the Associate Conference Minister for Leadership and Vitality in the CT Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Her work includes leading the Racial Justice Ministry and Clergy and Lay Excellence groups for the Conference. She has served in the national setting of the United Church of Christ, with the Fund for Theological Education, and in parish ministry. Rev. McCallister takes great pride in her Spiritual heritage as the great granddaughter of the late Rev. Jesse Baldwin, a pastor in rural Florida for over 65 years.



Why Should You Attend the Anti-Racism Training?



Because racism is a sin that prevents us from being God's beloved community.



Because racism affects all of us, in ways both subtle and overt, intentional and unconscious.



Because anti-racism work is hard. It is best accomplished in communities of support, challenge, and inspiration.

To register, email Beth (placement@maineucc.org).

Questions? Need more info? Email: MEuccAntiracism@gmail.com

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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>



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
OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Tuesday through Thursday



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



www.facebook.com/OldSouthFarmington



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[INSTAGRAM.COM/OLDSOUTHLOVE](https://www.instagram.com/OLDSOUTHLOVE)



[PINTEREST.COM/OLDSOUTHCHURCH](https://www.pinterest.com/OLDSOUTHCHURCH)

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.

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The church office is open Tuesday through Thursday from 8:00 am-4:30 pm.</p> <p>Rev. Alexis is her office at the Holman Parish House on Tuesdays from Noon to 3:00 pm.</p>				1	2	3
4 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (Holman Parish House)	5 6:00pm Zen Buddhist sanga (John Room (next to Chapel))	6 11:00am Pastoral Care Team (Rev. Alexis' Office) 5:15pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	7 2:30pm Bereavement Support Group (Chapel) 3:00pm God's Kitchen Crew (Kitchen, Vestry) 6:00pm Executive Council (HPH Meeting Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	8	9	10 12:00pm Community Lunch (Kitchen, Vestry)
11 9:30am Welcome Home Sunday! (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (Holman Parish House) 11:00am Bread for Benefit (Vestry) 11:00am Deacons' Meeting (Matthew Room) 7:00pm Tarten Terrors (Sanctuary)	12 6:00pm Zen Buddhist sanga (John Room (next to Chapel))	13 5:15pm InnerRhythm (Chapel)	14 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	15	16	17 9:00am Holman Parish House Porch Painting (Holman Parish House) 9:30am Women's Retreat (Offsite)
18 9:30am Farmington Friends (Holman Parish House) 10:00am Outdoor Worship at Titcomb (Offsite) 11:00am Outreach, Justice and Witness (Matthew Room)	19 6:00pm Zen Buddhist sanga (John Room (next to Chapel))	20 5:15pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:30pm Property Trustees (HPH Meeting Room) 7:00pm Acoustic Eidolon (Sanctuary)	21 10:00am Staff Meeting (HPH Meeting Room) 2:30pm Bereavement Support Group (Chapel) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	22 4:30pm Capital Campaign Committee (Offsite)	23	24
25 9:30am Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30am Farmington Friends (Holman Parish House) 11:00am Holman Parish House "Our Tum" (Sanctuary) 11:30am Bread for Benefit (Vestry)	26 6:00pm Zen Buddhist sanga (John Room (next to Chapel))	27 5:15pm InnerRhythm (Chapel) 6:00pm Civility: American Politics and Christian Response (Matthew Room)	28 4:30pm Christian Ed (Matthew Room) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Matthew Room)	29 2:00pm Soup Group (Kitchen)	30	