

THE FAMILY VISITOR



FEBRUARY 2014, VOLUME 44 NO. 6

OLD SOUTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

READING, MASSACHUSETTS

Super Goal Party

Sunday, February 2nd, immediately following worship in the vestry. We reached our goal of 100% of our mission and ministry for 2013 (Mission Shares) that fully fund all of our New England and World Mission. Come help us celebrate this amazing victory. You are invited to deck out in your favorite sports gear and join in the party fun. Bishop Devadhar will be with us!

Open Mic/Talent Night

Let your light shine at our open mic night on Sunday, February 23rd at 5pm in the vestry. We will share a potluck meal and enjoy hidden talents of all varieties. No advanced sign-up is necessary, but talk to Pastor Carol or Susan Holloway if you have questions or set-up requirements. This is a great event to invite friends from beyond the congregation!

Mini Mission Trip to the Heifer Farm in Rutland, MA on March 15 and 16

Old South is planning a mini mission trip weekend to the Heifer Farm in Rutland, MA. Old South has supported the work of Heifer International for several years, and now we have a wonderful opportunity to experience their work in person! Activities will include:

- Helping with chores on the farm
- Cooking simple meals over a fire like people in communities served by Heifer
- Learning about the time and effort it can take for poorer people to get water, firewood, and food
- Sleeping in simple housing in Heifer's Global Village
- Learning about sustainable agriculture and the distribution problems that contribute to hunger

We will carpool from the church leaving at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning, March 15, and returning to Reading between 2:00 and 2:30 on Sunday. Before we return to Reading, we will enjoy a farm lunch prepared with foods from the Heifer farm.

This is a great trip for anyone in grade 6 or above and a great opportunity for parents to share an experience with their teen. We hope to include families with younger children for part of the day on Saturday as well. Please contact Marcia Brown at mb5c@comcast.net (781-944-4952) or Hilary Trismen at hkopp4@gmail.com (978-475-9868) if you want more information and/or are interested in participating.

The deadline for signing up and paying for the trip is Sunday, Feb. 9. Checks should be made out to Old South UMC and can be handed in to Rev. Carol. **Spots are limited to 16 people** and the cost is \$75 per person. If you need financial assistance to participate, please talk to Rev. Jan.



Mug & Muffin

Mug and Muffin will not be meeting this month. Stay tuned for updates.

Book Club

On Thursday, February 27, we will meet at the home of Nancy White to discuss "THE BOOK THIEF" by Markus Zusak. The meeting will start at 10:00. Refreshments and beverages will be served.

Children's Ministry Sunday is Coming

March 23rd will be our annual celebration of children and children's ministries. Kids from Sunday school and CCP will participate in worship, and our teaching team will be recognized. You won't want to miss it.

Food Pantry News

Items needed for February are stew, chili, hash and canned meats (chicken, turkey, ham, Spam, chicken a la king, etc.) and juice boxes. Monetary donations can be left in the church office marked "Reading Food Pantry." Thank You!

If you're on Facebook be sure to "Like" the new Reading Food Pantry page at <https://www.facebook.com/ReadingFoodPantry>.

We're sharing weekly wish lists, Food Pantry news and photos, and other community information. Please help us spread the word about the Food Pantry's mission and needs by liking and sharing our page! Thank you.

Deadline for the March Family Visitor - Feb. 10

If possible, please send by e-mail to: office@oldsouthumc.org Thank you!

See the Family Visitor Online!

If you would like to read the Family Visitor online and save some trees, just call the church office (781-944-2636) or send an email to office@oldsouthumc.org.

To find the Family Visitor, just go to www.oldsouthumc.org and click on News & Events.

A Month of Sundays at 10 a.m.

Feb. 2 - SHINE! You are Blessed

The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15;
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12
Rev. Carol Van Buskirk preaching

Feb. 9 - SHINE! Unleash Your Light

Boy Scout Sunday
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-10;
1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

Feb. 16 - SHINE! The Way

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8;
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Feb. 23 - Extra SHINE!

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40;
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23;
Matthew 5:38-48

Wednesday Worship

On Feb. 5th at 7pm, join us for evening worship in the chapel for special music, reflection, prayer, and Holy Communion.

Confirmation Update

Our confirmation class has a busy month, including a youth worship service in Chelmsford and a retreat at Aldersgate Camp in Scituate, RI, the last weekend of the month. Please continue to pray for our confirmands and their mentors, and save the date for confirmation 2014: June 8.

Coming Soon



Mardi Gras Breakfast – Sunday, March 2nd at 8:45am in the vestry. Circle the date and plan now to join in the Mardi Gras festivities and fun.

March 2

See How We SHINE!
The Last Sunday of Epiphany
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Special Music



*O Star-flinging God,
Whose light dances across eternity,
You have dazzled us into your presence this new year.
You have opened our hearts to the mystery of your love.
Stopping us often with news that is good
with hope that holds
with truth that transforms
with a Word that leads us along this trail we're on.
May the word of your grace guide our steps like the sun by day
and the north star by night, as we continue to travel into the gift of this new year. Amen.
(slightly adapted prayer by Glenn Mitchell)*

Praise to our Star-flinging God! We reached for the stars and made it, 100% of our full mission and ministry goal for 2013! The new year unfolded at Old South with the story of our God of Wonder at work with the small, medium, and large miracles. We witnessed God moving in spite of our best laid plans. Our finance team determined we would need to double our December offering income to reach the goal of fully supporting our mission and ministry for 2013. So the special Christmas letters and enclosed offering envelopes encouraging us to stretch to reach our goal were mailed early in December. No Christmas letters arrived for Christmas! The post office had no idea where our letters disappeared. Still, gifts arrived. People generously responded. By the first Sunday in January we had just \$5,500 to go. After worship we had \$3,500 remaining. Monday morning checks came, unexpected, surprise checks...and by our deadline we reached our 100% goal!

God does bless us when we are faithfully serving those most in need. This I know to be true, however, every time those blessings are revealed I am astounded again and again by that grace. Thank you to all who gave so generously. Your gifts shine light and dispel darkness here and around the globe. We have something amazing to celebrate! Join us for a “**Super Goal Party**” Sunday, February 2nd. You are invited to deck out in your favorite sports gear. The party will begin in the vestry immediately following worship. Bishop Devadhar and some of our New England Conference staff will be with us to join in the fun.

Stay tuned as we continue to SHINE! on our Epiphany journey and culminate the season on March 2nd “See How We Shine” with a Mardi Gras Breakfast 8:45am and worship and special music at 10am.

See you in church,
Jan Smith-Rushton

Lenten Season

Watch for details as we prepare for a meaningful and memorable Lenten season theme: **Simplicity** beginning with an Ash Wednesday Service on March 5th at 7:30pm in the chapel.



Lenten small groups will begin in March:
Inquirers/New member Group; Personal Financial Planning Course; Volunteer Simplicity
And more....

Prepare to enter the season of lent this year contemplating how you might live your life with greater simplicity, more financial freedom, and deeper joy. Consider the discipline of:

a daily spiritual practice
tithing for lent
no new purchases for lent
fasting a day a week from electronics
a carbon fast (lowering your carbon footprint)
eating simple, healthy foods
practicing Sabbath rest



Music Ministry

Hello everyone!

We are planning great music for February: "Blessed" by Kathy Walden, "Let it Shine" by Lloyd Larsen (this includes both the chancel and Cherub Choirs), "Vision Prayer" by Molly Ijames, and "Let Your Light Shine" by Price/Besig. The Hand Bell choir will be ringing for us on Feb. 9, and we will have Dixie music on Feb. 23. We are looking forward to seeing you all there! It's easy to join one of the groups, just check with Susan.

Rehearsal times:

CHANCEL CHOIR: Rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:00PM Sundays at 9:00am (8:30AM for those who missed Thursday)

HAND BELL CHOIR: Rehearsals every Tuesday in the sanctuary at 9:15 AM

OLD SOUTH BRASS: Rehearsals every Wednesday in the sanctuary at 7:30 PM

CHERUB CHOIR: Rehearsals every Sunday in the parlor with Marcy Nelson at 11:00 AM

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE CHURCH WEBSITE AND CALENDAR
FOR UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Opportunities for Nurturing the Body, Mind, and Spirit

Yoga - Gentle Yoga meets Monday nights at 6:00 in the Choir Room with Linda Preston. Each class is \$8.00 and payable to Linda. Newcomers and walk-ins are always welcome.

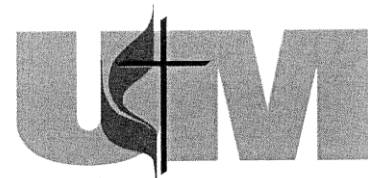
TOPS - "Take Off Pounds Sensibly" meets in the Youth Room on Wednesdays at 5:30pm.

Julia Circle - Next meeting: Mar. 24, Angelica's.

Dorcas Circle - Feb. 18 in the parlor at 10 a.m.

Book Club - Thurs. Feb. 27 at 10 a.m.

Men's Breakfast - Feb. 23 in the vestry at 8 a.m.



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Educational Ministry

Bible Study - Watch for special program details.

Nursery Care - Nursery Coordinator: Amanda Roland and volunteers

Provided on Sunday mornings for infants to age 3 in Room 103 of the Educational Wing from 8:45 through the 10:00 worship service.

Sunday School - Meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00. For age 3 through senior high.

Sunday School Staff

Pre-K: Charlotte Harlan, Kristina Smith, Karen Roscoe, and Lauren Hubbard

Elementary: Holly Stanieich, Jody Donahue, and Paula Perry

Middlers: Jennifer Brickett and Dianne Meyers

High School: Jim Roscoe and Chris Krebs

Parenting Group: rotating leaders

WOW – Worship Our Way for children 4 years to grade 4 meets following the children's message.

Christian Cooperative Preschool - Infants to pre-K. Meets weekdays 9am-12pm.

Director: Gina Azulay

3 year olds: Eileen McTaggart

Infants: Jessica Aiello

4 year olds: Cindy Petrucci

2 year olds: Donna Bramhall



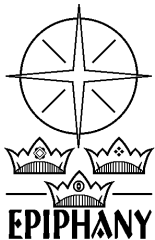
Christian Cooperative Preschool



Children at CCP have been very busy making snowflakes, using 'snow' paint and creating snow people. We've even had fun painting with ice! February will bring celebrations for Valentine's Day and learning how to be good friends. CCP will be closed Feb 17 - Feb 21 for vacation.

CCP offers classrooms for children ages 6 weeks - 5 years old. All classes are 9am - noon. Enrollment is going on now. If you are interested to learn more about CCP, please call Gina @ 781-944-0612.

Ongoing Epiphany Groups



Let Your Light S.H.I.N.E.! meets Thursday evening at 7pm with Rev. Carol Van Buskirk. This short term group is helping each person explore his/her own unique Spiritual gifts, Heart, Interests, Nature, and Experiences can come together for a greater purpose.

Fresh Bread: And Other Gifts of Spiritual Nourishment meets Thursday mornings at 10am at the home of Kathy Beckwith. Fresh Bread provides a fresh start for the new year with nourishment to feed the hunger of the spirit through prayer, scripture reflection, and journaling.

Our Church Family

Dear Friends at Old South,

Sorry I am a little late in giving many thanks for the yummy goodies. It was greatly appreciated. Thanks to June & Bob Meserve for the delivery and the Sunshine Committee. Love to you all!

Jack & Tina Waldroup

Prayer Chain

Members of the Old South UMC Prayer Chain are: Lois Tulikangas (781)944-9316; Shirley Buzderewicz (781)944-3577; Nancy White (781)944-6269; Nathalie Nordstrand (781)944-4252; Liz Barnes (781)944-6907; Jody Donahue (781)9440819; June Meserve (781)944-9416; Grace Palmer (781)944-4069; Tina Waldroup (781)246-54; and Nancy Anderson (339)927-1651.

Coffee Hour Help for February

Feb. 2 - Buzderewicz, Cameron, Perry

Feb. 9 - Austin, Callahan, Rogerson

Feb. 16 - Smith, Stanieich, Trismen

Feb. 23 - Brown, Garneau, Stroman

To reach us by email...

Rev. Jan Smith-Rushton
Pastor@oldsouthumc.org

Rev. Carol Van Buskirk
PastorCarol@oldsouthumc.org

Susan Holloway
MusicDirector@oldsouthumc.org

Carol Rogerson
Office@oldsouthumc.org



HOSPITAL



**Because
we care...**

If you are hospitalized, please let the church office or one of the pastors know. Also, please list Old South United Methodist Church as your church upon admission.

If you know of someone else in our church family who is in the hospital, please let us know. Contact the church office at 781-944-2636 or office@oldsouthumc.org.



It was a wonderful evening at the Old South Organ and Brass Concert and Christmas Carol Sing!

Photo by John Barnes

February 2014

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
<p>Every Sunday 8:30AM - Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9AM - Sunday School 10AM - Worship 11AM - Cherub Choir Rehearsal 11AM - Coffee Hour</p>			<p>Christian Cooperative Preschool Monday-Friday 9 AM - 12 PM</p>			1
<p>2 9:00 AM Parenting Group 11:15 AM Super Goal Party</p>	<p>3 6:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Food Pantry</p>	<p>4 9:15 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5 7:00 PM Wednesday Worship 7:30 PM Brass Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 10:00 AM Fresh Bread 6:00 PM Music Committee 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Let Your Light SHINE!</p>	<p>7 10:30 AM Food Pantry</p>	8
<p>9 Boy Scout Sunday 9:00 AM Parenting Group 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 5:30 PM Youth Worship at Aldersgate in Chelmsford</p>	<p>10 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Food Pantry 7:30 PM Outreach</p>	<p>11 9:15 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Church Council</p>	<p>12 7:30 PM Brass Rehearsal</p>	<p>13 10:00 AM Fresh Bread 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Let Your Light SHINE!</p>	<p>14 10:30 AM Food Pantry</p>	15
<p>16 9:00 AM Parenting Group</p>	<p>17 Presidents Day Church Office Closed 6:00 PM Yoga</p>	<p>18 9:15 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Dorcas Circle 7:00 PM Food Pantry 7:30 PM Commission on Ed.</p>	<p>19 7:30 PM Brass Rehearsal 7:30 PM Finance Committee 7:30 PM Nominating Committee</p>	<p>20 10:00 AM Fresh Bread 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Let Your Light SHINE!</p>	<p>21 10:30 AM Food Pantry</p>	22
<p>23 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Parenting Group 5:00 PM Open Mic Night 7:00 PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>24 6:00 PM Yoga 7:00 PM Food Pantry</p>	<p>25 9:15 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Staff Parish Relations</p>	<p>26 7:30 PM Brass Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 10:00 AM -Book Club -Fresh Bread 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Let Your Light SHINE! 7:30 PM Trustees</p>	<p>28 10:30 AM Food Pantry</p>	

The Old South United Methodist Church is a supportive, accepting, and loving community of believers inspired by the message of Christ to worship God, to grow spiritually, to nurture one another in faith and to serve others at home and abroad.

THE FAMILY VISITOR

Published regularly for the members and friends of Old South United Methodist Church. The purpose is to inform the congregation of upcoming meetings, events, and activities, and to proclaim the works of God in our midst.

Old South United Methodist Church is in connection and in mission with other United Methodist Churches in the United States and around the world. We are part of the New England Annual Conference.

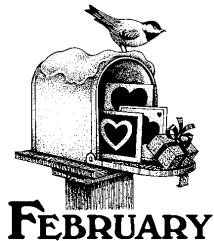
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Reading Food Pantry: 781-944-8486



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