

OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON
CALENDAR

DECEMBER - 2011



www.oldsouth.org

Christmas

Christmas Tree Lighting *Friday, Dec 2nd, 6:45 pm*

Join Old South Church for the lighting of our annual Christmas tree outside of the Gordon Chapel. Minister of Music Harry Huff will lead the crowd in caroling. Light refreshments will be offered. Old South Church's Christmas tree is erected each year in memory of Marc Gaucher, a dedicated church member and talented gardener.

Here We Come A-Caroling Handbell Concert *Friday, Dec 2nd, 7:30 pm*

Start your holiday season on the right note! Join the Old South Ringers, OSC's resident handbell choir, for their annual Christmas concert, a musical romp through some of our favorite carols. Free admission.

Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair *Saturday, Dec 3rd, 10 am - 4 pm*

Artists and craftspeople from Old South and beyond will exhibit and vend their unique wares. Come and enjoy this show of community and creativity, complete with festive music and the scent of hot mulled cider in the air.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services *Saturday, Dec 24th*

5 PM FAMILY WORSHIP

We will sing carols and tell together the Christmas story. Children are invited to participate in an unrehearsed pageant. Simple costumes provided.

8 PM LESSONS & CAROLS (Preludes 7:30 pm)

Traditional carols and music for choir, organ and chamber orchestra.

11 PM CHAPEL COMMUNION

A gentle service of carols and communion in the candle-lit splendor of our Gothic chapel.



Christmas Day Worship *Sunday, Dec 25th, 10 am*

With Christmas Day falling on a Sunday, we will celebrate with a single All Church Worship Service at 10 am. The church will open at 8:30 am. Children are invited to bring a gift they received and we will do a Blessing of the Gifts! Come to church on Jesus' birthday. We will celebrate all those who, with Jesus, are December-born with birthday cake following worship.

New Year's Eve Worship *Saturday, Dec 31st, 11 pm*

Looking for a way to escape the First Night crowds? Looking for something to do other than go to parties or stay home? Join us for cool jazz, cleansing reflection, and affirming hope to ring in the New Year.



WORSHIP

JAZZ Worship: Thursdays at 6 pm *eclectic & bathed in candlelight*

The familiar Gordon Chapel becomes as mysterious and beckoning as the Gothic cathedrals it emulates, and the old story of our faith is made new through intimate, eclectic, full-body worship. The Willie Sordillo Trio, Interim Minister for Discipleship Ron Buford, and the Holy Spirit are your guides as you move through a rhythm of music, silence, and spoken word that will freshen the faith of longtime Christians and invite new ones to deeper discipleship.

FIRST Worship: Sundays at 9 am *informal & vibrant*

Scripture, song, communion, inspirational preaching, reflective prayer, and a pick-up choir that will lift your spirit—if that sounds like your cup of cocoa, come join us in the intimacy and Gothic beauty of Gordon Chapel. Childcare is available!

FESTIVAL Worship: Sundays at 11 am *grand & expressive*

HEALING Worship: Sunday, December 11th at 10 am in the Children’s Chapel

All are welcome to this time of prayer and reflection as we “practice the presence of God” and seek healing and hope.

Festival Worship, Sundays at 11 am in the Sanctuary

December 4th	Second Sunday in Advent <i>ASL Interpreter ❖ Restoration Celebration</i>	<i>Senior Minister Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i>
December 11th	Third Sunday in Advent <i>New Members Welcomed ❖ Old South Ringers</i>	<i>Senior Minister Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i>
December 18th	Fourth Sunday in Advent <i>ASL Interpreter</i>	<i>Associate Minister Quinn G. Caldwell preaching</i>
December 25th	Christmas Day (10 am)	<i>Executive Assistant Minister Brent R. Damrow preaching</i>

Restoration Celebration *Dec 4th, 11 am*

In December 2008 the church sustained a crack to our east wall during MBTA construction. In 2010 restoration work began on our east wall and its stained glass windows as well as the stained glass on our south wall. Well, this long restoration project is finally complete—*Whew!*—and we will celebrate in song, music, word and profound thanksgiving.

Christmas Flowers *Deadline Dec 4th*

Contributions in honor or memory of loved ones and special events are being accepted for the display of poinsettias on the chancel during Advent and Christmas. The cost is \$15. Cards are available at the Front Desk and may be returned to the attention of Helen McCrady. Or send your message and make payment online; visit oldsouth.org/online-giving.

GENEROSITY *Kurt Gaertner on behalf of the Stewardship Committee*

On November 13, the fall stewardship campaign reached its pinnacle with the congregation processing our Giving Cards and the ceremonial burning of this “offering” by our clergy. Thereafter 140 congregants gathered to celebrate over lunch. So what were we celebrating? Over the course of the last month the congregation received letters from our Senior Minister, Moderator, and Guest Steward. In addition, personal testimonials were given by Witnessing Stewards at our three weekly services. The goal? Help members of the congregation—through prayer and discernment—determine what financial pledge would be right for them.

Out of that which God has provided to us the congregation responded with pledges totaling about \$723,000. \$25,000 more than on Consecration Sunday last year. With additional pledges expected (If you haven’t yet pledged, please do so) we expect congregational giving to set a new record this year. God be praised!



LEARN

Bible Study *Sundays, 10 am*

Prepare to experience worship more deeply by studying and reflecting on the preaching text(s) for the day. Led by Field Education Intern Shawn Fiedler.

Being a City Church *Sunday, Dec 4th, 10 am*

City Mission Society Executive Director Rev. June Cooper and Old South Church's Diana Strange, a CMS board member, will lead a dynamic program looking at the needs of Boston when CMS was founded in 1816 and the needs of the city in the contested crossroads today. The presentation will also include some exciting opportunities coming up in 2012 for Old South Church to engage this great city, our faith, and God.

Theological Book Group *Mondays beginning Jan 2nd, 6 pm*

Out of Babylon by Walter Brueggemann - UCC prophet and Bible scholar Walter Brueggemann takes us on an exploration of the center of the ancient world—cosmopolitan, educated, powerful, materialistic, and corrupt—and invites us to make the natural comparisons to modern America. How is a modern Christian to live faithfully in the center of Babylon?

Invitation to the New Testament *Thursdays beginning Jan 19th, 7 - 9 pm*

Who is Jesus and what is his significance for our lives? In this 8-week study, we will examine how the New Testament writers and the early Christian community wrestled with the coming of Jesus—his life, actions, mission, death, and resurrection—and the implications of his arrival for their lives and their communities of faith. This program encourages active discussion and spiritual reflection. Must be able to commit to 6 out of 8 weeks. Facilitated by Mark Schueppert and Bob Kosturko. To participate, e-mail mschueppert@jri.org.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & POTLUCK LUNCH

Sunday, Dec 11th, 12:50 pm

We will gather for our beloved custom of food, fellowship, music, and theater at Old South Church's annual Christmas Pageant and Potluck. The festivities begin with a potluck lunch, followed by traditional carol singing. Please bring enough food for eight people as follows: Last name A-J side dish, K-S main dish, and T-Z finger dessert. You may drop your dish off in Mary Norton Hall before worship that day. Then stick around for this year's interpretation of the Christmas story, "Holy Holly Christmas," brought to you by the Church School, under the direction of Laurie Stickels. The Confirmation Class, Youth Group and Christian Education Committee will provide assistance.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FUN *Saturday, Dec 10th, 10 am - 12 pm*

Come make decorations for our Christmas Pageant and Potluck. Or, you or your child can make a handmade gift, card, or ornament to take home. This event is concurrent with pageant rehearsal. Older children may make crafts when their scenes are not being rehearsed. Younger children, who need not stay for the entire morning, will have an opportunity to get their costume, run through their walk-on part, and rehearse their pageant songs. Children five years and under must be accompanied by an adult. E-mail churchschool@oldsouth.org.



MEET *Small Group Ministry & beyond at Old South*

For up-to-date information on all of Old South Church's gatherings, visit oldsouth.org.



Regional Potlucks *All members and friends of Old South Church are invited no matter where you live! Please bring food for six people and a beverage. RSVP to receive directions.*

South of Boston Christmas Potluck

Sunday, Dec 4th, 5 - 8 pm, Quincy

Please bring a contribution to the Women's Lunch Place Gift Cards for Guests Program. Buy a \$25 gift card to Marshalls, Target, CVS, Stop & Shop, Shaw's, or Walgreens or bring a donation of any amount. These gift cards are given to WLP guests just prior to Christmas to buy presents for their children or to provide themselves with the much needed basics that many of us take for granted. RSVP to marilynjacksonadams@gmail.com.

West of Boston Potluck

Sunday, Dec 4th, 6 pm, Newton

Join us at the home of Phil and Susan Stern in Newton. RSVP to boultons2@yahoo.com.

Caritas Christmas Potluck

Tuesday, Dec 13th, 7 pm, Back Bay

RSVP to mschueppert@jri.org.

Wellness Groups & Classes

Mood Disorders Support Group

Fridays, Dec 2nd - 16th, 2 pm

A peer led support group offering a safe, secure and confidential setting for those who struggle with mood disorders. Contact Janice at (617) 236-0265.

Mindful & Compassionate Parenting Class

Sundays, Jan 15th - Feb 12th, 1:15 - 2:30 pm

Join Tracy Rich, an experienced parent educator, as you with other parents explore mindfulness and ways that it can enhance and nurture your parenting journey. Come and find out how being more responsive and less reactive to your child's behavior can make you calmer, more joyful and more inspired. \$60 per person, \$100 per couple. Financial aid available. Free childcare available at the church. To sign up, e-mail amyecoe@gmail.com or churchschool@oldsouth.org. For information on compassionate parenting, visit compassionateparents.com.

Retired and Ready

Monday, Dec 12th, 11 am

How do we age with health?; Nutrition "rules" keep changing. Dr. Elizabeth Howard of Northeastern University will answer these questions and more. Bring \$5 to offset the cost of lunch, as well as a toy for City Mission Society's Toy Drive. RSVP to SimpsonCha@aol.com.

Sunday Fellowship Fare

December Birthdays

Sunday, Dec 25th, 12:15 pm

Join members and friends for Old South's monthly celebration of birthdays during Fellowship Hour. We will celebrate all those who, with Jesus, are December-born with candles, cake and song. All are invited to join in the festivities.





Building Friendships *with* Faith

Adventures in Art, Culture, and the Environment *Sunday, Dec 4th*

Are you curious about Islam? Following worship, we will lunch together at the Church and then at 1 pm travel by T to The Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center in Roxbury. (Free parking is also available.) The afternoon will include a tour and a question and answer session with a mosque leader. Dress in long pants (or a skirt) and long sleeves so that we might be respectful of their prayer space. Women are asked to bring a shawl or scarf with them to be used as a head covering when in prayer spaces. RSVP to jurma-kraft@verizon.net.

LGBT & Friends

Sunday, Dec 4th, 12:30 pm

LGBTF will gather for food, fellowship, and fun. E-mail shawn@oldsouth.org.

Faith on Tap Potluck

Tuesday, Dec 20th, 6:30 pm, fourth floor

Join Associate Minister Quinn Caldwell, who will lead a discussion on Advent Reflections, for his last FOT. Drinks provided. Please bring food for six to share. E-mail aegroupp@yahoo.com.

SERVE

UCC Christmas Fund The Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ raises over \$1.5 million to help 1,600 lay and clergy individuals or families. The Fund supplements health and pension plans, and affords Christmas “Thank You” checks for many low-income retirees as well as emergency grants for current clergy faced with unexpected financial crisis. Giving envelopes are available at the Front Desk. Checks may be made payable to Old South Church with “Christmas Fund” in the memo line. Or visit oldsouth.org/online-giving.

Neighbors in Need *Sunday, Dec 11th*

Neighbors in Need is a special annual mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the country. Giving envelopes will be included in the bulletin on December 11. Make checks payable to Old South with “Neighbors in Need” in the memo line, or visit oldsouth.org/online-giving.

Christmas Gift & Toy Drive *Through Dec 11th*

The Church School invites you to participate in City Mission Society’s 2011 Christmas Shop. We are collecting warm clothes—sweaters, sweatshirts, winter coats (especially in large sizes), hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and underwear—for families in need, as well as other gifts like books, jewelry, accessories, and games for all ages. \$15+ gift cards from stores such as CVS, Walgreens or Target are also very welcome.

Checks made out to CMS, or cash, are welcome in lieu of gifts. Please leave gifts, unwrapped, under the Christmas Tree in the Gordon Chapel. Leave gift cards and checks/cash at the Front Desk, marked “attn: Tricia.” E-mail churchschool@oldsouth.org.

Sunday’s Bread *Sunday, Dec 25th, 12:30 - 4 pm on Beacon Hill*

Help feed the hungry on the last Sunday of each month at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, 35 Bowdoin Street on Beacon Hill. We work alongside volunteers from other churches, synagogues, and service groups. Dress in comfortable clothes and shoes. To volunteer, email sundaysbread@yahoo.com by Wednesday, December 21.



MUSIC

Hammond Performing Arts Series

Sunday, Dec 4th, 3 pm

Hammond Residential Real Estate is pleased to present the second concert of their 2011/2012 Hammond Performing Arts Series, at Old South Church, featuring Russian-American pianist Constantine Finehouse, with works by Beethoven, Brahms, and Rachmaninoff, among others. Free admission; reservations are requested as seating is limited. Call (617) 587-4622. Reserved seats will be held until 10 minutes before the concert time.

Mt. Holyoke Vespers Christmas Concert

Friday, Dec 9th, 8 pm

The program will feature 150 female singers and instrumentalists. Tickets \$25 general admission, \$15 limited view seating. For tickets, e-mail Cerise Jalelian Keim, clarkkent128@verizon.net.

Chorus Pro Musica

Friday, Dec 16th, 8 pm

CPM, Boston's historic chorus known for its continuing tradition of excellence under the leadership of Music Director Betsy Burleigh, presents Ottorino Respighi's *Laud to the Nativity*. The program will include traditional carols in the second half. Tickets \$25 - \$45. choruspromusica.org

Kalistos Chamber Orchestra

Monday, Dec 5th, 7 pm

The Kalistos Chamber Orchestra will perform original music for string orchestra written by Berklee student composers. Free admission.



BCC All Choir Holiday Concert

Saturday, Dec 10th, 11 am and 3 pm

Sing along with familiar carols, enjoy new holiday favorites, and revel in the joyous spirit of the Boston Children's Chorus community! The two performances will feature the Premier Choir (advanced singers ages 12-18) and Young Men's Ensemble, in addition to other BCC Choirs. Tickets \$10, \$20 family of four per concert. bostonchildrenschorus.org

Boston Choral Ensemble

Saturday, Dec 17th, 3 pm

The BCE presents *A Choral Holiday* featuring the choirs of Marlborough High School. Online tickets \$18, \$9 students/seniors. Tickets at the door (space permitting) \$20, \$10 students/seniors. bostonchoral.org

FIRST NIGHT
Boston @ Old South



Saturday, Dec 31
Entry with a First Night button

King of Instruments Organ

Demonstration 3:30 pm

Experience the "Sensurround" magnificence of Old South Church's mighty 1921 Skinner orchestral pipe organ—affectionately dubbed the "Copley Philharmonic Organ"—played by renowned organist Harry Huff. The program will include Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, Puccini's *Turandot Suite*, LeRoy Anderson favorites, and a demonstration of the organ.

Old South Brass, Organ & Percussion

6:30 pm & 8 pm

The best of Boston's brass and percussion artists join Harry Huff, an organist with imagination and verve, in a supersonic program of "Pipes and Pops," playing electrifying arrangements of popular classics, as well as leading the audience in singing stirring favorites. These programs will include Strauss' "Also Sprach Zarathustra" (of *2001: A Space Odyssey* fame), Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries," LeRoy Anderson favorites, and music of Bach and Handel. firstnight.org



HEARD IT *at* COUNCIL

November 8, 2011

The mood of the November 8th Council meeting had a bittersweet quality as we anticipated Quinn's upcoming departure in January. Much of the meeting was devoted to establishing a process for hiring a new Associate Minister. To begin with, Moderator Vard Johnson will appoint a Review Committee to vet potential candidates for an Interim Associate Minister position. Rev. Nancy Taylor and Vard anticipate that Old South Church will have an Interim Associate Minister for approximately 15-18 months. Council approved a motion for the formation of a single search committee that will be charged with filling both permanent positions open at the church – Minister for Discipleship and Associate Minister.

Council also continues to review the Leadership Committee's proposed changes to OSC's By-Laws. Members were asked to review the document for consistency, and final suggestions for revisions will be taken at the December Council Meeting. The Old South Congregation may then take a final vote on these changes at Annual Meeting in February.

Council members were pleased to continue to receive positive financial news. Finance Committee Chair Bill Adams noted that Old South Church is ranked as the seventh top giving UCC church in Massachusetts for 2010. This includes money given to One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, disaster relief, and all other designated giving through the Massachusetts Conference. Congregational giving to the church is projected to end the year a few thousand dollars over the numbers that were originally budgeted.

Rev. Nancy Taylor had much exciting news to share. She reminded Council that Old South Church will host and lead the UCC's *Bless!* Conference over the coming weekend. Nancy was also glad to note that Old South would be celebrating the restoration of our Church on December 4th. The cracks are repaired, the windows restored, and the organ is nearly reassembled. This celebration will include recognition of and gratitude for all those who helped see the restoration to completion.

Council was excited to hear that Old South Church shares an attorney with the Savior of the World! Steve Comen, Old South's attorney in "The Matter of the Crack," is representing *Salvator Mundi LCC*, Leonardo da Vinci's recently discovered masterpiece, at an exhibit at London's National Gallery.

With that piece of awe-inspiring news, Council ended the meeting by singing "They Will Know We Are Christians."
—Kate Silfen, Clerk

TRANSITIONS

E-mail submissions to amy@oldsouth.org

OSC members Jocelyn Stanton and Sung-Joon Pai welcomed son **Isaac Joon-Min Stanton Pai** on September 20, weighing 6 lbs., 15 oz. Congratulations Jocelyn and Sunny!

OSC member **Vasiliki "Bessie" Metalides** passed away on November 10. Expressions of sympathy may be made in Bessie's memory to Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Newton, or to the Hellenic Cardiac Fund for Children at Children's Hospital, Boston.

OSC member **Nate Davis** and his a cappella group, The Dartmouth Aires, placed second on NBC's talent competition *The Sing Off*. The Dartmouth Aires beat fourteen other groups for the top spot.

OSC member **Nancy Richardson** is showing her photography at the Harvard Neighbors Gallery at Loeb House, Harvard University, through December 21. A reception will be held on December 9 from 5:30-8 pm.

OSC members **Tom and Barbara Boates** are moving from their home in Foxboro to Cape Cod.

OSC members **Janet and Bob Murphy** are relocating from the Back Bay to Savannah, Georgia.



OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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Nancy S. Taylor, Senior Minister & Quinn G. Caldwell, Associate Minister
Ron L. Buford, Interim Minister for Discipleship
Harry L. Huff, Minister of Music & Organist
Patricia Hazeltine, Church School Director

*All Old South Church staff can be reached through the main switchboard at 617-536-1970.

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Worship Services

FESTIVAL Worship in the Sanctuary

Sundays at 11 am

FIRST Worship in the Gordon Chapel

Sundays at 9 am

JAZZ Worship in the Gordon Chapel

Thursdays at 6 pm

HEALING Worship in the Children's Chapel

Second Sundays at 10 am

A Candle against the Wind

An Advent Reflection

Donald A. Wells, Theologian in Residence

Advent: a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of the One who brings life, light and hope. It marks the beginning of the Church Year and ushers in the Christmas season. The two seasons, however, seem to merge. No matter. We start decorating our homes in mid-Advent with trees, candles and much greenery. Sweet carols will sound forth, gingerbread cookies will be baked, and family and friends will be greeted with warm embrace.

But it all comes down to this. We will gather to celebrate the coming of the One who brings hope to our world; the hope for love and reconciliation: the peaceable kingdom. And for that we make merry – and rightly so! Yet we need to be aware of the darkness that surrounds us. Wendell Berry, the farmer, philosopher and poet, writes, in his new book of poetry (*Leavings*. 2010),

I know that I have life
only insofar as I have love.

I have no love
except it come from Thee.

Help me, please, to carry
the candle against the wind.

Our task, so it seems, is to carry the candle. The Good News is that the candle of light and love has come. The tough news is that it is continually being battered by the harsh winds around us. With difficulty we hold these two poles in tension. When we eye the brightly colored packages under the tree, some bearing our name, we don't want to hear that love's candle is being buffeted by the winds of hatred and division. But the reason for our celebration is that there *is* a candle lit; a candle that now must be carried out into the world to dispel the darkness. Always tension between great joy and great responsibility.

When the decorations are packed away, the last of the culinary delights devoured, and the beautiful Christmas music has ceased, the real work of Christmas begins. In my office, on the wall behind my desk, there is a statement which reads: "The ministry of Jesus was a disruption of the stratification of society." I do not know its source but it speaks to me of the nature of the work our candles need to do. Our candles need to shed light on the plight of 1 in 15 Americans living below the poverty line; illumine the great need in shelters that are filled to overflow; encourage residents of tent cities that 'Occupy' space in over 150 locations in our nation with their call for economic justice; and point to new paths of healing and hope for victims of sexual and physical abuse.

Sometimes all of this, and more, seems overwhelming. But as I begin my Advent journey leading to Christmas, my prayer is a simple one: *Help me, please, dear Jesus, to carry the candle of your love out into the world.* I trust in the promise of the ancient text: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5). This little light of mine; this little light of yours; this little light of God's: let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. Let it be so. Amen.
