

OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON
CALENDAR

FEBRUARY - 2012



www.oldsouth.org

2012 LENTEN STUDY

Sundays, February 26th - March 25th
10 am & 12:30 pm with bagels & coffee and tea

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

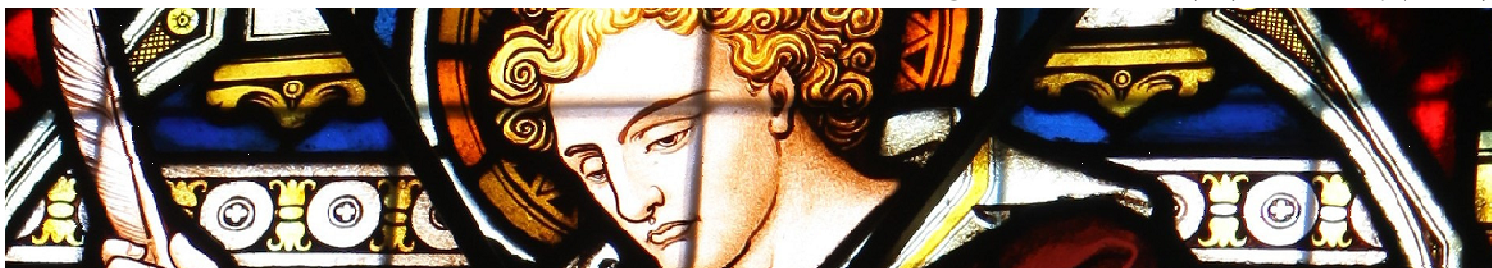
A community reading of Mark's story of Jesus

This oldest written story of Jesus is raw, immediate and in a hurry. Mark is anxious to tell us about Jesus, to point to him and to give his readers courage and strength to live a way of life counter to the ways of the world. As Old South Church in Boston embarks upon our Vision for the 21st Century, we take up a community reading of this first Gospel asking, "How do we live and give witness to the Christian life today? How do we embrace radical Christian discipleship?" What is a "Christian identity" in a post-Christian world?



Sponsored by the Vision for the 21st Century's
CHRISTIANS IN FORMATION TASK FORCE
& THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH CLERGY

Details from OSC stained glass—Gordon Chapel (top) and Sanctuary (bottom).



Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. – Paul



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, February 12th 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

February 5th	Annual Meeting Sunday <i>ASL Interpreter</i>	<i>Senior Minister Nancy S. Taylor preaching</i>
February 12th	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany <i>New Members welcomed ❖ Music from the Children's Choir</i>	<i>Theologian in Residence Don A. Wells preaching</i>
February 19th	Transfiguration Sunday <i>ASL Interpreter</i>	<i>Interim Associate Minister John M. Edgerton preaching</i>
February 26th	First Sunday in Lent <i>The Sacrament of Communion ❖ Music from the Old South Ringers</i>	<i>Rev. Bert Marshall introducing Mark's Gospel</i>

Ash Wednesday Services *February 22nd, 12 noon and 6 pm*

Join us for simple services of prayer, silence, confession and the imposition of ashes to mark our entrance into the reflective and somber season of Lent. Clergy will be available for the imposition of ashes between services.

Centering Worship Wednesdays *February 22nd - March 21st, 7:59 - 8:15 am*

Incense. Ashes. Bells. Communion ... Power for Lent? Lent for Power? Get both.

342nd Annual Meeting *Sunday, February 5th*

The Annual Meeting of the members will be held on Sunday, February 5 at 12:30 pm—completed in plenty of time to watch the Super Bowl. Items under consideration include: the reception of the Annual Report and minutes of the previous Annual Meeting; reports of the Treasurer and Trustees; consideration of proposed revisions to the By-laws; report of the Vision Working Group; report of the Operations Committee and Trustees concerning matters of deferred maintenance; election and blessing of Officers, Deacons, Trustees, Board and Committee Chairs; farewell to and installation of Officers and Leaders; and any other business as may properly come before the members. A light lunch will be served at 12:30 pm on the second floor. We will then reconvene at 1 pm in the Sanctuary. Childcare is available.



Mardi Gras Celebration *Thursday, February 16th, 6 pm*

Join Jazz Worship for a night of beads, frivolity, including entertainment for all ages, a special Dixieland band (see below), and, of course, Jambalaya! A King or Queen will be crowned in the Mardi Gras tradition; determined by who finds the magic crown in their piece of cake. S/he will become the symbolic *Keeper of the Alleluia* until Easter, at which the Alleluia, “buried” during Lent, is resurrected. There will also be a benefit auction with exciting items to bid on. Proceeds will help fund one of our Mission Teams returning to New Orleans in April to rebuild the homes of Katrina survivors. Grab your boas, masks, and hats! Make it a night to remember for the whole family!



New England Jazz musician—and friend of our own Willie Sordillo—will lead the Blue Syncopators in performing New Orleans Jazz at our Mardi Gras celebration. Billy is an internationally acclaimed musician, performer, arranger, and composer. He has been involved in many film scores, including the *Jane Austen Book Club*, and television series including *This Old House*, *Nova*, and *The American Experience*. According to the *Boston Globe*, “Billy Novick on clarinet, had he lived in the 1930’s, would be a legend.” To learn more about Billy or listen to sound clips, visit billynovick.com.

Introducing Bert Marshall

On Sunday, February 26, Bert Marshall, New England Regional Director for Church World Service, will join Old South Church’s Lenten Program. Bert is known throughout the United Church of Christ, and other congregational denominations, for his one man performance of Mark’s Gospel ... told completely from memory. Here is Bert’s take on the origin and nature of the Gospel of Mark:

No one knows the original form of Mark’s Gospel. No one knows how it began or ended. No one knows how it was transmitted from place to place. No one knows if it was created as a written narrative or as oral proclamation. No one knows why it was created, or where or precisely when or to whom it was addressed – and its creator remains utterly unknown to us, even in the unlikely event that his name was Mark. Most scholars believe (and I agree) that this gospel was the earliest of the New Testament gospels to appear.



Rev. Bert Marshall

Truth is, Mark’s Gospel bears only some of the classic characteristics of oral tradition, but what’s there is compelling. Mark begins at a somewhat arbitrary point in Jesus’ life and tells only the final year of his life. He strings episodes together in the manner of oral storytelling (that is, in no particular order, in the sense that a lot of the episodes could be presented in a different order without affecting the story). The style of many of the episodes is such that they could be considerably enhanced by an exceptional storyteller with a large repertoire. Mark’s koine [common] Greek probably fits well with the idea of oral presentation for the common folk of the early Church. Mark’s oral qualities have even been likened to

certain aspects of the Homeric epics, which are now widely believed to have their origins in the oral traditions of ancient Greece. It has been suggested that our version of Mark’s Gospel is simply one particular oral presentation that happened to be written down; all the others, told in countless and varied gatherings of the early church, are forever lost to us. Each one would have been unlike any other; each one would have borne the storyteller’s unique style and voice. And each one would have been, unmistakably, The Gospel of Mark on that particular day, for that particular performance.

Visit www.gospelofmarkalive.com to read more about Bert Marshall and to watch clips of his performance.



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.

Urban Body of Christ

The Faith at the Crossroads Task Force, in partnership with Old South Church's Theologian in Action Rev. June Cooper, has launched a new program, The Urban Body of Christ. Participants study biblical depictions of the city, undertake pilgrimages, reflect on the opportunities for reconciliation and transformation, and carry out peace and justice ministries in the City of Boston. The first four-week course, "The City in Biblical Scripture," began on January 25 with a full crew, but a second course, "Five Theological Foundations for Engaging Injustice in the City," will commence after Easter. If you are interested in participating in the Urban Body of Christ program, contact Executive Assistant Minister Brent Damrow at brent@oldsouth.org.

Living the Questions *Wednesdays, February 1st - March 7th, 6 - 7:30 pm*

This six-session study includes faith stories, the Living the Questions DVD, and discussion. The LTQ DVD features Marcus Borg, Dominic Crossan, Sister Helen Prejean, Bishop Spong, Tex Sample, John Cobb, and OSC's own Ron Buford (who will also moderate each session), among others. Living the Questions was designed as a progressive alternative to more conservative studies like 40-Days of Purpose. Dare we engage the questions? A light dinner (soup and bread) is included. Childcare available with advance reservation. E-mail ron@oldsouth.org.

Theological Book Group *Mondays beginning February 6th, 6 pm*

Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power by Marcus Borg. Modern Christians are steeped in a language so distorted that it has become a stumbling block to the religion. Borg argues that Christianity's important words, and the sacred texts and stories in which those words are embedded, have been narrowed by a modern framework for the faith that emphasizes sin, forgiveness, Jesus dying for our sins, and the afterlife. Here, Borg employs the "historical-metaphorical" method for understanding Christian language that can restore for us these words of power and transformation.

Bagels and the Bible *Sunday, February 12th, 12:30 pm*

What does a Bible passage have to do with the rest of your day? How about the rest of your life? Join the Sanctuary in the City Task Force for a monthly no-commitment, homework-free discussion about that Sunday morning's Bible passage and our lives. OSC member Donna Ruth Evans will lead February's gathering.

Living Connections *Wednesday, February 29th, 6 - 8 pm*

All are welcome to come and engage our Living Connections with this city of ours ... the connection between the past and the present ... the connection between our faith and our actions ... the connection between where our journey has taken us and the road that lays before us.

In this first forum, we will look back to the busing crisis of the 1970s and OSC's role in it as a way of exploring current issues that face our school system here in Boston and the inequities that remain. A light dinner will be served at 6 pm, followed by a dynamic and interactive program beginning at 6:15 pm. This program is open to the entire OSC community and to the broader Boston community. Sponsored by the Faith at the Crossroads Task Force.



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.*

North of Boston Potluck

Friday, Feb 10th, 6:30 pm, Melrose

Join us at the home of Adriana Repetto and Jeffrey Mead in Melrose. RSVP to northofboston@oldsouth.org.

Caritas Dinner

Friday, Feb 10th, 7 pm, Back Bay

Join us at the home of Nan Tull Wezniak and Frank Wezniak in the Back Bay. RSVP to mschueppert@jri.org.

West of Boston Potluck *Sunday, Feb 26th, 6 pm, Newton*

Join us at the home of Dick and Elinor Yeo in Newton. RSVP to rwyeo@comcast.net.



Building Friendships *with* Faith

Adventures in Art, Culture, and the Environment

Saturday, Feb 11th, 5 pm

Bask in the fun of winter in our beautiful city—skate with us on the Boston Common Frog Pond. Afterwards we will partake in pizza and conversation. (We will reschedule if the weather is too foul ... or too fair.) RSVP to erinhull@gmail.com or Jurma-kraft@verizon.net.

Young Adults Group Luncheon

Sunday, Feb 19th, 12:30 pm

Looking to deepen your faith? Looking to strengthen your discipleship? Join Old South's college students, grad students, and young professionals.

Retired and Ready

Tuesday, Feb 14th, 11 am

Our own Theologian in Residence Don Wells will discuss his work at the Massachusetts Bible Society, where he served as Executive Director for 19 years. He will discuss the ways in which he approached the Bible, the kinds of ministries MBS engaged in, and the overall emphasis of MBS to help people understand and appreciate the revolutionary message of these sacred texts. Please bring \$5 to offset the cost of lunch. RSVP to elliehredhat@aol.com by February 10th.

Faith on Tap

Tuesday, Feb 21st, 6:30 pm, McGreevy's Pub

OSC member Caitlin Minnich will lead the discussion on faith in action, centered around her experience with the mission trip. E-mail aegroupp@yahoo.com.



Sunday Fellowship Fare

Old South Knitters

Sunday, Feb 26th, 10 am

The Old South Knitters gather together on the last Sunday of every month to practice the art of creating Prayer Shawls. The rest of the month the group meets informally during Early Café in the Gordon Chapel. E-mail diane.raymond1600@gmail.com.

February Birthdays

Sunday, Feb 26th, 12:15 pm

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

MUSIC

Queens College Choir *Tuesday, February 14th, 8 pm*

As part of their East Coast Tour, Queens College Choir of City University of New York will be performing a varied program at Old South featuring works by Brahms, Victoria, Rautavaara and Penderecki. Free admission.

GENEROSITY

Interim Minister for Discipleship Ron L. Buford

There's a buzz at Old South Church these days . . . and each of you is a part of it. Here we share, meet, sing, work, and learn together, on Sundays and throughout the week. Here we serve each other, and a world in need all around us, starting right at our front door. Here we serve our God of many names who sets before us an open door to change the world. Old South Church's commitment to kindness, advocacy, and sharing God's really Good News in ways that includes absolutely everyone excites me, but knowing that I am part of the nearly 350-year old tradition that baptized Ben Franklin and Phillis Wheatley, and was the church home of Samuel Adams, makes supporting its cutting-edge vision and work . . . simply irresistible.

SERVE

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser *Sunday, February 12th, 9:45 - 10:45 am*

The Church School and Youth Group invite you for homemade pancakes in support of the Allston-Brighton Food Pantry. The suggested donation is a box of wholesome cereal, hot or cold, or \$5 per person; \$10 max per family.

Sunday's Bread *Sunday, February 26th, 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, February 22.



HEARD IT *at* COUNCIL

January 10, 2012

Council gathered for a quick meeting on a mild January evening. As this was the final meeting for many members of Council, Vard asked each member to reflect on and share a favorite moment at Old South Church. Nancy offered a word of praise and thanksgiving for the work of each Council Member. Many Council Members expressed their gratitude for the leadership of Vard Johnson, who has faithfully served as Moderator for the past three years.

After this period of reflection, Council quickly moved to financial business. Treasurer David Vogan was happy to report that the church will end the fiscal year with a small surplus. Finance Committee Chair Bill Adams submitted a proposed budget for the coming year. While the budget is currently projected to have a shortfall, the Finance Committee anticipates that this can be easily covered by money left over from the Vision Fund and the Budget Stabilization Fund. Council voted to approve the budget for the coming year.

Council members noted that it had been a busy season for the Leadership Committee. Its Chair David Becker presented Council with a proposed slate of committee members and chairs for the coming year. This proposed slate was enthusiastically approved by Council. Karen Hand, who will be chairing the Search Committee for the two ministerial positions, presented Council with a slate of committee member nominees. The slate was compiled to reflect the diversity of the Congregation and for their ability to work as a group. Council also unanimously approved this slate.

Once these business matters were completed, Council turned to the celebratory portion of the meeting. Council gathered around the punch bowl and received gifts of gratitude from outgoing moderator Vard Johnson. Members spent some time enjoying each other's company, and sang the evening to an end with "I was there to hear your morning cry."
—Kate Silfen, Clerk

TRANSITIONS

E-mail submissions to amy@oldsouth.org

OSC member and Historian **Jeff Makholm** was re-elected as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Landmarks Orchestra.

Former OSC Associate Minister **Quinn Caldwell** celebrated his last Sunday with Old South Church on January 8. A few days later Quinn left Boston and officially became a New Yorker (again), joining his family upstate.

Conrad Shumway, a twenty-three-year member of Old South Church, passed away on January 15 at age 89. A funeral service was held at the church on January 19.

OSC members Neil and Amy Greene welcomed son **Harper Neil Green** on January 25, 21 in. long, weighing 8 lbs., 11 oz. Congratulations Neil and Amy!

The following people have been recommended by the Leadership Committee for election by the membership of Old South Church during the church's 342nd Annual Meeting on February 5, 2012: **Mark Schueppert** (Moderator); **Karen Hand and Lisa Mahnke** (Council at-large); **Rick Worman and Alice Verhoeven** (Deacons); **Brigitte Fletcher** (Trustees); **Lisa Loveland, Chair, Jade Franco and Vard Johnson** (Leadership); **Debby Leonard, Chair** (Music); and **Ruth Ricker, Chair** (Christian Service and Outreach). The following people are retiring from leadership roles in 2012: **Karen Hand and Jim Hood** (Deacons); **Diane Gaucher** (Music); **David Becker** (Leadership); **Peter Stokes** (Christian Service and Outreach); **Vard Johnson** (Moderator); and **Julie Wollman and Shelley Bame Aldred** (Council at-large).

Interim Associate Minister **John Edgerton** will be ordained into the Christian Ministry on February 11 at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis, MN.

Old South Church in Boston

An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ
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Nancy S. Taylor, Senior Minister
John M. Edgerton, Interim 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.

Staff Directory

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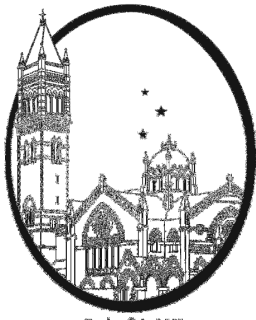
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Gathered in 1669

OLD SOUTH CHURCH *in* BOSTON

A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

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Tel: 617-536-1970 | Fax: 617-536-8061 | www.oldsouth.org

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