Old South Church is a loving, welcoming and inclusive Christian community, which gathers for worship where we are challenged spiritually and socially. This results in awareness and a call to action. As Christian stewards we provide diverse educational programs and engage in meaningful outreach. We are a recognizable Christian force within our community.
An Eighth Letter

Early in the book of Revelation there are seven letters to seven churches. Each is addressed to the angel of the church from Christ. We will look at these seven churches and seven letters in a worship series beginning this month. This is not merely a biblical study, but in each instance, we need to see what shoe, if any, fits. What is said to these churches that applies to our church? The beginning of a new year, particularly the year in which we mark the 200th anniversary of our gathering, is a good time for self-examination.

The goal of the series will be to consider what a letter to the angel of Old South Church might contain. How would YOU write such a letter? What would one whose eye is clear, who sees your strengths, challenges, and the promises that lay in store for you for your faithfulness say? What is there to love about us? What concerns does God have about us? What advice would God give? What benefits will there be as a result of our faithfulness?

It promises to be an interesting series. It will be a meaningful and productive series if we take these questions to heart and spend some time wrestling with them. Two hundred years since we were gathered, we should be considering how to gather in our day. We can celebrate the two centuries of gifts provided to us for such a time as this. Who knows, maybe we will even meet our church’s angel!

Christmas Generosity

One thing that can consistently said about the Old South congregation is that you are generous. No matter how many times you are asked to give to cause you are always willing and rise to the occasion. This Christmas has been no different. You were challenged to give boots to the Sub Zero Ministry and you came through with 19 pairs, plus socks! You celebrated the days of Advent by giving instead of receiving and a half dozen Reverse Advent boxes were filled and donated to the food pantry. Speaking of the food pantry, because hunger doesn’t take a holiday neither did the food pantry. Even on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve, the pantry was open. Not only did the Missions Ministry adopt a local family, you all responded by snatching up every opportunity to help and completed all the requests for gifts on the Giving Tree. We again filled a complete order of Pocket Presents for Project Hope and on top of all of that gave at least $1,000 to the denomination’s Christmas Fund. You all certainly understand the true meaning of the season.
Trustees Update

November was a very good month financially. Pledge income was $18,564, almost $6000 over budget. October was also a good month, and we have reduced our operating deficit to $19,600. We expect December to also be strong and to reduce our deficit even more. Thank you to everyone for being so generous. Pledges to date for 2019 are $133,719, similar to previous years. Fourteen people have increased their pledges, and there are at least 8 new giving units that pledged for the first time this year. Seven pledges are still outstanding. Many people helped with the fall clean-up, and a great deal was accomplished. Thank you to all who helped throughout the year. Our cantankerous boilers have needed some repairs, but all is well and you need not wear your winter coat to services. 2019 is our 200th anniversary. We look forward to a wonderful year and a celebration of all the blessings of our great church.

~submitted by Bud Stanley

Tangible evidence
Of the Christmas Spirit...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity 1</th>
<th>Activity 2</th>
<th>Activity 3</th>
<th>Activity 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>10:30 am Crafters</td>
<td>7:30 pm AA</td>
<td>7:30 pm Al Anon</td>
<td>9:00 am Adult Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>10:30 am Crafters</td>
<td>7:30 pm AA</td>
<td>7:30 pm Al Anon</td>
<td>10:30 am Adult Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>6:30 pm Bells</td>
<td>7:30 pm Choir</td>
<td>10:30 am Crafters</td>
<td>1:00 pm Women's Fellowship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- **Change Going Forward:** Note the new time for the Food Pantry (2-4 pm)
- **Blood Pressure Checks:** After worship
- **Annual Meeting:** After worship
Colombia Crafter and Women’s Fellowship News
Thank you to Alan Winkler for your monetary gift to treat the Colonial Crafters with a catered Christmas lunch. Twenty five ladies attended and collectively donated 30 pairs of socks for the homeless. Peggy Kranz, hostess for the day, read the group a story about the origin of the Christmas stocking. It is a tradition that we still have today. Barbara Rex furnished some word games to stretch our minds. Enjoyed by all.
Women’s Fellowship meetings are help the 4th Tuesday of the month, and its open to all the ladies of the church. At our last meeting, we voted to pledge $3,000 to the operating budget of the church. Twenty three fleece blankets were given to the Kirtland Area Service Council to add to the Christmas baskets they give to Kirtland residents. The blankets were cut by Colonial Crafters and several children helped to tie them throughout the summer.
Officers for 2019 are Jean Haverstraw—President, Wanda Steudel—VP, Celia Kepic—Secretary, and Jennifer Luscher—Treasurer. Now the news you have been waiting to read. This profit from the 2018 is close to $9000! Thank you once again to all who helped us achieve that goal!
~submitted by Jean Haverstraw

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
Wednesday, January 2, 2019
   Noon—6:00pm
NOTE NEW TIME!
There is now more time for those who like to come in early!
Donors will receive a long-sleeved white t-shirt, while supplies last.
Make an appointment online at www.redcrossblood.org. Enter zip 44094 to fine Old South. Give a gift of life!

Prayer Chain
The Old South Church Prayer Chain is a group of people who pray over the weekly list of Sunday prayer requests. If an emergency arises, the group receives notices to add someone to their prayers. If you are currently not receiving the prayer list via email and would like to, please call the office at (440) 256-3329 or email office@oldsouthchurch.org.

Free Money!
Scrip sales this year have brought in over $4,000! That’s free money for the church. When you buy a Scrip gift card, you get the full value of the card and the merchant gives a bonus to the church.
You can shop online at www.ShopWithScrip.com. You will need the church’s code which you can get from Mary Jones (440) 478-3297. If you want to dump the plastic cards, you can order virtual cards which can be used on your computer or on a smartphone. You can even reload plastic cards to reduce waste. If you have any questions, contact Mary Jones. She has Heinen’s and Giant Eagle cards for immediate purchase every Sunday. Start the new year with a resolution to use more Scrip and support Old South Church.
Sunday January 27th, 2019 at 12:30pm
In the Anchor Lamp Room.
Ministry leaders will present highlights from 2018 activities. Copies of written annual reports will be available. 
*Soup and snacks will be provided.*

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**Deacon’s Update**

It is with sadness that we announce that Kimi Nosé has submitted her resignation as our choir accompanist and organist. Kimi has been a wonderful asset to our music program, but she has made a personal decision to resign from Old South Church because she feels that her other responsibilities make it difficult for her to continue to serve Old South. Kimi’s last Sunday with us will be January 13th.

As we begin our search for her replacement, Irwin Shung (our friend and previous organist) has agreed to play for our Sunday services through the end of February. We are grateful to Irwin for his willingness to step in and fulfill this integral part of our worship experience.

Please join me in extending our gratitude to Kimi for her work and service to Old South. Let her know that she will be missed. We are also planning a special coffee hour celebration on January 13th, so plan to join us to express your farewell greetings to Kimi.

~Submitted by Don Jones—Chair of the Deacon’s Ministry

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Two Hundred (!) years ago, ten hardy souls declared their faith and commitment toward a new church — a safe haven for future generations to come. We have survived and flourished in part because of all those who have gone before. Old South’s future is now in OUR hands.

God Bless Us—Each and Every One!

~Margaret Hommel —MORE TO COME!

Remembering Our Homebound Members
Eileen Bingham    Rosemary Dyke    Elaine Hogg    Chuck Huey
Lewis & Lorraine Schupp    Bob Signet
Waltraud Sweeney

From the Lake County Community Network (LCCN):

Thank you members of Old South Church for your generous gift to help us with funding our work with those in need of emergency utility and rent monies.

News: The LCCN office is moving from the McKinley Center to 7298 Mentor Ave. in January.

Compassionate Volunteers Needed:

Great Lakes Hospice’s Mentor location is expanding, and they are in need of additional volunteers.

Opportunities include providing companionship, assisting with office administration, sharing your artistic or musical talents & providing vigil support for patient’s families.

Call 888-260-9835
Or apply at GreatLakesCaring.com
Old South United Church of Christ
9802 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, Ohio 44094
An Open and Affirming Congregation
Serving you at Old South Church:

Ministers:

Pastor:
Rev. Ian Lynch

Secretary:
Velta Winkler

Minister for Families and Youth:
Lindsey Robison

Treasurer:
Wayne Danko

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Lindsey Robison, pastor@oldsouthchurch.org

Pastor email: pastor@oldsouthchurch.org

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Phone: 440-256-3329
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Monday—Friday 9 a.m.—Noon

Steeple Views is published monthly for the members and friends of Old South Church.

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Old South United Church of Christ