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.
It Mattered to That One

Unsurprisingly, there is not much activity in downtown Cleveland at 5:15 AM on a Saturday morning, but one bit of activity there on a recent Saturday morning was the hardy band of yellow-vested, net-toting volunteers in the Lights Out Cleveland program. This has been my first season with this program scouring the city streets for birds. Sadly, most of the birds we discover are migrants that have met their demise striking a window. The ones that remain lit up at night are particularly deadly as they create more reflection, which fools the birds into thinking that the open space they are flying in continues to the other side of the glass. We realize that our efforts are mostly data gathering in order to prove (and potentially reverse) this problem. We methodically collect and record the tiny corpses, typically about two dozen in a day’s three-hour monitoring. Clearly, we are more motivated by the prospect of finding injured birds that can be caught, rehabilitated, and released. On a good day, this may be the case for about a third of the birds we encounter. And that was the early morning adventure I had last Saturday morning at 5:15.

Our team was at the second building of our first lap, the Federal Building on East 9th Street. The entrances each have a glass entryway. We were checking the first one. I shone my flashlight up at the metal beams at the top of the glass and saw a head. The bird’s eye reflected in the light’s beam. Even though the head was all that we could see, it was the distinctive shape of a bird in the goatsucker family. The most likely bird in that family to be in an urban setting is the Common Nighthawk, but a city dwelling bird would likely be familiar enough with this architecture to avoid the trap this bird has gotten itself into. We tried making noise and tossing items to flush it, in hopes it would come down where we could net it. Alas, our efforts only caused it to turn toward the glass, thinking it could fly off. At least that provided a better, though brief view that led us to be able to identify it as an Eastern Whip-poor-will. Knowing there was little we could do to help, and having our rounds to complete, we moved on.

We saw the bird on subsequent laps, and pointed it out to the other teams when our work was complete. It remained there, beyond help, when we left. It was seen by teams on subsequent days as well. Here we were, trying to help as many birds as we could and one bird that needed our help sat quietly just beyond our reach. We feared that the best we could do would be to retrieve its body for the museum’s collection should it fall from its perch when starvation finally took its toll. But human ingenuity saved the day. On Thursday, one team had the clever idea to attach their net to a particularly long pole and they were able to net the bird. Aside from being thin, it appeared to be in good health, so there is hope that it will soon be released to continue its southward journey. [Editor’s Note: The Whip-poor-will survived and was released!]

So why do we get up at o-dark-thirty to walk 6 to 8 miles on the dirty streets picking up the tragic remains of birds whose lives were cut short due to human error? We can’t save them all, so what does it matter? Why keep on trying? Because it mattered to that Whip-poor-will, and the dozens of warblers and thrushes that have been rehabilitated and released. And not everyone is going to be crazy enough to go on early morning avian rescue marches. The truth is, not everyone has to. I get a particular joy out of doing it that not everyone would feel. But that is the good news in diversity. You don’t have to rescue birds and I don’t have to cook community meals. And he doesn’t need to knit prayer shawls and she doesn’t need to repair roofs. The crazy wonderful way God has chosen to meet needs has been to create and equip a deluxe human tool box of responses. So if your gift is to be screwdriver, don’t worry that you can’t pound nails, leave that to the hammers, go find the screws you are meant to drive (and don’t forget to bring your friend who is a Phillips head just in case). ~Pastor Ian
Celebrate * Give Thanks* Celebrate * Give Thanks

And one more thing. Trolling the internet revealed a website called “Mysterious Heartland” which listed the “Top Ten Witch Graves” in the Midwest. Our contribution is the memorial gravestone of Levi and Ruth Smith (Hart Rd. & Baldwin); original gatherers of Old South. Legend has it the Smiths, who came from Derby, Connecticut, were witches! The Smiths would argue those infamous witch trials happened 100 years before they were born and there was never a witch executed in Kirtland. Legend also has it that if you face the memorial grave, turn your back, then face it again at dusk, it will move closer! Halloweeners are you ready? More to come!  ~Margaret Hommel

Women’s Fellowship

Women’s Fellowship is preparing for our upcoming Bazaar. Hold the date—Saturday, Nov. 9. Several of our ladies will be helping with Trunk or Treat on October 26th. Sounds like a lot of fun for the youngsters.

We have decided to send $3000 to disaster relief through our national church office. We hope you plan on attending Irwin Shung’s concert on 10/13. He is such as a marvelous talent. He makes our organ sing! Women’s Fellowship will hold a reception after the concert. We would love a large turnout. Bring your friends, you’ll be glad you did!  ~Nancy Romelfanger

Irwin & Ariel In Concert
Sunday October 13th, 4pm
In the Sanctuary
Former OSC Organist Irwin Shung
And his gifted colleague Ariel Karas
will delight with a program
of music for
violin, piano and organ
Free will offering.
Reception following concert

Red Cross Blood Drive
Wednesday, October 30th
Noon-6pm
Walk Ins Welcome
Appointments Appreciated
Make an appointment at redcrossblood.org
Bring a Friend
Save a Life

October Book Club
Monday, October 21st @7pm
This Month’s Selection:
America’s First Daughter
By Stephanie Dray & Laura Kamoie
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Trunk or Treat!
Saturday October 26th
5:30-7:00 pm Upper Parking Lot
Decorate your car with a theme
And the children will pick their favorite
Enjoy:
Games
Prizes
Trunk or Treating
Refreshments
Rain or Shine!

Fun Facts About the New Office Door:
A red front door has been a symbol for many different things. In early America, it meant “Welcome.” In Chinese Feng Shui philosophy, a red door is known to create a welcoming energy. In Scotland, homeowners painted their front doors red when their mortgage was paid off.
During Biblical times, it symbolized protection from the Angel of Death.

Prime Scrip Time is Here!
Help the church by doing what you already do! Gifts, holiday food, home decorating/improvements are around the corner. Earn free money for the church by buying gift cards for these purchases from over 750 different merchants. You get the full value of the card, the church gets a portion of the card amount donated by the merchant. Here are some ways to shop with Scrip:
-Read the order form at church or;
-You can go online to see the merchants and place your order at any time
(Get our special online church code from Mary Jones—she’ll answer all your questions!)
-Pay with cash, check, PrestoPay (direct from your bank account) or credit card.
-Skip the plastic gift cards altogether and use MyScripWallet on your smartphone;
This lets you buy Scrip right when you shop! When you are done shopping, order the needed amount through your wallet. ScripNow! And Reload Now! are available in minutes.
In 2019, Old South Church received $2251.90 from all Scrip sales. This is lagging from recent years. Since this is “free” money for the church, please consider purchasing scrip for one merchant regularly to try it.
Questions? See Mary Jones (mkjones1216@gmail.com)

LGBTQ+ SAFE SPACE Training at Old South Church
What is it? A 2 hour workshop designed to help organizations create and promote a safe, inclusive environment for all members of the LGBTQ+ community and to become an effective ally. Learn about LGBTQ+ identities, gender and sexuality, and examine prejudice, assumptions and privilege.
Why? LGBTQ people face discrimination in many aspects of their lives. Imagine being denied services, or not being able to openly talk about your own family, or not seek help because of the treatment you receive when you do. As an Open and Affirming congregation, it is important for us to understand these issues so we can be an effective ally to the LGBTQ+ community.
When? Tuesday, October 29th at 6:30pm at Old South Church
PLEASE RSVP by Tuesday, October 22nd if you plan on attending. Call or email the church office: 440-256-3329 or office@oldsouthchurch.org
Anniversary Celebration Well Wishes

We received a couple of notes from long-time members who have been with Old South for over 50 years. They live out of state and could not attend the festivities, but we wanted to share their reminiscences:

**Received from Marge Wallace Weltman:**
Dear Jan,
I am so pleased to receive your invitation to the big Old South celebration. I would loved to have been there, but we just do not travel well anymore.
Old South was a big part of my life for many years and I left behind many dear friends when I came “south”.
Conrad and I have been blessed with 17 years—without any serious health problems—we are so lucky. We only put up with the many “miseries” of old age: 91 and 94 years.
I received a wonderful report from dear friend, Dorothy Maltby, of the day’s activities—and friends attending—it must have been lovely and well planned! Thank you for remembering me.
Love, Marge

**Received from Ruth Paces:**
Dear Janet,
Thank you for your kind thoughts in remembering things I was involved in at Old South. Bless the committee for having a big celebration for the 200th. I will not be able to join you for the celebration, but you will be in my thoughts. I have many great memories of the people—the wonderful camaraderie, the great support—the fun things, the spirit of love and family among the members.
As I carried my clip board around ready to sign anyone up for coffee hour I greeted with the question, “which dates would you like to sign up for?” And the folks did sign up cheerfully. I thought myself the self-designated social director since I started a number of social functions, like the January Thaw, potluck and game night, fall foliage trips, wood shed for bazaar, dinner for eight, etc. I have organized similar game nights here and can now enjoy a community of friends. May Old South be a stabilizing influence on the Kirtland community for many years to come.
Sincerely, Ruth Paces

**From Divine Word Parish:**
Congratulations of 200 years of service to the Lord and Community
Received from Pastor Mark Suriano:
To my friends at Old South Church,
Even though I am unable to be with you in person, I want to share my heartfelt congratulations on this, the 200th anniversary of the congregation. My years with you were a gift, and a joy (well, mostly a joy, but that’s life!) and I think of you all with great fondness.
As I often said to you while I was with you, your calling me was a real gift. After leaving the priesthood in 1997, I had dismissed the possibility of ever being a local church pastor. When the Association Minister asked me to consider submitting my profile to you, I doubted it would go anywhere. When you called me as your pastor in 2003, you called me back into the ministry I genuinely love, and I am grateful to you for it.
In the almost ten years we had together you continued to amaze me with not only your kindness, but your laughter, your enthusiasm, and your support. A lot happened during those years, and only a small part of it was due to me. You were the ones who saw a different future and wanted to move toward it and that, I believe, made all the difference. You should continue to be proud of all the ways your opened yourselves to the movement of Spirit and followed it. The Spirit was with us through an Appreciative Inquiry process, which then led to becoming Open and Affirming and eventually to the most extensive capital campaign in our history.
I also treasure the many small things: your many visits to my office, the inevitable laughter, your gracious care for Jeremy, and your welcome of Matthew still warm my heart. Most recently, when Jeremy died, you once again opened your church home and your hearts to us and your presence again blessed us.
May God bless you and Pastor Ian as you celebrate the beginning of a new century of life! While I have been part of your past, and gratefully so, your future is just now opening to you. I hope that you continue to attend to Spirit as it moves among you, whispers words of grace into your hearts, and points out the pathways of the future.
If you are ever in New York City or traveling through Northern New Jersey, let me know! I would live to show you First Congregational and catch up on your lives, meanwhile enjoy

Phone Directory Update
Any changes/correction to the Church Phone Directory will be posted here and in Heavenly Herald

Please Add:
Rev. Ralph & Terri Wearstler
7012 Jackson St.
Mentor OH 44060
Terri’s Cell: 440-725-2528
Terri’s Email: tlw121@yahoo.com

Received from the Mayor of Kirtland
Dear Pastor Ian,
Thank you for the privilege of presenting this Proclamation on behalf of the City of Kirtland. You are truly a congregation that gives back and touches people’s lives.

Best Regards,
Doug Davidson