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 is that time of year when bird migration is undoubtedly underway. Predicting the beginning of migration, even agreeing on the evidence that is has begun, is not all that simple. Amphibians are triggered by the first rainy spring night that is over 45 degrees to migrate from their winter burrows to their birthplaces to lay their eggs for the new season of the life cycle. Even so, finding these thousands of salamanders and frogs can be tricky. With climate change impacting winter temperatures, some birds that previously migrated south in the fall are choosing to stay, making choosing a bird as the harbinger of spring a bit tricky. While robins do indeed migrate, they are seen all winter long because the local population migrates, leaving space for their northern cousins to enjoy until spring. Also, there are some spots better than others to find spring migrants, but not because they are the only spots where the birds travel, but because of geographical influences like concentrated open space near a Great Lake (which makes Magee Marsh so popular) making the concentration more obvious. The truth is that migration happens as a great wave of birds responding to an instinctual urge, exploiting conditions but ultimately ignoring them when the urge to move takes over.

As human civilization developed, we have become less nomadic, cultivating agricultural and building cities. Not only have we domesticated a large number of animals, we have become domesticated ourselves. Yet if we are honest about our deep stirrings, we can feel the primordial urge to move. This is seen more fully in our never-ending quest to innovate and create. Still, the desire to stay safe and comfortable easily overrides the risk of change.

It has been said that the last seven words of the church are “we’ve never done it that way before!” This is particularly true when it comes to our sets of beliefs. Many of us have known the difficult journey of leaving dogmatic traditions for a liberating and welcoming new story. This challenge remains for each of us individually, that is, to remain on the journey that may require yet more changes. The church is similarly challenged. Can we embrace the questions that challenge long-held beliefs? Can we desire a living faith that guides our living in community? Are we ready to give into the urge for the necessary spiritual migration? Our worship series during May will explore this theme, based on the work of Brian McLaren in his book “The Great Spiritual Migration.” So as we experience the resurrection of nature that spring brings, let us also let go and rise up in our spirits.
Invitation to a Baptism

The sacrament of Baptism is both a welcome into community and an act of community. When there were fewer activities scheduled on Sundays, bringing a child to be baptized as part of the regular Sunday worship was simpler. Today, it is often quite a challenge. That is the case for the Vrabel family. Annalise worshiped here as a teenager and now she has a young child whom she wants to know the welcome of this congregation, but the demands of multiple schedules require us to be creative in finding a time. That time will be Saturday, May 11 at 1:00 PM. In order to make this an act of our community, everyone is asked to make the time to come to this brief, but special worship service. If you cannot be present in the building, joining by way of our Facebook Live stream will be possible. This is one way that our 200 year-old gathering is finding new ways to keep gathering for the years to come.

~Pastor Ian

Women’s Fellowship

SPRING RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

Women’s Fellowship is having an extra moneymaker this summer. Church members were informed last month that rummage for the Bazaar could be brought in early and would be stored until November. There has been so much brought that it has been decided to have a rummage sale early. It will be held on Saturday, June 8th from 9am—4pm. If you still have more to clean out, then get hopin’ and get it here and put it in the downstairs hallway. We will arrange things from there. The sale will be held in Fellowship Hall. Anyone desiring to join in the process is encouraged to contact Bill or Peggy Kranz at 440-946-9659. They have graciously volunteered to organize things. We are including a bake sale at the same time. As a result, we need lots and lots of good bakery too. Cakes, pies, cookies, breads, coffee cakes, etc. Whatever you enjoy making, we will happily put out to sell.

This is a good time to be clearing away clutter, please bring your “decent” but no longer wanted items in. Please—no TVs, no clothes and no old electronics. People do not buy them. We are always amenable to extra help, so please feel free to volunteer to give us some time as well.

~submitted by Nancy Romelfanger
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**May 2019**

**SUN** **MON** **TUE** **WED** **THU** **FRI** **SAT**
Cabinet Report

“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. “ James 1:19-20. In today’s world being a good listener is no longer considered a virtue. What a shame! Cabinet is merely a reflection of our members and our various ministries. Why not be good listeners? We pledge to listen, even when it is quiet. We invite all to ministry meetings and cabinet meetings. Come and share your ideas for making Old South an even better church than it already is. You don’t have to be a member to attend. We also listen to concerns and criticisms, and try to address them. You speak, we will listen, and together we will make Old South a great church for another 200 years.

~submitted by Bud Stanley, Moderator

A Big Thank You
To our Youth
For leading another wonderful
Easter Sunrise Service
And
Thank You
Ellen Chamberlin
For the breakfast after!
~Lindsay

Barb Savage will be selling her beautiful photo cards on Sunday May 19th in Anchor Lamp After worship.
Proceeds go to Colonial Crafters
$1.75 ea or 3 for $5.00
Did you know? Most of the cover pictures for Steeple Views are Barb’s photos, including this month!

May Book Club
Monday, 20th at 7pm

This Month’s Selection:
American Heiress
By
Jeffrey Toobin
Missions Ministry is sponsoring a fun night out. Hudson Family Signs is coming to Old South to help us create some great DIY decorative pieces. They will provide all the materials and you can take home a personalized piece. Cost per person is $35. Registration is required and can be done online or Facebook. You might want to bring a t-shirt or apron to paint in.

The date is Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 pm.
Check out their website at https://www.hudsonfamilysigns.com/ and click on DIY Workshops and look for Old South. Or go to their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/events/1663986873902677/?ti=icl and don’t forget to Share this page with your friends.

Register by 5/13
Enjoy some light refreshments while you work and some good fellowship. If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Lipster: text or call 440/840-5979

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Blessing of the Animals
And
The First Sunday in the Dell
Sunday, May 26th
10:00 AM
(please note time change)
Rain date for the animals will be June 2nd

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Pride in the CLE 20019
MARCH & FESTIVAL
Will take place on:
Saturday, June 1st, 11am—2pm
PUBLIC SQUARE
DOWNTOWN
Keep an eye out for more details in the weekly Heavenly Herald newsletter.
Another Chapter in Old South Church’s Story:

Rarely does a church sanctuary the size of Old South’s have the benefit of a true pipe organ—an instrument to enhance any type of service as well as Sunday worship services. Many thanks to the steering committee who made this possible. The 4 Rack Wicks pipe organ was installed December, 1970. It has officially been recognized as a perfectly designed acoustical “fit” for our sanctuary. It is a two-manual organ with full pedalboard and the pipe room in the balcony holds over 300 organ pipes of various shapes and sizes. How did they get there? Church volunteers carefully and lovingly carried them all from the front door and up the stairs to their new home in the balcony. In 1970 James Savage was the organist and the children on a very special Sunday were invited to come close and “see” this lovely pipe organ and have its mysteries simply and interestingly explained to them by Mr. Savage. The Wicks has survived the steeple fire of 1978 and damage from an electrical storm in 1986. We are indeed blessed. Long live the Wicks!!

MORE TO COME! ~Margaret Hommel

The Drawing for the Cross-Stitch of Old South Church
Stitched by Sue Clark
Will be Sunday, May 12th
At coffee hour.

Peace Pole Project
The Peace Pole which has been behind the church for many years has been removed and will be replaced with 3 poles. This is a multi-stage project. The 1st pole with the blue bird box has been installed and is already being used! The remaining 2 poles will be painted by resident artists Claire Davis and Fana Faber and then installed at a later date.
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

Treasurer: Wayne Danko

Music Director: Judith Higbee

Financial Secretary: Darlene Williams

Minister for Families and Youth: Lindsey Robison

Web site: www.oldsouthchurch.org

Pastor email: pastor@oldsouthchurch.org

Office email: office@oldsouthchurch.org

Fax: 440-256-3328
Phone: 440-256-3329

Open

Office Information/Hours

Monday—Friday
9 am—Noon

Serving you at Old South Church: