



THE CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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June, 2006

From the Pastor:

I received the following story from Ben Blaney. The story originally came from *Trinity Tidings*, the newsletter of the Trinity Presbyterian Church and had been sent to them by Cecilia Crowson. It is a wonderful story and I have wanted to share it with you because of its concise, and extremely important, point. Here it is:

THE QUIET SERMON

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

Every member of our church is important to the work of Jesus Christ. Every one of us has a purpose in the fulfilling of God's plan for this church. Our church family is entering into a very exciting time. The construction is just about done and we are ready to use our "new" building in our ministry. Will you be a part of that ministry? As your pastor I hope and pray that you will be. We will need the time, talents, and prayers of all of our people if we are to move forward into our future.

If you haven't been with us for awhile, please come back and worship with us. Come back and be a regular part of our activities. The warmth of our ministry will be diminished without your glowing ember.

Sandra M. Reed

Everyone Loved the Youth Sunday Service

“I can’t explain it, but this service was very special to me.” “It was a wonderful service.” “I enjoyed it very much.” “There was something about their service that really touched a chord in me. I wasn’t the only one either; several others voiced the same sentiment. We have a fine group of children and all of us should be proud of them and of the parents who make it possible for them to be there.” “I am not ashamed to say that I shed a tear or two of pride for each of them and the choir. The future of our church and the good works it performs is in capable hands.”

These were some of the comments expressed just after the outstanding Sunday Service from our Youth on Youth Sunday, May 7, 2006. Every part of the service was inspirational, heartfelt, and exceptionally well done.

Mimi Dickson, who along with Kimberly Haller, Doug McMinimy, and Mary Swift helped our Youth prepare the service, notes: “It might be of interest to know that members of the confirmation class picked the hymns, helped select some of the prayers from different resources, wrote some of the prayers, picked the first scripture (it was not part of the common lectionary as the other two were), and discussed the message they wanted to convey in the sermon – plus they practiced the Saturday before.”

Different parts of the service were led by:

Acolytes	Haleigh Smith & Kendra Bonsey
Prelude	Alexa Bonsey & Caitie Smith
Greeting and Call to Worship	Nick MacCulloch
Praise and Adoration	Eric Beals
Children’s Time	Eric Beals, Michael Breen, & Robert Haskell
Announcements	Michael Breen
Scriptures	Michael Breen, Alexa Bonsey & Eric Beals
Sermon	Michael Breen, Eric Beals, Robert Haskell, & Nick MacCulloch
Litany of God’s Leading and The Lord’s Prayer	Robert Haskell
Offering/Bulletins	Kendra Bonsey, Nathaniel Olson, Hannah Paradis, Haleigh Smith, & Nathan Vonder Haar
Prayer of Dedication and Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion	Michael Breen
Benediction and Blessing	Michael Breen, Eric Beals, Robert Haskell, & Nick MacCulloch
Postlude	Eric Beals

Alleluia Choir Members, equally outstanding, were:

Alexa Bonsey	Annie Painter, Gabrielle Link, Maggie Painter, Caroline McMinimy, Catie Smith, Rachael McMinimy Rhiannon Vonder Haar
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We **THANK** each of the Youth Sunday participants; their parents; Mimi, Kimberly, Doug, and Mary; Reverend Reed whose love for our children importantly contributed to this wonderful event; and all of our youth including Sunday School participants, their teachers, and everyone who gives their time and talents to helping our youth.

The Great Experiment!!

Mimi Dickson, moderator of the Hancock-Waldo Association, led all who attended the Spring Association meeting in Ellsworth Falls on April 29th through "The Great HWA Experiment" with finesse, wit, and charm. She began the meeting by explaining that when one is conducting an experiment you first state your hypothesis, then you test it, and finally you examine the outcome. So what was this great experiment? Well for those of you who don't know, it has become a bit of a struggle to get people to attend Association gatherings. So in an effort to address busy schedules we tested out a new streamlined format for our meetings. The program session, business meeting, and worship service were conducted in record time. For the program we were each assigned to a table and given a series of questions to discuss over breakfast, and again after the meal within the same group of people. Our discussion was to focus primarily on the viability of the Association, so not only were we messing with "the way things have always been", we were also treading on somewhat hallowed ground. Here are some of the questions we wrestled with:

- What makes your faith sing?
- What is it that I care about?
- How can we promote fellowship between churches?
- How can we get small groups to interact?
- Why are we no longer enthusiastic?
- What can we do that would be of more interest to you?
- What do you want to see at the Association meetings?
- What do you think of an "all Association" e-mail?"
- Would you be interested in an Association project?
- How do we make people commit to something they cannot see?

As you can well imagine...the discussion was lively. Each group recorded their responses, which are in the process of being reviewed and collated. We anxiously await the outcome... whatever it is! Kudos to the leadership of our Association for challenging us to think outside of the box, and to seriously consider moving our Association in new directions.

Kathy Woodside, Delegate

The ACE's Have It!

No...I'm not talking about a game of cards. I am talking about a way to become more connected to churches within the Maine Conference United Church of Christ. So often we wonder what is going on in the life of other UCC churches around our state, or we wonder what "those" people down at the conference office in Yarmouth are doing. But many of us do not have the time or energy to figure out whom to call to ask a question about resources, upcoming events or programs that might be available to us. Here is the good news! There is a quick and easy way to become more informed about the Maine Conference. It is called A.C.E., which simply stands for All Conference E-Mails.

All Conference E-mails (ACE) are sent out each week to anyone who is interested in what is happening within the Maine Conference. It is sort of like a weekly newsletter and calendar of events. Its original purpose was to help churches organize their weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters with information that can be cut and pasted where appropriate, but it has become a way for all interested people within the church to become more knowledgeable about the life of the conference. To be an ACE recipient simply send a quick e-mail to cheryltibbetts@maineucc.org indicating that you would like to be added to the mailing list. Be informed! Stay connected! The ACE's have it!

Kathy Woodside, Moderator

A Fun Summer Outing...

The Seacoast Mission has invited us to participate in a day of fun and friendly softball games with folks on the outer islands. Those who wish to come and play softball can do so, those who do not wish to play can simply enjoy the ride and enjoy being on the island. The Mission has presented us with two possible dates, June 18 and August 20, and we need to choose one of them. Please call Paul in the church office if you are interested, and let him know which date works the best for you.

*With
Sympathy*

**Blanche Gertrude DeLong,
Mother of Gary DeLong
May 12, 2006
in Hartland, N.B**

Poetry by Bill Fuller

Trusting Day

Trusting day
A flower fell asleep open.
It was awakened late at night
By Christ who was praying near by.
Finding night within its delicate cup
The flower dared not even flinch.
Christ sensed the terror in the flower's heart
And said
Remain open through this night not in fear
But in compassion.
The approaching dawn will drink this
Dark wine from your cup
And compassion will destroy loneliness
Which is the shadow of fear.
The ground shook and Christ was taken away.
Trusting night, the flower fell asleep open.

Asked

On the Board of Deacons I served with pride.
My zeal for the church I could not hide.

When it came my turn to fill the cups,
Each one was filled to the brim
It could not be said that he had more
Or she had less than him.

It was a little scary
Putting numbers way up there.
If you did not have faith in the stepstool,
You went looking for a chair.

For the left and right hand podiums
I would always get fresh watta,
And test the candle lighting wicks
So they'd work like they aughtta.

It was hard to change the altar cloth.
It had to hang just so.
And when I thought I had it right,
I could count on a "No, No, No!!!"

I would come in on weekdays
To get the bulletins neatly folded.
I might get a comment on this one or that
But was Never Really scolded.

There were people in the balcony
For every offering collection.
I'd get the nod to get the cash
Through some Mystical selection.

It is awful to hear the organist wait
As you take the steps two by two.
How many times have I heard that tune now?
Will that song ever get through?

But all these things I would swap for that night.
That night I was asked to pray.
For on that night my verbal skills
Ran swiftly and totally away!

Go Finish Your Song

"Never Forget in the Dark What God has Told You in
the Light"

I visited the sick.
My heart filled with hatred for God!
He stood back from their condition!
Before I could tend to their needs they said to me.
"Go give thanks and sing. As we have done in better
days.
It is right for you to do so. Go finish your song."
I went away, did not understand, nor could I finish my
song.
I visited the cold and hungry.
But before I could clothe or feed them they said to me.
"Go give thanks and sing. As we have done in better
days.
It is right for you to do so. Go finish you song."
I went away, could not understand, nor would I finish
my song!
I visited those near death.
"Why have you come?" They asked.
"I have come to comfort you." I said.
"Forget it!" They said.
I said. "Please explain!"
They said.
"Lucky is one who chooses to hate an ant!
And can be done with it by the setting down of a foot!
But those who hate God on another's behalf
Bring to the beds of the sick, cold and hungry
Eternal futility!
And destroy that merciful, mortal frame
That surrounds those near death!
Stand back from our condition
Until you can serve with joy!
Go!
Finish your song!"

We Thank You Bill
for sharing your faith, deacon
experience, and superb talent with us.

Choir Notes



Many thanks to those who attended and performed for the Spring Festival. Our church and community has been blessed with great and diverse talents! We had choral singing, a vocal sextet, trio, and solos, violin, flute, trumpet, recorder, hammered dulcimer, and even a dance. We will use donations from the Festival for our youth choirs, with some special surprises for them this summer.

As seen in the picture, members of our Alleluia Choir beam in their new choir robes as they prepare to take over for the Adult Choir on Youth Sunday, May 7. Pictured from left to right are: (top row) Rhiannon Vonder Haar, Caitie Smith, Maggie Painter, Gabrielle Link; (bottom row) Alexa Bonsey, Rachael McMinimy, Annie Painter, Caroline McMinimy.

Also pictured is Eric Beals, to whom we give special thanks for playing the postlude on his trombone for the Youth Sunday service and to Caitie Smith, flute, and Alexa Bonsey, fiddle, for contributing the prelude.

We welcome a new member to our Alleluia Choir, Haleigh Smith. She has already shown us her budding talent on the violin by playing for both the Christmas and Spring Festivals and we are pleased that she has joined the choir.

Faithfully yours, Kimberly Haller

We Need Some Help!

We are looking for a new Nursery Attendant – can you help us? After a long, successful “run” as our Nursery Attendant, Cindy Lambert will be leaving the position. We will miss her, but we do need to find someone else to take over the duty of caring for our youngest ones during worship services. We need someone who is at least 18 years of age, has been certified in CPR and has a heart filled with kindness and patience. The job consists of two hours every Sunday (we can arrange for coverage when you need a day off!) and the pay rate is \$20/hour. If you are interested, please contact Sandra Reed at 288-3280. Thanks – you just might be the right person for this most important job! This would be a great way to serve your church family.

Tuesday Book Group

The Tuesday Book Group meets year-round and will soon be starting a new book. Won't you join us? We meet on Tuesdays from noon - 1:00 PM. The books are always interesting and the discussion is always stimulating. If you would like to spend an hour a week with some great folks, please plan to become a part of the group. We'd love to have you! If you have any questions, please contact Sandra Reed or Paul Dickson at 288-3280. We'll be expecting you.

Capital Campaign Report

Spring is upon us, bringing with it the usual promise of new things. Our special “new thing” this year is the beautiful addition to our church building. It is the fulfillment of our dreams and planning and financial commitments as well as the immense amount of time given by our Building Committee. Soon we will be “in” the new wing, enjoying the additional space for Sunday School and administration, an enlarged space for social events, a room for the choir to prepare for services, and an elevator which will make all parts of the building accessible to everybody. Thanks to so many who gave so generously, Bar Harbor Congregational Church will be able to meet the needs of its growing congregation.

Our long term finances for the building project are in good shape, thanks to the faithfulness of all who committed their support. Most payments are coming as scheduled by those who made pledges, and that is good news indeed. There may be some who were awaiting the completion of the project before committing to the Building Campaign. If so, we will be happy to receive your check or pledge (send it to the church, attention Capital Campaign, Barbara Hepburn).

However, we need to remember that our pledge time is three years whereas most of the bills must be paid in the first year. Payment of these bills without the money in hand requires additional borrowing and that is putting a real burden on the church finances as we try to meet operational expenses (our regular budget). Therefore we urge all who may find it possible to pay off the pledge early; it could greatly reduce the amount of money the church will have to borrow and will save interest charges. Also, as we have stated on several occasions, the total construction costs will exceed what we have raised by about \$200,000. And so we are hoping that there are some who will find themselves able to increase their commitment to this project. This also will reduce the amount of money borrowed from the endowment. Of course, the less money borrowed, the more interest we can obtain from our endowment to meet our operating expenses.

This has been a good year for our church. We have lived with the many problems of temporary dislocation, we have watched with anticipation the emergence of our new wing, and most have been responsible and faithful to their pledges. We look forward to the future of our church with anticipation and excitement.

Capital Campaign Follow-Up Committee

Stewardship update

As of the middle of May we are still running about 20 percent behind our projected pledge and offering revenue for the year in the budget that was voted on and approved by the congregation last fall. While our stewardship efforts have, in the past, been largely concentrated in the fall, the work of God, and the expenses we encounter, continue to accrue all year.

We are halfway through the year and have decided to spread the word to seek everyone's assistance in meeting our goal. If you have not pledged, please consider making a regular gift to support the work of our Christian faith, our ministry, the maintenance of this building and the love we all share as a family of God. Envelopes and pledge cards are available in the Narthex. Someone from the trustees will be there each week after worship to answer any questions you may have. If you are new to our church family feel free to contact me or any member of the board of trustees to learn about ways you can help.

We ask that each and every member, both those who have yet to make a pledge, and those who have done so for years, to pray and to examine their hearts for an answer as to what you feel you can contribute to support the worthy work of this great church.

Prayerfully, Earl Brechlin

From the Church Office

It's a little difficult to say just who is looking forward to the completion of the construction project the most.... Sandra, myself, the Sunday School, or Brad, our custodian. In any case, my new office is going to be beautiful, and I can't wait to be in it. By the time you read this, I may be. A huge 'Thank You' to those who have offered to help with the move itself – many hands make light work.

Thanks, also, to all who responded to our survey. One of the suggestions made was to distribute the Chimes via e-mail, thus reducing printing and mailing costs. The idea has merit, and if enough people were interested in receiving it that way instead of via ground mail, it would definitely be worthwhile. So... please let me hear from you if you'd be interested in trying that.

Enjoy the Spring! Paul



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"

Birthdays

- 1 Ruth Rossi
- 2 Paul Paradis
- 4 Justin Hersey
- 5 John Drake
- 5 Patricia Hammond
- 6 James MacLeod
- 7 Hilda Roderick
- 7 Seth Kane
- 8 Michael Gurtler
- 8 Mary Brown
- 9 Cynthia Lamber
- 10 Shari Roopenian
- 10 Katie Fuller
- 10 Nicholas Corson
- 14 Gardner Skiff
- 15 Diane Bonsey
- 16 Raymond Turner
- 17 Lois Wade
- 17 Mary Paquet
- 18 Carla Haskell
- 19 Michael Blaney
- 19 Norman Nadel
- 20 Betty Crawford
- 21 Rodney Fox
- 21 Paul Hammond
- 26 Lynne Richardson
- 26 Rob Shea
- 26 Vernice Young
- 27 Howard Brown
- 29 Martha Hobbs
- 30 Alexa Bonsey
- 30 Scott Hammond

June, 2006

Deacons

Head Deacon - Ann Lee
Assistant Deacon - Bruce Blake

Coffee Hosts

June 4 Barb Hepburn
June 11 Barb & Sheridan Steele
June 18 Carolyn & Keith Miller
June 25 Bonsey Family

Flowers

June 4 Barbara Adler
June 11 Mr. & Mrs. William Skiff
June 18 Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Haraden
June 25 Patty and Charlie Benore

Liturgists

June 4 Betty Bryer
June 11 Anne Warner
June 18 Mimi Dickson
June 25 Tony St. Denis

Lectionary Readings

June 4 Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b
Romans 8: 22-27
John 15: 26-27; 16:4b-15

June 11 Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

June 18 1st Samuel 15:34-16:13
Psalm 20
2nd Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34

June 25 1st Samuel 17:1a, 4-11,
19-23, 32-49
Psalm 9:9-20
2nd Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

A Son's Tribute to His Father

The San Francisco Theological Seminary received a moving letter from a man who enclosed a check from his deceased father's small amount of assets. In his letter, Norman Anderson said that his clergyman father, Lincoln Anderson, had served only small churches during his 52 years as a pastor. Yet Lincoln and his wife had put three children through college, and gave generously to every church he served, as well as to his beloved seminary when possible.

Lincoln died, said the son, without much more than his wits and a small house. Still, shortly before dying, Lincoln asked Norman to send his final gift to the school where he had been trained for the ministry.

The son ended his letter with these words: "Dad was proud to be a SFTS graduate and proud of the school's work. Therefore it is my privilege to honor his request with the enclosed check as his final gift to the seminary. This may read oddly, but father or not, Lincoln Anderson is the finest man I've ever known."

While this good father had little material wealth to leave behind, he left his son a valuable lesson in generosity of spirit — a lesson worth emulating.

Taking the Initiative Against Despair

"In the Garden of Gethsemane, the disciples went to sleep when they should have stayed awake, and once they realized what they had done it produced despair. The sense of having done something irreversible tends to make us despair. We say, 'Well, it's all over and ruined now; what's the point in trying anymore.' It is a very ordinary human experience. Whenever we realize we have not taken advantage of a magnificent opportunity, we are apt to sink into despair. But Jesus comes and lovingly says to us, in essence, 'Sleep on now. That opportunity is lost forever and you can't change that. But get up, and let's go on to the next thing.' In other words, let the past sleep, but let it sleep in the sweet embrace of Christ, and let us go on into the invincible future with him.

There will be experiences like this in each of our lives. We will have times of despair caused by real events in our lives, and we will be unable to lift ourselves out of them. The disciples, in this instance, had done a downright unthinkable thing — they had gone to sleep instead of watching with Jesus. But our Lord came to them taking the spiritual initiative against their despair and said, in effect, 'Get up, and do the next thing.' If we are inspired by God, what is the next thing? It is to

trust Him absolutely and to pray on the basis of His redemption.

Never let the sense of past failure defeat your next step."

Oswald Chambers, "My Utmost for His Highest"

What More Can You Do?



I will do more than belong — I will participate.

I will do more than care — I will help.

I will do more than believe — I will trust.

I will do more than dream — I will work.

I will do more than teach — I will inspire.

I will do more than earn — I will enrich.

I will do more than give — I will serve.

I will do more than live — I will grow.

I will do more than be friendly — I will be a friend.

I will do more than talk — I will listen.

I will do more.

—Unknown

Showing Our Love for God

The Spanish saint known as Teresa of Avila taught that the way we show our love for God is by serving those around us. She felt that helping and caring for others — the poor and destitute, the elderly and children, the hungry and the helpless — are ways of showing love for God.

Her attitude reminds us that Jesus said when we serve the hungry, comfort the sick, welcome the stranger, visit the imprisoned, care for the desperate poor, we are serving him. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40, NRSV).

Our ... gift to God should be doing something for God's suffering children.

Source: Unreferenced this page:

The Newsletternewsletter

Cathleen Kaplan &

Robert Malaney

May 6, 2006

Christian Education

Spring is here

This year at times seemed to go on forever, and at other times went by so quickly. The cloud of dust from the construction added to the excitement as we waited patiently for the rainbow, or our new facilities, to come out.

Our Sunday School year will end with our year-end party. Garden Club will be starting, seniors are graduating from high school, and the confirmation class will be confirmed.

This has been a great Sunday school year!

Upcoming Events:

June 11th - Last day of Sunday School

The Sunday School classes will be planting geraniums along the stone wall in front of the cemetery and then have a picnic lunch in the park. Christian Ed will be providing the food for the picnic.

June 18th - Garden Club will be starting

The Garden Club is our summer Sunday School. Each week someone will be teaching the children about something that they enjoy doing. It could be gardening, singing, painting or something else entirely.

Come, learn and experience new things.

June 4th - Graduate recognition

All seniors that have been involved in the church will receive recognition during the Sunday worship service.

June 18th - Confirmation

The confirmation class will be confirmed this Sunday. They have been working hard over the last 18 months learning and preparing themselves to become an active member of the church.

August 6th - August 10th Vacation Bible Camp

Vacation Bible Camp will start at 5:30 and end at 7:45 p.m. We will have a light supper

for all the children attending. This is to help parents who have to rush home from work, feed their children, and get back to church by 6:00 p.m. Hopefully this will ease the stress of rushing.

Our theme this year is "Searching for Treasure." Come join the fun as we search for the treasure using the old map Rev. Sandra Reed found buried in our church!

Nursery position opening

Cindy Lambert will be giving up her position in the nursery. If you, or someone you know, would like to work two hours every Sunday a.m. and likes working with little children, let us know. This is a paid position.

Hopefully, by the time you read this newsletter we will be settling into our new Sunday School classrooms. Since August space has been tight, dust has been everywhere, and some of our classes have been out of the building.

We have all had to make adjustments of some kind and we did it! I would like to say thank you to all of you for your understanding and support while we were under construction. The new addition is wonderful, fresh, new and bigger!

Mary Swift



Mallory Kate Dunbar
Daughter of
Sarah & Lucas Dunbar
Granddaughter of
Bill & Charlotte Skiff
May 16, 2006

Bar Harbor Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
29 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor Maine 04609
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit Number 32

Honor Your Father



Special dates

- Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2006
- Trinity Sunday, June 11, 2006
- Flag Day, June 14, 2006
- Father's Day, June 18, 2006
- First day of summer, June 21, 2006



Thoughts for Father's Day

An unknown father who began to consider the example he should set for his children penned the following poem:

A careful man I ought to be;
A little fellow follows me;
I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes;
Whate'er he sees me do, he tries-
Like me, he says, he's going to be,
The little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,
Believes in every word of mine:
The base in me he must not see,
The little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go,
through summer's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be,
For a little fellow follows me.