

THE CHIMES

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

29 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 – 3:00 PM

Telephone: (207) 288-3280

E-mail: bhucc2@verizon.net

Web Site: www.barharborucc.org

From the Pastor:

December 2006

Nothing Gold Can Stay

**Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.
– Robert Frost**

The last several months of my life have afforded me time to think about loss and the part loss plays in our lives. This poem, which is a favorite of mine, speaks clearly and articulately about this condition. I do not know how well Frost was acquainted with loss, but I suspect that he understood it quite well. This poem expresses, in both structure and choice of words, the ways in which humanity is faced with loss and the surrounding emotions. I have come to love this poem as it has taught me much about the all too human condition of loss and grief and, eventually, the acceptance of the great circle of life and nature which affords new beginnings.

If you know me at all, you know I love Robert Frost's verse. However, I was not familiar with this poem until I was introduced to it by Martha Chandler, our former Administrative Assistant, when her sister died. Her brother-in-law read it at that funeral. Years later, the same brother-in-law requested that I read it at Martha's memorial service. I must admit that, while I acknowledged and carried out that request, I did not yet fully appreciate the poem, although I was mesmerized by its simplicity and depth of expression.

Since that memorial service I have read this poem at countless other services, including those of my sister and my mother. In many ways I feel that I have come full circle in understanding and appreciating Frost's words and the condition they describe. One can only understand a poem by reading it, over and

over again. One can only understand loss by experiencing its serial appearances in one's life. If we live long enough, we do come to embrace loss as part of being human; we no longer fear it, but understand that loss is part of a larger cycle of death and rebirth. This is what Frost is trying to tell us with his words: although nothing gold can stay and life is fragile, life does go on. Life is continually being reawakened and reinvented by its Creator.

Losing my mother has been much more difficult than I had imagined it would be. Don't we always say of the death of a loved one that we are never quite prepared? Of course this is true and if I needed proof of this I have it now. I was most definitely not prepared to lose my mother. The sense of being "orphaned" at my advanced age is very real. However, I must also say that if I have lost my mother in one sense, I have found her in another sense. That is, through talking with other family members, going through old photographs, quizzing her friends and neighbors, I have rediscovered the woman I thought I knew so well as to not even have to think about her. I knew my mother was a remarkable woman, but I am now discovering just how remarkable she really was. She was an incredible mother, confidant, friend, and advisor. I am truly blessed to have had her as my mother for over fifty-six years.

It is of ultimate importance that we do not read Frost's words as merely speaking of loss. The "first green" of nature will again be making an appearance after a brief rest. While it may be true that "nothing gold can stay," it is also true that what is gold seeks again and again a place in life's cycle. Thus, I have learned that, in the providence of God, that which is precious never really dies, but lives on in the glow of new beginnings.

I am so grateful for the lesson.

– Sandra M. Reed



Thank you so much for all the kindnesses you have shown to me in the death of my mother, Edith Musella. The cards were uplifting, the meals were delicious and the

flowers were beautiful reminders of life. Each expression of sympathy was deeply appreciated. **You are a wonderful congregation!**

Sandra M. Reed

Christmas Open House at the Parsonage



Everyone is warmly invited to the Annual Christmas Open House at the Parsonage on Saturday, December 16, 2006 from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM at 37 Hancock Street, Bar Harbor. Wally, Sandra and Herbie look forward to seeing you there (along with friends, houseguests, family members, etc) for an afternoon of good food, good fellowship, and a healthy dose of the Christmas spirit! Please join us.

Annual Living Nativity



Due to popular demand the **Annual Living Nativity** will return to the front steps of the church again this year on Wednesday, December 20th and Thursday, the 21st from 6:00 – 7:20 pm. Sign-up sheets will be in the parlor or side foyer. Over 60 volunteers are needed each year to put this event on. Newcomers to the church are encouraged and welcome to participate. This is our gift to the community, which is enjoyed by many each year.

Participants – Please plan to be in the Sanctuary to get costumes on between 5:15 and 5:30 pm at the latest! Dress warmly! The costumes will

cover most heavy outer-ware. Don't worry about supper, as we will have sandwiches and beverages available for you in the parlor.

If you have questions you may call Norma Spurling at 288-9023.

All Church Christmas Fair

Our All Church Annual Christmas Fair will take place Saturday, December 9th from 9:00am to 2:00pm. We welcome donations of knitted baby sweaters, aprons, and potholders. There will be tables of delicious baked goods, cookies, candy, and tables of delightful attic treasures and jewelry (NO RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS, PLEASE). There will be some nice raffle items, and a SERRV table as well.

This year we will be having a 'Game and Children's Toys' table, so we welcome any donations to this. Joy Kelly will be taking orders for Poinsettias, and the Honduras group is selling Christmas wreaths again this year. Provisions have been made for the children to be entertained while the parents shop.

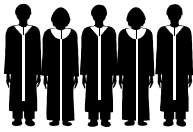
Another new feature this year will be a Coffee Hour from 9:00 – 10:30am, when we will serve homemade muffins or scones and coffee. We will have our usual luncheon from 10:30 on, featuring Sandra's minestrone soup; Penny's corn, shrimp, and sweet potato chowder; and cream of carrot soup along with various sandwiches and delicious pies.

Items for sale may be brought to the church Friday morning and baked foods brought in Saturday morning. A sign-up poster for the Fair will be on the bulletin board in the side foyer.

We need many hands, men and women, to put on a successful Fair. It is on a Saturday so let's see some of the working folks. Come one and all and get in the Christmas Spirit as we help our wonderful church.

If you have questions you may call Norma Spurling at 288-9023.

Choir Notes



The Adult Choir will continue rehearsing the Christmas Festival and Christmas Eve anthems on December 7 and 14 (Thursdays) from 7:30-8:00PM. It's not too late to join us for these special pieces; please speak to me if you are interested.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Sunday, **DECEMBER 10, 2006**, at 3:00PM, for our annual **CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**. This year, the Festival will feature a cantata presented by the Alleluia Choir and friends. We will also hear various instrumentalists, vocal ensembles, and readings.

Again, the Alleluia Choir continues to grow! Welcome to our newest members, Hunter Riddell and Nathaniel Olson. We now have 17 singers and look forward to a continual growth. Currently they are working on a special Christmas cantata with songs in 4 different languages. Please support our youth by attending (and bringing friends) to the **Christmas Festival on December 10** and by letting them know how much you enjoy their musical contributions to our church. As always, I thank the parents of these fabulous young people for allowing me to direct some of their child's early musical experiences; working with these youth, I feel that I benefit more than anyone!

The "busy"ness of the season, preparing for the Christmas Festival, gift shopping, planning our trip home for the holidays, preparing the house for winter. . . in all the hubbub, it is imperative that I take time to express my gratitude to our church family for the kindness and love with which you have blessed Karl and me. We hope your Christmas and New Year is filled with much love, hope, and blessings.

Faithfully yours,
Kimberly Haller

Taking Orders for Christmas Poinsettias and Christmas Wreaths

Christmas poinsettias orders are now being taken. Your \$20.00 order buys an eight-inch pot containing two hardy plants. These will be displayed in church both December 17 and 24. You may pick up your plant on either of these days. To place your order, please sign the list in the foyer or contact Joy Kelly at 288-9499.

We are also offering Christmas wreaths for \$20.00 with the proceeds going to support our sister church in Honduras. Completed wreaths can be picked up at the Christmas fair, and you may pay for them at that time or in advance.

If you would like to order a wreath, you may contact Kathy MacCulloch, Kate St. Dennis, Scott or Debbie Hammon, or Paul in the church office.



**To the family and friends of
Edith Musella
October 25, 2006**

Christmas for Kids



Christmas for Kids is an Outreach Board program that involves gathering and distributing gifts to those children of families who are in need of a little extra support during the Christmas season.

Christmas gift tags will be placed on a Christmas tree at the entrance to the church beginning November 26th. Families and individuals are invited to take as many tags as they would like. Each tag has a number and a gift item for a particular child. Once

you have purchased your gift, please wrap it and return it along with its gift tag to the church no later than December 17th.

IMPORTANT: THE GIFT TAG MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE GIFT! IT IS THE ONLY WAY THOSE WHO ARE SORTING AND DISTRIBUTING GIFTS ARE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE CHILD AND FAMILY THE GIFTS ARE FOR. (You may wish to write the number(s) down on a separate piece of paper. That way, the Outreach Board can look up the number(s) and replace the tab.)

Donations are gratefully accepted from those who would like to participate, but do not feel up to shopping. Envelopes will be available by the tree as well as a box to deposit them in. We will have volunteers who will do the shopping for you! If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Eric White (244-0159), Karen McFarland (288-5760), or any Outreach Board member.

Christmas is the time of year when we give so freely to our family and friends. Let us open our hearts to the children of our community, and give generously during this joyous holiday season.

Peace, Love, and Joy
Outreach Board

Knit One, Purl Two . . .

For quite some time, a group has been meeting in our church every other Tuesday. This is rather a quiet group. They get right to work when they arrive and, before they are finished, their product passes through the hands of each member of the group to be blessed. When the pastor arrives the morning after they have met, she usually finds a small bag on the handle of the door to her office which contains a good sampling of their work. Then the minister distributes their efforts to the appropriate people and the cycle begins again.

Do I have your attention? I thought so. The group I am referring to is the Acadia Shawl Ministry. They have recently completed their (approximately) 125th shawl and they are eager to welcome some new members into their group.

Why do they knit these shawls, you might ask. The Acadia Shawl Ministry is a part of a larger, international movement that was started by two women who wanted to create something healing in the midst of a world that too often is filled with heartache, illness and worry. They decided to make these prayer shawls to share with persons whom they knew were sick, or bereaved or deeply concerned about something or someone. As they made the shawls, they made the conscious decision to knit a blessing into every one, in order that the recipient would feel their love and concern and, more importantly, God's love, healing and concern coming through them. As their project grew, others began new groups and the movement spread like a holy wildfire. Now there are thousands of such groups around the world, each one dedicated to comforting those who suffer.

The Acadia Shawl Ministry meets every other Tuesday at 7:00 PM in the church parlor. It is a small and welcoming community of knitters and crocheters. Every shawl is blessed before it is delivered to a person who needs it. To a person, each recipient has welcomed the shawl into their lives. Incidentally, they also make lap robes for men, in case a shawl is not appropriate. This group has been such a blessing for our church. The shawls I have had the privilege to deliver have been warmly received by folks from all walks of life. Most of them have stayed in the area, but some shawls have been delivered far beyond our small island.

Would you like to be a part of this healing ministry? Please speak with me or Jean Kief. We can let you know when the next meeting is so you can come. Don't worry if you are not a world-class knitter: they will teach you what you need to know. Do consider joining them. Everyone is welcome.

The most moving part of the process, for me, has been the blessing of the shawls as they are finished. As the shawl passes from one person to the next, each one offers words of blessing and a prayer that God will heal the person receiving the shawl. I have been moved to tears as I have heard these good people speaking these blessings out loud and knitting the reality of their blessings into each garment. God is certainly present around that circle of love and concern.

Please give this ministry a try – I know you won't be sorry!

Sandra M. Reed

Outstanding Town Manager, Dana Reed

Dana Reed just marked his 20th year of outstanding service to Bar Harbor. He began on November 17, 1986 and came from "Vassar Michigan where he had been city manager for six years. He and his wife, Ponzi (who for a number of years has worked at the Jesup Library), and their children had never been to Maine before; but with a background in park administration and natural resources, and as someone who liked the great outdoors, Down East Maine was – and remains a perfect fit."

"Bar Harbor is the preeminent job for a manager in Maine,' said Mr. Reed.... 'And it's a great place to live. I like hiking, I like fishing, and the scenery can't be beat.'"

Town Council Chair, Val Scott, noted after Dana's annual performance review that it was the consensus of the Council that "The town has been very well served by Dana's efforts these past 20 years. While there are no two people on the planet who agree 100 percent of the time on all issues, Dana has done a great job putting the community first in all that he does. I think we should all be very appreciative of that."

"I know there are a lot of communities around the state that are envious of the kind of professionalism, integrity and dedication that we have in our town manager,' Ms. Scott said. 'We are very lucky.'"

Among Dana's attributes, from another's perspective, are his willingness to listen to his community and respond with fair and constructive actions, put in long hours on the job, conduct town business in a prudent manner, and build an excellent staff to carry out the directives provided by our Town Council.

"So how much longer will Mr. Reed be here? He's not thinking of heading out to pasture just yet. 'I still enjoy this job. I'm not planning to retire any time soon,' he said."

We **THANK YOU** Dana, and your family, for your outstanding service to our church and community.

(Quotations from the *Bar Harbor Times*)



Love God Back!

Look in your mailboxes for your 2007 pledge cards! They were mailed recently and we await the church's response to our call for financial pledges. If you attended the annual meeting you know that we must succeed at increasing our pledge income by \$6,000 to meet our budgeted pledge income. And remember that our budgeted pledge income will not be sufficient to fully cover the church's budgeted expenses for the year. Together, let's Love God Back by strengthening the financial aspect of our church that is so necessary for it to serve our spiritual life together.

Mike Bonsey



Well, the new-year will be here soon, and this seems like a perfect opportunity to for me to say Thanks to all of you who have made it so enjoyable to be working here in the office. It's hard to believe I've been doing this for almost a year!

Those of you who have seen the new office know how pleasant it is to work in. I am the happy beneficiary of this portion of the building renovation, and I thank all of you who have contributed to making this possible. Special thanks to those of you who helped with the move into the new office.

I know I speak for the entire staff when I say how fortunate we are to be spending many of our working hours directly involved in the life of this church. On behalf of all of us here, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas, and blessings in the year ahead.

Paul Dickson

Triathlon Ironman, Dr. David Painter



Known to many of us - along with his wife Mary and Alleluia Choir members Annie and Maggie - as a church member, a physician at the Family Health Center, and a marathon runner, Dr. Painter is also a triathlon ironman.

His most recent half-triathlon competition (70.3 miles or the 70.3 triathlon) in Clearwater Florida consisted of a "1.2 mile swim, a 56 mile bike race, and a 13.1 mile run." For Dr. Painter, this triathlon was "a chance for him to attain a personal goal – finishing the entire race in less than five hours. He did it with more than five minutes to spare."

"It's a great event. It was unlike anything I've done before," he said. "My goal was to do all three in under five hours and I did that," he continued. "I'm very happy with that. I had a good race."

"The day began early with a plunge into the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Painter swam the course in 36 minutes and 54 seconds."

"Then it was time to jump on a bicycle for the 56-mile ride. Although there are few hills in that section of Florida (near Tampa) the course went back and forth over a high bridge two times. He did it in slightly more than two hours and 30 minutes."

"By the time he began his half marathon run, around 10:30 a.m., the temperature was getting hot. 'It would have been nice to have more of a breeze,' he said. Still, he finished that leg in a respectable 1:40:42."

"To prepare for the Clearwater races, Dr. Painter who ran his first triathlon four years ago, set up a schedule of biking, swimming, and running regularly throughout the week. 'I'd swim for 45 minutes at a time, at least three times a week. Once the weather got cold, that was it for the lakes. I had to move indoors,' he said. He also got in three runs and three to four hours of bicycling a week."

Dr. Painter plans to enter a full Ironman Triathlon in Lake Placid, N.Y. next July. 'I'm going to take some time off from training over the holidays, and then get going on training for that,' he said."

We wish Dr. Painter good luck in his Lake Placid competition, and extend a **THANK YOU** for the contributions of the entire Painter/Dudzick family to our church and community.

(Special thanks to Earl Brechlin at the *Islander* for quotations)

Upcoming Events

December 2nd - Gingerbread Houses.

Decorate your own Gingerbread house with candy canes, licorice, and other sweet delights. Bring Family and Friends! All are Welcome! Please bring candy canes, gumdrops, chocolate kisses, and other good decorations to share for the gingerbread house.

January 6th - New Year's Pot Luck and Game Night

Come to a church wide evening of good food, friends and great games. Start the year with our families and friends in an evening that proves to be a night full of laughter and fun.

February 2nd - Rock-a-thon

This all-night sleepover at the church is the Sunday School's Annual Fundraiser. The rocking starts at 5:30 and goes well into the evening. Then it is off to watch a movie and sleep, until breakfast in the morning.

Christmas Pageant

December 16th Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant, 9:30 a.m.

This will be our only full rehearsal! We encourage all to attend, however we understand that this is not always possible. Those who have a major part will need to be at this rehearsal. All children who are in Sunday School on the 17th will be able to be in the pageant.

December 17th Christmas Pageant, 2nd Hour

Once again the Sunday School will be performing in our Christmas Pageant. After church get your coffee, sit back and enjoy the joy our children give us all. They indeed give us a special gift.

Youth Groups

3rd to 5th Grade Youth Group meets at the church every other Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Jr. High Youth Group meets the 1st Saturday of the month.

Mary Swift

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



A Christmas prayer

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. May we not relish the glitz, and miss the glory of your incarnation. May we not focus so much on the parties and the presents, the decorations and the allure of the creations of humans, but instead think of Christ who bore the imprint of your very being and who carried with intensity and complete dedication your message of love and hope for us all.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray.
Amen.

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Permit Number 32

December 2006



Special dates

- 1st Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2006
- 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2006
- 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2006
- First day of winter, December 22, 2006
- 4th Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2006
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2006
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2006
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2006



Christmas Eve Day
Worship services on 12/24
will be at 10:00am,
5:00pm, and 7:00pm.

Peace on Earth

We hear the Christmas message of
Good will to all on Earth,
And long for harmony and peace
To spread and share their worth.

But where might harmony's roots grow?
Could frozen hearts thaw out like snow?
Can we respect both friend and foe?
Is love a blessing we will sow?

Let's not keep nursing ancient wrongs,
But live with faith our Christmas songs.
Forgive and love unboundedly.
Let peace begin with you and me.
—Peggy Ferrell, Poems and Prayers

December Birthdays

- 2 Michael Breen
- 2 Patrick Breen
- 4 Eric Kelley
- 4 Terrance Kelley
- 6 Bill Fuller
- 6 Jefferson Hobbs
- 8 Emily C. Allen
- 11 Beth Paradis
- 11 Mary Elizabeth Kelley
- 12 David Blaney
- 12 John Collier
- 14 Linda Kelley
- 15 Fran Fry
- 16 Jean Kief
- 17 Jo-Ann Sawyer
- 18 Ian Hepburn
- 18 Deb Wade
- 18 Mark Reece
- 19 Marilynne Marino
- 19 Isabella Webster
- 20 Axl Wallingford
- 26 Kathryn Mittelberger
- 27 Mary Drury
- 27 Dean Bryer
- 29 Dusty Warner
- 31 Michael Blaney

Sunday Worship

Contributors

Calendar Page

Head Deacon – Tim Smith

Assistant Deacon – Sheridan Steele

December Liturgists-

3 Wallace Reed

10 Kathy Kief

17 Cindy Fox

24 Debbie Dyer

31 (available)

December Flowers –

3 George and Billie Mitchell

10 Dorothy White

17 Poinsettias

24 Poinsettias

31 Poinsettias

December Coffee Hosts –

3 Joyce and Boynton Stanley

10 Fran and Rob Fry

17 Alice and Tom Hobbs

24 “Bring Your Favorite Cookie” Day

31 Billie Mitchell and Marion Dyer

December Lectionary –

3 Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

10 Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79 (as a canticle)

Philemon 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

17 Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6 (as a canticle)

Philemon 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

24 Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

31 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52