

THE CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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March 2007

From the Pastor:

By the time you receive this issue of the *Chimes*, we will be well into Lent. In my Lenten reading I came across an article that contained the following: *Lent is often abused in our time, having become an occasion for giving up that which we do not need anyway and playing at suffering as we do without something that gives us momentary, but not real, discomfort - all for the sake of the season.* That statement really made me stop and think about Lent and its meaning. This year, I have decided, I want to participate in a Lenten season that has meaning and depth. How shall I accomplish that?

I will begin with a Lenten discipline. That will be the daily reading of my Lenten devotional booklet, *Your Nail*, by Arden W. Mead. (By the way, these Lenten devotional booklets are available at no charge at the church, or you may call Paul at 288-3280, and he will see that you receive one in the mail.) In doing this I will set aside a time every day during which I will purposely think about the sacrifice Christ made for me and for my salvation. If I do not take this time every day, the chances are that I will only think about this saving act of Christ by chance or when I am not busy doing something else. That hardly seems a worthy response on my part.

During this holy season I will also take time to exercise good habits: watching carefully how I spend my time, where I use my energy, what I put into my body in terms of nutrition and exercise, and how I interact with my fellow

Lenten travelers. By doing this I will be honoring my Creator and using the life which I have been given to good purpose.

I pray that in these days God will continue to open me to His purposes for my life. Most of the time I do what I think I should do. Now I want to really open my heart and mind so that I might understand what God continues to call me to do and be. In other words, I am trying to get myself out of the center of my life - my needs, my wishes, my decisions - and put Christ there so that I might operate out of God's plan for the gifts He has given me. I know this is an area in which I need to grow.

Finally, in and through this Lenten experience, I am hoping to grow in Christian maturity and become a better pastor. As I examine my shortcomings, my mistakes, my sins, it is my prayer that in God's forgiveness I will find a new and energized calling to be His servant.

This article is a very personal one. I am obviously talking about myself and how I plan to observe Lent. Now it is up to you to decide how you will go through these forty days. Will they be only forty more days? Will the countdown to Easter pass by without a thought or will you walk with your Lord as, together, we move toward the celebration of His resurrection? Whatever you decide, my prayer is that your Lenten journey will hold meaning and passion. We will be walking together.

Sandra M. Reed



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Tubing at Hermon Mountain

It is Saturday morning and I am here sitting at the computer wearing several layers of clothes, wool socks, snow pants and boots. The wind is blowing and the thermometer is mighty cold, but my spirits are warm and filled with excitement. Today a group of church members are heading north to Hermon Mountain for a day of tubing down the mountain. Thanks to Tim Smith and his great idea, we are off and sliding.

Well, I have just arrived back home from a chilly, but fun filled day. At 10:30 a.m. the cars were loaded and we were off. Thirty-five people, young and old, big and small, laughed and screamed as their tubes flew down the hill. Thank goodness for the rope tow that pulled us all up the hill after the great rides down. To see everyone out having fun together was magnificent. The kids all had a great time and the adults were the biggest kids of all!

This was the "1st Annual Tubing at Hermon Mountain." Plan to join the fun next year at our "2nd Annual Tubing at Hermon Mountain."

Third and Fifth Grade Youth Group

The 3rd - 5th grade youth group and the Jr. High Youth group are going strong. For Valentine's Day, we made boxes and then filled them with homemade truffles. The boxed candies were sold by the youth group during coffee hour on February 11th. Together the youth groups made over \$145.00. This money will be split equally between the two youth groups.

The 3rd to 5th Grade Youth Group meets every other Thursday from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the church. Our March meetings are on the 8th and 22nd. The children that go to Connors Emerson School can ride **Bus C** to the church after school. They will be met by Alicia Riddell or Mary Swift at the bus stop by the church. If your

child will be riding the bus to church; they will need a note for the school. Please let us know if your child will be going to Youth Group so we know who to be looking for.

Junior Youth Group

The Jr. Youth Group has been meeting once a month and going into the park and taking pictures. A 2008 Calendar in the making! We are now meeting twice a month on every 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month. Too much to do and so little time... Our March meetings will be on March 10th and March 24th, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the church. The Jr. Youth Group is open to all youth in the 6th -8th grades.

Rock-a-thon

The Rock-a-thon was a huge success. Debby Hammond made pizza for dinner and Alicia Riddell planned the activities for the evening crafts. The money raised is going to be donated to the Heifer Project. The name of the Rock-a-thon was going to change to reflect the helping hands projects that we do during the evening. The youngsters strongly objected and their voices were heard. The Rock-a-thon will remain the Rock-a-thon! This year all the projects we made were given to area living centers. We made Valentine cards and beaded hearts and wreaths for shut-ins and doggy treats for our friends at the Southwest Harbor Humane Society.

This year our goal is to raise \$1000. So far we have over \$500.00. If you have not turned in your pledges, please do so as soon as possible. We do want the money sent to the Heifer Project soon.

Wonderful Experience

Winter finally came and these past few months have been busy with church activities. How wonderful to see everyone join in the fun. As I think back over the last few months, I realize how wonderful it is to be a part of the loving and caring family that we have here at church.

Mary Swift

Upcoming Christian Education Events

April 8th Easter Sunday

We will be having Sunday School and doing the lesson and activities as one group.

April 28th Spring Fling Potluck Luncheon

This is our Annual Spring Potluck right after church at 11:30. Join us for great food and entertainment provided by the 3rd-5th Grade Youth Group and the Jr. High Youth Group.

May 6th Bible Presentations

Kathy MacCulioch will be leading a class for 3rd graders on getting to know the bible. This group will meet 3 times prior to being presented with their own bible during church.

May 22nd Teacher Appreciation Dinner

June 3rd Graduate Recognition Sunday

June 10th Last Day of Sunday School, Picnic

June 17th-Sept. 2nd God's Garden Club

CHOIR NOTES

The anticipatory murmur among the cellists was one of "wicked excitement" as they prepared for the arrival of guest artist Gal Nyska. Almost a dozen 3rd and 4th graders at the Connors-Emerson School in Bar Harbor, Maine, had assembled for a master class with Israeli cellist Gal Nyska. This event on January 26, 2007, was part of the Know Your Orchestra! outreach program of the Bangor Symphony Orchestra.

Lacking no energy despite a 4:00AM awakening for a two-hour TV news broadcast, Nyska met with three different groups of students until early afternoon. For the first masterclass, Nyska performed Baroque and Contemporary music, gave pointers on how to hold and play the

cello, and fielded questions from the 3rd-grade cellists. Several of these students thought Nyska was "renting" the 1642 Amati cello on loan to him from Juilliard; none of them realized the prestige associated with such a loan. Three of our youth were part of this masterclass: Hunter Riddell, Bryce DiMauro, and Kirstin DiMauro. I was so proud of their poise, manners, and performance! The second session was a larger group of 3rd and 4th grade string players. Amusingly, a young string bass player wanted to know if Nyska could play her instrument or play his cello with her bow; Nyska humbly stated that he was certain she could play her bass better than he. Some more of our youth were in this group: Haleigh Smith, Saida Riddell, and others that I may have missed. The final group Nyska met with was the 1st-grade general music class, taught by Judy DeLong. Attentive and awestruck by his performance, several of these students described the experience as "awesome" .

Students commented that Nyska was "incredible," "wicked good," and "super"; many expressed the desire for him to return. Kirstin DiMauro told me that a school circular incorrectly stated that "Gas" (not Gal) inspired them immensely; while she and other students chuckled at the spelling error, they did agree that he had inspired them to new heights. Nyska was received equally well by students at Bangor High School a few days later. He really connects with students of all ages and is a talented young artist with a promising future. I know that many others of our congregation enjoyed his performance with the BSO on January 28th. During the intermission, Gal spoke with Hunter Riddell, remembering him from the cello masterclass a couple of days earlier. What a special treat for our aspiring musicians!

Remember to place on your calendars the Acadia Community Theatre's production of "Annie", Our own Tony St. Denis is directing and Doug McMinimy is choreographing it. It runs at the end of March; check the bulletin or ask Tony or Doug for more specific information.

Faithfully yours,
Kimberly Haller

World Day of Prayer , March 2

Need to Pray

The morning following the great Sabbath day of preaching and healing Jesus arose very early and went out of the city to a lonely place and prayed (Mark 1:35). His work was growing rapidly, and Jesus needed heavenly communion. The seeming answer was a larger work, the entrance upon His first Galilean tour of healing and preaching (Mark 1:37-39). Only one healing event of this tour, which lasted several days, is recorded - that of a leper whose disease was incurable (Mark 1:40-45).

If the Son of God needed to pray before He undertook His work, how much more should we pray.

Faith Shown by Our Prayer Lives

Prayer is a golden key that, kept bright by constant use, will unlock the treasures of earth and heaven.

James gives us a series of short phrases of advice. If anyone is in trouble, he should pray. If anyone is merry, he should sing. If anyone is sick, he should send for the elders of the church and let them anoint him with oil and pray for him (5:13-14). The Bible says, "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven." (5:15). If anyone has wronged another, he should confess his fault to that one (5:16). The prayer of faith demands confession of sin, and a will surrendered to God. Elijah's mighty prayer that opened and closed the heavens is an example to us, for "the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (5:16).

Above quotations from "What the Bible Is All About"

Prayer: Answers

The efficacy of prayer is, at any rate, no more of a problem than the efficacy of all human acts. I.e., if you say "It is useless to pray because Providence already knows what is best and will

certainly do it," then why is it not equally useless (and for the same reason) to try to alter the course of events in any way whatever?

Prayer: Confession

We must lay before Him what is in us, not what ought to be in us.

Quotations from:

"The Quotable Lewis" (C.S. Lewis)

A prayer for Lent

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see more clearly the condition of my soul. If there is darkness, meanspiritedness, egotistic pride ... or worse within, cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Renew a right spirit within me and make me truly Christ-like in all my thoughts and actions. And when I begin to edge away from your will, please stir up my conscience until I am in harmony with you again. In Christ's name. Amen

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1 Mason Gurtler
1 Barbara Moulton
1 David Lind
2 Cas Dowden
3 Jill Pelletier
5 Kate St. Denis
5 Gloria Soule
6 Dana Reed
6 Kristin MacQuinn
6 Henry A. Brown
7 Jonathan Wood
7 Laurie Riddell
8 Vickie Bence
9 Judy Fuller
13 Doug Lee
13 Estelle Megquier
14 Lucy Sprague
14 Doris Karst *** 100 Years Old! ***
16 Lucille Campbell
17 Kincaid MacCulioch
18 Sharon Hobbs
20 Haleigh Smith
21 Brad Haskell
21 Marie McPheters
22 Samuel Owen Craighead
22 Pierce DiMauro
22 Bryce DiMauro
22 Kirstin DiMauro
22 Bill Skiff
24 Michael MacCulioch
25 Jimmy Cooper
29 Penny Heiges
31 Shelley MacQuinn

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon - Sheridan Steele
Assistant Deacon - Mary Dudzik

Liturgists

4: Michael Bonsey
11: Scott Hammond
18:
25: Yvonne Tabb

Flowers

4: Charlie Marinke
11: Barb and Sheridan Steele
18:
25: Wally and Sandra Reed

Coffee Hosts

4: Estelle Megquier
11: Dean and Betty Bryer
18:
25:

Lectionary

4 Genesis 15:1-12,17-18
Psalm 27
Philemon 3: 17 -4: 1
Luke 13:31-35

11 Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1st Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

18 Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2nd Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15: 1-3, 11 b-32

25 Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philemon 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

A prayer for spiritual growth

When my spiritual vision is foggy,
help me to find my way.

When my understanding is incomplete,
open my mind and increase my patience.

When my indifference blocks my
senses, touch my heart.

When worry or fear raise their
voices, speak to my faith.

Let your Spirit permeate my longings as
well as my living and my loving.
Amen.

-Peggy Ferrell,
Prayers and Poems

With Maynard "Larry" Wescott
Sympathy Service held on 2/18/2007

Repent - A Worthy Word For Lent

What pops into your mind when you hear the word "repent"? Is it a dark and somber word for you, perhaps reminding you of John the Baptist's shouting for people to repent and be baptized?

What does the word "repent" mean anyway? Literally, it means to stop the way one is going, turn around, and then walk in the opposite direction. It refers to turning away from sin and

shallow living and to begin walking through life following God's direction.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday is an opportunity to check our spiritual condition, to repent (if needed) and to walk more faithfully with our Lord.

If we take Lent seriously, we can begin to discover a new vision for life - a more joyous way to live. Lent can enable us to discover the immeasurable benefits of living the Christian life passionately.

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Easter Flowers



Please contact Roxie Brechlin (288-4859) or Billie Mitchell (288-3691) to order your Easter Flowers. We ask that everyone have their order in by March 22nd. There will be lilies or tulips. The cost is \$15.00; payment can be given to Roxie, Billie or the church office. Please make checks payable to Bar Harbor Congregational Church, UCC. Thank You! The Flower Committee.

March 17, St. Patrick's Day

A Little bit about St. Patrick...

St Patrick was born 387 (-390?) in Scotland as Maewyn Succat. He was kidnapped from the British mainland around age 16, and shipped to Ireland as a slave. Sent to the mountains as a shepherd, he spent his time in prayer.

After six years of this life, he received a dream in which he was commanded to return to Britain. Seeing this as a sign, he escaped. He studied in several monasteries in Europe, where he eventually became a priest and a bishop.

Sent by Pope Saint Celestine to evangelize England, then Ireland, over the course of 33 years he effectively converted Ireland to

Christianity. In the Middle Ages Ireland became known as the *Land of Saints*, and during the Dark Ages its monasteries were the great repositories of learning in Europe, all a consequence of Patrick's ministry. He died in 461 (-464?) at Saul, County Down, Ireland.

Readings from the Confession of Saint Patrick

I came to the Irish people to preach the Gospel and endure the taunts of unbelievers, putting up with reproaches about my earthly pilgrimage, suffering many persecutions, even bondage, and losing my birthright of freedom for the benefit of others.

If I am worthy, I am ready also to give up my life, without hesitation and most willingly, for Christ's name. I want to spend myself for that country, even in death, if the Lord should grant me this favor.

It is among that people that I want to wait for the promise made by him, who assuredly never tells a lie. He makes this promise in the Gospel: "They shall come from the east and west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." This is our faith: believers are to come from the whole world.
...From www.catholic-rum.com

Upcoming Concerts

The Bar Harbor Congregation Church and the Bar Harbor Historical Society will co-sponsor the United States Air Force Band of Liberty (The Bay State Winds) in concert at the Church on Thursday, March 8th at 7:00. Admission is free.

As a part of its benefit Winter Coffee House Series, Emmaus Homeless Shelter presents *Jay Peterson and son Bjorn* in concert. The event will be at St. Joseph's Parish Hall, 231 Main St. Ellsworth, on March 23, from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. Tickets will be available at the door, and are \$12.00 per person or \$20.00 per couple. Coffee and refreshments will be available. For more information, call 469-6771.

Lenten Second Hours

During Lent, the Board of Christian Education will be sponsoring a series of Second Hours to help us prepare for the season. These gatherings will take place after church (11 :30 am - 12:30 pm) each Sunday in Lent. Please plan to join us for a Spirit-filled journey.

The theme of this series is, "From the Cross to the Grave; From the Grave to the Sky, a Lenten Journey". The first Second Hour Gathering will be the Sunday after Ash Wednesday, February 25, and will be titled, "Journeying Together: Introduction to the Season, Lent 101; Where Are We Going?"

If you have any questions regarding our Lenten series, please contact Sandra Reed. Everyone is welcome to the journey.

100

A very special Birthday Celebration

Bring your memories, bring your smiles as we honor Doris Karst on her 100th birthday! The occasion will be marked by an open house at Birch Bay Village on March 14, from 1:30 - 3:00. Doris request that there be no gifts, but a card basket is being prepared. If you would like to contribute to it, send your card to Sue Olson, 46 Bayberry Rd. Trenton, ME 04605.

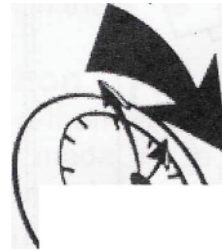
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United Church of Christ
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Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

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Special Dates:

- World Day of Prayer, March 2, 2007
- Second Sunday in Lent, March 4, 2007
- Purim, March 3-4, 2007
- Third Sunday in Lent, March 11, 2007
- Girl Scout Sunday, March 11, 2007
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 11, 2007
- St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2007
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 18, 2007
- First Day of Spring, March 21, 2007
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 25, 2007

March 11, 2007



**Daylight-
Saving
Time
Begins**

The Prize Under The Rock

On the road in front of his palace a king had his guards place a large rock. Standing hidden, the king watched to see how passersby handled the obstruction. Most travelers simply walked around it. A few tried to roll the rock, but found it too difficult to dislodge. They gave up and went on.

Eventually, a peasant pushing a cart full of vegetables stopped. He put his full strength behind the stone and pushed. It didn't budge. Undeterred, he pushed again and felt some movement. He pushed again and again until he finally managed to move the rock out of

the path. When he started on his way again, he glanced down and saw a leather bag where the rock had been. He picked up the bag, opened it, and discovered it was filled with gold coins. There was also a note from the king. It said that anyone who found the bag could have the money.

The winners in life are those who work faithfully until the barriers to fulfillment are removed. "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10, NRSV)

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