

THE CHIMES

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

29 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

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From the Senior Pastor:

April 2007

The first day of spring has arrived and I am quite excited about that. We have had a pretty mild winter, but the cold, snow and ice have caused some problems for those of us who like to be warm and cozy. There is something about spring, with all of her promise, that encourages and inspires us. Do you have any idea how many poems have been written about spring? Neither do I, but I suspect it is legion. Here is one of my favorites:

The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
You know how it is with an April day
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,
A wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of
March.

Robert Frost

(From *Two Tramps in Mud Time*, 1936)

This is not your typical spring poem. No young man's fancy turns to love and no brave daffodils sway in the breeze. This part of a larger poem reminds us that, even in the midst of spring, we can still be tossed back into winter at a whim. It is possible to find ourselves in the unexpected warmth of a gracious season and, seemingly without a bit of hesitation, cast backwards into the depths of a cold and bleak time.

Isn't that what life is like? Sometimes we are surrounded by a cocoon of calm beauty. It simply couldn't get any better. And then, with a harsh ring of the telephone or a frantic visit from someone in trouble, our calm facade disintegrates into the harsh topography of despair. We all know what that can be like.

The beauty of spring is that the possibility of warmth, growth and rebirth exists within her promise. If it were not for spring, we might remain in the doldrums of winter. As beautiful as a snowfall can be, who of us would wish to remain, unmoving, within its confines? The coming of spring reminds us that even though it looks like all is dead around us, the promise of new life curls within, ready to sprout and make all things new.

It is no accident that Easter falls during this springtime of new life. When else would our God show us that, in faith, all things are possible? In the season of loveliness and holiness that is Easter, we are assured that God in Christ is our salvation and our hope. Even when all else seems lost, God reaches into the despair and brings forth eternal life, exemplified by Jesus Christ's Resurrection and offered to us as an inestimable gift of love.

May our days be marked by a faith that is stronger than any winter. May our days show forth the love of God in a springtime of eternal grace.

Happy Easter! May the Risen Lord be present to you.

Sandra M. Reed



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week Services

Holy Week, the week before Easter is rapidly approaching and our church has plans for a meaningful and interesting series of events. Please plan to join us for as many of these gatherings as possible:

Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007: We will have worship and Sunday School that morning with wonderful music and, of course, the blessing and distribution of the palms. This is the day when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Coffee hour will follow the .worship service.

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 2007: We will be doing something a little different this year. At 5:30 PM we will gather in the fellowship hall for a Seder meal. This meal commemorates the Passover meal that Jesus shared with His disciples. If you would like to be a part of this Seder observation, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the new entrance of the church or call the church office (288-3280) and ask Paul to add your name to the list. The participants will be given an assignment of something to bring to the meal. This should be a most meaningful part of Holy Week. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Following the Seder meal, we will have our Maundy Thursday service, including Holy Communion, at 7 PM in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Good Friday, April 6, 2007: We will have a Community Good Friday Service at our church at noon on Good Friday. Please join area clergy and your neighbors for this solemn observance of Jesus' crucifixion. The service will be flexible, and you will be able to come and go as you need to.

Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007: Our first service of the day will be at 6:15 AM at Schooner Head Overlook. Please join us for this service which welcomes in Easter day and is the first witness to the Resurrection of our Lord.

Following the service, we will go to the church for our Annual Easter Breakfast. The breakfast will be put on by the men of our church and everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy the food and fellowship.

Our Easter service will take place at 10:00 AM and will include special music, a story for the children and praise and thanksgiving for Christ's Resurrection. Sunday School will be held as usual. Following the service, everyone is invited to Coffee Hour, which will be hosted by the Deacons.

If you have any questions regarding any Holy Week events, please call Sandra, Dusty or Paul at 288-3280.

New Covenant Members Welcome

On Sunday, April 15, we would like to welcome any of you who are ready and wish to become Covenant members of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, UCC. This is always a wonderful celebration as folks make a decision to become members of our church. If you are considering joining the church, please speak with John Kelly, Chair of the Board of Deacons, Sandra Reed or Dusty Warner and let your wishes be known. We will have an informational gathering before April 15 to hopefully get all your questions answered.

Please consider becoming a Covenant member of this vital, active, worshipful, Spirit-filled church! We'd love to have you.

Sandra M. Reed, Senior Pastor

Two Projects from the Outreach Board for Your Consideration

Small, Struggling Foreign Farmers Equal Exchange Coffee

Did you know that the coffee you drink during fellowship time after church is "fair trade" coffee provided by the Outreach board through the Equal Exchange Interfaith Program?

As one of the most heavily traded commodities in the world, coffee is a direct link between our congregation and small farmers throughout Latin America, Africa and Asia. Yet the small farmers who grow our coffee often struggle just to make a simple living. Most live in rural communities in some of the poorest countries in the world. Isolated from markets, they are forced to accept low prices. By paying a fair price, working with democratic cooperatives, offering affordable credit and supporting sustainable agriculture, Equal Exchange helps farmers to build better lives for themselves and their families.

Beyond Sunday morning, if you would like to help further, we also have coffee available for sale. We buy coffee through Equal Exchange, put a small mark-up on it (20%) to provide the coffee on Sunday morning and other outreach in our local community, and make it available for sale to you. The price is still cheaper than that available in the store for quality coffee. It is a simple way to make an impact in the world, while enjoying your morning cup. If you would like to buy coffee to support this program, please see Scott Hammond (288-8058) or another member of the Outreach board. The 12 oz. bags also make good gifts.

Local Summer Mission Project Downeast Mission

For those of you interested in outreach on a more local level, and for less time, than our Honduras mission, the Outreach board is sponsoring a work project this summer. We are coordinating with the Maine Seacoast Mission to

participate in a 1 day work mission here along the Downeast coast of Maine. We don't yet have a date or location but we are hoping for a project on a Saturday, close enough that we can carpool from Bar Harbor. Continue to look for more information and if you think you would be interested in something like this, please contact a member of the Outreach Board so we can be sure to get you the information when it is available.

Scott Hammond

New Arrivals



Logan .Joseph Christian Reece , welcomed by parents, Mark and Stephanie, and big sister Faith.

Madeleine Rose Langley , welcomed by parents, Kevin and Geneva.

Spring Ahead Online Auction for Seniors/Disabled on MDI

Want to shop for some great merchandise, experiences and weekend getaways, and have your money support our area's senior/disabled community? Well, you can, at home in your pajamas, no less!

Island Connections is planning an online auction (think Ebay for charity) to raise funds to support the free services and events it provides. Our goal is to raise \$5000 to support events such as the current trip to the Bangor Garden Show, Christmas bus trip to see the lights and have dinner out, picnics, and going to Acadia Community Theatre.

The website is taking shape, coordinated by volunteer John Lawrence. A team of volunteers is hard at work trying to find donors for auction items, finding sponsors, and developing the web pages. This is an exciting venture; we are the first organization in northern Maine to have this type of fund raiser!



Choir Notes

The actual online auction will take place May 1-31. You can check its progress by logging onto: www.islconnections.cmarket.com

What can you do to help make this venture a success? Several things. If you want a direct mailing of updates on the auction, send your email address to: ivarnum@adelphia.net and she will submit it to the master list. (All e-mail addresses are protected by the cMarket Privacy Policy and will only be used for this auction.)

You might become a donor of artwork, jewelry, crafts, free professional services, electronics, collectibles, clothing, bed and breakfast lodging, and much more. We already have some private yoga lessons and car repair certificates, for example. If you have a business and wish lots of exposure, you might be a sponsor. Or you might volunteer to help! Call Sue at Island Connections (288-4457).

Contact Jan Varnum, 288-3857 or at the e-mail above if you have questions. Thanks!

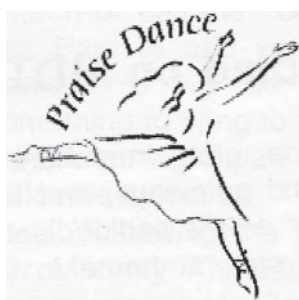
This month I thought that I would plug two musical events coming in April that might be of interest to you. The first is the Acadia Community Theatre's production of "Annie," directed by Tony St. Denis and choreographed by Doug McMinimy. "Annie" runs April 6 (Friday) at 7:00PM and April 7 (Saturday) at 1:00PM and 7:00PM. Come support these talented men and enjoy a great musical in the process!

The second event is the Bangor Symphony Orchestra's April 29th choral concert, featuring the University of Maine Singers and the University of Maine Oratorio Society with the BSO. They will perform two works by Mozart: his *Ave Verum Corpus*, K.618, and *Requiem*, K.626. For more information or to order tickets, call (207)942-5555 or check out their website at bangorsymphony.com.

Thank you to the BHUCC Women's Ensemble who provided us with a beautiful Ash Wednesday anthem entitled "Thy Secret Place" by Felix Mendelssohn. This piece is based on Psalm 91 and the women sounded like angels singing it. I am very appreciative of the time these women gave to enhance the worship service in song.

I remind both the Alleluia Choir and the Adult Choir that we will have a combined rehearsal of the Easter anthem on April 1 from 11:30am-12:00pm. I am quite excited about this year's Easter anthem which also includes a trumpet; we will have over 30 choir members singing! God has blessed us with many beautiful voices to praise Him.

Faithfully yours,
Kimberly Haller



ATTENTION BOYS AND GIRLS!!!!

Starting April 14th I will be teaching a free dance

class for those who are interested. During the class, I will work on creativity through movement along with some stretching. I will hold dance class every other Saturday from 10-11 AM in the basement of the church. I have not yet decided on an age group so as of now all ages are welcome! If your child(ren) are interested please contact Sally Swift at saswift@gmail.com or 288-2299. Thanks!

April 2007

Sunday Worship Contributors



2 Marsha Fuller
2 Leah Maria MacPherson
6 Hannah Paradis
8 Jane Boynton
10 Brooke Stanley
14 Kathy Woodside
16 Jane Haraden
19 Barbara Adler
22 Sara White
22 Esther Testa
23 Donald Hobbs
23 Lisa Krautwald
23 Kim Craighead
25 Jan Varnum
26 Caitie Smith
30 Ethel Drake

Head Deacon - Tim Smith
Assistant Deacon - Tim Beals

Liturgists

1: Estelle Megquier
8: Debbie Dyer
15:
22: Anne Warner
29:

Flowers

1: Beverly McNeal
8: Easter
15: George and Billy Mitchell
22: Jean Kief, Cecil and Lucy Sprague
29: Gloria and Robert Gray

Coffee Hosts

1: Dana & Ponzi Reed
8: Deacons
15: Penny Heiges and Children
22: Karen & Sandy McFarland
29:

Lectionary

1: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philemon 2:5-11
Luke 22: 14-23:56

8: Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1st Corinthians 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12

Lectionary continued

15: Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29
Revelation 1 :4-8
John 20:19-31

22: Acts 9:1-20
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21 :1-19

29: Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

From the Administrative

Assistant

Allow me, if you would, to share a little bit of personal news with you all. Mimi and I recently acquired a new family member - a two year-old Beagle named Tyler. (There isn't a rule that says one must own a beagle to work on staff here, but Sandra and I are working to change that.) Anyway, our new little guy is absolutely irresistible, and quite smart. He's also a little rough around the edges, as he was taken in by the adoption agency as a stray, and there are signs there was some abuse in his past. At the very least, it's pretty apparent he was abandoned, as he shows an inordinate fear of being left alone.

I suppose, if one tries hard enough, spiritual metaphors can be found in most events and situations in life. And I won't claim to have any more insight to such matters than anyone else. Nevertheless, as Mimi and I try to figure out the best way to coax Tyler into being a 'good beagle citizen', some parallels become apparent between that process, and the ways in which God nurtures us into Christlikeness. These are parallels and metaphors, of course, so they only go so far and then they don't apply any more, but there's some instruction in them, anyway.

First, we've made a commitment to this little guy. We're not giving up on him. We have hopes for him, of course, that he'll eventually be able to do the things that make for an ideal pet. He may or may not get there. But we'll work with him as he is, and be happy with whatever progress he makes. Likewise, God takes us where we are and works with us. He will not abandon us, and He will continue to work with us despite our failures, until we are formed in the image of Christ. Sometimes my commitment to Tyler wavers, but God's commitment to me does not. At that point, metaphor breaks down.

Second, many times Tyler has no clue what I'm trying to do with him and why. Similarly, many times I just can't see what God is up to or why,

and His actions in my life make no sense to me. But in addition to enjoying Tyler's company, I have goals for him which have to do with improving his character. At times, that takes precedence over making him comfortable or immediately happy. You can see the similarity with God's actions toward us - we want to be happy, but God is often in the business of building character. They often aren't the same thing.

Third, Mimi and I need to be thoughtful about just how much challenge to give Tyler at any given point in his development. The process takes time and patience, and we need to balance the challenges and lessons with encouragement, comfort, and joy. Similarly, God gives us many, many things to enjoy and be thankful for. God can use the problems and challenges in our lives to help bring about our growth, but so many things in life are put there by God simply for our own enjoyment. How gracious and loving He is!

As we make the journey through Holy Week, Good Friday, and on to Easter, let us give thanks for our God who loves us enough to give us all things through the risen Christ!

Paul Dickson

Christian Education

Dreams have been on my mind lately, not nighttime dreams, but dreams of hope and inspiration.

Many years ago for my parents 40th wedding Anniversary, I designed and made them a stain glass window of four Easter Lilies just beginning to bloom. Now mind you, I am not good at drawing, I am strictly a 3D kind of person, so executing this drawing took time and patience.

While I was cutting and grinding the glass and piecing it together, I thought a lot about my family growing up, about the love and the closeness we shared as a family, the laughter and tears and the hopes and dreams my parents instilled in their four daughters.

As I was working I realized my unintentional symbolism in the design: I choose the Easter Lily for the flower, my grandfather loved and grew lilies; I thought about the fact that there were four blossoms in the window, my parent's had four daughters; and the background of the window was ruby color, the 40th wedding anniversary gift is a ruby.

When the window was finished, I stood back to admire my work and was disappointed. The beautiful image I had in my mind when I began was not the window I was now looking at. My disappointment took time for me to understand until I realized that the image in my mind was given to me as a gift, a dream from God.

The Easter lily window with the ruby background visits me every year around Easter. Whenever I see an Easter lily I think of the stain glass window, my family and all the great gifts we are given by God.

Spring is a time when life comes alive again; the trees are soaking the sweet sap up into their branches. Crocuses are beginning to sprout up through the wet earth. The birds are singing, and children are out playing and riding their bikes. New life is all around us waking up from a deep slumber... so we are going to CELEBRATE!

The **Spring Fling Potluck Dinner** is happening April 28th, after church. Bring a dish to share and get ready to celebrate spring with good food, good laughs, and fine, after dinner entertainment from the youths in our church. We strongly recommend coming to share good food, good friends and to have fun celebrating **Spring!**

As you might have guessed, the youth groups are busy preparing the entertainment for the

Spring Fling. They are all having so much fun. Wait until you see them! Our children truly are a great gift.

Youth Groups Meet every 2nd and 4th week of the month

3rd -5th Grade Youth Group Thursdays at 3:30:

April 12th, April 26th, May 10th, May 24th
and June 7th

Jr. High Youth Group Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.:

April 14th, April 28th, May 12th, May 26th
and June 9th

We have almost met our goal for the Rock-athon! Our goal was \$1000. and so far have raised just over \$900. If you have anymore money to hand in, please do so as soon as possible! Kids, if you forgot to collect money from someone, please go back and collect. **Think how great we will feel to reach our goal and donate \$1000 to the Heifer Project!**

Upcoming Events

March 15th "Learning My Bible"

This is a three week class for 3rd graders who will be receiving bibles on Youth Sunday. These classes will teach them about the bible and how to find the books of the bible and favorite passages. Kathy McCulloch will be contacting the 3rd grade parents with more information.

April 8th Easter Sunday

There will be Sunday School on Easter Sunday. The children will go downstairs after the children's time. If you prefer, your child(ren) may stay with you upstairs for the service.

May 6th Youth Sunday and Bible Presentations

May 2th Teachers Appreciation Dinner at the church

June 3rd Graduation Recognition

June 10th Sunday School Picnic and Last day of Sunday School

June 17th God's Garden Club starts

Mary Swift

One Great. Hour of Sharing

"The United Church of Christ responds to disasters once every 2.5 days, on average. Initial support comes from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, and is often followed by gifts designated for assisting in particular situations. What is given now to One Great Hour of Sharing will be available when the inevitable happens.

"Some disasters receive a lot of media coverage. Hurricane Katrina and the Southern Asia tsunami are two examples in which immediate action was possible because of prior gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. In the weeks afterwards, UCC congregations responded compassionately with record-breaking designated gifts. But most of the time, the UCC relies almost entirely on the annual offering to fund such work. Last year's outreach included flood relief in the Mid-Atlantic States, assistance to Mid-Western tornado survivors, support for Lebanese people uprooted by violence, and a feeding program for refugees in Sudan.

"And then there are the more private disasters brought about by chronic poverty, lack of safe water and sanitation systems, and inaccessibility to health care and education. Offering gifts provided micro-credit for 800 women weavers in Bangladesh and supported a program to address the dangers of child labor in Old Cairo, Egypt. Rural families in the Balkans received a gift of twenty sheep, and as their herds grew they provided livestock for other families. Vocational training in Angola allowed landmine survivors to gain new skills to earn a living. New water cisterns in the West Bank improved access to safe water.

"In this country and in more than eighty others, life is better for your neighbors because of your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you!"

How Can I Contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing?

"The special mission offering is received through local UCC congregations and all UCC members are encouraged to participate in this way." Please make your checks out to Bar Harbor Congregational Church, and specify "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the memo portion of the check. Then bring them to Church on April 29, the day of the offering.

"All gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are tax deductible."

Chimes Articles

It is important that Chimes articles be submitted on time so that the Chimes' calendar has a full month of relevance and members/friends have some lead-time to plan for church events. Please be sure to submit articles by the third Wednesday of the month, the date of which is noted on the Chimes' calendar, and if you will, no later than the following Friday, which is the very last day for submissions.

Thank you for helping us get the Chimes to readers in a timely way.



Congratulations to
Thomas Ferland and
Brittany Donahue,
March 16



The Romans sent a message; God sent one, too

The rulers of the Roman Empire wanted everyone under their power to understand clearly that it would be very costly to try to overthrow their government. They conceived the idea of crucifixion as a way of sending an unforgettable message to all people under their control. Death on a cross would be a slow, excruciatingly painful death. The cross would be put in a very public place so as many as possible would get the message: Don't even think of defying Roman rule!

That is why Christ was crucified on Golgotha hill close to a busy road where no passerby could miss the shocking scene. Christ was guilty of nothing. Yet his enemies hated him so much that they told Pilate, Rome's representative in Jerusalem, that Jesus was a danger to Roman rule. Christ's enemies said to Pilate, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar" (John 19:12).

Pilate caved in to the clamor of the crowd and allowed Jesus to be crucified.

But those who saw to it that Jesus suffered death on the cross did not know that God had a message to send as well. God victoriously raised Christ from the dead! God touched the precious body of his

Son and infused it with life, glorious, dynamic life, life in all of its fullness.

God turned the cross, the executioner's tool of death, into a dramatic symbol of victory. The empty cross and the empty tomb, along with the resurrected body of Christ, reveal God's victory over the worst deed humans might do - the assassination of the Holy.

That is why we put crosses everywhere: boldly, proudly, joyously, triumphantly. It is why we glory in the cross always. "It stands eternally "towering o'er the wrecks of time" (John Bowring).

After the Resurrection, Jesus' friend, Peter, explained God's message to all of Christ's enemies with these bold and certain words: "This Jesus, you crucified and killed ... But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses. . . . Therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:23-24; 32, 36). That is what Easter is all about. All praise to the living Lord!

NEWSLETTERnewsletter

*Baptisms
This Month*

Noah Robert Lambert, son
of Jim and Cindy Lambert
and brother of Matthew,
March 18

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid Bar
Harbor, ME 04609
Permit Number 32



Special dates

- . Passion/Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007
- . Holy Week, April 1-7, 2007
- . Maundy/Holy Thursday, April 5, 2007
- . Good Friday, April 6, 2007
- . Holy Saturday, April 7, 2007
- . Easter Day, April 8, 2007
- . Administrative Professionals Day, April 25, 2007

An Easter prayer

Once again, Lord, we are astounded by the incomparable and glorious event of Easter.

To remember how you conquered sin and evil through the resurrection of Jesus stirs up joy and hope within us.

It comforts us greatly to know that because Christ was raised from the dead, we who are "in Christ" have the assurance of eternal life.

Furthermore, to have the living Christ as our Savior and the undergirding Holy Spirit as our daily Companion assures us of grace that never fails us.

Finally, it is a certainty that all things good and desirable are possible for those who love you, because Christ lives and reigns as King of our lives.

**All praise and glory to you, loving Creator, now and forever!
Amen.**

-Charles Ferrell