

THE CHIMES

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

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From the Senior Pastor

July 2007

Last Sunday as I was doing my last minute preparations for worship I was distracted by some excited giggles and loud voices in the parlor. As I looked in the direction of the commotion, I saw our Alleluia Choir members nervously getting ready to go into the sanctuary for worship. They were resplendent in their robes, with faces scrubbed clean and music clutched in their hands. In the midst of them was Doug McMinimy, attempting to keep some semblance of order and, at the same time, issuing important instructions for their participation in the service. As I called them together for our group prayer before worship, I was delighted to look around the circle of excited and inspiring youth. I remembered when there were only six children at the first service I ever led here at the church. I uttered my own prayer of thanksgiving to God as I saw the result of our work here together. God has been good. As the liturgist and I followed this ever-moving stream of kids, I remarked that the noise and chaos was, "a nice problem to have." And, indeed, it is.

As I have the privilege of getting to know our young people, I see in them a faith that is just what Jesus described when he scolded the disciples for trying to "protect" Him from the children and said, "Let the children come to me, for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven." Indeed, the Kingdom of Heaven comes very close when we see our kids opening their hearts in faith in our midst. Even the most curmudgeonly among us cannot help but be inspired by the faithful openness and candor of our young people. There is something about the

light in their eyes and the looks on their faces that show us what faith in Jesus Christ is all about. Their willingness to work with the adults who have been called to teach them about faith is humbling. Their trust in us is something that makes me realize what a precious and fragile gift we have been given.

I am so appreciative of all the adults who have stepped forward to be leaders and teachers of our kids. It goes without saying that those same adults are also, at times, led and taught by our kids. The Sunday School and God's Garden Club teachers are to be commended for their well planned lessons as well as their desire to give our kids the tools they need for life. Mary Swift spends far more hours than she is paid for to see that our programs are effectively run. Kimberly Haller and Doug McMinimy coax such beauty from the lips of our children that I sometimes think I have surely been transported to heaven, populated with smiling, squirming, eager "angels" of varying shapes and sizes. Our Board of Christian Education works hard to see that our programs are thoughtful and faith-filled. We all need to thank these people from the bottom of our hearts. The parents of our church kids need to be commended for their commitment to provide the nurture of faith for them. I can promise you, you will never regret your investment.

I want you to know that I consider it a primary task to keep our children safe when they are in our hands. As I read in the newspapers and see on television what can happen to children these days I am horrified. The same

childlike trust that enables them to be open to faith makes them vulnerable to adults who would take advantage of them. I am sick at heart when I see what some children must withstand from the hands and minds of sick individuals who prey on them.

As a church family we must do everything we can to make sure that our kids have what they need to make their church experience a good one. We need to work hard to provide them with the tools they will need for life. In partnership with their parents and others who love them, we must work to make our community in particular and society in general places in which they can live safely. This is our calling as Christians and our hope for the future.

Please join me in this quest for children's safety. Share your ideas about things we can do to accomplish our goal. Volunteer here at church and in your community to be a positive role model for a child. Share your faith in God with them. Encourage them. As First Lady Laura Bush says, "Just be there," for them. And may God be with us all.

Sandra M. Reed



Volunteers Needed

Are you interested in doing mission work right here in Maine? If you can't take a week to travel and work in Honduras next year, but you feel there is plenty of good work we can do

right here in our own backyard, then join us on Saturday July 28 for a one day work mission in Washington County.

The Outreach board is organizing a work day through the Maine Seacoast Mission to labor in Cherryfield. Tentatively we will be helping to put new siding on the home of a family who can really use our help. We are looking for 8-10 volunteers only so please contact Scott Hammond or Alice Hobbs as soon as possible if you would like to help.

This is a great opportunity to do some direct outreach in our local community. Your neighbors can use your help. Thanks.

Looking for a Tutor

Sandra Reed is looking for a tutor to work with her granddaughter on her math skills. We need someone for the month of July to help Shannen, who is going into eighth grade, brush up on math. A schedule and a rate of pay could be easily determined. If you are interested and qualified, please contact Sandra at 460-9300. Thanks for your help.

Special Thanks

Many thanks to Jim and Matthew Lambert, who recently did some electrical work at the parsonage and also to Scott Riddell, who went out of his way to remove some debris from the parsonage basement and help Sandra with some heavy lifting. Scott is also responsible for the new plantings and sprucing up of the church grounds. When you see these guys, please thank them for sharing their talents on behalf of their church.

Grateful Appreciation

Kudos... to the Adult Choir, the Alleluia Choir and the Cherub Choir, all of whom have enhanced our worship this past year. As they take a well deserved break over the summer, we will miss them and look forward to their music when they return in September. Special thanks also to Kimberly Haller and Doug McMinimy for their leadership of these fine musical groups. God has certainly blessed our church with wonderful music.

Holy Baptism

Abigail Sage Linforth, daughter
of Tony and Jennifer Linforth.



Melissa A. Smith
and Michael S.

Towle June 23, 2007

Choir Notes



Thank you to all our dedicated choir members. . .and thank you for your willingness to try pieces in a greater variety of styles each year. It is delightful working with you and you continue to "wow" me with your sound and musical abilities.

A special thanks goes to Ginny Blaney who was our guest (resident?) percussionist for our final anthem before summer adjournment--she played the shaker for an African piece entitled "Hem of Your Robe" and didn't even seem to get tired!

The wonderful people who have been a part of the Adult Choir this year are:

Margaret Blake
Ben Blaney
Ginny Blaney
Mary Drury
Bill Fuller
Debby Hammond
Kathy Kief
Ann Lee, Doug Lee
Doug McMinimy
Sandi Myers
Tony St. Denis
Yvonne Tabb
May Vinette

To the Alleluia Choir--you energize me and give me great hope for the future! You truly are a Candle of Hope. Many thanks to each one of you and to my valued colleague Doug McMinimy. You rock! The members of the Alleluia Choir are:

Alexa Bonsey
Kendra Bonsey
Bryce DiMauro
Kirstin DiMauro
Pierce DiMauro
Gabrielle Link
Caroline McMinimy
Rachael McMinimy
Nathaniel Olson
Annie Painter
Maggie Painter
Hannah Paradis
Hunter Riddell
Caitie Smith
Haleigh Smith
Nathan Vonder Haar
Rhiannon Vonder Haar

For the past few months, the Alleluia Choir has had the pleasure of singing an Introit composed by Bill Fuller. Thank you Bill for such a wonderful gift to the Alleluia Choir and the entire church.

I'm hopeful that we will have a late-Summer Festival in lieu of the Spring Festival we were unable to hold this year. I'll get the news to you in next month's Chimes. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Faithfully yours,

Kimberly Haller



We hope you enjoy Maggie Painter's "My Secret Wood" - especially her talented writing skills, reaction to "bad news," and hope that she can "make the world better."

My Secret Wood

My first memory of the beautiful wood was the somewhat prickly gateway into it. The two bushes rose up out of the moist ground and had the slightest curve toward each other. This was the door to the "new world" as I called it.

In the fall, when school started, there wasn't a lot to do. I went to swim team, gymnastics and such. But besides that, I couldn't seem to be entertained. That's when I found the door.

It was a chilly, late fall day. I was outside on the front steps to my house, quivering slightly against the cold. The colored leaves littered the ground where my old sneakers lay on the dark gray stones. The wind whispered through the branches of the trees around my street. A car drove past, sending the settled leaves in all directions. I felt a hard north wind blow cruelly on my face. Winter was sure to drop its first handful of snow on Bar Harbor soon.

I was now too cold to sit still for any longer. I stood and stamped my almost numb feet together to keep my circulation going in my legs. I walked briskly around the yard to keep warm. I happened to glance over at the hotel next to our house. It looked cold and rigid as it survived the bitter winds. It had closed up for the winter weeks ago. The place was now deserted. Many tourists loved chatting outside of these hotel rooms while their children ran around the small wooded area near the inn during the late spring and summer. Often these keep me awake all night long. But I'm bound to get used to it. Anyway spring was a while off. For now the hotel is cold and silent.

I started to walk back in the direction of home when I decided that I wanted to look around the small wooded area near the inn. I'd seen so many children play there. I was to explore it alone. I could have the whole place to myself because no one was there. So I ducked through the small overhanging of the two bushes, just for the fun of it, and came into the small opening where several trees were scattered around. I paced silently in, and as I did so, my eyes were gazing up with awe at the peaks of the beautiful trees, where there was not a leaf to be seen. The drops of color had already fallen to the frostbitten ground. There was something mysterious about the way the trees looked down on me with piercing gazes from above. They had the looks of proud, solemn, stone statues. For I was standing in their courtyard.

I then began to study the place. I came to a tiny house built into the ground against the root of a tree. It was made of small twigs and sticks. I adored the craftsmanship. For it had not blown over during all the winds that had gotten stronger as the winter came closer. I then recognized this hut as a fairy house. My mom had read to me a book called "Fairy Houses." And this fairy house almost looked exactly as the book described, made purely out of sticks. I also figured that most likely this had been constructed by a child who had stayed at the hotel that past year.

I found so many other things as well, such as a small canopy shelter that was big enough for me to stand in near the sidewalk. The leaves on the floor of my hut gave soft padding to my steps. This was also used as storage place that I kept things that were found interesting to my eye, such as a funny looking stick or a useful rock that might be used later.

I was in that wood all winter and most of the fall. Now spring is here. This season brought bad news. One was that I can't play in it anymore because of the hotel's reopening. And two, worst of all, someone decided that they are tearing that beautiful place down along with my secret wood. I cried all day once I knew of the news. But there is still hope!

Over time I have been to other great places that take your breath away because of the beauty. But there hasn't been one place more beautiful than Bar Harbor or my secret wood.

I've seen the wood in the four seasons, each more beautiful than the next. In winter the trees are draped with blankets of snow, and it sparkles in the light of a new day. In the spring new leaves sprout and sweet-smelling flowers fill your nose with a magnificent scent. In the summer it is hot and humid, and the drapes of leaves shade me from the hot sun. And in the fall I frolic in the bright-colored leaves. Overall, all of the seasons are beautiful, each in their own different way.

There is something about the wood that changes me from the moment I enter, to the moment I leave. One of the emotions I feel is hope. I feel hope for world peace, hope for a big change in life. A change that will make the world better. A change that even I can make, maybe someday. Everyone should have a secret wood and hope. Hope to change the world.

Hope and my wood, they will always be great memories that I will keep with me the rest of my life.

Maggie Painter

Daughter of Mary Dudzik and David Painter

Source: *Mount Desert Islander*



Visions Becoming Reality

"We always have a vision of something before it actually becomes real to us. When we realize that the vision is real, but is not yet

real in us, Satan comes to us with his temptations, and we are inclined to say that there is no point in even trying to continue. Instead of the vision becoming real to us, we have entered into a valley of humiliation."

"God gives us a vision, and then He takes us down to the valley to batter us into the shape of that vision. It is in the valley that so many of us give up and faint. Every God given vision will become real if we will only have patience. Just think of the enormous amount of free time God has! He is never in a hurry. Yet we are always in such a frantic hurry. While still in the light of the glory of the vision, we go right out to do things, but the vision is not yet real in us. God has to take us into the valley and put us through fires and floods to batter us into shape, until we get to the point where He can trust with the reality of the vision. Ever since God gave us the vision, He has been at work. He is getting us into the shape of the goal He has for us, and yet over and over again we try to escape from the Sculptor's hand in an effort to batter ourselves into the shape of our own goal.

The vision that God gives is not some unattainable castle in the sky, but a vision of what God wants you to be down here. Allow the Potter to put you on His wheel and whirl you around as He desires. Then as surely as God is God, and you are you, you will turn out as an exact likeness of the vision. But don't lose heart in the process. If you have ever had a vision from God, you may try as you will to be satisfied on a lower lever, but God will never allow it.

"My Utmost for His Highest." Oswald Chambers

Christian Education

Sunday School/God's Garden Club

We have had a busy and successful year for our Sunday School! Though Sunday School is over for the year, we have God's Garden Club every Sunday Morning during church and many other activities planned for the coming months ahead. Please stay tuned for times and dates of events that are now being planned.

Two Six foot long submarine sandwiches graced the walk of the Village Green, Sunday, June 10th for the Sunday School end of the year Celebration. The park was filled with laughter and smiles from our precious youngsters as they ate and played games. The celebration concluded with a human chain snaking through the park and back to the church. This was a great success and a wonderful way to end the Sunday School year. Thank you to all who helped make this morning and the Sunday School year a huge success!

Confirmation

Five energetic and thoughtful youths will be confirmed on June 24th during the church service. Those who will be confirmed are Alexa Bonsey, Rhiannon Vonder Haar, Caitie Smith, Rachael McMinimy, and Hannah Boyce. They have spent the year studying and preparing for this special day in their lives. We are proud of all of them, offer them our congratulations, and wish them all a long and happy journey in their faith.

Vacation Bible Camp

Let it Shine! July 29th through August 2nd, 5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. A light supper will be served. VBC is open to anyone age 3 - 8th grade. We will have Bible lessons, skits, craft, songs and more! Come Join the Fun and Let Your Light Shine! See you there.

3rd - 5th grade Youth Group

This year we had the 3rd_5t grade Youth Group which met every other Thursday after school. We made blankets for those in nursing homes,

planned skits for the Spring Fling, made truffles and boxes that were sold for Valentines Day, went on nature walks and had many wonderful discussions during our time together. We will be continuing again in the fall.

Jr. High Youth Group

The Jr. High Youth Group has many plans and ideas of activities and projects that they would like to do - finding time to do them is another issue, but we have fun. We have gone out in the early morning hours to take pictures, had a craft night and made truffles and painted boxes to sell for Valentines Day. We will start meeting again in the fall.

Senior High Youth Group

For the Senior High Youth Group, we are planning on meeting once a month for different activities. In the planning stages are: a day at the lake with boating and swimming in July, a trek up Mt. Katadin in August and an Adventure Day at Camp Beech Cliff in September. Stay tuned for times and dates of these upcoming events.

Camping Weekend by the Ocean

Also, in the works is a church wide camping weekend by the ocean. This will take place in September. FUN FOR EVERYONE!! Think of the early morning smells of coffee, bacon and eggs being cooked over a campfire.. .sitting around the campfire in the evening, singing songs and listening to the quiet of the evening, and sharing fun times with others in our church family. We hope you all come and join us for this great weekend! Dates and times are still to be determined.

God's Garden Club

Mary Swift is being called away for a few weeks this summer to help her family in upstate New York. She will be gone July 2nd - July 24th and again August 2nd - August 12th. Her mother needs constant care and she is giving her dad some much needed help. Kathy MacCulioch will be overseeing God's Garden Club during her absence. If you have any questions or concerns while Mary is away, please talk to Kathy or Debby Hammond

Mary Swift

Good Food News!

At the May meeting of the Outreach Board, we discussed the importance of our congregation's joining with other MDI churches and the Maine Council of Churches in supporting local farmers. The buying and eating of foods from organic, sustainable producers helps protect the environment, maintains good health, and contributes to the ability of local farmers to make a living. Some people believe that industrial farming, food processing and distribution may contribute to a host of health and environmental problems. Buying local is a good idea.

We are very fortunate to have locally grown organic produce, meats, and other food items available to us direct from local farmers and from farmers' markets. The opening of the new Bar Harbor Free Space Farmers' Market in the Reel Pizza parking lot on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM is an encouraging sign that our community is interested in promoting sustainable agriculture. The Beech Hill Farm in Somesville and the Sweet Pea Farm in Hulls Cove have been operating for some time, offering organic, locally grown products. New outlets this year include the Smith Family Farm on the Crooked Road and the Freedom Farm at Red Rock Corner in Town Hill. Once again this year, the Eden Farmers' Market will operate in the parking lot of the YMCA on Sundays, in Northeast Harbor on Thursdays, and in Southwest Harbor on Fridays. We encourage you to support these and other local farmers' markets in Hancock County.

Eating is such a sacramental experience for us. Eating good food makes the connections between and among us strong and healthy. We think this is something that we could incorporate into our church family as well. The scriptures clearly tell us that we are to regard our bodies as temples to be used for serving God. We need to do everything we can to stay healthy and fit. Good, fresh food is a big part of that responsibility. Wherever we do our food shopping, we need to be aware of what we are putting into our bodies. This is our holy duty.

Here are some ways in which we, as a church family, might get involved in this process:

1. If you are providing Coffee Hour, you might consider using fresh fruits and vegetables (with yummy dips!) from your own garden or from a local grower. How delicious would that be?

2. As a special treat from time to time, perhaps we might offer a festival of desserts made from a particular locally grown fruit: strawberries in July, blueberries in August, apples in September, etc. Doesn't that sound tasty?

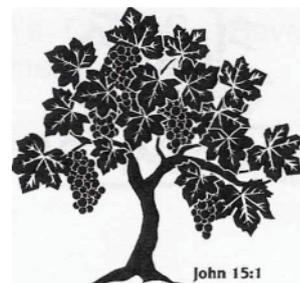
3. We could start a harvest table where folks could share their spare produce with fellow church people on Sundays. Any leftovers could be given to the local Food Pantry.

4. Our Annual Harvest Dinner could include dishes made with local organic foods either from our gardens or local farms.

5. Our Sunday School children could also be involved in a number of ways: they could take a trip to the Farmers' Market at the YMCA on Sunday morning and learn where food comes from; they might tour a local farm. They could also make a sign for our harvest table. There are lots of ways to involve the young people.

We are open to your suggestions in order to bring the sharing of healthy, fresh, locally grown foods into our church community. The Outreach Board members are Scott Hammond, Alice Hobbs, Barb Steele, Donna Beals, Kate St. Denis and Karen McFarland. Feel free to speak with any of us with your ideas and suggestions!

**"I am
the
true
wine
..."**



July 2007



3 Mary Cunningham
8 Jennifer Moulton Stonehouse
8 Fred McPheters
9 Rick Starbird
9 John Kelly
9 Ezra O'Connor
10 Rachael McMinimy
11 Joan Clement
12 Henry W. Brown
12 Joanne MacPherson
13 Judy Roberts
13 Tony St. Denis
14 MaryAnne Starbird
14 Kay Young
14 Donald Dyer
15 Nicholas MacCulioch
15 Charlotte Skiff
15 Robert Collier
15 Rachel Krautwald
17 Connie Shea
23 Wallace Reed
25 Earl Brechlin
25 James Lambert
25 Jesse Olson
30 Caitlin Ann MacPherson
31 Marianne DiMauro



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon - Norm Moulton
Assistant Deacon - Tim Beals

Liturgists

1: Debbie Dyer
8:
15: Margaret Blake
22: Bruce Blake
29: Marsha Fuller

Flowers

1: Yvonne Tabb and May Vinette
8: Mimi and Paul Dickson
15: The Beam Family
22: Fred and Marie McPheters
29: Richard and Arlanne Snodgrass

Coffee Hosts

1: Dave Lind
8: Strawberry Festival
15:
22:
29:

Lectionary -

1 2nd Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2,11-20
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

8 2nd Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6:1-16
Luke 10:1-11,16-20

15 Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

22 Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

29 Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-19
Luke 11:1-13

