



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:

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a description of a new Christian Education program we are offering this year for young people of middle-school age. You might be tempted to pass by the article, especially if you do not have children of that age. You might assume that our Christian Education programs do not apply to you. I would like to take this opportunity to convince you otherwise.

Yes, this is a new program that is directed, primarily, to young people of middle-school age. However, this program also has the potential to be important in the lives of others of our congregation.

When you read the article, you will see that Laurie Olson will be offering a course entitled, "The Case for Christ for Kids." I am very excited about the material contained in this course and I very much look forward to Laurie sharing her teaching abilities as well as her own deep faith commitment with these kids. However, there is another aspect to this course. At the same time and place (yet to be determined) I will also be offering a companion course for the parents of these kids and other adult folk who are interested in learning about what it means to be a Christian. The sessions for this course will most likely consist of a shared meal and then the children and adults will go their separate ways for the classes. This is the first time in my ministry that something like this has been attempted. I warmly welcome you to be a part of it all, young people and adults, as I think this can be an important step in our faith journeys.

I am seeing the young people's component of this course as a precursor to Confirmation Class. Working with Laurie will

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prepare them for what will be asked of them as they prepare for adult membership in the church. This course will offer information, history, Bible teachings, and a chance for the young people to express and explore their own ideas of faith against the backdrop of our historical faith. The adults' class will offer a great deal of the same material, but it will also give the adults the chance to grow with the young people in their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. All in all, this sounds like a wonderful new experience in the life of our church. I hope you will want to get involved.

Opportunities for adult Christian education have not been all that popular in our congregation. Everyone is busy and it is difficult to take time for any extra activities. While I understand that, I also believe that we are called upon to grow in our faith – not just as children but as adults as well. How many of us neglect our Christian education and leave it for Sunday mornings and the occasional family Bible reading? This new opportunity for our church gives all of us, young and old, a chance to grow in our commitment to Christ and to learn the foundations of the faith we practice. It just doesn't get any better than that. It is also a chance to spend some time with this group of young people and to get to know them as we all grow together. What a blessing that will be.

Read the article, if you will, and think about whether you are ready to really take your faith seriously. This may be a way to do that. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to talk with Laurie Olson or me. Either of us would be pleased to share whatever details you need. I am very excited about this. I hope you are too. Sandra M. Reed

The Case for:



Christ for Kids

Is Sunday School, or once a week church attendance enough to foster a lifelong faith as children enter adulthood? Not always, according to recent studies. Bombarded with so many choices and questions, young people often find their faith questions unanswered. Through *The Case for Christ for Kids* based on Lee Strobel's book (*see below*), we will offer our youth an opportunity to delve deeper into their faith.

What: (*taken from book*) Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, searches for credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God. He cross-examines a dozen experts with questions like: How reliable is the New Testament? Does evidence for Jesus exist outside the Bible? Is there any reason to believe the resurrection was an actual event? *The Case for Christ for Kids*, based on the adult book, brings Jesus to life, addressing the miracles, ministry, family, and way of life of Jesus through kid-friendly terms, humor, and illustrations.

Who: *Pilot Program:* Grades 5th and 6th (Might also include those in 4th grade whose parents feel they are ready for an in-depth study. This is a pilot program, which we hope to expand to other grades).

When: Early November – Early February (No class during Thanksgiving and Christmas Breaks)

One evening a week (*to be determined later*); 5:30 PM – 7:00PM. Will include light supper.

Why:

To build a foundation for faith in Christ through:

- 1) Trust in the Bible
- 2) Connections within the Old and New Testament for Christ
- 3) Archeological and historical records
- 4) Reasonable evidence
- 5) Biblical perspective

How:

- 1) Weekly at-home readings of *The Case for Christ for Kids*
- 2) Class activity/Discussion
- 3) Bible clues for supporting evidence
- 4) Cumulative projects (question and answer book; skit to present evidence)

Sessions covered include (chapter titles):

- Who Did This Guy Think He Was?
- Was Jesus Out of His Mind?
- Messiah: Did Jesus Fit the Picture?
- Don't Believe Everything You Read
- It's A Conspiracy!
- Coming Back From the Dead?
- A Body on the Cross?
- The Further Adventures of Jesus

Registration: Advance registration required. A small fee to cover materials may also be charged. A sign-up sheet, book copy for review, and curriculum outline packet will be available at church.

It is highly recommended that parents of children attending the course also read *The Case for Christ*. Dr. Reed will be offering a course for adults as well. Contact Laurie Olson at 288-9070 or Dr. Reed for more information.



Report from the Board of Trustees

In September, we all notice changes from the hectic pace of summer, and our lives settle into a more predictable routine. Committees of the church begin to meet regularly again and to focus more clearly on the work with which they're charged. As we move into fall, the Trustees look at where we are financially in our current year and start to think about next year's budget. For the current year, we are showing a larger deficit than we predicted at this point in time and that is certainly a concern. However, that is not what this report is about, but rather it is to celebrate the stewardship of our church community in terms of their donations of time.

These projects are too numerous to mention, some of them most members won't even notice, but those faithful contributions help make our church what it is. If we had to pay for all the services faithfully and regularly rendered, we would not be able to exist.

If we had a show of hands on a Sunday morning of those involved in some volunteer aspect of our church, the number of hands in the air would amaze

you. The most recent (and very recognizable) project was the Men's Ministry project to paint and make some much needed repairs at the parsonage.

A gift of a Saturday and maybe even part of a Sunday is a pretty big thing for those who have regular jobs and for the families who missed out on that limited weekend time with them. If you have children involved in Sunday School and think that project happens without a lot of time and effort, you'd be badly mistaken. If you enjoy the Christmas Fair, understand that doesn't happen without a substantial commitment of time and energy. Mission projects both locally and afar, those who serve on boards and committees, those who cook, those who plan, those who sing, those who put the newsletter and bulletins together – I could go on and on, but I did say in the beginning they were too numerous to mention.

So, while stewardship this time of year is usually focused on urging people to think about their commitment of financial support to the church and its ministry, the Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who give of their time and talents making our church what it is. Those many, many jobs done by volunteers, alone or in groups, are noticed and appreciated by more than you might imagine.

Thank you; thank you for your stewardship in the time and talent departments!

Anne Warner



Please plan to join us, along with your furry, scaly, feathered or otherwise outfitted pets, at the Annual Blessing of the Pets service on Sunday, October 14, 2007 at 3:00 PM in the church sanctuary. This annual family service has become a tradition at our church and we welcome pets of any size and shape (under the control of their pet parents, please!) to be blessed in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi.

If you feel that your pet is unable to come to the service, please let Sandra Reed know and she will make a house call. There should be no pet left behind when it comes to asking God's blessing on these precious family members.

If you do not have a pet, but wish to be a part of the service, please come! Everyone is welcome, whether a member of our church or not. If you have any questions, please call Sandra Reed at 460-9300.



PRAYER TEAM GROWING

Please Pray For: Our Prayer Team is growing, but there is still room for you to be a part of it. This group will be notified of prayer concerns within and beyond the confines of our congregation and will be asked to pray for those brought to their attention.

Any person is welcome to be a part of this team. Sandra can provide you with prayer materials if you feel you need a little extra help. This is one way you can serve your church without having to go to meetings or attend workshops. You can serve if you are very busy or if you are homebound. All we ask you to do is pray!

Please let Sandra know if you would like to sign on to be a part of the prayer team. Thanks.

From the Church Office

It's that time of year again – our Annual Meeting will be here before you know it. We'd like to have the church's annual report prepared in time for people to review it prior to the meeting. Therefore, it is essential that committee chairs submit their annual reports to the office **NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 14**. Thank you for your co-operation!

Costume Party!

We need helping hands and sewing machines! On the evening of Friday, October 19 we will be sewing simple costumes for our Christmas Pageant. The more hands we have, the more we can accomplish. If you can't sew, you can cut! If you can't cut, you can pin! We do need temporary use of borrowed sewing machines as well. Sign up sheet is in the parlor. Contact Laurie Olson, 288-9070; Mary Swift 288-2299.



Eleanor Murdoch
August 25, 2007



Sara and Alexandra
Heiges, Daughters of
Walter & Penny Heiges

Madeleine Langley,
Daughter of Kevin & Geneva Langley

Thank you to the Men's Ministry group for the painting and repair work that you did at the parsonage on September 15th. Your work is very much appreciated!

Sandra Reed

Christian Education

Family Camping and Rally Day

Fun and laughter rang through the night air as we all sat around the campfire singing, acting out skits, and joining in fellowship at our 1st annual, "Family Camping by the Ocean." Four families pitched tents and settled in to enjoy "God's Beautiful World" at Mt. Desert Campground for the weekend. Saturday was spent relaxing in conversation, canoeing and watching the younger generation catching crabs, bait bags, and buckets of seawater.

Saturday evening we were joined by others from the congregation for Vespers and singing. Sunday morning we all descended on the church for our Rally Day Breakfast and the start of our new Sunday School Year. I would like to offer a big thank you to the Beals family for letting us camp at Mt. Desert Campground and Debby Hammond for her idea and overseeing the event. Everyone had a great time and wants to make this an annual event!

Our Rally day Breakfast was a huge success! Pancakes, eggs, bacon and fruit was made and prepared by Anne Ross, Brad Haskell, Sandra Reed and Mary Swift. After breakfast we had Sunday School Registration, socializing and singing before we all went upstairs to church.

If you were unable to register your child for Sunday School, please see Mary Swift for your registration form. Thank You.

Youth Groups

3rd & 4th Grade Youth Group

The 3-4th Grade Youth meet at 3:30 the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. The youth explore and discuss problems encountered in everyday life, work on various community service projects for the elderly and crafts for fundraisers, and have fun! Contact Alicia Riddell or Mary Swift for more information.

5th & 6th Grade Youth Group

The 5th & 6th grade youth will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. This is a new youth group that is starting this year. Contact Mary Swift for more information

Jr. Youth Group

The Jr. High youth will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. Stay tuned for the meeting dates. Contact Mary Swift for more information

Sr. Youth Group

The Sr. Youth Group will be meeting throughout the year for special outings. The first outing is Adventure Camp, Sunday, October 7th in the afternoon. They will be going to Camp Beech Cliff for the ropes course and other outdoor activities. Please contact Ray Vonder Haar for more information.

NEED OF TEACHERS

We are still in need of three teachers for Sunday School! Each class has three teachers that work as a team for the duration of Sunday School. The teachers decide amongst themselves which Sundays they teach. This provides the children with a continuity of having the same teachers throughout the year. This also allows the teachers to attend church services through the entire year. If you would like to teach, or be a helper, please contact Mary Swift or Debby Hammond. Teaching our children about our faith is a great gift to share with others. Please seriously consider sharing your gifts and talents with our children. Thank you!

Mary Swift

Harvest Potluck

The Board of Christian Education and Mary Swift continue to develop really wonderful programs for us. Please see Mary's attractive flier that is enclosed.

Light



Frenchboro, Join Us Next Year in Sharing the Message of God

This past June, for the second year in a row, a group of seven from our church boarded the ferry in Bass Harbor and traveled to the beautiful harbor of Frenchboro. We hauled all of our materials for Vacation Bible Camp along with the food we would need to sustain us for this two night, three-day excursion. Although the sail takes less than an hour we all felt transported to a place far from our usual life in Bar Harbor.

When asked what the best thing about the trip was, Alexa, Rachel, Caitie and Rhiannon all responded, "the kids!" Most of them we had met a year ago but we continued to be astounded at how well they all get along together.

The older kids are always ready to help out the younger ones. Lance, who is a seventh grader, showed our girls around the picturesque island. Becky Lenfesty, the mother of three boys, was there for every session, took part in our skits, had us to her house for supper and made a delicious birthday cake for Alexa and Scott.

Once again Cindy Fox had written wonderful skits about the creation story, Jonah, and Paul that helped illuminate the familiar Bible stories. Our time was filled with great craft projects, spirited songs and fun games. We shared all these activities in hopes of imparting the message that God uses light to speak to us and calls each of us to be a light to others.

The seven of us felt blessed to have experienced the warmth of this community of people who call Frenchboro their home. We hope to return again next year and invite anyone interested to join us in this unique opportunity.

Debby Hammond

When Jesus said, "I am the light of the world,"

He spoke of the unseen power of God

Which would come to our spirits through Him,

Enabling us to do God's will.

The Bible suggests that we, too, can be light,

When we become channels of God's power,

To touch some area of human need.

God's plan for the activity of love

Is to share it with all of mankind.

Jeanne Birrell

Bar Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Purpose and Covenant

Article II: Purpose and Covenant

The purpose of this Church shall be to bind together followers of Jesus Christ to share in the worship of God and in making God's will dominant in the lives of men, women, youth and children as exemplified in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we covenant with the Lord and one another, and do bind ourselves in the presence of God to walk together in all God's ways as revealed to us in the blessed word of truth.

Source: BHCC Bylaws adopted June 2004

Bar Harbor Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
29 Mount Desert Street
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Non-Profit Organization
Bar Harbor, ME 04609
Permit Number 32

Special dates

- World Communion Sunday, October 7, 2007
- Columbus Day Observance, October 8, 2007
- Reformation Sunday, October 28, 2007
- Reformation Day, October 31, 2007



Many churches observe October as Pastor Appreciation Month. Given the reluctance of many pastors to call attention to themselves, it's not likely that they will mention anything about being appreciated.

Were someone to ask a pastor, however, what might be done to show appreciation to him or her, the answer would likely be, "Pray for me."

St. Paul never asked for anything for himself except that others pray for him. To the church at Rome, he wrote,



**With Love and Prayers,
We Thank You Pastors
Sandra Reed
and Dusty Warner
for Your Spiritual Inspiration,
Guidance, and Support.**

"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

Encourage your pastor by assuring him or her of your prayers and love.

October



- 1 Ann Lee
- 3 James Campbell
- 5 Kristie Rechholtz
- 5 Barbara Schanck
- 8 Thomas Hobbs
- 16 Charles Benore
- 16 Dorothy White
- 16 Boynton Stanley
- 16 Fred Olson
- 21 Evan Beals
- 22 Deborah Dyer
- 22 Robert Gray
- 24 Michael Bonsey
- 24 Kathryn Kief
- 25 Edwin Soule
- 27 Karl Haller
- 28 Ellen Reed
- 28 Eva Bonsey
- 29 Florence Ames
- 29 Caroline McMinimy
- 30 Sandi Myers



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Rita Johnston
Assistant Deacon – Dusty Warner

Liturgists-

- 7: Anne Warner
- 14: Dave Lind
- 21: Debbie Dyer
- 28: Ann Lee

Flowers –

- 7: Richard and Vernice Young
- 14: Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Spurling
- 21: Deborah Dyer / Beam Family
- 28: Kim and Tim O'Brien and
Mr. and Mrs. Edric Starbird

Coffee Hosts -

- 7:
- 14: Sue McKay and Linda Kelley
- 21: Judy and Bill Fuller
- 28: Pumpkin Festival

Lectionary -

- 7 Lamentations 1:1-6
Psalm 137
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10
- 14 Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19
- 21 Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalm 119:97-104
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8
- 28 Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14