



# THE CHIMES

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

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From the Senior Pastor

November 2007

October was even lovelier than usual, wasn't it? The days were, primarily, sunny and the nights cool enough to ensure good sleeping. Perfect, fall days. More than once I found myself looking for my favorite sweater to wrap around me on a chilly night as I sat at the computer or suffered through yet another Red Sox or Buffalo Bills game. I found myself being really grateful for the warmth I felt as a result of having some well organized lengths of yarn covering me, warming me, making me feel comforted and comfortable. What a blessing it is to be warm while autumn chill is in the air.

On one such occasion, my thoughts strayed to the beautiful prayer shawl that adorns one of the chairs in the pastors' office. It is a gorgeous shade of red, with flecks of orange, brown and black throughout. It was given to me by the members of the Acadia Shawl Ministry and I will forever be grateful to them for this wonderful example of their shared ministry of comfort and hope to those who need a bit of warmth in their lives. They didn't know it at the time they presented it to me, but that shawl warmed me through a diagnosis of lung cancer, subsequent surgery and a time of healing. The shawl was my constant companion in those days of questions, worry, fear and hope. The members of the group will never know how much their gift, handmade and heart-filled, meant to me.

The Acadia Shawl Ministry is still very much at work, creating shawls out of colorful yarn, adding their blessing and love to each one. I am the recipient of these shawls. They are not mine to keep, but mine to share, on

their behalf, with anyone who is in need of one. What a joy it has been for me to deliver these shawls: at hospital bedsides, in living rooms and bedrooms, once on a boat, several times at a nursing facility or rehabilitation center. These shawls have been received by many people, now nearly 200! These shawls have provided warmth during times of sickness, grief, sadness, loneliness and celebration. Each one has been received by a grateful person, deeply moved to know that a group of dedicated women remembered them in their particular situation. This is truly a blessed ministry among us.

I know there are many knitters and crocheters among the members and friends of our church. Yet, there is only a very small group of women who are actively members of the Acadia Shawl Ministry at the moment. Some of the women are members of our church. Others belong to other churches. Still others do not belong to a church, but see the importance of this ministry. This group meets faithfully every other week at the home of Jean Kief on Hancock Street. The members of the group have shared with me that there is always room for one more or several more. All that is needed is the desire to become part of something that is much bigger than the shawls they create. So, you don't know how to knit or crochet? They will teach you how! That is just how dedicated they are.

This ministry is part of an international movement that was begun by Susan Jorgensen and Susan Izard. Since its inception, groups have been started all over

the world for the purpose of bringing love, peace and comfort into the lives of those who are enduring difficult days. I am told there are more than thirty-eight million knitters in the United States alone – surely there are some of you reading this article now who are looking for something to get involved in that makes the world a better place, something that you can feel good about doing, well worth your time and talent.

If this ministry speaks to you, please let me know. I can make sure that you get acquainted with this wonderful group of knitters and purveyors of hope. I can assure you that you will be warmly welcomed. If you are at a point in your life where you do not feel comfortable or are unable to leave your home, we can see that you get the directions for creating these beautiful shawls. You can knit at home and someone will pick up the shawls when you are done.

Whether anyone new joins the group or not, I want the members of the Acadia Shawl Ministry to know that they have my gratitude both for the shawl that brought me through some troubled waters and for the joy and comfort they bring to others through their efforts. May God continue to bless you with nimble fingers and flying needles. Your ministry is most appreciated.

Sandra M. Reed

## **Veterans Day Service**

On Sunday, November 11 we will observe Veteran's Day with our annual service of thanksgiving and remembrance, led by Dusty Warner. Because Veteran's Day falls on a Sunday this year, the service will be held at 2:00 PM here at the church and will include prayers, hymns, and the recognition and remembrance of those who have given their lives in the service of our country. Please plan to join us for this special service.

## **Annual Healing Service**

On Sunday, November 25 we will hold our Annual Healing Service. The service will begin at 7:00 PM and will be held here at the

church. The service will include music, prayer, remembering those, including ourselves, who are sick, and an opportunity for anointing and the laying on of hands for any who desire this. Please plan to join us for an inspiring and uplifting evening. If you have any questions, please call Sandra Reed, who will conduct the service, at 460-9300.



October 5 - Wendell F. Price and  
Jennifer Lee Claxton

October 6 - Daniel Jon Peterson and  
Elizabeth Louise Palmer

October 20 - Abigail A. Reed and  
Richard A. Nickell

## **The Outreach Committee**

is looking for individuals who would be interested in being on the board of the Bar Harbor Food Pantry. You would be representing the Congregational Church but would not need to be on the Outreach Committee. The Pantry Board is made up of members from 6 different churches and also 5 members at-large from the community. Our church was one of the founding members. The Pantry board meets the second Tuesday of every month from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. They do not meet during June, July, or August unless it is for some emergency. The Bar Harbor Food Pantry serves all the communities on the Island. They usually serve an average of 400 people per month.

Please search your heart and see if this might be a very rewarding way that you can give back to the people of MDI. For any questions please call either Barb Steele at 288-5871 or Yvonne Tabb at 288-2329. Thanks for considering!!!!

## Celebrate Your Blessings With Gratitude



Thanksgiving, 1963 will always stick in my mind as one to remember. On Thanksgiving day, November 28, 1963, our country was in mourning. President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated only

six days prior and it was hard to get into a holiday spirit. I was thirteen years old and overwhelmed by the import of this tragic happening on the American scene. I didn't know anything about John F. Kennedy. I knew nothing of his politics. All I knew was that my safe, little, isolated world had come crashing down amidst the horror of knowing that no one was safe. Not even the President of the United States. Many of us lost our innocence regarding the world at this time.

As is the custom of the President of the United States, Mr. Kennedy had issued the annual Thanksgiving proclamation a few days before his death. Here is a quote from that proclamation:

**Over three centuries ago, our forefathers in Virginia and in Massachusetts, far from home in a lonely wilderness, set aside a time of thanksgiving. On the appointed day, they gave reverent thanks for their safety, for the health of their children, for the fertility of their fields, for the love which bound them together and for the faith which united them with their God.**

**So too when the colonies achieved their independence, our first President in the first year of his first administration proclaimed November 26, 1789 as "a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God" and called upon the people of the new republic to "beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions... to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue... and**

**generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best."**

**And so too, in the midst of America's tragic civil war, President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November 1863 as a day to renew our gratitude for America's "fruitful fields," for our "national strength and vigor," and for all our "singular deliverance and blessings."**

**Much time has passed since the first colonies came to rocky shores and dark forests of an unknown continent, much time since President Washington led a young people into the experience of nationhood, much time since President Lincoln saw the American nation through the ordeal of fraternal war – and in these years our population, our plenty and our power have all grown apace. Today we are a nation of nearly two hundred million souls, stretching from coast to coast, on into the Pacific and north toward the Arctic, a nation enjoying the fruits of an ever-expanding agriculture and industry and achieving standards of living unknown in previous history. We give our humble thanks for this.**

That year, although we were a nation burdened by gunshots we came together as a people to remember that we still had much for which to be grateful. Although I was not particularly religious at the time, I asked to say a prayer at our Thanksgiving table and was given permission to do so. That may have been the beginning of the dawning faith that was to guide my life. That year when despair was palpable, faith and courage were born anew. In the midst of it all, we still managed to be a grateful nation.

May our gratitude this year, some forty-four years later, fill our hearts. May we look deeply into our lives to see the manifold blessings abiding there. This Thanksgiving, may we give praise and thanks to God, who has brought us through to this time and place.

May your Thanksgiving table groan under the weight of your gratitude as you celebrate your blessings.

Sandra M. Reed



What a glorious autumn we are having. The leaves are blazing with color. We're enjoying the last beautiful days before we retreat into the long winter. Sunday School classes are going very well. We are still short three teachers. If you have any desire or inkling to help our children learn about Christianity and our relationship to God, please consider volunteering. The rewards are truly amazing.

### **Youth Groups**

There are several activities planned for the youth and Sunday school classes this November. On **Sunday, November 18th**, during Sunday School, each class will help sort food for the Thanksgiving Baskets.

### **3rd & 4th Graders**

**Friday, November 9th**, we are having a 3rd & 4th Grade fun night! All children who are in the 3rd & 4th grade are welcome to come and have a fun filled evening. We will be making our own pizzas, playing games and doing some craft activities.

### **5th & 6th Graders**

On **Friday November 16th**, the 5th & 6th graders will have their fun night. They too will be making their own pizza and playing games. Bring music, games and any other items that might be fun to do as a group.

### **Please Register**

Parents if you have not filled out a registration form for your child(ren), please see Mary Swift, or the classroom teacher, for the registration forms. Notices for events and special activities are sent out and we would like to include everyone.

### **Christmas Pageant**

This year the Sunday School is working with the choir to put on this year's Christmas Pageant. We will have a Saturday Rehearsal and perform the pageant after church the next day. Please plan on joining us for an event to remember.

### **Costume Sewing, Thank you Laurie Olson**

Last Friday night we had a costume sewing party to make costumes for the Christmas pageant. Laurie Olson put this evening together and it was very successful. Another evening of sewing is being planned, probably in November. Be on the lookout for the dates. We can use both sewers and cutters. Please plan on joining us. Thank you Laurie Olson for organizing this event.

Mary Swift

**DON'T FORGET THE**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

*After the service on November 4<sup>th</sup>!*

## **Annual Christmas Fair**

The Christmas Fair is coming, **Friday, December 7th from 10 am - 2 pm**. We will have a sneak preview of the fair on Thursday, December 6th, between 7 and 8 pm for working people who are unable to attend the fair on Friday.

There will be a planning meeting on November 6th at 7 pm. Come and help us put together a spectacular fair! We'll need donations for attic treasures, crafts, baked goods, cookies and candy. Lots of helpers are needed before and during the fair. We can find a place for everyone to participate! A sign-up poster will be going up in the parlor after our meeting.

## Christmas for Kids

*“Johnny wants a pair of skates;  
Suzie wants a sled;  
Nellie wants a picture book  
Yellow, blue and red;  
Now I think I’ll leave to you  
What to give the rest;  
Choose for me, dear Santa Clause,  
You will know the best.”*

Christmas is for all ages, but it is most magical for children. No child on our island needs to be disappointed on Christmas morning if we all participate in the Christmas for Kids Program. In return, our lives will be enriched with the joy of giving in the spirit of Christmas. Please help to make this program a success again this year with your generosity, your efforts to carefully wrap gifts, and by meeting imperative deadlines.

Christmas gift tags will be on the tree in the foyer of the church Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup>. Families and individuals are invited to take as many tags as they would like. Each tag has an identification number and a gift item for a particular child. Therefore, it is very important to securely fasten the gift tag on your wrapped gifts! Please leave gifts under the tree no later than Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Donations are gratefully accepted in lieu of shopping. Envelopes will be available as well as a box to deposit them in.

There will be a sign up list on the bulletin board for volunteers needed to sort, distribute, and shop for gifts. The Sunday school children will be a big help by making the tags for us to put on the tree.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen McFarland at 288-5760 or Alice Hobbs at 244-7830.

Thank you,  
Karen McFarland, Outreach Board

## Poinsettia Sale



Our poinsettia sale is on! These beautiful hardy plants come in a 7" pot and cost \$20.00. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or contact Sandy Boyce 288-1047, Billie Mitchell 288-3691, or the church office 288-3280. Please make checks payable to the church and put poinsettia in the memo portion of your check, at the time of your order.



Christ for Kids

### The Case for Christ for Kids (and Adults!)

**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. *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 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> and those in 4<sup>th</sup> grade whose parents feel they are ready for an in-depth study. Adult study at same time.

**When:** Monday evenings; 5:30 PM – 7:00PM. Will include light supper. November 5<sup>th</sup> – February 11 *(No class during Thanksgiving Week and Christmas Break)*

**Registration:** Advance registration is required. A small fee to cover materials will be charged. A sign-up sheet, a book copy for review, and the curriculum outline are available in the parlor.

## God's Assurance

My assurance is to be built upon God's assurance to me. God says, "I will never leave you," so that then I "may boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear'" (Hebrews 13:5-6). In other words, I will not be obsessed with apprehension. This does not mean that I will not be tempted to fear, but I will remember God's words of assurance. I will be full of courage, like a child who strives to reach the standard his father has set for him. The faith of many people begins to falter when apprehensions enter their thinking, and they forget the meaning of God's assurance—they forget to take a deep spiritual breath. The only way to remove the fear from our lives is to listen to God's assurance to us.

What are you fearing? Whatever it may be, you are not a coward about it—you are determined to face it, yet you still have a feeling of fear. When it seems that there is nothing and no one to help you, say to yourself, "But 'The Lord is my helper' this very moment, even in my present circumstance." Are you learning to listen to God before you speak, or are you saying things and then trying to make God's Word fit what you have said? Take hold of the Father's assurance, and then say with strong courage, "I will not fear." It does not matter what evil or wrong may be in our way, because "He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you....'"

Human frailty is another thing that gets between God's words of assurance and our own words and thoughts. When we realize how feeble we are in facing difficulties, the difficulties become like giants, we become

like grasshoppers, and God seems to be nonexistent. But remember God's assurance to us—"I will never...forsake you." Have we learned to sing after hearing God's keynote? Are we continually filled with enough courage to say, "The Lord is my helper," or are we yielding to fear?

Oswald Chamber's "My Utmost for His Highest"

## Thoughts for Veterans Day

Abraham Lincoln gave his second Inaugural Address on March 4, 1865, as the Civil War was raging. He said, "Fondly do we hope — fervently do we pray — that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away."

Lincoln's next paragraph is especially appropriate for Veterans Day:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan — to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."



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United Church of Christ  
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## Special dates

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2007
- World Community Day, Nov. 2, 2007
- **Annual Meeting, November 4, 2007**
- Daylight-Saving Time Ends,  
Sunday, November 4, 2007
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2007
- Bible Sunday, November 18, 2007
- National Bible Week, Nov. 18-25, 2007
- Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2007
- Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 25, 2007

## A prayer for Thanksgiving Day

*Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer and  
Eternal Companion, we come to you  
overwhelmed by the goodness you bestow on  
us without limits.*

*On this special day, we recall how you  
blessed our forefathers who came to this  
wonderful land seeking freedom to worship  
without restraint or hindrance.*

*We are immeasurably grateful for our  
heritage. We pray that our faith may be as  
fervent as the faith of those who left  
everything for a land strange to them and  
where they were strangers to the natives.*

*Therefore, we gather as grateful  
benefactors of your pilgrim servants who  
paid a costly price to glorify you and serve  
you faithfully. For them, we give you our*

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# November



## VETERANS DAY



deepest gratitude mindful of that first Thanksgiving meal shared by newcomers and natives. We gather around our tables as family and friends.

We come to you in love and great appreciation for your constant grace and gifts bestowed upon us. The abundant and beautiful food before us is the most lovely and present evidence.

Ever-giving and ever-loving God, we humbly thank you for all your benefits. We wish only one thing more. May we have the honor of your presence? Be our Guest that we may know that we have had fellowship with you and with one another.

In the name of your greatest gift to us, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Newsletter

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Tabitha Booher
- 5 Matthew Lambert
- 5 Susan Lynn Ackerman
- 5 Stephen Moulton
- 7 Cindy Fox
- 8 Carolyn Meader
- 10 Robert Cooper
- 12 Richard Fox
- 14 Owen Charles Kelly
- 19 BeeLou Horner
- 21 Eric Beals
- 21 Stephanie Kelley-Reece
- 21 Glenn MacPherson
- 22 Caroline Woodworth
- 25 Binky MacQuinn
- 26 Sara Heiges
- 27 Pat Linscott
- 27 Owen Craighead
- 29 Sarra Kane
- 30 Keith Miller
- 30 Betty Bryer



# Sunday Worship

## Contributors

**Head Deacon – Sheridan Steele**  
**Assistant Deacon – Mary Dudzik**

### **Liturgists-**

4: Yvonne Tabb  
11: Dusty Warner  
18: Lenny DeMuro  
25: Michael Bonsey

### **Flowers –**

4: Nancy and Jack Pelletier  
11: Anne and Dusty Warner  
18: George and Billy Mitchell  
25: James and Kathy MacLeod/  
Estelle Megquier

### **Coffee Hosts -**

4:  
11: Deb and Scott Hammond  
18: Jennifer Booher  
25: Dean and Betty Bryer

### **Bible Readings -**

4 Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
Psalm 119:137-144  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

11 Haggai 1:15b – 2:9  
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17  
Luke 20:27-38

18 Malachi 4:1-2a  
Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
Luke 21:5-19

25 Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Psalm 46  
Colossians 1:11-20  
Luke 23:33-43