

THE CHIMES

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

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From the Senior Pastor:

January 2008

As I contemplate the new year, a question keeps coming to mind: What difference will my faith make this year? While this question is directed to myself, I would also offer it as a mechanism for making plans for 2008 for all of us. In what ways will it matter that you are a person of faith during this coming year? How will your faith be manifested in your words and deeds? Will anyone notice that you are a Christian? In short, how will you serve your Savior this year?

As it turns out, this is not a simple question. Nor is it one that we can completely answer as we take our first footsteps into January, 2008. In reality, all we can do at this point is make our plan. How that plan unfolds will be known only on December 31st. Let us look at this question in several areas of our lives:

1. How will our faith affect our family life? Let's see.... I guess that means the way in which we treat our spouse, our children, our grandparents or any of the other various family members with whom we come in contact. This should be a no-brainer, but unfortunately our families are sometimes the ones who see our worst rather than our best sides. Emotions can run high: who can get us worked up any better than someone who knows us well? Families are often the people who get the brunt of our frustration, our hopelessness and our anger. Fortunately, our families can also be the recipients of our best love, cooperation, and joy. We all go through trying times, but our families deserve to be the ones who see our

faith at work every day. While it may be true that familiarity breeds contempt, it is also true that we are called to love and cherish those whom God has given us in the circle of family.

2. How will our faith affect our actions at work? We are called to be lights in a world too often filled with darkness. Jesus has told us to be as salt, adding a unique taste of faith to all we do. Let's face it: not everyone loves what they do for a living. That's a fact. However, it is in times of high challenge when our best and brightest light may shine for our Lord. The next time you are tempted to give a sarcastic answer to someone at work or engage in "water cooler gossip," remember that you are a child of God and called to a higher standard. Don't be a "holier than thou" Christian at work – instead, be a strong witness to the love and forgiveness that are yours through Jesus Christ.

3. How will our faith affect our performance at school? School is a tough place. We feel a need to be ourselves, and yet also to fit in. Peer pressure is amazingly difficult to ignore. We really don't want the other kids to think that we are somehow weird because we are Christians. I recommend being a "stealth Christian." What do you mean, Pastor, you might ask? What I mean is that rather than announcing that we are Christians through our words, we might live our Christian discipleship through our actions. We all know that actions speak louder than words and this is no exception. When your peers see that you

treat everyone with decency and respect, they will wonder what you are up to. When you refuse to take sides against the unpopular kids and, instead, let it be known that everyone has a chance with you, you will be noticed in a good way. School is, indeed, tough. Let it also be an opportunity to share your faith in a quiet, strong way.

Well, there are a few ways in which our faith can make a difference in 2008. I hope and pray for the strength to practice what I preach. May 2008 be a year of seeing beyond the surface of our lives into the depths of our faith.

Sandra M. Reed



"That's Earl"

It is always a pleasure to sneak a look at the headlines of the *Mount Desert Islander* at Hannaford, or open the *Islander* on Thursday to catch-up on MDI news, read the many excellent articles about people and events, and the level-headed editorials. For this reader, the paper has Maine character. That is, it has a down-to-earth, can-do, positive and friendly attitude, Management and staff work with rolled-up-sleeves and a no-nonsense approach to inform readers of weekly developments along with helpful articles that make our life on this beautiful island more enjoyable.

In fact, "The *Mount Desert Islander* was named the best small weekly newspaper in the country by the National Newspaper Association at its 121st annual convention ...Saturday, Sept. 29. General excellence awards were granted to daily and weekly newspapers in a variety of circulation classes during an awards ceremony and banquet. 'These papers are considered the best of the best,' said NNA contest chairman John D. Montgomery, Jr."

"The win was the fourth top honor for the *Islander* in a one-year period. The independently owned weekly also won first place general excellence awards from the Maine Press Association, in October of 2006, and the New England Press Association, in February of 2007. On Saturday, Oct. 13, the *Islander* once again was named Maine's best small weekly. The paper won a total of 18 MPA awards including citations for writing, editorials, photography, advertising and promotion."

There is more than one person behind this extraordinary achievement, but one person is the key to its success – Earl Brechlin. Earl, started the *Islander* as an independent weekly newspaper after serving as the Executive Editor of the *Bar Harbor Times*, and notes in a modest way: "This is a great honor, and we are excited that the work we do week in and week out to cover Mount Desert Island has been recognized as among the best in the nation.... "Credit for this award goes to everyone involved; not just the people who put the paper out each week but also to our advertisers who help make it happen and our readers who demand no less than the best. You all help keep us on our toes." "In making the first-place award the judges wrote, "Outstanding newspaper! Great headlines. Clean layout. Well done."

Earl notes, nonetheless, that his "love for his wife Roxie is his proudest achievement." They were married by Sandra in our church on August 3, 2002.

Here are a few of Earl's other accomplishments that you might not know:

- Photographs have appeared in *Newsweek*, *Down East*, *Runner's World*, *Chevy Outdoors*
- Maine Journalist of the Year, 1997
- Holder of more than 165 awards from the Maine Press
- Friends of Acadia Ridge Runner Award, 1998
- Registered Maine Guide

- Designed and built own energy efficient home
- Wrote 10 books, the latest of which is "Bygone Backwoods, A postcard tour of rustic New England," 225 pages, *Down East Books*

Other than the *Islander*, we know Earl for his outstanding service to our church including serving as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Our Pastor, Sandra Reed, notes:

"Earl Brechlin is a dedicated churchman. For the past several years he has served as the Chair of our Board of Trustees. His record of service in this role has been exemplary. Whatever the need, Earl finds a way to address it. If something needs repair, he is a very handy guy to have around. Whenever I have had questions or needed advice on a church matter, I could always count on Earl to have sound wisdom on the matter. When one couples all of that with a delightful sense of humor and a sparkle in the eye, that's Earl!"

We are extremely grateful to have Earl as a member of our community, our church, and for his leadership as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Quotations: National Newspaper Assoc.; Earl Brechlin;
Sandra Reed



Flower Committee

The Flower Committee would like to express our appreciation to those who gave altar flowers throughout 2007. We thank you for sharing the beautiful arrangements.

We often receive notes of appreciation, explaining how the flowers brightened a day, when we take your arrangements to a special person. We would also like to thank all of you who donated Easter Flowers and Poinsettias for Christmas. The sanctuary always looks so lovely with the flowers all around.

Billie Mitchell, Roxie Brechlin, Dottie Robins, Lynne Richardson, Nancy Pelletier and Sandy Boyce,

The Flower Committee also invites you to donate flowers for 2008. We are contacting donors from last year, but want to include everyone. If you would like to donate flowers during the coming year - contact a member, or Paul at the church office 288-3280.

Jan. & Feb. Billie Mitchell 288-3691
Mar. & Apr. Roxie Brechlin 288-4859
May & Jun Dottie Robins 288-3787
Jul. & Aug. Lynne Richardson 288-4030
Sept. & Oct. Kendra Duley 288-2587
Nov. & Dec. Sandy Boyce 288-1047

We order our flowers from Cottage Flowers. Two vases for \$46.00, or one vase for \$33.00.



Susan Basta Stanley
Corbin Olivia Stanley
Emma Suzanne Stanley
November 11, 2007



Lauren Margaret La Fleur
born December 6
Daughter of Jen and Norm
Granddaughter of
Bruce and Margaret Blake



To Dr. Llewellyn Cooper and family on the death of his son, Dr. Thomas L. Cooper

To Kendra Duley and family on the death of her father, Kirtley Calvert

Christian Education

Happy New Year! May peace and love be with you throughout the New Year.

The Christmas season was truly wonderful, our church family and friends warmed hearts and brought Christmas to life this year. Thank you all for helping our children enjoy a truly magical Christmas. The memories made will be treasured for a lifetime.

This year we had to cancel our musical/pageant play on December 16th, due to snow! However, the plan is to reschedule in early January. The Children worked hard learning and preparing for this event, we would like to have them perform it for the congregation. Look for pageant date in the bulletin. We are hoping to have it in early January.

Our annual fundraiser this year will be THE S-O-U-P-E-R BOWL. This is a national event to raise money on Super Bowl Sunday for a food pantry of our choice. Everyone is asked to bring a dollar for the hat and a can of food. We have a goal of raising \$1000 and 500 cans of food. The food and money will go to the Bar Harbor Food Pantry.

Our traditional Rock-a-thon will be geared toward community service activities: making Valentine cards for shut-ins, making treats for our four legged friends at the humane society and having fun. We are still planning on an overnight that night. Parents--we will need lots of volunteers for this event. Plan on joining in the fun!

On January 6th we will be having our annual Birthday Sunday during coffee hour. We will have a cake or cupcakes for each month of the year. This is when we celebrate everyone's birthday in the church! Have a wonderful New Year!

Mary Swift

No Excuses

Thank you, Lord, for the New Year and all of the prospects it offers. I pretty well know what you wish for the world, but what do you have in mind for me?

All right, I get it. I need to stop making excuses. I'm good at it, am I not? I'm at least as good as Moses when he tried to get out of going to Egypt to lead his people to the Promised Land. I have dodged serving the homeless or teaching a class at the church. And yes, I have claimed I was too busy to really study the Bible or too old to work with the youth or too strapped to be more generous in my giving.

I could go on but you know full well that I'm in spiritual trouble. I need to get right with you.

To do so, I have to ask a favor. I want to ask you for [strength to not make excuses.] When I tell you I can't do what you want me to do, then give me a guilty conscience and make me restless until I repent and recant of my excuses. May all of my excuses perish permanently so that I am totally surrendered to you. In Christ's name. Amen.

Everyone benefits

Everyone can benefit from Sunday school. Who wouldn't benefit from a time of fellowship and Bible study where people of all ages are taught on their level about God's word? Sunday school is an outreach to the church membership, and it can also be an outreach to the community. How about inviting your neighbors and coworkers to your Sunday school class to hear God's word? You'll be glad you did.

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

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Special dates:

- **New Year's Day, January 1, 2008**
- **Epiphany, January 6, 2008**
- **Baptism of the Lord, January 13, 2008**
- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2008**
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 21, 2008**



Epiphany of the Lord

The word epiphany comes from the Greek word epiphaneia, which means appearance or manifestation. It is an important word for liturgical churches. Epiphany is observed annually on January 6. It refers to the wise men, who were the first Gentiles to see the manifestation of God's appearance in the baby Jesus.

In the early church, January 6 was a day for baptism. The central significance of Epiphany is that Christ came as the Light of the World, not just for the Jews but for Gentiles as well. Christ's light is for all.

In France, to celebrate Epiphany, children from Christian homes often put oats in their shoes on the evening before January 6. The oats are for the camels of the "Wise Men." When they awake the next morning, the children hope to find the oats gone and gifts left in their shoes.

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Blessed New Year!

Count your blessings!

If you reduced the world's population down to 100 people, 57 (or 57 percent) would be Asians, 21 would be Europeans, 14 would be from the Western Hemisphere and eight from Africa.

Among those 100 people would be 52 females and 48 males. Seventy people would be nonwhite; 30 would be white. Seventy would be non-Christian; 30 would be Christian. Six people would possess 59 percent of the world's wealth, and those six would all be Americans.

Eighty people would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read and 50 would suffer malnutrition. Only one person would be college-educated, and only one person would have a computer.

If you have food to eat, clothes to wear and a place to sleep tonight, you are richer than 70 percent of the world's people. Furthermore, if you're alive at this time next week, you won't be among the one million people who died during that time.

Think about your blessings as you start a new year in this most favored and wonderful nation.

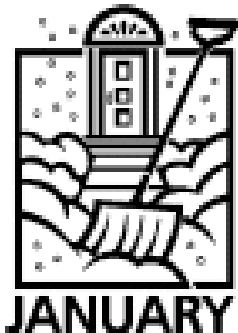
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January



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bob Breen
- 3 Barbara Hepburn
- 5 Jeff McCarthy
- 8 May Vinette
- 9 Ryan Kelly
- 10 Sarah St. Denis
- 10 Barbara Steele
- 10 Annie Painter
- 11 Dorothy Ames Robins
- 12 Michele Gurtler
- 12 Emily McCarthy
- 12 Olivia McCarthy
- 12 Tyler Wood
- 12 Noah Lambert
- 18 Andy Shea
- 21 Karen McFarland
- 23 Gordon Valleau
- 24 Cecil Sprague
- 29 Robert Malaney
- 29 Timothy Beals
- 29 Angela Haskell
- 30 Judith Burns
- 31 Abbie Reed Nickels



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – John Kelly
Assistant Deacon – Sheridan Steele

Liturgists-

- 6: Doug Lee
- 13: Betty Bryer
- 20: Rita Johnston
- 27: Kathy Woodside

Flowers –

- 6: Esther Testa
- 13: Ruth Rossi
- 20: Rita Johnston & Lenny DeMuro
- 27: Lois Wade

Coffee Hosts -

- 6: Birthday party – Tom and Alice Hobbs
- 13: Joanne Robbins
- 20: Brenda Hall and Stephen Sprague
- 27: Laurie Riddell, Tim Smith, Caitie and Haleigh

Bible Readings -

- 6 Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12
- 13 Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:3-17
- 20 Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
- 27 Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1,4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23