



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:

September 2008

The clergy of the United Church of Christ were asked to preach on the subject of racism at their May 18, 2008 worship services and we were asked to begin a sacred conversation on racism. As I was away on sabbatical at that time, that did not happen at our church. However, I made a note to myself to deal with this subject at a future date. I have decided to address this in a small way in my pastoral letter this month. That, of course, gives me the advantage of having had several months to think about this important topic.

While I was thinking about racism, I received an email from a researcher who was doing some work around the areas of identity politics and the reactive conclusions that are drawn, assigning monolithic characteristics to certain groups. He asked me to define racism. Here is what I sent back to him:

As I think about racism, I know that any person is capable of participating in it. Racism occurs when anyone overlooks, disregards, ignores, devalues, or otherwise refuses to recognize the humanity of another person because of his/her race. I have seen examples of racism in every corner of the human spectrum. Racism is something we are not born with, but we may learn depending on our life's circumstances and the attitudes of those surrounding us as we grow and mature. I subscribe to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s statement that men (and women) should be judged on the content of their character, not the color of their skin. When I look at a person, I strive to see someone whom God created. Am I a racist? I

don't know. I don't think so, although some accuse me of that just because of the color of my skin. I guess that makes them a racist, too, doesn't it?

Everyone has a physical aspect and, I admit, this cannot be ignored if we are to authentically welcome people into our lives, but this aspect should not be the basis on which we make our decisions about that person and our relationship with him or her. If we are ever to have hope of really learning how to share the world, racism is something we need to overcome. In my opinion, many people have been able to do this. We can continue to go further.

As I read these words again from a safe distance of two or three months, I am struck by how simplistic my answer was and how complicated our dealings with racism and other "isms" are. I agreed strongly with the Rev. Deborah Hepburn, in her sermon to a Brecknock Township United Church of Christ in Pennsylvania. Ms. Hepburn had been invited by the pastor to preach on racism at the church that Sunday. Here is a small, but important, part of her sermon:

The sacred conversation is not between you and me, but between the divine one and us.

For me that is the essence of how we, as Christians, are to deal with racism and all the other divisions we erect between ourselves and others. We must always be in conversation with God if we are to attempt to live a life of righteousness. It all begins with

prayer, followed by action, followed by results. I cannot see that there is any hope for the future if our only conversations are between people who come from differing experiences and interpretations of the world. If our sacred conversations take place in the presence of God and we are able to hear God's wisdom and will, then we will have taken a major step toward healing the divisions of our society in particular and the world in general. If we can first admit that we are sinners, our conversations will be conducted in humility and respect. Sin is something we certainly all have in common but, thanks to our loving God through Jesus Christ, even the sins of our divisions may be conquered and redeemed. May it be so. Does anyone care to continue the conversation?

Sandra M. Reed

A Wee Bit o'Scotland on September 28

For the continuing celebration of our 125th anniversary, we will be holding a special worship service on September 28, 2008 at 10:00 AM at our church. Please plan to join us for our first Kirkin' o' the Tartans as we enjoy some of our Scottish heritage. If you do not have a wee bit of Scotland in you, please join us anyway – we promise to adopt you!

The Kirkin' o' the Tartans is basically North American as far as tradition goes; yet its origins are as deeply rooted in the love of Scottish history as the legend of *Braveheart* itself. In the year 563 AD St. Columba, having discovered the tiny isle of Iona in Scotland, had succeeded in converting the previously paganist Picts to Christianity. The resulting Church soon became a primal piece in the fabric of day-to-day Scottish life.

This special service will celebrate the tartans of Scotland and their importance as well as the deep and abiding religious flavor of this wonderful country. Since 1954 the Kirkin' o' the Tartans as conceived by Dr. Peter Marshall has been held at Washington D.C.'s historic National Cathedral. There are similar Kirkin' o' the Tartans services staged in

cathedrals all across the 50 states as well as Canada. Some of these are very formal, while others are more casual.

The heart of every Kirkin' o' the Tartans service is the Presentation of the Tartans of the Clan, Regiment and/or Region, a symbol of the rededication of Scotsfolk everywhere to the service of our Heavenly Father. Therefore, if you have a family or clan tartan or just a piece of tartan clothing, please plan to wear it that Sunday as a part of the festivities.

The marks of a Kirkin' o' the Tartans are singing, prayer, a message, preferably delivered by a person of Scottish heritage (fortunately we are in luck, as Dr. Reed's maternal grandparents came from Scotland!), music and fellowship. We have already engaged the services of a bagpiper, so we are well on our way.

If you would like to participate in the service or if you have questions about the service, please call Sandra at 460-9300 or Paul at 288-3280.

See you on September 28th!



Taking a Look at Our Mission

As we celebrate 125 years of ministry on Mount Desert Island, it is time to look at the mission and purpose of our church. In order to do this, there is a series of gatherings planned for the fall and winter which will need the support and participation of every member of our church family, young, old and in-between folks of all ages. During these sessions, we will look at where we have been, where we are and where we feel God is calling us to go. The result of these gatherings will be a new mission and purpose statement for our church.

This process is not one to be entered into lightly or half-heartedly, but with purpose and prayer. It is an opportunity to play a role in determining the course our church will take for the future. Everyone's opinion will count. All thoughts, dreams and hopes are welcome.

Our church family is a diverse group of

people who have some things in common: our faith in Jesus Christ, our desire to serve God, a need to worship, Christian compassion, and a sense of mission and outreach. How we do those things and the goals we seek will differ from person to person. This is the time to hear the voices from the pews, including the voices that are often silent.

I will be asking the Church Council to oversee this process and I invite all members of our church family to take part. Let's all help steer this ship that is the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. The process will begin in October 2008. Stay tuned for details.

Sandra M. Reed, Senior Pastor

Take Pride in Our Church Day



Please Join Us

On **Saturday, October 4th**, from **8:30 am to noon**, we welcome all to join us in us in fellowship and fun while sprucing-up the church grounds and preparing the church for winter.

We hope to trim bushes, paint the shed, move one or two fence posts, add insulation to the sanctuary ceiling, clean the rain gutters and window wells, pick-up the yard, and oh yes, have some fun.

Please help us to make our Take Pride in Our Church Day a success. Refreshments will be served. Call Paul, if you will, at 288-3280, and let him know that you will be coming to help.



*Stephen Sprague and
Brenda Hall, August 16,
2008*

*Cara Leone and Cody
Weisbach, August 23,
2008*

Trustee's Progress Report

On behalf of the Trustees, thanks for the unanimous vote approving the \$55,000 funding for the heating systems (parsonage & church) and parsonage repairs at the Congregational Meeting on July 27th.

This is a brief update of the activity since your authorization to do so. On Monday (7/28), the contractor ordered the materials. The chimneys have been lined in preparation of installing the new heating systems (parsonage & church).

The Reeds have sought refuge at their camp, while the action at the parsonage took place including the new bilco cellar door, insulation throughout the entire house, new porch, cellar support posts (existing brick column deteriorating) and the removal of the asbestos from the basement pipes. On Tuesday (8/19), 12 old radiators were removed in preparation for installing the new heating system on Thursday (8/21) and Friday (8/22). The schedule calls for the church's new heating system to be installed during the last week of August.

The contractor, following installation of the new heating system at the parsonage, will update electrical, repair the stains on the ceiling from old plumbing leaks, repair and paint wall and ceiling areas on first floor.

During the congregational meeting it was recommended that any one able and inclined to do so, might make a special gift towards this project. Your contributions will not increase the budgeted expenditure, but rather reduce the \$55,000 amount authorized to be withdrawn from our endowment account.

Special envelopes for this purpose are included with the Chimes. Please do not hesitate in discussing this subject with our Administrative Assistant, Paul Dickson.

Rodney Fox, Trustee Chair



*The family of Osborne
"Ozzie" Tinker*



Please lock-up When Leaving the Church

Too often, one or several of the exterior doors to the church are left unlocked. Sometimes it may be the fault of the door itself, but sometimes we just forget.

The closing devices for the two entry doors closest to the parking lot do not always close the doors tight enough for the lock to catch. The best way to be sure these doors are locked is to give them a push from the outside when leaving. The front door to the church, and the outside stair door which leads to the basement need to be checked as well. It is also important that windows in the parlor be locked.

Please remember to lock-up when leaving the church and addition. Thank you for your diligence in this matter.

Welcome the newborns!



Eliza Trufant Ruhlin, daughter of Jennifer and Reginald Ruhlin, born July 15, 2008. She is the granddaughter of Jill and Sheldon Goldthwait.

Will Murdoch Parker, son of Summer McKee Burrus and Alex Parker. He is the grandson of Jill and Sheldon Goldthwait.

Ava Elizabeth Gibson, daughter of Jennifer Spurling Gibson and Donald Gibson, brother of Dylan, born on August 13th, 2008. The proud grandparents are Leslie and Norma Spurling

Thank You!

Local and international musicians came together for a Benefit Concert for the Swan's Island Library on August 24, at our Church. **Kimberly Haller**, music teacher at the Swan's Island School and organist/music director here at the church, provided accompaniment at the piano for soprano **Sarah St. Denis**, trumpeters **Casandra Engstrom** and **Emma Stanley**, and violinist **Shona Fenion**. All

proceeds will help rebuild the Swan's Island Library, recently destroyed by fire.

Donations raised totaled \$1,208. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this wonderful concert, and especially Sandra who provided refreshments after the concert.

Faithfully yours, Kimberly Haller

The History of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church

Part 4 by: Historian Deborah Dyer Committee Work

The Bar Harbor Congregational church has had a great number of faithful members of various committees of the church. It starts with the Sewing Circle whose history reaches back to the early days of the Union Meeting House (recall that we have a quilt made by them that is stored at the Historical Society ca. 1900). They continued their good work until 1948 when they voted to disband after 67 years of service.

The Afternoon Auxiliary Circle organized in 1910 under the leadership of Mrs. Arno Cleaves continued until 2001 when they disbanded. The Evening Auxiliary followed after the church fire of 1942 and met at the YWCA. It was composed of ladies unable to meet in the afternoons. We are grateful that the Auxiliary now organizes the Christmas Fair each year.

The Woman's Missionary Society was another faithful group that was reorganized after the coming of Mrs. MacDonald, and for nearly thirty years it sought to make world-evangelism better known. In the church's past there was also a Sunshine Fund for deeds of mercy and kindness that was administered by the minister.

Proudly, the church has always had a youth focus and a large Sunday School Group. Our church has also sponsored Boy Scout groups and various groups of Girl Scouts. For several years there was a Men's Fellowship Group that helped around the church, which was active from 1953 to 1965, that later turned into the Men's Club. It is nice that this group has become active again.

There are other committees of the church including the Flower, Music, Trustees, Deacons, Christian Education, Pastor to Parish, and Nominating Committee. All members of these committees have served the church faithfully, and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The church has stood for over a century as a beacon in the Christian life of this community. Long may its light continue to shine in the cause of righteousness for God and our country.

Christian Education

For the first time in years, all of my sisters with their families were together in one place. In fact this was the first time ever that this particular group of people had ever been together, as there have been several new additions to the family. This reunion was exciting, and we had many laughs as we reminisced about our childhoods, retold family stories and caught up on the family news. Yet with all the fun and laughter, occasionally one could feel the stress and tension in the air, and a painful moment or two.

As I was driving home yesterday, my thoughts were filled with conversations that had taken place and questions that were asked. I realized that each of us, both young and old, was searching to find out and understand a little more about ourselves, our family, our life and our beliefs. Surrounding me was my family. In this family I learned about truth, simplicity and silence. This is the family that helped me become who I am. They gave me a strong foundation and guided me as I developed my values, morals and beliefs in life. I found it very hard to leave, finding one more thing to say, one last hug or kiss to give. As hard as it was to leave, I felt a new love and a deeper understanding for both my family and myself.

As I thought about how my immediate family has grown and extended through marriage and births, I also realized that this church and all of you are now a part of my family. Through sharing, retelling stories and catching up on family news, we are each in our own way helping each other to grow. We are a good family.

Upcoming Events for the Church Family

EVERYONE is invited and welcome!! Bring a friend or another family to join us!

Join us
for

Rally Day

"Come Alive for God!"

September 7th

8:45 a.m. Potluck Breakfast

Bring a dish to share!

C.E. Board will be serving Pancakes and Beverages

Sunday School Registration

Sunday School

The Beginning of a Wonderful New Year...



Weekend Camp Out

Mt. Desert Campground
September 12th -14th



Spend the weekend relaxing with friends and family by the ocean, toasting marshmallows around the crackling campfire and singing to the stars above.

Join us as we take time to enjoy God's beautiful world
And meet new friends from Frenchboro

If you are unable to spend the weekend camping,
You are welcome to join us Saturday evening at 5 p.m.



Potluck Barbeque
Campfire & Vespers
led by the Sr. Youth Group



Reservations need to be made!
Please R.S.V.P. by September 7th

Debby Hammond 288-8058 or Mary Swift 288-2299

Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun!

Youth Groups

This year we will be having two youth groups: a Jr. Youth Group 3rd-7th grade, and a Sr. Youth Group 8th – High School. For the first meeting of the month we will be doing a service project of some kind. This may be working in the food pantry, putting together Church World Service kits, working on a fundraiser or making cards for the shut-ins. Parents are welcome to join us in working on these projects.

Jr. Youth Group Begins - September 25th

The Jr. Youth Group will be meeting EVERY Thursday at 3:30-4:30. Students may take the school bus from Connors Emerson to the church. All students in the 3rd – 7th Grade are Welcome to join us at any time!

Sr. Youth Group

We will be meeting every week. At the moment we are considering meeting on either Sunday or Friday evenings. More information on this will be coming.

Curriculum

This year we have a new curriculum, 'Gather 'Round.' This seems like an exciting curriculum full of new ideas and time for reflection. Please feel free to take a look at our new curriculum.

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United Church of Christ
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Special dates

- Labor Day, September 1, 2008
- National Grandparents Day, September 7, 2008
- Patriot Day (remembrance of Sept. 11), September 11, 2008
- National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15, 2008
- First Day of Autumn, September 22, 2008

Celebrate Labor Day

Labor Day, first celebrated in 1882, provides a day of rest for working Americans, showing their importance to the country's well-being.

Christians see work as a gift and command from God. Adam was put in the Garden to "till it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15, NRSV). Even Jesus chose workers to help carry out his mission.

Rest is just as significant as work. God commanded us to rest one day each week (Exodus 20:10). The Sabbath is a time for worship, family activities, renewal and recuperation.

Labor Day is a reminder to be grateful for the creativity, ingenuity, minds and muscle power of countless workers — all gifts of God. That's worth setting aside a day to appreciate.



Patriot Day

On December 18, 2001, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day." It's a day to remember the more than 3,000 innocent lives lost on that September morning in 2001.

The resolution requests that each year the President issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities. Those activities include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence, and flying the American flag at half-staff.

In his 2003 proclamation President Bush said, "On that day, and in its aftermath, we saw the greatness of America in the bravery of victims; in the heroism of first responders who laid down their lives to save others; in the compassion of people who stepped forward to help those they had never met; and in the generosity of millions of Americans who enriched our country with acts of service and kindness."

Keep them all in your prayers this Patriot Day.

September



- 2 Gloria Gray
- 3 Rob Fry
- 3 Brian Booher
- 4 Jean Willis
- 4 Rita Johnston
- 6 Benjamin Blaney
- 7 Laurie Olson
- 12 Tracey McCarthy
- 13 Jacquelyn Johnson
- 15 Mimi Dickson
- 19 Lucas Wood
- 20 Olivia Stanley
- 22 Wanda Young
- 23 Anna Naggert
- 24 Kendra Bonsey
- 24 Hanna Boyce
- 25 Debra Hammond
- 26 Nathaniel Olsen
- 27 Jennifer Spurling Gibson
- 28 Kathy MacCulloch
- 28 Robert Haskell
- 30 Elijah O'Connor
- 30 Melissa Reed Young



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Fran Fry
Assistant Deacon – Scott Hammond

Liturgists-

7: Scott Hammond
14: Tony St. Denis
21: Mike Bonsey
28: Bruce Blake

Flowers –

7: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dyer
14: Penny Frost, Cindy and Jim Lambert
21: Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Soule
28: Robert Malaney, Michele and
Charlie Croan

Coffee Hosts -

7: Nancy Pelletier
14: Doug McMinimy and Susan Ackerman
21: Zucchini Festival
28: Ruth Rossi

Home Bible Readings

7 Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 18:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

14 Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

21 Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Phil 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

28 Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Phil 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32