



THE CHIMES

THE NEWS LETTER 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

October 2008

Since we are celebrating our 125th anniversary as a gathered church, we can be assured that for at least that long dedicated and faithful folks have been giving their time and energy to the mission and ministry of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. I can only begin to comprehend how many sermons have been preached, how many meetings have been attended, how many Sunday School classes have been taught, how many choir pieces have been offered, how many hymns have been sung, how many times Holy Communion has been offered, how many Baptisms have taken place, how many members and friends have been laid to rest, and how many hearts have been turned to Christ. It is an awesome and inspiring history, but, more importantly, it is a faithful history.

Now all of us are part of the history of this church. Some day, people who come after we have departed will look at what we contributed to the ministry of this church and realize that the torch has been passed to their hands. Years down the road, I wonder what our history will become.

For many years our church has had a mission statement, or a purpose statement, that puts in words what this church stands for and who we are as followers of Jesus Christ. This is the mission statement that presently exists:

The purpose of this church shall be to bind together followers of Jesus Christ to share in the worship of God, to walk together in all God's ways as revealed to us in the blessed word of truth.

From the research I have been able to do, this is the statement of purpose, with a few language modernizations, that has existed since the beginning days of this church. But churches grow and change. Even though our core beliefs may not alter with time, the ways in which we express them may take on new meaning. Now, one hundred and twenty-five years later, we may choose to express our mission and purpose in a different way, using language that more closely mirrors who we are as, together, we follow Christ.

Therefore, I will be inviting you to enter into a church-wide discussion about who we are, what we believe and where we are going as a community that serves Christ. I am hoping that this will be an effort of many voices, varying expressions and differing perspectives. It will take a long time to reach a point at which we are ready to compose a new mission statement, but I am hopeful that we will be up to the task. So, stay tuned for events and gatherings in which we will begin and continue the task of defining ourselves. When you are asked to participate, please say yes.

After all, a church belongs to Christ and serves all the people. It will be important to hear all of our voices. The end result will depend upon what we put into the process. Keep your eyes and ears open for the next step.

Sandra M. Reed

The Church Rebuilding By Church Historian Deborah Dyer

After the granite church burned in 1942, our congregation was offered and used the Unitarian Church on Ledgelawn Avenue for services.

A planning committee and later a building committee was organized. Several meetings were held about relocating the church when rebuilt. Charles Sampson offered his property, "Rockhurst", on Mount Desert Street for a small amount, but the majority wanted to rebuild on the same location.

A plan drawn by architect Arthur McFarland was adopted for the new church building. On October 1, 1950, the church voted to have A. B. & J. R. Hodgkins undertake the construction. The stone for the foundation and the paneling in the parlor came from the Scott cottage, then on lower Main Street. In order to build the ell for the parlor and office, the Kittridge property, on the site of our current grass area on Mount Desert Street, was purchased and paid for by an anonymous donor.

On Feb 8, 1961, during Rev. Mosley's term, the church voted to affiliate with the United Church of Christ.

In 1964, the Yeaton property on the corner adjoining the church was purchased.

In 1965, it was voted to solve the outside paint problem by applying vinyl siding to the building.

In the early 1970's under Rev. Booth, plans for a new addition were acted upon, and the firm of R. L. White of Hulls Cove was given the job.

In 1977 with joint effort with other churches worship services were started at the nursing homes and hospital.

In 1979, a new plan for Christian Education was adopted, called Integrated Christian Education, whereby children came to the church service before going to various classes.

The recent addition to our church building was completed in 2006, which added an elevator and a larger parlor and offices. It also added more classroom space downstairs. A big "thank-you" is due the building committee for "getting the show on the road". It would be impossible to list each donor, as in doing so some

might be inadvertently omitted due to unavailable records. We are grateful to all who contributed.

Throughout the years, members and friends have contributed generously to the support and maintenance of this church. Some have given their talents, some gave the sweat of their brows, and the presence of all has made possible the continuing witness of this building and congregation.

Our church has a wonderful history. "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.



Our Church's Mission

Please set aside the date of **October 19, 2008**. Why? Because your church needs your help. After many years, it is time for us to write a new mission statement that expresses our common ministry. Simply put, a mission statement declares the purpose of the church community.

This is not something a few people can do, nor is it a process that will happen overnight. It will probably take us about a year to finalize our statement and take part in all the events that will help us to do that faithfully and well. We will need the help of everyone – not just a few, not just the ones who always step forward, and not just the ones who have the most experience with our church. We want to hear everyone's voice so that when we are finished, our mission statement will truly be a reflection of our congregation.

There will be a series of events that will take place, probably one a month or so, to which you will all be invited. The first of these events will take place on Sunday, October 19 after church. We will begin with a pot luck luncheon, do a little singing, and then get down to the business of talking about what our church means to us. We hope you will come and be a part of this.

Watch you bulletins for announcements about this and other upcoming events. Make sure your voice is heard!



Shane Cole and Jayson Carpenter,
Saturday, September 13, 2008
at Thuya Gardens.

More Gratitude for Generosity in Recent Years

Deb Dyer has written some great pieces this summer reminding us of gifts given over the years by faithful members of our church. One of the most recent and maybe easily overlooked came from many of you – the beautiful addition to our church. Families gave both large and small (and remember the widow's mite, large is definitely a relative term!) to make this project happen. Now that the official campaign is coming to a close, Billie Mitchell is working on a beautiful book donated by Barbara Hepburn for placement in the narthex that lists each donor. However there are some gifts that deserve mention here.

Rick Starbird, Chairman of the Fundraising Committee, was charged early on to secure significant donations that would “kick start” the capital campaign and give it a solid foundation. His success is evident with the following substantial anchoring gifts:

Donald and Martha Hobbs, David Lind, Rick and Maryann Starbird, Dave and Kathy Woodside, James and Kathy MacLeod, Rod & Cindy Fox, Gerard and Jane Haraden, Diana Belcher in memory of Ben Belcher, Scott & Debbie Hammond, Tom and Barbara Schank, Mike and Diane Bonsey, Ron and Binky MacQuinn, Charles and Patty Benore, Deb Dyer, Doug McMinimy and Susan Ackerman, Esther Testa, Charles Marinke, Bruce and Margaret Blake, Mr and Mrs Lawrence Landess, and the Evening Auxiliary of our church.

Others who chose years ago to support the physical plant of the church with large gifts included Crystal Sprague and later Harvey and Kathryn Mitchell in memory of Hilda Hale. Each and every gift is included in the book of names, yours and mine, and any donations that might come in the future to help repay the debt to our endowment can easily be added.

While we enjoy the fruits of our dedication for years to come, let's take pride in the donations, both large and small, that made the project a reality. This is a great example of how a church united behind a goal can make wonderful and lasting contributions to the community.
Anne Warner

Neighbors in Need October 5, 2008

On October 5, we will receive the Neighbors in Need offering. Part of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. Through CCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace Advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC.

One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hock in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made on-line at any time at: www.ucc.org/nin.

Local Mission Day October 18

The Outreach Board has organized a day to assist members of the St. Francis Community at Mandala Farm near Toddy Pond in Orland, Maine. We'll help the community with splitting wood, fencing, composting and general clean up. A sign up sheet is located in the parlor at the church. For more information contact Donna Beals, Kate St. Denis, or Paula Moody.

Christian Education

Sunday School is up and going. We started off the year with Rally Day, "Come Alive for God". The children made pretzels that looked as if they could have been alive. While the pretzels were baking, the children were traced on large sheets of paper and then they decorated their pictures. They are hanging up in the hallway downstairs. Take a stroll through the downstairs and see our children's wonderful artwork.

This year's Teachers and Crew are Trisha Hammond, Sandy Boyce and Marianne DiMauro-Nursery; Kim Craighead, Laurie Olson and Diane Bonsey-Pre-k & Kindergarten; Michele Gurtler & Bethany Hanson-1st & 2nd Grade, Kathy MacCulloch and Connie Blaney-3rd & 4th Grade; Donna Beals and Leslyn Shea-5th Grade; Beth Paradis and Mike Bonsey-6th & 7th Grade, and Mimi Dickson-Sr. Youth. Ann Ross, Patsy Nishina and Laurie Wellman-Webster-helpers. Kathy Woodside, Jen Booher, Ray Vonder Haar- substitute teachers. Thank you all for sharing your love and gifts with the children of our church.

Harvest Potluck Dinner

October 25, 2008

5:30 - 8:00 P.M.

BYOP

Costumes Encouraged

*Good Friends
Pumpkin Painting*

Games Slime

*(Bring Your Own Pumpkin)
and
a dish to share*

Good Food

Come join in the fun!



Happy Halloween

On Halloween night while you are out trick or treating stop in at the church to warm up with some steaming hot chocolate. See you there!

October



- 1 Ann Lee
- 3 James Campbell
- 5 Kristie Rechholtz
- 5 Barbara Schanck
- 7 Rhiannon Vonder Haar
- 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
- 29 Eva Bonsey
- 29 Florence Ames
- 29 Caroline McMinimy
- 30 Sandi Myers
- 31 Carley Ross
- 31 Caitlin Ross



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Betty Bryer
Assistant Deacon – Rita Johnston

Liturgists-

5: Ray Vonder Haar
12: Wally Reed
19: Debbie Dyer
26: David Lind

Flowers –

5: Diana Bacon, Richard and Vernice Young
12: Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Spurling
19: Marjorie Beam and Greg and Crystal Dow
26: Tim and Kim O'Brien,
Edric and Maryanne Starbird

Coffee Hosts -

5: Dottie Robins and Florence Ames
12: Linda Kelley and Susan McKay
19: Apple Festival
26: Dean and Betty Bryer

Home Bible Readings

5 Exodus 20:1-4,7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46
12 Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14
19 Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1st Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22
26 Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1st Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

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Special dates

- **World Communion Sunday,
October 5, 2008**
- **Columbus Day Observance,
October 13, 2008**
- **Reformation Sunday,
October 26, 2008**
- **Reformation Day,
October 31, 2008**

A Volunteer's Prayer

I thank thee, Lord, as a volunteer:
For the chance to serve again this year;
To give of myself in some small way
To those not blessed as I each day.

My thanks for health of mind and soul
To aid me ever toward my goal;
For eyes to see the good in all,
A hand to extend before a fall.

For legs to go where the need is great
Learning to love — forgetting to hate;
For ears to hear and heart to care
When someone's cross is hard to bear.

A smile to show my affection true,
With energy plenty the task to do;
And all I ask, dear Lord, if I may,
Is to serve you better, day by day.

Wind Versus Sun

Aesop told the story about the Wind and the Sun, who were disputing which of them was stronger. After a while they saw a traveler hiking down the road.

"I see a way to decide who's strongest," said the Sun. "Whoever can make that traveler take off his coat the quickest will be the winner. You can even go first."

The Sun ducked behind a cloud, while the Wind began to blow mighty blasts of air at the traveler. But the harder the Wind blew, the closer the traveler pulled his cloak around himself. Finally, the Wind gave up in despair.

The Sun came out from behind the clouds and smiled down on the traveler. Feeling the gentle rays, the man soon found it too hot to walk with his cloak on. He felt so warm that he took off one garment after another, and then bathed in a nearby stream.

The Sun knew that warmth, friendliness and a gentle touch are always stronger than fury and force.