



# 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

January 2009

As the New Year begins, I am spending some time trying to understand just what it was that has happened during the past Christmas season. I am contemplating the great gift sent to us by God. I am trying to determine what that gift means for my life. And I invite you to do the same.

The following is a poem written by my friend and mentor, the Rev. Dr. G. Wayne Glick, who was the President of Bangor Theological Seminary when I was a student, Chaplain and then Dean of Students. I offer his work for your new year's journey.

## **It is Time Now**

**“It is time now.” Love’s own intensity,  
Its wisdom and its second power, Power  
(Though Wisdom, Power, and Love are unity  
Named Logos) whispers gently in this hour,  
Whispers, “*In carnis* is the only way.  
I must give up the glory, separate  
From Abba, go into Judean day,  
Hang up the guilt, and hanging, vitiating.”  
A million million devils howled in scorn,  
A million million angels hid their eyes,  
And every futile cell of matter stirred,  
The night the little Jesus boy was born,  
The night the shepherds shared the great  
surprise, And Mary nursed Immanuel,  
the Word.**

This poem is based on Philippians 2, which tells of Christ's humility and obedience to God. It was not necessary for Christ to become the Word Made Flesh, except that this is the way in which God's love chose to reach us, His disobedient people. To separate from the almighty Godhead, to become earthly and lowly, to suffer and die for our salvation calls for a response from us. This is clear and not, in my opinion, open to debate. Our response is the way in which we say thank you to God with our lives.

And therein lies the problem. You and I are not coerced by God to respond to His inestimable gift. We have been created with the dangerous liberty of free will. Not a dictator, God chooses to be loved by His creatures freely and without a sword dangling over our heads. Faith and devotion to God are purely voluntary. What was God thinking?

At the beginning of each new year it would be well for us to decide what our response to God's greatest gift will be. Our church stands ready to be our guide and support as we live out our choices. How will you decide? Your answer is your gift to God.

Sandra M. Reed

# My Decision: Honduras Mission Trip

In 2009, during February vacation, I, along with a group of several other people, will be traveling to Honduras to help out the community. I know that it is going to be a great experience, and I can't wait to go!

When I first agreed to go on the trip, I was excited just for the opportunity to travel somewhere out of the country. I have not done a lot of traveling, and I would really like to see different parts of the world. I thought it would be incredibly interesting to visit a different country, and to see how life was there. My father had gone on the trip two years ago, and he had sent many e-mails recounting the things that had happened throughout his trip. It sounded so cool, and everything was so different, that when I found out that there was going to be another trip, I jumped at the opportunity.

When I first decided to go on the trip, I was interested simply in traveling somewhere different, and I thought that what my dad had told us about his trip sounded interesting. But as time has drawn closer to when I will leave for Honduras, I have become aware of some other things draw me toward going.

I am eager to be immersed in the culture of the people in Honduras that we will be with, and I want to see the differences between their culture and my own back home. As this year has gone on, different cultures and their similarities to and differences from ours have really begun to interest me. Immersion into a different culture is the best way to learn about it, and going to Honduras will give me just that.

While on the trip, I will be able to spend a lot of time with the others traveling to Honduras. There are some whom I know well, and others whom I would really like to get to know better. I'm excited to go on the trip because I will be spending time with the people I know well, and I can form better relationships with everyone through our experiences.

I guess I look forward to not only helping the people in the Honduran community, but also building the community within our church. It's a little ironic that I think traveling hundreds and hundreds of miles away from our church will bring the group together. But I know that this experience will bring us all closer to one another, and that we can strengthen relationships within our church.

Yours in Christ, Alexa Bonsey



Chapel Chimers, a handchime choir for children ages 3 thru 1st grade, will rehearse at 9:30 AM on Sunday, January 4th and Sunday, January 11th. We will plan to participate in worship on Sunday, January 11th. Meet with Kathe Simons in the fellowship hall promptly at 9:30 AM.

If you have any questions, please phone Kathe at 244-3207. Come make music!

## Thank You!

Our annual Christmas Fair was a huge success. You all made it possible! We couldn't have done it without all of your help!

We would like to thank all of you who donated to attic treasures, the kids table, plants and crafts. To all the bakers who provided the pies, baked goods, cookies and candy. They all looked so yummy on our tables! Thank you to the many workers for contributing your time to the fair. The set up crew, pricing, displaying, working day of fair and the break down! What a great group you all were!

We've had so many great comments about our luncheon, how good the food was and all the fantastic pies. Thank you to our terrific kitchen crew! Thanks also, to Ron & Binky McQuinn for providing the crab meat and to Jim MacLeod for providing the soda.

The raffles were a huge success as always! Thank you to Roc Caivano Architects, Bar Harbor Savings & Loan, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, The First, Machias Savings Bank, Jane Haraden, Linda Kelley, Maryanne Starbird, Barbara Hepburn, SeaGlass Candles, Tim Smith, Les Spurling, Deborah Dyer, Bar Harbor Times, Mount Desert Islander, Paradis True Value, Bar Harbor Jam Company, Acadia Corporation, The Schooner Margaret Todd, Walkin' The Dog, Reel Pizza, Cadillac Mountain Sports, Sherman's Books & Stationary, Lynam Agency, DeMuro's Top of the Hill Restaurant, Poor Boy's Gourmet, Mainely Meat BBQ, The Congregation for contributions to our Newborn Baby, Spa and Super Bowl Baskets, Ruth Rossi, Kathy Solimano and Willis & Sons.

Thanks to you all we raised \$4,334.25 minus expenses of \$383.02, for a grand total of \$3,951.23.

## Special Thank You

The Flower Committee would like to express our appreciation to those of you who gave altar flowers throughout 2008. 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, Kendra Duley and Sandy Boyce.

## Flower Committee

The Flower Committee invites you to donate flowers. 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.	Alice Hobbs	244-7830
Mar. & Apr.	Roxie Brechlin	288-4859
May & Jun	Dottie Robins	288-3787
Jul. & Aug.	Nancy Pelletier	288-4036
Sept. & Oct.	Kendra Duley	288-2587
Nov. & Dec.	Sandy Boyce	288-1047

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

## A Reminder to Committee and Board Chairpeople and Members

Some of you may not be aware, but there is a filing cabinet in the closet off the Narthex, which we use as a 'mailbox' for the various committees in the church. The cabinet contains a file folder for each committee or board. Mail that comes into the church office, which is addressed to a particular committee goes into those file folders.

Please feel free to check the 'mail' for your committee at any time, and especially right before your committee has a meeting. Thanks!

Paul Dickson

## Christian Education

**Happy New Year!** We have had a wonderful year in our Christian Education programs. Both in Sunday School and other Events throughout the year. We seem to be growing closer together as a church family and providing opportunities to our children that are meaningful, challenging and exciting.

Our Sunday School is going strong with a new curriculum that is both meaningful and fun for the teachers and children. Our Advent Program in Sunday School combined the wonderful message of giving and sharing with exciting crafts for our children. **Thank you to all our teachers, helpers and others who have dedicated their time and talents to bring quality events to our children and youth.**

Our Advent program including the children going to church has been wonderful. Thank you Cindy Fox for planning and preparing this great opportunity to all of us both young and old. Having the children in church during Advent has brought us all closer together as one large family. Thank you all for helping our children feel welcome in church.

We have several special Events planned for the New Year. **On January 4th we will be having our Birthday Coffee hour after church.** Join us for this special coffee hour when we celebrate everyone's birthday with a cake (or cupcakes) for each month of the year.

**On February 1st we will have our 2nd annual Souper bowl Sunday.** The youth will be collecting \$1.00 and/or a can of soup for the Bar Harbor Food Pantry. The youth will be collecting the food before church and the money at the end of the church service. This is a great opportunity for our youth to join in with others across the country to raise money for local food pantries. Let us all join together and make this a successful fundraiser.

**May you all have a New Year filled with love, peace and joy! Mary Swift**

## What the New Year Offers

- A fresh start in the totality of our life.
- A chance to do good things for others, especially older members of our family.
- An opportunity to plan better for the future, including the use of our time, talent and possessions.
- A challenge to read helpful books about living according to God's plan.
- A chance to better control stress and anxiety in body and spirit.

Source: The Newsletter Newsletter

## 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

Source: The Newsletter Newsletter



## Thank You!

We are honored to have the many members and friends who lend a hand with Church Missions to help those in need.

Several who helped with the recent Church Fair and were the subjects of Earl Brechlin's camera are shown.



Source: Earl Brechlin with Thanks



## Yesterday

### Security From Yesterday

"God requires an account of what is past" (Ecclesiastes 3:15). At the end of the year we turn with eagerness to all that God has for the future, and yet anxiety is apt to arise when we remember our yesterdays. Our present enjoyment of God's grace tends to be lessened by the memory of yesterday's sins and blunders. But God is the God of our yesterdays, and He allows the memory of them to turn the past into a ministry of spiritual growth for our future. God reminds us of the past to protect us from a very shallow security in the present.

### Security for Tomorrow

"...the Lord will go before you...." This is a gracious revelation---that God will send His forces out where we have failed to do so. He will keep watch so that we will not be tripped up again by the same failures, as would undoubtedly happen if He were not our "rear guard." And God's hand reaches back to the past, settling all the claims against our conscience.

### Security for Today

"You shall not go out with haste...." As we go forth into the coming year, let it not be in the haste of impetuous, forgetful delight, nor with the quickness of impulsive thoughtlessness. But let us go out with the patient power of knowing that the God of Israel will go before us. Our yesterdays hold broken and irreversible things for us. It is true that we have lost opportunities that will never return, but God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future.

Let the past rest, but let it rest in the sweet embrace of Christ.

Leave the broken, irreversible past in His hands, and step out into the invincible future with Him.

"My Utmost for His Highest," Oswald Chambers

## A Heritage Hymn of Thanksgiving

O God of all, Who hears the prayers of every generation,  
Accept the thankfulness we feel for those who built our nation,  
For frontier path with oxen cart, for circuit rider station,  
For simple joy, for vision, for hope and inspiration.

We praise You for those saints of old who listened to Your call,  
Who weathered storm and sacrifice to serve both great and small.  
They left a legacy of love; a church that needs no wall —  
But takes your Gospel through the world and shares the Faith with all.

Walk city street and foreign shore with us,  
Your Church, today.  
Lift us to new horizons; show us Your Will,  
Your Way.  
Be in our thoughts, our hopes, our dreams, in all we do and say.  
Grant us Your benediction now, O Lord, our God, we pray. Amen.

Peggy Ferrell

# January



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Bob Breen
- 1 Mac Shea
- 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
- 23 Drew Shea
- 24 Cecil Sprague
- 25 Marie Coffron
- 29 Robert Malaney
- 29 Timothy Beals
- 29 Angela Haskell
- 30 Judith Burns
- 30 Graydon Webster
- 31 Abbie Reed Nickels



## Sunday Worship Contributors

**Head Deacon – John Kelly**  
**Assistant Deacon – Karl Haller**

### Liturgists-

- 4: Kathe Simons
- 11: David Lind
- 18: Rita Johnston or Lenny DeMuro
- 25: Doug Lee

### Flowers –

- 4: Esther Testa
- 11: Ruth Rossi
- 18: Rita Johnston and Lenny DeMuro
- 25: Lois Wade

### Coffee Hosts -

- 4: Christian Ed. Board
- 11: Betty and Dean Bryer
- 18: Laurie Riddell
- 25: Church Luncheon

### Bible Readings -

- 4 Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:1-18
- 11 Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11
- 18 I Samuel 3:1-20  
Psalm 139:1-6,13-18  
I Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51
- 25 Jonah 3:1-5,10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
I Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

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29 Mount Desert Street  
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## **Special dates**

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2009
- Epiphany, January 6, 2009
- Baptism of the Lord, January 11, 2009
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19, 2009
- Inauguration Day, January 20, 2009
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2009



## **Ways to Start Off the New Year**

According to historians, the celebration of the New Year is the oldest holiday. Ancient Babylonians first observed it in the spring about 4,000 years ago. In 153 B.C., the Roman Senate declared January 1 as New Year's Day.

The early church started to hold religious observances that coincided with pagan celebrations. Some denominations still mark Christ's circumcision on New Year's.

The tradition of making resolutions dates back to the Babylonians, who often promised to return borrowed farm equipment. Using a baby to symbolize rebirth and the new year dates back to the ancient Greeks and Egyptians.

Modern-day New Year's customs often focus on prosperity. In Spain, people eat 12 grapes at midnight, hoping to have 12 happy months to come. The Dutch eat donuts because another year has come full circle.

One of the best ways to start off the New Year is by spending time in prayer. Look back on God's many blessings during the completed year and ask for his guidance in the one to come. Also consider starting the tradition of praying for people around the world on New Year's Day.

