



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:

February 2009

Cancer (malignant neoplasm) is a class of diseases in which a group of cells display uncontrolled growth, invasion, and sometimes metastasis to other locations in the body via lymph or blood.

I got that definition from the online dictionary/encyclopedia, *Wikipedia*. Such a simple, straightforward definition for such a potentially devastating event in a person's life, the unalarming words represent an alarming reality for many people. Cancer can affect any person, even life still in the womb. Cancer can affect animals as well. Although many cures have come to the fore (thank you to the scientific researchers!) cancer is still a chronic or acute disease that touches many lives. It honors no boundaries and recognizes no exceptions. Cancer has probably affected most of the lives of the people who are reading this newsletter.

The Bar Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ has most certainly not received a pass on cancer. Right now we have several members and friends who are fighting their own battles and many others have family members who have been afflicted by cancer. We are all too familiar with prayer concerns for those who have been diagnosed with cancer and are receiving treatment. We have had our share of survivors and we have lost some very dear friends to this formidable enemy. I have watched and waited with many of our church family who have courageously faced this unwanted intrusion into their lives. I have been moved by the grace and faith in which our friends have moved through difficult days, sleepless nights and debilitating treatments. I have grieved with you when you were diagnosed, watched with you as your hair fell out, and prayed with you as your strength ebbed and flowed. You have been an inspiration to me and a testimony to the power of God at work in our lives.

Being a cancer survivor myself, I know the toll cancer

can take on a person. Loving someone who has been dealing with cancer for a long time, I know the pain of the one who watches and waits. I know that when one of us in our congregation suffers we all suffer and, together, we celebrate each triumph. We are journeying together and sometimes cancer walks with us.

Right now, several of our members and friends are dealing with various kinds of cancers. As I write, many of our dear ones are affected by cancer and, in turn, so are we. I invite all of us to be in prayer for those among us who are dealing with the reality of cancer and commend them to God's strength, healing, and always, always, His love. If cancer is a part of your life, please know that you are not alone, but held in prayer and concern.

Let me leave you with these words, written by an unknown author:

What Cancer Cannot Do

Cancer is so limited . . .

It cannot cripple love

It cannot shatter hope

It cannot corrode faith

It cannot destroy peace

It cannot kill friendship

It cannot suppress memories

It cannot silence our courage

It cannot invade the soul

It cannot steal eternal life

It cannot conquer the spirit.

May God bless and keep us all in precious, unending love.

Sandra M. Reed

The Minister's Discretionary Account

The Minister's Discretionary Account is used to meet the needs of the people of our church as well as those in the area. The money is often used for food, gasoline, home heating oil, medical bills, or rent for a person in need who comes to the church for help. From the Discretionary Account, Sandra sends about \$1,000 per year to the Maine Seacoast Mission and that money is used for needs of people in Bar Harbor and around MDI. We are fortunate that the Maine Seacoast Mission is willing to do this distribution for us. Sandra also sends money from the Discretionary Account to the Maine Seacoast Mission's fund for home heating oil.

Several organizations within the church, primarily the Women's Auxiliary and the Outreach Board, have contributed funds to the Minister's Discretionary Account. Some individuals have also contributed to the account. The church also has a line item in the annual budget for a donation. This is wonderful and helps our church to do some outreach that we would otherwise be unable to do.

If you would like to contribute to the Minister's Discretionary Account, please make your check out to the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, UCC and note in the memo line that it is for the Minister's Discretionary Account. Then, please give the check to Sandra (or mail it to her attention) so it doesn't get mixed in with the checks made out to our general budget needs. When Sandra receives a check for the Minister's Discretionary Account, she notifies Paul to give the donor credit on their church donations for the year. Donations to the Minister's Discretionary Account are tax deductible under the law.

If you have any questions about this account, please speak with Sandra Reed.



Kieren Connor Murphy, son of
Peter and Denise Murphy,
on January 4, 2009



Outreach Board Update

The outreach board would like to thank all of you who contributed time and money to make the Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas for Kids so successful. The need for baskets and gifts far exceeded past years, but thanks to all of you who answered our plea for extra funds, we were able to fill all of our requests, with some money left over! Your giving continues. With the left over funds, we have purchased Hannaford Gift cards to be handled through Sandra's discretionary fund. This year we will be working with St. Saviours Church and The Westside Food Pantry to fill Easter baskets; we will keep you posted! Anyone interested helping out in the future with any of these projects, please call Donna Beals 244-0491 Thank You!

Valentine Party

The Ladies Auxiliary will have a Valentine's Party on Tuesday, February 10th at 7pm in the church parlor. Dr. Mary Dudzik will speak on "Matters of the Heart". A bit of Valentine fun and goodies will follow. There will be a sign up sheet for refreshments in the parlor. Hostesses will be Norma Spurling and Betty Bryer.

Dear Friends at the Bar Harbor Congregational Church,

How pleased my family and I were to hear that my mother, Irene Marinke, and her hard-working Living Nativity colleague, Barbara Brown, were honored by you all with a plaque in the Parish Hall. Their efforts with the Living Nativity bore much fruit, and I know first-hand how much Mother loved the yearly project. Thank you for your Godly generosity and thoughtfulness.

Yours in Christ,
Charlene Marinke Alling

Christian Education

Sunday School

Sunday School is going well. If you have a chance, please stop down and see what our children are learning and doing in the classrooms. Originally, we had planned on doing a Lenten Rotation during Lent. The Christian Education Board decided to wait and to do a four-week Rotation some time after Easter. This will take place during our regular Sunday School time at 10:00 a.m.

Youth Groups

The combined youth groups are working on two fundraising activities. The first fundraiser will be our **Souper Bowl of Caring**, which will take place February 1st. Each person on Super Bowl Sunday is asked to donate \$1.00 and/or non-perishable food item. The money raised and non-perishables items will be donated to the Bar Harbor Food Pantry. The youth will be collecting the non-perishable food items before church, and will collect money after the church service. Please help our youth to reach their goal of \$400 and 100 non-perishable food items.

The second fundraiser is the youth's annual **Valentine's Day Candy Sale**. This will be held during coffee hour on February 8th. The truffles will be packaged in boxes and ready to give to your special Valentine. The truffles and boxes are all handmade and decorated by our youth. Each box will contain 4 truffles and cost \$5.00 a box. The money that the youth raise will be used for special events and/or trips for the youth.

There will be a combined youth group, 3rd grade – high school, meeting on Saturday, February 7th at 10:00 a.m.-12:00. We will be making and packaging the truffles that will be sold the next day.

Upcoming Events

February 1 st	Souper Bowl of Caring
February 8 th	Valentine's Day Candy Sale
March 28 th	Game Night

Mary Swift

THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATION YOUTH TO CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

While America turns their attention to football for Super Bowl XLIII, local teens are working to transform Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving -- ***The Souper Bowl of Caring***.

The Sunday of the big game, Souper Bowl of Caring youth will collect donations through congregations and schools and donate 100% of their collection to a local charity of their choice. Souper Bowl of Caring started with one church youth group in South Carolina in 1990 when a young minister prayed, "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." From that prayer, the Souper Bowl of Caring was born and more than \$50 million has been raised nationwide.

"For two decades, young people have been setting the standard for compassion and service through the Souper Bowl of Caring," said Rev. Brad Smith, Founder and Executive Director. "Now, more and more people across the country are catching on and joining this amazing effort."

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 1st, our youth will be collecting \$1.00 and/or non-perishables after church.

Our youth will join more than 17,000 congregations, schools, civic clubs and businesses signed up to participate as part of the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring effort to transform Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest youth-led weekend of giving and serving now in its 20th year.

"Imagine the impact we could make if the 100 million Americans who tune in to the big game gave just \$1 each to help someone in need," said Smith. "I hope everyone will follow the lead of these young people and get involved this year."

Mary Swift

February

A logo for "Birthdays of the Month" featuring a calendar grid and a gift box.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Beverly McNeal
- 2 Terry Savage
- 4 Norma Spurling
- 5 Sarah Skiff Dunbar
- 5 Tom Schanck
- 7 Anne Warner
- 8 Maggie Painter
- 9 Eric St. Denis
- 9 Yvonne Tabb
- 10 Joy Kelly
- 11 Roxie Brechlin
- 12 Clare Bingham
- 13 Mary Skiff Renault
- 13 Ben Reed
- 14 Pauline Wright
- 16 Dick Crawford
- 20 Heidi MacQuinn
- 21 Lenny DeMuro
- 22 Carolyn Miller
- 23 Heather Dority
- 23 Jacob Megquier
- 24 Jeremy McQuinn
- 25 Joyce Pilling
- 26 Aidan O'Connor
- 27 Kristin McKee



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon –
Assistant Deacon –

Liturgists-

- 1: Scott Hammond
- 8: Alice Hobbs
- 15:
- 22:

Flowers –

- 1: Mary Reed
- 8: Doug and Anne Lee, Ken Hormell
- 15: Don and Martha Hobbs,
Ron and Connie Shea
- 22: Jim and Kathy MacLeod

Coffee Hosts -

- 1:
- 8:
- 15:
- 22:

Bible Readings -

- 1 Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
I Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28
- 8 Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
I Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39
- 15 II Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
I Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45
- 22 II Kings 2:1-2
Psalm 50:1-6
II Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

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Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 8, 2009
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2009
- Presidents' Day, February 16, 2009
- Transfiguration of the Lord, February 22, 2009
- Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2009



A Day for Ashes

Since the Middle Ages, Christians in the so-called Western Church have observed Ash Wednesday (the seventh Wednesday before Easter) as the first day of Lent. On this day, in many churches, worshipers receive ashes on the forehead as a reminder of their sorrow for their sins. The ashes are often made by burning palm branches left over from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Ash Wednesday is February 25 this year.

Lent commemorates Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness of Judea Province, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness.

The only way our Lord's forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence.

Significance of Lent

Lent is the fourth season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day, not counting Sundays. This means Lent always begins on a Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday.

Some Christians fast during Lent. This denial of bodily comforts can help encourage self-reflection about the need for Jesus' forgiveness.

Source: The Newsletter Newsletter