



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:

March 2009

Sometimes I am asked what it is like to be a minister. That question always gives me pause. I'm sure it is different for every minister, but, for me, the answer to the question is fairly simple. What is it like to be a minister? It's a life not entirely chosen by me, but I believe I was called by God to serve Him as a pastor. As a Christian pastor, that means that I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I have been ordained, or set apart, for this particular kind of service and I never know what I might be called upon to do when the sun comes up in the morning. It is an exciting life, a difficult life, a joyous life, and a blessed life. I believe that in becoming an ordained minister, I took a big step in becoming the woman God intended me to be. It was the beginning of the journey.

I always use our parking lot as an example of how a minister's life is viewed. As you are painfully aware, people who are not at our church for a reason park in our parking lot all the time. I believe their discourtesy is based on the assumption that churches are only open on Sundays. Therefore, ministers only work for an hour on Sunday morning. I am oversimplifying a bit, but you get my drift. Sometimes when I am feeling a bit devilish (yes, I do feel that way sometimes!) I will ask a person as they leave their parked car in our parking lot why they are doing so. The answer is usually some version of, "Well, the church is closed, right?" My answer is some version of, "You don't attend a church, do you?" And so it goes.

Being a minister means that I agree to be available to my parishioners when they need me. Sometimes that is hard to achieve due to extenuating circumstances, but that is a basic of ministry. This means that you don't have to worry about whether I am eating, sleeping, exercising, studying or watching television. You are allowed to call me when you need me. I won't get mad. I promise. If I am doing something that I am unable to get out of, I will set up another time to talk. If it is an emergency, it is up to you to say so. That changes

everything. If you are in the hospital or are calling about someone who is, please tell me. Sometimes I really don't know what is going on unless you tell me. You are not bothering me or being a nuisance. You are helping me do my job. On my day off (I try to take Fridays off) you may still contact me for an emergency. I really do care what is happening to you or someone you care about.

Do you know that it sometimes takes me all week to develop a sermon? Some of you have commented that you think it is wonderful that I can speak off the cuff during a sermon. I always have a good chuckle at that. Just so you know, I start living with the scripture on Monday, develop an outline on Wednesday, write out the sermon on Thursday and on Saturday make some notes which I then take into the pulpit with me on Sunday. My extemporaneous speaking ability is highly overrated! By the way, I love putting a sermon together and am happy to work on it through the week.

During the rest of my time I get to visit with you, help you through difficult times, celebrate your good news, officiate at your weddings, funerals, baptisms and other life milestones. I set aside time each week to pray for you and others. I lead Bible studies and classes as occasion calls. I study and keep up with my area of interest, theology. I study other areas as I have time. I attend approximately 190 meetings per year. I try to spend quality time with my husband and make plans to see our children and grandchildren as often as possible.

There is so much more that rounds out the richness of the life of this minister, but I will let it go at that. Suffice it to say that I am glad God called me out of the plans I had made for myself to fit me as a servant for Him. God is good.

Blessings, Sandra M. Reed



**THINK GLOBALLY;
ACT LOCALLY**

When is the last time you donated blood?

Blood donated through the American Red Cross can be sent to patients being treated at medical centers throughout the entire New England area and, in times of disaster, can be made available anywhere in the country.

Our church is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, March 6 from 12 noon to 6 PM in Fellowship Hall (downstairs).

We need DONORS and VOLUNTEERS for hosting, registration, and to provide canteen goodies (cookies, cheese & crackers). Please consider lending a hand!

Please contact Kathe Simons at 244-3207 to volunteer your time and talents. Call 1-800-GIVELIFE to schedule an appointment or just walk in the afternoon of the drive. We want to reach our goal of 56 units! Blood donated through the American Red Cross is "Blood Without Borders". It is the ultimate way to think globally and act locally.

Kathe

Notes from Kathy Woodside

Sabbath Rest Retreat

"Sabbath - for the **Rest** of Your Life" In small groups and larger gatherings, in prayerful solitude and in playful reflection we will explore and experience the biblical commandment of Sabbath rest." The retreat will be led by Rev. Sally Calhoun, Marty Resotko, and Lil Fidler on Friday, April 24th, starting at 7 pm through Sunday, April 26th at 1 pm, at the Living Water Spiritual Center, Winslow, Maine. The cost is \$200 which includes the program, 2 nights lodging and 5 meals. For more information or to register please contact Lil Fidler rlfider@tdstelme.net 207-778-2515. The national website is www.lumunos.org.

Condolences

Sympathy and prayers are offered to Rev. John Thomas on the death of his mother on Feb. 8, at the age of 94. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, February 21 at the First Congregational Church, UCC, in Stamford, Connecticut where she had been a member since 1928.

Guide to Good Living

A motto to live by: Do all the good you can By all the means you can In all the ways you can In all the places you can At all the times you can.

*Our Most Sincere
Condolences
to the Family and Friends of:*

*Ronald P. MacQuinn
Sandra Myers Kistler
Melba Wilson*



Please contact Roxie Brechlin (288-4859) or the church office (288-3280) to **order your Easter Flowers**. We ask that everyone have their order in by March 23rd. There will be lilies or tulips. The cost is \$15.00; payment can be given to Roxie, or the church office. Please make checks payable to Bar Harbor Congregational Church, UCC, with Easter Flowers in the memo portion.

Thank You!
The Flower Committee

End of Winter Game Night and Potluck Dinner



Should We Be Concerned?

Please join us Saturday, March 28, for a revival of last year's rollicking good time of games, fun and good food.

There will be a collection of team and individual games, including favorites from last year and some new ones. All ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate, and there will be four age groups for prizes.

Come and try to unseat last year's winners: Anna Naggert, Kincaid MacCulloch, Caitie Smith and Debbie Hammond. Bring a dish to share, if you can, and a willingness to join in on some friendly competition. There will be a sign-up sheet for potluck dishes at the Coffee Hours for several weeks preceding the event. See you all there!

Ray Vonder Haar

Feeding the hungry

To allow the hungry to remain hungry would be blasphemy against God and one's neighbor, for what is nearest to God is precisely the need of one's neighbor. It is for the love of Christ, which belongs as much to the hungry as to myself, that I share my bread with them and that I share my dwelling with the homeless. If the hungry do not attain to faith, then the guilt falls on those who refused them bread. To provide the hungry with bread is to prepare the way for the coming of grace.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Our pledge program this year has seen a decline in pledge cards from 73 to 59, or a decline of 19%, and a decline in pledged giving by 6% indicating that many of our members and friends have increased their pledges for 2009. We are especially grateful to everyone for helping us bring members and visitors closer to God, and especially for their support of our children's program and other ministries.

If you have not yet submitted your pledge card, and are able to help the church this year, please do so. It is important that the trustees who are responsible for the church's finances have a good idea of our income so that we can responsibly manage the church's financial affairs.

We do recognize that the economy is weaker, which unfortunately has hurt the ability of some to pledge this year. For those who can, we do hope that you help us to close our budget gap.

Our budget this year includes a significant increase in pledged income to \$115,000, or well above current pledged amounts. We also need to raise \$10,000 from fund-raisers and \$6,200 from church committee contributions in order to balance our budget and cover the costs of the many wonderful ministries supported by our church.

Would you please review what your church means to you, and if possible, pledge what you can this year to support our ministry? **Please send in your pledge card if you have not already done so. If you have not received a pledge card, please contact Paul in the office (288-3280) and ask him to send you a pledge card and weekly offering envelopes.**

Sincerely,
Rodney Fox, Chair of Trustees

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?



"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21c

On the fourth Sunday of Lent, March 22, our congregation will join other UCC churches in support of One Great Hour of Sharing, part of our wider church mission. OGHS supports international programs of health, education and agricultural development, relief, and refugee assistance. In 2007, the United Church of Christ received \$2,890,358 for the OGHS offering.

Our gifts are needed more than ever in the US and in countries around the world to help families rebuild from disaster, learn about and prevent illness and disease, grow nutritious food, defend and promote basic rights of their communities, build new schools, and in many more ways.

Offering envelopes will be available in the church bulletin on Sunday, March 15th, and will be collected on Sunday, March 22nd along with the Sunday school banks.

The Outreach Board

Christian Education

Sunday School is going well. The children are learning about the life of Jesus and stories from the New Testament. We have a wonderful group of children and teachers who share their time together with fun and faith. Our teachers are dedicated and wonderful with the children.

The youth have just finished two good fundraisers in the past two weeks. For Souper Bowl Sunday, the youth collected money and non-perishable items for the Bar Harbor Food Pantry. They collected \$178.00 and over 234 non-perishable food items.

The Valentine's Day Candy Sale was a huge success! The youth spent a lot of time preparing for the sale. They made the boxes by painting watercolor paper and then folded the paper into one-of-a-kind, beautiful boxes. On Saturday morning, Feb. 7th, the youth made over 200 truffles and packaged them all. The effort paid off as the truffles were all sold out within the first 15 minutes. They youth took in \$215.00 selling truffles! This money goes into an account for youth activities.

The youth groups are going well. In March, each youth group will be meeting once during the month. Stay tuned for updates on date and time for the youth group meetings. Sandra, or I, will be sending out e-mails as to when the youth groups will be meeting.

Summer seems far away, yet is fast approaching. Soon it will be time to sign up for summer camp at Pilgrim Lodge. The church will pay 1/3 of the cost of camp for the youth going to Pilgrim Lodge. Please make a copy of your child's application and leave it in the front office. There will be a folder in the office for the applications. The Church needs to know who is going so that we may pay our portion of your child's camp. If you have any questions please contact Sandra or Mary

Upcoming Events

March 28th Game Night: Come and enjoy a potluck dinner with good friends and spend the evening playing Toss the Ball in the Garbage Can, The Famous Marble Roll, and others! These games require "Great Skill???", "Serious Competition???", and Great Lungs for Laughing!!! Best of all, the winner wears a crown! See copies of last year's Kings and Queens up around the church!

May 3rd Spring Fling: Our Annual Potluck Dinner for the entire congregation. The Youth will be presenting the entertainment. Join us directly after church for this wonderful celebration of spring.

June 7th: Last Day of Sunday School, Annual Picnic in the Park, Graduate Recognition.

June 13th God's Garden Club begins.

Mary Swift



Sunday Services at Sonogee

We walked into Sonogee's dining room on Sunday morning, and one of the residents exclaimed: "Oh, you brought the lovelies with you!" In response to my assurance that more were coming, a satisfied "Oh, good!" was heard. Who are the "lovelies" this resident was talking about? It was the group we've come to think of as "the girls": Alexa Bonsey, Caitie Smith, Dylan Stillman, Hannah Boyce, Marisa Prestinari, Rachael McMinimy, and Rhiannon Vonder Haar. They were at Sonogee during Advent with Laurie Riddell and I to help lead the Sunday morning service. During this service Caitie and Alexa provided special music, and "the girls" distributed Christmas ornaments they had made for the residents. The sight of these young ladies, their presence next to them during the service, and receiving the ornaments was a highlight for the residents.

Our church is one of 13 MDI churches taking part in a program, capably organized by Jack Drake, providing a Sunday morning service at Sonogee. This ministry began 30 years ago as one of several programs of the Council of Churches of The Islands, Inc, the ecumenical organization comprising all the churches on MDI and the Outer Islands at the time. At the onset, the services were conducted at MDI hospital, in their Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF). When the SNF, and two small local nursing homes were replaced by two brand new state-of-the-art nursing facilities, the services were moved to those facilities: Summit House and Sonogee. The importance of these services is

underscored by the fact that they have outlasted all the Council's other outreach programs and the Council itself.

Sunday mornings when we go to Sonogee, I look at the residents gathered in the dining room, and I feel humbled. Why? Because I know that among these residents are mothers and fathers that made sure their children went to church on Sundays, made sure they went to Sunday school, were active in their congregations as lay people or as pastors, and put in hundreds of hours serving others. They handed down their faith to the next generations, and now it is these generations' turn to serve them when they are no longer able to get to church. It is now our turn to bring the church to them. As we move through the service, I can see the familiar words of the scriptures and hymns lifting their spirits. This is why, when we left the service and some of the youth remarked on how people enjoyed the service, I could not help but be reminded again that every time we go to Sonogee, we are the ones truly blessed.

Would you like to be part of this ministry? You are more than welcome! With 13 churches taking part in the ministry, our church is responsible for a service every three months. We need people that would be willing to lead the service, take part in the service, or just be with the residents.

The dream is that the services at Sonogee will continue for a fourth decade. To do this, we would like to have at least five members from each church who know how the program works. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming part of this wonderful ministry. The next services we are responsible for are on March 8 and May 31.

Mimi Dickson

God Is Always There to Help Us

Our church quilters were a lovely group of elderly ladies. They met each Wednesday and quilted until noon when I, as their pastor, joined them for lunch.

When I observed their love for each other and the harmony in their group, I could not help but remember the words of the old hymn: “What a fellowship, what a joy divine”

As far as I could see, they had to deal with only one problem. They had a backstitcher in their group who sewed opposite of everyone else. Dear old Mrs. Bee was the guilty party.

Others in the fellowship tried to gently show her how to quilt correctly, but she never got the hang of it. She kept right on moving the thread incorrectly.

The group loved her and never considered banning her despite her backstitching. You see, they knew she needed the group. Quilting was about the only fellowship Mrs. Bee had in her life.

The problem with her stitching was handled lovingly. After each session, the leader of the group, Mrs. Hood, gathered up the quilt, took it home, removed every backstitch and put the thread back in the right way. Mrs. Bee never knew about this act of grace.

So, who makes things right for me? And for you?

—Charles Ferrell

Reflections

- Before we acquire great power, we must acquire wisdom to use it well.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

- There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love.

—Thornton Wilder

- If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we would find in each person’s life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

- One can’t satisfactorily say no to war, violence and injustice unless one is simultaneously saying yes to life, love and laughter.

—David Dellinger

- To what end do we work if, at the end of each day, we cannot find the strength to raise our eyes above the mud?

—Anonymous

- Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and “Hallelujah!” is our song.

—Pope John Paul II

- Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.

—Henry David Thoreau

- Kindness, if you show it to others, will radiate from you like the warmth of the sun over the hilltops.

—Source unknown

Sunday Worship

Contributors

Birthdays

- 1 Mason Gurtler
- 1 Barbara Moulton
- 1 David Lind
- 2 Cas Dowden
- 3 Jill Pelletier
- 5 Kate St. Denis
- 5 Gloria Soule
- 6 Dana Reed
- 6 Kristin MacQuinn Beilstein
- 6 Henry A. Brown
- 7 Jonathan Wood
- 7 Laurie Riddell
- 8 Vickie Bence
- 9 Judy Fuller
- 9 Christopher Bence
- 13 Doug Lee
- 13 Estelle Megquier
- 14 Lucy Sprague
- 16 Lucille Campbell
- 17 Kincaid MacCulloch
- 18 Sharon Hobbs
- 20 Haleigh Smith
- 21 Brad Haskell
- 21 Marie McPheters
- 22 Samuel Owen Craighead
- 22 Pierce DiMauro
- 22 Bryce DiMauro
- 22 Kirstin DiMauro
- 22 Bill Skiff
- 24 Michael MacCulloch
- 29 Penny Heiges
- 31 Fred Clement
- 31 Shelley MacQuinn Jacobs



Head Deacon – Scott Hammond
Assistant Deacon – Bruce Blake

Liturgists-

- 1: David Lind
- 8: Ray Vonder Haar
- 15:
- 22:
- 29:

Flowers –

- 1: Charles Marinke
- 8: Earl and Roxie Brechlin
- 15: Ruth Rossi
- 22: Wally and Sandra Reed
- 29: George and Billie Mitchell

Coffee Hosts -

- 1: Bruce and Margaret Blake
- 8: Estelle Megquier
- 15: Ponzi and Dana Reed
- 22:
- 29: Rita Johnston and Lenny DeMuro

Bible Readings -

- 1 Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
I Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15
- 8 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38
- 15 Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
I Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22
- 22 Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21
- 29 Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

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

**U. S. Postal Paid
Non-Profit Organization
Bar Harbor, ME 04609
Permit Number 32**

Special dates

- First Sunday in Lent, March 1, 2009
- World Day of Prayer, March 6, 2009
- Second Sunday in Lent, March 8, 2009
- **Daylight-Saving Time begins,
March 8, 2009**
- Girl Scout Sunday, March 8, 2009
- Third Sunday in Lent, March 15, 2009
- First Day of Spring, March 20, 2009
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 22, 2009
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 29, 2009

Stop, Look and Listen

Why should we observe Lent?

We observe Lent because it causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile." Lent says, "Stop doing wrong."

We observe Lent because it tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ with healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.

We observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words are important for our safety in travel, but they may also be helpful for our journey through the days of Lent.

Source this page: The Newsletter Newsletter

40 Days to Spiritual Health

Lent is the 40-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Traditionally, it has been a time when Christians re-examine their spiritual life and try to discern the quality of their relationship with God.

There are many individual approaches to strengthening the spiritual life, including: choosing to fast, praying more often, reading the Bible and devotional literature, engaging more often in public worship, serving God more intensely in the world.

We miss the mark if we focus only on our desires. Lent ought to be a time of deeper dedication to God and seeking ways in which we can help to further God's kingdom on Earth.