

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

April 2009

When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better. God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. God is more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings.

Happy moments, PRAISE GOD

Difficult moments, SEEK GOD

Quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD

Painful moments, TRUST GOD

Every moment, THANK GOD

I received the this quote in an email a couple of weeks ago. It was part of an interview given by Rick Warren, the pastor of Saddleback Church, which has several branches in California. You may have seen him recently, delivering the invocation at Barack Obama's inauguration in January. He is an inspiring man who has a firm grasp of the meaning of his life in Christ.

This particular part of the interview he gave touched me deeply. As I read it I was reminded that many of us are so caught up in our everyday busyness that we forget that there is so much more to life. I am not so naive as to think that we can all just immediately simplify our lives – I have learned that particular exercise takes a great deal of time and effort. I understand that we are all wrapped up in the details of our lives and our involvement with the details of others. We live in a culture that prizes, if not being busy, looking busy. So called "down" time is frowned upon as frivolous and lazy. If we are not producing, we are not contributing, and, therefore, we are not useful.

I would like to say that this attitude is detrimental to our faith. Don't get me wrong, I am all for hard work. But if that hard work is done at the expense of the time we need to love and serve our Savior, it is time to take a look at our priorities. I know we have to work in order to eat. We need to

support our families. When we retire, we need to keep busy and feel that we are giving back to society. All of this is good, but there is something else that is even more important.

Among the many choices we make every day is the choice to love and serve God. The ways in which we spend our time reflect upon the things we hold as most important, most dear, most precious. Sometimes, too often, I think, we don't take the time to analyze the ways in which we spend our time. We wonder why we get more and more stressed as activities and responsibilities pile up. Is it any wonder that, eventually, we are overwhelmed?

The purpose of this article is to remind us all to leave room for our faith. Every day should begin and end with prayer. If there is time to do the things we like to do, there is time to do some Bible study, attend church, or pray during our busy day. If we are committed to doing excellently at our job, should we not also be determined to spend just as much effort on our relationship with God? If we are retired, there is certainly time to walk with God, who, in Christ, has given us all things, regardless of all the claims on our "free" time. Even those among us who are very young can cultivate the holy habit of making God a constant companion along life's way. There is so much influence from outside the church and family about how to spend our time; certainly we should all be modeling for the youth among us a balanced way of life.

Rick Warren's words remind us that our primary job is developing our relationship with God. While other things are important, our walk with God in Christ is of primary importance. For me (And, believe me, I am still working on it!) the crux of successful living is found in who we are and to whom we belong and the ways in which we live in gratitude for that understanding. My prayer is that God will continue to guide us toward this end.

Sandra M Reed

Maine Conference News

SAVE THE DATE - June 6, 2009 - for a Special Conference Meeting.

Over the last two and a half years, the members of the Maine Conference have been engaged in a process to determine the most faithful stewardship of our property assets.

The latest part of this process was to engage a professional consulting firm to conduct a Feasibility Study on the three Concepts that we discussed at the 2008 Annual Meeting. At their February meeting, the Coordinating Council heard the report and recommendations of Scott Simon Architects, our consultants. After hearing the reports and much prayerful discussion, the Coordinating Council voted unanimously to call a Special Conference Meeting in June 2009 to recommend the closing of the Rockcraft Retreat Center and its eventual sale.

For more information, visit the Conference website (www.maineucc.org) to read a copy of the letter from the Moderator and Conference Minister that was sent to all our local churches.

THE MAINESTAY There will be no more editions of the MaineStay published by the Maine Conference. Subscribers will continue to receive a copy of the UCC News. However, the PIC (Proclamation, Identity and Communication) Committee has been working hard to devise a new way to keep all of our members in touch with what is going on in the Conference and the national UCC. Keep your eyes open for "YouCC & ME" coming soon to your church mailbox.

YOUTH OF THE MAINE CONFERENCE - HONDURAS MISSION TRIP 2010

Trip Dates: February 11 – 18, 2010

Approximate Cost: \$1500 (the cost may go up or down depending on the airlines and we won't know that until later this spring.)

As part of the Honduras Partnership of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ a group of young people and advisors will fly to San Pedro Sula, Honduras in February of 2010 for seven nights.

We will get to know a group of young people from the Evangelical and Reformed Church of Honduras by sharing times of work, worship and fellowship. We will learn about the culture and country of Honduras as we travel to several areas of the country including Copan where we will view the Mayan Ruins. We will give our time and energy in mission working with members of one of our partner churches on a project in the San Pedro Sula area.

We are just beginning to make our plans and we would like all members of the trip to take part in designing our time in Honduras. Our adventure will begin with three nights at Pilgrim Lodge from August 25 to 28. All those who would like to go on the trip needs to sign up for this event. Young people must be in Grade 9 to Post High. For more information, visit the Conference website at www.maineucc.org/honduras/honduras1.htm or contact Rev. Sally Colegrove, Windham Hill UCC, 140 Windham Center Road, Windham, ME 04062

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING RALLY DAY - CALLED TO BE!

–Join us on May 3rd at the Waterville Church from 2-6 PM. Registration will begin at 1:30. All middle school young people from grades 6-8 are welcome to take part. Cost is \$15.00. Some scholarship help is available. RSVP to the Conference Office at 846-5118 or e-mail us at conference@maineucc.org. Flyers for Spring Rally Day will arrive shortly at every church.

Thanks! Kathy Woodside, Delegate



have any questions. I hope to hear from many of you soon and more details will follow from the Trustees.

Anne Warner 244-9288

ahwarner@yahoo.com

As many of you will remember, when we had our annual meeting, there was a \$10,000 line item in the budget for "fund raising income". Well, we're trying to get started on making that happen! Tentative plans are for a silent auction in May or early June (location to be determined, maybe not at the church) complete with a little food, drink and entertainment. What we'll need from the congregation are ideas about what you might have to donate to the silent auction.

We have a house in Georgia, many of you have camps, vacation homes, timeshares, etc. that you'd be willing to offer for the cause. How about the family car or boat? There are also many talented people in our church and community that might be willing to donate a piece or a service. Is your photography or computer hobby something you'd be willing to share? There are restaurant people who might offer a couple of dinners. Everybody eats!

Some of you probably have a nice piece of furniture in your attic or basement that your children don't want that someone may think is perfect. Remember, everybody's got something somebody else would love! We need your ideas. This won't be a tag sale kind of thing, and we're hoping to raise a substantial amount with the event and offer people some real bargains on special things as well as a good time.

Please think long and hard about what you might offer and give me the name of someone else outside the church who might be willing to help us out with goods or services. We already have some pretty neat offerings; apartment in NYC, house in Florida, cabins on the island, sailing trips, kayak tours. I think you get the idea! Even though Ruth Rossi and Earl Brechlin are co-chairs, I'll be the contact person for the goodies. Let me know if you



Do You Wonder Where the Money Goes?

How is the money we contribute to the Church spent? This is the first of several articles that will provide answers to this question.

Where does the money go?

#1 let's start with a way that you might not consider. Through the year we share our building with others. Here is a list of community activities that presently use our church facilities: MDI Hospital-training ... Stroke Survival Support Group ... ARC Blood Drive ... Cancer Support Group ... Divorce Support Group (sponsored through Catholic Charities) ... Bar Harbor Music Festival ... Cub Scouts ... Literary Club ... Bar Harbor Garden Club ... Various Fund-raisers ... March on Mount Desert Street (social event – progressive dinner) ... Ecumenical Good Friday Service ... Scrap Book Group ... Individual Artists' Concerts ... Skateboarding Group ... Neighborhood Santa (sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce) ... Birthday parties, Baby Showers ... Abbe Museum meetings.

Tune in next month for another answer to the question, WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

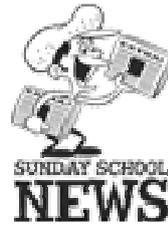
WHEN: MAY 3rd
WHERE: CHURCH DINING ROOM
WHAT: SPRING POTLUCK
WHY: TO LET EVERYONE HERE KNOW
HOW MUSICAL WE ARE

We are looking for church talent to play for us during our annual Spring Potluck. Please sign up in the Parlor for your chance to play what you want- with what you have. (Piano, Flute, Violin etc). For those of us that can't play a musical instrument - bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy those in our Congregation that can. Thanks, Sandy sboyce@jhnetwork.com 288-4747

BHUCC Blood Drive Big Success!

Thanks to all BHUCC members and friends who helped to make our March 6th Blood Drive such a great success. Fifty-eight donors registered, and forty units of blood were collected. Many thanks to bakers and hosts: Kathy MacCulloch, Ward and Ellagene Holder, Paul Dickson, David Lind, Yvonne Tabb, Debbie Hammond, Norma Spurling, Anne Warner, Kate St. Denis, and Beth Paradis. (I hope I didn't forget anyone.) A very special thank you to Mimi Dickson who helped to make our Fellowship Hall and classrooms SPARKLE! Thanks most especially to those who came to donate blood. The Red Cross team LOVED our space and greatly appreciated our hospitality. Another ARC Blood Drive will be scheduled for BHUCC for this summer. Hope to see you there.

Kathe Simons



Please Note

On Easter Sunday, there will be NO Sunday School classes. Childcare **will** be provided in the nursery for children, birth to age 4.

On Easter, we will have **Family Worship**. See you and your family in church!

Kathe Simons

Pilgrim Lodge

Now is the perfect time to register for a stay at Pilgrim Lodge this summer. Some weeks fill up very quickly. This is an overnight camp located near Augusta. There is an event for every age, usually they are a weeklong but some are shorter. Go to their web site at www.pilgrimlodge.org for a schedule to download, to order the 2009 Pilgrim Lodge Brochure, and/or to get a copy of the 2009 Pilgrim Lodge Parent & Camper Guide, or ask Pastor Sandra for an application. You can also call 724-3200. Summer fun, a beautiful lakeside setting, new friends, Christian fellowship-it's great! Our church pays 1/3 of the cost thanks to a generous gift. Please give Sandra or Paul a copy of your application so we know you are going and the cost of the camp.

Personal referral from Laurie Riddell

I love Pilgrim Lodge. My daughters, 2 nephews, and niece are the 3rd generation in our family to go to PL, and they are all going this summer as repeat campers! It is a good place for kids to build their independence, it is safe and everyone fits in. The campers stay in small cabins with several bunk beds, and the counselor for each cabin sleeps on the screened-in porch. All the campers take their meals together in the large main lodge. There are many activities including arts and crafts, swimming, boating, games, as well as quiet time for music, reading, and contemplation with group worship in the evening. No electronics allowed! It truly is a wonderful experience.



Youth Group: On Friday, April 3rd, there will be a combined Youth Group Meeting. All youth in 3rd - 7th grade, are invited, along with their families to a **Youth Family Night: Pizza & A Movie.** An evening of fun for the whole family! The evening will start out at 6:00 p.m. with homemade pizza hot out of the oven! After dinner sit back, relax and enjoy the movie. People are welcome to bring a pillow and/or blanket for comfort.

The **Sr. youth group** is making plans to hold a dance & movie night in early May. They are planning on inviting youth in grades 6th - 9th from area churches. Axl Wallingford and his band will be playing Contemporary Christian Music for the dance. Stay tune for more information.

Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, the children will be staying upstairs in church with their families during the worship service. There will be nursery, downstairs, for children ages 4 and under. Parents are welcome to bring their children to the nursery anytime before or during the service.

Upcoming Events

Spring Fling Potluck - On Sunday, May 3rd, 11:30 (right after church), join us as we celebrate spring with our annual "Spring Fling Potluck Dinner!" The entertainment this year will feature the musical talents of our own children and youth.

Come and celebrate the good food, good friends, and great entertainment. Bring a dish to share.

Last Day of Sunday School Picnic - Sunday, June 7th

God's Garden Club - Begins Sunday, June 14th

Mary Swift

Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, April 9, 2009 -
Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion, 7:00 PM

Friday, April 10, 2009 -
Good Friday Service, The Last Words of Jesus, 12:00 Noon

Sunday, April 12 -
Easter Sunrise Service, 6:15 AM
Easter Breakfast, 7:00 AM
Worship Service, 10:00 AM



On Easter Sunday, April 12th, I will be leaving my position as Sunday School and Youth Coordinator here at church. For almost 5 years, you have welcomed me into your church family. Together we have laughed, cried, and shared our gifts with one another. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this church and your family. I have many wonderful memories that will always be with me. You will be held close in my heart and prayers.

Listen to the stillness, the small, quiet voice within, follow your heart for God is gently guiding us to inner peace, quiet calm and a sense of knowing.

Mary Swift



**Zoe Alexis O'Connor,
daughter of Ezra and Heidi
Turner O'Connor and little sister
of Elijah and Aidan**



**Richard Reccholtz,
husband of Rosalie and
father of Richard, Robert
and Debbie.**



**The Romans sent a
message; God sent one,
too**

The rulers of the Roman Empire wanted everyone under their power to understand clearly that it would be very costly to try to overthrow their government. They conceived the idea of crucifixion as a way of sending an unforgettable message to all people under their control. Death on a cross would be a slow, excruciatingly painful death. The cross would be put in a very public place so as many as possible would get the message: Don't even think of defying Roman rule!

That is why Christ was crucified on Golgotha hill close to a busy road where no passerby could miss the shocking scene. Christ was guilty of nothing. Yet his enemies hated him so much that they told Pilate, Rome's representative in Jerusalem, that Jesus was a danger to Roman rule. Christ's enemies said to Pilate, "If you

release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar" (John 19:12). Pilate caved in to the clamor of the crowd and allowed Jesus to be crucified.

But those who saw to it that Jesus suffered death on the cross did not know that God had a message to send as well. God victoriously raised Christ from the dead! God touched the precious body of his Son and infused it with life, glorious, dynamic life, life in all of its fullness.

God turned the cross, the executioner's tool of death, into a dramatic symbol of victory. The empty cross and the empty tomb, along with the resurrected body of Christ, reveal God's victory over the worst deed humans might do – the assassination of the Holy.

That is why we put crosses everywhere: boldly, proudly, joyously, triumphantly. It is why we glory in the cross always. It stands eternally "towering o'er the wrecks of time" (John Bowring).

After the Resurrection, Jesus' friend, Peter, explained God's message to all of Christ's enemies with these bold and certain words: "This Jesus, you crucified and killed But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses Therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:23-24; 32, 36). That is what Easter is all about. All praise to the living Lord!

Source: The Newsletter Newsletter

April



- 1 Samuel Brady Renault
- 2 Marsha Fuller
- 6 Hannah Paradis
- 6 Eric McQuinn
- 8 Jane Boynton
- 11 Saida Riddell
- 14 Kathy Woodside
- 16 Jane Haraden
- 19 Barbara Adler
- 22 Esther Testa
- 23 Donald Hobbs
- 23 Lisa Krautwald
- 23 Kim Craighead
- 25 Jan Varnum
- 26 Caitie Smith
- 27 Katelyn Burns



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Mary Dudzik
Assistant Deacon – Fran Fry

Liturgists-

5: Lenny DeMuro
12: Debbie Dyer
19: Scott Hammond
26: David Lind

Flowers –

5: Beverly McNeal
12: Easter Flowers
19: Jean Kief, Cecil and Lucy Sprague
26: Tom and Alice Hobbs

Coffee Hosts -

5: Ruth Rossi and Kathy Solimano
12: Deacons
19:
26:

Bible Readings -

- 5 Isaiah 50:4 - 9a
Psalm 31:9 - 16
Philippians 2:5 - 11
Mark 14:1 - 15:47
- 12 Acts 10:34 - 43
Psalm 118:1 – 2, 14 - 24
1st Corinthians 15:1 - 11
Mark 16:1 - 8
- 19 Acts 4:32 - 35
Psalm 133
1st John 1:1 – 2:2
John 20:19 - 31
- 26 Acts 3:12 - 19
Psalm 4
1st John 3:1 - 7

**Bar Harbor Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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**U. S. Postal Paid
Non-Profit Organization
Bar Harbor, ME 04609
Permit Number 32**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Special dates

- Passion/Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009
- Holy Week, April 5-11, 2009
- Maundy/Holy Thursday, April 9, 2009
- Good Friday, April 10, 2009
- Holy Saturday, April 11, 2009
- Easter Day, April 12, 2009
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 22, 2009

Maundy Thursday

What is Maundy Thursday, the Thursday of Holy Week all about? The word “Maundy” is a shortened version of the Latin word *mandatum*, which means commandment.

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his friends a new commandment. He told the disciples, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another” (John 13:34, NRSV).

As Christians gather to eat and share Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, we should make a special effort to exhibit our love and respect for one another. Let us seek out people whom we don’t naturally have affection for and express our wish that the living Christ may dwell in them and bless them.

Source this page: The Newsletter Newsletter

Resurrection Joy

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ’s way alone is God’s answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ brought when he walked on Earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out for it is the eternal light of God’s glory.

Christ’s life is truly the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. Christ’s way is the way that makes the most sense for living on this earth. The true saints have proven that over and over.

The hope which Christ offers us is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our only real assurance that life can be good and joyous for everyone. Read the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and apply it to your own life: “Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his” (Romans 6:4-5, nrsv).

If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?