

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

June 2009

Recently the State of Maine became the latest of several states to pass laws regarding same sex marriage. As one might expect, this bill, proposed and passed by our State legislature and signed by Governor Baldacci, has been controversial. This was not the first time this issue was brought to the Maine people. In the past, the Maine people have had much to say about rights for homosexuals and same sex marriage.

The people of Maine have been pretty solidly in favor of rights for homosexuals, but there is a bit more controversy regarding marriage. Why, you might ask? There are probably many reasons, but I believe the main reason is the societal definition of marriage that we have lived with for five thousand years or so. One cannot simply change this without expecting discussion. The issue of same sex marriage brings to bear much that is important to people. In the Christian faith, we believe that marriage is ordained by God and intended to be a relationship taken seriously and entered into without reservation. We Protestants did not deign marriage to be a sacrament, but it could never be said that marriage is not taken seriously. It is important to note that under both Christian circumstances, marriage has been between a man and a woman. Once we move beyond the Christian intention of marriage, we enter into the realm of the legalities of marriage.

When two people come to me to be married, I have to make a judgment as to whether or not they understand their marriage in terms of a covenant. In other words, I need to determine, to the best of my ability, whether the two anxious people sitting in my office will welcome God as a

partner in their marriage. When I make my decision as to whether or not I want to become involved with their marriage, I also look at other things: How do they treat one another? Do they listen when the other talks? Do they have enough in common to make them not only lovers, but friends? Sometimes it all boils down to whether or not I like them. Please don't give away my secrets, but I do not agree to officiate at the marriages of everyone who comes through my door.

By the time a wedding takes place, I know the two people pretty well. That is one of my rules: I will not officiate at the marriage of strangers. During the time before the wedding, all three of us make a great effort to get to know one another. This process is usually successful, but I have made mistakes. Sometimes I misjudge the two people who wish to get married. However, I try my best to help those who come to me understand what is expected of them in marriage. Two other basic rules I follow: I don't make wedding plans with the parents of the bride and groom and I don't make wedding plans with wedding planners. I don't think I need to explain either of those rules.

I tell you this because I think we all need to understand that marriage is important to people. People take marriage seriously and many people, I think, have a traditional view of marriage. That having been said, I also think that for many people the face of marriage is changing. That is part of the reason why the issue of same sex marriage has come to the State of Maine.

Even though the law was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor, the subject has not yet been exhausted. Now a vote will most likely come before the people of Maine, asking them to vote on whether or not same sex marriage will be allowed in the state. Already, this is causing raised voices, elevated tempers, wild statements, and the pain of knowing that what you believe is not held by everyone.

I have my own opinion on this subject, but that is not important right now. What is important is that we discuss this matter in a civil way. We, as Christian people, need to recognize and respect that the persons with whom we disagree came to their opinions through a valid thought process. Unfortunately, what I usually see is name-calling, disrespecting, and dismissal. No one side or the other has a monopoly on these actions. What ends up happening as a result of our bad attitudes is, at best, frustrating, and, at worst, dehumanizing. We sometimes act as though our opinion is the only one that counts. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In Christianity, each person counts. No one gets special points with God because of how well they argue or what causes they support. My prayer for my neighbors in Maine is that we move forward, talking civilly with one another and recognizing that good people, people of good will, can disagree about very important matters.

If I were to give some advice to fellow Christians, it would be that we should study the Scriptures, examine our hearts and minds, pray honestly and openly, and then decide what course of action we will follow in this matter and other matters. What you think counts as much as what I think.

May God help us to think with His mind, love with His heart, and live with the convictions of our faith.

Sandra M Reed

Ladies' Night Out

Keep your ears and eyes open, ladies! There are plans afoot for an evening of good food and fellowship at the Jordan Pond House. As soon as plans are finalized, they will be made public through our church bulletins and the weekly email announcements. If you have questions, please call Sandra Reed at 460-9300. Let's get together and have some fun!

A Wonderful Gift

Recently our church was blessed to receive a gift from Doris Karst's estate in the amount of \$37,500. Doris was a member of our church for a long time and a wonderfully gifted teacher and musician. She died at the age of 101. It was very difficult for her when her hearing loss made it difficult for her to attend church any longer. She was always saying that she really missed being a part of our congregation.

The money has been placed in an interest bearing account as part of the endowment. The gift came to us unrestricted from a generous and caring heart. Perhaps we should all take a moment to thank God for Doris Karst.



Gala silent auction offers steals and deals

Mark your calendars. The church will hold its first annual Silent Auction, on Friday, June 5, at the Maine Sea Coast Mission. The event is part of the parish's ongoing effort to diversify and supplement the annual revenue stream through fund raising events.

At the silent auction, participants will have a chance to bid early and often on a wide variety of items. So far donated items have included several hours of computer consulting time, a mink jacket, a fabulous Maryanne Starbird print, kayak tours, movie tickets, open ended concert tickets, a ride-around lawn mower, NordicTrack, handmade quilts, vacation properties in Florida and New York and Bar Harbor and more.

The event at the Mission, which runs from 5 to 7 p.m. will include, catered refreshments at that organization's historic headquarters on West Street in Bar Harbor. Tickets cost \$10 each.

Along with giving people a chance to bid on, and win, items for a fraction of their retail cost, each ticket qualifies for as an entry for a very cool door prize, a custom, handmade Firefly Lantern crafted by church member Tim Smith. For those who may not be able to attend the auction, but who want to show their support, purchase of a ticket makes you eligible for the door prize. You do not need to be present to win.

Donations are still being accepted. Tickets will be on sale after church in the parlor. Contact any member of the board of trustees for more information or to purchase tickets. The co-chairmen of the event include: Earl Brechlin at 288-4859, Ruth Rossi, at 667-3567 or Anne Warner, at 244-9288 or contact Paul in the church office at the church office 288-3280. Pickup of items can be arranged.

Volunteers will also be needed to help with the auction and with selling tickets in advance. Please contact the co-chairmen above if you can help.

*With
Sympathy*

*To the family and friends of
Emily Allen,
Aunt of Yvonne Tabb, May Vinette and
Lynn O'Neal*



Honduras 2009 A Lesson in Expectations

As with any trip, I set out on our Honduras Mission 2009 full of expectations. Granted, they were somewhat altered because this was my second time around, but they were still not always realistic. I share with you some modified expectations:

Expect that everything will be said to happen in fifteen minutes. Perhaps it's a common Honduran phrase. We began to take it in humor and with patience. When's dinner?

Don't expect great coffee. The tin pot of coffee 'broth' at our hotel in El Triunfo really didn't cut it for me, but in the whole picture this was minor.

Expect surprises. Diesel gas does not belong in a Ford Econoline van – that's a longer story than will fit here. El Triunfo turns their water off every night – so common nobody thought to tell us. One of our greatest surprises was that after the 2-3 hour church services we attended in 2006, we would actually miss worshipping with the people we served on this trip.

Don't expect to be warmly received by all. So many of the faces of the villagers of Las Uvas were distrustful. These folks were far poorer than those we had met before. Many bellies were empty save for parasites, feet were without shoes, and hope seemed distant. It took a couple days before their children began playing with ours. A jump rope finally broke the ice in the schoolyard while Mary and David's willingness to listen in the clinic broke the ice there.

Expect to witness social injustice and to feel powerless to change it. This one is hard to swallow. Las Uvas is a rural agricultural village that receives a disproportionate amount of public funds when compared to more urban areas. Without electricity, running water, or passable roads, they live a life radically different from ours and yet we are all children of God.

Expect some serious reflection about your life as a Christian and know that you'll be affected by what you've witnessed. The tropical climate, along with living on Honduran time, provided a lot of think time. Without common language, every one of our actions took on greater meaning. What each of us has brought back to our lives here is truly unique and personal.

I feel a great privilege to have been able to travel to Honduras to carry out outreach work from BHUCC. To be able to do this was a gift from our entire church family. While there, we experienced your tangible support when we paid for bricks for the latrines we built, when we handed out clothing you donated, and when families received toothbrushes, vitamins, and medicines. Your support through prayers and love were always with us. Thank you.

Please join us on Sunday June 14th at coffee hour where we will share photos of our trip.

Kate St.Denis



**Thank You
Volunteers**

Mystery volunteers do little jobs around the church from time to time. Here are some samples: A group each month assembles and mails out the Chimes Newsletter. The editor, who organizes the articles for printing, is actually in another state.

Others appear and do a repair job in the church office, lawn care and cleaning the parking lot of the stones/sand that had been spread there during our icy winter. This is just a tiny sample of the tasks that are done by you, our church family.

Giving to the mission of the church comes in many forms.



Do You Wonder Where the Money Goes?

How is the money we contribute to the Church spent? This is the third of several articles that will provide answers to those questions.

Where does the money go? #3 ... Some like it HOT! Some COLD! Whichever it is ... to be comfortable, it costs money. Our winter heating season bill ending 4/30/09 was \$15,100. The current heating season was colder than the previous period.

The good news is our new church and parsonage heating systems saved us approximately 20%. With fuel oil prices being **lower** by more than \$2.00 a gallon, we estimate our heating cost for next season to be \$8,500 or a reduction of \$6,600. Tune in next month for another answer to the question, WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

June 21





YouCC & ME

How we got to the June 6, 2009 special meeting

As the Conference budget began to get tighter, the Community Life Commission suggested to Coordinating Council that it consider its responsibility regarding conference properties.

In 2007, the Council discussed how to be the best stewards of Pennell Center, Pilgrim Lodge and Rockcraft. Amidon Associates was hired to appraise all three properties with an eye to existing space, its use and effectiveness, as well as code, life safety, and maintenance issues.

As part of the overall consideration, it was decided to get feedback from members of the conference. In the late fall of 2007, a series of 16 town meetings were held throughout the state, using a common format and led by persons unrelated to the Conference. A Town Meeting Committee was then charged to summarize the responses and return to Coordinating Council with their findings. After much discussion, the Coordinating Council developed the Next Generation proposals.

These proposals went to the 2008 annual meeting in Farmington where small group meetings were held to get additional members feedback. Sifting through all this feedback was a time consuming task and generated more questions. After reviewing the findings, Coordinating Council voted to hire Scott Simons Architects, an independent architectural firm, to conduct a feasibility study on the Next Generation Proposals.

Using all the information generated from our meetings with Conference members, as well as their own meetings with stakeholders, the Facilities Committee and staff, and drawing on their expertise, Scott Simon developed options

and recommendations for the long term use and development of Maine Conference assets – Pennell Center, Rockcraft Retreat Center, and Pilgrim Lodge.

At the Feb. 13, 2009 meeting of the Coordinating Council, the architects presented their report. After considerable discussion the Coordinating Council decided to bring to the conference membership a recommendation to sell the Rockcraft property during a special meeting on June 6, 2009 in Waterville.

Herb Oliver

Conference Minister's Moment

There are so many things to love about springtime in Maine. It's exciting to see grass turning green, buds forming on the trees with emerging growth of leaves, and flowers sprouting in the gardens. While everyone may not be a fan of "spring cleaning," such activities clear out the cobwebs and bring fresh air into what might otherwise be stale and dusty places.

Did you know that springtime is also when book publishers advertise their spring book list? Although you can purchase books year round, it's exciting to receive lists detailing all the newly published or catalogued books that are available. I love to read, although I wish I had more time for it. There are so many books printed each year that no one can possibly read them all.

Springtime is when I create my reading list, select a number of titles that I want to read in the coming months, order or make my purchase, and formulate a plan to get through my newly minted pile of reading material – before the next book list is published! There are some authors who are a "must read" no matter what they write. Barbara Brown Taylor is that author for me.

We are in the midst of uncertainty, where the future of the church does not seem as certain as it did a few decades ago. I've been reading a lot of books the past few months that speak to these changing times, how congregations are caught between maintaining traditions of the past and adopting

new paradigms for the future, and ways to renew our churches.

The church could use a good spring cleaning. Diana Butler Bass has said, "Christianity is a sacred pathway to someplace better, a journey of transforming our selves, our faith communities, and our world." Why not pick up a new book to provide nourishment for the spirit as you travel that journey!

Faithfully yours, Rev. Darren L. Morgan
Acting Associate Conference Minister for Small Church Development



Our Sunday School children are sponsoring an 11-year-old girl in Ethiopia. As a result of our church's recent Compassion Sunday, our Sunday School children have enthusiastically decided to sponsor **Hirut Suloro** from Ethiopia. **Weekly, year-round** Sunday School offerings will be more important than ever so that we can continue to extend our loving concern to Hirut. **Parents:** Please be sure that your children bring an offering to Sunday School each week, year-round, as the sponsorship costs \$40 per month. The Sunday School collection will be taken weekly during our Circle Time when we gather in Fellowship Hall for prayer before going to our Sunday School classrooms or our God's Garden Club activity. Look for a map of Ethiopia and updates about our friend, Hirut, in Fellowship Hall. **Thank you, children and youth, for this important way to share God's love! We are so proud of you!**

High School Graduates will be recognized on Sunday, June 7th during worship.

Our Last Day of Sunday School Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 7th. We hope that all of our

Sunday School children and youth will join us for what promises to be a GREAT TIME at our annual picnic! Food, fun, and FRIENDS! **Be sure to**

dress in casual clothes. We will gather at the church and go as a group to the Town Green.

God's Garden Club will begin on Sunday, June 14th with our annual geranium planting. We will need additional youth/adult volunteers to help with God's Garden Club during the summer. **Thanks to those of you who have already said Yes!** If you'd like to help, please speak to any member of the CEB: Kathe Simons, Ray Vonder Haar, Kathy Woodside, Kim Craighead, Kathy MacCulloch, Laurie Riddell, Sandy Boyce.

God has entrusted to us the Christian upbringing of our church's children and youth. This is a most important responsibility for all church members. Have you ever considered teaching Sunday School? Look for information in the coming weeks about opportunities in our Sunday School program for the upcoming 2009-2010 program year. Our church's children and youth need YOU! Please contact Kathe Simons, 244-3207 if you have any questions.

On Giving and Getting

British author Elizabeth Bibesco said, "Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting."

Can we follow her advice? Do we really need to keep a mental account of our sharing? Of course, we must keep financial records for tax purposes, but why dwell on our generosity? That might cultivate the sin of arrogant pride.

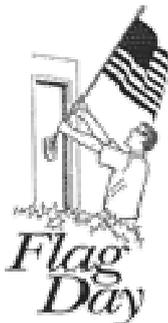
Instead, keep the good feeling derived from giving. Dwell on that joy rather than on the amount or the service given. Never forget what others have done for you. A grateful heart blesses you as well as the people you help.

Source: Newsletter Newsletter

June 2009



- 1 Ruth Rossi
- 2 Paul Paradis
- 3 Addyson Makenna Boyce
- 5 Tricia Hammond
- 6 James MacLeod
- 7 Hilda Roderick
- 8 Michael Gurtler
- 8 Mary Brown
- 9 Cynthia Lambert
- 10 Shari Roopenian
- 10 Katie Fuller
- 15 Diane Bonsey
- 16 Raymond Turner
- 17 Lois Wade
- 17 Mary Paquet
- 18 Carla Haskell
- 19 Norman Nadel
- 20 Betty Crawford
- 21 Paul Hammond
- 21 Rodney Fox
- 26 Rob Shea
- 26 Vernice Young
- 26 Lynne Richardson
- 27 Kimberly Haller
- 29 Martha Hobbs
- 29 Dylan Stillman
- 30 Alexa Bonsey
- 30 Scott Hammond



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – David Lind
Assistant Deacon – Joyce Parmelee

Liturgists-

7: Anne Warner
14: Alice Hobbs
21:
28:

Flowers –

7: Charlotte and Bill Skiff
14: Rita Johnston and Lenny DeMuro
21:
28: Paul and Mimi Dickson

Coffee Hosts -

7: Jan Varnum and Barbara Richardson
14: Honduras Group
21: Linda Kelley and Susan McKay
28: Ann and Doug Lee

Bible Readings -

- 7 Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17
- 14 I Samuel 15:34 – 16:13
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17
Mark 4:26-34
- 21 1 Samuel 17:32-49
Psalm 9:9-20
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41
- 28 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

June

	1 <i>Cancer Support Group</i> 5:00 - 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 5:30-7	2 Cub Scouts 3:30-5:00 <i>Acadia Shawl Ministry</i> 7:00 PM	3 Scouts 6:00-8:00	4 Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	5 Minister's Day Off	6 Brass Recital 2:00 – 5:30
7 Graduation Recognition Worship / S. School 10 am Youth Choir 11:30 Girl Scouts 2-4	8	9 Cub Scouts 3:30-5:00 Outreach 7:00	10 Scouts 6:00-8:00	11	12 Minister's Day Off	13
14 Worship / God's Garden Club - 10 am Youth Choir 11:30 CE Board Retreat 11:30 Student piano recital 4:00	15	16 Cub Scouts 3:30-5 <i>Acadia Shawl Ministry</i> 7:00	17 <u>Chimes</u> <u>Articles Due!</u> Scouts 6:00-8:00 CE Board 7:00	18	19 Minister's Day Off	20
21 Worship / God's Garden Club - 10 am Youth Choir 11:30 Deacons 12:00	22	23	24 Scouts 6:00-8:00 Church Council 7:00	25 Trustees 5:30	26 Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce Gilbert and Sullivan Concert 6-9	27
28 Worship / God's Garden Club - 10 am Youth Choir 11:30 Stroke Surv. 6:00	29	30				

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

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Bar Harbor, ME 04609
Permit Number 32**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Special dates

- Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2009
- Flag Day, June 14, 2009
- Father's Day, June 21, 2009
- First day of summer, June 21, 2009



Thoughts for Father's Day

An unknown father who began to consider the example he should set for his children penned the following poem:

A careful man I ought to be;
A little fellow follows me;
I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes;
Whate'er he sees me do, he tries —
Like me, he says, he's going to be,
The little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,
Believes in every word of mine:
The base in me he must not see,
The little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go,
Through summer's sun and winter's
snow, I'm building for the years to be,
For a little fellow follows me.

A Father's Influence

Studies show that if the mother of a family attends worship, there's a 16 percent chance that the rest of the family will also attend.

Yet when a father attends worship, there's a 93 percent chance that other family members will be present, too.

Just think, Dad, of the clout you have.
Hope to see you in church this weekend!

Articles this page: Newsletter Newsletter