



THE CHIMES

THE NEWS LETTER OF THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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From the Senior Pastor:

September 2009

Last month my article contained six suggestions for ways to pray. By now I hope that many of you have done some experimentation to see which, if any, of the methods would work for your personal prayer life. This month, I will continue with “Part 2” as I explore six more ways of praying during our busy lives.

We can pray in thanks for life. It is easy to lose sight of the fact that life itself is a gift from God. All around us we see evidence that life is held in little esteem and, in fact, is considered cheap, not worth much. That is not what God had in mind when we were created in God’s image. In the scriptures we are told that God knows us when we are still in our mothers’ wombs, that every hair on our head is numbered and known by God. How can we ever dismiss the value of our lives? How can we ever be less than thankful for the opportunity of life from the hand of our loving Creator? When we are sick, when life is hard, when we suffer pain and loss it is good to remember how valuable we are in the heart of God and to pray that God will watch over us and lead us through the difficulty in which we find ourselves. This may be the most difficult kind of prayer – praying through tears in gratitude for the gift of life, ours or that of others.

We can pray while we are listening for answers. God always answers our prayers, we know, but the answers often come when we do not expect them and usually the answers are not the ones we expected. Waiting is difficult for all of us. We are so used to receiving

instant gratification that we might even expect God to operate that way. God’s time, in Greek *kairos*, does not function with clocks and calendars, but with grace and mercy. Patience may be a virtue, but it is often wanting in our human makeup. Patience is exactly what we need to practice as we wait for God’s responses to our prayers. No matter what the basis for our prayer might be, I would encourage us all to develop a heart of patience and a way of prayerfully waiting while God works out and reveals the gift of God’s response to our petitions. (Incidentally, prayerful waiting is also the best posture to take when waiting for answers to come from spouses, children, doctors, bankers, and others from whom we wait for responses that will affect our lives.)

“We can pray even when we cannot clasp our hands.” That phrase came from a conversation I was having with a UCC minister who was born without arms or hands. He was a remarkable man who had learned to use his feet and legs for many purposes usually reserved for arms and hands. He told of how, when he was a child, he was told that in order to pray we need to bow our head and fold our hands. Since he couldn’t follow the second part of that suggestion, he wondered if he could pray. He worried that his prayers would not be acceptable to God because he couldn’t assume the correct posture for prayer. A very kind Sunday School teacher explained to him that all he really needed for prayer was a heart for God. Since he definitely had the heart, he

realized at an early age that prayer was not a matter of posture, but of attitude. If we are mindful of whose presence we seek, our prayers will be genuine. Even if we are not completely ready to pray, but desire to be in the presence of God for healing, help and gratitude, we are in possession of all we need to pray. All of God's people are created for prayer.

We don't need fancy words to pray. We can pray in plain words, spilling the contents of our heart at the feet of Jesus. When called by God for a great and wonderful mission, Moses protested that he couldn't talk well and that he didn't have the ability to explain God's mission to the people. God, instead of giving him a pass, told Moses that he shouldn't worry, that God would provide the words he would need. That's how prayer is. God even hears us in the silence of our hearts, when words fail us. A simple cry for help will be heard by God, who intimately knows our pain. Don't worry if your prayer vocabulary isn't what you think it should be. God will hear you just the same.

Prayer can be a continuing conversation with God. This is actually the way I pray most often. The conversation begins early in the morning and goes on throughout the day, well into the night. There are gaps in the conversation as I am occupied with one thing and another, but then I will go right back to it and it is as though I had never wandered away. I offer this as a possibility to all of you as a most effective way to a prayer life. Including God in your day is a blessing for you and those with whom you are in touch during the day. I always remember this old saying, "Your day cannot come apart when it is hemmed in prayer."

This last method of prayer is for all of us who experience fear in our lives. I confess that I do not like to fly. Hanging in the sky, totally out of control of the situation is not something I am fond of. Oh, yes, I do understand how jets work, but that is of little comfort when I am contemplating hurtling through the air at high speeds. I check to see that the pilots seem to be in good moods and capable of handling the

aircraft. I look around for signs that there are any problems. I will even resort to taking some medication that calms me for the flight.

However, all of that aside, I have found the most comfort in learning how to pray in the "full upright position" while I am waiting to take off and land. That kind of prayer is the kind that we do when we are afraid and feel out of control. It doesn't have to be on an airplane. We can pray this way when we are waiting for answers to a medical test, or as we are going into surgery, or when someone we love is in danger. Anytime we are afraid is the time to turn to God in prayer. It is amazing how a conversation with God can calm the fiercest beating of our hearts and the labored breathing of fear. I highly recommend it.

And so, my friends, this concludes twelve great ways to pray. Use the suggestions that are helpful. The most important thing is that you pray. Now wouldn't be a bad time to get started.

Sandra M. Reed



July 28 – Timothy Burgess and Jennifer Duff

August 8 –Robert Cook and Sherrie Lyons

August 15 –Russell Hill and Jessica Civali

August 16 – Patrick Tamayo and Amanda
Bence

August 22 – Matthew Goodwin and Julie
Heidbreder

August 29 – Kevin Steenberge and Hillary
Hughes

Stefan Feuerabendt and Carol Huang



We're still looking for YOU to volunteer with this year's Sunday School program. THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SIGNED ON to what promises to be a FANTASTIC Sunday School year -- we've had a great response so far. Thanks also to Sandra Reed and Ray Vonder Haar for each offering a coffee table for our two classrooms implementing the Worship Center Curriculum. We will definitely need a couple more woodworkers in the late summer/early fall to help with cutting out small pine figures for the WCC classrooms, too. We're in great shape for Snack Shepherds, but could use a few more Craft Helpers; craft helpers will assemble materials (provided) for weekly EASY projects to reinforce the week's Bible lesson. (This can be done at home although we might just have to do it in a small group over dessert at church!) Remember -- it is our CE Board's goal that EVERY adult will somehow support our Sunday School program this year. How can YOU help us? Please call Kathe Simons (603-860-4539 - cell), Kathy Woodside, or Kathy MacCulloch to volunteer!

**Maine Conference United
Church of Christ Annual
Meeting
September 24th-27th
"Hold Fast to Love and Justice"**

This year's Annual Meeting will be held at Sunday River in Bethel September 24th-27th at the Grand Summit Hotel. The theme of the conference is **"Hold Fast to Love and Justice."** **This year's meeting is more affordable for delegates and visitors from our church because we have free accommodations.**

Kathy Woodside's brother-in-law arranged for the use of his employer's condo at Sunday River. The unit has 4 queen size beds and at least one sofa. The daylight basement has a full bath and one bedroom with 2 of the beds. The second floor has two bedrooms, one with a full bath and there's a shower/bath in the common hall. Also the second floor has a loft area where sleeping bags could be placed. The main floor has a den, 1/2 bath, large dining/living room area and small fully equipped kitchen. As for proximity to the main lodge where all the meetings take place...it is an enthusiastic walk or a short drive.

This wonderful gift means the church would only have to pay the registration fees and cover the cost of meals for the delegates. **It also means that there is room for those who would like to attend the meeting as visitors.** Adult and youth visitors would be responsible for their own registration fees and meals. However, this is still a great deal! The lodging is always the largest expense, therefore **attending the conference this year is more affordable than in previous years.** Attendees must register by Sept. 1.

The registration forms must be signed by the church clerk so they need to be dropped off at the church office in a timely manner so they can be signed and sent on time otherwise there is a late fee. Registration forms are available on the Maine UCC website (<http://www.maineucc.org/>). Youth delegates and youth visitors will need to complete the Youth Health Form as well as the Registration Form. Please check your calendars and let Kathy Woodside know as soon as possible if you would like to attend the meeting (phone: 288-5160 or email:

kcwoodside@roadrunner.com)

Accommodations are available on a first come first serve basis. Many thanks!

Change Your Thinking

It will take just 37 seconds to read this and change your thinking.

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room.

One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs.

His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation.

Every afternoon, when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window.

The man in the other bed began to live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside.

The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man by the window described all this in exquisite details, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine this picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon, the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band - he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

Days, weeks and months passed. One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep.

She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window.

The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window besides the bed.

It faced a blank wall.

The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window.

The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, 'Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you.'

Epilogue

There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled.

If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy.

'Today is a gift, that is why it is called The Present.'

We thank Lou Ingrisano for bringing this letter to our attention.



Where Does Our Money Go? Where Does Your Money Go?

For the past five months we have been examining the question of where does our church spend her money? Do you remember? (1) We share our building with others. (2) Staff to run our ministry. (3) Heating cost. Our new church & parsonage heating systems saved us approximately 20%. 4) Taxes: Yes, the church pays taxes too. (5) To our neighbors in need, whether they are near or afar. This being the sixth in the series, the question is now turned and being asked of us: Where does **your** money go? "I wish I knew?" Is the most popular reply. In a few weeks, some of your friends will be sharing why they are giving to the ministry of our church. Listen to their stories, because: **We are all in this together.**

Help Avoid Building Use Conflicts!

The church office maintains a calendar which lists all the events that involve use of the church building. This calendar is also used when publishing meeting times which appear in the Chimes and in the Sunday morning bulletin announcements. If your board or committee uses the building for any reason, please be sure the office has current and accurate information. *If meeting times change, please call the office so the calendar can be updated.* Otherwise, conflicts may occur, and it is likely that inaccurate information will be publicized.

Breaking News from your Christian Education Board!

Did you know that the Christian Education Board continues throughout the entire summer with lots of committee work and planning to ensure a meaningful CE experience for every one of our children and youth? Here's what we're up to:

- **Our church is looking for a special person to serve as our Sunday School Coordinator.** This position will average **15 hours per week**. The new SSC will work closely with our CE Board to provide a dynamic, faith-filled Sunday School program for our children and youth. For more detailed information, please contact Kathe Simons, at kathe@simons.mv.com or by phone, 244-3207, Kathy Woodside, at kcwoodside@roadrunner.com or by phone at 288-5160, or Sandra Reed at smreed@barharborucc.org or by phone at 460-9300.
- **Can you make popcorn? Can you sing a favorite song from your Sunday School years? Can you use a jigsaw? Are you great with paint? We need you and your talents.** Can you carry a tray of popcorn and cups to our classrooms? We are looking for **Snack Shepherds, Circle Time Captains, After-Hours Angels** (including woodworkers and painters), and more. Recruitment and ongoing support for our cherished Sunday School teachers and volunteers is an important commitment of our board. How can **you** help? Even **ONE** Sunday or an hour or two at home will make a **HUGE** difference in the lives of our young people. **"Here I am, Lord. Send me. . ."**

- **God's Garden Club** continues to blossom with a bouquet of wonderful activities for our youth and children. We've enjoyed making new friends with our visits "from away." We've sung and rung chimes, we've planted geraniums, we've made prayer flags, we've learned about baptism, and much more. Be sure to look for our display in the parlour. Come to see what we've got planned for August! Thanks to **ALL THOSE** who continue to volunteer to sustain this wonderful offering for our young people.
- **Love the theater?** In August, **Doug McMinimy** will work with our children in grades 2-8 during God's Garden Club to **produce a musical** that will be performed in church on Rally Sunday, September 13. Look for more details . . .
- **Rally Sunday** will kick-off our new Sunday School year on **Sunday, September 13th**. We'll begin with our annual Rally Day potluck breakfast at 9 AM in Fellowship Hall. Please join us! We will dedicate our children and volunteers during worship and we'll enjoy a special musical performance, **too. Be there!**

Kathe Simons, for the CE Board



Monthly Family Worship

Beginning in September, all families are invited to join together on the 4th Sunday of the month for 10 AM Morning Worship. (The exception will be the first family worship on September 13.) Thereafter, **on the 4th Sunday of each month**, there will be **no Sunday School classes** so that we may all worship together. Nursery care *will* be provided. What a wonderful way to celebrate the love of God and our faith in Jesus Christ with worshippers of all ages! See you in church!

GROWING UP FAST!

In September, Monarch butterflies migrate to warmer climates. In God's wonderful design, these butterflies have gone through an amazing transformation. This craft will remind you of the ongoing transformation that God has planned for you, too.

What you need:

- Clear, one-gallon zipper baggie (with no writing)
- Colored tissue paper
- Scissors
- Wooden, one-piece clothespin
- Pipe cleaner
- Black permanent marker
- Glue and wiggly eyes (optional)
- Magnet tape

What you do:

1. Turn the baggie inside out and rub it on your head to create static cling. Then turn the baggie right-side-out again.
2. Cut tissue paper into 2" x 2" squares.
3. Fill the baggie with tissue squares.
4. Press excess air out of the bag and zip it. Lay the baggie on its side (this will form the butterfly's wings) so the zipper is at the top.
5. Pinch the baggie with the clothespin so it divides the baggie into two equal parts to create the butterfly's head and body.
6. Thread the pipe cleaner through the hole atop the clothespin to form the antennae.
7. With a permanent marker, write "Romans 12:2" on the bottom half of the clothespin.
8. Draw on eyes (or glue on wiggly eyes).
9. Attach a strip of magnet tape to the back of the clothespin. Then display the butterfly on your refrigerator.



Be transformed

It's the beginning of a new school year, and you'll be growing and changing every day. Below is an important lesson that God wants you to remember.

Color in the letter boxes that have an asterisk (*).

Then write the letters that are left on the lines below to finish Romans 12:2.

c	h*	o	n	d*	f	t*	q*	o	s*	r	a*	b*	r*	m
x*	p	j*	e*	a	t	m*	t	o*	c*	p*	e	r	k*	n
w	d*	o	s*	r*	j*	r	g*	l	b*	l*	i*	n*	d	y*
t	r	i*	a	t*	n	s	r*	f	o	r	v*	m	e	d
r	d*	e	n	h*	s*	o*	e	r*	w	i	t*	n	m*	g
c*	a*	m	b*	u*	i	p*	z*	n	j*	r*	d	y*	o*	u*
a*	r*	s*	t	e	o*	w*	s	k*	v*	f*	l*	t	e*	a*
a	p	e*	r*	p	i*	r	g*	o	n*	v	h*	j*	p*	e
n*	o*	G	b*	i*	o	s*	d	a*	l*	l*	s	e*	t*	h*
s*	p	l	m*	e	y*	a	s	o*	r*	i	n	c*	g	n*
p	e	t*	i*	r	f	w*	t*	e	m*	l*	c	d*	a*	t

"Do not _____ any longer to the _____ of this _____, but be _____ by the _____ of your _____. Then you will be able to _____ and _____ what _____ will is — his good, _____ and _____ will." *Romans 12:2, NIV*

Answers: conform, pattern, world, transformed, renewing, mind, rest, approve, God's, pleasing, perfect



September



		1 Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00	2	3	4 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	5
6 Worship / God's Garden Club – 10 am	7 Labor Day <i>Cancer Support Group 5:00</i>	8 <i>Eden Nursery School classes begin</i>	9	10 Bible Study 10:00 am Adult Choir 7:00	11  PATRIOT DAY	12
13 Rally Day Worship / Sunday School – 10 am	14 <i>Outreach Board 7:00</i>	15 Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00	16 Chimes Articles Due! <i>CE Board 7:00</i>	17 Bible Study 10:00 am <i>Trustees 5:30</i> Adult Choir 7:00	18 <i>Minister's Day Off</i> <i>BTS Reception 10:00</i> Kevin Morse's Guitar Recital 8:00	19
20 Worship / Sunday School – 10 am	21	22	23 <i>Church Council 7:00</i>	24 Bible Study 10:00 am Adult Choir 7:00	25 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	26
27 Worship / Sunday School – 10 am <i>Stroke Survivor's Group 6:00</i>	28	29	30			

September



2 Gloria Gray
3 Rob Fry
3 Brian Booher
4 Jean Willis
4 Rita Johnston
6 Benjamin Blaney
7 Laurie Olson
12 Tracey McCarthy
13 Jacquelyn Johnson
15 Mimi Dickson
19 Lucas Wood
20 Olivia Stanley
22 Wanda Young
23 Anna Naggert
24 Kendra Bonsey
24 Hanna Boyce
25 Debra Hammond
26 Nathaniel Olsen
27 Jennifer Spurling Gibson
28 Kathy MacCulloch
28 Robert Haskell
30 Elijah O'Connor
30 Melissa Reed Young



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Fran Fry
Assistant Deacon – Patty Benore

Liturgists-

6:
13:
20: Ray Vonder Haar
27: Al Simons

Flowers –

6: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dyer
13: Penny Frost, Cindy and Jim Lambert
20: Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Soule
27: Robert Malaney, Michele and
Charlie Croan

Coffee Hosts -

6:
13:
20: Zucchini Festival
27:

Home Bible Readings

6 Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10
Mark 7:24-37
13 Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38
20 Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37
27 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

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

Special Dates

- Labor Day, September 7, 2009
- Patriot Day (remembrance of Sept. 11), September 11, 2009
- National Grandparents Day, September 13, 2009
- National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15-October 15, 2009
- First Day of Autumn, Sept. 22, 2009

Be Transformed

It's Labor Day weekend — a time to rest from our labors. But this is also an opportunity to reflect on our daily work and discern whether our effort is thankless and uninteresting or something that gives us deep and lasting satisfaction. God intends for our work to be much more than a job, much more than a daily grind. It should be, instead, a vocation — which means, quite literally, a "calling."

In Romans 12:2, Paul challenges us with the words: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect."

The apostle's advice, then, is to be transformed by the renewing of your minds. Paul says be transformed by discovering what the Lord God is calling you to do.

Monday Morning Prayer

The alarm clock has wakened me, dear God, but I want to talk with you before it rings again. I need to thank you for this comfortable bed and a good night's sleep, for good health and strength, for an enjoyable weekend, for a wonderful church and worship service yesterday, for friends and family who care and love, for you and all that you bring to our lives, for the opportunities to serve you.

Be with me throughout this day and the week ahead. Let me do my work honestly, willingly and responsibly. As I meet people, help me to see them as your children and your loved ones.

I know you will lead me in whatever circumstances this day holds. I look forward to the adventures you and I will share together. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell,

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