



THE CHIMES

THE NEWS LETTER OF THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

29 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 3:00 PM; Friday 9:00 – 11:30 AM

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December 2009

From the Senior Pastor



I'm counting them this year. So far, there have been fifty-two of them. Every day there is a new collection to aggravate me. I am thinking seriously of using them to start a big bonfire of protest, but I don't think Hancock Street is ready for that! Catalogues. I am so tired of hauling them in every day from the mailbox. I have tried to remove my name from their mailing lists, but to no avail. I rejoice whenever I receive one that contains the welcome message, "CAUTION: THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST CATALOGUE UNLESS YOU MAKE A PURCHASE!" Unfortunately, the warning is always premature, because the next day brings yet another of the same type of catalogue. My frustration grows!

Catalogues have become the new harbingers of Christmas. Whereas we used to count the days of Advent or look to the stars in the heavens to foretell the coming of the Christ Child, now it is LL Bean, Eddie Bauer, Sears, Lands' End, Delia*s and Coldwater Creek who announce the coming birth of the Savior. And I have named only a few. I am all for free enterprise and I know everyone has to make a living, but, really, do I need all these pages and pages of "tempting gift opportunities" to ready my

heart for God's greatest gift to humanity?

Of course the answer to that question is no. You know that and I know that. But when I think of all the wonderful aspects of waiting for the Christ Child, the coming of catalogues is nowhere on my list. Gift giving has always been a part of Christmas, but the gifts are supposed to be replicas of those given by the Wise Men to the Christ Child so many centuries ago. The Wise Men brought gifts that symbolized the meaning of God's perfect gift; gifts that were brought in homage to that small boy in the manger in Bethlehem. (Yes, I know it took them two years to get there and He was no longer in the manger, but you get my point.) I doubt seriously that I will find such gifts within the pages of Victoria's Secret or What on Earth catalogues – some interesting offerings, to be sure, but not of the Christmas gift nature.

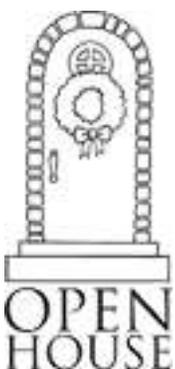
I have vowed that the gifts I give this year will reflect both my love for God and my deep regard for the person who receives the gift. That doesn't mean that each gift must be of a sacred nature, but each gift will be chosen and given in the spirit of this high and holy season. When a person receives a gift from me this year, they will not have to wonder why I chose it. They will know that what they hold in their hands has been given with love and a nod toward the One who has inspired generosity in us all. Gifts at Christmastime should reflect our love for

Christ and our love for each other. That will be different for each person to be sure.

I must say that there is one catalogue that I look forward to receiving during Christmas preparations. That catalogue is "The Most Important Catalogue in the World," sent by Heifer International. Contained within its pages are many gifts of hope and promise that can be given in the names of our loved ones. I encourage you to look at this catalogue if it appears in your mailbox and, perhaps, choose a lasting gift for the person on your list who really does have everything. If you are interested in doing this, but you haven't received a catalogue, we have some on the table in the entrance to the church. You are welcome to peruse their pages and choose a very special Christmas offering.

May God grant you a season of reflection on your blessings, hope for the future and grateful thanks for the ultimate Christmas gift. A blessed Christmas to all!

Sandra M. Reed



PARTY AT THE PARSONAGE

Please plan to join Wally, Sandra, Winston and Leon on Saturday, December 18, for their annual Christmas Open House. Come and enjoy some good conversation, yummy food and lots of Christmas excitement. The open house will last from 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM and will be held at the parsonage, 37 Hancock Street.

If you are a "regular," please join us again and if you have never attended before, please do come this year. It's always a good time, made better if you are there. **Everyone is welcome, young and old alike. Join us in the spirit of the season!**

Prayer Team Is Up and Running Again

Our Prayer Team is once again working online and is looking for some new folks to join us. With weekly updates, the Prayer Team is notified of prayer concerns within our church family (and beyond) and is asked to pray for that person or concern that arises. Notification is done by way of email. We are also looking into the possibility of meeting from time to time as a group.

If you are interested in joining this mighty group, please let Sandra Reed know and give her your email address.



Calling All Potential Confirmands

I am planning on starting a Confirmation Class beginning in January, 2010. Any young person in grades 7, 8 or beyond is welcome to be a part of this class. We would meet weekly to prepare for full membership in the church by studying scriptures, talking about the church organization and structure, our denominational identity, and personal faith lives. This is always an interesting, fun and meaningful experience.

If you are interested in being a part of the coming Confirmation Class, please let me know no later than January 1, 2010. If you have questions, I would be glad to answer them.

I am looking forward to leading this class and I am eagerly awaiting those who will be a part of it!

Sandra Reed

Be Sure to Attend the Dec. 20th Children's Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Mark your calendars for this year's performance of the children's Sunday School Christmas Pageant following the church service on Dec 20th. The Sunday school classes will be acting out scenes from the Christmas story and singing songs from "Jesus, Light of the World" by Mark Patterson in this 20-minute presentation. Seeing our children presenting the story of Jesus' birth and singing some of the best loved Christmas carols will surely bring a smile to your face, warm your heart and prepare you for Christmas like nothing else. Don't miss it!

An Outstanding Concert for Your Christmas Pleasure

Our Christmas Festival showcases the talent that God has bestowed on members of the church and community. We have vocalists, choirs, instrumentalists, and readings and everyone who attends thoroughly enjoys the concert. Please mark your calendars for December 13 at 2:00 PM! What better way to begin your Christmas celebrations?

Please Pick Up Your Church Envelopes

I would like to talk with you, for
I am part of your church life.
I may be a complete stranger to you, but
I can help you be a better Christian.
I like to go to worship on Sunday, for
I help you to be Christ's partner.
I am very small, but
I am the keystone of your church program.
I am a weekly reminder of your daily blessings.
I dare you to be as good to God as he has
been to you.
I am only paper, but
I carry the full gift of a generous heart.
I am the only pocketbook you need on Sunday, and
I promise not to be a burden.
I am your chance to preach, for
I am a silent sermon of your devotion.

Source: Newsletter Newsletter



The Annual Living Nativity will take place on the church steps on Wednesday, December 16th and Thursday, December 17th from 6:00 to 7:20p (two teams doing two twenty minute shifts). All participants are asked to be at the church by 5:15-5:30pm at the latest. The dressing of the characters will begin 5:30pm. A light supper will be available between shifts. There will be a sign-up sheet in the parlor after Thanksgiving. It takes over 60 participants over the two evenings to make the event run smoothly. Newcomers to the church are most welcome. This awesome event is our church's gift to the community

each year. **Any questions call Norma Spurling 288-9023**

An Opportunity to Help Others Enjoy the Spirit of Christmas

Working in partnership with the Maine Seacoast Mission, our Christmas Outreach program this year will be twofold: gift-giving and volunteering our time. The Seacoast Mission Christmas Program relies heavily on volunteers who contribute their time.

Join in the fun and get into the Christmas spirit of giving! Everyone is invited to volunteer - adult and children, in groups or as individuals. Time has been scheduled on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 - 5:30 for members of our church to volunteer.

Groups of eight and individuals can also arrange their own time by calling the Seacoast Mission at 288-5097. Ask for Julie Patton, the Christmas program director.

Our Christmas giving tree will be in the narthex the weekend after Thanksgiving. There will be a sign out sheet this year in order to obtain a name and phone number for each gift. We will NOT have to wrap our gifts since that will be done at the Mission. If you have any questions, please call Karen McFarland at 288-5760.

Congratulations!

**Susan Ackerman
Jackson Laboratory Staff
Scientist**

“Ongoing research at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor shows promise for treating Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and other

neurodegenerative diseases.”

“The work is being done in a lab headed by Dr Susan Ackerman. Ackerman has worked at The Jackson Laboratory for 12 years. In 2005, she was appointed a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, one of the top distinctions in biomedical research.”



“The question my lab is trying to answer is what’s causing folded proteins?’ Proper folding of proteins is necessary for neurons and other cells to function. Ackerman explained.”

“To answer that question, Ackerman and her team – eight post-doc fellows, two research assistants and a grad student – have identified several mutant genes connected to the proper folding of proteins.”

“The Team found a new gene, a suppressor gene that prevents the misfolding of proteins. This shows the most promise for treating neurodegenerative diseases. The discovery is recent. ‘Nobody’s published on it,’ Ackerman said. “We’ll look at it if it has an impact on these diseases.”

Source: *Mount Desert Islander*

Save the date!
Annual Christmas Fair Friday, December 4,
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? If not, here is the perfect opportunity to purchase that perfect gift for a special friend or family member. The Annual Christmas Fair has something for everyone.... Lovely crafts, yummy baked goods, fascinating attic treasures, and Fair Trade items from all over the world! In addition there will be a raffle table featuring the art of several area artists, cash gifts, and specialty baskets.

Let's not forget our famous luncheon! Lunch begins at 11:00 a.m., which gives you a whole hour to shop before you take a break for lunch. The menu will include savory soups, super crab rolls, scrumptious sandwiches, and delicious pies. So save the date...see your friends...and enjoy the Christmas fun!!

It takes the work of many people to put our fair together! Please check the following list to see where you can help out!

For the Christmas Fair we need lots of helpers and goodies!

1. Fellowship Hall Set-up (Luncheon tables etc.)/Dec.2nd & 3rd
- 2 Attic Treasures Set-up/Dec 2nd & 3rd
2. Pies for the luncheon
3. Cookies/Baked Goods/Fudge
4. Crafts
5. Attic Treasures
6. SERRV (Fair Trade Items)
7. Raffles
8. Fellowship Hall/Attic Treasures Clean-up
9. Eden Nursery Set-up Right after the fair
9. Kitchen Cook Crew
10. Kitchen Clean-up Crew
11. Waiters/Waitresses
12. Where ever we may need you!

Sign up sheets are in the parlor!!

The Annual Church Fair is a major fundraiser for the church. Your help will make our Christmas Fair a success!



A word or two from Christian Education...

Our Sunday School program is progressing nicely thanks to the dedication and commitment of our great teachers. It is sheer joy to walk through the classrooms and see our children truly engaged in learning about their faith.

On October 24th the Christian Education Board hosted a Harvest Potluck! We were a small group of 10 so it was more like a family supper than a potluck. As always there was great food...lots of it and wonderful conversation and fellowship.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Pageant rehearsals begin on November 29th.

Doug McMinimy will begin familiarizing our children with some of the music for the Christmas pageant during Circle Time at Sunday School. Additional rehearsals will be announced at a later date.

Gingerbread Houses: December 5th, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

This has become a traditional favorite with our children. Kathy MacCulloch and Leslyn Shea will be sending out letters with a recipe to make the gingerbread pieces for the houses. Please bring them with you when you come and decorate your gingerbread houses. This is an wonderful event and everyone has a great time.

Christmas Pageant: December 20th at 11:30 in the Sanctuary.

Get your coffee and sit back and enjoy our young people as they retell the Christmas story in their own special way!!

Birthday Coffee Hour: January 3rd

This is a Sunday not to miss! There will be twelve birthday cakes...one for each month of the year. This is your chance to have more than one birthday a year...after all...how can you resist all that cake!!

For all you wonderful bakers out there...this is your chance to shine!! So keep watch for the Birthday Cake sign-up sheet!!

Do you want to contribute in some way to the Christian Education Program, but don't know what you can do? Have we got a deal for you!!

- **Sign-up to prepare a snack for the Sunday School Classes**
- **Sign-up to help set-up and break down the Sunday School Classroom**

Your willingness to do one of these tasks will help to support our Christian Education Program. And more importantly your gift of time will give our teachers extra time to prepare for their classes and more time with our children! If you are interested you can sign up in the church parlor. There you will find Tip Sheets so you will know exactly what to do. If you have questions, see Kathy Woodside or Kathe Simons.

Local Runners: Maggie Painter, Annie Painter and Mother Mary Dudzik

Maggie is a member of the Emerson Cross-Country Team that had a fantastic, undefeated 2009 season. She also led sister Annie and mom Mary in the LedgeLawn 400 Quarter Mile Road Race where she finished fourth with a time of 1:07 and was closely followed by Mary at 1:21 and Annie at 1:30.

Source: *Mount Desert Islander*

STAINED-GLASS STAR COOKIES

These star cookies will remind you of the star that led the Magi, or wise men, to our Lord Jesus. Enjoy these treats for yourself or give them as gifts.

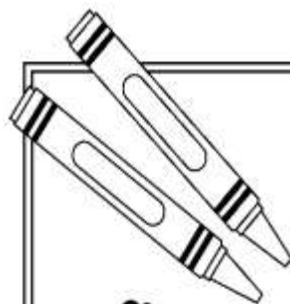
What you need:

- An adult to help
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) margarine or butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Plastic wrap
- Hard candy such as Life Savers in assorted colors
- Zippered baggies
- Rolling pin
- 2 star cookie cutters, one much smaller than the other
- Aluminum foil



What you do:

1. Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together.
2. Cream the sugar and butter. Add the eggs and vanilla.
3. Add the flour mixture and beat until well blended.
4. Divide the dough into four equal pieces. Wrap each piece in plastic wrap and refrigerate for about 30 minutes.
5. Separate candies by color and place each color in a sealed, zippered baggie. With a rolling pin, crush candy into small pieces (not a fine powder).
6. One at a time, roll out each chilled dough piece on a well-floured surface.
7. Use the large cookie cutter to make stars, and then place them on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Then press the small star cookie cutter into each large star and remove the small piece of star-shaped dough.
8. Place some crushed candy in each star-shaped hole.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. (The candy will melt and be translucent when cooled, like a stained-glass window.)

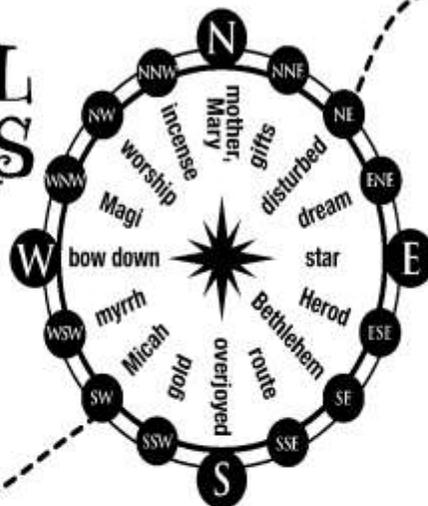


Just for

KIDS

SPECIAL VISITORS

Matthew 2 tells of visitors who traveled to worship Jesus. Read that story, or see if you can answer the questions below from memory. Use the compass guide to fill in the correct answers.



1. Who was king during the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How was King Herod feeling about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men and told them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. What did the Magi do first before they worshiped the child? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW)
_____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as ... _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrrh, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route

December



2 Michael Breen
2 Patrick Breen
4 Eric Kelley
4 Terrance Kelley
6 Bill Fuller
6 Jefferson Hobbs
11 Beth Paradis
11 Mary Elizabeth Kelley
12 David Blaney
12 John Collier
14 Linda Kelley
15 Fran Fry
16 Jean Kief
18 Ian Hepburn
18 Deb Wade
18 Mark Reece
19 Marilynne Marino
19 Isabella Webster
20 Axl Wallingford
23 Tom Shea
26 Kathryn Mittelberger
27 Mary Drury
27 Dean Bryer
29 Dusty Warner
31 Michael Blaney

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Tim Beals
Assistant Deacon – Mary Dudzik

Liturgists-
6: Lenny DeMuro
13: Kathy Kief
20: Debbie Dyer
27: Wallace Reed

Flowers –
6: Ruth Rossi
13: Dorothy White
20: Poinsettias
27: Poinsettias

Coffee Hosts – *(please sign up!)*
6:
13:
20: BYO Christmas Cookies
27:

Home Bible Readings
6 Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philemon 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6
13 Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philemon 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18
20 Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-55
27 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52



December



		1 Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00	2	3 Adult Choir 7:00	4 Church Fair	5
6 Worship / Sunday School 10 am <i>Girl Scouts 2-4</i>	7 <i>Cancer Support Group 5:00-6:30</i> <i>Cub Scout Pack Meeting 5:00</i>	8	9	10 Adult Choir 7:00	11 Minister's Day Off	12
13 Worship / Sunday School 10 am <i>Christmas Festival 2:00 pm</i>	14 <i>Webelos 3:30</i> <i>Eden School Board 6:00</i>	15 Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00 Outreach Board 7:00pm	16 <u>Chimes</u> <u>Articles Due!</u> Living Nativity CE Board 7:00	17 Living Nativity Adult Choir 7:00	18 Minister's Day Off	19
20 Worship / Sunday School 10 am <i>Christmas Pageant (after worship)</i>	21 <i>Webelos 3:30</i>	22	23	24 Family Service 5:00 Candlelight Service 7:00	25 	26
27 Family Worship 10 am <i>Stroke Survivor's Group 6:00</i>	28	29	30	31		

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

- Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 6, 2009
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2009
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 20, 2009
- First day of winter, December 21, 2009
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2009
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2009
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, Dec. 31, 2009

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

In 1865, a young American preacher named Phillips Brooks spent time in and around the fields of Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve, he attended worship in the Church of the Nativity, located on the site where tradition says Jesus was born.

Brooks was so spiritually touched by the experience that he later wrote a hymn for children to sing on Christmas Eve in his Philadelphia church. Lewis Redner, the church organist and Sunday school superintendent, composed the music for the beloved hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Today it appears in most denominational hymnals. Brooks, a giant of a man physically (6'6" tall),

was known throughout America as an eloquent and dominant force in the pulpit.

There is a large statue of the gifted man of God in front of Boston's famous Trinity Church, where Brooks last served. His death in 1893 was a major event in Boston. Upon learning of his passing, a 5-year-old girl exclaimed, "Oh, Mama, how happy the angels will be."

**Merry Christmas,
and Happy New Year**

