



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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January 2010

From the Senior Pastor

As you read this we will be in the first days of the year 2010 – where does the time go? When I was young, I thought that people over 30 years of age were quite elderly and, if they reached the ripe old age of 40 – well, that was just ‘way too old for me to contemplate. My favorite teacher, Mrs. Engler, was my third grade teacher and I was sure she was the oldest person on the earth. As I look back, she was probably the age I am now, or younger. Isn’t it interesting how our perceptions regarding age change as we grow older?

In 2010 I will reach my sixtieth birthday, a milestone I never dreamed to be possible in my younger years. The biggest surprise of all is that I don’t feel “old” at all. Oh, sure, I have some new aches and pains and I look more and more like my mother (not a bad thing!) but I really don’t feel the weight of my years at all. Sometimes when I look in the mirror, I am surprised by the face that stares back at me, because it doesn’t seem to match the way I feel inside. Where did those wrinkles come from? And why does my neck resemble that of the Thanksgiving turkey we recently consumed? Oh well, time marches on.

At the beginning of a new year, we take time to evaluate the course of our

lives and see how we are making use of the years God has given us. How are you doing this year? Are you happy with the ways in which you spend your time? Do you feel good about the way you treat your family and friends? Are you contented with the setting in which you live? Does your work give you a sense of satisfaction? Are you making choices that are in keeping with your faith? If you answered, “No,” to any of these questions, perhaps it is time to reevaluate. This can be a valuable exercise as it forces us to be honest about the conditions of our lives.

The beginning of a new year is a bit uncertain – after all, no one knows what lies ahead. However, it is also a fresh start and one more opportunity to get it right. This year I will be looking carefully at the ways in which I live my life. I will give thanks for the good relationships and the holy work I have been called to do. I will reexamine my choices and my outlook on various aspects of my faith and the ways in which I live it out.

Like fresh tracks on newly fallen snow, all of our choices and decisions show clearly. May our footprints lead us in the direction of our Savior.

Happy New Year!

Sandra M Reed

We Welcome Our New Sunday School Coordinator

On behalf of the Trustees, it is my pleasure to announce that Kathy B. MacCulloch has been hired as our Sunday School Coordinator. Kathy begins her work on January 1, 2010 and will, I am sure, hit the ground running. She possesses the talents, faith and all around gumption to do a wonderful job.

Kathy is already a dedicated Christian Education Board member, a faithful Sunday School teacher, and she has completed the process to be awarded certification by the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ, as a Christian Educator. In short, she is the perfect person for us! Kathy's full-time employment is in management within the Acadia Corporation.

Kathy will be working 15 hours per week and I am sure you will see her around the church as her duties demand. When you see her, take a moment to welcome her to our staff and thank her for answering God's call in her life.

Sandra M. Reed

Please Share Your Time Helping Others This Month at the Bar Harbor Food Pantry

January is the Bar Harbor Congregational Church's month to volunteer at the Bar Harbor Food Pantry! Please join us in a fun and rewarding way to help out your island neighbors. Tasks vary according to ability so all can participate! Shifts are available on Tuesday mornings from 9 am-12 pm on 1/5, 1/12, 1/19 and Thursday afternoons from 4 pm-6 pm on 1/7, 1/14, and 1/21. A sign-up sheet is available in the parlor. Please see or call Geneva Langley at 288-4634 for additional information.



Stewardship Report - Was our Fall Campaign a Success?

...You be the Judge!...

As of December 16th – pledges we received totaled: 52 amounting to \$94,554.00. In 2009: we received 60 pledge cards totaling \$99,057, and in 2008 72 pledge cars totaling \$106,220.

Where will the difference come from?

Since our budgeted revenue estimated \$102,000 in pledged giving, it now requires other congregational giving being increased from \$44,000 to \$51,446 to meet our total

regular offering projection of \$146,000 (the same it had been two years ago).

We are blessed with annual revenue from an Inheritance and interest income from our Endowment Fund of \$25,000 and \$29,000 respectively, the use of the church and other special offerings/gifts make up the budget balance.

Our stewardship theme was: "We are all in this together". The stewardship committee hopes that you will join in helping to continue the many wonderful ministries supported by our church.

"The miracle of giving is that giving makes miracles."

—Bishop Robert E. Goodrich



A WORD OR TWO FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION...

Tis the season! The holiday season means many different things to all of us. Whether it is in the forefront of our minds or just that little angel sitting on our shoulder, we are reminded now and then that the season is really about preparations for Christ's birth. This is ever so apparent as you walk through the Sunday School classes at our church. You can see and hear what the children are doing to prepare themselves for this most sacred event. Our children really get it...thanks to our dedicated Sunday School teachers, and all of you. We are truly blessed!!

RECENT HAPPENINGS :

On December 5th Leslyn Shea and Kathy MacCulloch had a lively energetic group of kids decorating gingerbread houses. We definitely have some budding artists in our midst!

Doug McMinimy and Kimberly Haller have been working with our kids in preparation for the December 20th Christmas pageant entitled *Light of the World*. They have put together another magnificent performance! How could it not be... given Doug and Kimberly's direction and the extraordinarily talented children we have in our church family!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 3rd-Second Trimester of our Sunday School Classes Begins!

This means new teachers for some classes and some of our veteran teachers for others. The program is moving along nicely primarily due to the age appropriate curriculum that has been selected for each class. Children are encouraged to attend the classes for their age group because the material is geared especially for their age range.

Sunday, January 3--Birthday Coffee Hour

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!!

Saturday, January 23--Family Potluck & Game Night at 5:30 pm

A variety of Board Games for all ages...that means adults and kids!! Great food! Great fun! A great way to spend a cold winter night in January!! We hope you will be able to join us!

Sunday, January 24--Family Worship Service
ODDS AND ENDS!

A special thank you to our youth for the offerings they give at Circle Time to support Hirut Suloro, the Ethiopian girl child that the Sunday School sponsors. These offerings help to provide Hirut with essentials like clothing, medical care, food, and school supplies. And this year...due to the generosity of our kids there will be enough money to purchase a special Christmas gift for Hirut!!

Many thanks to all of our special helpers!! Those of you who are snack-makers and those who help to set-up and break down the Sunday School area each week are invaluable!

How can you help?

We would love to have someone lead a simple craft activity each Communion Sunday for the first half-hour of Sunday School! If you are interested, contact Kathy Woodside or Kathy MacCulloch.

An enthusiastic welcome to Kathy MacCulloch...our new Christian Education Coordinator! Many of you may already know that Kathy has been an active member of the CE board and a faithful Sunday School teacher for many years. **What you may not know is that she is a Certified Christian Educator. Yes...we are truly blessed!!**

Blessings!
Kathy Woodside, CE Board Member

OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR- WE DID IT!!

We pulled off another successful Christmas Fair! There is not enough room here to list the name of every person and each task they took on...**but thank you to each and every one who played a part...**

- * Eden Nursery School for being so flexible!
- * the table fetchers!
- * those who set up!
- * the cookie and candy makers!
- * the pie makers!
- * the take-out delivery crew!
- * the kitchen crew!
- * the craftspeople!
- * the waiters and waitresses!
- * the publicity people!
- * the sign makers!
- * the rafflers!
- * the attic treasure crew!
- * those who donated food, attic treasures, and more!
- * those who put things back together after it was all over!
- * the entire church family and the community ...for their support!

We did so well...we're already talking about next year!



JINGLE BELL TAMBOURINE

To ring in 2010, make a joyful noise with this musical instrument.

What you need:

- 2 plastic plates
- Hole punch
- Pen
- Beads or beans (or other small items that will make noise when shaken)
- Tacky craft glue
- 6 pieces of ribbon (each about 5" long and 1/4" wide)
- 6 jingle bells
- Stickers
- Markers



What you do:

1. On the bottom of each plate, write, "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth" (Psalm 100:1, NIV).
2. Punch six evenly spaced holes around the rim of one plate. Mark the holes with a pen and then punch six matching holes in the second plate.
3. Pour the beads or beans into one plate and then squeeze glue around the rim of that plate.
4. Place the other plate on top, aligning the holes. (Make sure the Bible verses are on the outside.) Let it dry.
5. Thread one ribbon through one hole and through one bell, and then tie the ribbon. Repeat five more times, once for each hole.
6. Decorate the instrument with stickers or markers.
7. Play your tambourine when you sing your favorite songs.



Make a joyful noise

People often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. Be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship



* * * * *

_____ the _____ ;



_____ .



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

January



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Bob Breen
1 Mac Shea
3 Barbara Hepburn
5 Jeff McCarthy
8 May Vinette
9 Ryan Kelly
10 Sarah St. Denis
10 Barbara Steele
10 Annie Painter
11 Dorothy Ames Robins
12 Michele Gurtler
12 Emily McCarthy
12 Olivia McCarthy
12 Tyler Wood
12 Noah Lambert
18 Andy Shea
21 Karen McFarland
23 Gordon Valleau
23 Drew Shea
24 Cecil Sprague
25 Marie Coffron
29 Robert Malaney
29 Timothy Beals
29 Angela Haskell
30 Judith Burns
30 Graydon Webster
31 Abigail Reed Nickell

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – John Kelly
Assistant Deacon – Karl Haller

Liturgists-

3:
10:
17:
24:
31:

Flowers –

3: Esther Testa
10: Ruth Rossi
17: Rita Johnston and Lenny DeMuro
24: Wade family
31:

Coffee Hosts -

3:
10:
17: The Riddell/Smith family
24:
31:

Home Bible Readings

3 Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18
10 Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
17 Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11
24 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21
31 Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30



January



3 Worship / Sunday School 10 am	4 Cub Scout Pack Meeting 5:00	5 Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00	6	7 <i>Bible Study 10:00</i> <i>Adult Choir 7:00</i>	1/8 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	2/9
10 Worship / Sunday School 10 am <i>Girl Scouts 2-4</i>	11 <i>Webelos 3:30</i>	12 Outreach Board 7:00pm	13	14 <i>Bible Study 10:00</i> BH Garden Club 1:00 <i>Adult Choir 7:00</i>	15 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	16
17 <i>Neighbors in Need Sunday</i> Worship / Sunday School 10 am Deacons 11:30	18 <i>Eden School Board 6:00 PM</i>	19 Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00	20 <i>Chimes Articles Due!</i> <i>CE Board 7:00</i>	21 <i>Bible Study 10:00</i> <i>Trustees 5:30</i> <i>Adult Choir 7:00</i>	22 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	23
24 Family Worship 10 am Stroke Survivors Group 6:00	25 <i>Webelos 3:30</i>	26	27 <i>Church Council 7:00</i>	28 <i>Bible Study 10:00</i> <i>Adult Choir 7:00</i>	29 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	30
31 Worship / Sunday School 10 am <i>Girl Scouts 2-4</i>						

**Bar Harbor Congregational Church
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Special Dates

- New Year's Day,
January 1, 2010
- Epiphany, January 6,
2010
- Baptism of the Lord,
January 10, 2010
- Martin Luther King Jr.
Day, January 18, 2010
- Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity, January
18-25, 2010

A Winning Pattern for the New Year

Some anonymous wise person penned the following directions for living without bringing pain to others or oneself:

"You will never be sorry — for thinking before acting, for hearing before judging, for forgiving your enemies, for being candid and frank, for helping a fallen brother, for being honest in business, for thinking before speaking, for being loyal to God and the church, for standing by your principles, for refusing to participate in gossip, for holding your words when tempted to demean another, for not entertaining impure or hateful

thoughts, for sympathizing with the afflicted, for being courteous and kind to all."

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Get ready for Epiphany

Many Christian denominations celebrate Epiphany each year on or near January 6. "Epiphany," which means "showing forth," celebrates the visit of the magi, or wise men, to the baby Jesus. These men, also known as kings, saw the star that led them to Bethlehem.

The fact that these wise men were Gentiles, not Jews, teaches us an important theological lesson: Their search for the Savior shows that Jesus came for all people.

In 1875, Philip Bliss wrote the hymn "The Light of the World Is Jesus." The first stanza captures the meaning of Epiphany, a season of light:

The whole world was lost
In the darkness of sin,
The Light of the world is Jesus!
Like sunshine at noonday,
His glory shone in.
The Light of the world is Jesus!

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