



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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February 2010

From the Pastor

In a conversation I was having the other day with someone I ran into on Main Street, the question was raised, “Why should I bother becoming a member of a church?” That person went on to describe that she loved God and tried to be a good person, so she didn’t need to go to a church service. She said she was fine the way she was and didn’t see any reason to give up her lazy Sunday mornings. She worked all week and that was the only day she had with her family. That was pretty much the end of the conversation, as I saw no reason to stand and argue with her in the middle of the street. I did, however, respond a few days later during a visit with her. This article contains pretty much what I said to her.

First of all, I told her that I was very glad that she loved God. However, I wondered if she was aware that God, through Jesus Christ, had established the Church in order for God’s followers to have a way of gathering, connecting and worshipping together. I wondered if she knew that when we were sent forth from church, we never went alone? The Church is, after all, the only organization on the earth that is dedicated to following Jesus. Why would she not want to be a part of such a great undertaking?

After all, when we go to church we have a chance to worship, pray, sing our faith, connect with our neighbors and hear

what the latest mission project is so that we can help.

When we go to church we have the opportunity to grow in the faith and to see our children taking their first steps in the faith. We see our older youth beginning to grasp the concepts they learned as young children and carrying them out in their own lives. We learn together what the Bible has to say to us and we struggle with its teachings, surrounded by people who are struggling with us. We enjoy fellowship time and what it means to be a part of something that is larger than we are – the Body of Christ. We learn that salvation is at hand and that God’s never-ending love for us is really all we need. We get a sense of mission that calls out for doing and an invitation to participate in that call.

She responded by saying that, while all those things may be true, she didn’t want to get involved with a bunch of hypocrites. I responded by saying that it was true; there are hypocrites in every church. There are also liars, cheaters, addicts, and all manner of people who have a tenuous hold on life. There are also lots of people who have found healing and health in following Jesus Christ.

In other words, the Church is full of human beings in all manner of conditions. Karl Barth, one of the Church’s great theologians, once said, “The Church is a

hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints.” I couldn’t agree more. After all, the major gifts of our faith are forgiveness and grace. I know of no other place where those things are available. Why miss the chance to be a part of such great love and hope?

But I still hadn’t convinced her. Her response to me was that she preferred to have family time on Sundays. I answered that objection by saying that we have family time every week at our church. We gather as the Family of God, where everyone is welcome. People of all ages and conditions are part of that great Family.

In church people who miss their grandchildren get to share in the joy of the children who attend with their families. Younger families get to have a place where they can benefit from the wisdom of their elders and their children live and grow in a safe and loving environment. Couples find nurture and love in the words of Bible teachings and those whose relationships have been interrupted by death find the comfort and peace of believing that their loved ones are safe in the arms of a loving God. Loneliness finds company. Hunger finds feeding and thirsting is quenched by the living water of faith. Young ones learn the prayers and sing the songs of faith and everyone, young and old and in between, have the opportunity to grow closer to Jesus. And don’t forget the eating – we surely do that together and everyone knows that meals shared together promote family harmony.

She was weakening, but I didn’t win the argument. I still haven’t seen her in church. Perhaps my arguments weren’t strong enough. The real way to convince her would be to ask her to come to church and witness our life together for herself – the less than perfect life of a group of faithful people, committed to following our Lord. I did ask her. Time will tell if she will accept the invitation.

I’ll keep inviting her and her family. The opportunity to be a part of Christ’s Body on earth is worth being thought of as annoying. I have been thought of as annoying for far less important things!

Going to church on Sunday in the church of one’s choice is a wonderful gift. Worshiping and praising God together is a privilege of inestimable worth. Many of us are part of this great opportunity. Some of us take it for granted and don’t come very often. However, one thing I know for sure is that there is room for everyone in Christ’s Church. In this new year, take advantage of the invitation and, perhaps, issue a few invitations yourself. That really is God’s plan, I think. Who are we to argue?

Sandra M Reed

Annual Valentines Party

Norma Spurling and Judy Fuller cordially invite all the ladies of the BHUCC to our Annual Valentines Party on February 16th at 7pm in the church parlor. There will be a short business meeting. We are pleased that Marsha Fuller will be providing upper body massage for our benefit during the evening. As always we welcome Valentine goodies for refreshments. A sign up sheet will be placed in the parlor.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!



A Special Thank You

The Flower Committee would like to express our appreciation to those of you who gave altar flowers throughout 2009. We thank you for sharing the beautiful arrangements.

The Flower Committee invites you to donate flowers.

We are contacting donors from last year, but want to include everyone. If you would like to donate flowers during the coming year - contact a member of the committee or Paul at the church office at 288-3280.

<i>Jan. & Feb.</i>	<i>Kim O'Brien</i>	<i>288-4588</i>
<i>Mar. & Apr.</i>	<i>Roxie Brechlin</i>	<i>288-4859</i>
<i>May & Jun</i>	<i>Dottie Robins</i>	<i>288-3787</i>
<i>Jul. & Aug.</i>	<i>Nancy Pelletier</i>	<i>288-4036</i>
<i>Sept. & Oct.</i>	<i>Judy Fuller</i>	<i>288-3405</i>
<i>Nov. & Dec.</i>	<i>Linda Kelley</i>	<i>288-4311</i>
	<i>& Susan McKay</i>	<i>288-4209</i>

We order our flowers from Cottage Flowers. You may donate two vases for \$46.00 or one vase for \$33.00.

A Journey with Christ

Lent is an occasion for us to journey with Christ ... into tomorrow. For you never walk with Christ long, but the dawn breaks, the sun shines and hope breaks through.

—C. Neil Straight



Bible Study Begins January 21

During the Roman-Judean War of 66-70 AD, when Israel struggled under the heavy foot of Rome, a man decided to write down what he knew about Jesus. He began with these amazing words: "Here begins the Gospel of Jesus Christ The Son of God."

Here was a man who got right to the heart of things! We call him Mark, and he is the one who first told us what happened when God walked among us.

Come and join us as we study those long ago days and discover what they mean to us today.

Our Bible Study is for everyone, including you. If you can't make it at the time we have chosen but are interested in this Bible Study, let Sandra or Cindy Fox know so that we can find a way to Include you.

But if you can, join us on January 21 at 10 AM to begin a study of **the Gospel According to Mark.**

I Felt It Calling to Me

I started attending the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ because I had a need, a thirst, I guess, for something more in my life. I didn't know exactly what I was seeking, but I found comfort at the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

At the time, the Sunday school program had an average of five children in attendance, I think full enrollment might have been 12, and yet there was still a spirit and warmth that made Nic and I feel welcome. There were two teachers most weeks, some weeks only one. I have watched the program grow to an average of 35 in attendance with over 70 children registered for this year. I have also seen myself grow... going from unbaptized to a Christian Education Certified Teacher.

The Church has become a family to me. It has been my dream of one day giving back to my wonderful Church family. While I had really hoped that one day someone more qualified would take on the Christian Education Coordinator position, I felt it calling to me. Working with such a wonderful CE board has been so rewarding. They are a dedicated group, no summers off, willing to put in the time to keep our program thriving. Thank you to Sandy Boyce, Ray Vonderhaar, Kim Craighead, and Laurie Riddell. Welcome aboard Doug McMinimy and Betty Bryer. Thank you especially to Kathe Simons and Kathy Woodside. Their organizational and leadership skills helped float the program with no leader at the helm for almost 10 months.

But the program is more than floating. We have got the "maintenance" down. We will now be looking at our long term goals and planning. What do we want out of our Sunday School program? What do **you** want out of our Sunday School program? And then what path do we take to get there??!!

Please share any thoughts you might have with me or anyone else on the board! Thank you!

Kathy B. MacCulloch
CE Coordinator

kathymacculloch@gmail.com

Please Join Us for a Series of Simple Lenten Meals, Fellowship, and Faith Enrichment

The Board of Deacons is sponsoring a series of programs during Lent this year. The purpose is to provide fellowship through a simple meal of bread and soup, and further our faith through spiritual discussion.

The program will run on Wednesday evenings during Lent, at the church, from 6 pm to 7 pm. Soup and bread will be provided.

We are just asking for your attendance and participation. The planned program will be 1/2 hour of a simple meal and then a 1/2 hour program. The details are still be worked out, but the tentative schedule will begin on February 24 with a short Bible study, then on March 3 the Outreach board is planning a program of past mission volunteers discussing their reasons for helping others in a foreign

place. The theme will be *not what they did, but why they did it.*

Our plans are to then invite other groups in the church to share their call to service. Hopefully we will learn new things about each other and our faith will be enriched. If you have any ideas about programs you would like to see during this time, please contact Sandra or a member of the Deacons.

Scott Hammond



A WORD OR TWO FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Winter in Maine is like a “long and winding road”. It is indeed long! We often feel like it will never end, and on any given day we can have snow, sleet, and freezing rain, consequently the road is not only winding it can also be more than a little unsettling. Often we just want to hunker down and find a warm and cozy place to wait out the winter.

One of those cozy places is our Sunday School. The warm smiles one sees during circle time is an indicator of just how cozy a place it is, and the comfortable relationship between the teachers and children provides just the right atmosphere for spiritual reflection and growth as we move toward the season of Lent.

We are so very fortunate to have this warm and cozy place! Our kids know this! Ahh! The insight of a child!

RECENT HAPPENINGS

On January 3rd we celebrated our annual Birthday Coffee Hour. In spite of a snowstorm, we had plenty of cake and lots of happy Birthdays all around!

On January 23rd Laurie Riddell hosted our “Game Night Potluck”. This year there were a variety of Board Games for all ages ... that means adults and kids!! The evening was open to all those who enjoy playing games. It was the perfect evening to fight those cabin fever blues! Great food! Great fun! A great way to spend a cold winter night in January!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

The Second trimester of our Sunday school classes has begun! This is a shorter session, which means that the Third Trimester will be here before we know it!

During the Third Trimester, our third and fifth graders will be involved in two very special programs.

Our third grade students will be embarking on a study of the Bible. They will learn about the different books in the Bible. They will also learn the difference between the Old and New Testaments, and how to find scripture in both. This year’s Bible Class will be a more comprehensive class than what has been offered in previous years.

The fifth graders will be engaged in a special study using the book *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel. They will sift through and discuss the truths that history, science, psychiatry, literature, and religion reveal about Christ.

We hope to offer both of these programs to children in these age groups each year. Because the material is geared especially for children in these two classes, it is extremely important that children attend the classes for their particular age group.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7th - Souper Bowl Sunday Bring your cans of soup, peanut butter, and other canned goods for the Bar Harbor Food Pantry. The Sunday School children will take a special collection of these items at some point during the church service.

February 28th- Family Worship Sunday which means there will be no Sunday School.

Pilgrim Lodge Sunday is also February 28th. Wear your camping gear especially anything that has a Pilgrim Lodge logo ... and more importantly bring your Pilgrim Lodge memories to share with the congregation!

March 7th - Third Trimester of our Sunday School Classes begins! This means new teachers for some classes and some of our veteran teachers for others.

ODDS AND ENDS!

Our kids continue to generously support Hirut Suloro, the young Ethiopian girl that our Sunday School sponsors. We recently received a letter from her. Like many children her age she enjoys skipping and spending time with her two best friends. She loves bread and stew and her favorite school subject in school is English. We learned that she lives with her grandmother and she has two brothers and two sisters. She tells us that her grandmother is very sick and she asked us to pray for her grandmother's health.

More 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 need someone to make new labels for the shelves in the library. There are temporary labels there now. Someone with a label maker could do the job in an hour! Contact Kathy MacCulloch or Kathy Woodside if you are interested.

Blessings!
Kathy Woodside
CE Board Member

Sacramental Snowfall

The heavens open up above today and the first snowfall of the year arrives. The children face the heavens and capture the falling flakes in their mouths, tasting heaven.

The coolness drops on one's tongue, vanishing all too quickly. It leaves you thirsting for more, the million specs of snow just a hint of heaven.

Wintry baptism. Wintry communion.

January 11, 2009 by Michaeltdolan; Conversari: Spiritual Reflections: conversing with life, journeying to god

* A JAR OF *

Love and Appreciation



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

What you need:

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

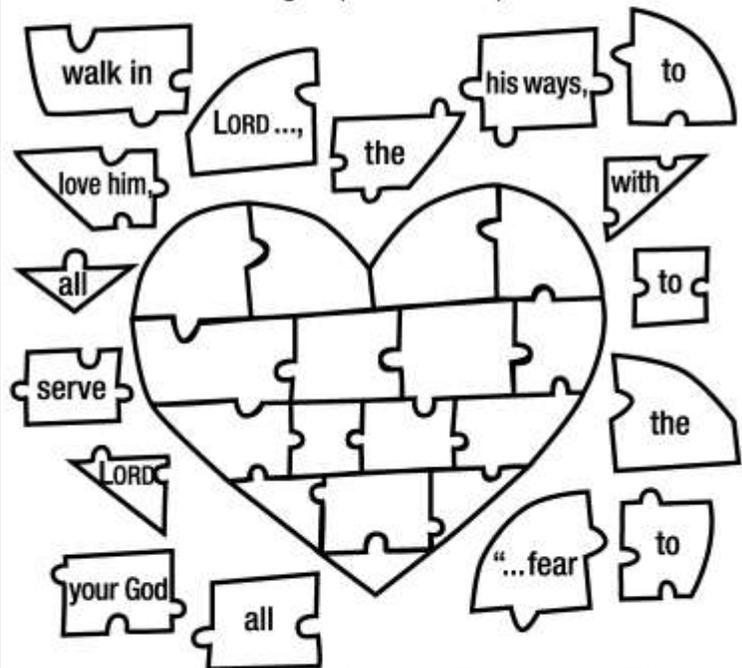
What you do:

1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!



In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



... your heart and with all your soul ..."

Answer: "... fear the LORD ... to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

February 2010



- 1 Beverly McNeal
- 2 Terry Savage
- 4 Norma Spurling
- 5 Sarah Skiff Dunbar
- 5 Tom Schanck
- 7 Anne Warner
- 8 Maggie Painter
- 9 Eric St. Denis
- 9 Yvonne Tabb
- 11 Roxie Brechlin
- 12 Clare Bingham
- 13 Mary Skiff Renault
- 13 Ben Reed
- 14 Pauline Wright
- 16 Dick Crawford
- 20 Heidi MacQuinn
- 21 Lenny DeMuro
- 22 Carolyn Miller
- 23 Heather Dority
- 23 Jacob Megquier
- 24 Jeremy McQuinn
- 25 Joyce Pilling
- 26 Aidan O'Connor
- 27 Kristin McKee



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Karl Haller
Assistant Deacon – John Kelly

Liturgists –

7: Estelle Megquier
14: Lenny DeMuro
21: Debbie Dyer
28:

Flowers –

7:
14: Doug and Anne Lee
21:
28:

Coffee Hosts –

7: Lenny DeMuro and Rita Johnston
14: Deborah and Scott Hammond
21:
28:

Bible Readings -

- 7 Isaiah 6:1-13
Psalm 138
I Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11
- 14 Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2
Luke 9:28-43
- 21 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Roman 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13
- 28 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1

February

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

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

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Non-Profit Organization
Bar Harbor, ME 04609
Permit Number 32

Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 7, 2010
- Transfiguration of the Lord, February 14, 2010
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2010
- Presidents' Day, February 15, 2010
- Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010
- First Sunday in Lent, February 21, 2010
- Second Sunday in Lent, February 28, 2010

Valentine's Day

Many stories about the origin of Valentine's Day have come down through the centuries. There's no definitive story, but most revolve around the imprisonment of Valentinus (St. Valentine) for his disregard of Roman laws.

Many legends are also associated with Valentine's Day. For example, because birds seemed to arrive and mate in some countries in mid-February, human couples came to be called "love birds."

In 1667, the first recorded Valentine card was printed. Today, people will give their sweethearts countless millions of cards and acres of heart-shaped boxes filled with candy. But why wait for Valentine's Day to share love with others? Remember Jesus' words in John 13:34 (NRSV): "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."

Articles this page: Newsletter Newsletter

The significance of Lent

Lent is the fourth season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day, not counting Sundays. This means Lent always begins on a Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday.

Lent commemorates Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness of Judea Province, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness.

The only way our Lord's forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence.

Some Christians fast during Lent. This denial of bodily comforts can help encourage self-reflection about the need for Jesus' forgiveness.