



THE CHIMES

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

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March 2010

From the Pastor

The other day I was reading the 2009 Spring issue of the UCC's Women's Ministries magazine, called Common Lot. The theme of the issue intrigued me so much that I wanted to share it with you. The theme for that issue was, "Immersed in Prayer," a vision that has caught my attention. What would it be like if we were "immersed in prayer" every day? How would our lives be different? What would it mean to be constantly and consciously in the healing presence of God during every hour of the day?

One article in particular grabbed my interest. It was written by Jo Ann Chance, a member of Trinity United Christian Church in Cheney, Kansas. In this article Ms. Chance spoke about how, though we don't have all the answers in life, the more we trust God, who does have the answers, the more we pray, and the more we understand that God is with us as we struggle with all the issues in our lives, the more we will be able to live positively and peacefully. Ms. Chance suggests that in our prayers we need to ask God to enter our hearts and then we need to be open to the Holy Spirit and simply wait and listen. She says we spend too much time petitioning and bargaining and telling God what we think we need rather than being completely open, welcoming, and humbly asking for healing and guidance according to God's will. Her statements made me stop and think about my own prayer life.

The author also says that often when she is full of concerns, she composes prayer poems that help her both speak and hear what is needed for the moment. Here is an example of one of her efforts:

Perseverance, Faith and Hope

We live, confined by time and space, only hoping and praying that our lives meet the expectations and plans of God. As believers, we are told to have hope, to live by faith in God's promises, and to have perseverance and trust. God has the bigger picture in mind . . . God knows the beginning, end and middle of our lives . . . God's plan may not follow our human logic or perceived timing . . . So we continue to live in faith and hope. God is our light, salvation and source of strength; God is gracious and compassionate, especially to the brokenhearted . . . God is rich in love and tender toward those in pain, loving toward all God has made . . . God holds us up when we fall and lifts us when we are down so very low. Our God is always near; watches and loves us, broods over us, God's very own; blessed with holy grace. We pray for that joy, that affirming restoration, that weightlessness from being without worry which is sometimes just beyond our reach. Help us, God, we pray . . . Make this pain, this doubt, this rocky uncertainty go away! We finally open ourselves, our hearts and we wait; we pray; we listen; we wait; we pray. It comes . . .

when we open our hearts. God enters in and soothes our hurts, fills our emptiness, calms our shaky souls and helps send the doubts away. Our faith is restored again. Prayerfully, with gratitude and hopefulness, with praise and expectancy for peace we seek God's presence with us, within us . . . Fill us, O God, and set us free!

This prayer poem is one example of what it means to go through a process of prayer. We begin by defining our circumstance, then move through our concerns until we reach the peaceful reality of God's getting through to us in that moment of surrender and renewal. Praying in this way is simple and satisfying, yet goes beyond our basic prayer request to the places within us that are crying out for healing. All of us are capable of praying in this way because all that is needed is the desire to be in the presence of God.

During this season of Lent, I invite you to enter into this process of being immersed in prayer. Your own experience of prayer may include photography of the natural beauty all around you, music, the creation of a work of your hands such as a prayer shawl or lap robe for someone in need of healing . . . the list is endless. To pray genuinely means being completely ourselves in the presence of God, letting barriers fall and standing free and unencumbered.

If you decide to give it a try, please let me know what your experience is like, or if I can help

May God bless us through this season of Lent.

Sandra M Reed



One Great Hour of Sharing Feed My Sheep

***If you love me, take care of the people I love.
(John 21: 15-17)***

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

When we make a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, we actively participate in tending God's flock throughout the world. We invite all to participate in this opportunity to share our resources and make a difference in the lives of others.

On Sunday, March 14th, OGHS envelopes and boxes will be collected at the service. However, we will allow another few weeks before our church donation is sent to the mission headquarters. You may also make on-line contributions or acquire more information at www.ucc.org/oghs.

Your Outreach Board



Mission Group Opportunities

Have you ever desired to be part of a mission group, whether it is local, national, or international? Wondered if you have the talents, or could make a difference? You absolutely can!

By God's grace, we extend our hands to others with love and compassion. We reach across cultural, racial, and religious divides, reconciling ourselves with one another. God is present in moments of healing, peace and deliverance.

Please join us on **March 3, 6:00 pm** for soup, bread and fellowship, followed by a discussion with members of our congregation who have been inspired and called to do mission work. Only with your participation can we start to build a new path for mission work here at BHUCC.

The Outreach Board.

Pastor on Vacation

Sandra Reed will be on vacation from March 4 – March 19, 2010. While she is away, if you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Paul in the church office. He will know how to reach her in an emergency.

The church service on March 7 will be led by Dusty Warner and on March 14 by the Rev. Ward Holder.

Don't forget – you are **not** on vacation. See you in church!



Easter Flowers

Please contact Roxie Brechlin (288-4859) or the church office (288-3280) to order your Easter Flowers. **We ask that everyone have their order in by March 14th.** There will be lilies or tulips. The cost is \$15.00; payment can be given to Roxie, or the church office. Please make checks payable to Bar Harbor Congregational Church, UCC, with Easter Flowers in the memo portion.

Thank You!
The Flower Committee

Ponderings

- Aim at heaven and you get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.

C.S. Lewis

- We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed.

Brother Lawrence (1605-1691)

- Trying times are not the times to stop trying.

Ray Owen

- People become really quite remarkable when they start thinking that they can do things. When they believe in themselves, they have the first secret of success.

Norman Vincent Peale

HOLY LENT

I opened an email and every writer's bad dream appeared in the message box: *Is that the best you could come up with for Shrove Tuesday and the preparation for Lent? A holy Lent to you.*

Ouch. Somebody get the woman a cup of coffee. Still, she did have a point: the eMo on Shrove Tuesday wasn't about much of anything, and it wasn't very holy: just dreams delayed so long that a permanent fatalism sets in, and then dreams come true. Not very Lenten.

I had already resolved to do better by the time I got back from church last night, and had sat down to do so. But I was tired and lazy, and the pump wouldn't prime. Hungry, too, so I padded off to the kitchen to do something about that. Before long, I gave up. Ash Wednesday 2010 had come and gone, with no Ash Wednesday eMo to mark either its arrival or its passing.

And so Lent begins appropriately, with a moral failure of modest proportions. Jesus resisted his temptations to satiety and power better than I resist mine to indolence - - no surprise there. As always, I am impressed by how gentle and reasonable my temptations seem: *Oh, never mind, sweetie, they say, you're tired. Just take it easy. God loves you just the way you are.*

Indeed, *God does* love me just the way I am. Always has, even at those sorry times when what I was has been significantly south of what I could have been. But the fact that God loves me as I am doesn't mean God wants me to stay that way forever. Part of love is challenge: *Be what you can be. Grow into the full stature of Christ. Use what I have given you, and take joy in using it. I will give you the energy for it if you will step up to the plate and begin. See? Feel the stream of living water that flows straight from my heart to yours? Let that stream rush with power into the world, and you will know why I put you here, in this place, at this time.*

Resisting temptation seems to have been energizing for Jesus: immediately he went and began his public ministry -- those three short, intense years, culminating in his shockingly total answer to *How much? How much do you love? What will you hold back?* Nothing. He holds back nothing.

The Almost-Daily eMo from the [Geranium Farm](#) Copyright © 2001-2010 Barbara Crafton - all rights reserved



**With Sympathy to
Family and Friends of
Dr. Llewellyn Winfield Cooper
Millicent Marie McPheters**



News from the CE Board

Bar Harbor Food Pantry

We collected 119 items and \$36 for the Bar Harbor Food Pantry! Thanks everyone for making Souper Bowl Sunday such a success.

Pilgrim Lodge

We have kicked off another Pilgrim Lodge season- I hope you all enjoyed our Pilgrim Lodge Sunday. Applications are now available on line at www.pilgrimlodge.org <<http://www.pilgrimlodge.org>> . Please consider going, encouraging or sponsoring someone! I am the go to person this year for Pilgrim Lodge, so see me if you have any questions! I will get you answers.

Welcome New Sunday School Teachers

We will have a changing of the guards with our Sunday School teachers this month—

Welcome aboard new teachers Leslyn Shea, Beth Paradis and Scott Hammond!

Third and Fifth Graders

Our third and fifth graders will take part in special Sunday School classes beginning **March 7th and ending in early June**. Both classes were originally offered during the week after school, but this year they are part of regular Sunday School time.

Kathy MacCulloch's third grade class will become more familiar with the Bible as she prepares them for the gift of their own Bible from the church. Laurie Olson will work with fifth graders as they read *The Case for Christ for Kids* that helps to bring Jesus to life – through cross examination! Written originally for adults by Lee Strobel, a former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune who goes from atheism to Christianity, the children's version addresses the miracles, ministry, and way of life of Jesus through kid-friendly terms, humor, and illustrations.

To kick off these special classes, we are asking families of third and fifth graders to attend church a little earlier on **March 7th at 9:30AM**. Not only will we feed you yummy baked goods, but Kathy and Laurie will be on hand to introduce the classes to you and your children and answer any questions. We look forward to seeing you all there!

An Opportunity to Help Our Children

We are still in need of snack shepherds and craft leaders for the rest of the Sunday School year!

With March upon us, the season of Lent well underway- we wait for the resurrection.....

Kathy MacCulloch

kathymacculloch@gmail.com



A Saving Grace

Some years ago, an Ohio woman named Grace Smith was at worship listening to the sermon. Suddenly, she thought she heard a voice. Not an audible voice, but an insistent voice whispering in her mind. Then an address popped up into her head: 1522 Spring Street. She knew no one at that address in her small city. Yet she could not get it out of her mind. Leaving the church, she decided to drive down Spring Street and look for the house numbered 1522.

When she found it, she felt compelled to walk to the front door of the home and knock. She heard someone slowly shuffling toward the door. When the door finally opened, Grace saw a bent-over elderly man. A frail and obviously ill woman stood behind him. They invited her in. She was not there long before she discovered that they were out of food and in need of medicine.

The couple had no neighbors who checked on them and no family members to care for them. They were sick, hungry and lonely. They needed help immediately!

Grace took charge and saw that they received help as fast as she could provide it. The condition of that poor old couple would not leave Grace's mind. How many other people in her

city needed food, health care and friendship, she wondered?

Grace began to speak to pastors and other concerned Christians in her community. She began to spread the word about meeting the needs of those in desperate conditions. The response was so favorable that a Community Christian Service was formed. And though Grace has long since died, the works of mercy she started still continue throughout her community.

Thank You to Our Food Pantry Representative

We would like to thank Geneva Langley for serving as our representative to the Board of the Bar Harbor Food Pantry for the past few years. We appreciate her service and dedication. Thank you, Geneva!

Our new representative is Al Simons. Thank you, Al, for stepping forward to fill this important role.

Congratulations

The *Mount Desert Islander* recently received awards for advertising and editorial excellence from the New England Newspaper and Press Association.

Editor Earl Brechlin won several awards including editorial writing. "He submitted editorials focused on subjects with both local and universal appeal. The detail reveals the author's knowledge of the issues impacting the community, and he seems to have considered various facets of the topics discussed in order to give a balanced opinion," the judge wrote."

DIRT CLIPS

Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups $\frac{3}{4}$ full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.



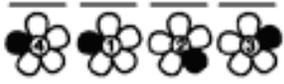
God's teaching is like....

In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.

Use the flower code below to fill in the blanks, revealing Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV.

CODE    

“Let my teaching fall like _____



and my words descend like _____,



like _____



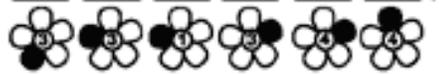


like abundant _____





_____”



Answers: rain, dew, showers on new grass, rain on tender plants

March 2010



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mason Gurtler
- 1 Barbara Moulton
- 1 David Lind
- 2 Cas Dowden
- 3 Jill Pelletier
- 5 Kate St. Denis
- 5 Gloria Soule
- 6 Dana Reed
- 6 Kristin MacQuinn
- 6 Henry A. Brown
- 7 Laurie Riddell
- 8 Vickie Bence
- 9 Judy Fuller
- 9 Christopher Bence
- 13 Doug Lee
- 13 Estelle Megquier
- 14 Lucy Sprague
- 16 Lucille Campbell
- 17 Kincaid MacCulloch
- 18 Sharon Hobbs
- 20 Haleigh Smith
- 21 Brad Haskell
- 22 Samuel Owen Craighead
- 22 Pierce DiMauro
- 22 Bryce DiMauro
- 22 Kirstin DiMauro
- 22 Bill Skiff
- 24 Michael MacCulloch
- 29 Penny Heiges
- 31 Shelley MacQuinn

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Scott Hammond
Assistant Deacon – Bruce Blake

Liturgists-

- 7: Anne Warner
- 14: Amy Riddell
- 21:
- 28: Kathy Kief

Flowers –

- 7: Charles Marinke
- 14: Barb and Sheridan Steele
- 21: Wally and Sandra Reed
- 28: George and Billie Mitchell

Coffee Hosts -

- 7: Ray Vonder Haar
- 14: Estelle Megquier
- 21:
- 28: Anne and Dusty Warner

Home Bible Readings -

- 7 Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
I Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9
- 14 Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
- 21 Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8
- 28 Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23

March

	1 Cub Scout Pack Meeting 5:00	2 <i>Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00</i>	3 Outreach Mission Supper 6:00	4 Bible Study 10:00 Adult Choir 7:00	5 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	6
7 Worship / Sunday School 10 am <i>Alleluia Choir 11:30</i> <i>Girl Scouts 2-4</i>	8 <i>Webelos 3:30</i>	9 Outreach Board 7:00pm	10	11 Bible Study 10:00 BH Garden Club 1:00 Adult Choir 7:00	12 <i>Minister's Day Off</i> <i>All Souls' Women's Retreat</i>	13 <i>All Souls' Women's Retreat</i>
14 One Great Hour of Sharing Worship / Sunday School 10 am <i>Alleluia Choir 11:30</i> <i>(Daylight saving time begins)</i>	15 <i>Webelos 3:30</i> <i>Eden School Board 6:00 PM</i>	16 <i>Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00</i>	17 <i>Saint Patrick's Day</i> Chimes Articles Due! CE Board 7:00	18 Bible Study 10:00 Trustees 5:30 Adult Choir 7:00	19 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	20
21 Worship / Sunday School 10 am <i>Alleluia Choir 11:30</i> Deacons 11:30 <i>Girl Scouts 2-4</i>	22 <i>Webelos 3:30</i>	23	24 Church Council 7:00	25 Bible Study 10:00 Adult Choir 7:00	26 <i>Minister's Day Off</i>	27
28 Palm Sunday Worship / Sunday School 10 am <i>Alleluia Choir 11:30</i> Stroke Survivors 6:00	29 <i>Webelos 3:30</i>	30	31			

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

- World Day of Prayer, March 5, 2010
- Third Sunday in Lent, March 7, 2010
- Girl Scout Sunday, March 7, 2010
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 14, 2010
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 14, 2010
- First Day of Spring, March 20, 2010
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 21, 2010
- Passion/Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010
- Holy Week, March 28-April 3, 2010

Feeding the Hungry

To allow the hungry to remain hungry would be blasphemy against God and one's neighbor, for what is nearest to God is precisely the need of one's neighbor. It is for the love of Christ, which belongs as much to the hungry as to myself, that I share my bread with them and that I share my dwelling with the homeless. If the hungry do not attain to faith, then the guilt falls on those who refused them bread. To provide the hungry with bread is to prepare the way for the coming of grace.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Sources this page: Newsletter Newsletter

Lent Offers Time for growth

Many of us know our IQ (intelligence quotient), but what about our SQ (spiritual quotient)?

Lent is a good time to think about the quality of your spiritual life. Do you think about God often ... or rarely? Do you pray often ... or occasionally? How well do you know the Bible? The Commandments? The Beatitudes? The lives of biblical heroes and heroines?

During Lent, commit to spending more time in prayer. Also consider selecting a book of the Bible or a particular Bible character to study in-depth during this period.

Some people give up particular items or habits during Lent. If used wisely, this discipline can help you abandon things that have been interfering with your relationship with God.

Seek out devotions and books that can help strengthen your spiritual life..