



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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July 2010

From the Pastor

It is always surprising to me to realize that many people with whom I come in contact do not understand the importance of the Church. I don't mean just "our" church, although it is certainly part of the larger Church, but the Church that was established by Jesus and given to His followers to continue. The Church was one of Christ's greatest gifts to us – a body of people who would carry out His mission and ministry after He had rejoined His Father. For over two thousand years we have had this wonderful treasure as our responsibility and our joy. Sometimes I wonder how much longer we will be able to sustain this great institution.

Did that last statement shock you? It should. It was shocking to me to even think it, let alone write it in my newsletter article. Recent surveys have indicated that the number of people in the United States who consider themselves to be Christians is changing geographically. It has been determined through research that New England is the least church area in the United States, with Maine and Vermont leading the list. If that doesn't give you pause, you are not paying attention. As one who has dedicated my life to serving Christ's Church, I am left feeling sad and a bit apprehensive. I do believe God will have the final say in all of this, but it makes me fear and tremble to consider what all of this might mean for my beloved adopted state.

I could write a book about the reasons why people don't go to church. Another book might contain all the opinions regarding why we don't need the Church. I have heard it all. However, when all is said and done, it doesn't really matter what we think about the Church because it doesn't belong to us. The Church belongs to Christ with us as the caretakers and preservers. The Church exists because Jesus intended it to exist. It is as simple as that.

When Peter confessed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God," Jesus responded, "on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:16-20) The powers of death, no; but how about the human conditions of apathy and disinterest?

We live in a mostly unchurched area. If you doubt that, just take a Sunday off sometime and wander around the Island. Aside from the Roman Catholics who can attend church on Saturday, and people of other faiths and denominations, just about all the people you see are not attached to a church. (By the way, I am only kidding about taking the Sunday off – how about if you just take my word for it?) My mind tells me that this is none of my business, but my heart tells me something else. I ask myself, what could be more important than nurturing our relationship with God?

Let me quote my friend, the Rev. Dr. James Haddix, pastor and teacher of All Souls Congregational Church, UCC, in Bangor, Maine:

Probably most American Protestants think of the church as a voluntary association, something like a club or charitable society. Interestingly, this is how a lot of Romans thought of the Christian church. It looked to them like a Roman society club that people joined with like-minded friends. You could join or not. In the United States, most churches are incorporated. So, to some Americans a church looks like a business. The church does have aspects of a business, club, corporation, and voluntary association. Still, these are inadequate understandings. These are the culture's way of saying what a church is, not the church's way of identifying itself.

Jesus was faithful to public and private worship and in prayer and study and in teaching and preaching (both in synagogue and temple and outside them), but it is true that he did not technically have a "Christian" church. There was no such thing. While Jesus was on earth, there was no such thing as a Christian church.

I find Dr. Haddix's thoughts quite provoking. Perhaps the ways in which New England is unchurched have something to do with the way we view the churches in our communities. Have we really given over our churches to the larger culture for their judgment? Are we content to run our churches as businesses or clubs? Have we lost the sense of our mission?

My belief is that the Church exists for one purpose: to put into practice the vision that Jesus had; the vision with which He entrusted us. If we are not doing that in our churches, then we need to rethink our mission. And we need to rethink our actions which we carry out on behalf of the One who died so that this Church might come into being.

To again quote Dr. Haddix:

. . .the sovereign God sent his Son to found the church, to gather the people of

God's new age. Being part of this people, this church, is not optional for Christians. Outside the church no one is a Christian.

That is a very solemn statement and one that we do not hear very often. However, every church must examine its actions, its ministry, and its presence within the community in which it exists. Will we be found lacking? I pray not, but I fear that this unchurched New England is a symptom of the times.

May God be with us as we seek to be His Church, His Body and His vision.

Sandra M. Reed

Outreach Harvest Festival Coffee Hours

It's that time of year to begin harvesting, cooking and sharing the delicious seasonal fruits and vegetables from our gardens, local farms and woods. This will be our 4th annual series of monthly harvest festivals, starting on Sunday, July 11th, with strawberries. We appreciate all who have contributed a dessert or dish in the past, and invite the congregation to surprise us with more family favorite recipes again this summer and fall. We also have additional summer visitors to host at coffee hour, as well as our own church family.

The harvest festivals were originally sponsored by the Outreach Board to not only help fill the the coffee hour calendar, but mainly to promote eating fresh healthy food and support local organic farmers at the farmer's markets and stands. Besides the reasons for protecting the environment and boosting the local economy, the harvest festivals also celebrate God's gifts of our bodies and food from the earth we often take for granted. Participation in these festivals is a joyous way that we can answer the call of stewardship to care for God's creation.

The schedule for the festivals is:

July 11th - Strawberries
August 22nd - Blueberries
September 19th - Zucchini
October 17th - Apples
November 21st - Pumpkin

If you have any questions about the festivals, please call Karen McFarland at 288-5760.

Thank you,
Your Outreach Board

Plenty of Reasons for Thanks



**Thank you,
Choir...can't wait
till you return**

For the beautiful music on Sunday mornings,
For your dedication in attending rehearsals,
For inspiring us to lift our hearts, minds and voices in singing praises to our Lord,
Choir, we thank you!

Source: NewsletterNewsletter

Many Thanks to Al and Kathe

Many thanks to Al and Kathe Simons from the CE Board for putting casters on the Sunday

School bookcases! We now have wheels thanks to you!

Thank you, David Lind

Check out the Christian Education Section of our website!!
www.barharborucc.org.
We've made some changes!! Thank you David Lind for your website expertise!! You make us look great!!



**Thanks
Lenny!**

Swimming – “Mount Desert Island’s legendary swim coach Lenny DeMuro made it a team sport and more.”

“The swimming program on Mount Desert Island is the largest continual youth sport on the island.” “The program now boasts nearly a hundred athletes, one of the largest such programs in the state from one of the smallest population draws of all of Maine’s competitive swimming programs.” “The resounding success of the swim program is due to the efforts of Lenny.”

“The girl’s team won the state Class B championships in 1982 and 1989, with several Penobscot Valley Conference (PVC)

championships as well. The Trojan boys’ high school swim team won six straight Class B state championships from 2004 to 2009, with numerous PVC championships as well. Many other successes, including the Olympic Trial performance of Sharks Bruce Crock, are feathers in the cap of MDI swimming.”

“Lenny’s son Tony has taken up the coaching torch for the family. He stated that it was as much what Lenny did outside the pool as much as what he did in the pool that inspired three decades of swimming success.”

“It was about the fundamental things in life. Work hard, be dedicated and have fun doing what you are doing. A lot of the reason we have had the success we have had is that our kids work harder than most other kids,’ Tony said.”

“Lenny still seems somewhat miffed as to how the success story began.” “I was a never a champion anything. It is kind of strange that all of these kids thought Oh wow, when you were a great young athlete. I was never a great young athlete,’ Lenny said.” “I was never really very good at anything. But I had great empathy.”

“People want to relate my coaching swimming to my success. Truthfully, the way I relate to swimming is that it is a no-cut sport. As long as they tried, they would make the team.’ Lenny said. ‘Kids that couldn’t walk and chew gum became stars after a few years with tons of hard work. For me that was what it was all about.”

“... ‘never really very good at anything’”? **Not so.** It is obvious that Lenny has been a great leader and real friend to his swim team kids. His dedication, inspiration, empathy, hard work and superb leadership skills not

only helped to produce champions, but Lenny’s example is sure to benefit his kids for many decades to come.

Thank you, Lenny!

Source: *Mount Desert Islander*

What is Christianity?

In the home it is kindness;
In business it is honesty;
In society it is courtesy;
In work it is thoroughness;
In play it is fairness;
Toward the fortunate it is congratulations;
Toward the unfortunate it is compassion;
Toward the weak it is help;
Toward wickedness it is resistance;
Toward the penitent it is forgiveness;
Toward God it is reverence, love,
obedience.

contributed by Mary S. Reed





When the Game is on the Line

Any sports fan can tell you that a close game is often won by the team doing the little things right and having everyone contribute. Whether it is the late innings of a baseball game or the last period of hockey, football or basketball, the things we do as a team will make for positive results in the end. So now I use this point as an analogy for our Church's fiscal year. We're heading into the final period of the year and from a financial standpoint it is an extremely close game.

The Trustees have followed a very tight game plan (budget) this year and enhanced the results through tight fiscal management, creative negotiations and quite a bit of elbow grease. Certainly every member of our church has contributed to the game plan as well; after all we're all a team for our Church.

Managing the fiduciary responsibilities of the Church can be challenging, especially with a stressed economy and facilities that have needed renovation and repair. Our job has been made easier by volunteer contributions of time, talent and money. Volunteers have provided many hours for upkeep and maintenance of our wonderful home. Recent gifts have helped us renovate the Church entrance and plan for additional needed repairs. Monthly pledge and offering income has made it possible for the Church to move forward with talented staff and mission-work within our family, community and world. The

team has really worked hard to make this happen, even with all the challenges we face outside of our Church.

And now we're near the end of this part of our game and it is time to make a new game plan for our coming year. We know heading into the planning that we have fiscal challenges to address. These include slowed contributions, increased expenses, deferred facility maintenance and a debt to our Endowment (from our expansion) that needs to be repaid. As the Chair of the Trustees I am calling upon each and every member of our team to keep up their hard work and renew their commitment to making our team successful. Everyone's support and contribution, no matter the size, is needed.

Members of our church will be sharing ideas about how they'll support our game plan during each service through September. In September we will hold a commitment time on Stewardship Sunday. Stewardship Sunday has been moved up this year in order to enable the Trustees to build a better budget; knowing how our team plans to provide financial support. Your stewardship and contributions will be key in making our game plan a success.

Over the coming weeks please look for more information about stewardship, the work of our Church and how you make our team successful. We'll need every team member to do their best for us to continue support for our Church family, nurture our youth, serve our community and act in a fiscally responsible manner during challenging financial times. Thanks again for being part of our team and church family.

Yours in faith,

Mike Gurtler, Chair of the Trustees



May 29, 2010, Jolene Cox and Joel Martin

June 12, 2010, Mary Elizabeth Kelley and Tristan McCafferty



Summer is here and we have started God's Garden Club! For the rest of the summer we will have an all ages Sunday School class that will look at the many ways we live in and take care of God's Garden.

Our Summer Schedule still has a couple of holes, but we are in great shape. We can always use an extra set of hands, so feel free to stop down and join us.

June 20th- we planted Geraniums. Thank you Sandy Boyce!

June 27th- activities with Patsy Nashina
July 4th- Deb Hammond has something spectacular planned.

July 11th will be family Sunday, no GGC.

July 18th Kathe Simons has grand plans.

July 25th we will be baking dog biscuits and could use a couple of hands -- someone willing to operate the oven.

August 1st we will go to the Food Pantry. A permission slip will be needed and we also need at least one more volunteer.

August 8th will be family Sunday, no GGC.

August 15th Ward Holder will look at Kaleidoscopes.

August 22nd is still open. Any takers??

August 29th and Sept 5th Doug McMinimy will be working on some dramatic arts. Between these two weeks we will be squeezing in a Vacation Bible School - details to follow.

September 12th will be Rally day and the first day of Sunday School!!

Wow- that looks like a lot! We will soon be recruiting for Teachers for next year. Let me know where you can help!

Thanks!

Kathy MacCulloch

Christian Education Coordinator

kathymacculloch@gmail.com

A Prayer for Summer

A rippling sea of green and gold
Is shimmering before us
As wind stirs the tall corn,
Wave after green wave rises high,
Reaching for the summer sun.

Lord God,
When you summon seeds
From these furrowed fields,
How readily they obey!

Like the myriad crops,
Help us grow steadily:
Help us stretch, ripen
Round out, unfold.

In the warm rays of your strength,
Help us yield goodness!

FROSTY FRESH GRAPE POPS

Jesus is our vine, and we are to be his fruitful branches. Have "bunches" of fun making this refreshing grape snack.

What you need:

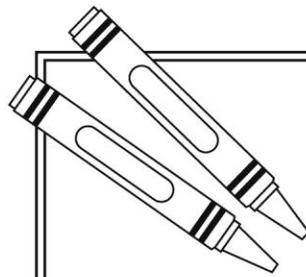
- An adult to help
- 4½ cups seedless grapes (red, green or black)
- Food processor
- Plastic spatula
- Strainer
- Mixing bowl
- Whisk
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Food coloring (red, green or blue; optional)
- 5 oz. paper cups
- Aluminum foil
- Popsicle or craft sticks
- Another 2 cups grapes, halved (optional)



What you do:

1. Blend grapes in a food processor until smooth.
2. With a plastic spatula, press mixture through a strainer into a mixing bowl. Discard skins and skim foam off the top.
3. Whisk sugar into juice until dissolved. Add a few drops of food coloring, if desired.
4. Fill cups with juice, spooning most of the foam off the top. (If using additional grapes, put ¼-cup halved grapes into each cup.)
5. Cover each cup with foil and insert a wooden stick into the center of the foil.
6. Place cups in freezer.
7. To remove pops, take off foil and tear away cup. Enjoy!

Variation: To make layered juice pops, make two batches of mix from different-colored grapes. Fill cups half full with one color, cover and then insert the stick and freeze. Then fill with the remaining color and freeze again.



Just for **KIDS**

The true vine

In a vineyard, the vine gives life to the branches, which, in turn, produce the grapes. Follow the puzzle directions below to learn about our special relationship with Jesus, our true vine.

Directions: Circle every other letter and then write them in order on the lines below.

START ▶ ① b a s m L t r h g e c v d i e n f e g y h o i u j a K r

a v f F l i s s e u h t c T n s a R r q b p e o h n t M e L

w m x a y n Z r a e A m b a C i d n e s F i f n m m n e o a p

e c b a l l r i q w f e o h b m m i l h k n j i j l i d Q n p

d a e r f m g u h c C h d f D r E u e i j t

“↓ _____; _____

_____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing.”

J o h n 1 5 : 5 , N I V

Answer: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.”



				1 <i>Bar Harbor Town Band (rain only)</i>	2 <i>Bar Harbor Music Festival Opening 8:15</i>	3
4 Independence Day Worship and God's Garden Club 10 am <i>Bar Harbor Town Band (rain only)</i>	5 <i>Cancer Support Group 5- 6:30</i> <i>Bar Harbor Town Band (rain only)</i>	6	7	8 <i>Bar Harbor Town Band (rain only)</i>	9 <i>Bar Harbor Music Festival 8:15</i>	10
11 Worship and God's Garden Club 10 am	12 <i>Bar Harbor Town Band (rain only)</i>	13 <i>Bar Harbor Music Festival 11:00- 7:30</i>	14 Chimes Articles Due! <i>Bar Harbor Music Festival 8:15</i>	15 <i>Bar Harbor Town Band (rain only)</i>	16	17 <i>Bar Harbor Music Festival 8:15</i>
18 Worship and God's Garden Club 10:00 am	19 <i>Bar Harbor Town Band (rain only)</i>	20 <i>Bar Harbor Music Festival 11:00- 7:30</i>	21 <i>Bar Harbor Music Festival 11:00- 1:30</i>	22 <i>Bar Harbor Town Band (rain only)</i>	23 <i>Bar Harbor Music Festival 8:15</i>	24
25 Family Worship 10 am	26 <i>Bar Harbor Town Band (rain only)</i>	27	28	29 <i>Bar Harbor Town Band (rain only)</i>	30	31

July



- 3 Mary Cunningham
- 8 Jennifer Moulton Stonehouse
- 8 Fred McPheters
- 9 Rick Starbird
- 9 John Kelly
- 9 Ezra O'Connor
- 10 Rachael McMinimy
- 11 Joan Clement
- 12 Henry W. Brown
- 13 Judy Roberts
- 13 Tony St. Denis
- 14 Beverly Blaisdell
- 14 MaryAnne Starbird
- 14 Kay Young
- 14 Donald Dyer
- 15 Nicholas MacCulloch
- 15 Charlotte Skiff
- 15 Robert Collier
- 15 Rachel Krautwald
- 16 Maria Lopez Patterson
- 17 Connie Shea
- 23 Wallace Reed
- 25 Earl Brechlin
- 25 James Lambert
- 25 Jesse Olson
- 25 Marie Coffron
- 31 Marianne DiMauro



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Kathy Kief
Assistant Deacon – May Vinette

Liturgists-

- 4:
- 11: Kathe Simons
- 18: Doug Lee
- 25: Kathe Simons

Flowers –

- 4: Yvonne Tabb and May Vinette
- 11: Marjorie Beam and Greg and Crystal Dow
- 18: Fred Mc Pheters
- 25: Richard and Arlanne Snodgrass

Coffee Hosts -

- 4: David Lind
- 11: Strawberry Festival
- 18: Kathy and Ralph Sulimano
- 25: Al and Kathe Simons

Home Bible Readings

- 4 2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6:1-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- 11 Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37
- 18 Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42
- 25 Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-19
Luke 11:1-13

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

- Independence Day, July 4, 2010

A Very Wonderful and Special Country

What a country this is! To my way of thinking, there is nothing like it anywhere in the world. I have visited many beautiful lands, but upon returning to the United States, there is always the feeling that Almighty God carved out here a very wonderful and special country.

We need to recount the stories of the great souls America has produced and who produced America. We need to tell and retell these stories beginning with the Pilgrim Fathers. Bibles under their arms, setting forth in little ships across a stormy sea, driven not by the winds that raged the Atlantic and caught the sails of their little boats, but by the mighty conviction that as sons of God no one could make slaves of them. ...

Something within drove them across trackless wastes to an inhospitable shore, where unhampered by the autocracy of men, they could worship God in all the dignity of free men.

We, too, need that spirit of freedom in our hearts. We need to recover the cleanness and manhood and power and might of the United States in our minds. We must reemphasize morality, decency and honesty. We need more of God and more of Jesus Christ. Deeply rooted in the American tradition are the sovereignty of God and the sacredness of human personality. Upon these two pillars rests American freedom.

-Dr. Norman Vincent Peale from
his sermon "I Pledge Allegiance"