



THE CHIMES

THE NEWS LETTER OF THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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November 2010

From the Pastor

Churches are expensive. I not only have that on the highest authority – I *am* an authority. I have been serving Christ's Church for nearly 30 years, and I have definitely come to understand the "cost and joy of discipleship" in a very concrete way. Why is something that should be free (faith) so expensive? Why is my church always asking me for money? Did Jesus know what He was getting us into? How can we reconcile Jesus' words to the disciples (take only one cloak, travel simply, depend upon the hospitality of those you visit) with the budgets we struggle with today? Let's look at this.

For the most part, churches meet in buildings. Buildings need to be constructed and then maintained. Ergo: churches are expensive. We all know this. All we have to do is look at our annual reports and see the amount of money we spend on our building. Aside from the utilities, there is general upkeep, cleaning, occasional painting and replacement of various elements of the building, insurance and so many other expenses. The rationale, I think, is that if we are to invite people to worship we must have a place in which to conduct said worship. That building must be in good repair and attractive to the observer. No one wants to venture into a shabby, ill-kept building. It would be just too, too depressing, not to mention the safety factor. Would we want

people to think that we don't care?

Ministers are expensive. This may be our calling, but it is also our vocation and we need to be paid a living wage, commensurate with our ability and experience. Look at nearly every church budget and you will see that the minister's salary and compensations are the most expensive (or nearly so) expenditure the church contends with. Some people may want to argue about whether we are worth it or not, but most churches choose to accept the expense in order to have a professional minister as their pastor and teacher. In most cases, a minister's salary package includes such things as wages, housing allowance or a parsonage (more on that later), payments into the minister's pension, health and dental insurance, and a portion of the minister's Social Security payment. All of that is spelled out in the call a church offers to a new minister. I would be dishonest if I didn't also say that there are other expenditures with a minister: most churches offer reimbursement for travel connected with the church and money toward pastoral expenses. Just ask one of our Trustees – this all adds up pretty quickly.

And now a word about parsonages. Although it is a dwindling practice, some churches (ours included) provides a parsonage for the minister. That parsonage, like the church building, also needs to be kept up. It needs to be heated, insured, repaired when necessary and kept up to

neighborhood standards. Did you know that we must pay taxes on the parsonage? Again, it all adds up. Ultimately, the bottom line is that a church would not like their pastor and his or her family to live in conditions the parishioners would not accept for themselves. Expensive.

Then, after all of this, we also need a staff to help us carry out our ministry. The Administrative Assistant keeps records, pays bills, publishes bulletins and newsletters, does the church's correspondence, and many other important duties. He or she also presents a friendly face to a person who appears at the office and offers a voice over the telephone when a call comes in. Truth be told, they also help to keep the minister on track – no easy task. This person must be paid, and all corresponding expenses must be paid as well. Add to this staff position an organist and music director, a Sunday School Coordinator, nursery workers and a custodian, and there we have more expenses. A worthy and worthwhile investment, I think we would all agree.

But it is not only staff members but also curriculum, supplies, and snack food that needs to be purchased for our successful Sunday School. Then there are custodial supplies, liturgical supplies, and little things like toilet paper, paper towels, hand towels, cups, coffee, etc. Put it all together and it spells expensive. And I have only mentioned some of the things for which we are responsible.

Last year our annual expenses were approximately \$219,000. This year the congregation voted a budget of \$216,000. If we were to assign the appropriate portion of this year's budget to each member of our congregational family, it would be about \$969 per person. That would be approximately \$18.64 per week for each person. That doesn't seem like too much, does it?

However, let's look at the real picture. Not all of our members and friends are active in our church. Not everyone contributes to the overall expenses. There

are legitimate reasons for this in some cases. The truth is that we have to rely on the interest from our endowment and some special gifts to meet the goals of our budget. That is neither good nor bad. It is just a fact of life. We have been blessed by benevolent benefactors throughout our church's history and, for them, we give thanks. But we need to protect that money and see that it is there for our children and their children when it is their turn to run our church.

We are about to have our Annual Meeting. On November 14, we will gather as the church to do the church's business. A budget will be proposed and voted on, officers and Board and Committee members will be elected and, once again, the members and friends of our church will decide how to support this ministry that Christ has given us. In order to do this, we need a quorum (25%) of our Covenant Members. Both Covenant Members and Parish Members can vote. At the end of the meeting, we will have a clear idea of what next year will look like.

As I said, churches are expensive. What is the alternative?

God bless us, every one.

Sandra M. Reed

Guided Meditation Groups

Our Guided Meditation Groups are up and running. We have two groups: one on Tuesday afternoons at 2:00 PM and one on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM (except on the 4th Wednesday of the month, when we meet at 6:00 PM).

There is no previous experience necessary. Everyone is welcome to come and delve into the Scriptures in a new and meaningful way.

If you have any questions, please contact Sandra Reed at 207-460-9300.

Veterans Day Service

We will hold our Annual Veterans Day Service on Thursday, November 11 at 11:00

AM at the church. All veterans are encouraged to come. Wear your uniform if you would like. We welcome anyone who would like to attend and give thanks for those who have served our country.



Annual Healing Service

On Sunday, November 28, we will hold our 13th Annual Healing Service at our church. The service will begin at 3:00 PM and is open to everyone who would like to attend. The service will consist of prayer, music, candle lighting for those whom we wish to remember and anointing and laying on of hands for those who wish.

If you have any questions, please see Sandra Reed.

Our church will have its usual giving tree in the narthex with gift tags for children of all ages. These gifts will not be bought and wrapped for any particular child. They are to stock the general supply of clothing, books, school supplies, personal items and toys wrapped and distributed at the Sea Coast Mission.

The Seacoast Mission Christmas Project director, Julie Patton, welcomes volunteers to work at selecting and wrapping gifts from the beginning of November to the middle of December. Individuals or groups should call beforehand to schedule a time best for themselves and the director by calling 288-5097. Outreach has reserved a church group time on Tuesdays from 2:00 to 6:00, starting November 9th. Feel free to come and go as you wish. Young children must be accompanied by an adult.

If you have any questions about the Christmas Project or volunteering, please contact Karen McFarland at 288-5760.

Thank you,
Outreach Board

Maine Sea Coast Mission Christmas Program



The Outreach Board is collaborating with the Maine Sea Coast Mission Christmas Project again this year in order to provide us the opportunity to help give gifts to the people of need throughout the coastal island communities, and both Hancock and Washington Counties. In 2009, approximately 3,000 individuals received holiday packages. With the current recession, our gifts will be greatly appreciated, as will our volunteer time at the Sea Coast Mission.



Bar Harbor Food Pantry Thanksgiving Baskets

Last week while working at the Bar Harbor Food Pantry, my job was to register clients who wished to pick up food. And one of the tasks at the registration counter was to collect forms from families who would like to receive a Thanksgiving Basket for the holiday. The stack of forms grew and I thought, "It's October 7th and we have this many requests!" This week, it was not surprising to hear that the count for this year is higher than at the same time for 2009.

As you know, we work with area schools and churches in collecting contributions for

this project. We are again collecting dry and canned foods suitable for Thanksgiving dinner and can accept fresh vegetables such as squash, potatoes and carrots. You will find a basket in the Narthex for donations of food.

Again this year, the turkeys, chickens and hams will come directly from the store so we will not be receiving donated meat items. In addition to the meat, each year we need to purchase some food to complete the baskets so monetary donations are necessary to cover these costs. You will find a can for donations of money in the Narthex or you may give your financial support to any Outreach Board member.

And then, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, directly following our worship service, we will sort and organize the donated and purchased food. You can also assist on Monday and Tuesday as baskets are built and delivered and you'll find a sign up sheet in the parlor. Thanks for making a contribution to this important effort that has become a tradition for our community.

Paula Moody, for the Outreach Board

THIS IMPACTS OUR CHURCH BUDGET....

Year 2011 Maine Conference UCC Fellowship Dues Rate Will Not Increase.

Readers of the 2011 Conference Budget recall that the estimated cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the fellowship dues rate was about 2.3%. However, the actual COLA now drives the Conference's fellowship dues rate for the ensuing calendar year. This means that the 2010 Annual Meeting approved fellowship dues rate for the Year 2011 will not rise by 2.3% to \$13.76 per member, but will stay flat at \$13.45 per member [1] for the 2011 calendar year. For more information, click on the following link:

http://www.maineucc.org/business_matters/YEAR%202011%20FELLOWSHIP%20DUES%20UPDATE.htm

Kathy Woodside

Congratulations

Earl Brechlin has done it again. The *Islander* was named again as the "best small weekly newspaper in Maine during the Maine Press Association Better Newspaper Contest awards..." Earl was also the recipient of individual awards.

"Commenting on the *Islander*, the general excellence judge wrote, 'Solid, solid, solid throughout, a publication that clearly is produced by people who love newspapers and work hard to produce one that is good at all levels.'"

Source: Mount Desert Islander

Thank You Rod

Have you had trouble finding a parking spot for church?

You are not alone. Increasingly spots are filled by tourists and others not attending church. Members coming to committee meetings, Bible School, weddings, funerals and other church activities have to search for a place to park.

You may have noticed Rod Fox serving as a parking lot greeter on Sunday (10/24). He was gently reminding people that church members need the space on Sunday mornings and telling them to check the recently installed sign which informs people when we are having a church event and need the space.

You can help by notifying the office when you are in charge of a church event. Paul

will place the magnetic sign, which lets folks know that the lot is being used by church members. Also you could volunteer to serve as a parking lot greeter. If we are more intentional about this, perhaps we can teach people to **“Mind the Sign!”**.



Christian Education Board

Our Sunday School year is up and underway with an average of 30 kids in attendance every week. If your child has not registered, we still have space and we would love to have them! We have a wonderful set of teachers teaching the first trimesters –

they are Sandy Boyce and Marianne Dimauro in the Nursery, Kim Craighead in the Pre-k/K class, Michele Gurtler in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade class, Bethany Hanson in the 4th grade class, Beth Paradis in the 6th grade class, David Lind in the 7th grade class, Mike and Diane Bonsey with the 8th and 9th graders. And Mimi Dickson with our High Schoolers

If you see any of them, Please thank them for teaching for us, working with your kids each week, and sharing the love of God.

We have teachers lined up for the next Trimester that runs 12/5 – 3/6 -- look for their names in the next Chimes. We have several openings for the spring trimester, which runs 3/13 – 5/29. We need teachers for the pre k class, 6th grade, 7th grade and the 8th and 9th graders. Please see me, as I am sure these slots will fill quickly!

We had a wonderful **Rally Sunday**. Thank you Doug McMinimy and the VBS crew for a wonderful play -- “The Tale of the Three Trees” performed on Rally Sunday. We have got talent!

We hosted a **Harvest Potluck**, and hope you had a chance to participate in that. Everything sure was yummy.

Coming up -- we will be making **Gingerbread Houses** on December 4th, that’s a Saturday -- details will follow, but save the morning for a fun and creative time.

We also have a **Pageant** performance planned for the holiday season. Doug will start to work with our kids on songs at the beginning of November. This would be a great time to sign up for the Hallelujah Choir.

Talk to Doug or Kimberly if you think your child would benefit from this, as we are sure we could benefit from your child!

In addition to teaching, we have some other **ways you can help** – We need **snack shepherds**. I have enjoyed subbing for a few Sundays -- something I really like. It gets me in more classrooms rather than being busy with just one class. I enjoy interacting with all our kids! When I am doing this, we need someone else to help with snack preparation and delivery. We have all our snacks; just let me know if you can help. Speaking of snacks, thank you **Caroline McMinimy** for making cookies for your fellow classmates. It was greatly appreciated!

Kathy MacCulloch

Veterans Day, November 11

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, the day when a peace

agreement was signed with Germany ending World War I. Armistice Day was established with a proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson which reads in part: "Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations." On June 1, 1954, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S.

veterans.

On Veterans Day this year, let us remember and honor those men and women who gave of themselves, and let us continue to pray for our men and women currently serving in the military.

Source: NewsletterNewsletter

THANKSGIVING NAME CARDS

When you set your table this Thanksgiving, use these homemade name cards with a special message for each guest.

What you need:

- Index cards, any size (one per person)
- Markers
- Fall stickers (optional)
- Fall foam shapes (optional)

What you do:

1. List everyone who will be at your Thanksgiving dinner.
2. Fold each index card in half so it can stand.
3. On one side of each card, write a person's name.
4. Decorate around each name with markers, stickers or foam shapes.
5. On the blank side of each card, write a different Bible verse about blessings or giving thanks. Suggestions include 1 Chronicles 16:34; 1 Chronicles 29:13; Psalm 107:8; Psalm 118:21, 28; or 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
6. Another idea is to write one or more words from one verse on each person's card (depending on the number of guests and words). You can write the verse in order and have people read around the table, or you can mix up the words so guests have to put them in the correct order. (Remember to list the Scripture reference.)



Multiply your thanks

We have so many reasons to give thanks to God. When we take time to count our blessings, we realize they just keep multiplying and adding up.

Use your multiplication or addition skills to answer each equation. Then use the word key below to write out Psalm 100:4 (NIV).

WORD KEY
 22= him 16= courts 4=gates 24=name 9=praise 8=and 2=to
 12= his 18= give 6= with 10= Enter 20= thanks 15= thanksgiving

"

$\frac{\quad}{5 \times 2 \text{ or } 5 + 5}$	$\frac{\quad}{12 \times 1 \text{ or } 7 + 5}$	$\frac{\quad}{2 \times 2 \text{ or } 3 + 1}$
$\frac{\quad}{6 \times 1 \text{ or } 5 + 1}$	$\frac{\quad}{3 \times 5 \text{ or } 5 + 5 + 5}$	$\frac{\quad}{4 \times 2 \text{ or } 6 + 2}$
$\frac{\quad}{6 \times 2 \text{ or } 6 + 6}$	$\frac{\quad}{8 \times 2 \text{ or } 8 + 8}$	$\frac{\quad}{3 \times 2 \text{ or } 3 + 3}$
$\frac{\quad}{3 \times 3 \text{ or } 3 + 3 + 3}$	$\frac{\quad}{9 \times 2 \text{ or } 9 + 9}$	$\frac{\quad}{10 \times 2 \text{ or } 10 + 10}$
$\frac{\quad}{1 \times 2 \text{ or } 1 + 1}$	$\frac{\quad}{11 \times 2 \text{ or } 16 + 6}$	$\frac{\quad}{8 \times 1 \text{ or } 3 + 5}$
$\frac{\quad}{9 \times 1 \text{ or } 5 + 4}$	$\frac{\quad}{3 \times 4 \text{ or } 4 + 4 + 4}$	$\frac{\quad}{8 \times 3 \text{ or } 8 + 8 + 8}$

"

Answer: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." (Psalm 100:4, NIV)

November

	1 Cancer Support Group 5:00-6:30	2 Guided Meditation 2:00 <i>Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00</i>	3 Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Guided Meditation 7:00	4 Bible Study 10:00AM <i>Adult Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM</i>		
7 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am		9 Guided Meditation 2:00 <i>Cub Scout Pack Mtng. 6:00-7:30 PM</i> Outreach 7:00 PM	10 Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Guided Meditation 7:00	11 <u>Veteran's Day Service 11:00 AM</u> B. H. Garden Club 1-4 PM <i>Adult Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM</i>		
14 Worship and Sunday School 10 am <u>Annual Meeting 11:30 AM</u>		16 Guided Meditation 2:00 <i>Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00</i>	17 Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Guided Meditation 7:00	18 Bible Study 10:00 AM Trustees 5:30 <i>Adult Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM</i>		
21 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am <i>Apple Festival coffee hour</i> Deacons 11:30 AM		23 Guided Meditation 2:00	24 Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Guided Meditation 6:00 Church Council 7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Day 		
28 Family Worship 10:00am – no Sunday School <i>Healing Service 2:00 PM</i>		30 Guided Meditation 2:00				

November



- 3 Tabitha Booher
- 5 Matthew Lambert
- 5 Susan Lynn Ackerman
- 5 Stephen Moulton
- 7 Cindy Fox
- 8 Carolyn Meader
- 10 Robert Cooper
- 12 Richard Fox
- 14 Owen Charles Kelly
- 19 Bea Lou Horner
- 21 Eric Beals
- 21 Stephanie Kelley-Reece
- 22 Caroline Woodworth
- 25 Binky MacQuinn
- 27 Pat Linscott
- 27 Owen Craighead
- 29 Sarra Kane
- 30 Keith Miller
- 30 Betty Bryer

November 11



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Bruce Blake
Assistant Deacon – Scott Hammond

Liturgists-

7:
14:
21:
28: Kathe Simons

Flowers –

7:
14:
21:
28:

Coffee Hosts -

7: Melissa and Kevin Mills
14:
21: Pumpkin Festival
28:

Home Bible Readings

- 7 Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38
- 14 Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
II Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19
- 21 Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43
- 28 Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

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

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Special dates

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2010
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, Nov. 7, 2010
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2010
- Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010
- National Bible Week, Nov. 21-28, 2010
- Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2010
- First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 28, 2010

Have We Forgotten God?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole of the

American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

—Abraham Lincoln,
1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation

A Remarkable Day

Thanksgiving Day is one of the most remarkable days of the year. Decreed by a layman, the President of the United States, by authorization of Congress, it is obeyed by Catholic, Jew and Protestant, and by many who have no church affiliation. The response of more than 2,000,000 people to this call is one of the most encouraging events in our national life. Thankfulness blesses and enriches our daily life. Not only is it deserving of a special day; it merits everyday observance.

— Clergy Talk

Quotations this page: NewsletterNewsletter