



THE CHIMES

THE NEWS LETTER OF THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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January 2011

From the Pastor

Just as I was preparing to relax and enjoy the gifts of the season, I read an article in the Boston *Herald* that shocked me and caused me to take some time for prayer and contemplation. I was so affected by this article that I decided to write about it this month. This is some information which needs to be shared.

This article was written by Peter Gelzinis, one of the regular contributing columnists. The headline above the article was, "Go and Sleep in Peace." I must admit it caught my attention. The article told the story of two stillborn babies that were abandoned at a hospital somewhere in Massachusetts. These were only two nameless infants whose lives ended before they began. No one knows who their parents are or where they came from.

These two tiny infants were taken under the wing of the Lazarus Program, which is run by St. Anthony's Shrine. These Franciscans make sure that as many abandoned, stillborn babies as possible are afforded a Mass and a place of burial. Father David, who runs the program, says that the Lazarus Program takes care of as many "unwanted dead" as they can, bringing a gift of dignity to lives that would otherwise be cast away in the anonymity of a potter's grave. Some of those whom this group has laid to rest have ranged from a homeless

Viet Nam veteran named Florence, who lived in South Station in Boston to infants who have been discarded in dumpsters. These earthbound angels see that, even in death, these precious lives are honored at the last. The Lazarus Program works closely with the Medical Examiner's office.

And so, that day two small bodies in tiny caskets were laid to rest, attended by sixteen mourners who had never known them. They had been given the names of Nicholas and Andrew by the Franciscans who rescued them. A soloist sang, "Go and sleep my son . . . go and sleep in peace." Father David Convertino spoke eloquently of the inexpressible sadness the mourners felt. In part, he said, "Some people say that these babies' deaths at this time was God's will. Don't believe them. The God we worship, the God who watches over us, doesn't will the death of babies or the pain of parents. While I believe God welcomed these babies into His kingdom, I am sure God did not want them to die right now so that He could have them there. God does not will grief and pain. But God is with us in the midst of all the pain and tears."

A sobering topic for the beginning of a new year? You bet. I wanted to share it, however, because we need to start living as if each life were precious, as if every person has that divine spark of God within them.

We need to live as though every life has meaning and grace. Every day I witness countless acts that speak to me of a lack of respect for life. This is surely not what God had in mind at Creation. God did not become Incarnate so that we could disregard the gift of life. If we learn nothing else this year, let us learn that each life is created in the image of God, precious in God's sight. There are no exceptions.

I pray that you will all have a year of growth in your faith and an increase in your love for God. May God continue to teach us the lessons of His love and grace, available in abundance for all.

Sandra M. Reed

**Congratulations to the following
who have welcomed a new life into
their families:**

Barbara Hepburn, *Great-Grandmother*,
Melissa Hepburn, *Grandmother*, and parents,
Alaina Brown and Matt Parsons welcomed
Preslee Parsons;

Barbara Hepburn, *Great-Grandmother*,
Melissa Hepburn, *Grandmother*, and parents,
Alyssa Crotzer and Timothy Rivers, welcomed
Nolan Rivers.

The babies were born just a week apart!

And, Sheridan and Barbara Steele,
Grandparents, and parents, Matt and Kelly
Buffington welcomed Rebekah Noelle
Buffington.

Best wishes to all!

**WE DID IT
AGAIN...ANOTHER
SUCCESSFUL
CHRISTMAS FAIR!!**

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...

- * the table fetchers!
- * the set-up crew!
- * the cookie and candy makers!
- * the pie makers!
- * the take-out delivery crew!
- * the kitchen crew!
- * 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!

Everyone who had a task did it and those that didn't found one...this is truly a community event! We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated crew!! The final \$\$ tally is not in....but our money counter, Barbara Hepburn is smiling,,always a good sign!

Kathy Woodside

Your Will Lord

Making plans for your life in the New Year? Could it be that God already has a plan for you and is patiently waiting for you to make that plan a reality?

When one considers how everything seems to have a purpose in nature (atoms, genes, plants, animals, etc.), it makes sense to believe that each of us has a purpose as well. On the other hand, if all of creation seems to have just happened without any reason, then this means our minds and spirits must have no reason or purpose as well. How can we trust them?

But believers trust that there is a great Intelligence that brought everything into existence.

There is a Mind and a Heart at the center of all creation. If that's the case, then life can only make sense when we seek what the Creator has in mind for us.

Jesus, who knew the Mind and Heart of God better than anyone who ever lived on Earth, once said to the erring Peter: "You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Mark 8:33, NRSV).

Setting our minds on human things can get us into trouble. That's why it often seems we live in a crazy mixed-up world. How can life ever be fulfilling, without the purpose God has for that life?

To set one's mind on divine things leads us to consider the one vow we should take seriously for the New Year. Your will, Lord. Your will and nothing else.

Source: Newsletter Newsletter

Thank You Lou



"Lou Ingrisano, a physician assistant with Mount Desert Island Hospital's Family Health Center in Bar Harbor, recently returned from Haiti," where he went to help battle the cholera epidemic.

"Ingrisano said the disease is easy to treat if patients can get treatment early enough, but that transportation in Haiti, particularly the mountainous regions, is difficult, and more so for anyone who is sick."

Lou "recommended that those who would like to help with the relief effort should visit the website of Medical Teams International. Ingrisano began his disaster relief work in 1991. He has been part of medical teams in Ecuador, Bolivia, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Darfur, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Mexico and more."

We thank you, Lou, for helping others in need.

Source: *The Bar Harbor Times*

Course in Basic Christianity

Beginning in February, 2011 Sandra Reed will be offering "A Course in Basic Christianity." This is an exciting learning opportunity for anyone who is interested in examining the tenets of our faith, how we came to believe what we believe and to look at the creeds and teachings of the Church. More details will unfold in the weeks to come, but please consider being a part of this most worthwhile class.



The Christian Education Board has been very busy in this Advent season, with plans to continue being busy into the New Year. We welcome to the Board Sue Kropff!

In December we hosted Gingerbread House decorating. This is such a creative time, we have carols playing, everything smells wonderful and the kids are really focused. Thank you Leslyn Shea and Kathy MacCulloch for helping coordinate this! We had 16 kids in attendance!

We also hosted a new series- "Sundaes on Sunday." We had 13 kids who stayed after Church; we ate pizza, watched a movie and made Sundaes. (Thank you Jordan Pond Ice Cream Shop for that donation) Then we played games while waiting for parents to arrive. Thank you Michele Gurtler for coordinating this one! Look for more Sundaes on Sunday!

We were fortunate enough to be hosted by the Sea Coast Mission to help with the Christmas Project. The kids collected gifts for dozens of kids, helping select books, clothing, toys, toiletries and art supplies. We followed that with pizza. Yum! We had 20 kids in attendance for that one! Thank you Kathy Woodside, Karen McFarland and Kathy MacCulloch for coordinating this one!

In January, we will host a Birthday Cake Coffee Hour; look for that on January 2nd.

After much debate, we have moved our Christmas Pageant to Epiphany Sunday, January 9th. Several factors fell into our decision making. The main factor was in teaching our kids more of our Christmas Stories- before Christmas. We also wanted to have more time to work on songs for the Pageant, and it will be a nice way for us to recognize Epiphany. There will be a rehearsal on the Saturday before the Pageant.

We will also be hosting a Games Potluck, details to follow, but look for it the last weekend in January.

And lastly, we have added Chapel Chimers to our list of ever-busy activities. Kathe Simons has been working with the younger kids, (ages 3 through 1st grade) on Chiming. She has 7 kids! If you missed their performance Christmas Eve, I am sorry. They were amazing! Look for them coming up again soon!

Yours in Faith,
Kathy MacCulloch for the Christian Education Board.

A Prayer for Guidance in the New Year

On the edge of a new year, Lord, teach us again to order our priorities and number our days and hours.

And teach us to trust — life, history, one another, You.

So that even in the gray and gloomy days, when the ceiling is low, we may trust the star that enabled wise men of old to live in hope and proclaim the divine promises which call us on in Jesus Christ. Amen.

—Deryl Fleming

LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



What you do:

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.



From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good | Righteousness |
| 2. Death | Children |
| 3. Go | Life |
| 4. Evil | Come |
| 5. Adults | Bad |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are _____, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____." John 8:12, NIV
(2)

"I have _____ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV
(4)

"For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as _____ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children

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 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 Abbie Reed Nickels

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – John Kelly
Assistant Deacon – Karl Haller

Liturgists-

2:
9:
16: Al Simons
23:
30:

Flowers –

2: Esther Testa
9: Ruth Rossi
16: Lenny DeMuro
23: Lois, Andy, and Alex Wade
30: Binky MacQuinn

Coffee Hosts -

2: Birthday Cake Coffee Hour
9:
16:
23:
30:

Home Bible Readings

2 Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18
9 Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17
16 Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
23 Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23
30 Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

January

2 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am <i>Birthday Cake</i> <i>Coffee Hour</i> <i>Djembe Drumming</i> <i>12:00</i>	3 <i>Cancer Support Group</i> <i>5:00 PM</i>	4 <i>Cub Scout Pack Meeting 5-8</i> <i>Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM</i>	5 <i>Cub Scouts</i> <i>5:30 pm</i>	6 <i>Adult Choir rehearsal</i> <i>7:00 PM</i>	7	1 <hr/> 8
9 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am <i>Djembe Drumming</i> <i>12:00</i> <i>Girl Scouts 2:00</i>	10 <i>Called to Care</i> <i>7:00 PM</i>	11 <i>Guided Meditation 2:00</i> Outreach 7:00 PM	12 <i>Cub Scouts 5:30 pm</i> <i>Guided Meditation 7:00</i>	13 <i>B H Garden Club 1-4</i> <i>Adult Choir rehearsal</i> <i>7:00 PM</i>	14	15
16 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Deacons 11:30 AM <i>Djembe Drumming</i> <i>12:00</i>	17	18 <i>Guided Meditation 2:00</i> Christian Ed. 7:00 <i>Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM</i>	19 <i>Cub Scouts 5:30 pm</i> <i>Guided Meditation 7:00</i>	20 Trustees 5:30 <i>Adult Choir rehearsal</i> <i>7:00 PM</i>	21	22
23 Family Worship 10:00 am – no Sunday School <i>Djembe Drumming</i> <i>12:00</i>	24	25 <i>Guided Meditation 2:00</i>	26 <i>Cub Scouts</i> <i>5:30 pm</i> <i>Guided Meditation 6:00</i> Church Council 7:00	27 <i>Adult Choir rehearsal</i> <i>7:00 PM</i>	28	29 Family Game Night Potluck
30 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am <i>Djembe Drumming</i> <i>12:00</i> <i>Girl Scouts 2:00</i>	31					

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

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Special dates

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2011
- Epiphany Sunday, January 2, 2011
- Baptism of the Lord, January 9, 2011
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
Observance, January 17, 2011
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,
January 18-25, 2011

Beyond Failure

You've failed many times, although you may not remember. You fell down the first time you tried to walk. You almost drowned the first time you tried to swim, didn't you? Did you hit the ball the first time you swung a bat? Heavy hitters, the ones who hit the most home runs, also strike out a lot.

Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times, but he also hit 714 home runs. R.H. Macy failed seven times before his store in New York caught on and eventually became an American institution. English novelist John Creasy got 753 rejection slips before he published 564 books.

Even America's great inventor, Thomas Edison, wasn't successful on every attempt. He once said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

Don't worry about failure. Worry about the chances you'll miss when you don't try.

Articles this page: Newsletter Newsletter

2011, A Brand New Year

I am the New Year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have – these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).

—Author unknown