



THE CHIMES

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

29 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 3:00 PM; Friday 9:00 – 11:30 AM

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February 2011

From the Pastor

The Church Council has been tasked with putting together a proposed Mission Statement which will later be presented to the congregation for its approval. (Or, I suppose, disapproval.) This is an important step for our church, as we don't, at the present time, have a Mission Statement. A Mission Statement is a definition of who a congregation is, what they think is important about being the church, and how they are serving Jesus Christ with their ministry.

If you will recall, there were several meetings and events that were held in the past during which information was gathered and opinions were expressed. This material was then collated and sifted so that a description of our church and who we want to be emerged. The Mission Statement is the result of that work.

As I thought about a Mission Statement, I went back over the information we had collected from the congregation. I was reminded of how thoughtful so many of you have been in this process. I thought I would use my newsletter article to remind us all of who we are:

I want our church to be open to anyone who wants to come in and our worship to be welcoming, thoughtful and challenging;

Our church should be aware of what is going on in the world in order that we can provide resources for these days;

Our church should be faithful to the

Bible and to the teachings of Jesus;

Our church should reach out more to the community, inviting all kinds of people into our life together;

Do we need so many meetings?;

I love that we have such a strong music program;

I want our church to be active in helping those members who are going through hard times;

Why are the sermons so long?;

Our pastor should be helpful to those who are sick, lonely and in need of spiritual (or practical) help;

More religious education opportunities, please!;

We have a wonderful Sunday School program. We should continue to put resources into that program so it can stay strong. It is an attractive thing about our church;

We need to have age appropriate youth groups and adults to lead them;

We should be more connected to the United Church of Christ;

We should be more ecumenical;

Mission trips are good for the health of a congregation. We need to have more of them with more people willing to be involved;

We shouldn't be behind the times - we should make use of some of the modern communication tools available now;

More occasions for fellowship, please;

I am happy to see friendly faces at the door on Sunday morning when I arrive. It is important to feel welcome;

How about a praise service in addition to the traditional service?;

I want my church to stay away from trends and focus on what has worked for over 2000 years;

I want my church to be a place where I learn how to follow Jesus.

These are but a representative sampling of comments that were shared during our gatherings. However, they do remind us that the church is important to people and we need to take seriously our need for the church. That is just what the Church Council is trying to do as they work on a Mission Statement to share with you.

Stay tuned, And continue to share your thoughts, hopes, and desires for this branch of Christ's Church in Bar Harbor. We are listening.

Sandra M. Reed

New Testament "Revelation" Study Group

Fasten your seat belts and join us for a study of Revelation, "a wonderfully Christ-centered book, full of worship and praise."

What does it say about our future? Come and join us as we unwrap one last Christmas gift....the hope given in the Book of Revelation.

**Our first meeting will be
February 3 at 10 AM.**

Calling All Knitters!!!

We need some help knitting Baptism blankets and Confirmation scarves. If you are willing to knit one item (blanket or scarf) each year, it would be a great help. I will send you the pattern (designed for BHUCC) and yarn. Contact Cindy Fox (foxcindy@roadrunner.com).



Chapel Chimers

Children from age three through first grade are welcome to join in the music-making with handchimes.

This group meets in the Pre-K/K classroom on Sundays from 11:15 to 11:30. We'd love to have some additional children join us. Question? Contact Chapel Chimers director, Kathe Simons, 244-3207.

Chiming Along

Did you know that the handchimes that were purchased by our church's Women's Auxiliary are being used at Birch Bay's Straus Center in SWH? Twice a month, Kathe Simons meets with folks in the adult day program to sing and chime. What fun! We performed a Christmas concert in December and were joined by family and friends.

Plans are underway for twice-a-month chiming at Birch Bay as well. Thanks to members of our church's Women's Auxiliary for helping to make this outreach possible.

Bar Harbor Food Pantry

More than 125 families used the services of the Bar Harbor Food Pantry in December 2010. Use of the food pantry is UP!

Thanks so very much to the generosity of our church members and friends, we continue to donate food each month. Please consider carrying this list of "much needed items" with you as you grocery shop. Your donations can be left in the grocery cart in the church narthex. The items at the top of the list (in bold print) are

our most urgently needed items. God bless you!

Bar Harbor Food Pantry Wish list

- Tuna/canned meats
(fish, chicken, stew)
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Beans
- Hearty soups
- Crackers
- Variety of pastas
- Pasta sauce
- Cereal
- Coffee/tea
- Baking ingredients (sugar, flour, salt, etc.)
- Toiletries
- Diapers/baby food
- Pet food (dry/canned)

Serendipity Resale Shop

Have you noticed some of the fabulous clothes that Barb Steele, Ruth Rossi, and Kathe Simons have been wearing to church lately? They are proudly wearing some beautiful items they recently purchased at the Serendipity Resale Shop!

Serendipity is on Dewey St., just off the Crooked Road, in the same building as the Mystery Cove Book Shop. We have affordable clothing for folks of ALL ages and ALL sizes, including shoes and accessories.

We are always looking for SHOPPERS, VOLUNTEERS, as well as CLOTHING donations (new or gently used, please!). Our hours are 10-2 on Weds; 10-2 and 5-7 pm on Thurs.; 10-2 on Friday, and 10-4 on Saturday. ALL PROFITS benefit the

Bar Harbor Food Pantry. It's a win-win! See you at Serendipity.

Kathe Simons



I usually start my Christian Ed newsletter for the Chimes with a declaration of what a busy time of year it is for the teachers and students. It seems to always be true--there is never a quiet moment in our vibrant Sunday School world.

I have gone for months on end not making it "upstairs" during regular Church time; something has kept my time and energies with our youth in our nursery, teaching lessons, replenishing snack and supply cabinets and other organizing. While I miss being "upstairs," I know that God has called me at this time in my life to be here for the young ones of our Church. I pray each day that what I do, what I say and what I provide is pleasing in His sight.

January saw:

Birthday Cake Coffee hour, a wonderful Pageant (thanks Doug and Kimberly) and a family games Potluck.

February will bring:

Souperbowl Sunday. On February 6th please bring in either a canned good, or \$, for the Bar Harbor Food Pantry. Collection will be at the beginning of the service.

Pilgrim Lodge Sunday- February 27th. Come learn a little more about this wonderful resource we have at our fingertips.

The end to session 2 (almost, the last class is March 6th) Thank you to Kathe Simons, Leslyn Shea, Donna Beals, Laurie Riddell, Scott Hammond, Mike and Diane Bonsey, Mimi Dickson and our nursery attendants Sandy Boyce and Marianne Dimauero. We are looking for a couple of teachers for the 3rd session (only 9 classes running through the end of the school year).

Thank you, from the CE coordinator, Kathy
MacCulloch

Please join us for **A Course in Basic Christianity**

I hope you will join me for an eight week course which will deal with the basics of our faith. Think of it as remedial Confirmation. We will discuss the foundations of our faith, answer questions that have been bothering us, and deal with our history as a Christian people. The course was written by a friend, the Rev. Dr. Richard L. Floyd, a retired UCC minister who lives in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Our first gathering will be on Sunday, February 27 at 11:45 AM, following the church service. Please come and find out what you've always wanted to know!

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sandra M. Reed

Thoughts for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, a time when thoughts turn to love. But what is love? Is it a box of chocolates, or a pretty valentine? Is it a red rose, or maybe a dozen? Is it a peck on the cheek, a fond embrace, or a big bear hug?

Well, sometimes love is known in those ways. But love, real love, is how we relate to God and to one another if life is what it ought to be - beautiful!



Welcome to our New Members

On Sunday, January 9, 2011, the following persons were received into Covenant Membership through the Rite of Confirmation:

Maggie Violet Painter
Nathaniel Freeman Olson
Kendra Elizabeth Bonsey

Welcome aboard!



Family in Christ

Seventy Years

By the time you're 70 years old, you will have spent nearly a quarter of a century sleeping. The average person spends about 23 years of his or her life in bed. Here are estimates of how most Americans spend their waking hours during those 70 years:

- 11 years working
- 8 years in leisure pursuits
- 6 years eating
- 5 years grooming
- 4 years being educated
- 3 years talking
- 2 years reading
- 6 months worshipping God

Perhaps Sunday morning worship isn't as long as it seems.

PIECES OF LOVE



Send special reminders of your love by creating messages that people can assemble and enjoy.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft sticks
- Tape
- Permanent markers
- Scissors
- Zippered sandwich baggies

What you do:

1. Make a rectangle out of seven craft sticks by placing them next to one another, long side against long side.
2. Tape the sticks together.
3. Turn the sticks over and draw a special picture or message. You can include this Bible verse: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV).
4. Cut through the tape to separate each craft stick.
5. Put all the sticks in a baggie.
6. Give your special messages to family members, friends or teachers — along with directions for viewing them.



A LOVE LETTER

In the New Testament, John writes a letter about God's love and the love we should show to other people.

DIRECTIONS: Working from left to right, write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's. Then read about love, from 1 John 4:11-12, NIV.

lives 3	in 3	us 3	Since 1	and 3	God 1	so 1	loved 1	his 3
us 1	love 3	we 1	If 2	also 1	is 3	made 3	we 2	ought 1
to 1	love 2	love 1	one 1	complete 3	one 2	another 1	in 3	us 3
another 2	God 2							

1 John 4:11-12, NIV

Answers: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

February



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Beverly McNeal
- 2 Terry Savage
- 4 Norma Spurling
- 5 Sarah Skiff Dunbar
- 7 Anne Warner
- 8 Maggie Painter
- 9 Yvonne Tabb
- 11 Roxie Brechlin
- 13 Mary Skiff Renault
- 13 Ben Reed
- 14 Pauline Wright
- 20 Heidi MacQuinn
- 21 Lenny DeMuro
- 22 Carolyn Miller
- 23 Heather Dority
- 23 Jacob Megquier
- 24 Jeremy McQuinn
- 26 Aidan O'Connor



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Karl Haller
Assistant Deacon – John Kelly

Liturgists-

- 6:
- 13: Bruce Blake
- 20: Betty Bryer
- 27: Kathe Simons

Flowers –

- 6: Mary Reed
- 13: Doug and Ann Lee
- 20: Don and Martha Hobbs/
Rob and Connie Shea
- 27: Jim and Kathy MacLeod

Coffee Hosts -

- 6:
- 13:
- 20:
- 27:

Home Bible Readings

- 6 Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 112:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Matthew 5:13-20
- 13 Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37
- 20 Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23
Matthew 5:38-40
- 27 Isaiah 49:8-16a
Psalm 131
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:24-34

February

		1 Guided Meditation 2:00 Cub Scout Pack Meeting 5-8 Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM	2 Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Guided Meditation 7:00 pm	3 Adult Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM	4	5
6 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Souper Bowl Alleluia Choir 11:30	7 Cancer Support Group 5-6:30 PM	8 Guided Meditation 2:00 Outreach 7:00 PM	9 Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Guided Meditation 7:00	10 B H Garden Club 1-4 Adult Choir 7:00 PM	11	12
13 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Boy Scout Sunday Alleluia Choir 11:30 Girl Scouts 2:00	14	15 Guided Meditation 2:00 Valentines Party 7:00 PM Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM	16 Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Guided Meditation 7:00	17 Trustees 5:30 Adult Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM	18	19
20 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Deacons 11:30 AM Alleluia Choir 11:30	21	22 Guided Meditation 2:00	23 Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Church Council 7:00 PM Guided Meditation 6:00	24 Adult Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM	25	26
27 Family Worship 10:00 am – no Sunday School Pilgrim Lodge Sunday Alleluia Choir 11:30 Course in Basic Christianity 11:45 Girl Scouts 2:00	28					

**Bar Harbor Congregational Church
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29 Mount Desert Street
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Special Dates

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 13, 2011
- Valentine's Day, February 14 , 2011
- Presidents' Day, February 21, 2011

Love Conquers All

The love for equals is a human thing — of friend for friend, brother for brother. It is to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles.

The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing — the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.

The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing — to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice, the love of the poor for the rich The world is always bewildered by its saints.

And then there is the love for the enemy — love for the one who does not love you but mocks, threatens and inflicts pain. The tortured's love for the torturer. This is God's love. It conquers the world.

—Frederick Buechner,
The Magnificent Defeat

Reaping the Benefits

A young pastor was visiting an elderly woman who had no known relatives. He asked her to remember the church in her will.

“Why should I?” the woman answered quickly, “What has the church ever done for me?”

After pondering the encounter later, the pastor concluded: The real question is “What has God done for you?” He has given you life and this glorious world. It's at church where you're most likely to learn about God and his will for your life. Corporate worship offers encouragement, guidance and fellowship.

Through outreach efforts, schools and hospitals, the church has a worldwide ministry, doing what you alone cannot do. The church proclaims God's good news, truth, peace and justice throughout the world. God, through the church, does all these things for you.