



# THE CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

29 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

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December 2011

From the Pastor

*Grace to you and peace from God, who gives us every perfect gift.* I want to begin my article with those words because they contain within them the heart of this Christmas season. May the grace of God abide in your heart in all the seasons of your life.

A few days ago, someone asked me if I would be attending a “blue” Christmas service this year. I said no, but as I walked away, I found myself contemplating his question and my answer. For those of you who are not familiar with blue Christmas services, they are intended for those who find themselves suffering from the loss of someone in their lives; they are for someone for whom the celebrations of Christmas do not seem appropriate or welcome. In short, they are intended to help a grieving person move toward healing during the Christmas season.

While it is true that I am grieving, I do not feel the need for a special Christmas service. I will be deeply missing Wally during the Christmas season but I will not be requiring any special considerations, although I do not criticize those who do. The way in which I observe Christmas this year may be very different from the past, but that will in no way alter the way I will celebrate the birth of Christ.

For those of us who are in the midst of deep grief, what better message could there be than the gift of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us? The reason that we grieve, but do not lose hope, is because of this great gift. If God can love us so deeply that

He gives us the gift of Himself in the birth of Jesus, how can I ever need any other reassurance? I am persuaded that my dear husband is safely in the arms of this God who loved him even before he was born. I know deep in my heart that God hears my cries of pain and suffers with me. Ultimately, our faith is a testimony to hope and heart. Of course in a few months we will observe and celebrate the wonder of the Resurrection, completing the circle of salvation, but for now the birth is enough for me.

I will shed tears during the Christmas season – there is no doubt of that. I will miss that deep voice reading “The Night before Christmas” and I will probably forego the traditional three-berry crepes that were always our breakfast meal. I will miss the annual trek to *Maine Mountain Man* to choose the perfect tree. My children and grandchildren will miss Papa’s Christmas greetings and there will be no carefully wrapped gift under the tree for me, chosen by him months before and hidden from my snooping. My stocking may hang on the fireplace, but it will not contain the combination of silly and lovely small offerings from the dogs, purchased by their “Dad” for me. This year I will not agonize over what to give the man who has everything; rather I will make a gift in his memory to a beloved charity. Yes, Christmas will be very different this year.

However, nothing can change the fact that at Christmas we celebrate the wondrous joy that *God so loved the world that He gave*

*His only begotten Son, that whoever shall believe in him shall never die but have life everlasting.* Nothing can ever change that. Thanks be to God.

Sandra M. Reed

## **Minister's Annual Report - 2011**

My dear friends in Christ, how I give thanks for you and for your faith in our God whom we serve in Jesus' name. What a blessing it is to be a minister of the Gospel in these interesting days in which to be the Church. We live in a time in which people are bombarded with demands on their time, their resources, and their abilities. In many cases we are pulled away from our church because of these great demands. I am so very grateful that the Church of Jesus Christ lives in spite of all that stands against it. How well Jesus knows us – He reminded us that the Church will prevail, not because of the efforts of human beings, but because of the grace of God. I am grateful to play a small part in the Church in these challenging days.

Some exciting things happened this year for us. Let me recount a few.

Our church was given the gift of a wonderful new organ by Binky MacQuinn and her family. Every time I hear the lovely music I am reminded of Ronnie MacQuinn, in whose memory the organ was given. I am reminded of his strong faith in God and his joy in being a part of the church. I am also very much enjoying watching Kimberly "play with" the new instrument. This organ will give us many years of beautiful music and help us and the choirs to continue to sing God's song.

We also made some staff changes this year. We said good-bye to Sandy Boyce, who was a wonderful worker in the Nursery and to Kathy MacCulloch, who

served for several years as our Christian Education Coordinator. Thank you to both of these fine women. It warms my heart to see that they are both still very much involved in the life of our church.

We also said good-bye to Paul Dickson, but only for a little while. Paul is attending school in Boston to learn to be a piano technician. Although we miss him, everyone is glad that he is further developing his talent.

As we said good-bye to staff members, we also greeted some new ones. We welcome Katie Skeate as a new Nursery attendant, joining Marianne DiMauro on Sundays to look over our precious little ones. Katie is a delightful new addition to our staff.

We are also pleased to have welcomed Amanda Ward to our staff. She brings to us a strong faith, good ideas and infectious enthusiasm. We are glad to welcome Amanda. If you haven't met her yet, please introduce yourself!

This year we also welcomed Stan Short as our custodian. What a wonderful job he is doing in that role. The church has never looked better! With Paul Dickson being on sabbatical, Stan also took on the challenge of serving as our Interim Administrative Assistant. It comes as no surprise that he is also doing a great job in that position as well. Thanks, Stan!

I have not hit all the highlights, but perhaps others will report on all the other exciting things that have happened.

This year has been challenging for me, having lost my beloved husband, Wally, in July and my Mother-in-law, Mary, in September. I have had to carry out many of my responsibilities here in church with a heavy heart. However, I am grateful for all the support, love, food, and hugs I have received from my church family. Bless you for tending to me during these difficult days. Your efforts have not gone

without notice.

I do have a concern this year. That concern is the dwindling number of people attending worship services and the difficulty we have had asking people to step forward to serve in various positions in the church. I understand that at this point, we are in pretty good shape, but I am concerned at the number of people who have let their church attendance drop off. I know there are reasons for this happening, but it makes me sad. We are diminished when you are not with us on Sunday mornings. We need our entire family to be present in worship so that we might be built up, lifted up and sent out for service in the name of Jesus. If you have been absent, please consider making a greater effort to be here with your family. We truly do miss you.

I guess this is what a Minister's Annual Report consists of. Thank you to Kimberly and the choirs for their wonderful music. Thank you to Doug McMinimy for his tireless sharing of his talents with our young people. Thanks to Judy DeLong and the Music Committee for their leadership this year. Thank you to Kathy Woodside for her capable and dedicated leadership of the Christian Education Board. Thank you to Debby Hammond and the Outreach Board for their leadership in helping us to serve others in Christ's name. Thank you to Owen Craig and the Trustees for their quiet yet powerful leadership. Special thanks to all those who have volunteered their services behind the scenes to keep us in good shape. Thanks to Dusty Warner for the gifts he shared with us in his role as Pastoral Assistant. Thank you to David Lind for keeping up our web site. Thank you to Laurie Riddell for the beautiful flowers and to the Flower Committee for

making sure the flowers are provided and shared. Thank you to Charlie Benore for his leadership around the Chimes, keeping our communications open in a stylish way. Thank you to the faithful members of the Church Council, who have hung in there with us this year. Thank you to our Treasurer, Al Simons, and gratitude to Anne Warner, who gave up the position. Thank you to Margaret Blake for her faithful efforts as our Clerk and to Debby Dyer as our faithful Historian. Thanks to Mimi Dickson and our young people for their leadership at Sonogee, providing worship services. Thanks to Dave Lind and the Deacons for their deeply appreciated guidance throughout the year. The Pastor Parish Relations Committee didn't meet this year, but thanks to the members who stand ready to help.

Thanks to all of those whom I have already thanked elsewhere in this report and thanks to those whom I, in my human frailty, have forgotten to thank. May God forgive my omissions.

Finally, thanks be to God for the life He has given me and the strength He provides for the journey we travel together. God is good. All the time.

Sandra M. Reed  
Pastor

## **What Is on Your List?**

A little smile, a word of cheer,  
A bit of love from someone near,  
A little gift from one held dear,  
Best wishes for the coming year...  
These make a Merry Christmas!

—John Greenleaf Whittier

# **SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**WEDNESDAY~WEDNESDAY~WEDNESDAY**

**DECEMBER 7, 10 AM - 2 PM**

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? If not here is the perfect opportunity to purchase that perfect present for a special friend or family member. The Annual Christmas Fair has something for everyone....lovely crafts, yummy baked goods, fascinating attic treasures, and gorgeous gift items! In addition there will be a raffle table featuring the art of several area artists, cash gifts, and specialty baskets.

Let's not forget our famous luncheon! Lunch begins at 11:00 a.m., which gives you a whole hour to shop before you take a break for lunch. The menu will include savory soups, scrumptious sandwiches, and delicious pies. So save the date...see your friends...and enjoy the Christmas fun!!

**IT TAKES THE WORK OF MANY  
PEOPLE TO PUT OUR FAIR  
TOGETHER!**

**PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING  
LIST TO SEE WHERE YOU CAN HELP  
OUT!**

**Lots of helpers and goodies are  
needed for  
the Christmas Fair!!**

1. Fellowship Hall Set-up (Luncheon tables etc.) Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>
2. Attic Treasures Set-up/Tables Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>/Goods/Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>
3. Pies for the luncheon
4. Cookies/Baked Goods
5. Candy/Fudge
6. Odds & Ends
7. Attic Treasures
8. Raffles
9. Fellowship Hall/Attic Treasures Clean up
10. Kitchen Cook Crew
11. Kitchen Clean-up Crew
12. Waiters/Waitresses
13. Chauffeurs & Lunch Delivery
14. Gofers (go for whatever we need!)

**THE SIGN UP BOARD IS IN THE  
CHURCH PARLOR!!**

**KEEP IN MIND THAT THE  
CHRISTMAS FAIR IS A MAJOR  
FUNDRAISER FOR OUR CHURCH!!  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE - BE A PART  
OF IT  
WORK  
EAT  
BE A WAITER  
COOK  
BAKE  
BUY A RAFFLE  
CLEAN-UP  
Make our Christmas Fair a huge  
success!**



## What's going on in Christian Education?

We have had a wonderful trimester thus far! Teachers have been putting their heart and souls into educating our youth and making the most of our time together on Sunday mornings. We are nearing the end of our first trimester and I wanted take the time to personally thank our teachers for their efforts and time. Our youth has greatly benefited from your teachings and I know they enjoyed the time with you. Our final day of Sunday school for the first trimester is November 20th. Family Sunday will be hosted by the middle school group led by Mike Bonsey! Thanks Mike.

### Dates to Remember!

Saturday December 3rd will be the gingerbread house-making extravaganza! This is sure to be a fun time for all! More details to follow.

Sunday December 4th begins our 2nd trimester of Sunday school, time has flown by!

Wednesday December 7th the Christmas Fair will be held and keep your eye out for all the beautiful wreaths our youth will be making!

Thursday December 8th from 3:30 to 5:30 we will be headed to the Maine Sea Coast Mission to help bundle and wrap gifts for the less fortunate. This is a wonderful time of service

and we invite all children in 4th grade and up to join us. Parents you are also welcome to come along and we invite you to join us afterwards for a pizza party hosted by the Christian Education Board. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Amanda Ward 669-5807.

I would also like to extend a request for anyone would might be interested in teaching for the upcoming trimester. If you are unable to commit to every Sunday or are not sure it's your "thing" I encourage you to try it! We all have something to offer and teaching is a wonderful way to see the potential of our youngest congregation members.

Amanda Ward



Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 11, 2011**, for this year's Christmas Festival. Our church celebrates the season with its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Festival on Sunday, December 11, beginning at 1:00PM. This concert features both amateur and professional community members performing instrumental and vocal, solo and ensemble Christmas music.

The concert is free and will follow a potluck lunch held immediately after church that day. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the parlor for dish contributors. We ask that if you contribute a dish, please remember to not use any shellfish or shellfish products so that everyone can enjoy and participate in our Christmas Festival. Labelling what your dish is and possible allergen ingredients would be helpful. **We hope to see you at this annual Christmas tradition!**

## Congratulations to:

Rachel McMinimy, Maggie Painter, and Catie Smith who are members of The Mount Desert Island High School girls' cross-country team that won the Class B state championship on October 29.

Kathe Simons who was awarded Island Connections (Neighbors Helping Neighbors) "Rookie of the Year" for exceptional contributions

## Thanks to:

Judy Fuller and the Bar Harbor Bank & Trust for collecting food and donations as part of the bank's 23rd annual Community Food Drive for the Bar Harbor Food Pantry



## What to Give for Christmas

To your enemy, forgiveness.  
To an opponent, tolerance.  
To a friend, your heart.  
To a customer, service.  
To all men, charity.  
To every child, a good example.  
To yourself, respect.  
—Oren Arnold

## Brand New

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



The Annual Living Nativity will be held on the church steps on **Wednesday, December 14th and Thursday, December 15th from 6:00 - 7:20 PM.**

Participants are asked to be at the church between 5:00 - 5:30 PM to allow plenty of time to get dressed. Be sure to wear warm clothing, which our massive costumes cover nicely. Don't worry about supper, as there will be warm soup, sandwiches, and hot cocoa available to sustain you through a cold evening. Sign up sheets will be available in the parlor. We welcome new comers to participate. This evening can be very spiritually filled. Due to a recent shoulder surgery, Norma would welcome a few extra dressers this year. Call Norma Spurling at 266-0459 if you have any questions.

# KIDS PAGE

## SAVIOR ORNAMENT

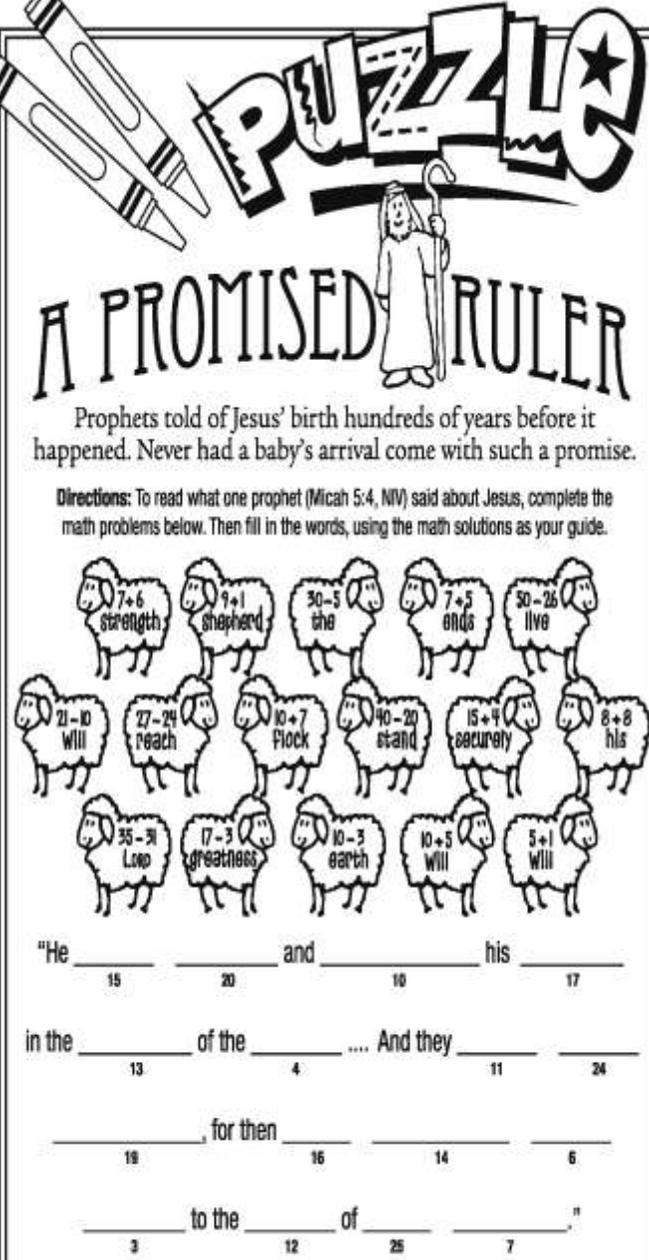
This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

### What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

### What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.



**PUZZLE**

**A PROMISED RULER**

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

$7+6$  strength     $9+1$  shepherd     $30-5$  the     $7+5$  ends     $50-25$  live  
 $21-10$  will     $27-24$  reach     $10+7$  flock     $40-20$  stand     $15+4$  securely     $8+8$  his  
 $35-31$  Lord     $17-3$  greatness     $10-3$  earth     $10+5$  will     $5+1$  will

"He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_  
 in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ .... And they \_\_\_\_\_,  
 for then \_\_\_\_\_,  
 to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord .... And they will live securely; for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

# December



- 1 Dannie Bickford
- 2 Michael Breen
- 2 Parick Breen
- 4 Eric Kelley
- 4 Terrance Kelley
- 6 Bill Fuller
- 6 Jefferson Hobbs
- 11 Beth Paradis
- 11 Mary Elizabeth Kelley McCafferty
- 12 David Blaney
- 12 John Collier
- 14 Linda Kelley
- 15 Fran Fry
- 16 Jean Kief
- 18 Ian Hepburn
- 18 Deb Wade
- 18 Mark Reece
- 19 Marilynne Marino
- 19 Isabella Webster
- 20 Kelsey Mills
- 21 William Parker Renault
- 23 Tom Shea
- 27 Mary Drury
- 27 Dean Bryer
- 31 Michael Blaney
- 31 Eve Moore

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Ginny Blaney, who passed on in November. Let us keep Ben and their family in our prayers.

## Sunday Worship Contributors

**Head Deacon –** Mary Dudzik  
**Assistant Deacon –** Kathy Kief

### Liturgists-

- 4: Scott Hammond
- 11: Debby Hammond
- 18: Debbie Dyer
- 25:

### Flowers –

- 4: Ruth Rossi
- 11: Linda & Terry Kelley
- 18: Poinsettias
- 25: Poinsettias

### Coffee Hosts -

- 4:
- 11: Cas Dowden
- 18: Sandra Reed
- 25: BYO Christmas Cookies

### Home Bible Readings

- 4 Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8
- 11 Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11  
Psalm 126:5-10  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28
- 18 Luke 1:47-55  
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38
- 25 Psalm 98  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Hebrews 1:1-4  
John 1:1-14

# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Adult Choir 7:00	2 Cub Scout Christmas Party 5:30	3 <i>Ginger- bread Houses 10:00 am</i> <b>Blaney Memorial Service 2:00</b>
4 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am  Alleluia Choir 11:30	5	6 Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	7 <b>Church Fair</b>	8 Adult Choir 7:00	9	10 Christmas Kids Books 9:00 am
11 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am  <b><u>Christmas Festival 1:00</u></b>	12 Cancer Support Group 5:00 PM	13 Cub Scouts 4:30 pm  Outreach Board 7:00	14 <b>Living Nativity 6:00 – 7:20 PM</b>	15 <b>Living Nativity 6:00 – 7:20 PM</b>	16	17
18 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am  Alleluia Choir 11:30	19	20	21 <i>Chimes articles due</i>  Deacons 7:00	22 Choir at Sonogee 6:30	23	24 <b>Family Service 5:00</b>  <b>Christmas Eve 7:00</b>
25 Worship Service 10:00 am  Family Sunday	26	27	28	29 Adult Choir 7:00	30	31

**United Church of Christ  
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### **Special Dates**

- Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 4, 2011
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2011
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 18, 2011
- First day of winter, December 22, 2011
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2011
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2011
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, Dec. 31, 2011

### **A New Year's Blessing**

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrow  
and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it as  
it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel  
any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken  
sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even  
in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always  
pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and  
their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be  
there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you  
for the year ahead.

### **"An Ode to Christmas Lights"**

Bursting through December nights  
That could be long and cold,  
Our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy  
With colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops,  
And from trees both small and tall,  
The lights cry out, "We have good news!"  
We want to shout to all.

"You've seen the darkness earth can hold,  
The sorrow, war and fear;  
But God has sent his Son for all,  
To show his Love is here.

"The darkness can't put out God's Light.  
Christ's with us day by day,  
Illuminating paths so we  
Can follow in his way."

Light homes and streets and candles.  
Make your world shine clear and bright.  
God's love surrounds and blesses us.  
Come, celebrate God's Light!  
—Peggy Ferrell