



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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February 2012

From the Pastor

Excuse me, but didn't we just celebrate Christmas? How is it that this month will bring us Ash Wednesday (February 22) and the start of the observance of Lent? Where does the time go – both liturgically and in our lives? Before I get carried away with clichés, let me stop myself and make some observances.

First of all, Lent is the most unpopular of all liturgical seasons. Why would anyone in his or her right mind want to look at their life and be reminded that all of us are sinners in need of repentance and salvation? Wasn't it enough to heed John the Baptist's call during Advent? I cannot tell you how many times I have heard people say to me that they do not consider themselves sinners, so they feel no need to alter or change their ways. My only response to them is, "Congratulations!" and then to ask them how they managed it. After all, if salvation wasn't needed by humanity, God wouldn't have found the need to become flesh and dwell among us in Jesus.

I will admit that Lent is a difficult season to observe. For many people it is about giving something up. This usually means repenting of sloth, gluttony or just plain orneriness. That is all well and good, but it really doesn't come very close to

defining the observance of the season. When I was a child, my mother always gave up carrots while the rest of us decided to forego candy (except for that which we could sneak). It was years later that I found out that my mother never, ever ate carrots because she hated them. Lent, for her, was a good excuse to avoid being questioned as to why carrots never appeared on her plate, although they made frequent appearances on ours.

Serious observance of Lent, for me, requires taking on something: deeper, more meaningful Bible study or a more vigorous prayer life. Perhaps I take more time to be present to my parishioners who are going through hard times or my Lenten journey might include mission work that I do not normally do. I would encourage you to make a Lenten "sacrifice" that would lead you into a closer relationship with your Creator and Redeemer.

One of my favorite theologians, Frederick Buechner, has said of Lent:

In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into

the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.

If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why? When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?

If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?

If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end. (From *Whistling in the Dark*, pp. 74-75)

Perhaps all of us would do well to heed Buechner's suggestions. I believe I will. If you do, let me know how it is going.

Sandra M. Reed

Ash Wednesday Service

On Wednesday, February 22 we will observe the beginning of Lent with a worship service at the church beginning at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend this observance, which will include prayer, hymns, Scripture, and a meditation by the Rev. Dr. Reed. The imposition of ashes will be available for those who choose to participate.

If you have any questions regarding the service, please see Sandra Reed or call her at 207-460-9300. Please consider starting your Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday.

Love is a fruit in season



At all times and within reach of every hand!

Spread love everywhere you go

First of all in your own house

Give love to your children

To your husband or wife

To a next door neighbor

Let no one ever come to you

Without leaving happier

Be the living expression of God's

Kindness, kindness in your face

Kindness in your eyes

Kindness in your smile

Kindness in your warm greeting!

—Mother Teresa

One Kind Word

Drop a pebble in the water; just a splash, and it is gone;
But there's a half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on,
Spreading, spreading from the center, flowing on out to the sea.
And there is no way of telling where the end is going to be.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness: in a minute you forget;
But there's gladness still a-swelling, and there's joy a-circling yet.
And you rolled a wave of comfort whose sweet music can be heard.
Over miles and miles of water just by dropping one kind word.

Unknown Author
From the Cumberland Church "Good News"



We are half way through our school year and there has been so much growth and learning, on behalf of the students and myself! I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have been along for the journey thus far. Although I am new to this position and have many things to learn, everyone has been very understanding and immensely helpful. I look forward to the year ahead.

We have great lessons and activities planned for the year. We are still looking for anyone interested in teaching next trimester. The trimester begins March 4th. Also, any teacher that will be coming onto the team, we will be hosting a quick Teacher Transition Meeting on two consecutive Sundays, February 12 and February 19. This time will be spent helping new teachers transition into their classes. The previous teachers will be around to answer any questions and give advice. Promises to be fun and informative.

I look forward to seeing you there! Stay warm and see you in Sunday school!

Amanda Ward
Christian Education Coordinator

Annual Valentine Day Party

The Annual Valentine Day party hosted by Judy Fuller and Norma Spurling will be held on February 13th at 7pm in the church parlor.

All the ladies of the church are cordially invited for this fun filled evening. Our very own Deb Wade will provide us with a travel log presentation on Yellowstone National Park, and every one is asked to bring a Valentine munchie.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the parlor. If there are any questions, call Norma at 266-0459.

A religious awakening which does not awaken the sleeper to love has roused him in vain.

Jessamyn West

Treasurer's Corner

Thank you for your continued support of the church! There is good news to report this month.

- Our total operational income for 2011 exceeded the budget!
- The 2011 expenses came in slightly under budget!
- The pledge card returns for this year have exceeded the budgeted amount.

At the 2011 Annual Meeting, the congregation asked for regular updates on the church's financial state. This issue of the Chimes has the first update, covering the end of 2011. I plan to make this report quarterly, in the February, May, August and November issues.

You will notice that the Operational Income category no longer shows the \$102,000 gift to the endowment that appeared in the Annual Meeting report. It was determined that the endowment gift belonged in the non-operational income section of the books, with the other transactions affecting the endowment.

At the Annual Meeting, the congregation directed the Trustees to resume funding the Sabbatical account. Funding a three-month sabbatical across 5 years will cost us \$4,548 this year. We will take quarterly charges of \$1,137 for this.

There are three changes to the 2012 budget since approved at the Annual Meeting:

- The Pledges' line has been increased from \$80,000 to \$82,400
- The Committee Contributions line has been increased from \$0 to \$3,000, thanks to the Evening Auxiliary. This was announced at the meeting.
- The Sabbatical line item has been increased from \$0 to \$4,548.

These changes have resulted in our projected Operational Net Revenue changing from (\$28,786) to (\$27,934). The 2011 decline in Ministerial and Staff expenses from budget reflects lower travel, insurance, and tax law changes, and that the Sunday School/Youth Coordinator position was open for part of the year.

Al Simons, Treasurer

Bar Harbor Congregational Church Financial Data Actual 2009, 2010, and 2011 Comparisons with 2011 Budget

	Actual 2009	Actual 2010	Budget 2011	Actual 2011
Operational Income				
Plate Income (Loose Offering)	\$45,264	\$51,734	\$50,000	\$60,166
Pledge Income	\$103,924	\$96,884	\$90,000	\$80,723
Other Income	\$74,048	\$100,794	\$58,520	\$59,782
Total Operational Income	\$223,236	\$249,412	\$198,520	\$200,670
Operational Expense				
Total Administrative Expenses	\$13,232	\$10,733	\$11,589	\$10,608
Total Building and Grounds	\$55,120	\$52,662	\$36,530	\$50,111
Total Church's Local Mission	\$11,129	\$11,628	\$9,700	\$6,395
Total Church's Wider Mission	\$8,134	\$7,634	\$6,950	\$6,146
Total Ministerial Expenses	\$83,155	\$81,324	\$82,255	\$76,259
Total Staff Expenses	\$50,221	\$56,794	\$64,915	\$61,668
Total Operational Expense	\$220,992	\$220,774	\$211,939	\$211,188
Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses	\$2,244	\$28,638	-\$13,419	-\$10,518

NEWS FROM THE MAINE CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Transitional Ministry Boundary Training -
Thursday, February 2nd, 9:30 - 2:00 pm,

This Boundary Training will take place at South Parish Congregational Church, Augusta. Our session will be focused on pastors and their spouses who anticipate transition in the year ahead, or who have recently transitioned from one setting to another, interim ministers and lay leaders of churches. It also is applicable to pastors who are entering retirement.

This will be an opportunity to look at the expectations of pastors and of congregations who anticipate, or are going through change, to better understand the ethics and rationale behind recommended boundaries and what import they can have for the present and future of congregations.

You may register by contacting Sue Stevens at the Conference Office by phone (846-5118) or e-mail (suestevens@maineucc.org)

In the Resource Center - *Journey to the Heart: Centering Prayer for Children* by Frank X. Jelenek

This simple, colorful, practical book uses rhyme and illustrations to teach children how to practice prayer of the heart, contemplative prayer, or "centering prayer." Ideal for parents, teachers, educators - and children ages 3-10.

Please remember that the cart for the online catalog is not working, to order any resources send emails to resourcecenter@maineucc.org or call [1-800-244-0937](tel:1-800-244-0937) or [207-846-5118](tel:207-846-5118).

Honduras Partnership Coffee!!
You can support vocational technical education in Honduras at CEVER in Yoro by buying coffee. Operated by our partner, the Evangelical and Reform Church of Honduras,

CEVER teaches high school and young adult aged Hondurans useful work skills in a number of areas so that they are prepared to enter the skilled workforce. Go to wickedjoe.com and click on the heading "special

project coffees" and order regular in dark or full city roast, or an excellent decaf. \$2 of each bag goes to support the mission of CEVER. (You can donate directly through the Conference if you're not a coffee drinker!)

Matthew Fox will be our keynote speaker at the 2012 Annual Meeting. His book, *Original Blessing* presents Four Paths through 26 "themes or stopping places," which make up the chapters of the book. Here is this week's "Fox Citing" from *Original Blessing*

Path 1: The Via Positiva

Theme 5: Trust: A Psychology of Trust and Expansion

Matthew Fox says creation spirituality is built on trust, not fear. He is critical of the pervasive role and teaching of fear in western religion. Many of us have been exposed to teachings of fear: fear of hell; fear of damnation; fear of creation; even fear of ourselves as fallen human beings. Rather than fear, he says, we ought to lift up trust as the basis of our relationship with God and creation.

Fox says the Greek word in the New Testament that Jesus used for faith is rightfully understood as trust (a quick review of the word in a Greek lexicon lends credence to this view). "Your faith has made you whole" is arguably translated as "your trust has made you whole."

Fox then presents trust as the pervasive disposition toward life, death, creation, and God in the paths of creation spirituality. Trust nurtures in us a psychological makeup that is very different from a psychology of fear. In fact, he says "many people leave religion in the West ... because they are growing up and growing out of fear and into trust, and very often they do not find Western religion adequate to their adult spiritual needs."

Fox says the trust psychology behind creation spirituality "is necessarily a growth psychology, one that encourages the ever-expanding possibilities of ourselves and the universe." Referring to the teachings of St. Irenaeus he suggests that "the fall" was not a fall from a prior state of perfection, but a failure to "ripen."

There is potential in all things at any time and over great periods of time: "we grow from seed and egg to flowers to fruits, and then we are transformed by our many deaths into new life of many kinds."

Fox is telling a creation story characterized by ecology and evolution. The creation is not a great chain of static being (to coin the medieval phrase); it is a great chain of dynamic becoming.

Since Fox wrote Original Blessing in 1983, many others have suggested that the Church needs a new creation story, one that is fully informed by the best of modern science. It is within such a story – a story filled with the potential for human beings and all beings to grow and mature – that trust becomes the basis for compassionate acceptance of the "cosmic-sized invitation to grow and grow and grow."

What God does first and best and most is to trust his people with their moment in history. He trusts them to do what must be done for the sake of his whole community.

– Walter Breueggemann

NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT, JULY 10-13, 2012 PURDUE UNIVERSITY—WEST LAFAYETTE, IN

Registration information can be found on the Maine Conference website at <http://www.maineucc.org/news/NYE%202012%20Nov%20Mailing.htm>. Questions? Contact Rev.SusieCraig susiecraigacm@aol.com

There will be an Information Session for young people in the Northern and Downeast part of the Conference at the **Hampden Church at 6 pm, January 30th**. Bring a bag supper, or stop by the Subway near the Hampden Church. All are welcome! We can't wait to tell you what awaits us at NYE! " RSVP to billwalshjr@gmail.com to let us know if you are coming. An information Session for the Southern and Western part of the Conference is coming soon. More details to follow. Watch ACE.

March on Mount Desert Street Progressive Dinner

On Thursday, March 1st the non-profit organizations on Mount Desert Street will host what has become an annual Progressive Dinner. The festivities begin @ 5:15 with a play performed by Emerson-Connors School students at St. Saviour's Episcopal Church. Things then progress across the street to the YWCA for appetizers at 5:30. At 6:00 folks will move next door to the Jesup Memorial Library for salads. **The soup and bread course will begin @6:30 at our church** and dessert will begin across the street at The Abbe Museum at 7:00. This has become an event that many people look forward to....it builds community...it's a great night out during the week and it sure helps to beat cabin fever!

Help will be needed for:

- Setting up the fellowship hall (tables, chairs, silverware, napkins, bowls)
- Table centerpieces
- Soup makers w/ladles
- Butter/margarine donors
- Soup servers
- Waiters & waitresses
- Clean-up crew

For additional information contact Sandy Boyce @ 288-1047 (H); 288-4747 (W);
e-mail(s): sboyce523@roadrunner.com (home) or sboyce@bostonpartnersllc.com (work).



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.

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.

February 2012



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Beverly McNeal
- 2 Terry Savage
- 4 Norma Spurling
- 5 Sarah Skiff Dunbar
- 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 – Amy Riddell
Assistant Deacon – John Kelly

Liturgists –

- 5: Bruce Blake
- 12:
- 19: Al Simons
- 26: Scott Hammond

Flowers –

- 5: Donna Hulton and Peggy Manton
- 12: Doug and Anne Lee, Ken Hormel
- 19: Rob & Connie Shea, Don & Martha Hobbs
- 26: Kathy MacLeod

Coffee Hosts –

- 5:
- 12:
- 19: Barbara Hepburn & Norma Spurling
- 26:

Bible Readings -

- 5 Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39
- 12 2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45
- 19 2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9
- 26 Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Adult Choir 7:00	3	4
5 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Alleluia Choir 11:30	6	7 Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	8	9 Adult Choir 7:00	10	11 Scouts Blue and Gold dinner
12 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Alleluia Choir 11:30 Whitener Concert 2:00 pm	13 Valentine's Party 7:00 pm	14 Scouts Pack 6:00 pm	15 Chimes articles due Outreach Board 7:00 Deacons 7:00	16 Trustees 5:30	17	18
19 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Alleluia Choir 11:30	20	21 Community Dinner 5:00 pm	22 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm	23	24	25
26 1st Sunday in Lent Worship Service 10:00 am Family Sunday	27	28 Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	29			

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

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Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 5, 2012
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 19, 2012
- Presidents Day, February 20, 2012
- Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012
- First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2012

Be a Love Bird

Many stories about the origin of Valentine's Day have come down through the centuries. There's no definitive story, but most revolve around the imprisonment of Valentinus (St. Valentine) for his disregard of Roman laws.

Many legends are also associated with Valentine's Day. For example, because birds seemed to arrive and mate in some countries in mid-February, human couples came to be called "love birds."

In 1667, the first recorded Valentine card was printed. Today, people will give their sweethearts countless millions of cards and acres of heart-shaped boxes filled with candy. But why wait for Valentine's Day to share love with others? Remember Jesus' words in John 13:34 (NRSV): "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another."

Source: Newsletter Newsletter

Repent - a Worthy Word for Lent

What pops into your mind when you hear the word "repent"? Is it a dark and somber word for you, perhaps reminding you of John the Baptist's shouting for people to repent and be baptized?

What does the word "repent" mean anyway? Literally, it means to stop the way one is going, turn around, and then walk in the opposite direction. It refers to turning away from sin and shallow living and to begin walking through life following God's direction.

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22, 2012), is an opportunity to check our spiritual condition, to repent (if needed) and to walk more faithfully with our Lord.

If we take Lent seriously, we can begin to discover a new vision for life - a more joyous way to live. Lent can enable us to discover the immeasurable benefits of living the Christian life passionately.

Source: Newsletter Newsletter