



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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May 2012

From the Pastor

I read an interesting blog the other day which asked me a question that has been with me ever since. The question was this: "If your life were to end tomorrow, are you doing exactly what you would like to be doing today?" It caught my attention and put me a bit off-balance because I do not normally think in these terms. The question has haunted me since I read it and now I feel the need to pass the question on to you.

Ever since my husband died, I have gone over and over our life together, asking myself if we used our time together as wisely and well as we could have. I have to admit to myself that the answer to that question is, "No, we didn't." There are so many things we wanted to do; so many places we wanted to go; so many moments we wanted to spend together – he died without finishing his "bucket list." We always thought we would have tomorrow, and tomorrow and tomorrow - even though his health argued against that assumption. In nearly all ways we had a wonderful life together, but I have to say that we should have taken more seriously that, in effect, no one is guaranteed tomorrow.

Do I feel guilty about this? Not really – I can argue that we just didn't know any better, but the truth is we did the best we could. Looking back, do I wish we had done things differently? Yes, of course.

I cannot change the past, but I can learn from it. Thus, my interest in the question posed by the blog written by the Rev. Barbara C. Crafton, an Episcopal minister in New Jersey. I like to think that one of the advantages of aging is that we actually do acquire wisdom, so I have embarked on a course of changing the way I look at my life and I invite you to do the same.

First of all, I believe that all life is a gift of God, and that includes my life. Therefore, I am committed to living the kind of life that is appropriate for the gifts and graces with which God has gifted me. I would be the first one to admit that I didn't start out so well, but, by the grace of God, I am getting better all the time: kinder, wiser, living more simply, increasing in compassion and understanding and honoring the life God has given me. I still have a long way to go, by the way.

Secondly, I have decided to take advantage of the fact that I am still relatively young, in good health and in (somewhat) sound mind. That means that I am starting to do the things that I say I have wanted to do: taking advantage of the gifts of this beautiful Island on which we live and using my resources to make a difference, however small, in the world around me and beyond me. I am working on loving more deeply and being a better friend and pastor. This is a continuing process. Stay tuned.

Thirdly, and finally, I am making plans for my future and trying to look to doing some of the things Wally and I wanted to do. I know that I will be doing them alone, but that doesn't trouble me. He's always with me anyway. Death really doesn't change that.

As I look at my life now, I have to say that, for now, I am doing exactly what I want to do. Of course there are things that I wish were different, but I have made choices throughout my life that allow me to be doing what I believe I was meant to do. It took hard work, but today I am pastoring a wonderful church on the coast of Maine and, for me, it doesn't get any better than that.

Ms. Crafton ends her blog by saying, "What a blessing it is to be doing exactly what you want to be doing." She is absolutely right. I know many people have to make do with the conditions of their lives and do the best they can. I am aware that illness, calamity and conflict can take us far outside the circle of contentment we long for. I have seen that sometimes we have to live through something first in order to get what we most desire for our lives.

But I also know that our days are not without limit and no one can take tomorrow for granted. And so, beloved, take care to use your life to do and say the things that will fulfill your purpose. Don't pine for the future - embrace the present and learn to live well even in the midst of deep challenge. Life is not a chore, it is a gift from the hand of God, who love us. Use God's love to give you grace and courage to change what needs to be changed and live to sing in the midst of trial.

My prayer for all of us is that we will know what it means to be doing exactly what we need and want to be doing. That blessing is a gift beyond measure.

Sandra M. Reed



The 2012 Spring-Spruce-Up is Coming on **May 12th from 9am to noon**, Shine or Rain, Outdoors and Indoors, for all ages, abilities, and skills. We're

just starting the list of projects, but we know there will be gardening, guttering, linens folding, pruning, planting, cupboard washing, litter tossing, shoveling, silverware sorting, raking, weeding, and more! We'll sit down afterwards for a quick lunch and a lot of admiration of what we all have done together! Come join in the fun!

Deb Wade

Invitation to a Party

The 6th Annual Mother's Day Event and Cultural Celebration sponsored by the nonprofit group, Mano en Mano, will be held on **Saturday May 12 at the Millbridge Town Hall**.

Mano en Mano, Spanish for hand in hand, helps provide education, housing and access to healthcare and social services to Down East's immigrants and farm workers, including the 600 or so Latino's who have settled into the region over the past 15 years.

The Church Outreach Board recently invited and heard a presentation from Ian Yaffe, Mano en Mano's Executive Director. Along with discussing possible events with our Church here, he invited any from BHCC to attend their events noting the upcoming Mother's Day Celebration.

Mother's day holds special meaning in the Latino cultures Mr. Yaffe told us. The event in May will include a Potluck supper, activities for the kids and an evening program of skits, music and dancing.

Members of the Outreach Board plan on attending, and more information is available at www.manomaine.org.



Christian Education is coming up on another successful school year. As we learn about the resurrection and rebirth, we are also learning how to engage our students in learning about fellowship and community. Students are having in depth conversations about what it means to be a "Christian."

Our Christian Education Board is also exploring some deep ideas. We spent our last meeting discussing our vision and mission. We have come to realize that although we are all in this for the right reasons, we need to have a unified voice and vision when communicating our efforts to our children and the congregation. We are excited to collaborate on this effort and look forward to sharing our results in the near future.

As a reminder, we are seeking teachers for next school year. It's never too early to have questions answered! Please let me know if you would be interested in helping out. I hope to have many repeats as well as lots of new faces for our kids! They love to learn from the adults especially the new ones! It is the most rewarding experience and what better way to see the foundation of our church strengthen!

Enjoy the spring and I look forward to seeing many of you in the church in the upcoming weeks!

Amanda Ward
CE Coordinator



Our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends on the loss of:

**William (Bill) Hamilton Skiff,
Covenant Member**

Memorial Day

Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It's now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.

Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, "Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared." Source: Newsletter Newsletter

A Mother's Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of my children. Help me rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout my days.

I want my children to love you, worship you and serve you as best they can. Grant me the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent me from provoking my children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our household with abiding love and respect, and help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen. Source: Newsletter Newsletter

Treasurer's Corner

This is the second quarterly Treasurer's Corner, reflecting the state of church finances as of the end of March, 2012. The table with the summary numbers is below.

Our pledge income is tracking slightly ahead of last year's pace. This is a good sign, as our pledge budget line is slightly more than last year's actual pledges received. Thank you for keeping up with your pledges!

We have been the beneficiary of a large gift from the Evening Auxiliary, a combination of their pledge, the proceeds from the church Christmas Fair, and a gift to cover the purchase of a new, more energy efficient refrigerator for the parsonage. Thanks to the women of the church for this extra support.

The church staff and the trustees are being vigilant in trying to keep our expenses as low as possible. Despite significantly higher fuel costs, the total Building and Grounds expenses are below last year's spend rate, and if prorated out to a full year, are below budget. Similarly, all of our summary expense lines are currently below a straight-line prorated budget.

The expense line for Our Church's Wider Mission deserves special mention. Two of the big items in that line are our Fellowship dues to the Conference and Association (\$3006.90), and our pledge to the UCC's Our Church's Wider Mission fund (\$3000). We will be paying these quarterly. Our first quarter payments have now been made (totaling \$1,501.73), but due to an oversight on my part didn't hit the books by the end of March.

As I noted in the previous Treasurer's Corner, we will also be paying the Sabbatical Fund quarterly. As with the two items above, this has been paid (\$1,137), but did not hit the books in March. All of these quarterly payments will be made again in June, September and December.

The next Treasurer's Corner will appear in the August Chimes. With the coming of summer, many of us become too busy with the tourist season to make it to church regularly. Please remember that the church's expenses go on through the summer, and continue to send your pledges regularly.

Al Simons

Bar Harbor Congregational Church Financial Data

Actual 2010, 2011, 2012 Budget, and Year-to-Date Comparison for 2011 and 2012

	12 months 12/31/10	12 months 12/31/11	2012 Budget	Last YTD 03/31/11	YTD 03/31/12
Operational Income					
Plate Income (Loose Offering)	51734	60166	50000	12472	11413
Pledge Income	96884	80723	82400	18796	21830
Other Income	100794	59782	119024	18994	17719
Total Operational Income	249412	200670	251424	50261	50962
Operational Expense					
Total Administrative Expenses	10733	10608	16659	3035	2665
Total Building and Grounds	44365	41138	41368	13549	11515
Total Church's Local Mission	11628	6395	8600	1264	510
Total Church's Wider Mission	7634	6146	6650	0	0
Total Ministerial Expenses	81324	76259	79436	20363	17696
Total Staff Expenses	56794	61668	67133	16056	16688
Total Operational Expense	212477	202214	219846	54266	49075
Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses	36936	-1544	31578	-4005	1887



Words of appreciation

Show your love for your mother, grandmother or aunt this Mother's Day by placing words of appreciation throughout the house for her to find.

What you need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Tape

THANKS!

What you do:

1. Fold construction paper into fourths.
2. Cut paper along the folds to get four pieces.
3. On each rectangle, write words of appreciation, drawings and so on.
4. Tape the papers throughout the house. For example, a note on the refrigerator or pantry might say, "Thank you for making yummy meals for me." A note on a mirror might say, "You are beautiful inside and out!"



What does God mean when he commands us to honor our fathers and mothers (Exodus 20:12)?

Complete this word search to discover words that mean the same as *honor*.

admire • adore • appreciate • cherish • esteem
look up to • praise • respect • revere • value

E	S	T	E	E	M	U	H	A	L	G	Z
F	K	M	R	Q	E	X	H	P	C	C	I
N	O	L	D	U	Y	S	S	P	R	N	E
I	P	J	L	J	I	R	T	R	M	Y	R
D	X	A	S	R	K	E	J	E	Z	K	O
R	V	O	E	J	P	S	X	C	F	A	D
Z	E	H	U	R	H	P	C	I	C	D	A
V	C	V	A	Q	N	E	Y	A	P	M	G
Q	D	I	E	P	F	C	M	T	Y	I	Z
Z	S	X	C	R	X	T	P	E	N	R	G
E	O	X	U	Y	E	U	A	Y	O	E	H
B	R	E	O	T	P	U	K	O	O	L	Q

May 2012



- 1 Alexandra Heiges
- 4 Aubrie Boyce
- 4 George Mitchell
- 11 Elise Craighead
- 14 Alisha Rechholtz
- 14 Scott Riddell
- 15 Patty Benore
- 15 Tim Smith
- 15 Sheridan Steele
- 16 Jane Sanderson
- 18 Richard Collier
- 18 Sandra Reed
- 19 Leslie Spurling
- 20 Paul Dickson
- 21 Faith Reece
- 21 Dean DiMauro
- 21 Lou Ingrisano
- 21 Ezekiel Valleau
- 24 Christopher Booher
- 25 Crystal Hobbs
- 28 Heidi Turner O'Connor



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Kathy Kief
Assistant Deacon – Laurie Wellman

Liturgists-

6: Betty Bryer
13: Debbie Dyer
20: Scott Hammond
27:

Flowers –

6: Dottie Robins and Florence Ames
13:
20:
27:

Coffee Hosts -

6:
13: Dean & Betty Bryer, In Honor and Memory
Of all Mother's
20:
27:

Home Bible Readings

- 6 Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8
- 13 Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17
- 20 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19
- 27 Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27;16:4b-15

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	2	3 Bible Study 10:00 Adult Choir 7:00	4	5
6 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Alleluia Choir 11:30	7 Cancer Support 5:00	8 Scouts Pack 6:00 pm Outreach Board 7:00	9	10 Adult Choir 7:00	11	12
13 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Alleluia Choir 11:30	14 Called To Care 7:00	15 Community Supper 5:00 pm	16 Chimes articles due Deacons 7:00	17 Trustees 5:30 Adult Choir 7:00	18	19 Craft Fair 7:30 – 3:30
20 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Alleluia Choir 11:30	21	22 Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	23 Church Council 7:00	24 Adult Choir 7:00	25	26
27 Worship Service 10:00 am Family Sunday	28	29 Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	30	31		

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

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Special Dates:

- National Day of Prayer, May 3, 2012
- Christian Family Week, May 6-13-12
- Mother's Day, May 13, 2012
- Ascension of the Lord, May 17, 2012
- Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2012
- Victoria Day (Canada), May 21, 2012
- Pentecost, May 27, 2012
- Memorial Day, May 28, 2012

The Ascension Challenge

Ever wonder what it might have been like to be a disciple when Jesus ascended into heaven? He gave them the monumental task of making disciples of all the world. Plus, they'd have to do it without relying on Jesus' physical presence, as they had until then. Were the disciples overwhelmed, uncertain, afraid?

Maybe, yet they went on to spread the gospel throughout the world nonetheless. They rose to the challenge because they fixed their gaze above as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds.

When we follow that example, offering ourselves as willing servants and keeping our eyes trained on Jesus instead of our circumstances, there's no limit to what God can accomplish through us.

Give and Take

Life is often a matter of giving and taking. But with what spirit do we give — or take? The British author, Elizabeth Bibesco, once said, "Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting."

Accomplishing that will require some practice, won't it? Giving something to another person or to God's church, and not remembering the act may go against our nature. Yet, when we can give without remembering or without begrudging what we gave, the giving can become habitual and instill a feeling of joy.

So try to remember the happiness of giving, but forget the occasion of doing so. On the other hand, most of us are recipients of gifts given and good deeds done by others. Remember with gratitude those blessings. Savor the joy they aroused in us and be grateful for the givers.

Give without remembering. Take without forgetting. Those are clues to better living.

Articles this page: Newsletter Newsletter