



THE CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER 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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August 2012

From the Pastor

I am late in getting my copy to Charlie this month for the Chimes. Sometimes it is just like that – have you ever been stumped for something meaningful to say? I could go on and on about pretty inconsequential things, but coming up with something that has a message has been a bit difficult.

That got me thinking: what is holding the most meaning in my life at the moment? Immediately a Bible verse came to mind:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits -
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
(Psalm 103:1-7)

I am not entirely sure what brought these particular verses to my mind, but I have a feeling it was because sometimes I forget to be grateful every day, every moment, for the great love of God which is ours in Jesus Christ.

When things get hectic; when all around us there are causes for concern; when our

lives seem a bit out of control; that is when I need to be reminded of the foundation of my life. Perhaps you do too. I did not choose these particular words of Scripture. In effect, they chose me. I would be a fool to ignore this opportunity.

This Psalm is one that is based on thanksgiving for God's goodness and it is ascribed to David, that imperfect child of God. The simple beauty of the words calls me from the concerns of my life to the gratitude I am made to feel. It seems to me the trick to being grateful is to begin each day in that mode, perhaps by reciting these words before we even get out of bed. Not at all a bad idea.

There is a joke that goes around the internet every once in a while. It has to do with a person praying the following prayer: Dear God, thank you for this day. I have been able to feel gratitude, love and joy in my heart. I am in a forgiving mood and I am moved to meet every person today with a good attitude and to show love. So far, so good. However, I am about to get out of bed, so now I will really need Your love and support to guide me. Amen.

This joke always reminds me of my good attitude that gets dashed on the rocks as the day and its challenges go on. It is easy to start the day (particularly before we even get out of bed) with joy and peace in our hearts. It is as the day unwinds that our good intentions are tested and we find ourselves in need of

reassurance of God's presence and a re-commitment to the precious words of this Psalm.

If each day we can remind ourselves to bless God for all of the wonderful things God has done in our lives and in the lives of others, to remember all of God's benefits, to remember that we have been forgiven for much and that healing is always found in God, and to rejoice in God's unending presence in our lives, we just may live differently and with a renewed attitude. After all, who has better reason to rejoice and give thanks than we who know intimately the love of God in Christ.

I am not a person who always does the right thing. I get tired and crabby sometimes. Some days I am overwhelmed by what is going on in the world outside and within my world. I need to be reminded that I belong to a God who loves me and claims me, a God who sent Jesus for me and you.

I hope I will remember to say the simple words of this Psalm every morning and anytime I begin to forget who I am.

Sandra M. Reed

A Special Sunday

On Sunday, September 16, we will be observing Welcome Back to Church Sunday. This will be a regular worship service with an emphasis on the importance of being a part of a church community. It is also a time when we are invited to reach out to a church member we haven't seen for awhile, or to ask a new friend to come to church. Research tells us that most people come to church because they are invited - let's share the love!

There will be more details in next month's Chimes. Stay tuned.



**Our deepest sympathy to the
family and friends of
Keith Miller**



Are You Saving Up?

- The “finds”? = Attic treasures.
- The creations? = artwork, needlework.
- The homemade treats? = Summer jams, jellies, pickles.
- The date? = Wednesday, December 12, only 4 months away!
- The event? =
Our very own
Christmas Church Fair



The C.E. Board is losing one of its members....

Our treasurer, Sandy Boyce, is leaving the board to further her education, this fall and will not be able to complete the last year of her term on the board. Sandy has done a terrific job organizing the C.E. Board's financial records. We will miss her enthusiasm, her willingness to pitch in whenever needed, her humor and her common sense. When you see her, please express your appreciation on behalf of our church family.

The C.E. Board needs you....

Since our wonderful treasurer is moving onto another phase in her professional life....the C.E. Board is looking for someone to finish her term, which ends this year. As we approach budget season, the treasurer will play a key role in assisting Amanda Beals, our C.E. Coordinator and the board in developing the 2013 budget. If you feel you have the talents and gifts to fill this position, please contact Kathy Woodside at 288-5160, or woodsidekat@gmail.com, or Pastor Sandra at 288-3280 or smreed@barharborucc.com.

Maine Conference United Church of Christ (UCC) Annual Meeting 2012 Caring for the Earth: Holy Ground

Caitie Smith and I were lucky enough to attend this year's Maine Conference UCC Annual meeting held in Farmington on the University of Maine at Farmington campus over the weekend of June 22nd through the 24th as your delegates. These meetings are often inspiring and informative, and this year was no exception...in fact it exceeded any expectations.

Reports were heard, resolutions were passed, bylaws were revised, re-allocating funds for the Pilgrim Lodge Capital campaign, passing a budget, and electing officers was some of the work that was done. We had the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops – Earthcare with Children and Families; Global Water Crisis and the Impact on Women and Children; Recycling: More Than You Ever Wanted to Know; Healing: The touch of God; Hildegard's Farm; and A Spiritually Green Vacation Bible School were just a few of the offerings.

Best of all was the opportunity to hear and see Caitie meet Matthew Fox, the keynote speaker. "Matthew Fox is an internationally acclaimed spiritual theologian, an Episcopal priest, and an activist who was a member of the Dominican Order for 34 years. Matthew is a powerful voice of the (r)evolutionary Creation Spirituality movement – based in ancient Judeo-Christian tradition, supported by leading-edge science, bearing witness for social, environmental, and gender justice." His message was challenging, irreverent, and inspirational...what a gift!

"Matthew Fox might well be the most creative, the most comprehensive, surely the most challenging religious-spiritual teacher in America."

Thomas Berry, author of *The Great Work*

Finally....Caitie and I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to represent our church family at this year's conference. Please take time to look at the display of materials in the church parlor. If you would like to read more about the work of the annual meeting you can go to the Maine Conference website www.maineucc.org, and if you would like to learn more about Matthew Fox, we suggest that you check out his website at www.matthewfox.org.

Yours in faith,
Kathy Woodside
Caitie Smith
Conference Delegates



It's officially summer and boy is it HOT...in Christian Education! We are gearing up for Vacation Bible Camp and are truly excited to be bringing our youth an excellent program full of fun and fellowship. I would like to thank the many volunteers who have already given of their time, supplies, or food!

Ann & Doug Lee
Debby & Scott Hammond
Steve Sprague
Al & Kathe Simons
Owen & Kim Craighead

Stan Short
Deb Wade
Sandra Reed
Dave Painter
Rod Fox
Dick Snodgrass
Scott Riddell
Lindsay Shopland
The McMinimy Family
The Boyce Family
The MacCulloch Family
Judy Fuller
Kathy Woodside
The Bonsey Family

All these people have made VBC possible! I cannot wait to see the final product. We are still in need of some extra hands and helpers if you are interested; it's not too late! Please let myself or any CE Board member know if you can lend a hand or some treats!

Amanda Beal, C.E. Coordinator



Thank you to the helpers who stepped up to finish the indoors spring-cleaning of the church hall kitchen, and the parlor kitchen!

The seasons move on, and now that it is summer, some new outdoor help is needed. Weeds are invading the planting bed just outside the office windows, next to the parking lot (mostly grasses, but a few vetch vines too). Other plant beds and the mulch circles at the base of our shrubs and trees could use some TLC as well.

So, if you have a few spare minutes to independently hunt a few weeds, stop by and pull a few. Tie up your prey in a plastic shopping bag, and just drop it in one of the trashcans behind the office wing. You're done, and so are those weed invaders!

Deb Wade



Am I Looking to God

Do we expect God to come to us with His blessings and save us? He says, "look to Me, and be saved..." The greatest difficulty spiritually is to concentrate on God, and His blessings are what make it so difficult. Troubles almost always make us look to God, but His blessings tend to divert our attention elsewhere. The basic lesson of the Sermon on the Mount is to narrow all your interests until your mind, heart, and body are focused on Jesus Christ. "Look to Me..."

Many of us have a mental picture of what a Christian should be, and looking at this image in other Christians' lives becomes a hindrance to our focusing on God. This is not salvation—it is not simple enough. He says, in effect, "Look to Me and you are saved," not "You will be saved someday." We will find what we are looking for if we will concentrate on Him. We get distracted from God and irritable with Him while He continues to say to us, "Look to Me, and be saved..." Our difficulties, our trials, and our worries about tomorrow all vanish when we look to God.

Wake yourself up and look to God. Build your hope on Him. No matter how many things seem to be pressing in on you, be determined to push them aside and look to Him. "Look to me..." Salvation is yours the moment you look.

Source: *My Utmost for His Highest*,
Oswald Chambers

The Bar Harbor Food Pantry was recently granted funds through the JMG Youth Program to purchase a new refrigerator that will house fresh produce donations. Any gardeners finding themselves with excess produce, or anyone who like to grow some extra produce to donate, please contact Kate at 288-3375 or write to bhpantry@gmail.com to find out the best way to coordinate a delivery. We thank you for your support!

Serendipity, the clothing resale shop that benefits the Bar Harbor Food Pantry, has moved to downtown Bar Harbor. They are now located next to the fire station and has expanded hours for both shopping and volunteering. If you are interested in helping at Serendipity, please contact Kathe Simons at kathe@simonshome.org or 288-2000. Serendipity is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays (12:00-4:00), Thursday and Fridays (12:00-7:00) and Saturdays (10:00-4:00). Please stop in and see the new store!

The Outreach Board invites you to enjoy the 5th Annual Harvest Festival Coffee Hours. The next event will be the Blueberry Festival on August 12. Eating fresh, healthy, local produce in fellowship together is the reason the Outreach Board continues the tradition. We welcome and appreciate your contributions to the following coffee hours:

Blueberry – August 12th
Apple – September 16th
Pumpkin – October 14th
Cranberry – November 18th

BIBLE Treasure Hunt

Let the search — and the fun — begin!
Try one or both of the variations below,
adjusting for age-appropriateness as
needed.

What you need:

- Bibles
- Self-stick notes or pieces of paper
- Pencil
- Treats
- Boxes (treasure chests)

What you do:

Locations Treasure Hunt

1. Find Bible verses that mention a place inside or outside your house. The location for Matthew 7:8, for example, is a door.
2. Write each verse on a self-stick note and hide all but the first clue. Give the first clue to the player(s).
3. Leave the treats at the final clue destination.

Object Treasure Hunt

1. Find Bible verses that mention objects that can be found nearby. The object for Matthew 16:19, for example, is a key.
2. Give each player an empty box, a Bible and a list of verses as clues.
3. Have players return their collected items for a final prize.



TRUE TREASURE

The Bible speaks often of “treasure” — where we can find it, who gives it and who can have it.

Directions: Match the puzzle pieces to the correct shape. Then write the letters to learn what Matthew 6:21 (NIV) says about treasure. (Younger children can cut out the shapes and glue them onto the correct spaces.)



Matthew 6:21, NIV

Answer: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21, NIV)

August



- 1 Julia Link
- 1 Nancy Pelletier
- 1 Hunter Riddell
- 3 Gabrielle Link
- 5 Jefferson Hobbs
- 5 Avary Bryer
- 5 Callahan Bryer
- 6 Sylvia Webber
- 7 David Woodside
- 10 Rebecca Bryer
- 12 Donna Beals
- 12 Barbara Richardson
- 13 Gerard Haraden
- 17 Al Simons
- 17 Ponzi Reed
- 19 Marion Dyer
- 19 Jack Pelletier
- 20 Kristi Garland Hatrick
- 22 Lynn O'Neil
- 24 Derry Roopenian
- 27 Kendra Logan Bryer
- 27 Amy Riddell
- 27 Penny L' Heureux
- 27 Gail Preston
- 27 Jennifer Booher
- 28 Billie Mitchell
- 29 Norman Moulton
- 30 Laurie Wellman



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Laurie Wellman
Assistant Deacon – Cindy Fox

Liturgists-

5:
12:
19:
26:

Flowers –

5: Mrs. Ronald MacQuinn
12: Mr. and Mrs. Norm Moulton
19: Charles and Patty Benore
26: Ruth Rossi

Coffee Hosts -

5:
12: Blueberry Festival
19:
26:

Home Bible Readings

- 5 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35
- 12 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51
- 19 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58
- 26 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:59-69

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 BH Town Band Concert rain location 6:00 PM	3	4
5 Worship Service and 'JC and Me' - 10:00 am VBC 5:30-7:30 PM	6 BH Town Band Concert rain location 6:00 PM VBC 5:30- 7:30 PM	7 VBC 5:30- 7:30 PM	8 VBC 5:30- 7:30 PM	9 BH Town Band Concert rain location 6:00 PM VBC 5:30- 7:30 PM	10	11 Baptism for Carolyn Graber
12 Worship Service and 'JC and Me' - 10:00 am	13 BH Town Band Concert rain location 6:00 PM	14	15	16	17	18
19 Worship Service and 'JC and Me' - 10:00 am	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship Service and 'JC and Me' - 10:00 am	27	28	29	30	31	

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An Offertory Prayer

O God, who has given us the earth, filled it with every good thing and set us on it as caretakers and stewards, we raise our prayer of thanksgiving to you for life and beauty and grace.

Teach us to pause each day to see what you have made and how it reveals your graciousness to us. Help us live with thankful attitudes. Help us make each day a new beginning full of promise. Give us the courage to leave behind our pessimism, gloom and self-despising and to recognize every good gift you're waiting to give us.

Make us into your triumphant people, whose gift back to you is the love and respect we give to ourselves and our neighbor. And let your kingdom come through us today and forever. Amen.

-Carol Coleman

A Prayer

Eternal God! Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful; courage enough to look forward and be hopeful; faith enough to look upward and be humble; kindness enough to look outward and be helpful.

—Prayer for the Jewish New Year

Articles this page: Newsletter Newsletter

Dollars and Sense

In *Fearless*, author Max Lucado likens trusting in money instead of God to trying to make a purchase with play money. Pretend bills from Monopoly or other board games might look real to children, but even kids soon learn those don't do any good at the cash register.

Sure, money is essential to meet our basic daily needs, and conventional wisdom urges us to save for retirement. But that's a far cry from seeking security in accumulating things we don't really need and spending more energy growing our financial accounts than our relationship with God.

Paul's words to Timothy still ring true in our modern-day economy: "As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not ... to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Timothy 6:17, NRSV).