



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, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 AM– 3:00 PM,

Friday 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM, Closed Wednesdays

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December 2012

From the Pastor

It feels odd to realize that this is my last newsletter article as the Pastor and Teacher of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church. I have been doing this for fourteen years – that is approximately one hundred and sixty-eight articles! Wow. I have really enjoyed your responses to my articles over the years. It was comforting and challenging to know that you were reading them. Thank you.

There are many strings left to be tied up, but I am disengaging slowly from this parish which I have loved for all these years. I hadn't planned to stay so long. But, quite truthfully, I never felt called to leave. Until now. I really do believe that God is calling me to a new thing – I just don't yet know what it is! Over the thirty years of my ministry, I have learned that to ignore God's call in your life is folly – or worse. And so, once again, I stand ready to listen and respond.

Will I miss you? Of course. That goes without saying. But I will say it anyway. We have been through interesting times together and I will take with me many lovely memories. I have been comforted, challenged, loved and appreciated. I hope you have been as well. This has been a ministry of celebration and hope. May your life together continue to be so.

I am leaving with no regrets and no second guesses. I have given you the best of myself and you have responded in kind. I thank you for your acceptance, good humor and tolerance, when that was called for.

I hope you wish me well. I hope you will pray for me and my family. You will always be in my heart and my prayers. We have grown together and developed our faith together. I will always be glad that you called me to be your pastor.

God bless you.

*May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be ever at your back.
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Sandra M. Reed



Maine Sea Coast Mission Christmas Program

The Outreach Board is collaborating with the Maine Sea Coast Mission Christmas Program again this year in order to provide us the opportunity to help give gifts to the people of need throughout the coastal island communities, and both Hancock and Washington Counties. In 2011, over 3,000 individuals received holiday packages.

Our church will have its usual giving tree in the narthex with gift tags for children of all ages. These gifts will not be bought and wrapped for any particular child. They are to stock the general supply of clothing, books, school supplies, personal items and toys wrapped and distributed at the Sea Coast Mission. Our tree will be set up for the first Sunday of Advent, November 25th which will allow three weeks before gifts are due on Sunday, December 16th. There will also be a donation box for cash gifts for those who are unable to shop. Checks can be made out directly to the: Maine Sea Coast Mission Christmas Program.

The Seacoast Mission Christmas Program director, Susan Authur, welcomes volunteers to work at selecting and wrapping gifts from the beginning of November to the middle of December. Individuals or groups should call beforehand to schedule a time best for themselves and the director by calling 288-5097. Outreach has reserved a church group time to volunteer on Mondays from 12:30 to 5:00. Feel free to come and go as you wish. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

If you have questions about the Christmas Project, or volunteering, please contact Karen McFarland at 288-5760.

Thank you,
Outreach Board

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve -
Monday, December 24, 2012

Family Candlelight Service - 5:00 PM

Traditional Candlelight Service - 7:00 PM



The Bar Harbor Congregational Church will be offering their annual gift of the Living Nativity to the community, taking place on the church steps on the evenings of **Thursday, December 6th at 6-7:20 pm and Friday December 7th at 7-8:20 pm, the latter** to coordinate with the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce's "Midnight Madness" on December 7th at 7-8:20pm.

Participants are asked to be at church 5:15pm but no later than 5:30pm on Thursday evening and on Friday evening at 6:15-6:30pm when characters need to be dressed.

Be prepared to dress warmly in the event of a chilly evening. The massive size costumes fit over most winter jackets. Don't worry about supper as hot soup, cocoa and sandwiches will be available.

For this two night event it takes over 60 volunteers. Recent newcomers to our church family are welcome to participate in this awesome event. Sign up sheets for the Nativity are located in the church parlor. Call Norma Spurling if you have questions at 266-0459.

Christmas Poinsettias

Enjoy our annual tradition of banking beautiful poinsettias in the sanctuary at Christmas time. This year's order deadline is Sunday, December 9, 2012. Plants are \$20.00 each. Contact Linda Kelley at 288-4311 or the church office at 288-3280.

SAVE THE DATE! ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

**WEDNESDAY~WEDNESDAY~
WEDNESDAY**

DECEMBER 12, 10 AM - 2 PM

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? If not here is the perfect opportunity to purchase that great 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!!

YOU ARE NEEDED ON THE TEAM:

Last year we had over 40 volunteers who had fun making this fair a nice social event for seniors and assisted living folks in the community, a midweek lunch treat for Bar Harbor employees, a good fundraiser for our church, and a fun teambuilding project for all!

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Cooking - Pies, cookies, candy and chili must all be created at home and dropped off before the fair opens. Volunteer your cooking talents!

Sandwich assemblers - This team of 4 starts the morning of the fair off in the church kitchen, making those yummy sandwiches.

Roustabouts - Tables need to be moved before and after the fair on December 10 in the AM, and on December 12 after 3 PM.

Staffing - Folks are needed to staff the cookie table, candy table, and dining room. This team helps fairgoers find a seat, carries soup to tables, pours and refills coffee and tea.

Cheese - New this year! Two people to staff the Old-fashioned cheese table are needed. The wheel of cheese will be delivered on fair day. If you always wanted to try out being a "big wheel" now is your chance!

Cleaners - If 10 AM is too early for you, sleep in, and come to the Fair after 1 PM, grab a piece of pie and coffee, tour the tables at your leisure. You can listen to the raffles being called after 2 PM, as you help wipe tables and counters, and sweep up the dining room.

Be a Chauffeur or do Lunch Delivery

SIGN UP ON ANY OF THE POSTER LISTS IN THE CHURCH PARLOR!!

OR: Come to the meeting December 2, 11:30 AM, after church, downstairs in the library (end of the hall, past the elevator).

OR: call/email Deb Wade 288-9951 / keji@roadrunner.com

WE NEED YOU!!

The Christian Education Board currently has two vacancies! If you...

- care about kids
- have innovative ideas like arts and crafts...or not
- like to teach...or not
- want to make a difference in the life of a child
- are committed to church growth

We need you!

Please talk to Amanda Ward or Kathy Woodside if you think you might like to be a part of this enthusiastic and active board.

The Maine Conference Needs You!!

WANTED...Youth delegates to the Maine Conference! We have openings for one young person in grades 9 through 12 who are interested in participating and learning more about the United Church of Christ.

Youth delegates attend the Maine Conference Annual Meeting one weekend in the spring. As a delegate, you will have an opportunity to vote on issues that impact the life of the Maine Conference and perhaps impact your local church. If you think you would like to know more about being a youth delegate see Kathy Woodside.

Women's Auxiliary News:

Our faithful secretary, Norma Spurling, is stepping down to concentrate on Living Nativity and other projects. This post is a great way to get involved (see the duties below- all involve fun!) with and get to know all the women, aka "Soul Sisters", of this church!

Duties are

- record spending decisions of the auxiliary
- make a file of info generated by the annual Christmas Fair organizers
- take notes of February's brief meeting held at the time of the yearly Valentines Day party
- Take notes of May's brief meeting held at the time of the Spring Fling.
- Write a brief summary of the above for the church's annual report

Deb Wade

HANCOCK-WALDO ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The Fall Annual Meeting of the Hancock-Waldo Association was held on October 13th at the United Church of Ellsworth. A business meeting was conducted by Moderator Reverend Susan Stonestreet. A budget was approved by Association delegates and officers, and committee members were elected for the next year.

Yours truly will be serving as the new moderator for the Hancock Waldo Association for the next two years.

Guest speaker Reverend Nelson R. Murphy, Director/Investor Development for United Church Funds, delivered a short sermon about ministry vs. mission and its relationship to church endowments...it was awesome. He spoke about the importance of each church having an endowment policy, and provided each delegate with information to take back to their respective churches. Nelson is available to do workshops with local church boards and committees, and as an ordained UCC pastor, he is available for Sunday morning worship too.

Bernys Doak, our association's representative to the Coordinating Council of the Maine Conference, brought greetings from the Conference. She also encouraged the delegates to discuss the proposed new Vision Statement for the Maine Conference with the laity of their churches and to offer feedback to the Maine Conference. Denise Goodman, editor of the Association newsletter "Keeping Connected", encouraged churches to submit their local church news. You can access "Keeping Connected" through our website at <http://www.barharborucc.org/>.

Kathy Woodside
UCC/HWA Delegate

In *Confessions*, St. Augustine (A.D. 354-430) called human friendship "a nest of love and gentleness."

He wrote of the many joys of Christian friendship: "To make conversation, to share a joke, to perform mutual acts of kindness, to read together well-written books, to share in trifling and in serious matters, to disagree though without animosity — just as a person debates with himself — and in the very rarity of disagreement to find the salt of normal harmony, to teach each other something or to learn from one another, to long with impatience for those absent, to welcome them with gladness on their arrival.

These and other signs ... [act] as fuel to set our minds on fire and out of many to forge unity."

Source: Newsletter Newsletter

***Please mark your calendars
for Sunday, December 9,
2012, for this year's
Christmas Festival!***

Our church celebrates the season with its 8th Annual Christmas Festival on Sunday, December 9, beginning at 1:00PM. This concert features both amateur and professional community members performing instrumental and vocal, solo and ensemble Christmas music. This year's concert includes the annual Sunday School Christmas Pageant; the children will be performing Neufeld and Tucker's Christmas musical *Why the Chimes Rang*. 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:

Maggie Painter and Rachael McMinimy who are members of the winning Maine Class B State Championship girls' cross country team -- the second straight year. Maggie finished first for the team and ninth overall for the division.

Source: *Mount Desert Islander*

*With
Sympathy*

*To the family
and friends of
Donald Smith*



Thanks to all those parents, volunteers, and family members who have made this first trimester of Sunday School a success! It's hard to believe we are a third of the way through the school year. On that note, it's that time of year! Our annual Christmas Pageant is almost upon us! The date of our Pageant is Sunday December 9th. Practices and rehearsals are being held after church Sundays. We will be performing a musical titled "Why the Chimes Rang." If your child is interested in being a part, small or large, please see Amanda Beals, Doug McMinnimy, or Kimberly Haller for more details. Can't wait to see the amazing performance led by Doug & Kimberly!

The CE Board has begun discussions about starting up a Youth Group. We have talked of doing something during an evening with kids in grades 7-12. There will be a survey going out soon to all parents. Our hope is that you give us feedback on what you might like to see during these times. Look for the survey in your email soon!

One more note, it has been brought to my attention that some parents were unaware of Family Sunday being switched to the first Sunday of every month. I apologize for not making this more known. As a board, we felt that this would be easier for families to remember, as well as having children upstairs to witness an integral part of our faith, communion. Kathy Woodside & Amanda Beals have purchased Children's Bulletins that are age specific to be used during church services. These will hopefully help keep those kiddos engaged during church services. The bulletins go along with the liturgy for the weeks as well!

Sincerely, Amada Beals

Below you will find the calendar for Sunday School in the month of December. Please note that there will be two whole group Sunday's. We have big plans for these days, make sure to attend!

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pageant Practice
2 Family Sunday Pageant Practice	3	4	5	6	7	8 Pageant Practice
9 Christmas Pageant	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 SS Group Activity	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 SS Group Activity	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29
30 SS Class #1	31 New Year's Eve					

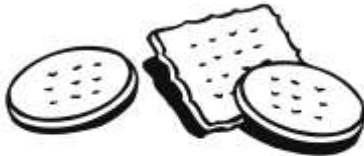


Spread a little cheer

This holiday season, "spread" some cheer by giving a yummy treat that can be spread on crackers, bread or apple slices.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped, crushed candied pecans
- ½ cup chopped fresh basil
- ½ cup chopped dried cranberries
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- 8 oz. goat cheese log
- Decorative plastic wrap



What you do:

1. Combine the first four ingredients on a flat surface.
2. Roll the cheese log firmly in the nut mixture, coating all surfaces.
3. Wrap the log and give it, along with a box of party crackers, to neighbors, teachers and so on.



cheerful giver

Jesus came to serve and give to others. This Christmas season, consider how you can follow Jesus' example by giving your time, love and kindness.

Directions: Cross out every *my*, *me* and *mine*. Then write the remaining words on the blanks below to read 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.



myeachmineofyoumeshouldmygiveinmewhat
 youinmehaveminememinemydecidedmeinmy
 myyourmineheartmemyminetomygiveminenot
 minereluctantlymeormyunderminemycompulsion
 minemymeforminemyGodminemylovesmy
 meamyminecheerfulmymegivermineCorinthians

“ _____

 _____ , _____

 _____ , _____
 _____ ”
 _____ .”

2 _____ 9:7, NIV

Answer:
 “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV

December



- 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
- 17 Jo-Ann Sawyer
- 18 Ian Hepburn
- 18 Deb Wade
- 18 Mark Reece
- 19 Marilyne Marino
- 19 Isabella Webster
- 20 Kelsey Mills
- 21 William Parker Renault
- 27 Mary Drury
- 27 Dean Bryer
- 31 Michael Blaney
- 31 Eve Moore



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Mary Dudzik
Assistant Deacon – Kathy Kief

Liturgists-

- 2: Mimi Dickson
- 9:
- 16:
- 23: Debbie Dyer
- 30:

Flowers –

- 2: Ruth Rossi
- 9: Linda and Terry Kelley
- 16: Paul and Mimi Dickson
- 23: Poinsettias
- 30: Poinsettias



Coffee Hosts -

- 2: Nancy Fox
- 9: Christmas Festival Potluck
- 16:
- 23:
- 30:

Home Bible Readings

- 2: Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36
- 9: Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6
- 16: Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18
- 23: Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-55
- 30: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 <i>Family Sunday</i> Worship Service and Sunday School Alleluia Choir 11:30	3	4	5	6 Living Nativity 6:00 – 7:20 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	7 Living Nativity 7:00 – 8:20	1 and 8 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Both Dec. 1 and Dec. 8)
9 Worship Service and Sunday School <i>Christmas Festival</i> 1:00	10 Church Fair Setup	11 Church Fair Setup	12 <i>Church Fair</i> Deacons 7:00	13 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	14	15
16 Worship Service and Sunday School	17	18 C.E. Board 6:00	19 <u><i>Chimes</i></u> <u><i>Deadline</i></u>	20 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	21	22
23 Worship Service and Sunday School	24	25 	26	27 Choir Rehearsal 7:00	28	29
30 Worship Service and Sunday School <i>Farewell Liturgy for Dr. Reed during Church Service</i>	31 					

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

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Special Dates

- **First Sunday of Advent, *December 2, 2012***
- **Second Sunday of Advent, *December 9, 2012***
- **Third Sunday of Advent, *December 16, 2012***
- **First day of winter, *December 21, 2012***
- **Fourth Sunday of Advent, *Dec. 23, 2012***
- **Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2012***
- **Christmas Day, *December 25, 2012***
- **New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *Dec. 31, 2012***



A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Articles this page: Newsletter Newsletter

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as the birth of Jesus approaches. The circular form of the wreath symbolizes eternity or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World who brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). We light a new candle on each of the four Sundays of Advent. As the light grows, so does our anticipation and joy.

For many denominations, each of the four weekly candles is purple, the traditional color of royalty. For the third Sunday, some denominations use a pink candle to symbolize joy. The other three candles are purple and represent hope, peace and love, respectively. In the center of the wreath is a large white candle — the Christ candle — which we light on Christmas Eve. White represents the purity of Jesus.

At home, many families observe regular devotional times around the wreath. The practice builds family memories and develops Christmas customs that are likely to pass from generation to generation.