



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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January 2013

UCC Devotions:

“Talk About Best Practices”

Excerpt from [John 2:13-22](#)

“He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's House a marketplace!’”

Few experiences can match how wonderful it is to be a part of a church that honors and practices the true meaning of being a church. For members and friends of these churches it's a joy to go to worship on Sunday. Those who attend feel renewed, embraced, spiritually and communally connected, united in love, supported by God and the community of faith, and empowered and commissioned to do God's work in the world. Those who belong to these churches live to open wide the doors to all others so that the experience of God in worship and fellowship can be real for them as well. This is not just an ideal picture of what can be; it is a living reality for countless people who belong to churches that preserve the purpose for gathering in that holy place they call God's house of worship. Talk about best practices!

It is not known how often Jesus visited the temple in Jerusalem. But on this occasion he was there to protest against those who have turned his "Father's house into a marketplace" and "a den of robbers" (Mark 11). Jesus was rebuking the

religious authorities for trampling on the true purpose of the temple by having it serve the aims of the political authorities in Jerusalem and Rome. His symbolic and prophetic message was that the temple was not built to serve the collusive interests of the economic elite and the military establishment. Jesus knew in his heart and bones that the true worship of God is the true practice of justice for the orphan, the widow, the oppressed, the alien, and those suffering persecution and violence. And so he overturns their tables. Talk about best practices!

Houses of worship are made holy by the zeal of their people to worship God by practicing justice. Houses of worship are made holy by the sacred offerings of love and devotion that the people bring to give to God and each other.

May we in the church humbly aim to match Jesus' zeal! May we in the church make this our best practice!

Prayer:

O God, may love and devotion for the church's worship and witness remain forever true in us. Amen.

Source: United Church of Christ; Author, Felix Carrion is Coordinator of the Stillspeaking Ministry, United Church of Christ



Thank You!

The Annual Living Nativity had a successful two nights again this year. It was a gamble to move up the date to co-ordinate with the "Midnight Madness" shopping spree on Friday, and I appreciate everyone's support and encouragement.

Many people deserve a special thank you: to Barbara Hepburn, for her time and talent on sewing 2 new replacement tunics for the Kings; to Brenda for helping with publicity, and Dave for putting us on the Web and placing lights at the scene; to Deb for helping to spread the word and managing the refreshments with help from Cas and Sandra; to Sandy for her warm soup and to Les for the cocoa.

We were fortunate that Salsbury Farms loaned us the use of the hay this year. Special thanks to the dressers, and to all the folks who portrayed the Holy Family, Kings, Shepherds, and Angels. It was really heartwarming for me to see whole families participating together in this spirit filled event.

And last, but not least, to Sandra for launching us off with a prayer. We love you and will miss you. Next year will be our 40th year in offering this gift to the community. Stay tuned!

Norma Spurling



The Search Team had its organizational meeting on Sunday, December 16. Donna Beals and Cindy Fox will serve as co-chairpersons and Kathy Woodside will be our secretary

The team is busy trying to fill the pulpit until the interim is chosen (more about that after a meeting with Susie Craig).

During this long process, we will be asking advice from all of you: covenant members, parish members, young and not-so-young, and anyone with a love for BHUCC. All of us need to begin thinking about the qualities and gifts we want in a pastor. And all of us need to think about what we can do to make this transition one that will bond us together and make us ready for the pastor we hope to call.

Cindy Fox

(Please also see page 5 for more on the pastoral search.)



News From the Maine Conference-UCC

Honduras Partnership

The Honduras Partnership hopes to bring 2 or 3 or 4 youth (and a man and woman accompanying them) to Pilgrim Lodge in late June, 2013. To help cover their expenses Honduras Partnership Committee will need 2 sponsoring churches for each of them. A sponsoring church would give \$300, and have the responsibility and privilege of hosting the person either the weekend before,,, or the weekend after the P.L. time. If you would be interested in helping with the sponsorship, contact Bruce Burnham with e-mail at mehpcomm@gmail.com. We know the decision-making process will take some time, and look forward to hearing from some of you.

The Honduras Partnership Needs to Hear from Us:

Records about groups going to Honduras over the past 20 years are incomplete. If someone from our Honduras group could, please e-mail mehpcomm@gmail.com the size of the group, the approximate dates, the destination and church(es) worked with in Honduras, and work that was done, that would be great!!

In the Resource Center!

“Whose Offering Plate Is It?” By J. Clif Christopher
In Not Your Parents' Offering Plate, Clif Christopher challenged churches and pastors to take a lesson from the leaders of not-for-profit organizations. The book encouraged an entire culture change for many in the Christian community in how they viewed the offering plate. It also unleashed a barrage of questions on specifically how to create this new culture while maintaining the foundations of one's faith tradition and mission. In this sequel, Christopher responds to these questions in the same forthright manner that he originally laid forth his propositions. He offers simple, strategic advice on such difficult questions as: “Exactly how do I go about gaining access to the donor records when my church has prohibited it for a hundred years?” “How do I explain a meeting with just those who are strong givers without alienating those who are

not?” “How can we advocate online giving without encouraging some to abuse their credit cards?” “What should letters to different giving constituencies look like?” 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 or 207-846-5118.

UCC Seminary News:

Andover Newton Theological School (ANTS) and Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (HCHC) have recently entered into a special interfaith partnership. The two schools, which are only 4 miles apart, have shared a warm and respectful relationship for many years. They have now come together to create a platform for interfaith cooperation and greater leveraging their resources.

Transform Your Life Transform the World

Here's How... Are you, or someone you know, searching for the right internship in 2013 – summer or a year? If so, check out this one from the UCC, today! Apply Now!

- Summer Communities of Service (UCC/Alliance of Baptists)
Ages 19-30. May 30 – August 12, 2013
Apply by February 15, 2013
- Year-long UCC Young Adult Service
Communities: Ages 21-30. September 3, 2013 – August 3, 2014 Apply by March 15, 2013
- A national network -- Host churches located throughout the United States. Housing, health insurance and small living stipend provided. AmeriCorps Education grants available for some positions. Questions: Please contact Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Executive, UCC Volunteer Ministries at blaufusm@ucc.org or 216-736-3214. Visit our website for more information: www.ucc.org/volunteer

Source: Articles this page, United Church of Christ



2012 Christmas Fair wrap-up

This year when we counted, we had names of 50 people who contributed to making the fair a success! Who knows how many other, secret elves, we had beyond that number!

Folks knitted, baked, cooked, contributed ingredients, made posters, gathered raffles, got take-out orders, did our banking, cut pies or cheese, set up tables, sorted treasures, priced items, cleaned up, waited tables, made deliveries, minded tables, etc!

The fair's monetary earnings were over \$3,581. Our preliminary target was to make \$3,000 to give to the church budget, and with everyone's help, we made it! We had many visitors for lunch and buy a chance on a raffle, or just to enjoy all the sights of homemade goodies, craft and knitted items and artwork. Take-out orders were popular with the working community too. There was also very generous support from the business community who donated so many lovely raffle items.

Thank you to all who had any part. It takes a whole church family to do a fair! Keep an eye out for a short post-fair meeting in January to de-brief this fair and brainstorm for the one 12 months from now!

Scribe o' the Fair, Deb Wade

The ultimate resolution

Resolutions are easy to make but oh so hard to keep. In fact, many people refuse to make them for that very reason. After all, by February, most people have broken them, and by March they don't even remember what they were. It's just too hard to change, so why try?

Yet Scripture exhorts us to be more like Christ, to forgive our enemies, to tithe and to be thankful in all situations. Shouldn't we resolve to put some of these into practice, even if ever so imperfectly?

Peter admonishes us to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16). That's the ultimate New Year's resolution — all but certain to be broken repeatedly before the sun sets on the first day. Yet though we fail, are we not better for trying?

The Hand of God

God's gentle Hand is guiding,
But it doesn't push or shove,
Instead it clasps our human hands
And leads with Grace and Love.

We find within this Hand of God
A heavenly Strength indeed,
And as we follow, God provides
For what we truly need.

—Peggy Ferrell,
Prayers and Poems



I'm looking at a Christmas card. On the front is a lovely picture of a small church in the mountains of North Carolina. On the back, where you would often find the Hallmark logo, it says this:

“We believe that Christ’s work on earth continues in us and through us. Guided by Christ’s teaching, we will serve and love others; nourish gifts of the spirit; worship God together in grace; create belonging; and welcome all who pass through our doors and hearts.”

The Pastoral Search and Transition Team has begun to take the first steps in the process of finding and calling a new pastor. No one knows how long this will take. We do know that we will have the help and support of the conference as we go through the steps of selecting an interim who has been trained to lead us through the work ahead. Keep in mind that not only will we be interviewing pastors, they will be evaluating us. They will be studying us to see if they want to come and serve in Bar Harbor. In other words, we have some work to do, some tough questions to ask ourselves. What do we have to offer to a man or woman who has committed his or her life to serving God? We need to ask ourselves not only what we will get out of this process, but what we are willing to give.

Perhaps it's time to dust off our by-laws, and discuss what dreams we, as boards, as committees, and as individuals have for the future of our church. Who are we? What do we believe?

That church in the mountains of North Carolina went through search and transition a few years ago when their beloved pastor died. One of the things they were asked to do was write a mission statement. It was passed from committee to committee. Everybody had an opinion. The children made suggestions, the oldest member was consulted. When they finally finished, they memorized it and repeated it each Sunday. They liked it so much that they put it on their Christmas cards.

Whether it is in a small country church in the mountains of North Carolina or a bigger church near a town square on the coast of Maine, change is difficult. But it is also an opportunity for growth. And here's the good news, we have each other, and we have our shared faith that God is with us every step of the way.

Our warmest wishes for a New Year filled with hope and joy.

When you have any questions, opinions, and concerns, please speak with one of the members of the Pastoral Search and Transition Team (PSTT) ...Christopher Beals, Donna Beals*, Michael Bonsey, Betty Bryer, Mimi Dickson, Cindy Fox*, Debby Hammond, Scott Hammond, Doug McMinimy, Estelle Megquier, Lindsay Shopland and Kathy Woodside !!! * co-chairpersons

Cindy Fox

Quotation reprinted with permission from Linville Falls Community Church, Linville NC



It's a New Year and have we got some fun planned for Christian Education!

December 30th will be a sad day for us all. We are planning to spend some time getting our final goodbye ready for Sandra. Since this is also Sandra's last day, the kids will be heading back upstairs at the end of the service to say goodbye.

Our new trimester will begin Sunday January 13th. Parents, if you have not already, please make sure your kids are registered! It helps us to keep in contact with you about important and exciting upcoming events!

We are also working on plans to get a Youth Group up and running in this New Year! Stay tuned for more details. I recently sent out an email with a survey to parents of middle and high school kids. If you haven't seen this email, please go to this website

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XX3B7CM>

This survey is vital to helping us make the best decisions for our kids! We will have a date set for our first youth group event as soon as we have enough information to make a decision! Thanks for your continued support through our growing efforts!

On another note, our Christmas Pageant was a huge success! Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time and efforts in helping make it wonderful. A special thanks to Doug & Kimberly for their time and patience with all the fun that happens when creating a performance with lots of little ones! We hope you all were able to enjoy the kids' singing and message as much as we did.

Warmly,
Amanda Beals

- Remember and never doubt it: With God's help you can do incredible things. Never think down; always think up.
—Norman Vincent Peale
- A Christian should be an alleluia from his head down to his feet.
—St. Augustine
- The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.
—G.K. Chesterton
- The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents, and discerns those inner qualities that make all [people] human and, therefore, brothers [and sisters].
—Martin Luther King Jr.
- Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors and let each new year find you a better [person].
—Benjamin Franklin

Source: Newsletter Newsletter



As you head into 2013, create a special journal for the new year.

What you need:

- Spiral notebook (with a plain-colored cover)
- Foam letters, numbers and shapes
- Stickers
- Jewels and glue (optional)

What you do:

- Decorate the notebook cover with letters and numbers. Options include "2013," "Journal" or your name.
- Decorate with foam shapes, stickers or jewels.
- Write in the journal daily – or whenever possible – recording life events, thoughts, prayer requests and more.
- Keep the journal private or share it with your friends and family.



PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Want to start the new year off right?
Remember to always ask God for guidance.

Directions: Write each word (or word part) in the correct numbered box to complete Proverbs 16:3, NIV.

JANUARY 2013						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

14 – tab 18 – Pro 7 – ever 6 – what 15 – lish 8 – you 4 – the
 21 – :3 16 – your 9 – do 1 – Com 20 – 16 11 – he 10 – and 22 – NIV
 3 – to 12 – will 19 – verbs 13 – es 2 – mit 17 – plans 5 – LORD

Answer: "Commit to the LORD whatever you do and he will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3, NIV

JANUARY


		1	2	3 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	4	5
6 Family Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School Alleluia Choir 11:30	7	8	8	10 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM PSTT Meeting 7:00 PM	11	12
13 Worship Service and Sunday School	14	15 Community Supper 5:00 PM C.E. Board 6:00 PM	16 February Chimes Deadline Deacons 6:30 PM	17 Trustees 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	18	19
20 Worship Service and Sunday School Alleluia Choir 11:30	21	22	23	24 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	25	26
27 Worship Service and Sunday School Alleluia Choir 11:30	28	29	30 Church Council 7:00 PM	31 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM		

January



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Bob Breen
1 Mac Shea
3 Barbara Hepburn
5 Jeff McCarthy
9 Ryan Kelly
10 Barbara Steele
10 Annie Painter
11 Dorothy Ames Robins
12 Michele Gurtler
12 Emily McCarthy
12 Olivia McCarthy
12 Noah Lambert
18 Andy Shea
20 Doug McMinimy
21 Karen McFarland
23 Gordon Valleau
23 Drew Shea
24 Cecil Sprague
29 Robert Malaney
29 Timothy Beals
30 Judith Burns
30 Graydon Webster
31 Abbie Reed Nickels

Baptisms

November 25 - Gavin James Thurlow, son of
Jamie and Tricia Thurlow

December 19 - Annie Kate Painter, daughter of
Mary Dudzik and David Painter



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – John Kelly
Assistant Deacon – Scott Hammond

Liturgists-

6: Doug Lee
13: Al Simons
20: Estelle Megquier
27:

Flowers –

6:
13:
20:
27:

Coffee Hosts -

6: Cass Ole
13:
20:
27:

Home Bible Readings

6 Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

13 Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

20 Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

27 Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

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Special Dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2013*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2013*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 13, 2013*
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s
Birthday Observance, *January 21, 2013*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
January 18-25, 2013

For the New Year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

Pray earnestly every day
(1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)

Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation
(1 Thessalonians 5:22)

**Neglect not your talents and
opportunities** (Galatians 6:10)

Examine yourself daily
(2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord
(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness
(Romans 6:11, 16)

Exercise yourself in godliness
(1 Timothy 4:7)

Aim for a perfect, mature faith
(Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

—Gus Nichols

Articles this page: Newsletter Newsletter

Celebrating Epiphany

Epiphany, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light — and Savior — of the whole world.

The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle or star; a crown or three crowns; three gifts; and a globe. In the modern church, Epiphany has become a time to focus on reaching out and "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions among God's children.