



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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April 2013

Nostalgia Ain't What It Used to Be

Excerpt from [1 Corinthians 2:6-13](#)

"No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him."

Reflection by Martin B. Copenhaver

This morning I picked through musty artifacts in our basement in search of one item and I was waylaid by many others. There was the "Best Chicken Feeder" award which was given to our son in pre-school, a program from our daughter's first dance recital, an article about our wedding from Karen's hometown newspaper, a note from my mother sent to me at college, the deed to our first house. I could go on, of course, and I did this morning, wading into all of those items until I was chest deep—heart deep—in nostalgia.

Nostalgia is a very natural and powerful emotion, particularly for those of us who are older. But nostalgia has its dangers. If it gives us renewed

appreciation for the ways God has blessed us in the past, then it can be a wonderful occasion for thanksgiving. But nostalgia also can make us idealize the past and in ways that make the present pale by comparison. So nostalgia can rob the present of delight and the future of hope.

As Christians we draw on the past in myriad ways, of course, but our faith is always forward leaning. We are assured that the good old days, no matter how good, are nothing compared to what God has in store for us. Paul quotes Isaiah to remind the Corinthians, but perhaps also to remind himself: "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him." So look back, yes. But lean forward.

Prayer

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, help me to look back in ways that keep me leaning forward.

Martin B. Copenhaver is Senior Pastor,
Wellesley Congregational Church, United
Church of Christ, Wellesley, Massachusetts

Source: UCC.org



Our Interim Pastor, the Rev. Keith Bowie

A native South Carolinian, Reverend Keith Bowie moved from Leesport, PA, to Mount Desert Island in January, 2011, with his wife Pam. A 1972 graduate of Duke Divinity School, Keith (no relation to David Bowie, thank you) was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1973.

Prior to moving to Mount Desert, Rev. Bowie served in churches of all sizes in the Pennsylvania Southwest Conference UCC, for thirty-seven years. Just before moving to Maine, he was serving two small UCC churches located in St. Clair and Frackville, PA, from 1992-2010. For the past nineteen months, Keith was the Interim Minister for Union Congregational Church of Hancock.

Pam, a native of Pennsylvania, retired as an elementary school counselor with thirty-six years in public schools. Pam's passion is working with families and their children with autism. She is a board certified Behavior Analyst and continues to work with children with developmental delays through United Cerebral Palsy and Downeast Horizons.

Keith and Pam are parents of three adult children. Kristin lives with her husband in Koblenz, Germany; John lives with his wife in Rochester, NY; and Patricia lives in Albany, NY. Keith and Pam have three grandchildren and will be welcoming a fourth in June.

In addition to ministry, Keith's other interests include walking and hiking the carriage trails and mountains of Acadia, watching and cheering for Duke basketball, and taking courses through Acadia Senior College.



Stop by the church parlor and pick up a CLYNK bag for your returnable bottles and cans before you start your spring house cleaning - a good way to support the church and keep our island clean!

Nancy Howland



With Sympathy to the Family and Friends of Margaret Blake

Short Reads:

“Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.”

—Albert Einstein

“Transitory gods are not able to save or bring happiness to the human heart. Only God is able. It is faith we must rediscover.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.

- Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and “Hallelujah!” is our song.

—Pope John Paul II

- Kindness, if you show it to others, will

radiate from you like the warmth of the sun over the hilltops.

—Source unknown

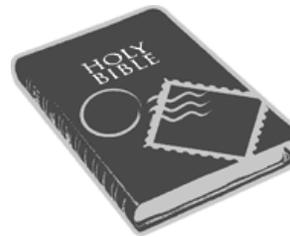
- Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires, a touch that never hurts.

—Charles Dickens

- An apology can miraculously transform hostility into honey.

—Richard Coniff

The Bible as a Letter



Søren Kierkegaard, a brilliant 19th-century philosopher, said this about the Bible: “The Bible should be read as a letter from God with our personal

address on it.”

How true! The Bible tells us who's behind our amazing lives. The Bible makes clear the source of our existence and explains how we're to live out our years on Earth. The Bible gives us the best rules for living with others and for living in our own skin.

Scripture tells us of the wisdom of saints and the foolishness of scoundrels. It explains how God tries to relate to us. It guides us and provides strength and courage through our daily lives.

The Bible tells how God walked among us on Earth in the person of Christ. Most importantly, it details how Christ revealed God's immeasurable love for all humankind.

Finally, the Bible assures us that God not only cares for us here and now, but will care for us in the hereafter. Forever and forever!

Short Reads and Bible Letter

Source: Newsletternewsletter



March is marching on! We have had an exciting month in Christian Education! Our first Sunday, Family Sunday, saw our little ones doing the introit with Chimes and Kathe Simons. March 10th we hosted Linda Robinson for a book talk in her recently published “Sunday Morning, Shamwana.” Many turned out and it was a great time for everyone! Saturday, March 16th, we attempted to host a “Star Wars” movie marathon for grades 5 and above. We only had two kiddos who showed up, but boy did they have fun making pizzas, ice cream sundaes and watching one episode in the series. We are hoping to try again in the future, please be on the lookout for more information! The last Sunday of the month is Easter Sunday, so as usual we will be having Family Sunday with some extended Child Care downstairs in the nursery.

For the month of April, we will be having our first Sunday as Family Sunday AND Christian Education will be hosting the *Spring Fling!* Come join the fun and have some delicious lunch treats. We will also be making a fun-spring-craft so we hope you can come visit! Our new trimester begins April 14th, so please mark your calendars!

I would like to thank our new, current and past board members for their help and commitment to making our school year a success! If your kid(s) has enjoyed their time downstairs, chances are it’s due to these wonderful people on our board and in the classrooms!

Warmly, Amanda Beals

April Calendar for Christian Education

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Family Sunday Spring Fling!	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 SS Class #1	15 <i>Spring Break</i>	16 <i>Spring Break</i>	17 <i>Spring Break</i>	18 <i>Spring Break</i>	19 <i>Spring Break</i>	20
21 SS Class #2	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 SS Class #3	29	30				



A WISE SNACK

Believing in the message of the cross makes you wise. This treat is a great reminder to be wise in God's ways.

What you need:

- Slice of whole wheat bread
- Circle cookie cutter (or jar lid)
- Butter knife
- Nut butter (peanut, hazelnut, etc.)
- Toasted oat cereal
- 2 banana slices
- 1 cashew
- 2 chocolate chips

What you do:

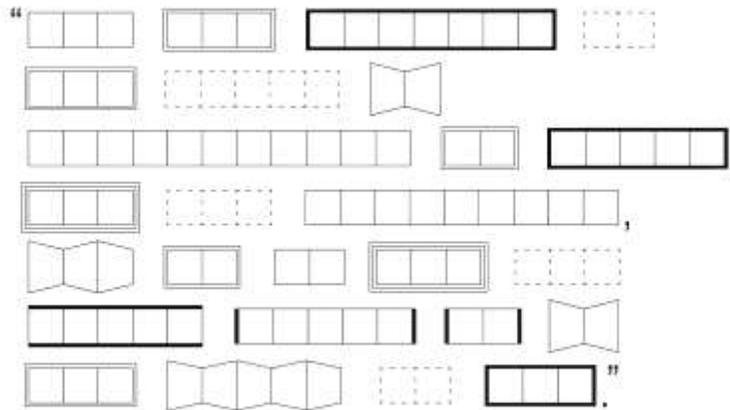
1. Cut a circle from the bread to be the owl's head. Then cut out a small semi-circle atop that bread circle to resemble pointy ears.
2. With a knife, spread the nut butter on the bread.
3. Place cereal along the top of head, from ear to ear.
4. Place banana slices for eyes.
5. Dip the chocolate chips in nut butter and place them in the middle of the banana slices.
6. Place a cashew for the nose between the bananas.
7. Enjoy — and be wise to God's message!



To Be FOOLISH -OR- WISE

On April Fools' Day, people like to play fun jokes, but there's nothing foolish about God's gift of salvation.

Directions: Match the word shapes to reveal the message of 1 Corinthians 1:18, NIV.



1 CORINTHIANS 1:18, NIV

Answer: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18, NIV



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
	1 Cancer Support Group 5:00 PM	2	3	4 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	5	6
7 Worship Service 10:00 AM <i>Family Sunday</i> <i>Spring Fling</i>	8	9 Outreach 7:00 PM	10	11 Trustees 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	12	13
14 Worship Service and Sunday School 10:00 AM Alleluia Choir 11:30	15	16 St. Saviour's Community Supper 5:00	17 <i>May Chimes Deadline</i> Deacons 6:30 PM	18 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	19	20
21 Worship Service and Sunday School 10:00 AM C.E. Board 11:30 Alleluia Choir 11:30	22	23	24 Council 7:00 PM	25 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	26	27
28 Worship Service and Sunday School 10:00 AM Alleluia Choir 11:30	29	30				

April

Birthdays this Month

- 1 Samuel Brady Renault
- 2 Marsha Fuller
- 6 Hannah Paradis
- 6 Eric McQuinn
- 8 Jane Boynton
- 11 Saida Riddell
- 12 Jay Boyce
- 14 Kathy Woodside
- 16 Jane Haraden
- 19 Barbara Adler
- 22 Esther Testa
- 23 Donald Hobbs
- 23 Lisa Krautwald
- 23 Kim Craighead
- 25 Jan Varnum
- 26 Caitie Smith
- 27 Katelyn Burns



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Betsy Higgins
Assistant Deacon – Lindsay Shopland

Liturgists-

7: Mimi Dickson
14: Betty Bryer
21: Mike Mahan
28:

Flowers –

7: Beverly McNeal
14: Jean Kief
21: Cecil and Lucy Sprague
28: Mike Mahan

Coffee Hosts -

7:
14:
21:
28:

Lectionary -

7 Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31
14 Acts 9:1-20
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19
21 Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30
28 Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

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Special dates

- 4/15 Patriot's Day, Third Monday
- 4/22 Earth Day (U.S.)
- 4/24 Administrative Professionals Day
formerly "Secretaries Day"
- 4/25 Take Your Daughter to Work Day
4th Thursday

Abundant Emptiness

Excerpt from Philipians 2:1-11

"He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. . . and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross."

Reflection by Talitha Arnold

I can't imagine a more God-forsaken scene than Jesus on his desolate journey to Calvary. Not only did Jesus empty himself of any claim to power—human or divine—but he entered into the cruel emptiness of human fear and hatred. The hours between the last supper and the crucifixion seem devoid of human pity, much less love or hope. They are filled instead with betrayal, denial, cowardice and violence. The Psalmist describes it best: "He was cut off from the land of the living."

And yet. . . . Even in that desolation, there were moments of grace and people whose compassion overcame their fear. Simon who carried his cross. The women who bore witness. The disciple who cared for his mother. If such mercy was present in that barren time, then surely God was, too. As

the ancient Christian chant *Ubi caritas* affirms, "where caring and love are, there is God."

When life gets barren and hard, we can become more aware of the small kindnesses - the friends who help us bear our grief; the colleague who stands by us; the church member who writes a note or shows up with a casserole. Simple acts of mercy and care that remind us that even in such emptiness, we are not alone.

"He emptied himself," Paul writes of Jesus, and he entered into the emptiness of human life. Because he did, we can, too, for we know that even in the hard and empty times of our lives, God is there.

Prayer

Help us not to be afraid of the empty places within us, O God, but give us the courage to open our lives to you, and in that emptiness to find your abundant love - to find you. Amen.

About the Author

Talitha Arnold is Senior Minister of the United Church of Santa Fe (UCC), Santa Fe, New Mexico. Source: UCC.org