



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,

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July 2013

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

As your interim pastor, I attend a lot of meetings and there doesn't seem to be a shortage of them to attend! Add to the list the meetings of Hancock-Waldo Association, Maine UCC Annual Conference, Church and Ministry (all within the last two months) and it becomes easy to see how life in the church can be a bit overwhelming at times. But don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining. St. Paul's favorite term for the church is "the body of Christ." That is a high calling. I do offer a word of caution, however. It has been my experience that we pastors tend to get caught up so much in the mundane, institutional, and organizational duties associated with caring for the "body" - going to meetings, raising money, keeping the roof from leaking, refereeing in congregational squabbles, etc., - that it is all too easy to lose sight that this body we call church is nothing less than the body of Christ.

Years ago when mainline Protestant denominations began to lose members, sociologist of religion Dean Kelly published his important book, "Why Conservative Churches Are Growing." Kelly's main thesis was that growing churches grow because they stick to business. What is the main business of the church? Kelly put it something like this: the main business of

church is to keep referring people toward God, to keep viewing the world as under God, to keep putting the God question on the table, to keep asking, in all of its thought and life together, "What does this have to do with God?" Kelly claimed that those churches grow, whether liberal or conservative, who never lose sight of this basic business of the church. Churches decline when they forget, "It's about God."

A few years ago I was having a conversation with a fellow clergy who was contemplating a move to another location. I said something rather self-evident to her like "You need to have a heart-to-heart conversation with your spouse about that." Her response caught me embarrassingly short. "But what I really need," she said, "is to have a heart-to-heart conversation with God." See? The "God question" had not entered my mind. She was right, of course - "It's about God."

It is so easy for us pastors (and by extension, the congregation) to become sidetracked in our leadership of the church. In our internal maintenance of the "body", we sometimes lose sight of what the body is meant to be, how this body is different from other bodies.

So do us pastors and congregational leaders a big favor by periodically reminding us: "IT'S ABOUT GOD!" I, for one, will be glad that you did.

Rev. Keith Bowie

FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH AND TRANSITION TEAM:

WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU!

If you haven't responded to the church surveys, please help us by getting them completed! Starting July 9, we will be compiling the information you have given us and working on a final draft of the Local Church Profile. If you have been away, or have not gotten the links to the surveys, there is still time to make your voice heard. Go to the websites below and complete the forms.

And don't forget that you can put any questions, opinions, and, yes, complaints in the suggestion boxes (one in parlor and one in narthex) or speak with anyone on the team. Here are the links:

SURVEY A

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TD22RK7>

SURVEYS B & C

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hzWkxF-gyC4VZLeBeBwHUQkhQDCI-KyoWg212X35FX4/viewform>

If you would prefer to have paper copies of the surveys, they are available in the Narthex.

Thanks to all of you who have completed the surveys! We'll share results as we compile them.

The Pastoral Search and Transition Team

COUNCIL SETS DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The Church Council has set the date for the Annual Meeting of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church UCC for Sunday, November 17, 2013, to hear reports of officers, boards, committees and

organizations, to elect officers and members of church organizations, to adopt a budget and to transact any other business that may come before the meeting. Also, all Committee and Board reports are due on Friday, October 18, 2013, to the church office so that the Annual Report can be prepared and distributed to the congregation in plenty of time for review by the membership.



Do you like gardens and plants?

Have you noticed our church gardens lately? The dwarf lilacs that face the village green are just finishing their fragrant blooming season. To their right, the cinnamon ferns are tucked in behind the evergreens and boldly showing their cinnamon-ness. Our perennial shrubs in front of the office entrance are covered with snowy white blossoms too.

They were all spruced up by our spring garden clean up and are showing the results. All these garden friends need some continuing TLC once in awhile to really continue to thrive and show their true beauty.

Please consider stopping by to lend a helping hand with watering or weeding a few minutes before or after your errands may bring you by the church. Some folks have made it part of a trip to the Y, the post office, the bank, or a movie at Reel Pizza. The church's outdoor hose spigot is on the side of the church toward Reel Pizza.

You could bring a watering can, or your own long hose to reach. Just remember your equipment when you leave. New plants, soil, and mulch have been added to the beds this spring and early summer, so you would be building on the good work of other gardeners.

No need to check in, as this is an independent project to do as any of us have time and interest, so we can all take part and enjoy our gardens as they grow!

To Our Church Family,

We are writing on behalf of your Church Council and Board of Deacons. Our members want to be sure that everyone is aware that, in coordination with the Pastoral Search and Transition Team, we have been led into some dialog around an important issue central to our church's identity. Commonly referred to within our denomination as "Open and Affirming," our church's leadership team feels that our church must enter into a time of discernment and conversation around this topic. Our decision to do so is at its infancy, but we all believe that informing our entire membership of our intent to enter into some process is crucial, even though at this point none of us really knows what "some process" means.

What we know to this point is that many UCC churches in Maine have participated in such a process (each one unique to each church) that culminated in a statement of polity for many of the churches. Those statements vary; however, they generally identify - and we risk oversimplification with this characterization - that any person who is seeking out a life under God is welcome at their church, and can engage fully in the life of the church, including at worship, on committees, at communion, in sacraments, and so forth. Although our understanding remains limited, we note that this process does not require that all members be of like minds around any issues, only that diversity of membership is celebrated and the elements of diversity do not represent barriers to becoming fully involved and engaged with church life and leadership.

What does this mean? Well, we're not exactly sure. Although the open and affirming concept is intended to reinforce openness to all forms of diversity, we recognize that the issue is largely attributed to specifically lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) Christians, and that this topic for many is very sensitive and carries with it strong feelings. The Council will begin by prayerfully considering how best to seek input and feedback from a wide representation of church members. We initially envision that we will seek out and share educational readings around these topics, and that we will arrange for gatherings at which each of us can share thoughts and feelings around those readings.

You will certainly hear more as the weeks and months pass. Please don't wait to hear from us, however. If you have thoughts, concerns, ideas or questions about what this might mean for you, please feel free to speak to us, or any other member of the Church Council or the Board of Deacons. We may not have any specific answers, but we will share what we know and, if you have suggestions or concerns, assure that those are properly represented in meetings on your behalf. We will also place a box in the narthex of the church that you can use to write your questions and comments. And we hope that you will participate in the process as we move forward and it takes shape.

Yours In Christ,

Michael Bonsey, Moderator; Scott Riddell, Chairperson of the Church Council;

John Kelly, Board of Deacons

Paul Harris Fellow Award Given to Dr. Charlie Hendricks by The Rotary Club of Ellsworth

The introduction below was given at the June 4, 2013, Ellsworth Rotary meeting when Dr. Charlie Hendricks was made a Paul Harris Fellow.

Tonight we recognize a person whose life and vocation exemplify the objectives of the Rotary Foundation. He has not only set a high standard for serving those most in need, but has inspired so many others to do the same.

The Committee had no hesitation in its recommendation that Dr. Charlie Hendricks be awarded the Paul Harris Fellow. As a key leader of the Hancock County Medical Mission for nearly 25 years, Dr. Hendricks has helped to improve the lives of thousands of individuals.



Dr. Charlie
Hendricks and
daughter Julia

In 1989, Dr. Hendricks and several medical professionals from Hancock County hospitals went on a medical mission to Ecuador. This initial trip was, in part, organized by the Christian Medical and Dental Society. The mission has evolved over the years and they are now Medical Ministry International.

Dr. Hendricks saw participating in a medical mission as a way to give back, using his knowledge and skills as a surgeon. His enthusiasm for the undertaking became the impetus for other medical, and non-medical folks becoming interested in participating in a mission that provided medical and surgical care for people in areas of the world where there is little health care available.

After the first trip, more and more individuals wanted to be part of this experience. As the group became larger, the Hancock County Medical Mission was created. The group's purpose is to serve as an information, coordination and funding agency for medical missions originating in Hancock County.

Dr. Hendricks has participated in every mission since the first trip, and continues to recruit folks to be part of this experience. He introduced the idea for creating a scholarship program, making this available to students from the public high schools in the County, as a way to give back to the area communities that have been supportive of the mission.

The most recent mission was at the town of Salcedo. This is a bustling, working community, surrounded by smaller, rural farming communities. This location was chosen in part because there had been no surgeon at the local hospital for over a year. Upon arrival, the community made the team welcome, and the volunteers quickly set up the OR team, clinic and pharmacy.

There were two clinics- one surgical and the other, addressing women's health. In between surgeries, the surgeons saw and treated 220 patients. The Woman's Health Clinic saw, and treated 165 patients. From the surgery clinic and local referrals- the team assisted 50 patients, some requiring more than one procedure, for a total of 64 surgical procedures.

It is most impressive how the Hancock County Medical Mission team works together, to provide medical and surgical care for those in need. Tonight we recognize the team's outstanding commitment to service, and we award a Paul Harris Fellow to Dr. Charlie Hendricks for his dedication and service to a most worthy international humanitarian cause.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Charles Hendricks as he is recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Source: Rotary Club of Ellsworth, Maine

Wrap up: June Yard and Bake Sale

Thank you to all helpers, donators, stevedores, bakers, and shoppers! It does take a church family to undertake such a project, and there were many hands making it light work from Thursday morning's tables move, pricing all day Friday, transporting and pricing Friday evening, set up Saturday morning, working the sale, and clean up on Saturday afternoon.

Here are 35 of the participants whose names we had: Andy, Barb S, Barbara H, Barbara J, Betty B, Billie M, Bob B, Bob S, Bradley S, Beth P, Bethany H, Cas D, David L, Deb W, Debby H, Dee W, Geneva L, Jane S, Judy F, Kathy M, Karl K, Keith B, Michelle G, Nancy H, Patsy N, Paul D, Richard R, Rob F, Ruth R, Rev. Sandra R, Sandy M, Sarah N, Sue T, Scott H, and Steve S!

The sale was a nice opportunity to work together, to spruce up our parsonage and "recycle" items we no longer needed, and to talk with summer folk as well as year-rounders in our community who visited and shopped with us. Several international workers who are in Bar Harbor just for the summer stopped by and found items they needed to settle in for their stay.

PLEASE, if we missed you in your stealth-mode or in our fearless frenzy, know our thanks go out to you too, AND sincere apologies for your going without your name in print! The entire sale proceeds totaled \$1,124.30 for the church; and that will help us accomplish some very good things. Special thanks to our treasurer, Barbara Hepburn for counting all those quarters and other lucre.

IF you had to skip this extravaganza, don't be sad...rumor has it that there may be another fun summer bake sale project(s) on

one or more band concert nights this summer, so stand by!

P.S. Also remember to save any creativity and attic treasures you weren't able to put to use last month...because you can use them to make the December 4th, 2013 Church Christmas Fair, an enjoyable and spirit-filled adventure!

Deb Wade

Short Reads

- Man is broken. He lives by mending. The grace of God is glue.
—Eugene O'Neill
- Lord, enable us this day to desire but one thing: to do your will as best we can.
- The Declaration of Independence ... gave liberty not alone to the people of this country, but hope to all the world, for all future time.
—Abraham Lincoln
- People do not decide to become extraordinary. They decide to accomplish extraordinary things.
—Sir Edmund Hillary

A prayer of confession

Dear God, we admit we've fallen short in all areas of our lives. We haven't followed you faithfully, and we haven't shown love to our neighbors. We don't deserve your forgiveness. But we confess our sins, knowing that you are a God of grace. Thank you for offering us your riches at Christ's expense. Give us a clean slate and help us live for you, now and always. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Source: NewsletterNewsletter

Reflection by Martin B. Copenhaver

Excerpt from [Matthew 6:5-15](#)

"...your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Jesus said that God knows our prayers even before we utter them. That affirmation leads to an obvious question: if God knows all of that already, what is the point of prayer?

Well, imagine a couple that has been married for many years. In spite of all they have been through together—or is it because of all they have been through together?—they love each other still. But one night, over coffee and dessert, the husband is obviously disturbed about something. The wife knows to wait. It will come out eventually. And, sure enough, he starts out, "You know, it occurred to me today that you never tell me that you love me anymore."

The wife responds, "Oh, you know I love you. Very much."

"Yes."

"Then why do I have to say it?"

"Because it makes a difference. I need to hear it even when I know what you are going to say before you say it."

So, yes, God knows our prayers even before we speak them, but we need to offer them anyway. It makes a difference. Speaking the words themselves creates tender ties. Words of love are never unnecessary, never redundant, and neither are words of prayer.

A silent understanding cannot replace a loving exchange of words, even familiar words, or words that are known before they are spoken.

Prayer

God, I invite you to take a tour of my heart and mind, to see all that resides there—my half-formed thoughts, my yearnings, my confessions. And give me the words to speak. Give me the words.

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

Source: UCC.org

10 reasons to attend church

1. To have fellowship with the crucified and risen Christ.
2. To worship.
3. To be forgiven.
4. To hear the voice of God.
5. To grow in the knowledge of the Bible, God's Word.
6. To feed your soul.
7. To be prayed for.
8. To be loved and encouraged.
9. To love and encourage your fellow Christians.
10. To promote the Gospel.

—Dr. Richard P. Bucher

Welcoming Visitors

1. Speak to the other person first. Don't wait for him or her to take the initiative.
2. If there is someone you don't know, introduce yourself to him or her.
3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Invite newcomers to a worship service or to a church event and introduce them to other members.
5. Encourage people to participate in those church activities that interest them.

Source: NewsletterNewsletter

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SNACKS

Bring joy to a friend by sharing a "peace" of this yummy dessert!

What you need:

- adult help
- two 8" cake pans
- cooking spray
- 9 cups mini marshmallows
- 6 tablespoons butter
- food coloring (green and red)
- 9 cups crisp rice cereal
- mini chocolate chips



What you do:

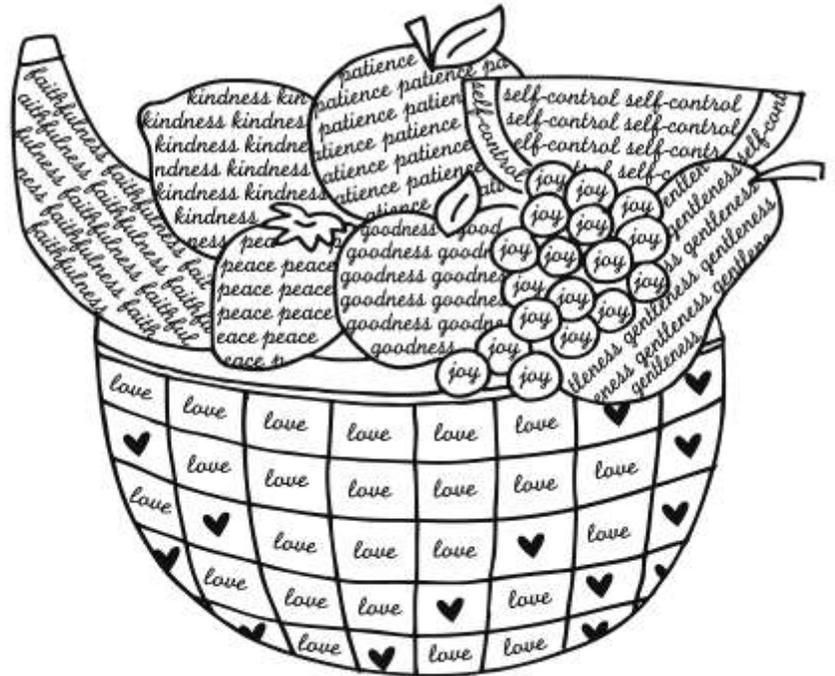
1. Spray cake pans.
2. Melt 4 cups marshmallows and 2 T. butter in microwave or on stove top. Add green food coloring. Stir.
3. Pour 4 cups cereal into bowl. Add green mixture. Stir with buttered spatula.
4. Put half into each pan and press along the sides with buttered hands.
5. Repeat using 5 cups marshmallows, 4 T. butter, 5 cups cereal and red food coloring.
6. Press half into the center of each pan, leaving a narrow outside border of green. Smooth the top.
7. Press mini chocolate chips into the red mixture.
8. Let cool. Then cut into wedges. Enjoy!



Seasonal Fruit

Although some fruit is seasonal, God encourages us to share the fruit of the Spirit with other people all year long. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruits we should give away.

Directions: Count each fruit (full words only) and write the numbers below.



Love= ___ Joy= ___ Peace= ___ Patience= ___ Kindness= ___
 Goodness= ___ Faithfulness= ___ Gentleness= ___ Self-control= ___

Answers: Love=24, Joy=18, Peace=18, Patience=7, Kindness=7, Goodness=6, Faithfulness=6, Gentleness=6, Self-control=5



3 Mary Cunningham
8 Jennifer Moulton Stonehouse
9 Rick Starbird
9 John Kelly
9 Ezra O'Connor
10 Rachael McMinimy
11 Joan Clement
12 Henry W. Brown
13 Judy Roberts
14 Beverly Blaisdell
14 Kay Young
14 Donald Dyer
15 Nicholas MacCulloch
15 Charlotte Skiff
15 Robert Collier
15 Rachel Krautwald
16 Maria Lopez Patterson
17 Connie Shea
25 Earl Brechlin
25 James Lambert
25 Jesse Olson
25 Marie Coffron
31 Marianne DiMauro

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon –

Liturgists-

7: Mimi Dickson
14: Bruce Blake
21: Lindsay Shopland
28:

Flowers –

7: Deborah Dyer
14: Yvonne Tabb
21: Richard and Arlanne Snodgrass
28: Mr. & Mrs. Henry Brown

Coffee Hosts -

7:
14: Ruth Rossi and Ben Blaney
21:
28:

Home Bible Readings

7 2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6:1-16
Luke 10:1-11
14 Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37
21 Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42
28 Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-19
Luke 11:1-13

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
	1 Cancer Support Group 5:00 BH Town Band Concert rain venue	2 Bar Harbor Music Festival – Brass Concert 8:15	3	4 Bar Harbor Town Band Concert rain venue	5 BHMF-Piano Concert 8:15	6
7 Worship Service 10:00 AM	8 Bar Harbor Town Band Concert rain venue	9 BHMF-New Composers forum 5:30 PSTT 7:00	10 BHMF-New Composers Concert 8:15	11 Bar Harbor Town Band Concert rain venue	12	13
14 Worship Service 10:00 AM BHMF-Piano Concert 8:15	15 Bar Harbor Town Band Concert rain venue	16	17 Chimes Articles Due	18 Finance Committee 12:00 noon Bar Harbor Town Band Concert rain venue	19 BHMF Concert-Ardelia Trio 8:15	20
21 Worship Service 10:00 AM C.E. Board	22 Bar Harbor Town Band Concert rain venue	23 BHMF Rehearsal 11-1:30 PSTT 7:00	24 BHMF Rehearsal 11-1:30	25 Bar Harbor Town Band Concert rain venue	26 BHMF String Orchestra Concert-8:15	27
28 Worship Service 10:00 AM	29 Bar Harbor Town Band Concert rain venue	30	31			

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

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Permit Number 32

Special Dates, 2013

- Canada Day, July 1
- U.S. Independence Day, July 4



The importance of prayer

Prayer is the Christian's life. Though every other ordinance be attended to, yet if this one be neglected, all is in vain. It is as impossible for the soul to be spiritually alive and active without a punctual course of fervent and believing prayer, as for the body to be alive and active without breath.

Prayer has more influence on the sanctification of the soul than all other ordinances. It is going directly to God to receive the life-giving Spirit according to an absolute and often repeated promise: "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

—Edward Griffin

Articles this page NewsletterNewsletter



Be a true friend

According to an Arabian proverb, "A friend is one to whom one may pour out all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of kindness blow the rest away."

That's why it's so important to have Christian friends. We can share the good and bad, confident that our friends won't judge us as a result. Instead, true friends celebrate our successes and encourage us during disappointments.

As the Bible says, "A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17, NRSV).