



# THE CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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September 2013

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

In the Gospel of Luke Jesus speaks about bringing fire to the earth (Luke 12:49). Fire is a favorite Lukan image of judgment and punishment (Luke 3:9, for example). Fire destroys but also sometimes it refines and purges. Fire is not only a destructive force, but the agent of light, of heat, and was used to characterize the work of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. To push this idea a little further, have you ever imagined fire as bringing renewal and new life?

When I was seven or eight years old, in the mid 1950's, I vividly remember a horrible and destructive fire that struck the business district of the small mill town that I was raised in. The fire traveled down one side of Main St. and completely leveled most of the stores on that side. On the other side of the street, which included my father's and grandfather's family grocery business, there was only smoke and heat damage to the buildings. The stores that had been destroyed were eventually rebuilt.

A few years later my father decided to take his business and move across the street into one of the newly rebuilt buildings. These buildings were larger and more fire resistant than the old. It was a wise decision because his grocery business was booming at the time and more space was a real need.

This was before the big chain grocery stores had multiplied all over the place. The irony of all this is that his move across the street would never have happened had not there been a fire a few years earlier. Fire created the

circumstances for new life and new growth. (This, of course, may bring to mind for some of you the great Bar Harbor fire of 1947. If any of you have similar stories, I would like to hear them).

Let's now take this concept and apply it to the church. Only this time, instead of fire, which we literally don't want, let's substitute the word "conflict". Most congregations don't do a very good job of handling conflict. Most of us would just as soon avoid conflict, especially within the church. Sometimes we are so afraid of offending others or of creating any sort of stir within our community.

The result? A tired, lifeless congregation! Sometimes the accumulated brush of old customs and programs needs to be cleared out so that there is the possibility of new life! So let's ask: Is there a program or ministry that has outlived its usefulness that can safely be discarded or thrown out? As we look around at our ways of doing things, is there a way of doing it better or more efficiently? What obstacles are preventing us from bringing new life to our church? Most importantly, what is God calling us to be and to do?

My German son-in-law has this practice in his household that before buying a new article of clothing, something old must be thrown out. It helps to prevent the build-up of clutter, he says. I'm not sure his wife, our daughter, has bought into this yet. Do you think that concept would work in the church?

Rev. Keith Bowie

## From the PSTT

Demographic chart data drawn from 79 responses to our membership survey is shown on the following page.

The first of five such survey questions inquired about "How Old Are We"? Assuming the responses are representative of our membership, most members are age 50 or above. This group accounted for 56% of the survey respondents. Our youth group, or those under 19 comprised 23% of the respondents, which is a good sign for future growth of our church. However, our 19 to 34 age group accounted for only 5% of respondents, which is well under what a normal, bell-curve distribution would suggest.

"Our Families," or the next chart, shows the household composition of member homes. Generally our families are without children at home at 67%, and those with children at home 33%. Seventy-two percent of our families were couples and 28% singles.

The next survey question asked about "What Do We Do?" Most members are employed in professional lines of work at 49% followed by business at 18%. For the remainder of the selected categories, the participation range was 5% to 6% except for other at 11%. Interestingly for our Island and nearby, there were no respondents in the agriculture/fishing category.

On "Our Education," 21% had a high school or some college/vocational education. Meanwhile, 42% had a college education, and 37% attended or achieved a graduate college degree.

The final demographic question asked about employment status. Most of the respondents are either employed, at 58%, or retired, 35%. The percentage of unemployed at 7% was close to the state and national averages.

Next month, we will share the results of our other two surveys. The team is currently using the information you gave us to complete the Local Church Profile. Despite hectic summer schedules, we are hoping to complete the Profile by the end of September.

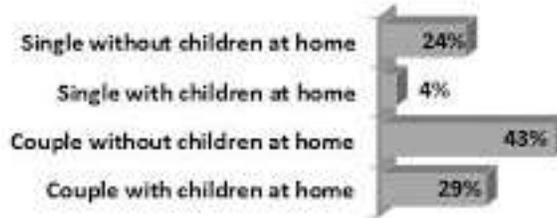
Your PSTT Team

# Demographic Survey Results

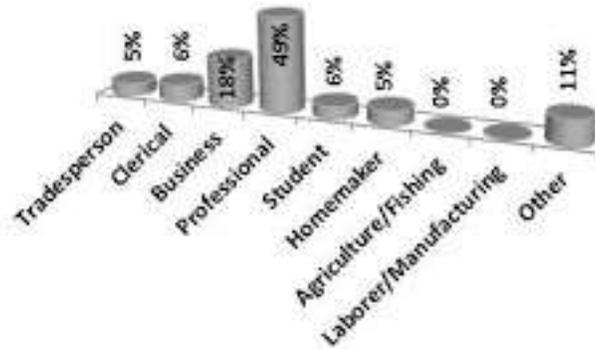
How Old Are We?



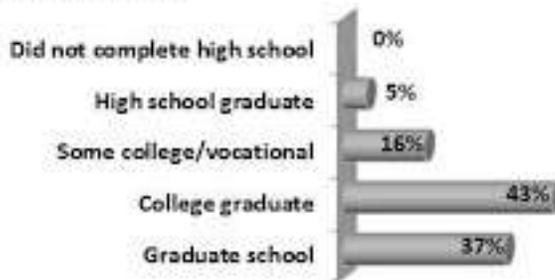
Our Families



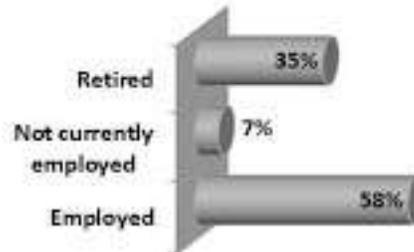
What do we do?



Our Education



Employment status



Our thanks to Lindsay Shopland for the fine chart work.



## Help Wanted....

The Christian Education Board and the Board of Deacons are looking for adult members who might be interested in serving as Faith Partners to 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders who will be participating in this year's Confirmation Class. A Faith Partner may attend classes with confirmands and help them through the process. They offer encouragement, send cards, remember birthdays, occasionally provide rides to class, etc. If you think you might be interested in supporting these young people in their faith journey, please contact Kathy MacCulloch ([kathymacculloch@gmail.com](mailto:kathymacculloch@gmail.com)) or Kathy Woodside ([woodsidekat@gmail.com](mailto:woodsidekat@gmail.com)).

## Talitha Arnold What Are Your Idols?

### 1 John 5:13-21

"Little children, keep yourself from idols."

What are your idols?

What do you give your time, energy, or homage to?

I realize that's a very personal question. I also know a preacher should never ask such a question without being willing to answer it herself. So here's a (partial) list of my idols:

- wanting to be liked
- not wanting to disappoint
- making sure everyone is happy

That's only the beginning, of course. I have other idols, most having to do with numbers. Church size. Dress size. Articles written. Articles published.

So what's on your list?

Perhaps John's admonishment against idols only included statues of gold or silver. But since the first Christians were people like us, he might have been warning them about our kinds of idols, too.

John's words echo the wisdom of Rev. Dr. Reuben Sheares, one of the saints of the UCC. Twenty-five years ago when he preached at my installation, Reuben reminded us why we come to church every Sunday. "All week long," he said, "we're cajoled and seduced to worship all the little mini-gods of our lives."

Sunday mornings, he affirmed, "we come to remember the one true God."

Making a list of our idols is the first step. Turning them over to the real God is the next. "This is the boldness we have in God," John affirms in his letter, "that if we ask anything according to God's will, God will hear us." For, John concludes, "God is the true God and eternal life."

A footnote to this passage says, "some ancient authorities add "' Amen.'" I know Reuben Sheares would have.

### Prayer

Help us, O God, to be honest about the idols—the mini-gods—with which we let ourselves be seduced. Thank you for people in our lives, like Reuben Sheares, who remind us that you alone are the only God worth giving our lives to. Amen.

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





## September Birthdays

3 Rob Fry  
3 Brian Booher  
6 Benjamin Blaney  
7 Laurie Olson  
12 Tracey McCarthy  
13 Jacquelyn Johnson  
15 Mimi Dickson  
18 Sue McKay  
20 Olivia Stanley  
22 Wanda Young  
23 Anna Naggert  
24 Kendra Bonsey  
24 Hannah Boyce  
24 Geneva Langley  
25 Debby Hammond  
26 Nathaniel Olsen  
28 Kathy MacCulloch  
30 Melissa Reed Young

## Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Scott Hammond

### Liturgists-

1:  
8:  
15:  
22:  
29:

### Flowers –

1: Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dyer  
Bill and Judy Fuller  
8: Amanda Beals  
15: Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Soule  
22: Mrs. Richard Young  
Charlie and Michelle Croan  
29: Bob Malaney

### Coffee Hosts -

1:  
8:  
15: Fruit Festival  
22: Pam Bowie  
29:

### Home Bible Readings

1 Jeremiah 2:4-13  
Psalm 81:1, 10-16  
Hebrews 13:1-8  
Luke 14:1, 7-14  
8 Jeremiah 18:1-11  
Psalm 139:1-6  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33  
15 Jeremiah 4:11-12  
Psalm 14: 13  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10  
22 Jeremiah 8:18-9:1  
Psalm 79:1-9  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13  
29 Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15  
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31



**SEPTEMBER 11**  
*Remembrance*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
1 <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 AM</b>	2 Cancer Support Group 5:00	3 PSTT 7:00 pm	4	5	6	7
8 <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 AM</b>  <i>Rally Day</i>	9	10 Outreach 7:00 pm	11	12 Trustees 5:30  Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	13 Kevin Morse's Guitar Recital	14
15 <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 AM</b>  C.E. Board <i>after worship</i>	16	17 Community Supper	18 Chimes Deadline  Deacons 7:00	19  Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	20	21
22 <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 AM</b>	23	24	25  Church Council 7:00 PM	26  Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	27	28
29 <b>Worship Service</b> <b>10:00 AM</b>	30					

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United Church of Christ  
29 Mount Desert Street  
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Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 3, 2012*
- National Grandparents Day, *Sept. 9, 2012*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2012*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15–October 15, 2012*
- First Day of Autumn, *September 22, 2012*

## **Celebrate grandparents**

Several sociological factors are affecting grandparents' role. Because families are spread out geographically, "long-distance grandparenting" is now common. On the other end of the spectrum, many grandparents are actually raising their grandchildren.

Despite modern-day challenges and changes, grandparents are more important than ever for providing kids with a sense of history and heritage. Whether through social media and Skype or special outings and storytelling, the older generation has a variety of avenues for connecting with grandkids.

In the process, grandparents can share their Christian faith. "One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4, NIV).

Articles this page: NewsletterNewsletter

## **Labor Day reflections**

Labor Day brings to mind picnics, cookouts and family gatherings. Falling on the first Monday in September, it marks the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. But the holiday was created in 1882 to honor the social and economic contributions of American workers.

In a strong economy, it's easy to take for granted the ability to work and be paid well. But times have changed during the past few years, with many people still struggling with unemployment and underemployment.

During our holiday celebrations this year, let's give thanks for the jobs we have, pray for those who aren't as fortunate and offer words of encouragement or help to someone who needs it.