



# THE CHIMES

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

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October 2013

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

The news has been particularly distressing and pernicious this past week: devastating flooding in Colorado, fire along the New Jersey boardwalk in the same vicinity where Hurricane Sandy struck a year ago, another mass shooting, a teen who committed suicide after being cyber-bullied by her classmates, racial slurs aimed at the new Miss America, and confirmation by the U.N. that Syria did indeed use chemical weapons on its own people. Most of us close our eyes to such events and go on with our lives. Unless we have some personal connection to the person or the event, these terrible things in life are played out behind the scenes

We have a vision problem. Even with our eyes wide open, there are things that we see and other things that we ignore. Jesus talked about people who had "hard hearts." Their hearts were so hard that nothing could make an impact upon them. On one occasion he performed a miracle, healing a sick person, and all of the religious authorities broke into a big dispute over what right Jesus had to be performing medicine! Jesus was astounded by their "hard hearts." They couldn't see that a life-giving miracle had occurred right in front of their eyes. They

couldn't see. All they could see was their religious rules and regulations.

Elsewhere Jesus complained about people who could so easily focus upon the speck in their neighbor's eye, while completely ignoring the huge plank in their own! Isn't it interesting what we see and what we don't see?

Growing up in South Carolina, I am old enough to remember racial segregation. I can remember, as a boy, seeing rest rooms with signs reading "White Only." There were pockets of utter poverty including "Brier Hollow", the name of the neighborhood in my hometown where most blacks lived, whose streets were avoided by whites. Of course, the schools and churches were segregated at that time. There were cafeterias with stools where white patrons sat while "colored patrons" were made to stand at the counter, not three feet from one another. What a tragic description of the way most of us lived. Yet we were told, "this is just the way things are."

We live in a world where some have everything and some have nothing, a world in which there is a good deal of inequality, a great gap between the rich and the poor, and scenes of misery are acted out safely beyond our view. Then

Jesus comes and renders for us a picture of the world as it should be, the world that is being made, remade, by the work of God.

What does it take for me and you to see that new world? I guess it would take someone rising from the dead to show us that which we are so determined not to see. Perhaps then we might pay attention and begin to really see.

Well, someone HAS come back from the dead; someone HAS risen in order to help us see!

Rev. Keith Bowie



BHCC  
2013  
Annual  
Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will be held after church on November 17. Please plan to be there!

Also, it's time for board and committee chairs to start writing your Annual Reports so that they can be included in the booklet for the meeting. **Please submit your reports to the church office no later than Friday, October 18.**

Thank You!

**HANCOCK-WALDO ASSOCIATION  
UCC NEWS**

10/6/13 - 4:00 pm Barbara Brakey  
Installation at West Brooksville  
Congregational Church

10/19/13 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm H-W  
Association Fall Meeting Monroe  
Community Church



**ANNUAL BLESSING OF  
THE PETS**

On Sunday, October 6, we will hold our annual Blessing of the Pets Service. We will hold a brief service at 3:00 pm in which your pet will be offered a blessing for their good health and happy life. All are welcome, but please confine your pet to a leash, carrier or other appropriate container in order to minimize exciting things happening. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Keith.



The Deacons know how difficult it can be to find a parking spot on a Sunday morning, or for Community Dinners and other activities in the church. We are concerned that some people might choose to stay home because they find it difficult to walk when a space close to the church isn't available.

If you need a ride to church or know anyone who does, please contact the Deacons or call, or email Cindy Fox (667-6507, or [foxcindy@roadrunner.com](mailto:foxcindy@roadrunner.com)).

# Pastoral Search and Transition Team Survey Report

Here are the results of the first 4 questions asked in Survey “B”.

Following each numbered item is the number of votes received, and a quote from one of the responders. You might find your answer here!

## 1. Describe three distinctive attributes of our community.

Community/People (52) “Big enough to know your neighbors, but small enough to live & let live.”

Environment/Acadia National Park (26) “We are reminded of God’s creation and what we must do to preserve & protect.”

Tourism (23) “Small community, small town environment that welcomes and depends on tourism.”

## 2. Identify major trends you envision in our community during the next five years.

Economics (43) “An aging population...cost of living compared to available jobs becomes a hurdle to young families”

Population (29) “Pressure on quality of life from seasonal surge of population”

Relationship to Church (10 responses) “Shift away from church as life outside church get busier.”

## 3. List 3 or 4 problem areas confronting our community that you feel our church should address.

Economic Needs (35) “Lack of affordable housing for young couples”

Diversity (26 responses) – (includes elderly, ethnic, race, LGBT, shut-ins)

“Isolation of older citizens as a result of lower incomes, lack of transportation, and/or health problems”

Relationship to Church (24 responses) “Outreach to those who are not comfortable attending or entering the church”

Family and Youth Needs (22 responses) “Affordable childcare, work with other religious communities to find solutions”

## 4. Identify major trends you envision in our church in the next 5 years.

Decreasing Attendance and Declining Membership (28 responses, 12 of those referred to aging congregation) “An older congregation unless we do something to attract younger families. This is a difficult hurdle to overcome due to the expense of living in the town”

Youth/CE – increase programming (26 responses) “More time and money spent planning for youth programs”

Aging Congregation (13 responses) “The old need the young, and the young need the example of the old, we need to work on this.”

Explore Open & Affirming (13 responses) “I envision us becoming an Open and Affirming congregation”

Outreach/mission (11 responses) “Increased collaboration with other churches in Bar Harbor to serve the needs of the community”

Thanks to Kathe Simons for all her help in compiling the data!

## Congratulations to



**Maggie Painter**  
who placed second  
in the girl's Cross  
Country Race, and  
second among her  
teammates at the  
**Ellsworth  
Invitational.**

Source: *MDI Islander*



It's finally fall and Christian Education is in full swing. I would like to begin by sending a HUGE thank you to the teachers who have stepped up to teach this trimester. Those wonderful people are: Katy Bryer, Betty Bryer, Kim Craighead, Brad Stager, Chris Beals, Kathy Woodside and Kathy MacCulloch. Without these people, our kids would have to be with me all the time!

Of course, we began our Rally Day celebration with registration and a yummy breakfast. The kids and many adult helpers then had a great time playing "Minute to Win It" and cheering one another; fun and laughs were had by all. We are definitely looking forward to a successful school year. Our kids are energetic and ready to learn!

October will bring a 'Sundaes on Sunday' ice cream social after church on October 6. Feel free to join us for a delicious coffee hour for sure!

We are still in need of teachers for the Winter Trimester, which begins in January. Please contact Amanda Beals if you are interested or have more questions. Even a part time teacher would make a huge difference, our kids love to meet new people of our congregation.

If you have had children go through our Christian Education program, you know how valuable the lessons we are trying to impart on our youth, won't you give some of your time and invest in the future of our church? Thank you from the bottom of my heart to those who give of their talents and time to help continue our Education Programs.

Warmly, Amanda Beals

## Short Reads

\* \* \*

"Sometimes questions are more important than answers."

—Nancy Willard

\* \* \*

"Here is the test to find whether your mission on Earth is finished: If you're alive, it isn't."

—Richard Bach

\* \* \*

"Merely having an open mind is nothing; the object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid."

—G.K. Chesterton

• With Christ guiding us, every good is possible; without Christ guiding us, every evil is possible.

—Charles Ferrell

Source: Newsletter Newsletter

# GROW IN Grace

Make this craft as a reminder to continue growing in God's amazing grace.



## What you need:

- An adult to help
- Newspaper
- Acrylic paints
- Paper plate
- Paintbrush
- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker
- Potting soil
- Small "indoors" plant or packet of seeds

## What you do:

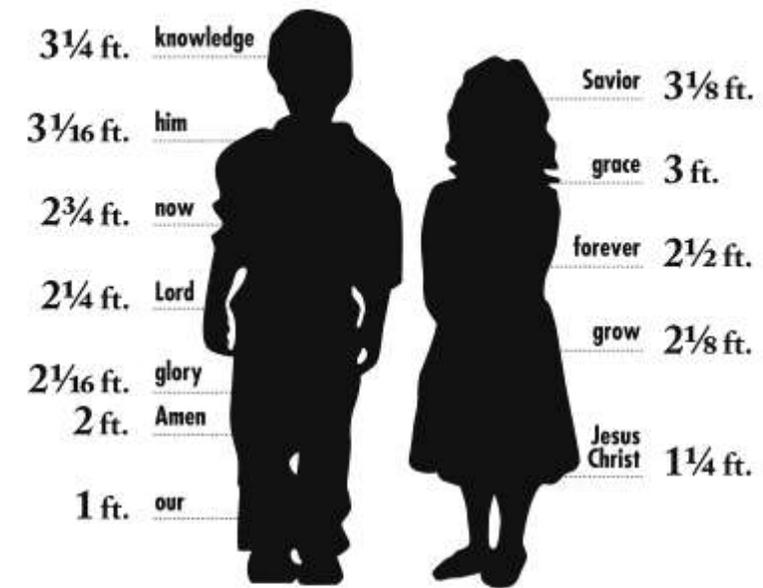
1. Cover your work area with newspaper and squeeze paint onto the paper plate.
2. Paint designs on the pot and plate, cleaning your brush in the water when changing colors. Let dry.
3. With the black marker, write "Growing in God's Grace" along the top ridge of the pot.
4. Pour in a small amount of soil. Place your plant in the pot and surround it with more soil. (If planting seeds, follow packet instructions.)
5. Water your plant. Check it daily and keep the soil moist.
6. Enjoy watching your plant grow!



# Growing UP!

You're growing each day in many different ways. A verse from 2 Peter tells what will help you grow!

Directions: Fill in the blanks below, using the height measurements as guides, to complete 2 Peter 3:18.



"But \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 To \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ! \_\_\_\_\_."

2 PETER 3:18, NIV

Answer: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." 2 Peter 3:18, NIV



# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
		1 Outreach 7:00 pm	2	3 Choir 7:00 pm	4	5
6 <b>Worship Service 10:00 AM</b> <i>Family Sunday</i> Sundaes on Sunday Blessing of the Pets Service	7 Cancer Support Group 5:00	8 PSTT 7:00 pm	9	10 Choir 7:00 pm	11	12
13 <b>Worship Service 10:00 AM</b> PSTT (with Susie Craig)	14	15 Community Supper 5:00 pm	16 <i>November Chimes deadline</i>  Deacons 7:00 pm	17 Finance Committee 12:00 noon  Choir 7:00 pm	18 <i>Deadline for Annual Reports</i>	19
20 <b>Worship Service 10:00 AM</b>  C. E. Board after worship	21	22 PSTT 7:00 pm	23  Church Council 7:00 pm	24 Choir 7:00 pm	25	26
27 <b>Worship Service 10:00 AM</b>	28	29	30	31 Choir 7:00 pm		

# October



1 Ann Lee  
5 Kristie Rechholtz  
6 Robert Sanderson  
16 Charles Benore  
16 Fred Olson  
21 Evan Beals  
22 Deborah Dyer  
24 Michael Bonsey  
24 Kathryn Kief  
25 Edwin Soule  
27 Karl Haller  
29 Eva Bonsey  
29 Florence Ames  
29 Caroline McMinimy

## Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome Andy Baron and Joan Carey as new members to our church. Please take a minute to introduce yourself to them!

## Sunday Worship Contributors

**Head Deacon** – Kathy MacCulloch  
**Assistant Deacon** – Betsy Higgins

### Liturgists-

6:  
13:  
20: Scott Hammond  
27:

### Flowers –

6: Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Spurling  
13: Keith and Pam Bowie  
20: Marjorie Beam  
and Greg and Crystal Dow  
27: Debbie Dyer

### Coffee Hosts -

6: Christian Ed. – ‘Sundaes on Sundays’  
13:  
20: Cranberry Festival  
27:

### Home Bible Readings

6 Lamentations 1:1-16  
Psalm 137  
2 Timothy 1:1-14  
Luke 17:5-10  
13 Jeremiah 29:, 4-7  
Psalm 66:1-12  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19  
20 Jeremiah 31:27-34  
Psalm 119:97  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Luke 18:1-8  
27 Joel 2:23-32  
Psalm 65  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

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Special dates

- World Communion Sunday, *Oct. 6, 2013*
- Columbus Day Observance, *Oct. 14, 2013*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 27, 2013*
- Reformation Day, *October 31, 2013*

## Searching for saints

God is on a saint search, and it's not only perfect people who are going to be found. Sure, there may be some who are born with the natural ability to love the Lord with the totality of heart, soul, mind and strength, nonstop. But for most of us, this passion and power come only after we discover that God has always loved us, and that his love precedes our own.

Fact is, most of us find the Lord only after we have been found by him.

And all God asks is that we respond with that same level of passion ... loving him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength ... and showing a willingness to love our neighbors as ourselves.

If we do, we'll be God's holy ones, set apart for his service.

—Homiletics

## A call to serve

Ruth M. Walsh wrote: "I was naked, and you questioned my lack of modesty in my appearance. I was imprisoned, and you debated the legal aspects of interference. I was penniless, and you discussed tax-deductible donations from your wealth. I was sick, and you thanked the Lord for the blessings of your health. I was hungry, and you formed a committee to study malnutrition. I was homeless, and you said God's love was shelter under any condition. I was lonely, and you left me by myself while you and your friends prayed. You seem so holy and close to God, yet I'm still sick and alone and afraid!"

By contrast, in the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40, NRSV). When we fail to serve our neighbors, we fail to serve Jesus. Yet when we feed the hungry, we're actually feeding Jesus. When we visit the sick, we're actually visiting Jesus. And when we love one another, we're actually loving Jesus.