



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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November 2013

THE CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

October 20, 2013

Pursuant to the By-Laws (Article VI, Sec. 4 and 5) the Call to the Annual Meeting of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, U.C.C. is herewith issued, said meeting to convene at **11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 17, 2013**. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is:

1. To hear the reports of officers, boards, committees and organizations of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, U.C.C.
2. To adopt a church budget for 2014.
3. To elect officers, delegates, and board and committee members.
4. To transact such other business that may properly come before said meeting.

This call is issued by the Church Council.

Scott Riddell, Chair
Church Council

ATTEST:

Judith W. Fuller, Clerk

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

One of the pleasant surprises of being your interim has been the opportunity to meet and greet our visitors who make their way to Bar Harbor from all parts of the country as well as abroad. If you haven't been in church over the last three months, we've had a dozen or so summer visitors each Sunday morning to grace us with their presence. What a joy it has been for me, and I hope for you also, to welcome them! Some will even join us for coffee time afterwards. Many are eager to get back out and enjoy the area's attractions. All of them are precious.

This is the first church I have served where visitors attend in such large numbers. To you, having visitors is a given. May I remind you that many churches are not so lucky. There are some churches, particularly in rural isolated areas, that maybe will only see a dozen visitors in a year rather than a week.

Many days I will look out my office window toward the village green at the swarm of humanity hitching rides on the buses or walking through our parking lot and wonder: who are these people, where do they come from, and what brought them here? Many are taking pictures of our tall steeple. A significant number will suddenly stop, gaze upwards, and point at something of interest to them. One can tell from their facial expressions that the church building has made quite a favorable impression on them. A few will wander inside seeking permission to park in the church parking lot or to take a peek at the sanctuary.

You will hear many interesting and often funny stories from these visitors if you show some interest and introduce yourself to them. I recall the lady from Texas who was here for two weeks back in July. She attended the Episcopal Church down the street the first Sunday but, during a quiet silent prayer, heard our "magnificent"

congregational singing at the same time in the background. She said she knew at that point that she was coming to our church the next Sunday! I, of course, complimented her on her fine taste in music and perfect selection of church.

Then there was the German couple off a cruise ship who came in wanting to see the Tiffany stained glass windows(?) I love Germans because it gives me the chance to talk a little Deutsch with them. They really appreciated my effort to speak in my limited German, too. Since I didn't know the German word for "Tiffany", I asked them to consider the merits of our clear glass windows and that through them you can actually see what is going on outside.

Of course none of us will soon forget Rally Day Sunday. That's the Sunday Amanda put out colorful balloons at the front doors to create some interest in the occasion. It worked. That pulled in a visitor who announced to the congregation that when she saw the balloons she just knew she had to come inside to see what was going on....since it was her birthday. That lady put a new twist on Rally Day!

Some visitors report that they have visited the church before and are coming back, praise be to God, a second time. Recently a visitor got up, introduced himself, and told the congregation that he remembered the sermon from a year ago when he last visited. I surely hope this man will remember my sermon this time next year.

Throughout the Scriptures welcoming the stranger is a practice that is valued and demonstrated by people of faith in various times and places. The ministry of the church is to welcome those whom Christ welcomed, and thus learn to be a community in which people are made one in Jesus Christ in spite of their different classes, religious backgrounds, genders, races, and ethnic groups.

Rev. Keith Bowie



The leaves have just about fallen and we are slowly seeing the decline of tourists, it is upon us, Fall! Christian Education is in full swing. Our first Family Sunday went rather well with the children meeting up with their families for communion. This raises an important question for some, "Is my child *ready* for communion?" From an early age, students explore the meaning and relevance of partaking in communion. Although each family is different, we encourage you to talk with your child about the significance and importance communion is for their walk in faith. We do not tell children they can partake, it is a family decision. We would like to extend the invitation to have families continue sitting together during communion so this sacred time can be shared and explained to your child.

As always, we are still looking for teachers for the Winter and Spring trimesters. Please ask your questions, no question is too small. If you are not sure or need more information, Amanda Beals or Kathy Woodside would be happy to talk with you regarding this awesome opportunity to work with our youth. The life of our church depends on our youth; please help support our growth and future by offering your time and talents. It is a wonderful gift that the children remember and appreciate.

Please note, this Family Sunday, November 3, children will have Sunday School class as well as joining their families for Communion. Thank you for your understanding and support of our beautiful children.

Warmly,
Amanda Beals
CE Coordinator

Open and Affirming Sessions

As we continue our search process, many have asked questions surrounding Open and Affirming, aka ONA. We have heard these questions and think it is time to open up the discussion. Beginning Sunday November 3, directly after church, we will be hosting a question session for those who would like to have their voices heard. The following Sunday, November 10, we will hold a duplicate session for those who are unable to attend the first session.

These initial sessions are not to have the questions answered, but rather heard and taken into account regarding our next step as a church family. These sessions are going to be facilitated by Ron Beard of the University of Maine Marine Extension Team (MET). The MET is a collaboration of Maine Sea Grant and University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Team members live and work along the coast, providing educational and applied research programs to Maine's citizens in the areas of coastal community development, ecosystem health, fisheries, and aquaculture.

Ron will be helping us navigate these unfamiliar waters in the coming months. Please note, no decision has been made nor will one be made during these sessions. We are simply exploring the topic as a family of respectful and loving people.

Please join us, Sunday November 3 or 10, directly after church, downstairs. Light refreshments will be served! Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Amanda Beals & Deb Wade

Answering the question, “How important is this issue (inclusive language) to your church?”

Remember, these answers were written in a meeting with lots of noise: be merciful when you see errors! Also know that some who contact us that they could not make the meeting were sent the forms and their answers are included in this report.

- “I strongly hope that we can keep the “traditional” in our service”.
- “I think our language the past few years has been comfortable and respectable for the majority of our members”.
- “very important”
- I think it is important--without “inclusive language” there can be a perception that many of us (gender biased) are excluded. Whether or not that perception is correct is unimportant. That being said...let’s not totally go in the PC direction!”
- “Low!! But it can go too far”
- “I think the language issue is much less important than our actions, for example, becoming an Open and Affirming church. If I had to pick, inclusive language would be preferable--although I still enjoy the traditional hymns.”
- “Doesn’t matter to me, but matters to some. So we should use inclusive language but not go overboard.”
- I like the way we are presently worshipping. However, occasionally adding inclusive language would be welcomed.”
- “Use inclusive language”
- These issues of inclusiveness are very important to me, especially where gender is concerned! I would not attend this church if I felt it was overly male dominated, in action or in language, (which reflects subconscious thought). I think we need an updated hymnal. The rest of the service is OK in inclusiveness.”
- “Not all that important---the meaning/ understanding comes first”
- “We need to use language that fairly communicates the ideas being presented. The context of ideas may require use of language that is not inclusive. Occasional use of inclusive language in appropriate context is acceptable. However, the use of inclusive language solely for the purpose of being inclusive is not functional.”
- “Important to promote togetherness, so important.”
- “I think our church has a nice balance.”
- “I think that this issue is slightly important. It can be a touchy subject for some, but most are fine either way. I really don’t care which way our minister sees it as long as it is not offensive to anyone in the church.”
- “I believe being inclusive is very important. All people regardless of race, religion, sexual preference or sex are equal. I would like a minister who will refer to God as “she” sometimes.”
- Not a huge problem, but I prefer the traditional.”
- “There may be people that worry about such things: I do not and think for the most part it is a waste of energy.”
- “Very important to be inclusive!”
- “Traditional hymns should continue. If there is a language conflict, it is my experience that one policy or another will be quickly defended.”
- I don’t know how most people in the church feel about inclusive language. I feel it is an important issue as we move toward inclusiveness of all people.”
- “Important. As a seasonal member, I can’t judge accurately, but my sense from talking to church members is that many want the church to be more openly inclusive so that all feel welcome to worship God here. This includes language, images and some hymns.”
- “Approve of use of inclusive language as far as I know. Always enjoy singing some of the old hymns and are receptive to new if easy to sing.”

- “This is important in this church at the present time. It is not to me personally.”
- “This does not matter to me. I feel none in our congregation are concerned---at least we do not talk about it.”
- I don’t want the Bible verses/ language changed, neither should the hymns be changed. I don’t know what other people think about changing the gender, etc. in hymns, the Bible. Adjustments in inclusive language can be made in Sermons, etc.”
- In these times it is very important for all members to feel comfortable with one “everyday” language that we all use. Especially, those young people we all want to reach. Many cannot relate to “thou” or “mankind” or any terms not a part of today’s language and turn them off. However, be careful that the older people understand this and are not discouraged by the church going “modern” and leaving them out. Always consider the older person who understands the needs of knowing about the world of computers, I phones, etc. and can appreciate all age groups.”
- I would prefer to use the language of our tradition and refer to God as “he”, but if it is the will of the congregation, then I am not against using a more modern language. I’m sure I will become just as comfortable over time.”
- “‘Him’ or ‘mankind’ or ‘Father’ etc. do not bother me, but I am as comfortable with inclusive language, especially if it makes others feel more included, I’m all for it”
- “I would hope our church would embrace a variety of preferences. Many older members have grown up with traditional hymns and language, but hopefully we could, at times, use inclusive language so that we don’t exclude some younger members who need to hear references to God other than typical male ones.”
- “Very important. We should work to use inclusive language in the Sunday bulletin and in use of hymns, even if it means using a 2nd hymn book.”
- I think having a second hymnal would permit us to mix the older hymns, parts of

which are poetically mangled by the economy of modern language, with the excitement, immediacy and inclusion of new hymns. It doesn’t hurt anyone to notice the history hidden in the old hymns or to sing along in bold, new language. Even the old hymns were new once. We can learn from both. The worship service should always be inclusive, always reaching out to the newcomer, the stranger, the child of God sitting in the pew. Since we cannot know the mind of God, let’s make our decisions on the side of inclusion, of mercy, of love and let God be the judge.

- I think this is an important issue in our society. My opinion is that it is rarely a good thing to rewrite the language of the past, to alter the poetry of scripture and hymns. However, it is perfectly acceptable to alter the language of the present and to expand our understanding of an infinite God who is beyond gender.”
- “We are accustomed to the use of inclusive language in liturgy, preaching and hymns. I guess we can manage a traditional hymn once in a while (and Christmas carols). But having an outdated hymnal with no hymns written after 1950 feels like a time warp. We recommend the church come into the 21st century and adapt inclusive language.

**Your Pastoral Search
and Transition Team**

Our Christmas Fair is December 11, 2013

Who: Everyone is needed and welcome! It takes the whole church to make the fair a success.

What:

Our fair offers

- a delicious lunch in the church hall (popular with townsfolk, shoppers and church family) or, delivery of that same lunch (favored by working folks who can't get to the fair)
- food tables with cookie, candy, pie, country store cheese, jam, jelly, fudge, and country store cheese wedges sale
- gift sales of wreaths, youth handiwork, crafts, knitting, crocheting, and other handmade items
- raffles of area restaurant meals, business donations, gift baskets and artwork donated by the church family
- a huge attic treasures sale in the church parlor of new or lightly used items
- Come shape what the 2013 fair will be like!

When: Wednesday, December 11, 2013.

Where: It all happens in the church hall and kitchen on the lower level and in the

church parlor upstairs. Set up this year begins as early as Sunday, December 8th, after church.

How: sign up on poster in the church parlor to -

- Participate in set up and/or clean up of Attic Treasures and the luncheon
- Provide transportation to the fair for those unable to drive
- Serve at the luncheon or staff a table selling candy, cookies, cheese, jams, fudge, etc.
- Be our Public Relations person – alert the media and keep the church family informed
- Bake a pie to be served at the luncheon
- Make candy or cookies for sales
- Contribute a raffle item, either one you obtain from a local business, or something you have created
- Donate some special Attic Treasures

Why: The Fair's purpose is to: *"be an expression of our joy in sharing a project with one another; welcome people from our community to see our church family at work; reach out to the elderly, involve our youth, and bring new workers in to join the fun with veterans of past fairs."* The fair produces needed revenue that is used for our church. We have funded appliances, signs, lawn services, lighting, renovations, and more in past years.

Come help shape this year's Fair!



Brighten your dinner table with these festive candle holders.

What you need:

- An adult's help
- Miniature pumpkins (palm size)
- Tea light candles
- Pencil
- Sharp knife
- Spoon

What you do:

1. Place a candle on top of each miniature pumpkin and trace around the candle's base.
2. Have an adult cut around the circle.
3. Scoop out the pulp and seeds.
4. Place a candle inside. Keep scooping, if necessary, so the candle sits inside the pumpkin nicely.
5. Decorate your dinner table with the pumpkins. Have an adult light the candles for you.



Why we're thankful

Leaves falling from trees are a sign of autumn's arrival. Giving thanks to God is a sign of our gratitude for his many blessings.

Directions: Using the words in the leaves, discover why it's good for us to thank God. (Hint: Use word length to help you.)

16:34, NIV

Answers: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever;" 1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
					1	2
3 <i>Family Sunday</i> Worship Service 10:00 AM <u>ONA Discussion</u> <i>after worship</i>	4 Cancer Support Group 5-6:30	5	6	7 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	8	9
10 Worship Service 10:00 AM <u>ONA Discussion</u> <i>after worship</i> C.E. Board <i>after worship</i>	11 <u>Veteran's Day</u> <i>Service 11:00</i> <i>AM</i> Called to Care 7:00 pm	12 PSTT 7:00 pm Outreach 7:00 pm	13 C. E. Board 7:00 pm	14 Trustees 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	15	16
17 Worship Service 10:00 AM <u>Annual Meeting</u>	18	19	20 <u>Chimes</u> <u>Deadline</u> Deacons 7:00 pm	21 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM	22	23
24 Worship Service 10:00 AM Food sorting for Thanksgiving Baskets <i>after church</i>	25	26 <i>Thanksgiving</i> <i>Basket</i> <i>Distribution</i> Council 7:00 pm PSTT 7:00 pm	27	28 <u>Thanksgiving</u>	29	30

November



Birthdays this Month

3 Tabitha Booher
5 Matthew Lambert
5 Susan Lynn Ackerman
5 Stephen Moulton
7 Cindy Fox
8 Carolyn Meader
10 Robert Cooper
12 Richard Fox
14 Owen Charles Kelly
21 Eric Beals
21 Stephanie Kelley-Reece
22 Caroline Woodworth
25 Binky MacQuinn
27 Pat Linscott
27 Owen Craighead
29 Sarra Kane
30 Betty Bryer

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – John Kelly
Assistant Deacon – Amy Riddell

Liturgists-

3 Betsy Higgins

10

17

24

Flowers –

3

10

17

24

Coffee Hosts -

3

10 Pam Bowie

17 Outreach – Pumpkin Festival

24

Lectionary -

3 Isaiah 1:10-18

Psalm 32:1-7

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Luke 19:1-10

10 Job 19:23-27a

Psalm 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

17 Isaiah 65: 17-25

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

24 Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

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United Church of Christ
29 Mount Desert Street
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Permit Number 32

Special dates

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2013*
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, *Nov. 3, 2013*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2013*
- National Bible Week, *Nov. 17-23, 2013*
- Christ the King Sunday, *Nov. 24, 2013*
- Thanksgiving, *November 28, 2013*



Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, the day when a peace agreement was signed with Germany ending

World War I. Armistice Day was established with a proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson which reads in part: "Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations." On June 1, 1954, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans.

On Veterans Day this year, let us remember and honor those men and women who gave of themselves, and let us continue to pray for our men and women currently serving in the military.

Articles this page: NewsletterNewsletter

What sins?

In *A Forgiving God in an Unforgiving World* (Harvest House), Ron Lee Davis retells a true story about a priest in the Philippines who was burdened by long-ago sin. Despite repenting, he didn't feel God's peace or forgiveness.

Meanwhile, a woman in the priest's parish said she was having visions of Christ — and the priest was skeptical. To test her, he said, "The next time you speak with Christ, ask him what sin your priest committed while he was in seminary." The woman agreed and went on her way.

Later, the priest asked the woman if she'd had another vision and had posed his question to Jesus.

"Yes, I did," she said.

"Well, what did he say?" the anxious priest asked.

"These are his exact words," the woman replied. "I can't remember."

Thanks to God for his forgetfulness where our sins are concerned. "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins" (Isaiah 43:25, NRSV).