



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

Telephone: (207) 288-3280

E-mail: office@barharborucc.org

Web Site: www.barharborucc.org

December 2013

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

There is the delightful story of the poor fellow who went to Texas and struck it rich. He became a millionaire. Wanting to do something for his mother, and knowing that she loved pets, he walked into the pet store to browse for a gift. He came upon a myna bird, singing in its cage. The price tag on the cage was \$ 25,000. "How come that myna bird costs so much?" he asked the proprietor. The owner was quick to tell him. "That bird costs \$ 25,000 because it can recite the Lord's Prayer, the Twenty-third Psalm, and the Gettysburg Address. Not only that, it can sing 'The Star Spangled Banner.'" "Wow, that's a lot of money, but nothing is too good for my mother. Pack it up; send it Federal Express, and see to it that it arrives the Saturday before Christmas." When Christmas Day came, the guy was so excited he could hardly wait to call his mother.

"Merry Christmas, Mom! Did you get my gift?"

"Yes, son. Thank you."

"Did you like it, Mom?"

"Yes, son. It was delicious!"

It is obvious the intent of the gift was missed in this story.

With Advent almost here, and our thoughts turning to Christmas, it is easy for us to miss the meaning of gift giving. We give gifts to remember that God gave an incredible gift. We read the story of the Nativity that Luke tells and we see evidence of the effusive, generous quality of God. Here is a God who loves to give gifts.

As St. John says it, "For God so loved the world that God sent God's only Child..." to love the world, the whole world, all of it.

During the American Revolution, in the darkest days for the American cause, with Washington's rag-tag army hunkered down at Valley Forge, morale was at its lowest ebb. The troops had not been paid for many months. Most of them were ill-clothed and ill-fed, freezing to death as they sat there waiting for the winter to pass. The troops were on the verge of mutiny. And then, one evening, General Washington appeared. He walked up to each tent and engaged in conversation with the miserable shivering troops. He even took off his big wool coat and wrapped it around one of the men who had none. He sat by their campfire with them. He talked to them about his plans, his hopes for the successful completion of the war. It was a great turning point. The men responded in kind. New life was infused in them. They fought on, and their victory was won.

Though this is a military analogy, I believe it does relate to what has happened in Jesus Christ. In Jesus, the grace of God has appeared. The love of God has become a reality to us. We give gifts to one another on Christmas because, in the Incarnation, God has given so great a gift to us. Ever since God appeared to us, as one of us, a Jew born in an obscure town in the Near East, we know that we are not alone. And that is why, on this great day of days, we rejoice!

Rev. Keith Bowie



Christmas Traditions - Choose a Tag! Be an Elf!

Choose a tag! With Christmas just a few short weeks away, it's time to remind you of the annual **Christmas Program at the Maine Sea Coast Mission**. Last year, more than 18,000 gifts were distributed to more than 3400 children and adults in need.

Once again, a Christmas tree will be on display in the Narthex (church entryway) on December 1, 8, and 15 with **ONE HUNDRED** gift tags. Please consider taking a tag or maybe even two, purchasing the item(s) listed on the tag, and returning the **UNWRAPPED** item(s) under the tree the following Sunday.

These items will be graciously received by the Mission's Christmas Program to stock their shelves through the season and in anticipation of Christmas 2014. **Please return your UNWRAPPED gift by Sunday, December 15.** Thank you! Questions? Contact Kathe Simons, 244-3207.

Be an elf!

Church members and friends are also invited to be part of the "shopping" crew at the Maine Sea Coast Mission at our traditional shift on **Monday afternoons, between 12 noon and 3:00**, beginning on Monday, Nov 18th and going through Monday, Dec 23.

Volunteers will be given "wish lists" from which to shop by visiting the third floor rooms at the Maine Sea Coast Mission; the rooms are well-stocked with donations of

hundreds and hundreds of toys, games, books, clothing, outerwear, bedding, and toiletries. If you've never participated in this fabulous and fun activity, please consider joining us, even if you can only make it for part of the time, or only on one or two Mondays. Questions? Contact Kathe Simons, 244-3207.

Parents, stay tuned for an announcement about the date and time for the Sunday School's traditional December visit to the Maine Sea Coast Mission to help with selecting and wrapping gifts.



Many Thanks from your Outreach Board

As we complete the packaging of **ONE HUNDRED hygiene kits for Church World Service**, we can't help but envision these important supplies on their way to any of a number of places of great need, either here in the US or perhaps in far-off lands like the Philippines.

Thank you so very much for all that you contributed, both in toiletry items and in cash to help defray the expense of shipping. *Dear Lord, Bless these kits and those who will receive them.*

Once again, the **Thanksgiving Basket project** was a huge success! Thanks to those who donated cash or food items, and for the dozens of church friends and family who helped with sorting, packing, and delivering more than 270 holiday dinners! This special project continues to be one that is well-supported by our church and the greater Bar Harbor community. Thanks to all who helped so generously with their time and treasures!



Farewell from your Music Director

As many of you know, my final services as your Organist/Music Director will be the Christmas Eve ones. I am pleased to have the opportunity to write this final column with some of the thoughts I shared with those of you who attended the Annual Meeting a couple of weeks ago.

Through emails from Sandra Reed and Doug McMinimy, I felt welcomed by the Music Search Committee even before my interview took place. (I now understand why Doug was aghast at my request for directions from South Thomaston where Karl and I were staying during the interviewing process!) I am so thankful that this committee took a chance on me, thus providing the opportunity for Karl and me to relocate to this part of Maine from Maryland.

I thank the entire congregation for allowing me to be a part of your lives and for working with some of your children. Being a part of their church musical education was a great joy for me.

I thank our former minister Sandra Reed for granting me the freedom to spread my wings and fly with the music ministry at this church. She had confidence in my

ability to lead the music ministry and I am very grateful to her for this.

In an email to me before I interviewed for this position, Sandra stated that "Our choir is really a gem and, I must say, the finest choir in any church I have served." Little did I know how true this would also be for me! The choir has become my "Northern" family and is the recipient of my deepest gratitude. They are my heart and I consider them the greatest asset for the music ministry of this church. Thank you for enduring, and even enjoying at times, many different styles of music, for always opening your arms to new singers, and for providing a safe haven, a balm to the soul, in times of sorrow. What an incredible blessing you have been to me.

From the moment Myrtle MacLeod asked me for permission for Karl to place his arm around her at the 2004 Christmas Eve service . . . to the time Brian Booher wanted to play a polka for the Easter service . . . to the sweetness of Laurie Riddell avoiding, as much as possible, the use of lilies in arrangements (my horrific allergies) . . . I knew this was a special place to be.

Karl and I wish to thank you for opening your homes and hearts to us for nine wonderful years. God bless you.

Faithfully yours,

Kimberly Haller



From the Pastoral Search and Transition Team

The Bar Harbor Congregational Church will be offering their annual gift of the Living Nativity to the community on **Thursday, December 5th and Friday, December 6th at 6-7:20pm**. This is a special occasion this year as we are celebrating our 40th birthday. To make it extra special, three of the participants from 1973 will take part in this event wearing the same costumes as years gone by. The Friday evening event will coordinate with the Chamber of Commerce's Midnight Madness.

Participants are asked to be at church by 5:15pm but no later than 5:30pm to be dressed and ready to go. Be prepared to dress warmly in the event of a chilly evening. The massive size costumes fit over most winter jackets. Don't worry about supper as hot soup, cocoa, and sandwiches will be available.

For this two night event it takes over 60 volunteers. Recent newcomers to our church are welcome to participate in this reenactment of the Birth of Jesus Christ.

Sign up sheets for the Nativity will be located in the church parlor. If you have questions call Norma Spurling 266-0459.

As we experience the holy season of Advent, the PSTT is leaving one part of our search for a new pastor and entering another. The paperwork is done: our Local Church Profile is complete, the Prospectus is finished, the advertisement for the UCC website is written.

These projects are in the hands of the Conference and, by the time you read this, the advertisement for a pastor will be on the UCC website and available to every qualified UCC pastor in the country.

Our focus now turns to preparing ourselves for interviews of those who answer the call. We will be busy writing questions based on the information you gave us on the surveys, having a mock interview with a pastor sent by the Conference, and learning all the technical details of interviewing on the internet and in person. When the Conference receives a batch of applications, the real interviews will begin.

In this season of anticipation, it is our hope that you will join us in the excitement of waiting, and in daily prayer for our church, our Search Team, our Interim, Keith Bowie, and the unknown person who will be our next pastor.

These are exciting days in our church. If you haven't been out lately, come join us. It's Advent; we need to be together, waiting and praying, filled with hope that only Christmas can bring.

We wish you a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Cindy Fox



Bible Study

During Advent, Pastor Keith will lead a Bible Study based on the lectionary readings for the next Sunday. **The dates are December 2, 9, 16, and 23 (Mondays).** There will be a morning session at 10:00 AM, or you may prefer the evening session at 7:00 PM. The readings we will study on December 2 are: Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, and Matthew 3:1-12. Come and nourish your spirit in these days leading up to Christmas!

Words of Comfort Fellowship

Though the Christmas season is a joyful time for many people, it can be a dark or difficult time for others. To help us through the season, we will hold a "Words of Comfort" fellowship on **Saturday, December 7, at 2 pm.** This fellowship will offer, literally, some words of comfort from Pastor Keith, a time for visiting quietly with each other, and, of course, some comforting things to eat and drink. All are welcome.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve services at our Church will be at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM. The 5:00 service will be especially designed with children and families in mind, and at 7:00 there will be a candlelight service. Come join us and be a part of this festive night! The messenger of God is revealed to us this day! Because of the Christmas Eve Service, there will no church service on Christmas Day.

Congratulations to:

Earl Brechlin, recipient of The Cadillac Award, which is the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce's most prestigious award that honors "a person in the community who epitomizes the virtues of leadership, service, sacrifice and the quest for personal excellence."

Also, the *Mount Desert Islander*, where Mr. Brechlin is the editor, that was named Maine's best weekly by the Maine Press Association.

Too, the MDI Trojan girls cross country team that includes Maggie Painter, for placing first in the Class B title race for the third consecutive year.



The Christmas Fair is **Wednesday, December 11, from 10 am to 2 pm!**

There is still time to be part of the Fair - Join the after church meetings that you will see announced in our weekly church bulletins on December 1 and 8. Many hands make the best fair!

You can:

December 1st after worship pick up raffle tickets in the parlor (or from church office during the week) to sell. Return the money and filled-in tickets by December 8th to Barbara Hepburn, Deb Wade, Estelle Megquier or the church office.

Before December 5th midday, anytime at your convenience – spruce up the downstairs kitchen, work surfaces and sinks in preparation for both the Living Nativity and Christmas Fair crews.

December 8th After worship, put up tables and chairs in the parlor and downstairs fellowship hall. Last year's crew did it in 18 minutes flat!

December 8th begin delivering your Attic Treasures to the church parlor. Food items can be dropped off in the hall when convenient. The kitchen will be open by 7:30 am on fair day, December 11. The church office will be open 9 to 2 December 9th and 10th and pre-fair crews will be working outside of those hours as well.

December 9th and/or 10th, help sort and price the attic treasures with an experienced crew. It's fun! Times will be announced at service, or call Ruth Rossi.

On Fair Day, December 11th, consider one of these time slots:

- 9 to 10:30, Help cut pies
- 10:30 to 11:45, Deliver take- out orders by car in downtown area
- 10:45 to 1:30, Be in the dining room greeting, setting tables, and pouring beverages
- 12 to 1:30, Give sales table volunteers breaks
- 2:30 to 4:30, Wipe and take down tables, sweep. Put parlor, kitchen, and hall back for Sunday school!
- 2:30, Deliver any leftover sandwiches to our first responders at the Fire and Police Depts.
- 3:30, Recycle small boxes of leftover items to Serendipity, Library, Goodwill, etc.
- 4:00, Move tables back to Jesup Library

These and many other ways of helping out are all part of what makes our Christmas Fair so enjoyable. Please join in the fun. This is the primary annual activity and fundraiser sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of our church. All proceeds go to support Bar Harbor Congregational Church. In recent years this support has included a direct item in church operating budget, special equipment purchases, needed repairs, pastor's projects, etc.

Submitted by Deb Wade



December is a time for spending time with family and enjoying the beautiful Christmas season. In Christian Education we are spending time as a youth family and the entire month will be spent in a whole group. The first few weeks we will be rehearsing our Christmas Pageant that our very own Doug McMinimy will be writing and directing! We are so lucky to have Doug's amazing time and talents dedicated to this wonderful experience for our kids. If you or your child are interested in participating in the Pageant, just join us downstairs during church to pitch in! It is sure to be lots of fun and there will definitely be some hot cocoa and cookies passed around.

The first trimester has come to a close and I would like to take this time to thank those who have volunteered their time and efforts in teaching and serving our youth. A big thanks to:

Katy Bryer
Betty Bryer
Kim Craighead
Brad Stager
Chris Beals
Kathy MacCullough
Kathy Woodside

We are still looking for more teachers to help out in the Winter Trimester, which begins January 12. If you are interested in lending a hand, be it big or small, send me an email or call. As always, you're more than welcome to catch me at church as well! We hope to see some new and familiar faces downstairs helping out in the months to come! Our kids are the future of our church; your efforts do not go unnoticed!

Lastly, I would like to inquire about those people who may have an interest in an adult bible study. Part of my position is to make sure that we are educating not only the younger groups but also us adults, we are never to learn more about the amazing wonder of God's world and his awesome message. If you have an interest or would like to send me some thoughts, please send them to the church or my email. Thank you in advance for giving this some thought.

Warm and toasty!

Amanda Beals

PS:

Be sure to check out the December calendar for some fun events being planned including Gingerbread House making the first Saturday of the month! Bring a friend and your bag of candy!

Christmas Holiday Calendar

Sun. Dec 1- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal during church in lieu of Sunday School,

Family Sunday (kids will be joining their parents upstairs for communion)

Sat. Dec. 7 - Gingerbread House Making 10 am to Noon

Sat Dec. 7 - Pizza lunch & Pageant Rehearsal Noon to 2 pm

Sun. Dec 8- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal during church in lieu of Sunday School

Sun. Dec. 15- Christmas Pageant during Church

Sun. Dec 22- Whole Group Ornament Making during church for shut ins

Sun. Dec 29- Whole Group Activity

“Deep Devotion”

Kenneth L. Samuel

"As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'Truly I tell you,' he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'" - Luke 21:1-4 (NIV)

The Tyler Perry Studios are located about 15 miles from my church in metro-Atlanta. I know several people, including some church members who are or who have been employed at Tyler Perry Studios in various capacities—from actors to extras and technicians, etc. I've often said that if I could get Tyler Perry to tithe (10% of his income) to my church just one time, we'd have no more financial worries. (With Tyler Perry, we'd be OK with 1 or 2%).

But apparently, Tyler Perry (or anyone else with deep pockets) hasn't gotten my message. So our church, like many others, has to depend upon the faithful gifts of those who give, not out of deep pockets, but out of deep devotion.

Not just churches, but civic organizations, like United Way and the NAACP, and even

colleges and universities, survive not by the abundance of deep pocket contributors, but by the consistent pledges of working class and fixed-income individuals, who believe in the mission and the ministry of the organization enough to give of their limited resources for its support and sustainability.

Churches and non-profit civic organizations see a lot more contributions of \$25 to \$100 than they see contributions of \$1000 to \$5000+. And I suspect that those smaller contributions are much more consistent and dependable than the larger ones.

This is not to discount or dissuade contributions from those with deep pockets (I'm still trying to get my message to Tyler Perry and his well-heeled cronies). But those who cannot afford to miss a paycheck, but who give consistently; those who give in the face of their own pressing needs; those who give the best that they have and trust God for all that they need--they are worthy of special commendation and emulation.

Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the contributions of those with deep devotion who keep our churches strong and our doors open. Amen.

About the Author

Kenneth L. Samuel is Pastor of Victory for the World Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Source: UCC.org

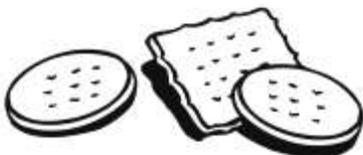


Spread a little cheer

This holiday season, "spread" some cheer by giving a yummy treat that can be spread on crackers, bread or apple slices.

What you need:

- ½ cup chopped, crushed candied pecans
- ½ cup chopped fresh basil
- ½ cup chopped dried cranberries
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- 8 oz. goat cheese log
- Decorative plastic wrap



What you do:

1. Combine the first four ingredients on a flat surface.
2. Roll the cheese log firmly in the nut mixture, coating all surfaces.
3. Wrap the log and give it, along with a box of party crackers, to neighbors, teachers and so on.



cheerful giver

Jesus came to serve and give to others. This Christmas season, consider how you can follow Jesus' example by giving your time, love and kindness.

Directions: Cross out every *my*, *me* and *mine*. Then write the remaining words on the blanks below to read 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.



myeachmineofyoumeshouldmygiveminemewhat
 youminemehaveminememinemydecidedmeinmy
 myyourmineheartmemyminetomygivememinenot
 minereluctantlymeormyunderminemycompulsion
 minemymeforminemymeGodminemymylovesmy
 meamyminecheerfulmymegivermineCorinthians

“ _____

 _____ ”

2 _____ 9:7, NIV

Answer:
 “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 AM</p> <p><i>Family Sunday Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Cancer Support Group 5-6:30</p> <p>Advent Bible Study – 10:00 am and 7:00 pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p><i>Living Nativity 6:00 PM to 7:20 PM</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Living Nativity 6:00 PM to 7:20 PM</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>Gingerbread House Making 10am – Noon</p> <p>Pizza and Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Noon to 2</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 AM</p> <p><i>Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Advent Bible Study – 10:00 am and 7:00 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Outreach 7:00 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>Christmas Fair 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM</i></p> <p>C.E.Board 6:00 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Book Drive 10am – 2pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 AM</p> <p><i>Christmas Pageant During Church</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>Advent Bible Study – 10:00 am and 7:00 pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Deacons 7:00 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Trustees 5:30 pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 AM</p> <p>Whole Group Ornament Making</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Advent Bible Study – 10:00 am and 7:00 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Services 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Worship Service 10:00 AM</p> <p>Whole Group Activity</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

December



Birthdays this Month

- 1 Dannie Bickford
- 2 Michael Breen
- 2 Parick Breen
- 4 Eric Kelley
- 4 Terrance Kelley
- 6 Bill Fuller
- 6 Jefferson Hobbs
- 11 Beth Paradis
- 11 Mary Elizabeth Kelley
- 12 David Blaney
- 12 John Collier
- 14 Linda Kelley
- 15 Fran Fry
- 16 Jean Kief
- 18 Ian Hepburn
- 18 Deb Wade
- 18 Mark Reece
- 19 Isabella Webster
- 20 Kelsey Mills
- 21 William Parker Renault
- 23 Tom Shea
- 27 Mary Drury
- 27 Dean Bryer
- 31 Michael Blaney
- 31 Eve Moore



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Mimi Dickson, Betsy Higgins,
Bruce Blake

Assistant Deacons – Joan Carey,
Lindsay Shopland

Liturgists -

- 1 – Betsy Higgins
- 8 – Al Simons
- 15 – Kathe Simons
- 22 - Debbie Dyer
- 29

Flowers –

- 1 - Ben and Ruth Blaney
- 8 - Mark and Stephanie Kelley-Reece
- 15 - Linda and Terry Kelley
- 22 - Poinsettias
- 29 - Poinsettias

Coffee Hosts –

- 1
- 8
- 15 – Ben and Ruth Rossi Blaney
- 22 – Sunday School
- 29 – Sunday School

Lectionary -

- 1 Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44
- 8 Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12
- 15 Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11
- 22 Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25
- 29 Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

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Special dates:

- First Sunday of Advent, *December 1, 2013*
- Second Sunday of Advent, *Dec. 8, 2013*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *Dec. 15, 2013*
- First Day of Winter, *December 21, 2013*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *Dec. 22, 2013*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2013*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2013*
- New Year's Eve, *Dec. 31, 2013*

The Art of Christmas

How can we best keep Christmas?

- By following the star on an inward journey to Bethlehem to stand again in awe and wonder before the Babe in a manger.
- By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.
- By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.
- By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master's standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.
- By resolving to give ourselves away to others in love, joy and devotion.

—Wilferd Peterson, *The New Book of the Art of Living*

Articles this page: NewsletterNewsletter

Lessons from the Angels

To frightened shepherds on the first Christmas Eve, a host of angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century minister Charles Kingsley explained how these key words tell the meaning of Jesus' birth and give meaning to our lives.

- *Glory.* "That little babe, lying in the manger among the cattle, was showing the very highest glory of the great God who had made heaven and earth. To stoop, to condescend, to have mercy, to forgive — that is the highest glory of God."
- *Peace.* "God is not selfish. He sacrificed himself for us. Sacrifice yourselves then for each other! Give up your own pride, your own selfishness, your own interest for each other, and you will be all at peace."
- *Good will.* "God loves you, and he wills to raise you out of this selfish, quarrelsome life of sin, into a loving, brotherly, peaceful life of righteousness. That babe in the manger at Bethlehem is a sign to you and me that God will freely give us that spirit of love if we ask for it."