



# 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, Tues., Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Thursday 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM, Closed Wednesdays  
Telephone: (207) 288-3280,  
E-mail: [office@barharborucc.org](mailto:office@barharborucc.org)  
Web Site: [www.barharborucc.org](http://www.barharborucc.org)

February 2014

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

From time to time I am asked "What is this Lectionary thing you ministers use?" The Revised Common Lectionary is a lectionary of readings from the Bible for use in worship. It runs in a three-year cycle: the gospel readings in the first year (Year A) are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, those in the second year (or Year B) from the Gospel of Mark, and those in the third year (or Year C) come from the Gospel of Luke. Portions of the Gospel of John are read throughout Eastertide, and are also used for other liturgical seasons including Advent, Christmastide, and Lent where appropriate. Each Year, whether A, B, or C, begins on the first Sunday of Advent. Currently we are in Year A and thus our gospel readings come from Matthew.

Readings are prescribed for each Sunday: a passage typically from the Old Testament, a passage from one of the Psalms, another from either the Epistles or the Book of Revelation, and finally a passage from one of the four Gospels. The Revised Common Lectionary is used in its original or an adapted form by churches around the world, from American Baptist to Episcopal to Lutheran to Methodist to Presbyterian to United Church of Christ to the Catholic Church. It's a great way to show our unity in Christ. As the words on our UCC emblem state: "That They May All Be One," which is based on the prayer of Jesus in John 17.

It is an effective way to learn the gospels and to understand the differences between them because we focus on only one for a whole year. For example, we learn that Matthew is heavy on giving and receiving instruction. Here is a gospel that believes in education

because it believes that disciples can actually understand what Jesus is getting at and they can grow in their faith. In Mark's Gospel, on the other hand, nobody ever gets the point. The disciples in Mark are about as dumb and uncomprehending at the end as they were at the beginning.

Sometimes, however, I will deviate from the lectionary and preach topically. For example, in 2013 I occasionally did a sermon on minor, ordinary characters in the Bible who made a small but significant contribution to faith. In the past, I have done sermon series on the Lord's Prayer and the Seven Last Words of Christ. The Sunday following the events of 9/11 was a special time that demanded a unique response.

By using the Lectionary the congregation is exposed to a significant amount of Scripture in the three-year cycle. It also protects the congregation from a pastor who has a very narrow focus. You will not hear a peep from some pastors on anything from the Old Testament, for example. But these wonderfully earthy stories are crucial to our understanding of Christianity since our faith arose out of Judaism. Time and again, the Lectionary has forced me to preach from a richer array of Scripture than I would have on my own and would not have touched with a ten-foot pole, as we say in the South. So the Lectionary is challenging. It requires me to preach - and you to listen and reflect - on parts of the Bible that otherwise we might choose to ignore.

May God's Word continue to be revealed to us through the lens of Scripture.

Rev. Keith Bowie



Our Winter Trimester is in high gear! As we head into the New Year, I would like to welcome some new and familiar faces to our teaching team!

**Mike Bonsey** who is working with our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders;

**David Lind** who is working with our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders;

**Beth Paradis** who is working with our 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> graders;

**Katy Bryer** who is working with our Pre-Kinder and Kindergarteners; and last, but certainly not least,

**Kathy MacCulloch & Kathy Woodside** who are continuing with our Confirmation Students!

Thanks to all those who have helped and are continuing to help out, your dedication does not go unnoticed! February is a short month but a busy one. Please be on the lookout for events coming soon including: **Souper Bowl Sunday and Vacation Bible Camp!**

Speaking of Souper Bowl Sunday...

Our youth will hold soup pots at church doors on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 2, 2014. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money and cans for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2013, \$7.47 million was collected by Souper Bowl of Caring participants for local charities.

All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant (we have chosen the Bar Harbor Food Pantry!). None of the money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters.

Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, more than \$98 million has gone to help people in need. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "love our neighbors" by dropping your dollar, or cans, in the soup pot on February 2.

Thanks again to all those who have participated in this awesome day of giving in the past! Let's make 2014 the year to remember!

Warmly, Amanda Beals

## Open and Affirming Update-

About 40 and 20 people attended meetings held in November respectively. Participants developed group discussion norms and then formulated questions and concerns about ONA in small groups. A total of 51 items were shared and listed at the meeting. Afterwards, this list was organized by common themes into 6 basic categories of:

- Background and history of ONA;
- Human sexuality, gender, and LGBT concerns;
- Theological underpinnings, what do scriptures say;
- Youth concerns and inclusiveness;
- How could ONA change church life in what we sing, say, read, or do in worship now; and
- Process- how do we conclude and make a decision?

The former six categories were presented to the Church Council for consideration at the November council meeting by the ONA team of Amanda Beals, Deb Wade, Bruce Blake, and Reverend Bowie.

The team volunteered to organize and lead group meetings to discuss the first five categories with existing educational materials. The sixth, the decision process

category, was presented as needing the leadership that can only be provided from the larger Church Council.

There were four requests by the ONA team for council approval:

- That the broader Church Council take the lead in answering the process concerns (how do we decide?) and create a strategy to reach closure.
- That the ONA volunteer team could schedule, research, prepare, and lead the education sessions.
- The team proposed five sessions between January and March, toward a goal of concluding the process and decision in May. Times and dates were also set aside for a sixth session in April in case it is needed.
- The team volunteered to hold each session once on a Sunday after worship (daytime), and then repeat it once that same week-- at night if repeating seems to be desired/needed to reach all who want to attend.

The Council responded by accepting the four team suggestions on how to proceed.

Since the November meeting of the Council, the first session, ONA background-What does it mean to become Open and Affirming, was presented on Sunday January 12 to approximately 30 participants who heard about UCC history, and asked questions and shared comments. We viewed a video profiling three different churches and their process for addressing ONA. This video is available at the following web address, on U Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLmU6ydJxE>

Other items that were shared include: the resolution adopted by the 15<sup>th</sup> General Synod, UCC, at Ames, Iowa, July 2, 1985; Open and Affirming statements that have been written and adopted by other churches; a listing of Maine Conference ONA Churches as of May 12, 2013; an

article, "Breaking the Wall of Silence," and a resource sheet "An ONA Commitment: More than words."

Feedback from the January 12<sup>th</sup> session was then incorporated into the Thursday evening session held January 16 with 11 participants. Handouts were distributed on each occasion, and are now available in the church parlor next to a suggestion box for feedback. The January 26 session will be postponed in order to give the ONA team more time to incorporate feedback and prepare.

**The two February meetings are scheduled for Sunday February 2nd and 9th after church with midweek repeat meetings to follow as needed. The topic on February 2 will be "Understanding Gender and Sexuality."**

Deb Wade



Judy Fuller and Norma Spurling are hosting their Annual Valentine Party in the church parlor on **February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** for the church ladies. Comb your cookbooks for scrumptious snacks and desserts.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the parlor. Our guest speaker will be Emily from "Little Sisters" on Rodick Street, who will instruct us on making lovely greeting cards. **New church attendees are welcome. Come and join us in February fun!**

## Offering Envelopes



I am your church  
envelope

I would like to talk with you, for  
I am part of your church life.  
I may be a complete stranger to  
you, but  
I can help you be a better  
Christian.  
I like to go to worship on Sunday,  
for  
I help you to be Christ's partner.  
I am very small, but  
I am the keystone of your church  
program.  
I am a weekly reminder of your  
daily blessings.  
I dare you to be as good to God as  
he has been to you.  
I am only paper, but  
I carry the full gift of a generous  
heart.  
I am the only pocketbook you need  
on Sunday, and  
I promise not to be a burden.  
I am your chance to preach, for  
I am a silent sermon of your  
devotion.

Source: NewsletterNewsletter

You may have already picked up your 2014 offering envelopes, but if not, they may be waiting for you in the church narthex. If not there, please call Paul in the church office at 288-3280 who will make sure to get them to you.

## COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES:

Time again to send out our care packages to our college students. This time our holiday is Valentine's Day. Once again we have 15 students (13 females and 2 males). We would love donations to help fill these packages so these students know that their church thinks of them and keeps them in their prayers.

We can use food, (baked goods are REALLY appreciated), school supplies, valentine decorations, nick nacks, drinks such as tea and hot chocolate, and anything else you can think of. Be creative!! They love surprises and they love silly things like silly putty, bubbles, etc. If you are unable to shop we can always use money for shipping or we will be glad to shop for you.

Please have all donations to the church by Monday morning, February 3rd. If anyone would like to help pack, please let us know. Last time it took about 1½ hours to do everything. Any questions please call Barb Steele @ 288-5871 or cell 266-8547. Thanks for your help, The Called to Care Committee

### Short Reads:

**No matter what sin we have  
committed, no matter how terrible it  
may be, God loves us.**

—Billy Graham

**"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is  
worth more than a college education."**

—Theodore Roosevelt

**"Love is that condition in which the  
happiness of another person is  
essential to your own."**

—Robert Heinlein



We ended 2013 in a much stronger financial position than we might have thought to start the year after Sandra's retirement. We actually ended the year with \$42,000 in net income. This was significantly higher than the prior year.

Despite losing our minister, income was very nearly the same as in 2012. Pledge income was down about \$5,000, but loose plate offering was up a little bit. Also providing a boost to the bottom line, we have been renting the parsonage since the summer and took in over \$10,000.

Then we saved about \$25,000 in ministerial expenses over the prior year, accounting for our strong year-end position. This is a position that will certainly change to some extent once we call a new pastor.

Also, we continue to receive gifts from the family of Jim Macleod, for which we are grateful. All in all, at least from the Treasurer's perspective, we are managing the transitional period in our church very well.

If you have specific questions, or would like to see a copy of our financial statements, please contact me.

**Scott Hammond**

## **An Offertory Prayer**

O God, who has given us the earth, filled it with every good thing and set us on it as caretakers and stewards, we raise our prayer of thanksgiving to you for life and beauty and grace.

Teach us to pause each day to see what you have made and how it reveals your graciousness to us. Help us live with thankful attitudes. Help us make each day a new beginning full of promise. Give us the courage to leave behind our pessimism, gloom and self-despising and to recognize every good gift you're waiting to give us.

Make us into your triumphant people, whose gift back to you is the love and respect we give to our neighbor and ourselves. And let your kingdom come through us today and forever. Amen.

-Carol Coleman

## **Four beauty tips**

Before she became an actress, Audrey Hepburn was a successful fashion model. After her acting career, she spent much of her time working for humanitarian causes around the world. These four "beauty tips" written by this former model are a snapshot of how she lived her life. They were read at at her funeral.

1. For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.
2. For lovely eyes, look for the good in people.
3. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.
4. For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.

**Source: Articles this column,  
newsletternewsletter**

# Look Who's Watching

September 7, 2010

Excerpt from [1 Timothy 4:6-16](#)

"Put these things into practice, devote yourselves to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers."

## Reflection by Martin B. Copenhaver

I was once asked to recruit some folks to stand outside the entrance of our local supermarket on a December Saturday to solicit contributions for the Salvation Army. All the volunteers were asked to do is stand beside a red bucket and ring a bell. I thought I should take a turn myself. It was fascinating to see how people responded.

I noticed that there were two groups that responded in extraordinary numbers: First, there were the members of my church. I like to think that they would have responded that way no matter who was ringing the bell, but all I can say for sure is that every church member who passed me put a contribution in the bucket.

The others who responded in extraordinary ways were adults with children at their side. And the reason seems clear enough: they knew that there were very important eyes on them—the eyes of their children.

Knowing that they were being observed by their children helped them draw on the better angels of their nature. They became more generous than they would have been otherwise.

That experience also was an important reminder to me, and to parents and grandparents and to all who have some special tie to a child: there is nothing we can give our children—no toy, no trip, no tuition—that is more important than the gift of our generosity to others. It is the one thing that will not and cannot be taken away from them.

## Prayer

God, help me to seize an opportunity to be more generous today, as if young eyes were trained on me because... well, they are.

## About the Author

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



**With deepest sympathy to the family  
and friends of Ward Holder**

# NEVER-ENDING GIFT

Seven days a week, remind someone special about God's love, the gift that truly keeps on giving.



## What you need:

- Large plastic pill box with a compartment for each day
- Construction paper
- Craft glue
- Black permanent marker
- Heart stickers
- Scissors
- Bible
- Pencil
- 7 small treats (fish-shaped crackers, small candies, trail mix, etc.)



## What you do:

1. Glue paper onto the container. Write "God's Love" in permanent marker. Decorate with heart stickers.
2. Cut seven slips of paper. On each slip, write out one Bible verse about God's love. (Examples include Psalm 63:3; Psalm 100:5; John 3:16; John 15:12; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9.)
3. Fill each compartment with a different treat. Then place a folded slip atop each treat.
4. Give away the present. Tell the recipient to open the correct day for a week — and then refill the treats and verses and "regift" God's love to someone else.



# God's Love

We can't measure God's love for us. It starts before we're born and continues for eternity.

Directions: Down the left-hand column, spell out the name of each number. Then write the circled letters on the blank lines in the right-hand column. Read the words on the right, from top to bottom, to see what Psalm 33:22 (NIV) says about God's love.

20	_____○	"M a _____
4	○○○○	y _____
99	○○ - ○○	u _ f a _ l _ _ g
7	○○○	l o _ _ _
1	○	b _ _
28	○ - ○ - ○	_____ h
60	○	u _ ,
40	○○○	L _ _ _ d,
70	○○○○	_____
6	○	a _ _
12	○ - ○	_____
64	_____ - ○	p _ _ t
14	○○○○	_____
81	○ - ○ - ○	_____ p _
9	○○	_____
24	_____ - ○○	_____ ."

PSALM 33:22, NIV

Twenty ..... "May  
 Four ..... your  
 Ninety-nine ..... unfailing  
 Seven ..... love  
 One ..... be  
 Twenty-eight ..... with  
 Sixty ..... us,  
 Forty ..... Lord,  
 Seventy ..... even  
 Six ..... as  
 Twelve ..... we  
 Sixty-four ..... put  
 Fourteen ..... our  
 Eighty-one ..... hope  
 Nine ..... in  
 Twenty-four ..... you"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
						1
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Worship Service</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b>            Family and Souper Bowl Sunday            Open and Affirming  <i>after church</i>            Choir rehearsal  <i>after worship</i></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Cancer Support Group 5-6:30</p> <p>Music Committee            6:30 PM</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Worship Service</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b>            Open and Affirming  <i>after church</i>            Choir rehearsal  <i>after worship</i></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Outreach            7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> 	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Worship Service</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b>            Choir rehearsal  <i>after worship</i></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Deacons            7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Trustees            5:30 pm</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Worship Service</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b>            C.E. Board  <i>after worship</i>            Choir rehearsal  <i>after worship</i></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Council            7:00 pm</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	



### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Beverly McNeal
- 2 Terry Savage
- 4 Norma Spurling
- 5 Sarah Skiff Dunbar
- 8 Maggie Painter
- 9 Yvonne Tabb
- 11 Roxie Brechlin
- 12 Clare Bingham
- 13 Mary Skiff Renault
- 13 Ben Reed
- 14 Pauline Wright
- 20 Heidi MacQuinn
- 21 Lenny DeMuro
- 22 Carolyn Miller
- 23 Heather Dority
- 23 Jacob Megquier
- 24 Jeremy McQuinn
- 25 Joyce Pilling
- 26 Aidan O'Connor
- 27 Kristin McKee

## **Love Your Neighbor**

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 13:8-10  
New King James Version

## **Sunday Worship Contributors**

**Head Deacon –**  
**Assistant Deacon –**

### **Liturgists –**

2:  
9:  
16:  
23:

### **Flowers –**

2:  
9:  
16:  
23:

### **Coffee Hosts –**

2: Karen McFarland  
9: Kathe and Al Simons  
16:  
23:

### **Bible Readings -**

February 2

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

February 9

Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 112:1-10  
1 Corinthians 2:1-16  
Matthew 5:13-20

February 16

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37

February 23

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18  
Psalm 119:33-40  
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23  
Matthew 5:38-48

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### Special dates:

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, *February 2, 2014*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2014*
- Presidents Day, *February 17, 2014*



## Ten 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

Articles this page: NewsletterNewsletter

## Learning from Peter's mistakes (Transfiguration on the Mount)

In Mark 9:2-10, Jesus takes three disciples up a mountain, where his clothes become dazzling white and Moses and Elijah speak with him. Terrified, Peter starts babbling. He offers to construct three "dwellings" — presumably, worship structures. But Peter makes two common mistakes.

First, he fails to treat Jesus as the unique object of worship. Just as Peter would have worshiped Moses and Elijah alongside Jesus, we sometimes act as though money, work, another person or even church and Scripture are coequal with Christ. Obviously, family and friends are important, but Jesus is the only Son of God. The church and the Bible, though worthy of devotion, are only vehicles that bring us to Christ.

Second, Peter would have stayed on that mountain indefinitely. Spiritual highs are tempting that way. We resist going back "down" to daily life. Ecstatic glimpses of Jesus' glory are one way God strengthens us to continue serving in Christ's name.