



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
Web Site: www.barharborucc.org

March 2014

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

It's not quite Lent as I write this article, but it's not far off either. My hope for all of us on our Lenten journey is that we will be deeply nourished and fed by the Spirit, that we experience healing in ourselves where it is needed, that we live more out of trust than fear, that we live more in the present moment than in the past or future, that we have an ever-deepening capacity to love, that we become more sensitive to the suffering and needs of others, and that we have more clarity about what is important and what is not. These are not goals we must achieve! They are descriptive of a state of mind toward which (slowly, over a lifetime, not just a forty day period) we grow as we offer to God our time and quiet and allow God to do the work while we rest in the stillness.

This talk of rest, quiet, and keeping silence may seem foreign to some. After all, we are Protestant UCC'ers known more for our earnest activity! Contemplation, however, is a spiritual discipline that may help us to change the way we view Lent and open our hearts to God.

Here are some suggestions that you may find helpful as you seek to come into the presence of God. Again, they are not goals you must strive toward or

achieve. Rather they are pathways to your deepest, hungriest places where God more likely may be encountered:

*Rediscover silence. When was the last time we allowed ourselves "free time" without thinking/doing anything in particular, letting our thoughts take us where they want to go? Meditate, ruminate, and dream. Those five silent minutes alone in the car may be more useful to you than the news on the car radio or iPod.

*Slow down. Live free of clocks once in awhile. Be content. Breathe deeply.

*Take care of your body. Get enough sleep. Exercise.

*Read. Go to the Jesup Library and read from sources devoted to justice, peace, and nonviolence. Read of other cultures and ethnic groups.

*Live in beauty. Music, art, gardens - whatever moves you - fill your life with it.

*Look at life through the eyes of another. This profound spiritual exercise will tame your ego and allow for peaceful relations. Pray for your enemies until you can see through their eyes too.

*Keep Sabbath. Set aside time to rest, renew, refocus, and time to be with God. Come back to church if you have been away. Visit the Alcyon Center in nearby Seal Cove and do a weekend spiritual retreat. Engage in daily prayer. Send a child or youth to Pilgrim Lodge this summer. Join the choir and sing praises to God.

*Practice compassion, forgiveness, and mercy. Do justice. Walk humbly with God.

And, in conclusion, have some joy and laughter during this Lenten season. Contrary to popular opinion, Lent is not some dreary, dour time of self-flagellation. God created us in love and wants us to live to the fullest, knowing joy and communion and fulfillment. What God wants is for us to live out the image of God in which we are made, to live in a way that reflects God's love and justice.

Rev. Keith Bowie



Although you might not have heard much from us much lately, the Search Team has been very busy. We received over twenty Ministerial Profiles and have sent most of those pastors our Local Church Profile for their consideration.

Now we are following up with persons in whom we have a particular interest. Follow up includes telephone reference checks, requests for sermon tapes, listening to or viewing those tapes, reading church newsletters and bulletins, and gathering any information we can find. While pursuing these steps, we will also continue to evaluate new Ministerial Profiles.

A small number of candidates will soon be interviewed over the internet, following which we will make arrangements for our committee to worship with them, most often in a church setting arranged by our conference office. We will invite at least two candidates back for second interviews, following which we will seek God's guidance and prayerfully make a decision on a candidate.

If the candidate we recommend chooses to accept, compensation arrangements will be clarified, and a date for a "Candidating Sunday" will be established.

You will have an opportunity to meet the candidate (and family) that weekend in an informal setting as well as the formal worship service where the candidate will preach. A congregational meeting following the worship service will offer each member an opportunity to ask questions of the Pastoral Search and Transition Team, and to vote on the Call to our new pastor.

We are grateful during this time for the excellent interim leadership of Rev. Keith Bowie, and profoundly trust that God will guide our candidates, the members of our Search Committee and our Covenant Members (those members will cast the final vote). We ask you to pray for us every day. If you have been thinking about becoming a covenant member, now is a good time to join and make your opinion count.

We are blessed with a wonderful church community. Together, with hard work and God's guidance, we will call an inspired pastor to guide us as we minister in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
Your Pastoral Search and Transition Team

**LENTEN SEASON TO BEGIN
MARCH 5**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. **A brief service along with imposition of ashes will be held at the church on Wednesday, March 5, at 7:00 pm**

We will again be having **soup and bread suppers on the Wednesdays** during Lent, beginning at 6:00 pm, followed by a brief Lenten program/study led by Pastor Keith. **Those dates are: March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9.** These will be give and take type discussions in a small group environment. Come and have your soul nourished!

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 13 and Easter this year falls on April 20. More about Holy Week activities in the April edition of The Chimes.

Brief Notes:

UPDATE FROM YOUR OUTREACH BOARD:

We are thrilled to announce that **Andy Baron** has joined the Bar Harbor Food Pantry board as our church's delegate. Thank you, Andy! And we extend many thanks to **Al Simons** for his years of service on the BHFP board and for serving as its treasurer for several years.

Mark Your Calendar:

Our church's next Community Supper will be a Baked Bean supper on Tuesday, April 8th from 5-6:30.

Guess Who's Coming for Salad?

Join us for the annual community progressive dinner, **March on Mt. Desert St.**, on **Tuesday, March 11th.**

We will host the salad course, and we expect more than 100 guests. Thanks to

our church's Salad Stewards for providing yummy salads.

This is a very special evening for our community as we share dinner courses up and down Mt. Desert St. Stay posted for more details in the Sunday bulletin. Come join us as we reach out!

December 2013 Church Fair Recap - "by the numbers"

The December 2013 Fair was brought to you by the Soul Sisters (aka the Evening Auxiliary) and:

- 38 Volunteers who gave 216 hours
- 27 Donors that provided cash, raffle items, or supplies for the fair
- 4 Artists' works by Maryanne Starbird, Jane Haraden, Linda Rowell Kelly, and Norm Talbot
- 14 Varieties of pies, 3 homemade soups, 4 types of sandwiches, and 1 mighty meaty chili all made lovingly and served or delivered to fairgoers, office workers, teachers, and first responders in our community.

Outcomes of the fair were:

- the joy of sharing a work project with one another
- welcoming fairgoers
- engaging new workers to join the veterans of past fairs
- producing \$ 2,968.41 in net fair earnings for our church

These net, fair earnings along with proceeds from three 2013 bake sales, a yard sale, and Christmas poinsettias have provided: \$3000 for the 2014 general church budget, \$1500 for the church's support of local assistance this winter, a new refrigerator, a donation to Emmaus Center, a speaker honorarium, care of the church lawn, purchase of Christmas wreaths, and costume repairs and supplies for the Living Nativity program.

Watch for news of Evening Auxiliary activity in the weeks and months to come. Ideas are always most welcome!

Deb Wade

Ode to (your?) dish:

Thanks for the memories,
of cookies and of cakes,
of all the fine things
you have lovingly “maked”.

Your gifts were yummy,
filled our church tummies.
Thanks for your dishes
with lots of good wishes.

But it's time to say goodbye
to your plates, your bowls, and
casseroles.
Stacks in the kitchens upstairs AND
down,
Need to go home to your part of
town.

You can claim them
and fill them some time again;
or, mark them “donation”,
not see them again.

There is no room here,
they can go in a sale,
please mark your decision
...it's the point of this tale.

Next time you are at church, look for
your plates etc. Take them home or
put a note on any you mean to leave
behind.

Spring-cleaning will begin April 30.

Deb Wade

Please help provide flowers to beautify our sanctuary!

Each Sunday, someone provides the
lovely flowers for our church altar.
Usually, it is a member, a family friend
or community member who wishes to
remember or honor someone. The

Flower Committee is responsible for finding
folks who are willing to provide one or two
bouquets each Sunday. We are in need of
someone to provide flowers for Mar. 30 and for
Apr. 13. If you can help, please contact Jan
Varnum after church today or call 288-3857 in
the PM. Many thanks.

ONA Update

There have been 3 Open and Affirming
education sessions held since the scoping
meetings' list of concerns got us started in
November. **Please continue to save March
2nd, 16th, and 30th for after-worship lunch
and learning.**

The March 2nd topic will be “What the
scriptures say regarding homosexuality”.
Reverend Bowie will be summarizing the
article, Biblical Perspectives on
Homosexuality, by Walter Wink; as well as
other materials he has researched in order to
give us balanced perspectives of this
important topic. Ron Beard will be joining us to
help facilitate the session.

The Walter Wink article is on the table of
resources in the church parlor. Please pick it
up to prepare for March 2 and also help
yourself to any of the other ONA information
there from previous sessions. Remember to
put your feedback in the suggestion box.

***Note: There will be no make-up scheduled
for the March 2 ONA session. The after
worship choir practice on March 2nd will
be moved to another time.***

Our final two education topics for March were
also derived from the scoping sessions. They
are: “Youth perspectives on ONA”, and “How
might our church life change with ONA”?
Keep an eye on the Weekly Messenger and
announcements in the church bulletin for more
details.

Deb Wade



March mud season is upon us but don't let that keep you away! Sunday school is in full swing and we have lots of fun planned for this month! Just in time for the long month ahead, we will be hosting a Vacation Bible Camp March 24th through the 28th!

Vacation Bible Camp in March? Sure! It's a long month for us all and with no school vacations (for kids or families!) what better way to spend a few nights than hanging out and having a Beach Party! Each night, Monday through Thursday, we will be having Camp where kids will learn about the "Be" attitudes and how to catch the wave of God's love.

Each night of camp dinner will be served as well as a yummy treat! Kids in grades 1-6 are welcome. Any one of our younger kiddos can also join with a parent chaperone. We will be diving for beach treasures, doing science experiments and best of all, learning about how God has a deep current of love for us! We hope to see you all there, and bring a friend for this awesome beach party! Our last night of camp will be Friday night. We will be showing a movie night for all kids, parents are welcome to join or have an adult night! This is an awesome way to beat the mid March blues!

We are looking for volunteers to help out during the VBC or provide a snack or dinner for any of the nights listed above. If you are interested in lending a hand or cooking, please contact Amanda Beals via email mrsamandabeals@gmail.com or by phone 669-5807.

We are still in need of some selfless teachers for the upcoming Spring Trimester, which begins April 6. If you are interested, please contact any board member or Amanda Beals!

A final message, we have a few new boards members in Christian Education who I would like to welcome! **Judy Fuller** has joined us and also

offered to be our Treasurer! (Whoo-hoo!). We also welcomed **Geneva Langley** to our board. Both ladies will bring lots of new fresh ideas and vibrancy to our team and we cannot wait! Lastly, the wonderful **Kathy Woodside** has offered to Chair the board for a final year and she is going to have an awesome Co-Chair to help in the transition, **Doug McMinimy**. Doug has served on our board for many years and has already made a list of wonderful ideas to breathe new life into our Christian Ed Program! Thanks to Kathy for her awesome leadership and to Doug for taking on hard shoes to fill!

Warmly (at least in hopes of a wonderful Spring!),
Amanda Beals

What's Coming Up:

Sunday March 2: Family Sunday ~ Whole group Lent Activity, kids will start downstairs with Amanda then join families for Communion and the remainder of church.

Sunday March 9: Sunday School Week #7 & Pilgrim Lodge Sunday! Wear your favorite PL gear!

Sunday March 16: Sunday School Week #8

Sunday March 23: Sunday School Week #9

Monday March 24-Thursday March 27: Vacation Bible Camp~ Beach Party!

Friday March 28: Movie Night for All Kids! (Parents' Night Out)

Sunday March 30: Sunday School Week #10 and last day of Winter Trimester!



With deepest sympathy
to the family and friends of
Jean L. Kief

ENVY

Kenneth L. Samuel

"Thou shalt not covet..." - Exodus 20:17

I don't know about you, but I find the commandment that forbids covetousness to be the most challenging commandment of all. For the most part, I am more successful at restraining myself from bowing to other gods, misusing God's name, keeping the Sabbath, honoring my parents, and not committing murder or adultery or robbery or perjury. But covetousness is not just a discipline of behavior; it's a discipline of attitude and intention.

How many times have I looked, with a sense of longing (covetousness?) at another person's degree of preparedness and orderliness (some people just seem to live with no hiccups or upsets)? How many times have I wished I had another person's quick-witted aptitude for always having the right come-back, no matter what verbal assaults come their way. How many times have I wished I had the prowess of LeBron James on the basketball court?

And yes, how many times have I looked at another person's car and wished I was driving it?

But maybe the commandment against covetousness is not so much a demanding restriction as it is broad invitation. When I think about it, the less time I spend longing for the gifts of others, the more time I have available to develop my own gifts. The prohibition against covetousness actually frees me to be more creative in honing my own abilities and more focused on developing my own potential.

One of the greatest gifts we bring to others is our authenticity. There is liberating power when we live authentically in the flow of who we truly are and in the things we've truly earned and in the gifts we truly possess.

When we become experts of our own experiences and master developers of our own potential, we might be surprised at how little there really is to covet.

Prayer

Dear God, Help me today to transform covetousness into creative energy, so that I can find real fulfillment in being all that you have created me to be. Amen."

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

Source: UCC.org

Butterfly Pretzels

Celebrate being a new creation by making this fun spring snack.



What you need:

- 45 miniature twist pretzels (to make 20 butterflies)
- Cookie sheet covered with parchment paper
- Light cocoa and multi-colored Candy Melts (available at craft stores)
- Disposable decorating bags
- M&M's, Skittles, sprinkles, cinnamon drops, etc.

What you do:

1. Break five pretzels into pieces for antennae.
2. On cookie sheet, arrange pairs of whole pretzels as shown.
3. Melt Candy Melts in microwave, separating colors into different bags.
4. Pipe melted brown candy down the center to hold pretzels together, making a head and body. Press on two pretzel pieces for antennae.
5. Pipe other melted candy into the pretzel holes.
6. Add M&M's and other decorations into melted candy on the wings. Let cool. Enjoy!



A new creation

Just as spring brings beauty and renewal,
in Christ we, too, are made new.

Directions: Follow each flying butterfly to its correct number. Then write that word on the line with the corresponding number to read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

"Therefore, _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____

_____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____ 13 _____

_____ 14 _____ 15 _____ 16 _____ 17 _____ is here!"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



March Birthdays

- 1 Mason Gurtler
- 1 Barbara Moulton
- 1 David Lind
- 2 Cas Dowden
- 3 Jill Pelletier
- 4 Maddie Langley
- 5 Gloria Soule
- 6 Dana Reed
- 6 Kristin MacQuinn
- 6 Henry A. Brown
- 7 Laurie Riddell
- 8 Vickie Bence
- 9 Judy Fuller
- 9 Christopher Bence
- 13 Doug Lee
- 13 Estelle Megquier
- 14 Lucy Sprague
- 16 Lucille Campbell
- 17 Kincaid MacCulloch
- 18 Sharon Hobbs
- 20 Haleigh Smith
- 21 Brad Haskell
- 22 Samuel Owen Craighead
- 22 Pierce DiMauro
- 22 Bryce DiMauro
- 22 Kirstin DiMauro
- 24 Michael MacCulloch
- 26 Graham Langley
- 29 Penny Heiges
- 31 Shelley MacQuinn



Sunday Worship Contributors

Liturgists-

- 2: Betsy Higgins
- 9: Scott Hammond
- 16:
- 23:
- 30:

Flowers –

- 2: Lucille Campbell
- 9: Roxie and Earl Brechlin
- 16: Jan Varnum
- 23: George & Billie Mitchell
- 30: Pam Bowie

Coffee Hosts -

- 2: ONA Pizza and salad lunch
- 9: McMinimys
- 16: ONA session with lunch
- 23: Sarah Nevells and Kathe Simons
- 30: ONA session with lunch

Home Bible Readings

- 2: Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9
- 9: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11
- 16: Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17
- 23: Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42
- 30: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
2 <i>Family Sunday</i> Worship Service 10:00 AM ONA Session 4 11:30 AM	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM	6	7	1/8
9 Worship Service 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal <i>after worship</i> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS. TURN CLOCKS FORWARD.	10 Called to Care 7:00 PM	11 March on Mt. Desert St.	12 Soup & Bread Supper 6:00 PM	13	14 All Souls Women's retreat (beginning 3:00)	15 All Souls Women's retreat (ending 4:30)
16 Worship Service 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal <i>after worship</i> ONA Session 5 11:30 AM	17	18 Outreach 7:00	19 Soup & Bread Supper 6:00 PM Deacons 7:00 PM	20	21	22
23 Worship Service 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal <i>after worship</i>	24 Vacation Bible Camp	25 Vacation Bible Camp	26 Vacation Bible Camp Soup & Bread Supper 6:00 PM Council 7:00 PM	27 Vacation Bible Camp	28 Vacation Bible Camp	29
30 Worship Service 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal <i>after worship</i>	31					

**Bar Harbor Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
29 Mount Desert Street
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609**

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Special dates:

- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *March 2, 2014*
- Ash Wednesday, *March 5, 2014*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 7, 2014*
- First Sunday in Lent, *March 9, 2014*
- Daylight-Saving Time -- *March 9, 2014*
- Girl Scout Sunday, *March 9, 2014*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *March 16, 2014*
- First Day of Spring, *March 20, 2014*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *March 23, 2014*
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 30, 2014*

In Like the Spirit

In many places, March is notoriously windy: "In like a lion ...!" Though I don't like the damp chill that's often part of the transition to spring, I love windy days. Something about the air's movement — a gentle breeze or ferocious gale blowing through trees, against the house, in my hair — breeds excitement in me, anticipation that something new is astir.

How fitting that in conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus said, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8, NRSV). Like Nicodemus, we fail to comprehend the Spirit of God. But Jesus reminds us that though we can't see the Spirit, we feel his love, see his actions of justice and hear his sounds. These include kind words, bold preaching, weeping for another, shared laughter and songs of praise.

—Heidi Mann Articles this page from
NewsletterNewsletter

Stop, look and listen

Lent, the season of the church year that's associated with repentance begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year). While some people deny themselves by giving up something for Lent, others prepare for Easter through special Bible studies or devotions.

Christians observe Lent for these reasons:

- It causes us to STOP. Lent says, "Stop and rest awhile," as well as "Stop doing wrong."
- It tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ offering healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.
- It tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words aren't only important for our safety in travel; they're also helpful for our journey through the 40 days of Lent.