



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
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April 2014

FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

I once preached an Easter Sunday sermon in which I used St. Paul's words to the Corinthians as a text: "If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:14). In the presentation of the sermon, I was quite forthright, direct, and unequivocal that Christianity is founded upon a fact, an astounding, unexpected, but nevertheless real event: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Christians are those who see all human history in the light of this event. This is the core, founding, irreducible event upon which our faith rests. We believe in the resurrection of the body. Afterwards, during coffee time, a gentleman came up to me, quite upset. He said, "You really didn't leave much room for us skeptics, did you?"

Of course, this is nothing new. When the apostle Paul, on Mars Hill, preached Jesus' resurrection from the dead (Acts 17) he was greeted with hoots of derision. The secular world today still derides this central Christian belief. Even in scripture we find Jesus' own disciples having doubts. Thomas said that he would not believe unless the risen Christ stood before him. The risen Christ did just that. Thomas believed. I want you to believe.

Let's just get one thing straight: what we're talking about here is not sensible, rational, or even ultimately explainable using modern modes of thought. Jesus being raised from the dead? Easter? A totally unique event. It's important we be clear about this because it's my job and yours to go out there into the world to invite people into a life shaped by Easter. I wish we could just give up trying to explain. It will not happen, of course, because the skeptics among us, God bless them, won't let it rest.

Easter is all about resurrection of the body. Easter is not about springtime, though spring is a pretty good metaphor for what happened. It's not about the dead living on in our memories. Believe it or not, it's not even about Easter eggs or chocolate, even though I love chocolate! It's going to be important that you remember that neither logic, nor metaphor, nor explanation will suffice. In the end, all you have are testimonial words like these: He is alive! I have met him. Come and see. Those words are at the heart of our Christian faith.

Do you know what my favorite part of the Easter liturgy is? It's when we say, in loud acclamation, on Easter morning:
CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Rev. Keith Bowie



From your Outreach Board

Guess Who Came for Salad? Many thanks to everyone who prepared salads and served guests at the March on Mt. Desert Street progressive dinner last month. Salad creators and servers included: **Lise Ford, Ponzi Reed, Caroline Miller, Kathy Woodside, Pam Bowie, Sarah Nevells, Cas Dowden, Ruth Rossi Blaney, Debby Hammond, and members of the Outreach Board.**

This annual community event is held in collaboration with other churches and organizations on Mt. Desert St. We had a wide variety of delicious salads (guests were amazed!) and by having plenty of folks for set-up, servers, dishwashers, and takedown, we broke some records. Approximately 120 guests were served in the span of 30 minutes (6:00-6:30) and we left everything spic 'n span by 7:15. Thanks, everyone!

FREE FOOD FOR ALL

Our next **FREE Community Supper** will be on **Tuesday, April 15th from 5-6:30**. Once again, this is a terrific time to invite friends to join us for a fabulous meal, compliments of our dear Cas Dowden, chef extraordinaire.

Set-up will begin by 4 PM and we can always use help with set-up, greeting, serving, and cleanup (you don't have to do all of those). Certainly by April 15th, it should be WARM, right?

Bring your family and a friend or two for a great meal as we celebrate early spring.



Stewardship Thought

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary once offered a stewardship course titled "I Have Something That Belongs to You," inspired by Mark McGwire's biggest home run. Foster R. McCurley explains the name:

In September 1998, slugger Mark McGwire was on his way to breaking the home run record of 61, established in 1961 by Roger Maris. There was much speculation about the monetary value of the ball that would eventually become number 62. Some guessed it would bring the lucky fan as much as a million dollars.

The much-anticipated blast barely made it over the fence, where it was retrieved by a young man who worked on the grounds crew. During the celebration following the game, the young man approached the slugger and said, "Mr. McGwire, I have something that belongs to you."

This challenges us to imagine what difference it would make to begin each day by saying, "Lord, I have something that belongs to you."

Source: LECTERN Resource



So far (writing this on St Patrick's Day), we have conducted two interviews, one face-to-face, and one on SKYPE. Let's call them Pastor #1 and Pastor #2. After our first interview, when Pastor #1 entered the room and we felt the warmth of his personality, some of us couldn't help but wonder if the second pastor, who could not be there in person, would be at a disadvantage.

That worry was dispelled a few minutes after we began to talk to Pastor #2. We had moments when we forgot we were using SKYPE. The loving-kindness of Pastor #2 was a presence in the room.

As a result of our first interviews and the discussions we had after, our team is invigorated. We have had the privilege of speaking with people who have led inspired ministries, and have had faith experiences that made them grow into gifted pastors.

And we have four interviews to go! It is not yet time for making decisions. We have made a covenant with each other to keep our minds open and seriously consider each applicant. In the end it may not be the person Mimi likes best, or Scott likes best, or Betty likes best.

We are looking for the person who will be best for all of us, for our entire congregation at this crucial time in the history of our church.

We are prayerfully waiting for that "still small voice" to reveal which Pastor that will be.

Join us in that prayer, every day.

Donna, Cindy, Chris, Mike, Betty, Mimi, Debby, Scott, Doug, Estelle, Lindsay, Kathy

Schedule for Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday 4/17 - 7:00 PM at the church

Good Friday 4/18 - 7:00 PM at the church

Easter Sunrise 4/20 - 6:15 AM at Schooner Head Overlook

Easter Sunday regular worship 4/20 - 10:00 AM at the church

Congratulations

Jan Varnum has been honored as the Elizabeth Fritz Thorndike Award winner for 2013. "The award honors an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the field of social work on Mount Desert Island."

Source: MDI Islander

Island Connections Needs Volunteers!

Island Connections seeks to provide free services to seniors, elderly and people with disabilities on Mount Desert Island and the surrounding islands that will enable them to live independently and with a strong quality of life. If you would like to volunteer, call 288-4457.

The One Who Stands By Our Side

Excerpt from John 14:15-21

"I will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever... I will not leave you orphaned."

Reflection by

Martin B. Copenhaver

According to John, after Jesus concludes his public ministry, he spends a considerable amount of time with his disciples preparing them for what lies ahead. As Jesus speaks of his death and resurrection, his disciples have a multitude of questions.

They sound like the questions of children just before their parents go out the door: Where are you going? Do you have to go? Can't we go with you? When will you be back? Who will stay with us while you are away? They are plaintive questions, pressing and immediate.

Jesus responds that God "will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever . . . I will not leave you orphaned" (John 14:15, 18).

He is promising them the presence of the Holy Spirit. The word translated "Advocate" (sometimes translated,

"Counselor," or "Comforter") means, literally, "someone who is called to one's side."

The Holy Spirit is the one who stands by the disciples even after Jesus departs. And the Spirit is a constant and comforting presence for all those who follow Jesus, an advocate in times of trial, a counselor in perplexity.

The presence of the Holy Spirit, so wonderfully manifest in Jesus, continues to stand by and work through those who continue to follow him after his death and resurrection. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we have Jesus' continued presence at our side always.

Prayer

Wonderful Counselor, beloved Comforter, I thank you that, even as I call you to my side today, you are already there, granting me the continued presence of Jesus Christ. Amen.

About the Author:

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

Source: UCC.com

April 2014



- 1 Samuel Brady Renault
- 2 Marsha Fuller
- 6 Hannah Paradis
- 6 Eric McQuinn
- 8 Jane Boynton
- 11 Saida Riddell
- 12 Jay Boyce
- 14 Kathy Woodside
- 16 Jane Haraden
- 22 Esther Testa
- 23 Donald Hobbs
- 23 Lisa Krautwald
- 23 Kim Craighead
- 25 Jan Varnum
- 26 Caitie Smith
- 27 Katelyn Burns



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Cindy Fox
Assistant Deacon – Lindsay Shopland

Liturgists-

6:
13:
20: Kathe Simons
27:

Flowers –

6: Beverly McNeal
13: Kathy, David, and Karen Kief
20: Easter Flowers
27: Cecil and Lucy Sprague

Coffee Hosts -

6: Joan Carey and Debby Hammond
13:
20: Easter - Deacons
27:

Lectionary -

- 6 Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45
- 13 Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66
- 20 Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18
- 27 Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Family Sunday</i> Worship Service 10:00 AM	7	8 Outreach Board 7:00 PM	9	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM	14	15 Community Supper 5-6:30	16 Deacons 7:00 PM	17 Finance Committee 12:00 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM	18 Good Friday Service 7:00 PM	19
20 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service Schooner Head Overlook 6:15 AM Worship Service 10:00 AM	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship Service 10:00 AM	28	29	30			

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Special dates:

- Fifth Sunday in Lent, *April 6, 2014*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *April 13, 2014*
- Holy Week, *April 13-19, 2014*
- Maundy/Holy Thursday, *April 17, 2014*
- Good Friday, *April 18, 2014*
- Holy Saturday, *April 19, 2014*
- Easter Sunday, *April 20, 2014*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 23, 2014*

The Perks of Giving

Although National Volunteer Week is officially observed in April, every week thousands of volunteers help people in need. As volunteers can attest, sharing one's time and talents leads to many intangible benefits.

New research shows that volunteering and giving also provide physical and emotional advantages. Givers report an improved sense of well-being, lower stress levels, better physical health, an enriched sense of purpose in life and increased happiness.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "It is one of the beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely help another without helping himself."

Articles this page: NewsletterNewsletter

Why We Celebrate

Jesus is a redeemer, a restorer in every way. His day on the cross looked like a colossal failure, but it was his finest moment. He launched a kingdom where the least will be the greatest and the last will be first, where the poor will be comforted and the meek will inherit the earth. Jesus brought together the homeless with the privileged and said, "You're all poor, and you're all beautiful."

The cross leveled the playing field, and no earthly distinction is valid anymore. There is a new "us" - people rescued by the Passover Lamb, adopted into his family and the transformed into saints. It is the most epic miracle in history. That is why we celebrate.

Jen Hatmaker