



# THE CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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May 2014

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

Easter continues. The resurrection is not only about Jesus being raised from the dead, but also about the continuing work that Christ performs with his disciples. And, I absolutely love preaching during these seven or so Sundays in Eastertide because of it. The Risen Christ returns to his disheartened disciples, appears to them, reveals himself, and ministers to their doubts. He let Thomas touch him, he appeared to the cowering disciples hiding behind closed doors, he cooked breakfast for them on the beach, he walked with them on the road to Emmaus and broke bread with them. Jesus is seemingly everywhere! Christ returns, coming back first to the ones who had forsaken him the most. Interesting, isn't it? The Risen Christ might have returned to Pilate or might have shown himself to the religious leaders, saying, "See, I told you so!" But he did not. Instead, the accounts of Easter, like the story of Emmaus, tell us that he returned to his disciples.

You may be slow to believe in the resurrection. Many people are. But you can't deny the fact that something amazing happened to these disciples after Jesus got done with them. They were turned upside down, a 180-degree change. How else do you explain the turnaround from despairing, fearful, and timid to confident, bold, and brave? Are you listening, Church of Today?

I am reminded of best-selling author Anne

Lamott's autobiographical book "Traveling Mercies." It is an amazing account of a woman in trouble who is found by a loving God. It is the story of Lamott in her alcoholic, drug enslaved chaotic life. It is also the story of a God who is resourceful in coming to her. In the unforgettable account of her conversion, Lamott describes how she "hit bottom," went to the depths of alcoholic degradation. In the middle of the night she awoke in a stupor to see someone sitting in the corner of the room, watching her. She thought at first it might be her father who often sat up with her during her binges. But it was not her father; it was Jesus. She was not pleased by the specter of Jesus just sitting there, lying in wait for her to relent and come to him.

The next day she tried to get the episode out of her mind. She said that she hoped not to see him again. She locked her door more tightly when she returned home each evening. She said that she knew that, if you feed a stray cat, it will take up residence with you and never leave, so she tried not to encourage Jesus to come to her. Then, on another night, she awoke to see Jesus sitting there in the corner of her room once again. She relented. "Come on in," she said. It was the moment of her conversion, her transformation, the beginning of her Christian life.

We worship a God who is creative and persistent in coming to us, and Scripture says that this God wants us!

**Rev. Keith Bowie**



## Update from the Treasurer

The trustees have asked me to give the church an update on our finances from time to time. I will try to do this on a quarterly basis. Through the first week in April we have spent less than our income. As anyone who runs a business or household, you know this is a good thing! Congratulations.

I like to look at income compared to the same time last year because, since I haven't been Treasurer very long, it puts the numbers into context for me. Last year at this time we had a larger surplus because we hadn't yet hired Keith and were just paying Rev. John Holt as a supply preacher. Without the expense of benefits we were way ahead financially.

This is a good reminder that we will be hiring a new minister soon and our expenses may rise when we need to meet our obligations for pay and housing allowance under the conference guidelines. We've also had the benefit of rent from the parsonage for a year. The tenants moved out on March 31 so we no longer have that income source. In fact, we may need to spend more money to get work done on the parsonage. This would be the time to do it while it is empty.

Paul tracks income in the collection plate each Sunday as either "Loose plate" or "Pledge" income. Loose plate is higher this year, while pledge is down. The Net result is we are very close to our combined income from last year. Paul informed me that this has been the trend in our church over the last few years.

Perhaps this has been the trend because the trustees haven't done a good job of explaining the benefit of pledging. It is between you and God the amount you give to the church each week but we can plan better if we know to expect your offering in the form of a pledge. If you make a pledge you can change it any time, no questions asked, but it is just a more intentional way of giving.

You will hear more about this in the fall as we try to get back in the habit of promoting stewardship, but now you have been warned! Our new minister, whoever that might be, may have something to add on the subject. We look forward to finding out who that person will be!

Scott Hammond



## From Your PSTT

April was a busy month for us as we completed our interviews and read and reread sermons and Ministerial Profiles. We have narrowed the field to three candidates. (33 pastors applied for our position!)

Next we begin neutral pulpits where the team will visit a church, which will invite one of our candidates to officiate at the Sunday service. After those services, held in three different churches somewhere in Maine, we will meet with the candidate, ask more questions and answer any questions the candidate might have about our church. Then after prayer and discussion, after listening to each other and to

our own perceptions, we will choose the person we think will be the best pastor for all of us.

Then we will quickly contact you and invite you to a Saturday evening potluck dinner where you will have a chance to meet our choice and his/her family.

The next morning the candidate will conduct worship and you will get a chance to see how that goes. After that service, **covenant members** will vote and the decision will be made. (It is not too late to become a covenant member and participate in the vote). If you vote “yes”, the pastor will have to give a sixty-day notice to his/her church.

Unless something unexpected happens (a candidate withdraws, for example), we hope to see our new pastor installed in September.

During the process, we have learned many things about the strengths and weaknesses of our church. We have read many church newsletters and discovered some exciting activities and ideas that we can use in our church. But most of all, we have gotten to know each other and so many of you who have supported us with your opinions, suggestions and prayers.

If you come to church some Sunday in June and notice that we are missing, that is the signal to pray for us!

Peace,

Your PSTT



Spring is in the air and we are gearing up for the end of our Sunday School year! As the third trimester begins, I would like to thank those teachers who helped out in the second trimester as well.

**Katy Bryer- Pre Kindergarten - Kindergarten**  
**Beth Paradis- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**  
**David Lind- 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade**  
**Mike Bonsey- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

These folks have given of their time and talents (and patience, with all the weather we had!) to help with our energy rich kids. If you see them in church, please thank them for their service.

During the month of March, the Christian Education Board hosted a Bible Beach Camp in the evenings for a week, minus one pesky snow night. We had a blast and learned about the “Be” Attitudes from various characters in the Bible. Our kids played in the sand, dug for treasure, experienced science projects, and made fun crafts that all went with the “Be” Attitude for the night.

**Doug McMinimy** taught us a fun song with hand movements to coordinate. I would also like to thank the snack helpers and dinner providers for the week: **Kathy Simons, Judy Fuller, Betsy Higgins, Keith Bowie, and Katy Bryer**. We had lots of parent help too and it wouldn't have been possible without their extra hands. Thanks also need to be extended to all our confirmation kids who lent their hands and guidance on our last night.

As with the end of the school year, we are looking ahead at summer and the many Sundays we will need volunteers to host Jesus

and Me, our summer program. Have a passion or talent? Share it with the kids and enjoy a nice Sunday learning about our awesome youth. If you are interested in lending a hand to share with our kids, please contact Amanda Beals by email or phone. [Mrsamandabeals@gmail.com](mailto:Mrsamandabeals@gmail.com) or 207-669-5807. There are many Sundays and they go fast, so reserve your spot today! Below is a list of summer Sundays that will be available:

June 22  
June 29  
July 6  
July 13  
July 20  
July 27  
August 3  
August 10  
August 17  
August 24  
August 31

Warmly,  
Amanda Beals, CE Coordinator

## Memorial Day

### Excerpt from [Psalm 31](#)

"My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

### Reflection by Lillian Daniel

Memorial Day began after the Civil War as an effort toward reconciliation between the families of veterans in the North and the South. After the war, there was already a tradition in the North of decorating soldiers' graves, called "Decoration Day." But in 1868 an

organization of Northern war veterans decreed it ought to be a national holiday. May 30 was carefully chosen as the date because it was not the anniversary of a specific battle, and therefore would be a neutral date for both sides.

But human beings hold on to their wounds, and reconciliation takes time, grace and mercy. So initially, as the holiday spread, it was an occasion for both sides to give angry speeches about the wartime atrocities inflicted by the other side, and the righteousness of their own. However, as time went on, Memorial Day really did become a time to remember all veterans, a time to visit the graves of family and friends, and to remember their lives.

In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill moved three holidays off of their specific dates and onto Mondays, in order to create three-day weekends. Memorial Day came to be associated with the beginning of summer, as well as the Indianapolis 500.

Today, let us remember the spirit in which the day was conceived, as a way to bring together those who had once been bitter enemies. After the fighting is over, the loss and heartbreak are shared throughout the human family. God's mercy pours out over all God's children, with no respect for the borders of nation states, which are awfully temporary, from the perspective of eternity.

### Prayer

On this day, we pray for comfort for all those who have lost a loved one to the ravages of war. We pray that the peace of Christ, which passes all human understanding, will knit together this weary and war-torn world. Amen.

Lillian Daniel is the senior minister of the First Congregational Church, UCC, Glen Ellyn IL

Source: UCC.org

# Blooming Button Flowers

For Mother's Day, add a special touch to any houseplant with this easy craft.



## What you need:

- A small houseplant with leaves
- Colorful buttons of various sizes
- Green 26-gauge floral wire
- Wire cutters

## What you do:

1. Stack three buttons from largest to smallest, with the smallest on top. Align the button holes.
2. Cut 8 inches of wire. Thread it up through one hole of the stacked buttons and back down through another hole.
3. Twist the wire just below the bottom side of the button stack to secure it.
4. Insert the "flower" in the plant's soil and repeat the process.
5. Present this to Mom and wish her a happy Mother's Day!



# Mothers in the Bible

Children have always had a special place in their mother's heart.

Directions: First, cover up the second column and see if you can name some of the mothers' children from the Bible. Then write the circled letters on the correct lines below to complete Proverbs 23:25, NIV.

## MOTHERS

Eve<sup>31</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Sarah<sup>26</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Rebekah<sup>18</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Rachel<sup>19</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Leah<sup>12</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Zilpah<sup>44</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Bilhah<sup>34</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Jochebed<sup>7</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Naomi<sup>2</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Ruth<sup>14</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Hannah<sup>20</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Bathsheba<sup>10</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Elizabeth<sup>6</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Mary<sup>3</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Eunice<sup>6</sup> ..... bore .....

## CHILDREN

Cain, Abel and Seth<sup>11</sup>  
 Isaac<sup>25</sup>  
 Jacob and Esau<sup>15</sup>  
 Benjamin and Joseph<sup>41</sup>  
 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,  
 Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah<sup>30</sup>  
 Gad and Asher<sup>38</sup>  
 Dan and Naphtali<sup>38</sup>  
 Moses<sup>32</sup>  
 Mahlon and Kilion<sup>32</sup>  
 Obed<sup>5</sup>  
 Samuel<sup>21</sup>  
 Solomon<sup>31</sup>  
 John the Baptist<sup>37</sup>  
 Jesus<sup>31</sup>  
 Timothy<sup>4</sup>



“ \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
 \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_  
 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33  
 \_\_\_\_\_ J \_\_\_\_\_ !”  
 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

PROVERBS 23:25, NIV

Answer: "May your ... mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful" Proverbs 23:25, NIV



## Birthdays this Month

4 Aubrie Boyce  
4 George Mitchell  
7 Kevin Langley  
9 Susan Greenleaf  
11 Elise Craighead  
14 Alisha Rechholtz  
14 Scott Riddell  
15 Patty Benore  
15 Tim Smith  
15 Sheridan Steele  
16 Jane Sanderson  
17 Alice Hobbs  
18 Richard Collier  
19 Leslie Spurling  
20 Coady Modeen  
20 Olivia Modeen  
21 Faith Reece  
21 Dean DiMauro  
21 Lou Ingrisano  
21 Ezekiel Valleau  
23 Sandy Boyce  
24 Christopher Booher  
25 Crystal Hobbs  
28 Heidi Turner O'Connor

## Sunday Worship Contributors

**Head Deacon** – Lindsay Shopland  
**Assistant Deacon** – Mimi Dickson

### Liturgists-

4 Al Simons  
11  
18 Kathe Simons  
25

### Flowers –

4 Florence Ames and Dottie Robbins  
11  
18  
25

### Coffee Hosts -

4 Ruth and Ben Blaney  
11 Cas Dowden  
18  
25

### Lectionary -

4 Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23  
Luke 24:13-35  
11 Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10  
18 Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14  
25 Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21



# may

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
				1	2	3
4 <i>Family Sunday</i> <b>Worship Service</b> 10:00 AM	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i> <b>Worship Service</b> 10:00 AM	12	13 Outreach Board 7:00 PM	14	15 Trustees 5:30 PM	16	17
18 <b>Worship Service</b> 10:00 AM	19	20 Community Supper 5-6:30	21 Deacons 7:00 PM	22	23	24
25 <b>Worship Service</b> 10:00 AM	26 Memorial DAY 	27	28 Council 7:00 PM	29	30	31

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United Church of Christ  
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### Special dates:

- National Day of Prayer, *May 1, 2014*
- Christian Family Week, *May 5-11, 2014*
- Mother's Day, *May 11, 2014*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 17, 2014*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 19, 2014*
- Memorial Day, *May 26, 2014*
- Ascension of the Lord, *May 29, 2014*

### Forgive the inexcusable

To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. This is hard. It is perhaps not so hard to forgive a single injury. But to forgive the incessant provocations of daily life - to keep on forgiving the bossy mother-in-law, the bullying husband, the nagging wife, the selfish daughter, the deceitful son - how can we do it?

Only, I think, by remembering where we stand, by meaning our words when we say in our prayers each night, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' We are offered forgiveness on no other terms. To refuse it means to refuse God's mercy for ourselves. There is no hint of exceptions and God means what He says.

C. S. Lewis

### An unforgettable date

A woman told her husband, George, that she wanted him to take another woman on a date. "I love you," she said, "but the woman I have in mind loves you, too, and needs to spend some time with you. It's your mother."

Dutifully, George called his mom and made a date. For the special evening, she chose the dress she'd worn to the last anniversary she and her late husband had celebrated. Mother and son enjoyed chatting so much that they missed their movie. Both left feeling joyous and fulfilled.

Sadly, George's mother died only a few days after their date. He was so happy he'd been able to spend that special time with her.

Right before she died, George's mother sent him this note: "Enclosed are two prepaid tickets for you to have dinner where we had such a pleasant evening together. You'll never know what that night meant for me. I love you, Son."