



THE CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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FROM THE INTERIM MINISTER

I detect many folks longing these days for New Testament times, back when we were a movement instead of an institution. The Book of Acts offers a snapshot of those bucolic days: "Everyone around was in awe - all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved." (Acts 2:43-47).

Ah yes, movements are more fun, aren't they? They are exciting, engaging, enlivening. No Committee/Board meetings. No budgets to meet. Everyone on the same page and a feeling of unanimity. Did I mention no committee meetings?

Institutions, however, can be a pain. They take lots of care and feeding. They take lots of work and maintenance. If one is not careful, they can suck the life out of you, fast.

Well, can you guess what happened? Somebody in the Jesus movement once

upon a time realized they needed to set up a system whereby the faith could be passed on to the future. Movements, you see, are short lived and tend not to last. They poured themselves into building the resulting institution, otherwise known as the Church. They did it not for themselves, but so that their children and grand-children would find the same peace and joy that had originally been experienced in earlier days.

These "saints" are all those dear people who loved us, who told us stories of Jesus, who lived the faith before us and exemplified the path of discipleship. As we remember them and their efforts, there comes the realization that we are not here by our own efforts. Rather, we are here in church by their gifts and grace.

It's our turn now. I am regularly stunned by the incredible faithfulness, the love I see, acts of service, and amazing good being done, not just in the church, but in the community too. Oftentimes we are blind to the goodness and faithfulness unfolding week by week in our own congregation. So the next time you are feeling apathetic about church, look around and see: children taught, strangers welcomed, love lived and God praised. And just remember this: the good work that you are doing is at least as much for future generations as it is for you.

Rev. Keith Bowie



And our candidate is...

Eighteen months ago, the members of this church entrusted the Pastoral Search and Transition Team with the responsibility of prayerfully selecting a candidate for your approval. We gathered input from many of you as we assembled our Local Church Profile. We carefully reviewed the UCC Ministerial Profiles of 33 candidates; after checking references, we interviewed six candidates, held second interviews with four candidates, and observed neutral pulpits with two.

After prayerful consideration, we unanimously and enthusiastically nominate The Rev. Robert S. Benson as our candidate for the position of full-time pastor of Bar Harbor Congregational Church.

Rob was raised in Alexandria, Virginia and has been part of the United Church of Christ since 1995. He pursued his undergraduate studies at Williams College in Massachusetts and graduated from Yale Divinity School with a Masters of Divinity, summa cum laude.

In 2002 Rob and his family moved to Maine as he began his service as Pastor to the Outer Islands with the Maine Sea Coast Mission. During that time he served the churches and communities on Great Cranberry, Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, and Monhegan, and directed the ministries of the Mission's vessel Sunbeam.

His outreach efforts have included music and arts workshops, contra dances, and a popular annual retreat for island students; Rob is also the founding editor-in-chief (serving with 5 co-editors) of an inter-island literary and arts magazine called the Island Reader. While in Maine Rob has also served as a spiritual counselor at the College of the Atlantic, helped coach the MDI Y Sharks swim team, served as Cub Scout Den leader, and directed Joyful Noise: a non-auditioned community choir on MDI. Prior to moving to Maine Rob worked as a middle- and high-school English teacher and swim coach in Worcester and Deerfield, MA. He also worked as a teaching fellow at Yale University, a resident manager of a family homeless center in Alexandria, VA, and a Hospice chaplain in Washington, D.C.

Rob and his wife Cristy have two sons, Peter (12) and Jacob (10). Cristy works with the science department at College of the Atlantic, managing the chemistry and physics labs and occasionally teaching courses. She is also an avid fiber artist working in natural fiber baskets and hooked rugs that use recycled wool, and she is the co-chair of the Mount Desert Elementary School PTO and coach of the MDES Lego robotics team.

Rob will bring many gifts to our church. He is enthusiastic, a strong preacher and a creative worship leader. He possesses a compassionate spirit and a keen sense of humor. The following comments were made by some of his references:

- “Rob is one of the most creative and resourceful pastors I’ve ever worked with...”
- “Matinicus is the most remote island Rob serves. A year ago, a small plane which provides service to the island crashed, killing the pilot. The Sunbeam V had left Matinicus earlier in the day, and upon hearing the news of the accident, Rob had the

ship return to Matinicus. Under Rob's leadership the Sunbeam became chapel, coffee shop and community center for the stunned community. Rob himself spent the night in the church where the pilot's body was brought and waited until the marine patrol arrived. A few years earlier, after a shooting on Matinicus, Rob and the Sunbeam nurse spent the night in the homes of the two families involved, holding down escalating anger. These two incidents are typical of Rob's ministry of knowing what needs to be done under difficult circumstances."

- "He has a rare ability to think big without losing the details..."
- "He eagerly invests himself in music, drama, writing, community building and support of youth..."
- "He is also a person of genuine, deep faith whose actions are consistent with his beliefs..."

We believe that God has led us to this exciting moment in our ministry and so does Rob. We look forward to growing together as a faith community, serving others and proclaiming the good news of God's love.

Thank you for the privilege you have given us.

Your PSTT

Thanks for the Memories!

The PSTT was overwhelmed with the turnout for the vote for pastor yesterday (August 3). It is understandable, in Bar Harbor in August that many of you could not make it. We worried about having a quorum when we set the date. But Rob and his family had a long-planned vacation to England. They leave August 10 and will be away most of the month, and we needed to get the Call Agreement signed before he left so that we could get the earliest possible time for him to start....that left August 3, a very busy week in Bar Harbor.

It was a wonderful, grace-filled day. We sang with enthusiasm, worshipped together, and shared Holy Communion. We wish every one of you could have experienced the love in the room as Rob spoke with the children and shared a sermon that reminded all of us how important it is to share what we have...wealth, energy, love for each other and for our neighbors. The day felt like a big embrace.

We were blessed to have more than the needed 47 people to establish a quorum. And when the vote to accept the Reverend Robert Benson as our new pastor was carried by unanimous vote, we welcomed him back into the sanctuary with a standing ovation.

The PSTT still has a few responsibilities on our list...an exit interview with Keith to learn what he learned living among us. Also we have to set a date for Keith's final Sunday and plan a good-bye to celebrate his time with us. We will let you know these dates when Keith gets back from a visit to meet his new granddaughter.

Rob begins his time with us on October 28. Until the end date we set with Keith (sometime in October), Keith is our pastor and will attend meetings, answer calls, make visits and, if necessary, officiate at funerals.

From all of us, thanks to all of you for your kind words and support yesterday. I'll let one of the team have the last word: Doug McMinimy says that the only word he can think of today is "gratitude".

Sincerely, Your PSTT

The Members of the Pastoral Search and Transition Team:

Chris Beals, Donna Beals, Mike Bonsey, Betty Bryer, Mimi Dickson, Cindy Fox, Debby Hammond, Scott Hammond, Doug McMinimy, Estelle Megquier, Lindsay Shopland and Kathy Woodside



An update from the Treasurer

I want to thank everyone for their contributions this year. As I mentioned before, we don't have as many folks pledging as we have in the past, but we are making up for it with loose offering. Our financial status is good and we have money in the bank. The trustees will be using some of these funds to make needed repairs to the parsonage so we can rent it as soon as possible. Our new pastor, Rev. Rob Benson and his family, already own a home and so they will not be using the parsonage.

A small stewardship committee of myself, Kathe Simons and Sue Turner have met, and will be planning a fall pledge drive. Since Sandra left we haven't done this and it is reflected in our low level of pledges. If you have suggestions, or would like to help with this much-needed endeavor of the church, please contact me (288-1276, scott_hammond@hotmail.com).

It will be very important to start Rob's tenure on the right foot. We hope to use this drive as one way to reach out to our entire church family, especially those who have drifted away from us, to reconnect with the Bar Harbor Congregational Church.

We are very excited about the possibilities now that we have hired a new minister. We hope you will respond enthusiastically when you hear someone discuss stewardship at church or when you receive a pledge card in the mail. You will be hearing from us!

Scott Hammond



Rehearsals Begin

Bar Harbor Congregational Church choir will begin rehearsals for the year on Thursday, September 4 in preparation for singing during worship on Sunday, September 7. Rehearsals are currently scheduled to run 6 - 7:30pm. The choir will also warm up in the sanctuary at 9am on Sunday mornings. All those who love to sing are welcome to join us! If you have questions, please contact Robin Ann Barron at wyldegeese@gmail.com, phone [207-963-9020](tel:207-963-9020), cell [207-205-1479](tel:207-205-1479) or speak to me at church. I hope that you'll join us!



With sympathy
to the family and friends of:

**Michael MacCulloch
and
Lucy Sprague**

New Arrival!



**Quinn Harper Beals
Born Friday August 15 at 3:09 pm**

ONA DRAFT STATEMENT COMPLETED

The ONA group, appointed by Council at its meeting on May 28, and charged with drafting an ONA Covenant or statement for our church, has completed its mission. The members of this group were Scott Riddell (Chair), Ken Brookes, Ruth Rossi Blaney, and Pastor Keith (ex-officio).

The group has been meeting through the summer months and came up with a draft of an ONA statement at its last meeting on August 19. The next step is to have Council review it at its next meeting on August 27. Plans then call for Council to invite members of the congregation to the September meeting of Council (September 24) to make any additions or comments. A vote would then be taken on the final draft of the statement at the November Annual Meeting of the congregation.

Attached for your reading is the initial draft of the statement, subject to change at this stage, by Council and/or congregation.

Open and Affirming Statement

Jesus teaches us to welcome all God's children into God's covenantal community. All people are created in God's image and, thus, are loved by God. Love is the unifying and strengthening force within the Christian faith. We recognize that within this church we possess different perspectives and opinions. We celebrate that diversity and seek to honor it.

We, the members of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hereby declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Christian community within the United Church of Christ, actively expressing Jesus' inclusive embrace of all people.

We welcome those who seek to follow Jesus including persons of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, and educational background to share in the life, leadership, employment, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, rites, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family. As we grow together in faith and love, we will strive to celebrate the diversity in which God has created us.

If God Knows Our Prayers Already...

"In praying, do not heap up empty phrases... for God knows what you need before you ask." - Matthew 6:7-8

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that God knows our prayers before we utter them. That assertion invites an obvious question: If God knows our prayers already, why do we have to offer prayers? If God knows our prayers before we even articulate them, can't we just save our breath?

That approach might work if we thought of prayers as conveying information. But prayer is so much more than that. Prayer is the language of relationship.

Vermonters, who are known for being people of few words, tell the story of a couple who had been married for several decades. One morning over breakfast, the wife says, "I've noticed that you never tell me that you love me anymore." The husband replies, "Well, I told you I love you the day we got married. If anything changes, I'll let you know."

Even a taciturn Vermonter would recognize the inadequacy of that response. Words of love are never redundant, never unnecessary, and neither are words of prayer. Such words are not meant to convey new

information. Rather, they are the language of relationship. Words of love and words of prayer not only reflect relationship, they also help create the tender ties of relationship.

So pray the prayers that God knows already. God doesn't need to be informed, but God does desire to be in relationship with you.

Prayer

God, you know my prayers—including this one—before I offer them, but I want to be in ongoing conversation with you about all that resides in my heart and mind, so that I might be drawn closer to you.

Martin B. Copenhaver, Source: ucc.gov

The Quiet Hour

Speak, Lord, in the stillness, while I wait on Thee; hushed my heart to listen, in expectancy. Speak, O blessed Master, in this quiet hour, let me see Thy face, Lord, feel Thy touch of power.

For the words Thou speakest, "They are life" indeed; living Bread from heaven, Now my spirit feed! All to Thee is yielded, I am not my own; blissful, glad surrender, I am Thine alone.

Fill me with the knowledge, of Thy glorious will; all Thine own good pleasure, in my life fulfill. Like a watered garden, full of fragrance rare, ling'ring in Thy presence, let my life appear.

—Emily M. Crawford

Source: NewsletterNewsletter.com

REMINDER BOARD



Start off the school year right by making this wipe-off board, which can help you remember important things.

What you need:

- Adult help
- 5" x 7" picture frame with glass (available at a dollar store)
- Lined notebook paper
- Scissors
- Low-heat glue gun
- Buttons, ribbon, stickers or foam shapes
- 1" piece of Velcro
- Erasable marker

What you do:

1. Using the cardboard insert or picture from the frame as a pattern, cut the notebook paper to fit the frame. Then insert it behind the glass.
2. Decorate the outside of the frame by gluing on buttons, ribbon, stickers or foam shapes.
3. Glue one side of the Velcro to the erasable pen and one side to the frame. Then attach the pen to the frame.
4. Place the board on your desk, dresser or kitchen counter. On the glass, write daily reminders about assignments and activities.

Think about these things...

With so many things to remember each day, the apostle Paul provides guidelines in Philippians 4:8 (NIV) for what should fill our minds.

Directions: Match each word in column 1 to the word in column 2 that means the same thing. Then use the words from column 2 to fill in the boxes below.

COLUMN 1	COLUMN 2
correct	excellent
commendable	lovely
extremely good	noble
having high moral principles	admirable
deserving respect	pure
pleasant	praiseworthy
real	true
wholesome	right

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things." Philippians 4:8, NIV



Birthdays this Month

3 Rob Fry
3 Brian Booher
6 Benjamin Blaney
12 Tracey McCarthy
13 Jacquelyn Johnson
15 Mimi Dickson
18 Sue McKay
20 Olivia Stanley
22 Wanda Young
23 Anna Naggert
24 Kendra Bonsey
24 Hannah Boyce
24 Geneva Langley
25 Debby Hammond
28 Kathy MacCulloch



We missed you! Thanks for your service, and we are glad you are back.

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon - Kathy MacCulloch
Assistant Deacon - Jane Sanderson

The Deacons Need Your Help!

Liturgists are needed! Please sign up and share the joy!

Flowers -

7: Amanda Beals
14: Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Soule
21: Mrs. Richard D. Young
Charlie and Michele Croan
28: Robert Malaney

Coffee Hosts -

7: Cas Dowden
14: Caroline McMinimy
21: Apple Festival
28: Wendy Fehlauer

Lectionary -

7 Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

14 Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

21 Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philemon 1:21-30

28 Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4
Philemon 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
	1	2	3 <i>B.H. Chamber of Commerce Event rain location 5:00 PM</i>	4	5	6
7 Worship Service 10:00 AM	8 Called to Care 7:00 PM	9 Outreach Board 7:00	10	11	12 Kevin Morse's Guitar Recital 7:00 PM	13
14 Worship Service 10:00 AM	15 Music Committee 6:00 PM	16 Community Supper 5-6:30 PM	17 Deacons 7:00 PM	18	19	20
21 Worship Service 10:00 AM <i>Apple Festival</i>	22	23	24 <i>B.H. Chamber of Commerce Event rain location 5:00 PM</i> Church Council 7:00 PM	25	26	27
28 Worship Service 10:00 AM	29	30				

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Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 1, 2014*
- National Grandparents Day, *Sept. 2014*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2014*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15–October 15, 2014*
- First Day of Autumn, *September 23, 2014*

Labor Day reflections

Labor Day brings to mind picnics, cookouts and family gatherings. Falling on the first Monday in September, it marks the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. But the holiday was created in 1882 to honor the social and economic contributions of American workers.

In a strong economy, it's easy to take for granted the ability to work and be paid well. But times have changed during the past few years, with many people still struggling with unemployment and underemployment.

During our holiday celebrations this year, let's give thanks for the jobs we have, pray for those who aren't as fortunate and offer words of encouragement or help to someone who needs it.

Patriot's Day

On December 18, 2001, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day." It's a day to remember the more than 3,000 innocent lives lost on that September morning in 2001.

The resolution requests that each year the President issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities. Those activities include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence, and flying the American flag at half-staff.

In his 2003 proclamation President Bush said, "On that day, and in its aftermath, we saw the greatness of America in the bravery of victims; in the heroism of first responders who laid down their lives to save others; in the compassion of people who stepped forward to help those they had never met; and in the generosity of millions of Americans who enriched our country with acts of service and kindness."

Keep them all in your prayers this Patriot Day.

Articles this page: NewsletterNewsletter.com