



THE CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
29 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609
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November 2014

FROM THE PSTT:

Today, October 16, our church is again without a pastor. But this time it's just for two weeks, until October 28, when Rob Benson will begin his first day in the office.

When we were formed, the Pastoral Search and Transition Team's responsibility was to fill the pulpit and provide pastoral services until we hired an interim pastor. It was a stressful time for us as we began to realize how many little and largely invisible tasks a pastor completes each week. Emergencies happen and they are magnified when there is no pastor handling the calls.

What did we learn from the experience of keeping the church going without a pastor? We learned how many talented, creative, generous, people we have in our congregation. If you need something done, someone in our church can do it. Services were conducted, Coffee Hour was provided, visitations continued, meetings were held, decisions were made. All the above happened because **you** contributed, and the PSTT thanks you (you know who you are) for all the help and cooperation you gave us.

Though we often fail to do this, we learned that we need to listen to each other and try to understand each other's views even when we don't agree, especially when we don't agree.

We learned that we need to work together to restore the Church Council, to make it the place where we, all of us, bring our ideas and concerns for the present and our dreams for the future.

Most of all, we learned that every single one of us is important in the life of our church and in the eyes of God. Members we haven't seen in the pews for a while are greatly missed. We encourage everyone to invite friends and family members to join us on All Saints Day, November 2, when Rob Benson will begin what we pray will be a long and fruitful time as the pastor of Bar Harbor Congregational Church, UCC.

Now that we know how much energy it takes to keep a church running, think what can be accomplished if we all pitch in and support our new pastor.

If we share the heavy load, do the little tasks and free him up for the vital ones, we can have a real impact on our church, on Bar Harbor and on our favorite island.

Peace and Love, The Pastoral Search and Transition Team: Donna, Cindy, Kathy W., Betty, Debby, Scott, Mike, Estelle, Chris, Lindsay, Doug and Mimi



I hope you've been in church recently and have heard members of our congregation communicate what our church means to them.

We asked people of different ages, backgrounds, experience, and financial ability, to talk about what our church means to them and how they approach stewardship...to make their story part of our story.

God has been generous with our church. As a congregation, we had faith that God would choose the right minister for our church, and our many prayers were answered. Rev. Rob Benson has brought his talents to the Bar Harbor Congregational Church as our new minister.

Our response to the gifts that God has given each of us is to honor Him by sharing a portion of those gifts. We are now in the middle of our stewardship campaign, and you will be receiving a letter soon with your pledge card. Please take time to prayerfully consider your response and return it in the envelope provided, or drop it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office.

After serving, I believe I can speak for all of the members of the Pastoral Search Team in saying that we are very excited about the future of this church and we hope you will support God's ministry at Bar Harbor Congregational Church generously.

***Blessed to be a Blessing.** "...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Gen12:3b)*

Scott Hammond, on behalf of the 2014 Stewardship Committee

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

All Saints' Sunday, November 2nd, is a day in the church when we remember those who have passed away. If you have had a family member or friend who has died since Memorial Day of 2013, he/she will be honored in that service. Please contact the office with the names of anyone you want remembered on All Saints' Day.



News from your Outreach Board:

- What are some of *your* family's Thanksgiving traditions? Stuffing *in the bird or out?* Whole berry cranberry sauce or jellied? How many people will be around *your* Thanksgiving table this year? **One of our church's favorite Turkey Day traditions is the preparation of Thanksgiving Baskets** for those in need across MDI. Please join us! You can donate canned goods; help to sort food after church on Sunday, November 23; and help to put together more than 200 baskets on Monday, November 24. Monday is a school vacation day so it's a great way to share this important tradition with your kids. We are counting on you as we continue this wonderful holiday tradition! **Sign up in the Parlor.**
- **Once again, the Maine Sea Coast Mission's Christmas program** needs our help. Thousands of gifts are given

each year to ensure a special Christmas for hundreds of folks Downeast and on the outer islands. How can you help? Be on the lookout for the Christmas tree in the church narthex; it will have tags with ideas for gifts to restock the MSCM's shelves. Choose one or more tags; purchase the item(s), bring the **UNWRAPPED** gifts back to church, and place them under the tree. We will also announce the days/times that you can volunteer at the MSCM by choosing appropriate gifts from Christmas lists. It's great fun and a tradition that many look forward to every year. Thanks for being a part of this important outreach of the Maine Sea Coast Mission.

- Starting immediately on Wednesdays, we will once again have the opportunity to **volunteer weekly at the Maine Sea Coast Mission** to "shop" through many rooms of donated Christmas gifts. Later in December, it's time to wrap! Come once, twice, or weekly. Our church has participated generously for years and, for many of us, Christmas just doesn't seem complete until we participate in this special outreach. Join us and start a new Christmas tradition!

Kathe Simons

"God loves a cheerful giver."

"God loves a cheerful giver," says the Apostle Paul. But is there any other kind? In my experience givers are cheerful. I have never known any truly giving person who has not been a person of cheer. Joy is one of the indelible characteristics of the giving person.

I am not referring to the kind of reluctant, sharp-penciled, let-me-figure-out-what-my-share-is kind of giver. Rather, I am thinking of the open-handed, open-hearted givers. They not only spread cheer and share joy, they obviously know cheer and experience joy.

We might wonder which comes first: Do these people know cheer and joy because they are givers, or are they givers because they are people of cheer and joy? The question seems strangely moot, however, for in the lives of such people the two are inextricably intertwined. Joy and giving flow from one another in a sure and blessed way. Think of it as the endless echo of grace.

Among the reasons why givers are cheerful is that, in giving to others, we are acting in accordance with God's intentions for our lives. After all, we are created to be givers, meant to be givers. So when we close in on ourselves in self-concern, we are departing from what God intends for us, and there is no joy in that.

So Paul enjoins us to give, to borrow the words of Jesus, "so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

Prayer

God, help me to take my part in the echo of grace, where giving and joy flow from one another. Amen.

Martin B. Copenhaver
UCC.org

The Christmas Fair is Wednesday, December 10, from 10 am to 2 pm

Mark your calendars now so you won't miss out on the fun!

You can: Join any of the after church meetings that you will see announced in our Weekly Messenger email and church bulletins (November 2, 16, and 30)

Today, check your recipes for baked items and candy you can make for the sale tables, and begin identifying and preparing your Attic Treasures for "December travel" to the church.

November 9 after Annual Meeting, pick up packages of raffle tickets to sell. Return the money and filled-in tickets by December 4 to Deb Wade, Estelle Megquier or the church office.

December 7th. After worship, stay to put up tables and chairs in the parlor and downstairs fellowship hall. Bring any stored Attic Treasures up in the elevator to the parlor. Last year's crew did the tables and chairs in 20 minutes flat!

December 7, Tie the Fair banners to the church fence corners on Firefly Lane and Mt. Desert St.

December 8 and 9, Food items can be dropped off in the downstairs church hall when convenient. The kitchen and pie room will be open by 7:30 am on Fair day, December 10.

December 8 and/or 9, help sort and price the attic treasures with an experienced crew. It's fun! Times will be announced at service or in bulletins.

December 9, an hour or two to set up the dining room service. Time TBA in church bulletin and Weekly Messenger.

On Fair Day, December 10th, fill one or more of these time slots:

Place one of our advertising sandwich boards at key road junctions on MDI (Head of the Island, RA corner island, West Street/Rte. 3 island). Prepare and place our plastic lettered sign in front of the church early!

9 to 10:30	Help cut pies
10:30 to 11:45	Deliver take-out orders by car in downtown area
10:45 to 1:30	Be in the dining room welcoming our guests, setting tables, and pouring beverages
11:30 to 1	Give sales fair volunteers breaks so they can get lunch
2:30 to 4:30	Wipe and take down tables, sweep. Put parlor, kitchen, and hall back together for next Sunday!
2:30	Deliver any leftover sandwiches to our first responders at the Fire and Police Depts.
3:30	Recycle small boxes of leftover items to Serendipity, Library, Goodwill, etc.
4:00	Move any borrowed tables back to Jesup Library

These and many other ways of helping out are all part of what makes our Christmas Fair so enjoyable. Please join in the fun. This is the primary annual activity and fundraiser sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of our church. We welcome our community in for luncheon and the fellowship of an old fashioned fair, and offer rides to those who need them. All proceeds go to support Bar Harbor Congregational Church and its work in our world.

Deb Wade

Thankful TREE

Make this Thanksgiving decoration and keepsake as a reminder of God's many blessings.

What you need:

- Acrylic paints
- Paint brush
- White cardstock (8" x 11")
- Baby wipes or wet paper towels
- 8" x 11" frame (available at dollar stores)
- Black permanent marker
- Bowls or paper plates



What you do:

1. Paint your palm, fingers, wrist and a portion of your arm with brown paint.
2. With the white cardstock placed vertically, press down your painted hand and arm. The print should resemble a tree trunk and branches.
3. Clean your hand and arm with baby wipes or wet paper towels.
4. Dip your fingertips into different-colored paints and press them onto the paper to make leaves. (It's autumn, so leaves can be falling!)
5. When paint is dry, write "thankful" down the trunk with permanent marker. Also write your name and the year in the corner.
6. Frame and display your decoration.

PUZZLE

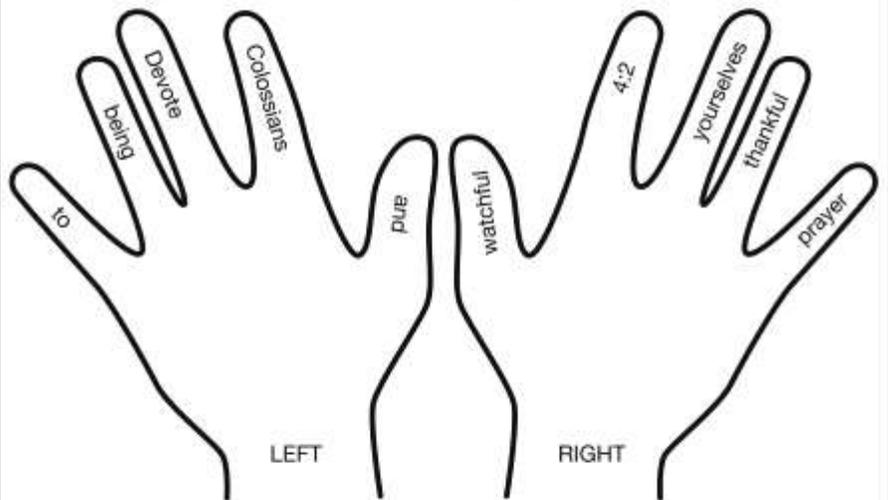
Praying hands



One way to show our thankfulness is to bow our heads, fold our hands and pray to God.



Directions: Complete Colossians 4:2 (NIV) by selecting one word on the left hand, then one on the right and so on. Go back and forth, using the word blanks as a guide.



W

: NIV

Answer: Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2, NIV



Birthdays this Month

3 Tabitha Booher
5 Matthew Lambert
5 Susan Lynn Ackerman
5 Stephen Moulton
7 Cindy Fox
8 Carolyn Meader
10 Robert Cooper
12 Richard Fox
14 Owen Charles Kelly
20 Jeremy Bryer
21 Eric Beals
21 Stephanie Kelley-Reece
22 Caroline Woodworth
25 Binky MacQuinn
27 Pat Linscott
27 Owen Craighead
29 Sarra Kane
30 Betty Bryer



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Jane Sanderson
Assistant Deacon – Amy Riddell

**The Deacons Need Your Help!
Liturgists are needed!**

Please sign up and share the joy!

Coffee Hour Hosts –

2 Sundaes on Sunday
9
16 Cranberry Festival
23 Jan Varnum
30

Flowers –

2
9
16
23
30

Lectionary -

2 Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

9 Joshua 24:1-3a
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

16 Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

23 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

30 Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
2 <i>All Saints' Sunday</i> Worship Service and Sunday School Fair planning meeting. 11:30	3	4	5	6	7	1/8
9 Worship Service and Sunday School <i>Annual Meeting</i>	10 Called to Care 7:00 pm	11 <i>Veterans' Day</i> Outreach 6:30 pm	12	13	14	15
16 Worship Service and Sunday School <i>Cranberry Festival</i> <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> Fair planning meeting. 11:30	17 Music Committee 6:00 pm	18	19 <i>Chimes articles due</i>	20	21	22
23 Worship Service and Sunday School <i>Thanksgiving Basket Food Sorting</i>	24 <i>Thanks- giving Baskets</i>	25 <i>Thanks- giving Baskets</i>	26 <i>Thanks- giving Baskets</i>	27 <i>Thanks- giving</i>	28	29 Hanging of the Greens 5:00-7:00
30 Worship Service and Sunday School Fair planning meeting. 11:30						

Bar Harbor Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Bar Harbor, ME 04609

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Special dates

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2014*
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, *November 2, 2014*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2014*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 23, 2014*
- Thanksgiving, *November 27, 2014*
- First Sunday of Advent, *November 30, 2014*

My Thankful Heart

Making the stuffing for Thanksgiving dinner helps restore my heart to gratefulness. First I cut bread into cubes to dry out. Has it really been a year since I thanked God for the simple things of life? Dear God, thank you for my daily bread. Next I boil giblets for the tasty broth. When did I last express thanks for my body — even the oft-forgotten parts? Thank you, God, for creating and sustaining me.

Then I dice onions and celery, adding them to the mixture. That reminds me to thank God for abundant harvests. Finally I measure raisins, nuts, sage and salt into the stuffing, as scents fill the air. Lord, help me not grow weary of the interesting "spices" that fill my life.

As the stuffing goes into the oven, warm air wafting into the kitchen, I remember to thank God for providing my home. Here relatives and friends gather, often an odd combination. Yet when we bow our heads in thankfulness, we're an unbeatable mix.

—MaryAnn Sundby

Honor Our Veterans

Veterans Day, which is November 11 each year, is a holiday to honor America's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our nation's common good.

Christians follow the Prince of Peace, so war is a dilemma that often challenges people of faith. Some Christians are pacifists, while others believe in a "just war." Many believe that the goals of freedom, justice, equality and democracy are worth the cost required.

Whatever individual Christians decide about any given conflict, most Christians believe that men and women who strive to make this world free of tyrants are to be respected. As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Thank you to all the men and women who served or are now serving our country.

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