



THE CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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January 2015

FROM THE PASTOR:

A merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to you all! We begin 2015 encouraged by the joyous arrival of Christ, who has come to rekindle our hopes, restore our peace, infuse our joy and inspire our love. I pray each of you has felt God's presence stir in your hearts and your lives this Christmas. And I am profoundly grateful for your tremendous energy, offering generous gifts of your time, enthusiasm, and prayers during this busy season.

Our is a vibrant family of faith grounded in worship and eager to share God's message of peace and good will, through our popular service projects and community events. Just think about these last few weeks, starting with the Thanksgiving Baskets, quickly turning to the Greening of the Church and the Living Nativity, then on to the Christmas Fair, caroling, and of course our Christmas Eve services ... Whew! What a whirlwind. What overflowing joy. By God's grace we have this treasure, this cornucopia of gifts – talent, expertise, energy, and joy to share. It brightens our fellowship and reaches beyond the circles of our congregation. It is a wonderful and encouraging starting point as we continue to seek God's leading us in new paths of service in our community.

As we begin our first calendar year together, I have a few themes I'd like for us to bear in our minds, hearts, and prayers. The first is relationship. As we cherish the company of friends we've known for awhile, it can be hard sometimes to get to know new

people. During our time together - in worship, at coffee hour, in our board and committee meetings, and at our special events - rekindle old friendships and also make time to meet new people, share stories, work alongside one another ... Part of God's intention is for us to constantly flex our `ministry of hospitality' muscles; by God's grace, we have this treasure to share, too.

The second theme is simplicity. Our congregational life is complex; we have significant resources and engaging programs. It's important to keep in perspective the work directed to the church, to free us to pursue God's call of service to our neighbors.

The last theme is nurture. This year I'd like to place a special emphasis on strengthening the vitality of our ministries with children and youth, long a hallmark of our church. I'd also like to explore together the needs and interests of others across our wide spectrum of ages - including college students and young adults, those in their middle years, and our elders. We have this treasure, too, and so many of our neighbors of all ages who are looking for a place of warmth and grace are eager to share in it.

I cherish the joys of Christmas and the delight of coming to know you all, of working beside you in this incarnation of Christ's kingdom. And I look forward to the many ways that God's light will shine in us and through us this coming year.

Blessings & peace,
Rob

From the Outreach Board

Thanks to all who contributed to the Maine Seacoast Mission's Christmas project this year. Not only did we have church members and friends volunteer regularly at the MSCM but we also had a number of wonderful gifts purchased and returned under our Narthex Christmas tree!

This is the first year (in many) that we've provided special offering envelopes for the **Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and their Emergency Fund. Thanks very much** to those who contributed.

Please help us to thank **Paula Moody** and **Melissa Mills** as they leave the Outreach Board after making huge contributions to our outreach activities. God bless you both! We are pleased to welcome Ruth Rossi Blaney to the Outreach Board this month. Welcome aboard, Ruth!

SOUP'S ON with special musical entertainment! We're going to jazz things up a bit. Put Tuesday, January 20th (5:00-6:30PM) on your calendar for our first 2015 Community Supper in the church dining room. Delicious soup, delectable salad, and crusty bread will be served with a mystery dessert. Join us and bring a friend or two! Watch for announcements with more details during church in early January.

We had a particularly exciting board meeting in December. We are pumped up about a **special outreach partnership that we'll be initiating in 2015.** Stay tuned! There will be MANY ways to be involved.

Annual Living Nativity

The **41st Annual Living Nativity** had a successful two nights again this year. The weather was great and the full moon, especially on Wednesday night, enhanced the scene. Many thanks goes to Brenda for spreading the word to the news media; to Dave for helping me with the lights and photographing the crew; to Jane and Marie for ironing the costumes; to Deb and Cas and their helpers in giving nourishment to the gang, and let's not forget Les's cocoa! Rob did a splendid job in handling the chimes for the first time! Last, but not least,

the Nativity characters were splendid as always. Enough so, it brought tears to my eyes! I was pleased to have some newcomers added to the cast. Thank you one and all. I am looking forward to my 17th year already. Norma Spurling

Open and Affirming Statement

On December 7, at the continuation of our church's annual meeting and with a quorum of 52 covenant members, we affirmed the nominating and budget reports for 2015 previously voted on, and then opened up discussion and subsequently voted to approve the following 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 interpretations of Scripture; 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, let us strive to celebrate the diversity in which God has created us.

We look to God's leading as we discern together how to live this statement in the life of our congregation.

The First and Second of Two Wonderful Teams Portraying Christ's Birth.



Thanks to David Lind for Excellent Photos

Children's Pageant and 2014 Christmas Fair



Thanks again to David Lind for Photos



January Birthdays

1 Bob Breen
1 Mac Shea
3 Barbara Hepburn
5 Jeff McCarthy
9 Ryan Kelly
10 Barbara Steele
10 Annie Painter
11 Dorothy Ames Robins
12 Michele Gurtler
12 Emily McCarthy
12 Olivia McCarthy
12 Noah Lambert
18 Andy Shea
20 Doug McMinimy
21 Karen McFarland
23 Gordon Valteau
23 Drew Shea
24 Cecil Sprague
29 Robert Malaney
29 Timothy Beals
29 Kathe Simons
30 Judith Burns
30 Graydon Webster
31 Abbie Reed Nickels



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – John Kelly

Assistant Deacon –

Liturgists –

4 Rod Fox

11 Heather Kelly

18 Scott Hammond

25 Ann Lee

Coffee Hour Hosts –

4 Birthday Cake Coffee Hour

11 Cass Ole

18

25

Flowers –

4 Esther Testa

11 Ben and Ruth Rossi Blaney

18 Lois Wade

25 Binky MacQuinn

Lectionary -

4 Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18

11 Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

18 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

25 Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

"ONE" PAINTING

Ephesians 4:4-6 talks a lot about *one*. Create one painting that says it all.



What you need:

- Foam letters or letter stickers
- White painting canvas
- Acrylic paints
- Paintbrush or sponge
- Water

What you do:

1. Place letters on the canvas to spell out the "ones" in Ephesians 4:4-6 (one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God).
2. Paint over the letters, using various colors.
3. When the paint is dry, peel off the letters to reveal words that explain important Bible truths.
4. If desired, finish by painting some number 1's in any blank spots.



One Baptism

The "one" theme of Ephesians 4:4-6 assures us that we need to be baptized only once. Yet a relationship with God involves approaching him with a humble heart each day.

Directions: Inside the 1, fill in words using the spaces as a guide. Then unscramble the circled and boxed letters to reveal John's message about baptism in Mark 1:4.

hope		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
Spirit		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
body		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
baptism		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
Lord		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
Father		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>
God		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>

Answers: body; Spirit; hope; Lord; baptism; God; Father; repentance; forgiveness

JANUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
				1	2	3
4 Worship Service 10 AM	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9	10
11 Worship Service 10 AM Church Leadership Pot- Luck Summit (after worship)	12 Called to Care 7:00 PM	13 Outreach Board 6:30 PM	14	15 Trustees 5:30 PM	16	17
18 Worship Service 10 AM Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 Community Supper 5:00 PM	21	22	23	24
25 Worship Service 10 AM	26	27	28	29	30	31

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Special Dates:

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2015*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2015*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 11, 2015*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2015*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance, *January 19, 2015*

For everything a season

Wanting his sons to learn not to judge too quickly, a man sent each, in turn, on a quest to look at a pear tree far away and report what he saw. The first son went in winter, the second in spring, the third in summer and the fourth in fall. Finally, the father gathered the young men together. "What did you see?" he asked.

The first son reported seeing an ugly tree, bent and lifeless. The second disagreed, saying it was budding with fresh new life. The third son reported finding a tree laden with sweet-smelling, beautiful blossoms, while the fourth insisted it drooped with ripe fruit.

The father said his sons were all correct, for they'd seen the same tree, though at different seasons of its life. "Don't judge a tree — or a person — based on just one season of life," he counseled his children. "Who they are can only be known at the end, when all life's seasons have been lived.

"Furthermore," he added, "don't give up on your own life if you experience a hard season, such as winter, or you'll miss out on the renewal of spring, the joy of summer, the fulfillment of autumn."

Count your blessings!

If you reduced the world's population down to 100 people, 57 (or 57 percent) would be Asians, 21 would be Europeans, 14 would be from the Western Hemisphere and eight from Africa.

Among those 100 people would be 52 females and 48 males. Seventy people would be nonwhite; 30 would be white. Seventy would be non-Christian; 30 would be Christian. Six people would possess 59 percent of the world's wealth, and those six would all be Americans.

Eighty people would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read and 50 would suffer malnutrition. Only one person would be college-educated, and only one person would have a computer.

If you have food to eat, clothes to wear and a place to sleep tonight, you are richer than 70 percent of the world's people. Furthermore, if you're alive at this time next week, you won't be among the one million people who died during that time.

Think about your blessings as you start a new year in this most favored and wonderful nation.

If you can, please help those less fortunate.