



THE CHIMES

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

FROM THE PASTOR:

May the warmth of the Spirit greet you all this blustery winter! Today: a reprieve from the icy blast, a few days' welcome sunshine - and it's almost February. So far, so good ... "Livin' the dream," as they say.

Just this week, dozens from MDI's churches gathered at the Sea Coast Mission to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. in an ecumenical community worship service. There, the Spirit of the Lord knit together a diverse fellowship, challenging us to live God's dream of healing, transforming love in a world that all too often perceives difference as division. We sung, and prayed, and heard again words that refreshed the dream of God's shalom and kept alive our faith in King's vision of Beloved Community.

Tonight is my first Community Supper with BHUCC, and the alluring soup aroma is wafting upstairs into the church office, while the anticipation of music, community, and fellowship excite me even more. It's wintertime in Bar Harbor, and coming together for a meal - and extending this welcome to our neighbors - is a great way to share and live the message of God's love. We gather together to seek direction and courage for our engagement with a hungry world.

Elizabeth O'Connor, a writer and facilitator rooted in the Church of the Saviour, wrote: "When the church starts to be the church, it will constantly be adventuring out into places where there are no tried and tested ways wherever that church is true to its mission it will be experimenting, pioneering, blazing new paths, seeking how to speak the reconciling Word of God to its own age." She encourages us - even challenges us, beyond the myriad good we already do - to become God's incarnate, prodigal love; having risked, together, the inward tasks of discernment and vision, we receive the Spirit's freedom to go outward, with the hand of God, and to live God's dream of healing, transforming love in our world. It's a dynamic journey: an inward one, of discernment and vision, and an outward one, of faith-in-action, of incarnate courage and love.

So much of this we do well already; and... God gifts us with an often-impatient vision of the yet unrealized shalom for which we and so many others still yearn. So let me invite you: write *your* vision on our new "what if we ..." board in the church parlor - what (specifically) might God be calling us to do to live out God's dream of incarnate love?

In faith, hope, and love, blessing and peace.

Rob



From the Treasurer:

If it is coming from me you know it won't be very exciting, and it will be about money, but it is very important for you all to be informed about where your hard earned donations are going and how we are carefully watching over the money. Paul and I have just reviewed the books for last year and again we ended the year in the black. For those of you who aren't financial people, that means we spent less than we made! Very good news indeed.

At the risk of repeating myself, we are fortunate in that we receive substantial sums given by folks in the past. For example, we receive money from the Mears Trust every year (along with other organizations in town). This year we received more than previous years, over \$31,000. We also take funds from our endowment each year, this was another \$30,000.

Our budget for last year was \$210,000 so you can see that approximately 30% was covered from past donations. We started the year budgeting a loss, but because we only spent \$188,000, we ended the year with about a \$36,000 surplus. See being Treasurer isn't so hard! On top of the recurring income I mentioned above, we received \$65,000 in pledges, \$87,000 in loose offering and \$9,000 in rent on the parsonage (plus some other small items). The church thanks you for your support.

The only qualification is that the Trustees would like to see more of this income in the form of pledges rather than loose offering as it indicates more of a commitment to your church. I hope many of you will consider pledging this year (again) if you haven't the last couple of years. A pledge is just that, a pledge, a faithful commitment between you

and God to this church. It is not a bill and can be changed at any time.

Lastly, due to our surplus, the Trustees voted to transfer \$30,000 from our checking account to our endowment to continue to pay down the loan we took from ourselves to complete our renovations. This will knock off another 30% of the outstanding "loan". I am happy to answer any questions. Just be warned though, I may put the answer in a future issue of the Chimes.

In Christ's name, Scott Hammond, Treasurer



From your Outreach Board:

We are thrilled to announce our newest OB member, Dr. Charlie Hendricks. Charlie brings his vast experience in the area of medical missions. **Welcome, Charlie!** Who else is on your OB? Ruth Blaney, Nancy Howland, Nancy Fox, Karen McFarland, and Kathe Simons.

How wonderful that our church family collected more than \$700 for the **Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross and their Emergency Fund!** Thank you.

The energy and enthusiasm on our Outreach Board is palpable. At our January meeting, we chose our **theme for the year**. Choosing a theme gives us purpose and a number of ways to reach out. **What's our theme?** You can find out during worship on **Sunday, Feb 8th** when we'll announce our theme and present a generous contribution to representatives of an exciting local project. Be there to catch the excitement!

On January 18th, we had a chance to learn about an important effort to construct "interior

storm” windows for community neighbors. A number of volunteers signed up to help. Thanks! Please speak to Pastor Rob or any member of your OB for more details.

Community Supper Update: In early February, our OB will meet with the neighboring missions board from St. Saviour's. We look forward to collaborating and to fine-tuning our community supper schedule. **Note:** BHCC-UCC will **NOT** be hosting a community supper in February. However, do **mark March 10th on your calendar for the annual March on Mt. Desert Street.** This community progressive dinner gives us an opportunity to provide a meal course (stay tuned – we'll need your help) to more than 100 folks as they stroll down Mt. Desert St. We won't need our winter jackets by then, will we?

Kathe Simons

Nothing Special

Written by **Emily Heath**

"All who make idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit; their witnesses neither see nor know . . . Who would fashion a god or cast an image that can do no good? Look, all its devotees shall be put to shame; the artisans too are merely human." - Isaiah 44:9-11

All who make idols are nothing. That's pretty harsh, Isaiah.

In our world of endless assurances that we are all special and worthy and amazing, these texts make us uncomfortable. Shouldn't Isaiah have said something like "Idolmakers, you're really not doing the right thing here, but you are still special"?

Perhaps. But then again, maybe Isaiah is trying to remind us of a truth we are quick

to ignore: that our worth comes not from what we are or the work we do, but instead from whose we are. We live in a world of idolatry. We draw our worth from what we do, what we own, and how much we have in our bank accounts. But at the end of the day, none of that really matters.

When I was a hospice chaplain I saw a lot of people die with regrets. As it turned out, all the overtime, all the expensive cars in the garage, all the graduate degrees, and all the vacation homes in the world couldn't save them. We are all heading to the same destination and, as the saying goes, you can't take it with you. Our idols don't go with us to life after this.

But what does? The only thing I can say for certain is God will be there with us.

On the last days of our life, not matter what else we have done, we are returning to the one who gives us our true worth. On that day the distractions and false idols of the world with fade away, and we will cling to the one who created us "just a little lower than the angels".

And in the end we might find out that we truly are something incredible after all.

Prayer

God, I am nothing without you. But with you, I am worth more than all the idols in the world. Amen.

About the Author

Emily C. Heath is Senior Pastor of The Congregational Church in Exeter, New Hampshire.

Source: UCC.org

LENT ON THE SAME PAGE, 2015

February

18 Matt. 1-2	12 Luke 1-2
19 Matt. 3-4	13 Luke 3-4
20 Matt. 5-6	14 Luke 5-6
21 Matt. 7-8	15 Luke 7-8
22 Matt. 9-10	16 Luke 9-10
23 Matt. 11-12	17 Luke 11-12
24 Matt. 13-14	18 Luke 13-14
25 Matt. 15-16	19 Luke 15-16
26 Matt. 17-18	20 Luke 17-18
27 Matt. 19-20	21 Luke 19-20
28 Matt. 21-22	22 Luke 21-22
	23 Luke 23-24

March

1 Matt. 23-24	24 John 1-2
2 Matt. 25-26	25 John 3-4
3 Matt. 27-28	26 John 5-6
4 Mark 1-2	27 John 7-8
5 Mark 3-4	28 John 9-10
6 Mark 5-6	29 John 11-12
7 Mark 7-8	30 John 13-14
8 Mark 9-10	31 John 15-16

APRIL

9 Mark 11-12	1 John 17-18
10 Mark 13-14	2 John 19-20
11 Mark 15-16	Maundy Thursday
	3 John 21
	Good Friday
	April 5
	Easter Sunday



From the Deacon's Bench

This is the third year that the Deacons have invited everyone to read the Gospels during Lent. Those of you who have joined us might have that "been there, done that" feeling.

How many times do we need to read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? And why during Lent?

When Mother Teresa was asked what the Sisters of Charity were doing to help the poor, she answered by quoting Jesus who was asked a version of the same question. Jesus, responded, "Come and see".

He, and later Mother Theresa, gave a friendly invitation to check things out, to become involved, and to learn by example.

It is in the Gospels where we learn the amazing story of what happened when the disciples accepted that invitation. Lent is a time to consider our journey, a time of self-examination, a time to think about what is important to God.

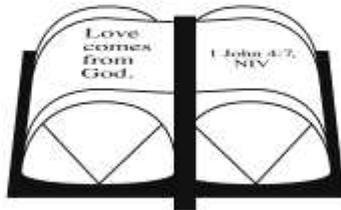
On Ash Wednesday (2/18/15), read two chapters and continue through Lent. On Good Friday we will finish with the last chapter of John. It will take about 15 minutes a day and you will have read four amazing accounts of what happened from Bethlehem to the Mount of Transfiguration.

Join us and see.

(Cut out schedule for a book mark)

GOD'S
SWEET WORD

Share this Bible treat — and God's love — with a special valentine.



- What you need:**
- Black card stock or construction paper (2" x 1.5")
 - Double-sided tape
 - 2 wrapped Hershey's Nuggets candy bars (silver or gold)
 - Pen or marker
 - White paper (2.75" x 1")
 - Thin sliver of red paper or ribbon
 - Scissors

- What you do:**
1. In the center of the black paper, tape down the candy bars side by side.
 2. On the white paper, write a short Bible verse about love. Then wrap it around the candy bars horizontally and tape it down.
 3. Place the red paper or ribbon between the two candy bars, and tape the top of this "bookmark" to the Bible.
 4. Give away this fun, sweet message of God's love!



Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.



“ _____
 _____ ?

 _____ ”
 _____ 6:8 _____

Answer: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV



February Birthdays

- 1 Beverly McNeal
- 2 Terry Savage
- 4 Norma Spurling
- 5 Sarah Skiff Dunbar
- 8 Maggie Painter
- 9 Yvonne Tabb
- 11 Roxie Brechlin
- 12 Clare Bingham
- 13 Lisa Skiff
- 13 Ben Reed
- 14 Pauline Wright
- 20 Heidi MacQuinn
- 21 Lenny DeMuro
- 22 Carolyn Miller
- 23 Heather Dority
- 23 Jacob Megquier
- 24 Jeremy MacQuinn
- 26 Aidan O'Connor
- 27 Kristin McKee



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon –
Assistant Deacon –

Liturgists –

- 1** Al Simons
- 8** Joan Carey
- 15** Mimi Dickson
- 22**

Coffee Hour Hosts –

- 1** 'Souper' Bowl Sunday
- 8**
- 15**
- 22**

Flowers –

- 1** Connie and Rob Shea
- 8** Ann and Doug Lee and Kathe and Al Simons
- 15**
- 22** Kristen Miller

Lectionary -

- 1** Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28
- 8** Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39
- 15** 2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9
- 22** Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15



FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
1 <i>Scout Sunday</i> Worship Service 10 AM	2	3 Flower Committee 10:00 am Ladies Winter Tea 6:00 pm	4	5	6 Kids/Game Night	7
8 Worship Service 10 AM	9	10	11 Outreach Board 6:30	12	13	14
15 Worship Service 10 AM	16	17 Pancake Community Supper	18 <i>Chimes articles due</i> Deacons (time TBA) Ash Wednesday Service 7:00	19	20	21
22 Worship Service 10 AM	23 Scouts 6:00 pm	24	25 Lenten Supper 6:00 pm	26	27 <i>Parents/ Kids night out at MDI Y</i>	28

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Special Dates:

- African-American History Month
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2015*
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *Feb. 15, 2015*
- Presidents Day, *February 16, 2015*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 18, 2015*
- First Sunday in Lent, *February 22, 2015*

Staying Fed

"How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm
119:103 NRSV)

Recently I was confronted with this
question: If you fed yourself with food the
way you feed yourself with God's Word,
would you still be alive? It gave me pause.

Do I eat *enough* spiritually? — feast
regularly enough on Scripture to keep up
my energy and the health of my soul? Do I
eat *nutritiously*? — take in a balanced
meal of law and gospel, comfort and
commandments, prophecy and promise?
Do I pass up spiritual *junk food*? — set
aside empty calories that lead to disease,
in order to hunger for what truly gives life?
Do I drink enough *Living Water* to avoid
faith dehydration? And once in a while, do
I *splurge on dessert*? — savor the
sweetness and joy of belonging at God's
table?

What abundance God sets before us. May
we never skip a "meal"!

—Heidi Mann

The waiting game

Life involves lots of waiting. We wait in
groups, in lines, in cars. We wait for
packages, for the bus, for the sun to rise.
We wait in doctors' offices, at the post
office, at the DMV. Waiting implies we're
at someone else's mercy, but it's also
usually linked to hope. Perhaps that's why
Paul Tillich called waiting a metaphor for
faith. Why would one wait if there weren't
the firm belief that the object of one's wait
will eventually materialize?

Waiting can be enervating, which is why
Isaiah 40:31 is so promising: "They who
wait upon the Lord shall renew their
strength." Yet waiting is tough if you have
nothing to do while waiting. That's why
Jesus, when talking about waiting, also
talked about working — work for the night
is coming. Sometimes it's less tiring to
work than it is to wait.

There's a lot of waiting during Lent. You're
waiting for a payoff. You're waiting for the
Resurrection. You're waiting for spiritual
growth. And then you realize this isn't
waiting at all. It's life. It's joy. It's
opportunity. It's blessing.

—Timothy Merrill

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