



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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FROM THE PASTOR:

March 2015

Had enough?

We've had quite the winter! There's beauty, to be sure, but there's also simply no more room: no room for more snow, and little room left for the burdens of winter living in a small community. There's just so much to tend to: from lost pets to gas fumes .. from rescuing neighbors out of ditches to rescuing dogs off of ice floes .. when the call for mercy comes, we're ready, willing, and ... tired.

Perhaps this winter we have gotten a taste of the sort of fragility that so much of the rest of the world copes with: the resources we need (warmth) don't match the resources we have (frozen water); the insistent flow of commerce can't keep ahead of the ravages of nature; the rafters of family and community life strain beneath overwhelming need. We are more intimate with endurance and strain, and where is God in all this?

In the midst of this overwhelming, burdensome winter; in light of our deeper connection with suffering around the world; in this time of Lent, and with our eager anticipation of spring, perhaps we can hear God's voice - the "still, small

voice" – whispering to us words of comfort and reassurance: "This too shall pass." The snowdrifts that impress will also dissipate - and when they do we may perceive the warming spirit of God's embrace. God is with us - in our limited patience and stretched capacities, and also with our neighbors a world away - though love, transforming pockets of suffering into interlocking neighborhoods of compassion.

Fortunately, God's mercy and love reach far and wide; God's grace shines throughout the world: not just thawing our thick winter shells but also bringing healing and restoration - in our lives, in our community, and far, far beyond. As our snow melts (we hope!) during Lent, and our winter burdens soften and become oft-repeated tales, let's remember to express our gratitude for God's faithfulness and God's hope-inducing presence, especially in those places we couldn't reach because we've been snowbound.

Blessings & peace,
Rob



From your Outreach Board:

Heart and Home is the new theme for our church's Outreach program this year. This choice broadly encompasses nearly all of our past and present outreach activities; it will also guide us to new outreach opportunities. Please consider joining in and sharing your ideas!

During worship on February 8th, we presented **Local Solutions** with a \$500 donation. **Local Solutions** is a project that will provide six apartments for local young adults with developmental delays. Extensive renovations will begin soon in the old St. Saviour's parish house. We are pleased to contribute to this vital project, and we look forward to helping our new neighbors in a more hands-on way in the future.

March on Mt. Desert St. – The annual Progressive Dinner is set for Tuesday March 10th. For more than ten years, we've been part of this terrific event. It begins at the Abbe Museum (5:15) with a short play performed by Connors-Emerson students. Then appetizers (5:30) at the YWCA, salad (6:00) at St. Saviour's, soup/bread (6:30) at the Jesup Library. **This year we are hosting dessert for more than 100 people starting at about 6:45 PM. Please sign up** to provide fruit,

cupcakes, brownies, or dessert bars (no pies or cakes, please). Details are available on the sign-up in the parlor. Please direct questions to Nancy Howland.

Join us for **volunteering and / or dinner** at **Common Good Café** (in Seawall) on **Saturday, March 21st**. A group of six adults and two kids can volunteer setting tables from 3:30 to 5:30. You can sign up to volunteer, or just come for the Family Winter Cabin Fever dinner that evening at the Common Good for a delicious dinner, wonderful live entertainment, and a chance for fellowship. Sign-ups are in the parlor. Please direct questions to Karen McFarland.

Hancock County Food Drive – Please look for Andy Baron's article in this issue of the Chimes.

The Weatherization / Window Insert program (in collaboration with COA) will get going in earnest next fall. The window inserts will be constructed in our church dining room! Stay tuned for details.

We are exploring a **"Backpack" program** with the Bar Harbor Food Pantry, Connors-Emerson School, and other area churches. A backpack of food would be provided to students in need (maintaining their privacy) to ensure that they have food over the weekend. This program is already in place in other parts of MDI. Stay tuned for details.

Thanks for your support of our church's Outreach activities!

Kathe Simons



"SOUP FOR YOU!"

FREE Wednesday Lenten suppers @6pm

Delicious fellowship and engaging conversation. You're welcome to come to one, or all, and bring a friend !

- February 25th - *Spirituality & Music* with Robin Ann Barron
- March 4th - *Addressing End-of-Life Concerns* with Rev. Rob Benson
- March 11th - *Nature as a Gateway to God* with Susan MacKenzie, spiritual director, retreat leader, and master naturalist
- March 18th - *Exploring Centering Prayer* with Wendy Johnston, experienced meditator and student of Thomas Keating and Cynthia Bourgeault
- March 25th - *Biblical Archaeology* with Andy Vaughn, Executive Director, American Schools of Oriental Research



Just for fun:

Upcoming Church Events

- Walk the Snow Labyrinth @ the church
- "Holy Ski" cross-country ski/ snowshoe/ winter frolic
- BHUCC Pinewood Derby races
- MDI Cribbage Tournament
- Craft Workshops: knitting, rug hooking, basket-making
- Ukranian Easter Egg decoration

-----CHIMES PRINT EDITION SUBSCRIPTION FORM-----

By this summer we hope to distribute the Chimes primarily by electronic means, but if you would like to continue to receive it in print form please fill out the following, cut off this section of the page, and mail it to the church office. You may also let Paul know your preference by dropping it off in person or by calling the church office at 207-288-3280.

I prefer to receive the **hard copy** of The Chimes in the mail.

Name: _____ Address: _____

(If you wish to receive The Chimes electronically and you are currently NOT receiving it that way, please call the church office and let Paul know your current e-mail address.)



Food Pantry Seeking Donations

Our church Outreach Board will make a \$250 donation to the Bar Harbor Food Pantry in March. This donation will help to feed the hungry of Hancock County.

In March all food donations brought to our church will be shared with the month-long Hancock County Food Drive. There will be a matching monetary donation given to the food drive for every item collected. This will be done by private sponsors. Therefore every donated item will have increased impact.

The Hancock County Food Drive splits all donations among food pantries in the county and Bar Harbor always gets a generous share. Please join in our community mission to help others. **Please make me make more than one trip with our food donations because of the large volume.**

Thanks to our church for the gift to the BHFP, and thanks to you for your food gifts to the Hancock County Food Drive.

Thank you, Andy Baron



Please contact the church office (288-3280) to order your Easter Flowers. We ask that everyone have his or her order in by March 22nd. There will be lilies or tulips.

The cost is \$15.00; payment can be given to the church office. Please make checks payable to Bar Harbor Congregational Church, UCC, with Easter Flowers in the memo portion.

Thank You!
The Flower Committee



MDI Church Expeditionary Teams

Sign up in the parlor to visit another church on MDI with fellow BHUCC folks. Bring back what you experience, especially how other churches present themselves (in print & electronic form, and in their orders of worship), and how churches greet visitors and integrate them into the congregation. See Pastor Rob with any questions.

PRAYER REMINDER



Use this fun family activity to remember to pray for other people.

What you need:

- White index cards (at least six)
- Markers or colored pencils (red, orange, yellow, green, blue and brown)
- M&M's candies



What you do:

1. On each card, write a group of people to pray for (family members, friends, teachers, sick people, etc.). Use a different color of writing utensil for each card.
2. While sitting at a table, divide the M&M's among family members.
3. Spread out the cards and explain that each color represents a group of people to pray for. Have each family member choose one candy and consider who they'll pray for.
4. Designate one person to start praying aloud. Go around the circle, and have the last person close.
5. At the end of that round, eat those M&M's.
6. Continue until you've prayed for all the cards. (Make more, if you'd like!)



POWER OF PRAYER

When life gets crazy, worry creeps in. But God tells us exactly what to do — any time and anywhere.

Directions: Circle the word in each group that doesn't belong. Then write those words on the numbered lines below.

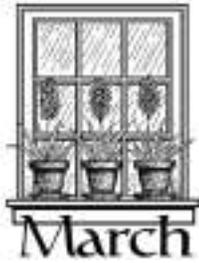
1 apple anxious artichoke	2 every eagle emu	3 purple pink prayer	4 Paul petition Peter	5 taste touch thanksgiving
6 rest requests relax	7 God George Greg	8 puddle peace pond	9 transcends train truck	10 unusual unique understanding
11 guard giraffe gorilla	12 hearts hold held	13 many minds more	14 Philadelphia Pennsylvania Philippians	

“Do not be _____ about anything, but in _____ situation, by _____ and _____, with _____, present your _____ to _____. And the _____ of God, which _____ all _____, will _____ your _____ and your _____ in Christ Jesus.” _____ 4:6-7, NIV

Answers: 1. anxious, 2. every, 3. prayer, 4. petition, 5. thanksgiving, 6. requests, 7. God, 8. peace, 9. transcends, 10. understanding, 11. guard, 12. hearts, 13. minds, 14. Philippians



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
1 Worship Service 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal 11:30-12:30	2	3	4 Music Committee 5:15 PM Lenten Supper 6:00- 7:00 PM	5	6	7
8 Worship Service 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal 11:30-12:30	9	10 March on Mt. Desert St. (Dessert @ BHUCC, 7:00-7:30)	11 Lenten Supper 6:00-7:00 PM	12	13	14
15 Worship Service 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal 11:30-12:30	16	17	18 Lenten Supper 6:00-7:00 PM Deacons 7:00 PM	19 Outreach 6:30 PM	20 <i>(All Soul's Women's Retreat)</i>	21 Volunteer at Common Good Café 3:30-5:30 PM <i>(All Soul's Women's Retreat)</i>
22 Worship Service 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal 11:30-12:30	23	24	25 Lenten Supper 6:00-7:00 PM	26	27	28
29 <u>Palm Sunday</u> Worship Service 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal 11:30-12:30	29	30				



March Birthdays

- 1 Mason Gurtler
- 1 Barbara Moulton
- 1 David Lind
- 2 Cas Dowden
- 3 Jill Pelletier
- 4 Maddie Langley
- 5 Gloria Soule
- 6 Dana Reed
- 6 Kristin MacQuinn
- 6 Henry A. Brown
- 7 Laurie Riddell
- 8 Vickie Bence
- 9 Judy Fuller
- 9 Christopher Bence
- 13 Doug Lee
- 13 Estelle Megquier
- 16 Lucille Campbell
- 17 Kincaid MacCulloch
- 18 Sharon Hobbs
- 20 Haleigh Smith
- 21 Brad Haskell
- 22 Samuel Owen Craighead
- 22 Pierce DiMauro
- 22 Bryce DiMauro
- 22 Kirstin DiMauro
- 26 Graham Langley
- 29 Penny Heiges
- 31 Shelley MacQuinn



Sunday Worship Contributors

**The Deacons Need Your Help!
Coffee Hour hosts and liturgists are
needed!**

Please sign up and share the joy!

Flowers –

- 1: Lucile Campbell
- 8: Earl and Roxie Brechlin
- 15:
- 22:
- 29:

Coffee Hosts –

- 1: Cas Dowden
- 8:
- 15:
- 22: Kathe and Al Simons
- 29: Smith/Riddell family

Home Bible Readings –

- 1: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38
- 8: Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22
- 15: Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21
- 22: Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33
- 29: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47

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Special Dates:

- Second Sunday in Lent, *March 1, 2015*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 6, 2015*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *March 8, 2015*
- Daylight-Saving Time Begins, *March 8, 2015*
- Girl Scout Sunday, *March 8, 2015*
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 15, 2015*
- First Day of Spring, *March 20, 2015*
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, *March 22, 2015*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 29, 2015*
- Holy Week, *March 29-April 4, 2015*

Indulge for Lent?

Rather than sacrificing something for Lent — especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, such as chocolate — Patty Kirk, in *Guideposts* magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God's presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services. But Kirk offers these ideas:

- Spend time outdoors, sensing God's magnificence.
- Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus' promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matt. 25:31-46).
- Pray for the "little things," coming before God in childlike trust and feeling peace.
- Watch attentively for God's answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence.
- Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you "sacrifice" the tendency to wallow in worry.

Articles this page: NewsletterNewsletter.com

What's near to you?

Author Robert Louis Stevenson said, "The best things in life are nearest." He referred to air in our nostrils, light for our eyes, flowers at our feet and work before us.

Stevenson might also have mentioned friends who truly care, family members who love us unconditionally, the church that provides spiritual nourishment and daily opportunities to aid others.

For example, as a retired couple left a store, they heard a man say he'd forgotten his wallet. The cashier had already rung up the customer's few items. The embarrassed man was about to walk away empty-handed.

Quickly, the exiting couple told the cashier they'd pay the bill. The man, totally surprised, asked the couple who they were and why they were helping him. They offered their names and said they only did what he might have done if the situation were reversed.

A chance to help another person was near, and that couple was blessed for helping. Stevenson was right. The best things are near to us. We only need to look for them — and find the blessings in them.