



THE CHIMES

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

29 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

Office Hours: Monday, Tues., & Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Closed Wednesdays and Thursdays

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April 2015

From the Pastor:

The inviting aroma of Wednesday soup suppers has punctuated our weekly snowstorms this Lent. Whether it's the soup or the warm fellowship, I feel more and more knit together as a community of faith – where coming to know one another, and coming to know Christ in our midst, are both a part of God's deep desire for us. I return home Wednesday evenings refreshed and grateful for our time together.

These past few weeks in church we've delved into Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *Life Together*. He's narrowed our gaze to the most important aspect of Christian community: the presence of Christ. It's what we seek whenever we gather; it's what we celebrate in worship and fellowship. In the time of Lenten reflection, it's good for us to recall not only why we gather but also how we nourish that fellowship.

Much of what Bonhoeffer writes prods us to travel further along the road of our life together in faith. `Don't be content with mere sociability; reach for a depth of fellowship rooted in our awareness of

each other as God's beloved, Christ's redeemed.' Bonhoeffer encourages us: each day, make time to read Scripture, sing & pray, find solitude and silence. Let the Word of God percolate in our hearts. And see first our fellowship as the vineyard of our service.

And, he says, we shouldn't let burdens blind us to the belovedness of others: "The very hour of disillusionment with [another]... teaches me that neither of us can ever live by our own words or deeds, but only by that one Word and Deed which really binds us together – forgiveness in Jesus Christ."

This goes against common practice of our society: if you don't like someone, or worse yet if they disagree with you, vote them off your personal island. Divide into homogenous tribes; the end point of which are tiny islands with singular populations. But God has a different plan; God's kingdom is not about privileging our own perspective but opening ourselves to God's. As Paul might write, it's not about knowledge, it's about love. Christian community is

precisely where we have the opportunity to practice this, again and again, and our suppers together have offered this sort of inspiration – through our conversations, our stories, our delight in one another's company, and in Christ's presence.

As I write this, it's March - but it will be April soon, and not too long after it'll be spring. The bland oatmeal of winter will give way to the refreshing bouquet of spring. While we have time, let's continue to absorb Bonhoeffer's teaching and look for God's invitations of grace reflected in our relationships with one another as the embodiment of Christ.

It is indeed a privilege to share this journey with you all!

Blessings and peace,
Rob



Please join us for these
Holy Week Services:

Maundy Thursday, 7:00 PM

Good Friday, 12:00 Noon

Easter Sunrise Service, 5:45 AM,
Schooner Head overlook with breakfast at
the church following the service

Easter Worship, 10:00 AM,
at the church



From your Outreach Board: Heart and Home is this year's theme for our church's Outreach ministry. We will continue to offer exciting mission opportunities, both near

and far. Prayerfully consider how you would like to be involved.

Welcome to our newest board member: Marti Torbeck has joined your Outreach board! Marti is passionate about mission and is a fabulous addition to our board. She continues to work closely with a group in Haiti. Several of us had the opportunity to meet with Marti and some friends from Haiti for dinner late in March. Stay tuned for information about an upcoming **MISSION TRIP TO HAITI** in 2016. **EXCITING NEWS!**

Workday at H.O.M.E. in Orland, Maine, A One-Day Mission Trip: We will be sending a group of volunteers to H.O.M.E. on Saturday, **May 30th**. Do you know about H.O.M.E.? We've gone in the past to help this community-based cooperative (<http://www.homemmausa.org>) and they depend on the love of volunteers! Look for more info in the Sunday bulletin and we'll post a sign-up sheet soon.

Never underestimate what a committed community can accomplish. Pastor Rob has been working with several community members and other BH churches and organizations on a new initiative to improve food security, starting this spring. Look for a list of very specific food items; your help packing bags each Friday morning will be most welcome. Details to follow!

UPDATE: The Weatherization/Window Insert program (in collaboration with COA, Healthy Acadia, and the Somesville Union Meeting House): Preparations continue for next fall's window insert build.

This spring, we need **volunteers to measure window openings, sign-ups from those wanting the window inserts, and, eventually builders.** The window inserts will be constructed in our church fellowship hall; a sample is in the church parlor. This promises to be a huge community project.

At Home DownEast: Several of us (including your Outreach and Called to Care boards) recently met with Kara Janes (Program Manager) and Joe Perkins (Community Organizer) to learn more about At Home Downeast, a program that helps elders maintain independent living in their own homes. Expect to hear more about this project as we discern our individual and collective involvement. Pray for us.

THANK YOU!

- **March on Mt. Desert St.** – Thanks to EVERYONE who baked for the dessert course. We hosted about 80 community members; it was a chilly, icy night but this annual progressive dinner provided warmth from the cold. Thanks, everyone.
- **Common Good Café:** What an energetic group of church family and friends that helped to set up for the delicious dinner at the CGC on Saturday, March 21st! A number of church folks and friends also joined the work group for dinner, entertainment, and fellowship. Thank you! We'll be repeating this activity next winter, for sure!
- **COFFEE'S ON at Maine Sea Coast Mission:** By the time you receive this newsletter, we may have already hosted the April 7th coffee house at MSCM on West St. Thanks to those who provided delicious food and to

those who hosted and greeted attendees.

Most of all, a hearty word of thanks for your continued support and prayers for your church's Outreach activities!

Kathe Simons

With Sympathy

**To the family and friends of
Ellagene Holder**

BAPTISMS

Wylie McCafferty, March 29th

**Greetings from the newly-
formed Pastor Parish
Relations Committee!**

The purpose of the PPRC is to strengthen the relationship between the pastor and the congregation, enhance our mutual ministry, resolve unfruitful conflict, and assist the church in its broader mission. We want to communicate our progress as we work with Rob in his transition into his new and exciting role as Pastor of our church.

As a new committee, our first task is to shape our work together, determining how best to support Rob and address congregational issues wisely. For starters, we would like to let you know who the

members of the committee are; please feel free to talk or email any of us, not only to raise concerns, but also to share your positive reflections. Our aim is to encourage open and direct communication between our congregation and pastor, to develop healthy relationships and nourish open lines of communication.

You will hear from us again soon!

Sue Ackerman - susan.ackerman@jax.org

Donna Beals- mommadonna1@gmail.com

Cas Dowden- casruell@gmail.com

David Lind - davidw lind@msn.com

The One Who Stands by Our Side

Excerpt from John 14:15-21

"I will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever... I will not leave you orphaned."

According to John, after Jesus concludes his public ministry, he spends a considerable amount of time with his disciples preparing them for what lies ahead. As Jesus speaks of his death and resurrection, his disciples have a multitude of questions. They sound like the questions of children just before their parents go out the door: Where are you going? Do you have to go? Can't we go with you? When will you be back? Who will stay with us while you are away? They are plaintive questions, pressing and immediate.

Jesus responds that God "will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever .

. . . I will not leave you orphaned" (John 14:15, 18). He is promising them the presence of the Holy Spirit. The word translated "Advocate" (sometimes translated, "Counselor," or "Comforter") means, literally, "someone who is called to one's side." The Holy Spirit is the one who stands by the disciples even after Jesus departs. And the Spirit is a constant and comforting presence for all those who follow Jesus, an advocate in times of trial, a counselor in perplexity.

The presence of the Holy Spirit, so wonderfully manifest in Jesus, continues to stand by and work through those who continue to follow him after his death and resurrection. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we have Jesus' continued presence at our side always.

Prayer: Wonderful Counselor, beloved Comforter, I thank you that, even as I call you to my side today, you are already there, granting me the continued presence of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Martin B. Copenhaver, UCC.org

A decorative graphic with the words "Happy Easter!" in a stylized, cursive font. The word "Happy" is in a light, flowing script, and "EASTER!" is in a bold, blocky font with a small star above the 'E'. The text is surrounded by faint, decorative floral and scrollwork patterns.



Create a simple yet powerful Easter display.

What you need:

- 3 wood blocks (small, medium, large)
- Acrylic paint (three pastel colors and white)
- Paintbrush
- Water
- Paper towels
- Letter stencils and tape (optional)

What you do:

1. Paint each block of wood a different pastel color. (You can paint the whole block or just one side.)
2. When paint is dry, use white paint to write (or stencil) "He" on the smallest block, "is" on the medium block and "risen!" on the large block.
3. When blocks are dry, stack them from largest to smallest to proclaim "He is risen!"



OUR HOPE

Romans 8:34 tells about our risen Lord, who gives us hope.

Directions: Write the phrases on the correct numbered lines below. Then, on the final row of blanks, write the bold capital letters in order from top to bottom, left to right, to spell the word that sums up this verse.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 5 who was R aised | 8 R ight hand | 6 T o life |
| 3 d i E d | 4 m o R e than that | 7 I s at the |
| 2 J e S us who | 11 i nt E r C eding | 9 O f God |
| 12 f or U s | 1 C hrist | 10 a nd is also |

... 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____

_____ 6 _____ 7 _____

_____ 8 _____

6 _____ 10 _____

11 _____ 12 _____ . *Romans 8:34, NIV*

Answers: ... Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:34, NIV

RESURRECTION

April 2015



- 1 Samuel Brady Renault
- 2 Marsha Fuller
- 6 Hannah Paradis
- 6 Eric McQuinn
- 8 Jane Boynton
- 12 Jay Boyce
- 14 Kathy Woodside
- 16 Jane Haraden
- 22 Esther Testa
- 23 Donald Hobbs
- 23 Lisa Krautwald
- 23 Kim Craighead
- 25 Jan Varnum
- 26 Caitie Smith
- 27 Katelyn Burns

Lectionary -

- 5 Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8
- 12 Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31
- 19 Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48
- 26 Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Jane Sanderson

Assistant Deacons – Cindy Fox,
Lindsay Shopland, and Kathy
MacCulloch

Liturgists-

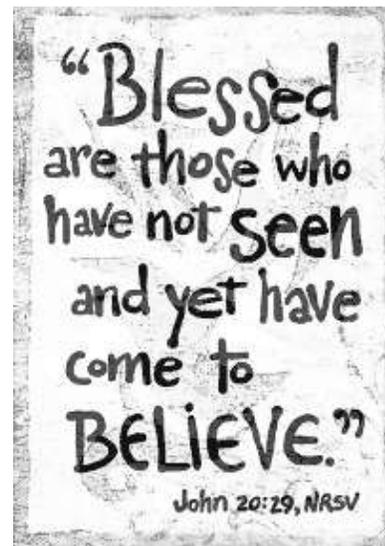
5: Scott Hammond
12: Andy Baron
19:
26: Betsy Higgins

Flowers –

5: Easter Flowers
12: Kathy Kief and Karen Cole
19: Cecil and Lucy Sprague
26: Donna Hutton and Peggy Montow

Coffee Hosts -

5: Deacons
12: Pilgrim Lodge Sunday
19:
26:





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
				Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM	Good Friday Service 12:00PM	
5 <i>Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 5:45 AM</i> Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM	6	7 <i>Coffee's On at Sea Coast Mission – 9:30 AM</i> We're Hosting	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Pilgrim Lodge Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM</i> Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Pizza 2:00 PM @ MDI HS	13	14	15 Outreach Board 6:30	16 Trustees 5:30 PM	17	18
19 Worship Service 10:00 AM	20	21 <i>Coffee's On at Sea Coast Mission 9:30 AM</i>	22	23	24	25
26 Worship Service 10:00 AM	27 Deacons 7:00 PM	28 PSTT 7:00 PM	29 Church Council 7:00 PM	30		

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Special dates

- Maundy/Holy Thursday, *April 2, 2015*
- Good Friday, *April 3, 2015*
- Holy Saturday, *April 4, 2015*
- Easter Sunday, *April 5, 2015*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 22, 2015*

Where was I?

Our young son often asks where he was when something significant happened before he was born. “Where was I when you two got married?” “Where was I when Nana died? And even “Where was I before I was inside your body?”

My response is always “You were in God’s heart.” God said as much to Jeremiah: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you” (Jeremiah 1:5, NRSV).

A Good Friday spiritual asks plaintively, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” Clearly none of us was present when Jesus died. Yet as we worship on Good Friday, we place ourselves at the cross, where Jesus bore our sins.

“Where was I,” we might ask our heavenly Father, “when they crucified Jesus?” I’m confident that God’s tender answer is “You were in my heart.” Indeed, only because of our place there did Jesus go willingly to the cross — and rise to assure us of everlasting life.

—Heidi Mann

An Easter prayer

Once again, Lord, we are astounded by the incomparable and glorious event of Easter.

To remember how you conquered sin and evil through the resurrection of Jesus stirs up joy and hope within us.

It comforts us greatly to know that because Christ was raised from the dead, we who are 'in Christ' have the assurance of eternal life.

Furthermore, to have the living Christ as our Savior and the undergirding Holy Spirit as our daily Companion assures us of grace that never fails us.

Finally, it is a certainty that all things good and desirable are possible for those who love you, because Christ lives and reigns as King of our lives.

All praise and glory to you, loving Creator, now and forever! Amen.

-Charles Ferrell

Articles this page: NewsletterNewsletter.com