



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
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From the Pastor: *Exultet!*

May 2015

What an unforgettable Easter: the drive to Schooner Head, the full moon still visible over Champlain Mountain, the Easter dawn beginning to creep along the downeast coast; a determined runner braving the cold early morning air headed to our Sunrise Service, our exuberant breakfast and festive trumpet and ... He is Risen! A busy and enthralling time to be part of our church.

Since then, we've caught a long-expected breath of spring, our spring-cleaning neighbors have a renewed spark, and the joys of Easter, even with its frosty start, continue to wash over us. The light at the end of winter's long tunnel has finally arrived - and I see this joy reflected in our faces as we gather each week to worship and pray, to work and reconnect.

The traditional *Exultet* is a liturgical poem sung before the paschal candle as part of the Easter vigil. It's a resounding hymn of praise to God for bringing light into the midst of our darkness, and for delivering us from dead-ends and despair to new life in Christ. It stirs us from passive appreciation of Easter light and spring joy, toward active praise for God's love, grace, and hope renewing our lives.

James Broughton wrote a contemporary *Exultet* that reads, "You are closer to glory / leaping an abyss / than upholstering a rut."

Upholstering a rut. I love that. What a great way to describe how easily we can grow too comfortable, drowning out the still small voice of God's call by creating predictable routine and careful order. So, he urges:

Shake out your qualms.
Shake up your dreams.
Deepen your roots.
Extend your branches.

Spring, he says; *Easter on*, he cries. *Live the resurrection*. And:

At every crossroad
Be prepared
to bump into wonder.
Only love prevails.

As much as we in the northern hemisphere can find ready metaphors for Easter in springtime, the joy of Christ's resurrection calls us to more than beautifying our spiritual landscape. It's calling us out from all the dusty tombs of our lives, to seek the presence of the living Christ and to share God's transforming love with a world still too comfortable in the dead-ends of alienation, hatred, violence, and injustice.

And if you should notice that you're holding upholstery, set it down and run out of the tomb. You'll soon find a gardener who knows you by name.

Blessings & peace,
Rob

Our Life Together



Join us at
Galyn's on
Thursday,
May 21 at
6:00 PM for
our next
Church Ladies'
Supper.



**Pilgrim Lodge
Registration is now
underway.** Call
Paul in the office for
more information:
288-3280

The cost will be \$25 (with tax/tip included, paid upon arrival). Entrée choices: crab cakes, squash cakes, or tarragon chicken. Once again, we'll be seated in the back room (up to 40; overflow in dining room). Please sign up in the church parlor OR phone Kathe Simons. These church ladies' suppers have become a highlight of our fellowship; please join us for what promises to continue our tradition of laughter and friendship! Questions, please contact **Kathe Simons at 244-3207.**

Many of us recall those life-changing summer camp experiences. Maybe it's the shimmering, golden sparkle of a lake on a sunny morning, or peacefully paddling a canoe with a friend, or singing camp songs and making s'mores by a campfire. In the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ, those memories are centered at Pilgrim Lodge. For more information go to:

www.pilgrimlodge.org

**A mission trip to HAITI
has been scheduled for
February 27 thru March 5, 2016!**

If you would like to know more, please come to an information session on **Sunday, May 10th in the Fellowship Hall from 11:30-12:00.** The trip will be co-led by Marti Torbeck in collaboration with a church in Falmouth, Maine. We will have room for at least a half-dozen participants. The cost will be between \$1000 and \$1500 per person and we will start fundraising soon. Plenty of scholarship money is available, so please don't let \$\$ keep you from going on this once-in-a-lifetime experience. We will need to firm up our list of participants by early September. Stay tuned for more about our **2016 HAITI MISSION TRIP.**



This month's news from your Outreach Board includes Haiti Mission trip 2016, a local food security program, H.O.M.E. workday, Window Insert / Weatherization Project, and Food for All Community Suppers.

Helping Hands

A new local food security program starts this week !

A collaboration between the Bar Harbor Food Pantry, local schools, and our church starts soon. We need the following food items on a regular basis. Please bring your donations to church and leave in the shopping cart in the narthex. **Packers will be needed on Friday mornings for no more than an hour. Please speak to Pastor Rob if interested.** Thank you!

- ✓ Snack size boxes of raisins
- ✓ Individual servings of applesauce
- ✓ Granola bars
- ✓ Mac and cheese
- ✓ Canned fruit – individual serving sizes
- ✓ Cracker sandwiches with peanut butter or cheese
- ✓ Juice boxes (100% juice only)
- ✓ Boxes of individual packets of oatmeal
- ✓ Chicken noodle canned soup
- ✓ Microwave popcorn
- ✓ Fat-free chocolate pudding packs of 4

UPDATE: Window Insert Project (in collaboration with COA)

We still need **window measurers, sign-ups from those who want window inserts, and, later this fall, insert builders.** The window inserts will be constructed in our fellowship hall. This promises to be an exciting community project.

UPDATE: Community Dinners

We are learning more about how our church can support the **Food for All weekly community dinners** every Thursday at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church just up the road on Mt. Desert St. We have spoken with Chris Brown, who coordinates this amazingly successful community meal program; volunteers are the heartbeat of this weekly, year-round event. Chris encourages us to **ATTEND** a meal before we volunteer. Over the next few weeks, members of your Outreach Board will attend a Food for All meal in preparation for volunteering in the coming months. We'll keep you posted, but in the meantime, plan to visit Food for All for a fabulous Thursday night dinner. The spread is amazing!

We received a THANK YOU from the Common Good Café:

Dear Karen,

We would like to thank you and all the volunteers from the Bar Harbor Congregational Church who came to help make dinner on Saturday, March 21. It was good to have teenagers and children helping, as well as the adults. You all jumped right in and were a great help in making the salad, frosting the cupcakes, cleaning the dining room, and helping in any other way needed.

We are glad you also stayed for dinner and got a taste not only of the food at the Common Good – and the music – but of the warm community spirit the Common Good nurtures. You are welcome back anytime! ... Starting in mid-June, popovers will be served daily, and volunteers are always needed.

Thank you again, for it is volunteers like you who truly sustain “the Common Good.”

Sincerely,

Ann Diamond, Volunteer Coordinator

As always, thank you for your prayers and hands-on help with our church's outreach projects.

Our National Day of Prayer

The first Thursday of May each year is designated as a day for the people of our country to pray. Yes, there is separation of state and church in America, but religious people in our nation would never vote for the separation of America from God. This country surely will always remain, “one nation under God.”

Therefore we are right to set aside a day for national prayer – a day when we can beseech God’s guidance regarding our nation’s policies and actions, and pray for the general welfare of all citizens, especially for the helpless and those suffering injustices.

Short Reads

- Thank someone for something. Go out of your way today to acknowledge the generosity of a person you know.—Alan Epstein
- Only those who see the invisible can do the impossible.
—Anonymous
- Do a little more each day than you think you possibly can.
—Lowell Thomas
- We must all work to make the world worthy of its children.
—Pablo Casals
- Lord, make me see thy glory in every place.
—Michelangelo

Source: *NewsletterNewsletter.com*

**"Do not follow other gods,
any of the gods of the peoples
who are all around you."
(Excerpt from Deuteronomy 6:10-25)**

A cartoon in a magazine depicts a man and a woman leaving worship. The sign outside the church announces that the sermon topic for the day was the Ten Commandments. The man says, "Well, at least I haven't made any graven images lately."

The sad truth is, if the man in the cartoon is anything like us, he HAS made graven images—that is, idols, false gods.

Today, no longer are we tempted to worship gods by the name of Zeus or Aphrodite or Apollo. Now we are wooed by gods named Education or Success or Family or Money.

Paul Tillich, an influential theologian of the last century, defined God as a person's "ultimate concern." If you want to know what your ultimate concern is—or, to put it another way, if you want to know what your idols are—ask yourself these questions: Where is your ultimate loyalty? What do you consistently make time for? In what have you put your trust? Where can you be most deeply threatened?

No one ever says, "I'm going to worship an idol now." Instead, idolatry happens when we invest our fullest energy and our ultimate allegiance in those things—perhaps even good things—that are not ultimate. And if we worship idols, instead of the one true God, we will be ultimately disappointed. There is only one God worthy of our worship.

Prayer

O God, the one true God, guide my actions and my thoughts this day so that I will not look for you in all the wrong places. Amen.

Martin B. Copenhagen, UCC.org

SPRING

Make this beautiful craft to remind you of God's gift of new life at springtime.



What you need:

- White 11" x 17" paper
- Acrylic paint (various spring colors, including green)
- Paintbrush
- Empty two-liter plastic bottle
- Paper plates
- Paper towels

What you do:

1. With the paper placed vertically, paint stems and leaves with green paint.
2. Pour a different color of paint onto a paper plate. Then place the bottom of the bottle into the paint.
3. Using the bottle as a stamp, press it onto the paper to create a flower atop a green stem.
4. Repeat with different colors on different plates, cleaning the bottle each time, to create a beautiful spring bouquet.



Spring has sprung!

God created all the seasons, and each brings unique visuals that remind us of him.

Directions: Unscramble each phrase to complete Song of Solomon 2:12, NIV. Use the pictures as hints.

earth on appear the Flowers

" _____ ;



singing come the of has season



the _____



heard the land our in is of cooing doves

the _____



SONG OF SOLOMON 2:12, NIV



Answers: "Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land."



May Birthdays

1 Peter Benson
4 Aubrie Boyce
4 George Mitchell
7 Kevin Langley
9 Susan Greenleaf
11 Elise Craighead
14 Alisha Rechholtz
14 Scott Riddell
15 Patty Benore
15 Tim Smith
15 Sheridan Steele
16 Jane Sanderson
17 Alice Hobbs
18 Richard Collier
19 Leslie Spurling
20 Coady Modeen
20 Olivia Modeen
21 Faith Reece
21 Dean DiMauro
21 Lou Ingrisano
21 Ezekiel Valleau
23 Sandy Boyce
24 Christopher Booher
25 Crystal Hobbs
28 Heidi Turner O'Connor



May 7, 2015

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Mimi Dickson
Assistant Deacon – Cindy Fox

Liturgists-

3 Joan Carey
10
17
24
31 Kathe Simons

Coffee Hour Hosts –

3 Dave and Kathy Woodside
10
17
24
31

Flowers –

3 Dottie Robins and Florence Ames
10 Ben and Ruth Blaney
17 Nancy Pelletier
24 Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Spurling
31 David and Kathy Woodside

Lectionary -

3 Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8
10 Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17
17 Acts 1:15-17
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19
24 Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
31 Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
3 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Pastor-Parish Relations Comm. 11:30	4	5	6	7 Choir 6pm	1/8	2/9
10 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM 	11	12	13 Outreach 6:30	14 Choir 6pm	15	16
17 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM	18	19	20 <i>Chimes articles due</i> Deacons & Called to Care 7:00pm	21 Trustees 5:30 Choir 6pm Ladies' Supper @ Galyn's 6pm	22	23
24 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	25 	26	27	28 Choir 6pm	29	30
31 Sunday Worship 10:00 AM						

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Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, *May 7, 2015*
- Mother's Day, *May 10, 2015*
- Ascension of the Lord, *May 14, 2015*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 16, 2015*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 18, 2015*
- Pentecost, *May 24, 2015*
- Memorial Day, *May 25, 2015*
- Trinity Sunday, *May 31, 2015*



Memorial Day emerged from the grim shadows of the American Civil War.

Before the close of the war, women began decorating the graves of soldiers who had died in that war. The practice quickly spread, and a few years later May 30, 1868, was designated as Decoration Day – a day for placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers throughout the United States.

In 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were also honored. Over the years, it has become a day when all loved ones who have died – in war and otherwise – are remembered. In 1971, the United States Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed annually on the last Monday in May.

On this Memorial Day, remember those who gave their lives for our country. But also pray for those who continue serving to keep America free, especially those who are in harm's way.

Give and Take

Life is often a matter of giving and taking. But with what spirit do we give – or take? The British author, Elizabeth Bibesco, once said, *Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.*

Accomplishing that will require some practice, won't it? Giving something to another person or to God's church and not remembering the act may go against our nature. Yet, when we can give without remembering or without begrudging what we gave, the giving can become habitual and instill a feeling of joy.

So try to remember the happiness of giving, but forget the occasion of doing so.

On the other hand, most of us are recipients of gifts given and good deeds done by others. Remember with gratitude those blessings. Savor the joy they aroused in us and be grateful for the givers.

Give without remembering. Take without forgetting. Those are clues to better living.

Articles this page: NewsleterNewsletter.com