

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- Thursday 9:00 - 3:00 PM Friday 8:30 - 11 :30 AM

Telephone: (207) 288-3280 E-mail: bhucc2@verizon.net

Web Site: www.barharborucc.org Pastor's e-mail: smreed@barharborucc.org

From the Senior Pastor

August 2007

"Stewardship," she said, "is the way we say thank you to God." That simple statement came from a young woman who was attending the Stewardship Conference I was speaking at. Her comments came after my talk on stewardship, which was the keynote address at the meeting. I had asked the audience to share with me their definitions of stewardship and this person's answer was as good as any I had ever heard. In one short sentence she seemed to have grasped the concept in a concise and pragmatic way. I thanked her and then continued with my prepared speech.

When the audience broke up into small groups, I went to one of the groups to serve as a facilitator. The conversation in the group was exciting and intriguing. These were people who knew a great deal about stewardship and were not afraid to share their ideas with one another.

Lunch followed and then the group reassembled for another lecture on the fine, theological art of stewardship. I listened, but I must admit that my mind wandered a bit as I kept going back to what the young woman had said earlier in the day. She certainly gave me a lot to think about. Her statement followed me home and stayed with me for several days. Finally, I had to ask myself (before I could ask anyone else), how am I saying thank you to God? Simple and direct. And extremely difficult to answer, I found.

I think of myself as a person who is in touch with my beliefs and my faith. If you were to ask me, I would tell you that I practice my faith on a daily basis. I would explain to you that I am a part of a church; I give regularly of my money and my time, and I try to be a careful steward of

the earth, which God has given us. If you then asked me why I do it, I would carefully explain to you the theological imperative that calls me to live in such a way. All of that is fine, but I must also remember that in everything I do, every bit of money I share, and through my relationships at church, I am saying to God that I am so grateful for His many blessings and mercies that I live in a constant state of thanksgiving.

When I am painfully honest with myself, I realize that there are many days in my life that are not lived in thanksgiving to God. At times I am stingy with my time and my compassion. There are occasions when I wait to hear a word of thanks rather than give of myself freely and without thought of the cost. I have been guilty of deciding how to serve God by asking, "What's in it for me?" Although I was a keynoter at that conference, I was taught by a young woman who knew far more than I did about stewardship.

Have you asked yourself lately what you are doing to say thank you to God for the abundant blessings of your life? Are there ways in which you can share of your time, talents and treasure that will stand as authentic acts of gratitude to the God who created you, loves you and forgives you? Perhaps we all need to take a good look at ourselves and see the places where we are falling short in the thanksgiving department. I know that when I look at myself I see great need for improvement. And, really, my stewardship is the only stewardship for which I am responsible. Yours is up to you.

If God were to ask of you, "What have you done for Me lately?" what would your response be?

Sandra M. Reed

A Thank You
From
Virginia Tech

Recently the Acadia Shawl Ministry group sent twenty-five prayer shawls to the Virginia Tech community to be used in the healing of those families, faculty, and students who were traumatized by the tragic murders at their school. These shawls were received and distributed to folks who were grateful for the healing experience of knowing that friends in Maine had shared these wonderful gifts with them. The other day we received a thank you note from the Virginia Tech community, expressing their deep gratitude for the very special gift from the Acadia Shawl Ministry. Each shawl was blessed prior to its sending by the women who had created it. Each shawl was sent with a printed card containing a special prayer for the receiver.

Many thanks to this group that meets at our church. Your efforts provide healing for so many. May God richly bless you for your generous and faithful spirits.

If you are interested in joining the Acadia Shawl Ministry in its mission, please contact Sandra Reed at 288-3280.

The Beauty of Prayer

"Prayer can truly change your life. For it turns your attention away from yourself and directs your mind and your heart toward the Lord. If we look only at ourselves, with our limitations and sins, we quickly give way to sadness and discouragement. But if we keep our eyes fixed on the Lord, then our hearts are filled with hope, our minds are washed in the light of truth, and we come to know the fullness of the Gospel with all its promise and life."

Pope John Paul II

From the office

Mimi and I will be in South Africa from August 14 through September 5 to join in the celebration of Mimi's parent's 50th wedding anniversary. Arrangements are being made so that the office will function normally during my absence.

Paul Dickson

Christian Education

Vacation Bible Camp

Let it Shine! July 29th through August 2nd, 5:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. A light supper will be served. VBC is open to anyone age 3 - 8th grade. We will have Bible lessons, skits, craft, songs and more! Come Join the Fun and Let Your Light Shine! See you there.

Camping Weekend by the Ocean

Also in the works is a church wide camping weekend by the ocean. This will take place in September. FUN FOR EVERYONE!! Think of the early morning smells of coffee, bacon and eggs being cooked over a campfire...sitting around the campfire in the evening, singing songs and listening to the quiet of the evening, and sharing fun times with others in our church family. We hope you all come and join us for this great weekend! Dates and times are still to be determined.

Teachers' Meeting

A teachers' meeting will be held on August 25, from 9:30 am to 12:00 to discuss goals and curriculum for the next Sunday School year, as well as safety issues. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to come, but is especially important for anyone who will be teaching Sunday School during the coming year.

God's Garden Club

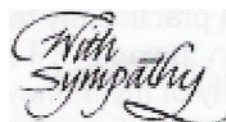
Mary Swift is being called away for a few weeks this summer to help her family in upstate New York. She will be gone August 2nd - August 12th. Her mother needs constant care and she is giving her dad some much needed help. Kathy MacCulloch will be overseeing God's Garden Club during her absence. If you have any questions or concerns while Mary is away, please talk to Kathy or Debby Hammond.

Mary Swift

Best Wishes to the Newlyweds

Andrew Lee and
Faye Del Pezzo, July 21, 2007

Rick Whelan and
Bonnie Vasil, July 28, 2007



Joel A. House, Sgt.
Killed in Iraq, Cousin
of Jim Lambert

August 2007



- 1 Nancy Pelletier
- 1 Hunter Riddell
- 2 Richard Young
- 5 Jefferson Hobbs
- 5 Avery Bryer
- 5 Callahan Bryer
- 6 Sylvia Webber
- 7 David Woodside
- 8 Thomas Berry
- 10 Rebecca Bryer
- 10 Melanie Modeen
- 11 Walter Heiges
- 12 Donna Beals
- 13 Gerard Haraden
- 15 Diana Bacon
- 17 Ponzi Reed
- 19 Marion Dyer
- 19 Jack Pelletier
- 20 Kristi Garland Hatrick
- 21 Shelby Krautwald
- 22 Lynn O'Neil
- 24 Derry Roopenian
- 24 Stephen Sprague
- 27 Kendra Logan Bryer
- 27 Amy Riddell
- 27 Penny Frost
- 27 Gail Preston
- 27 Jennifer Booher
- 28 Billie Mitchell
- 29 Norman Moulton
- 30 Laurie Wellman



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon - Dusty Warner
Assistant Deacon - Karl Haller

Liturgists -

5: Sandi Myers
12: Yvonne Tabb
19:
26:

Flowers

5: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brown 12:
Wendell and Claire Hodgkins 19:
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Moulton 26:
Charles and Patty Benore

Coffee Hosts

5: Lucy Creevey
12: Dottie Robins and Florence Ames
19: Yvonne Tabb and May Vinette 26:
Blueberry Festival

Lectionary

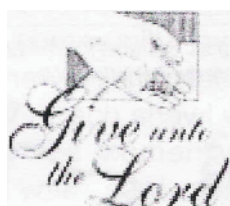
- 5 Hosea 11: 1-11
Psalm 107:1-9,43
Colossians 3: 1-11
Luke 12:13-21
- 12 Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11 :1-3, 8-
16 Luke 12:32-40
- 19 Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56
- 26 Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71 :1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Bar Harbor Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
29 Mount Desert Street
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

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Special dates:

5 International Forgiveness Day
7 National Lighthouse Day
13 Left Handers' Day
21 Senior Citizens' Day



The Beauty of Stewardship

Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources - basically our entire lives. It's a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship:

God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.

We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.

Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or

later, we must give an account of our management of God's creation and of God's gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden, which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God's provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God's work.

That is the beauty of stewardship.

The Newsletter