



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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January 2012

From the Pastor

A new year, a new start. A clean slate, another chance. These are the thoughts that are going through my head in these days before New Year's Day. I go through this every year – it's not just because my life has changed so much of late. I have always been fascinated by new beginnings and a nice, blank piece of paper on which to write. All of us, I think, know what it feels like to want to begin again.

This year I will spend New Year's Day in California, with my older daughter and her family. I will celebrate my eldest granddaughter's eighteenth birthday with her. That will be the first time we have been together for her birthday since she was a little girl. I will also meet her boyfriend for the first time -- I am rumored to be a "scary Nonna." He does sound like a nice young man, though. Then it will be off to my younger daughter's house for some time together. She hasn't been feeling well and I am more than ready to talk with her care givers and shower her with a little TLC.

If we have taken the Advent season seriously, we may be ready to carry through with John the Baptist's call to repentance. To repent, after all, means to turn away from that which is neither holy nor healthy in our lives, to place Christ more securely at the center of our lives rather than let other things take His place. I don't know about you, but I have a few things I could do well to turn from. Nothing major – mostly

annoying and unfulfilling. I, too, need to get out of my own way, as my Grandmother Musella used to say, and let in the light of Christ to a greater extent in my life. As I said, I can only speak for myself, but I wouldn't be surprised to find that some of you are nodding your heads in recognition.

Sometimes the things that get in the way of the holy and healthy in our lives start off small. Perhaps we might mistake such things for laziness or a momentary slip. However, such things have a strange way of getting more and more important in our lives and, in fact, can totally take over our lives. Before we know it we have developed some habits that are harmful and that keep us from a closer relationship with God. Those habits are often hard to overcome. They are not good for us. They don't help with any of our relationships. They need to be turned from or, in theological language, repented.

I have always been very talented at making excuses for myself. It is a special gift that I possess. As I grow older, I am understanding more fully that those excuses are the very things that hold me back from being the person I want to be, the person God created me to be. I am pretty good at giving advice to others, but I should spend a bit more time listening when I talk. I should practice what I preach and listen to others who offer sage wisdom. Does anyone see themselves here?

Let me take this opportunity to hope and pray that all of us will move away from the unholy/unhealthy things that affect our

lives, either emotionally or physically. Together, let us agree to move closer to God and to putting Christ directly in the center of our lives. If we go together, the journey may be difficult, but we can bear one another's burdens and offer support. And our faith tells us that we will not go alone, but with the love of God to guide us.

Several years ago I quoted a poem in my Chimes article. I don't know the name of the poem or its author. This is the poem:

Your future lies before you
Like a shining path of snow.
Be careful how you tread,
For every step will show.

I have thought of that poem many times in my life. I find myself thinking of it now as I make plans for the future. May my steps, and all of our steps, make a positive impression on our own lives, the lives of others, and along the pathway of faith.

God bless us every one.
Sandra M. Reed

PLEASE HELP US TO GET THE WORD OUT



Our Outreach Board has scheduled another fabulous Community Supper for **Thursday, January 19th from 5 to 6:30 pm**. Everyone is welcome. Importantly, consider bringing, or asking, a friend/friends who otherwise might not have a good meal and fellowship to come. Both are free. For friends coming alone, please insure them that they are most welcome, and ask them to use the side, parking lot entrance.



Another Annual Living Nativity has come and gone- more quickly than expected. It was sad that we had to cancel the Thursday evening showing due to bad weather. It is always a pleasure to coordinate this event each year, and this year I felt truly blessed with the abundance of volunteers (esp. the dressers!).

Thanks, Stan, for all the little tasks you did for me, which I truly appreciated, and to Dave for taking charge outdoors with the lights and setting things up. Thank you, Jane, for always being there every year with your iron to smooth out the costumes. Deb, Cas, Marion and Kathe worked together to feed the gang. Sandy Boyce took time out of her busy schedule to make us hot soup, and Les made his famous hot cocoa. Special thanks this year goes to Jim Lambert for repairing the chimes.

The lovely Christmas music truly enhances the event. The biblical characters were as awesome as ever, and the little shepherds ever so adorable. Thanks to Deb, we had another addition to the event- a large stuffed lamb!! Thank you, Sandra, for managing the chimes and launching us off with a blessing. Stay tuned for a possible exciting change next year.

My love and appreciation go to you all.
Norma Spurling



Thanks to all the Christmas elves that made my Christmas so very special. The gifts in the stockings and others from "my dogs" and all the many gifts I received were appreciated more than you know. To those who hosted me at dinner and those who showered me with love and presents, many thanks. You're very special!

Sandra Reed

Congratulations, 25th Year Anniversary

Dana Reed, has admirably served our town now for 25 years. Dana and “his wife Ponzi easily integrated into the town over the years, sending two children through the public schools and becoming friends with people from all walks of life. As far as his longevity at Bar Harbor’s helm, Mr. Reed said that he always strives to remember that it is the citizens and their elected representatives that he works for, and not the other way around. And this, he says, has allowed him to remain where he is.”

“His biggest accomplishments, he said, have been twofold. First, he has overseen a transition of town administration from a place where people were often promoted to leadership roles just because they were already here, to a group of highly trained professionals, ready to respond appropriately to a number of situations. Second the town has done a phenomenal job of keeping up with its infrastructure needs, Mr. Reed said. ‘We’re making it a good place for our residents, and the tourists enjoy it while they’re here,’ he said.”

We are blessed to have Dana as our town manager, and he and Ponzi as members of our church.

Source: *Mount Desert Islander*

Be a Coworker with God

We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of [people] willing to be coworkers with God

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Worth Repeating – Count Your Blessings!

If you reduced the world’s population down to 100 people, 57 (or 57 percent) would be Asians, 21 would be Europeans, 14 would be from the Western Hemisphere and eight from Africa.

Among those 100 people would be 52 females and 48 males. Seventy people would be nonwhite; 30 would be white. Seventy would be non-Christian; 30 would be Christian. Six people would possess 59 percent of the world’s wealth, and those six would all be Americans.

Eighty people would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read and 50 would suffer malnutrition. Only one person would be college-educated, and only one person would have a computer.

If you have food to eat, clothes to wear and a place to sleep tonight, you are richer than 70 percent of the world’s people. Furthermore, if you’re alive at this time next week, you won’t be among the one million people who died during that time.

Think about your blessings as you start a new year in this most favored and wonderful nation.

Source: Newsletter Newsletter

OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR- WE DID IT!!



We pulled off another successful Christmas Fair! There is not enough room here to list the name of every person and each task they took on...but thank you to each and every one who played a part...

- the table fetchers!
- those who set up!
- the cookie and candy makers!
- the pie makers!
- the take-out delivery crew!
- the kitchen crew!
- the craftspeople!
- the waiters and waitresses!
- the publicity people!
- the sign makers!
- the rafflers!
- the attic treasure crew!
- those who donated food, attic treasures, and more!
- those who put things back together after it was all over!
- the entire church family and the community ...for their support!

We did so well...we're already talking about next year! Thanks again!

Women's Auxiliary
(a.k.a. Soul Sisters or Sister of Faith)



Our sympathies to:

The family of

Charles Marinke, a longtime friend of our church.

The family of Barbara Adler, a longtime Covenant Member of our church

At our recent Annual Meeting, the congregation asked for regular reports about the state of our finances. In this issue, I'll talk about the state of our stewardship campaign and pledging to date. Starting with the February issue of the chimes, we will have a quarterly summary of where we are with the church's budget.

The budget we adopted at the Annual Meeting projected \$80,000 in pledge income. As of December 9th, we have received pledge cards totaling \$66,114, so we still have a fair way to go. If you have not yet made a pledge to support our church's operation and outreach in 2012, please consider doing so.

At the Annual Meeting the congregation also requested that the 2012 budget be changed to include funding a set-aside account to fund our pastor's next sabbatical. That will be included in the updated 2012 budget that will be distributed in the February Chimes.

Al Simons
Treasurer



A new year is upon us and what great things we have in store for our ever evolving group of youth! December was spent in the spirit of giving. A group ranging from 3rd grade to high school spent some time at the SeaCoast mission to help decorate bags for local inmates. These bags were filled with essential items that the inmates needed. The first weekend of December, Kathy MacCullough also hosted our wonderful kids in a gingerbread house making party! Sugar was the theme and there was plenty to go around. Fun was definitely had by all!

NEWS FROM THE MAINE CONFERENCE!!

As we get under way in our second trimester, I would like to put the call out to any adult who may be interested in teaching for the next trimester. If you are not sure about teaching, it may be a great time to try! Our kids are great and very helpful to those who may be new at this. Also, if you wanted to team-teach or alternate weeks, there is something for everyone! Please let Amanda Ward know if you have any questions! January marks the beginning of our long winter season but we are sure to keep things warm and active in Christian Ed.

Just a friendly note to parents of Sunday School age children, did you know your child has the opportunity to take part in the practice of giving an offering? We are aware that many families give as a family, but our children also need the experience of giving, even if it is a small token. Thank you in advance for your continued support and understanding for this and many other important lessons we strive to teach our amazing children.

Last note: the Sunday School Calendar that was distributed in the beginning of the school year has a small error in the January dates. There is a class on a Monday, January 16. This is incorrect and should be dismissed. With this change, please note this trimester has only 9 classes! The time is flying by!

To everyone, may your New Year be blessed with happiness and vitality!

Sincerely,

Amanda Ward
CE Coordinator

National Youth Event: Registrations for National Youth Event are being taken beginning now. See the Maine Conference website, www.maineucc.org for information and forms. We are receiving them in the Maine Conference Office, and registering as a state delegation. There are many exciting elements, either taking an express bus with our other New England Conference sharing a bus with us, or being part of a mission experience before hand in Cleveland where we will work in the city, and visit Church House, the National Setting for the United Church of Christ.

There is much more to be shared, but it should be exciting. Our own Emma Ogg, from Windham Hill United Church of Christ has been on the planning committee and will be letting us know more, as we gather for group meetings, but first we need you to register. There will be some scholarship help available. Churches are planning spaghetti dinners, bean suppers, and a smorgasbord or wonderful ways to support you. We are seeking help from our Resourcing the Local Church Committee, so news from them will also be forthcoming. We are on our way to Purdue University to explore what it means to imagine the Church in 2012! Now all we need is you!

Second Annual UCC Ski Day: **SAVE THE NEW DATE!** February 4th at the Camden Snow Bowl! You and your youth group, you and your family, you and your church family are welcome to join us for UCC Ski Day in Camden. We will gather for an early lunch, hosted by our Middle School Ministries team at First Congregational Church in Camden and then spend the afternoon skiing, tobogganing, snow shoeing, tubing, or simply sitting by the fire.

Come enjoy this time of fun and fellowship.

Registration must be received by Cate Lamb at the Camden Church no later than January 20th to be included in our group rates. Details, permission slips, and a poster for your church are on our Maine Conference website, www.maineucc.org. See you there! Please call Cate Lamb at the Camden Church if you have any questions. 236-4821.

In the Resource Center! God's Big Table by Elizabeth F. Caldwell

God's Big Table: Nurturing Children in a Diverse World uses the imagery of the table as a metaphor for the ways our churches engage with differences and diversity through a biblical background of welcoming all God's children. In the 21st century, faithful Christians are being challenged with the topic of why living with diversity of faith and culture is important, the ways that it is impacting church communities, and why education for church members is essential.

God's Big Table is an encouraging guide to clergy and church families that want to be open to a multi-cultural faith community. Please remember that the cart for the online catalog is not working, to order any resources send emails to resourcecenter@maineucc.org or call 1-800-244-0937 or 207-846-5118.

January 9-11, 2012 is the date for Bangor Theological Seminary's Convocation 2012, Evolving World, Emerging Church. Registration deadline is just a few weeks away! In this busy season, don't forget to register soon. Our compelling lineup of presenters and musicians will help us reflect on new possibilities for life in the Spirit and in the life of the church: <http://www.bts.edu/convocation/index.html>

☐ No shuttle busses this year! Moving to these earlier than usual dates will allow us full access to the parking lots adjacent to the Gracie Theatre at Husson University. Remember -- January 9-11, 2012.

☐ Music is always important, but there will be exceptional offerings this year:

o Betty and Noel Paul Stookey's multifaith readings and original songs will be a highlight of Monday afternoon.

o BTS grad Bill Friederich and Maine musician Paul Sullivan will lead worship on Wednesday morning.

o Tuesday evening -- Novel Jazz Septet's concert, sacred and secular songs by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn will be open to the public as well. Call Trish at 942-6781, x114 for tickets, for you or your church group.

o You might also want to sample Darkwood Brew, the multimedia online worship event, and an emerging expression of spiritual experience led by the Reverend Eric Elnes, who will present, lead Tuesday worship, and co-host a special evening Monday night with Chuck Marohnic.

Kathy Woodside

A prayer for our church

Lord Jesus, we pray that you will somehow give us ears to hear, hearts to love and wills devoted to serve; that in the days to come this congregation may be known not for our glory but for thine alone - a congregation of people who know you; that this place may be an oasis, a place where people come to find out about you, where lives are straightened out and made whole, where people find the peace that passes understanding. Give us, we pray, a heart to desire these things above all else. We pray through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Source: Newsletter Newsletter

LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



What you do:

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.



From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

1. Good	Righteousness
2. Death	Children
3. Go	Life
4. Evil	Come
5. Adults	Bad

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are _____, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____." John 8:12, NIV
(2)

"I have _____ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV
(4)

"For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"
2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as _____ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children

January



- 1 Bob Breen
- 1 Mac Shea
- 3 Barbara Hepburn
- 5 Jeff McCarthy
- 9 Ryan Kelly
- 10 Barbara Steele
- 10 Annie Painter
- 11 Dorothy Ames Robins
- 12 Michele Gurtler
- 12 Emily McCarthy
- 12 Olivia McCarthy
- 12 Noah Lambert
- 18 Andy Shea
- 21 Karen McFarland
- 23 Gordon Valteau
- 23 Drew Shea
- 24 Cecil Sprague
- 29 Robert Malaney
- 29 Timothy Beals
- 30 Judith Burns
- 30 Graydon Webster
- 31 Abbie Reed Nickels



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – John Kelly
Assistant Deacon – Scott Hammond

Liturgists-

- 1:
- 8: Estelle Megquier
- 15:
- 22:
- 29:

Flowers –

- 1: Esther Testa
- 8: Ruth Rossi
- 15: Lenny DeMuro
- 22: Lois Wade
- 29: Binky MacQuinn

Coffee Hosts -

- 1: Karen & Sandy McFarland
- 8: Ruth Rossi
- 15:
- 22:
- 29:

Home Bible Readings

- 1 Galatians 4: 4-7
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Luke 2:22-40
- 8 Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11
- 15 1Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139:1-6,13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51
- 22 Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20
- 29 Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Alleluia Choir 11:30	2 Cancer Support Group 5:00 PM	3 Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	4	5 Adult Choir 7:00	6	7
8 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Alleluia Choir 11:30	9	10 Scouts Pack 6:00 pm Outreach Board 7:00	11	12 Adult Choir 7:00	13	14
15 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Alleluia Choir 11:30	16 Whitener benefit Trumpet Concert	17 Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	18 Deacons 7:00 Chimes Articles Due	19 Community Supper 5:00 - 6:30 Trustees 5:30 Adult Choir 7:00	20	21
22 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am Alleluia Choir 11:30	23	24 Cub Scouts 4:30 pm	25	26 Adult Choir 7:00	27	28
29 Worship Service 10:00 am Family Sunday	30	31 Cub Scouts 4:30 pm				

**United Church of Christ
29 Mount Desert Street
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Special dates

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2012
- Epiphany, January 6, 2012
- Baptism of the Lord, January 8, 2012
- Martin Luther King Jr.'s
 Birthday Observance, Jan. 16, 2012
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,
 January 18-25, 2012

Learning through failure

You've failed many times, although you may not remember. You fell down the first time you tried to walk. You almost drowned the first time you tried to swim, didn't you? Did you hit the ball the first time you swung a bat? Heavy hitters, the ones who hit the most home runs, also strike out a lot.

Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times, but he also hit 714 home runs. R.H. Macy failed seven times before his store in New York caught on and eventually became an American institution. English novelist John Creasy got 753 rejection slips before he published 564 books.

Even America's great inventor, Thomas Edison, wasn't successful on every attempt. He once said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

Don't worry about failure. Worry about the chances you'll miss when you don't try.

Articles this page: Newsletter Newsletter

Facing injustice

As the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., approaches, many cities and many churches will recall the courage and challenge of the civil rights leader who suffered and died for his beliefs.

When he confronted those who dealt out injustice, he and his followers were stopped, jailed, sometimes beaten, ridiculed and threatened. They were called rabble-rousers, Communists, disturbers of the peace and worse. Many people stood by and did nothing.

It is no wonder that Dr. King said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Whatever else we remember about Dr. King, we should recall that he chose not to remain silent in the face of injustice. Can we say the same about ourselves?

When anyone is treated without respect, without fair play, without kindness or Christian love, we must not remain mute. We should follow the suggestion of Dr. King: "With our faith, we will transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood."