



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 – Friday 9:00 – 3:00 PM

Telephone: (207) 288-3280

E-mail: bhucc2@verizon.net

Web Site: www.barharborucc.org

From the Senior Pastor:

March 2008

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
while we are absent one from the other.*

These beautiful words, often referred to as the Mizpah Benediction, are based on Genesis 31:49. Their beauty and poignancy have never failed to move me, particularly when someone I care about is about to take their leave. Now that I am preparing to go on Sabbatical, I see that this beautiful benediction speaks eloquently of what I am feeling. While I am excited about the possibilities of my Sabbatical I will miss my life within yours. I know I will see you on some Sundays, but it will not be the same. After all, we spend a great deal of time together, don't we?

Things will go on as usual at our church -- meetings, worship, meetings, mission, meetings, building upkeep, meetings, pastoral calls, meetings, administration, meetings, choir, meetings – you get the drift. Did I mention meetings? (Just kidding – there really aren't *that many* meetings!) All in all, life in the church continues, with or without the Senior Pastor. Having watched you for these nearly ten years, I know how capable and talented you are, and I have no doubt that you won't even know I'm gone!

While I am away, you will be in capable hands, rest assured. Dusty, our Assistant Pastor, will be assuming some of my duties and we will welcome some guests as worship leaders over the months of April, May and June. If there are pastoral emergencies, we

have folks who can handle them. In the case of a death in the parish, I will be available to help. Paul will always know how to contact me.

As for me, I will be working on research for the book I plan to write. My prayer is that my work will be helpful in the area of preparation for the ministry. I believe this is an area that we need to pay more attention to if we are to keep sending good leaders to our churches. I will thank you in advance for the important part you will play in my research. After all, lay people are valuable sources of information when it comes to what a minister needs to know! Every minister worth his or her salt is aware of that. For years I have maintained that ministers come and go, but the church goes on. It is the congregation that carries out the majority of God's work in the Church. Ministers play their part, but it is not the only part that is needed for the Church to be a place where Jesus' teachings become flesh.

I want to thank you again for giving me this invaluable opportunity. You will be in my thoughts and prayers while I am away. I will look forward to our brief times together in the midst of my Sabbatical. My plan is to return to you on July 1, refreshed and retooled for some exciting ministry.

Until then, I have absolutely no doubt that the Lord will, indeed, watch between me and thee. God bless you.

Sandra M. Reed



A Brief History of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, Celebrating 125 Years By Deborah Dyer Church Historian

In this year of 2008, the Congregationalists of Bar Harbor celebrate 125 years.

Looking back through archives and according to a 1933 issue of the *Bar Harbor Times*, church work on Mount Desert Island, so far as records are concerned, can be traced back to 1799 when the Baptists founded the first church in the vicinity of Bar Harbor.

Settlers made their first homes at Hulls Cove in 1768 and from then on the work of the church began. Some time before 1820, when Maine was given the right of statehood, land was donated by Capt. James Hamor for the site of a schoolhouse which was erected. This was the land that the Congregational Church now occupies, and until the building of the Congregational granite church, the foundation of the old school was still visible at the north end of the church lot. Jonathan Rodick gave the land adjoining the west of the church for the purpose of a village cemetery.

Those early preachers labored diligently to the end that in 1853 the schoolhouse was moved to the western end of Mount Desert Street. Plans were made for the building of Bar Harbor's first church, the old "white church," as it was called. This church was built by contractor Jeremiah Roberts of Boston, who had just built the Agament House. S. H. Emery of Salisbury Cove had charge of the interior

work, and the painting was done by Charles and Rodney Copp of Trenton. Mr. Alpheus Hardy of Bangor, who built the first summer cottage, was often the speaker.

The Congregational group was organized on May 20, 1883 under the pastorate of the Rev. McGown, with 13 organizing members.

In the fall of 1888 the old white church was moved, to the regret of many who thus saw the last link severed that bound them to the Bar Harbor of the happy past. On the site was erected a magnificent stone structure.

The stone church was built of native stone of fine red granite, quarried at Otter Creek. Plans were prepared by W. R. Emerson, a famous Boston architect and during the winter of 1888-1889 the beautiful granite structure rose, with Asa Hodgkins and son handling the contracting work and George Wescott doing the masonry. The home of George Wescott at 37 Hancock Street was purchased for the parsonage.

In 1903 the notable pastorate of the Rev. A. M. MacDonald began. He was pastor for 20 years, followed by the Rev. J. Homer Nelson, who was pastor for many years.

The beautiful stone church, built in 1888, was destroyed by fire on February 9, 1942. The Kittredge Store, which was next to the church, also burned.

The Unitarian Society offered their church on Ledgelawn Avenue for use from February, 1942 through 1951. On October 1, 1950, Congregational Church members voted to have A. B. & J. R. Hodgkins build a new church. The Kittredge Store property was purchased and paid for by an anonymous donor in order to build the ell for the office and parlor. The present church was dedicated on November 7, 1951.

The church has stood for over a century as a beacon in the Christian life of this community. Long may its light continue to shine in the cause of righteousness for God and our country.

More updated history to come as we celebrate our 125th anniversary!



Easter Flowers

Please contact Roxie Brechlin (288-4859) or Billie Mitchell (288-3691) to order your Easter Flowers. We ask that everyone have their order in by March 5th. There will be lilies or tulips. The cost is \$15.00, payment can be given to Roxie, Billie or the church office. Please make checks payable to Bar Harbor Congregational Church, UCC.

Thank You!

The Flower Committee



We have had a busy and active month of February. This has kept our children and youth on the go and looking forward to activities on cold winter days.

The Sunday School raised money for the Bar Harbor Food Pantry on February 3rd, with the Souper Bowl of Caring. The children collected money and food items after church, raising \$302.38 and 122 food items. We were taking part in a national event that focuses on fighting hunger in local communities. Next year, we hope to raise even more money and food items. Thank you all for your help and support.

The youth groups held their 2nd annual Valentine's Day Chocolate Sale during coffee hour on February 10th. They painted boxes and paper that was then made into boxes to hold the candy. On Friday, February 9th, the youth gathered at the church to spend the evening making the truffles. The kids were absolutely thrilled selling the candy Sunday morning. The highlight came when they last box was sold and they went downstairs to count the money! They raised \$155.00. This event benefits all the youth groups. We hope everyone enjoyed the candy and helped make someone's Valentine's Day special.

On Easter Sunday, the Sunday school will be performing an Easter skit during the church service. They will be going downstairs after for a group lesson. On Saturday, March 22nd, 10:00 -11:00 a.m., we will have a short rehearsal at church.

In Sunday School, our next quarter will begin on March 4th. We still need another teacher for the 4th grade, or people who would be willing to substitute a Sunday or two. If you are interested please contact Cindy Fox or Mary Swift. Thank you for considering to share your talents with the children in our church.

Mary Swift

History's darkest day and brightest day

A professor once asked a young man studying for the ministry what the cross of Christ meant to him. The student said, "Well, the cruel death of God's Son, Jesus, was the most soul-shocking event imaginable. What could have been more heartless and evil than the crucifixion of Christ, the most holy person who ever lived? That had to be the darkest day in human history.

"On the other hand, one has to consider what happened on the Sunday after his death on Friday. It is quite clear from eye-witness accounts that he arose from the dead and was recognized by his friends as the one they had called Lord. The Resurrection was such a soul-stirring and momentous event that the first Easter Sunday had to be the brightest and most joyous day in the history of the world."

When he had finished, the professor said to him, "That is an excellent interpretation of the meaning of the cross. It was indeed a dark and hideous day when Christ was crucified. Yet that cross took on the symbol of salvation and hope when God raised Christ from the dead. Yes, Christians could say it was the brightest day in history."

The Newsletter

One Great Hour of Sharing

“Do not neglect to do good and share what you have.” Hebrews 13:16a

It's One Great Hour of Sharing Time. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the relief, refugee and development fund of the United Church of Christ. It is one of the Special Mission Offerings received by the United Church of Christ and is a part of Our Churches Wider Mission. The 2008 offering date for OGHS at Bar Harbor Congregational Church UCC is Sunday March 9.

We invite all to participate in this opportunity to share our resources and make a difference in the lives of others. This special mission offering carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, emergency and disaster relief, credit for small business, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and misplaced persons, and agricultural development.

We will distribute a Sharing Calendar and collection box to the children in order for them to learn about the conditions of the less fortunate and how their saved money will be used to help improve their lives. The Sharing Calendar will also be available to individuals and families in order to provide daily meditation on giving and sharing for two weeks.

Please join us in responding to God's love with gifts of our own. OGHS envelopes and boxes will be collected on Sunday, March 9. We will allow another week or two before our church donation is sent to the mission headquarters. You may also make on-line contributions or acquire more information at www.ucc.org/oghs.

Your Outreach Board

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

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Organization
Bar Harbor, ME 04609
Permit Number 32

Special Dates

- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 2, 2008
- World Day of Prayer, March 7, 2008
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 9, 2008
- Girl Scout Sunday, March 9, 2008
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 9, 2008
- Passion/Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008
- Holy Week, March 16-22, 2008
- Maundy/Holy Thursday, March 20, 2008
- First Day of Spring, March 20, 2008
- Good Friday, March 21, 2008
- Holy Saturday, March 22, 2008
- Easter Day, March 23, 2008

There's more!

On the first Easter morning, three women found an empty tomb. The discovery left them trembling and afraid. They didn't know there was more — a resurrected Lord.

Later that day, the risen Jesus appeared. As happy as the disciples were about this miracle, they didn't yet know there was more — a gift of the Holy Spirit that would make their joy complete.

Early Christians in Corinth were so delighted by the gift of baptism that they could scarcely imagine there was more — the resurrection of the body to eternal life.

As great as Easter is, it's only the "first fruits" of what lies ahead. Celebrate the fact that Christ is risen, but remember that the best is yet to come!

The Newsletter



Lent offers time for growth

Many of us know our IQ (intelligence quotient), but what about our SQ (spiritual quotient)?

Lent is a good time to think about the quality of your spiritual life. Do you think about God often ... or rarely? Do you pray often ... or occasionally? How well do you know the Bible? The Commandments? The Beatitudes? The lives of biblical heroes and heroines?

During Lent, commit to spending more time in prayer. Also consider selecting a book of the Bible or a particular Bible character to study in-depth during this period.

Some people give up particular items or habits during Lent. If used wisely, this discipline can help you abandon things that have been interfering with your relationship with God.

Seek out devotions and books that can help strengthen your spiritual life.

The Newsletter

March



- 1 Mason Gurtler
- 1 Barbara Moulton
- 1 David Lind
- 2 Cas Dowden
- 3 Jill Pelletier
- 5 Kate St. Denis
- 5 Gloria Soule
- 6 Dana Reed
- 6 Kristin MacQuinn
- 6 Henry A. Brown
- 7 Jonathan Wood
- 7 Laurie Riddell
- 8 Vickie Bence
- 9 Judy Fuller
- 9 Christopher Bence
- 13 Doug Lee
- 13 Estelle Megquier
- 14 Lucy Sprague
- 14 Doris Karst
- 16 Lucille Campbell
- 17 Kincaid MacCulloch
- 18 Sharon Hobbs
- 20 Haleigh Smith
- 21 Brad Haskell
- 21 Marie McPheters
- 22 Samuel Owen Craighead
- 22 Pierce DiMauro
- 22 Bryce DiMauro
- 22 Kirstin DiMauro
- 22 Bill Skiff
- 24 Michael MacCulloch
- 29 Penny Heiges
- 31 Fred Clement
- 31 Shelley MacQuinn



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Karl Haller
Assistant Deacon – Mary Dudzik

Liturgists-

- 2: Debbie Dyer
- 9: Kimberly Haller
- 16: Kimberly Haller
- 23: Debbie Dyer
- 30: Alice Hobbs

Flowers –

- 2: Charles Marinke
- 9: Earl and Roxie Brechlin
- 16: Ruth Rossi
- 23: Easter flowers
- 30: Wally and Sandra Reed

Coffee Hosts -

- 2: Betty and Dick Crawford
And Tony and Kate St. Denis
- 9: Estelle Megquier
- 16: Barbara Hepburn
- 23: Deacons
- 30: Ponzi and Dana Reed

Bible Readings -

- 2 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41
- 9 Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45
- 16 Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philemon 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27
- 23 Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18
- 30 Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31