



# THE CHIMES

THE NEWS LETTER 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

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November 2008

## THE CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

October 22, 2008

Pursuant to the By-Laws (Article VI, Sec. 3 and 5) the Call to the Annual Meeting of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, D.C.C. is herewith issued, said meeting to convene at **11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 16, 2008**. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is:

1. To hear the reports of officers, boards, committees and organizations of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, D.C.C.
2. To adopt a church budget for 2008.
3. To elect officers, delegates, and board and committee members.
4. To transact such other business that may properly come before said meeting.

This call is issued by the Church Council.

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Jan Varnum, Chair  
Church Council

ATTEST:

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Margaret Blake, Clerk

## From the Senior Pastor:

“Your faith should inform your life,” intoned the keynote speaker at the Evangelism Forum. Of course, I said to myself that goes without saying. It all seems so simple, merely a matter of practicing what we preach, right? And yet, even as I heard the speaker say those words, examples of times when I have made decisions based on criteria other than my faith crept into my mind. Sometimes my decisions were based on immediate gratification; sometimes on selfishness; sometimes on emotion; sometimes on opportunity, sometimes on fear and desperation, and on and on. Why could I not follow the speaker’s simple advice, I asked myself? My answer was both honest and harsh: because you have kept your faith in a box and only brought it out when it was expedient. I did not want to hear that, even from myself.

That was a long time ago. I hope I have grown enough in faith to be able to do a much better job these days at decision-making. However, it bears repeating: “Your faith should inform your life.” There is still a great deal of this lesson that remains to be learned. Integration of life and faith can be a challenge.

In this year of hotly contested elections, I am more aware than ever that we must let our faith loose as we make our decisions. Faith kept in a box, waiting to be liberated, is not faith at all, but a convenience to be trotted out when we wish to appear to be good Christians, dedicated people of faith. People will differ on the conclusions they reach based

on their faith, but our faith must be at the center of all of our decisions, whether those decisions take place on a playground, in a living room, a board room, a schoolroom, or on a battlefield. Or a voting booth. We are what we believe. We are defined by the choices we make. Ours is not a Sunday morning faith, but rather a way of life. We must be at home with our decisions and we must live out our faith. Our lives and our faith are one entity, a living, breathing response to our love for God in Christ. If the way we believe we ought to live and the way we actually live are at odds with each other, we need to right the equation. In order to be a faithful Christian, it is impossible to live an unreconciled life. We need to be in balance with what we believe.

God invites us to live examined lives; lives in which decisions and actions are weighed against the beliefs we hold. There is no other way to live well and faithfully. In this important time in our lives, we are reminded to practice what we preach, what we believe. We are the only ones who will know if we are ultimately successful. Oh, yes, God will know too. May a life of peace and joy be the result of our balanced lives. May our ability to be compassionate and generous be a reflection of our inner peace. And may our faith go from strength to strength as we seek to serve our Lord.

You have all you need to make the important decisions of life. May we continue to live and grow in faith, that our lives may be shining examples of Christ’s love at work in the world.

Sandra M. Reed



## Old Fashioned Worship

On Sunday, November 9, we will worship together in the style of the year of the gathering of our church: 1883. The service will reflect the worship styles of the day and you are invited to wear costumes that represent the fashions of the day. (Costumes, however, are not necessary.)

This is the last event of our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year. Please join us that day for a look at the past. You will enjoy this "blast from the past."



## Annual Healing Service

On Sunday, November 30, we will hold our annual Healing Service. Please join us as we pray for ourselves, our loved ones, our neighbors and strangers who are in need of healing. The service will include prayer, music, anointing, and laying on of hands for those who desire it.

"Come unto me, all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." May these comforting words of our Lord be the cornerstone of our worship.

If you have any questions, please call Sandra Reed at 460-9300.



## Veterans Day Service

On Tuesday, November 11, at 11:00 AM we will hold our annual Veterans Day Service. Please join us for this special time in which we honor those who have given their lives for our country. Come and remember those who have played a part in your life. Join us as we pray for peace.

Following the service, refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please call Sandra Reed (460-9300) or Dusty Warner (244-9288).

## Women's Group Gathering

The next gathering will be held on Sunday, November 2, at 2:00 PM in the parlor of the church. Dessert and tea will be served and a special activity has been planned. All women of the church and community are welcome to attend and enjoy some time with friends and neighbors.

At our first meeting, we decided to offer a gathering at this time to welcome women who were unable to attend the last meeting, which was held on a Wednesday afternoon. We are hoping that if you were not able to attend the first gathering, you will attend this one. We also want to welcome back all those who were able to attend the first one.

If you have any questions, please contact Sandra Reed (460-9300) or Joyce Parmelee (288-8141). Women have always been a very important part of our church and we are happy to continue in this tradition. Please join us!

## Office Notes

Our church **website now has a chat room capability**. Boards or committees may use this tool to conduct online meetings. This capability enables people to discuss items of interest in real time (interactively) or over a period of time, which is a useful capability during times of the year when members cannot meet. The discussion is arranged by the Internet server computer in an orderly manner and provides a permanent record of the decision process. For more information on this tool, click on the Chat Room Help link on the main page of our website.

Chairs of boards or committees can activate this tool by contacting David Lind or the church office. Please provide a period of time during which you want the tool activated. This period of time can range from an hour or two to several days. We will limit the time that the chat room is open to minimize the nefarious use of the chat room. Our webmaster will archive the chat room transactions and delete the transactions after the chat room is closed or a particular use is terminated.



## Chapel Chimers

On November 2nd, you may hear the music of little angels singing and chiming in the church dining room. That's the first morning that the "Chapel Chimers" will meet from 9:30 to 9:55 AM.

This new musical opportunity is for all youngsters ages 3-first grade. The children will be learning songs and ringing hand chimes. If there is enough interest, the Chapel Chimers will continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30. The children will help to lead worship with their musical gifts. Enrollment is open and ongoing. A monthly rehearsal schedule will be distributed prior to the first of each month.

If you have any questions, please contact Chapel Chimers director, Kathe Simons at 244-3207.

## Congratulations

Earl Brechlin, Editor, *Mount Desert Islander* for 22 Maine Press Association awards including five specifically for Earl. Way to go Earl!

Congratulations also to Bob McKown, recent recipient of both the Block M award and the Golden M award from the University of Maine. These awards are given for outstanding class service, leadership since graduation, and alumni activity.

## Christian Education

Sunday School is going strong. This year we are using a new curriculum, Gather Round. The teachers like the content and the ease in using the lesson plans and the children are enjoying the stories and activities. During Circle Time we are all memorizing the Bible Verses in the lessons. Each week a different teacher is talking to the kids about what the verse means to them. So far this has been very successful and adds a nice element to our Circle Time. During Advent we will be having a different format, called Rotation for Sunday School.

We will be asking people within the church to teach a class (station) for 4 weeks. Each week will be the same lesson and the children will rotate to the different classes, stations. This will be starting November 30th. Please stay tuned for more information about this.

Youth Group for the 3rd -5th grade will have a meeting on November 2nd, from 3:00 -4:30. Parents are invited to attend this meeting with their child(ren). We have been meeting on Thursdays after school, but with sports and other after school activities Thursdays have not been working. We will be deciding the best time to have Youth Group.

Now a personal note: Monday afternoon I closed on the sale of my house. After two solid weeks of packing, sorting, selling and throwing out, my house was empty and I moved to Bass Harbor where I am renting a house for the winter. My new phone number is 244-7958 and my address is P.O. Box 302, Bass Harbor, ME 04653.

Mary Swift



Welcome  
Our New  
Members

Al and Kathe Simons  
and Joyce Parmelee  
October 26, 2008

Laura Jordan and  
Dean Barger  
October 18, 2008



Jillian Louise Hepburn,  
daughter of Victoria and  
Ian Hepburn, sister of Keir  
Hepburn, October 12, 2008

*With Sympathy to the families of:*  
Vera Sleeper                      Ethel Drake

# November



- 3 Tabitha Booher
- 5 Matthew Lambert
- 5 Susan Lynn Ackerman
- 5 Stephen Moulton
- 7 Cindy Fox
- 8 Carolyn Meader
- 10 Robert Cooper
- 12 Richard Fox
- 13 Maggie Berry
- 14 Owen Charles Kelly
- 19 Bea Lou Horner
- 21 Eric Beals
- 21 Stephanie Kelley-Reece
- 21 Glenn MacPherson
- 22 Caroline Woodworth
- 25 Binky MacQuinn
- 26 Sara Heiges
- 27 Pat Linscott
- 27 Owen Craighead
- 29 Sarra Kane
- 30 Keith Miller
- 30 Betty Bryer



## Sunday Worship Contributors

**Head Deacon –** Dusty Warner  
**Assistant Deacon –** Bruce Blake

### Liturgists-

- 2: Anne Warner
- 9: Betty Bryer
- 16: Alice Hobbs
- 23: Debbie Dyer
- 30: Kathe Simons

### Flowers –

- 2: Nancy and Jack Pelletier
- 9: Anne and Dusty Warner
- 16: George and Billie Mitchell
- 23: James and Kathy MacLeod,  
Estelle Megquier
- 30:

### Coffee Hosts -

- 2: Diane and Mike Bonsey
- 9: Norma Spurling and Lucy Creevy
- 16: Cindy and Jim Lambert
- 23: Bruce and Margaret Blake
- 30: Barbara and Sheridan Steele

### Home Bible Readings

- 2 Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 107:1-7,33-37  
1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12
- 9 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13
- 16 Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30
- 23 Ezekiel 34:11-16  
Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46
- 30 Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7,17-19  
1st Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

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29 Mount Desert Street  
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Permit Number 32**

## **Special dates**

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2008
- **Daylight-Saving Time Ends,  
November 2, 2008**
- Election Day, November 4, 2008
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2008
- Bible Sunday, November 23, 2008
- National Bible Week, November 23-30, 2008
- Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2008
- First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2008

## **A Prayer for Perspective**

A prayer written for use during the Jewish New Year (September 30-October 1) is pertinent for Christians, too:

Eternal God!

Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful;  
courage enough to look forward and be hopeful;  
faith enough to look upward and be humble;  
kindness enough to look outward and be helpful.  
Amen.

## **Honor Our Veterans**

Veterans Day, which is November 11 each year, is a holiday to honor America's veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our nation's common good.

Christians follow the Prince of Peace, so war is a dilemma that often challenges people of faith. Some Christians are pacifists, while others believe in a "just war." Many believe that the goals of freedom, justice, equality and democracy are worth the cost required.

Whatever individual Christians decide about any given conflict, most Christians believe that men and women who strive to make this world free of tyrants are to be respected. As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Thank you to all the men and women who served or are now serving our country.