

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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November 2006

**Bar Harbor Congregation Church, UCC
29 Mt. Desert St., Bar Harbor, ME 04609**

THE CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

October 23, 2006

Pursuant to the By-Laws (Article VI, Sec. 3 and 5) the Call to the Annual Meeting of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, U.C.C. is herewith issued, said meeting to convene at **11:00 a.m., Sunday, November 12, 2006**. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is:

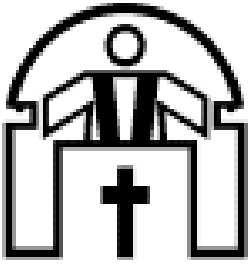
1. To hear the reports of officers, boards, committees and organizations of the Bar Harbor Congregational Church, U.C.C.
2. To adopt a church budget for 2007.
3. To elect officers, delegates, and board and committee members.
4. To transact such other business that may properly come before said meeting.

This call is issued by the Church Council.

Jan Varnum, Chair
Church Council

ATTEST:

Margaret Blake, Clerk



From the Pastor:

Since going to Gerry, New York to visit my mother, and having her be so sick at this point in her life, I have been thinking a great deal about mothers, families, health, health care, self care and many other things, in no particular order. There is nothing like a good health crisis in the family to make one think about what is really important. At this moment, my mother is ensconced in a lovely nursing home, a place where she never thought she would find herself.

Wasn't it Will Rogers who said, "If I had known I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself?" Those words, seemingly simplistic and witty on the outside, are profoundly meaningful on the inside. It is too bad that we are only aware of the care we have taken along the way when our life is at a point where it is too late for changes to make much of a difference. I guess that is human nature. However, I am convinced that we are teachable. Perhaps we can all begin right now to take better care of ourselves. (If you have already absorbed this particular life lesson, feel free to scan the rest of the newsletter!)

It seems to me that there are three main areas for self care: body, spirit and relationships. I am no authority on any of these areas, but I would like to share a few thoughts for your consideration.

Our bodies are a gift from God and God expects that we will take good care of them. In the Scriptures, our bodies are referred to as, "temples," or vehicles for praising God. Look what we do to our bodies! Many people still smoke and, for the life of me, I cannot understand why. At one time, it might have been understandable that we would be tempted to use tobacco, but now, when we

know so much about heart and lung disease, the effects of second hand smoke, and the overall damages smoking can do, why are so many people, particularly young people, still lighting up? A former smoker myself, I have already paid a rather heavy price for my tobacco vice. Even though burning sacrifices were a part of the temples of Jerusalem, cigarettes have no place in our lives if we are to care for the bodies God has given us.

And smoking is not the only problem: add to that the lack of proper exercise, too many calories, too much sun, overindulging in alcohol (just to name a few) and we have a formula for unhealthy bodies and bad examples for our children.

Good habits, I have learned, can just as easily become a part of our lives as bad ones; we just have to put our minds to it!

The poor in spirit may be blessed, according to Scripture, but they also suffer needlessly sometimes. Once we have decided to fill our bodies with good things, it would follow that we then should fill our spirits with healthy thoughts, and a yearning for God. The world around us is filled with negative thoughts and images. We don't have to look very far to see and hear things that are detrimental to our spirits. A world of sordidness and squalor is at our fingertips, it is true, but guess what? So is a world of beauty and blessing. Which world we live in is up to us. The Scriptures tell us. "I have put before you the ways of life and death; therefore, choose life." I couldn't have said it better myself!

Choosing the better way means that we are surrounding ourselves and those we love with a positive, inspiring, and grace-filled life. We seek God and find a church (or other religious place of worship) and involve ourselves in God's life-affirming message. We choose to be involved in things that make the world a better place, rather than involve ourselves in things that contribute to the cheapening of life. We seek to plug into God's vision for this world to which He sent His only Son, realizing that our lives are precious gifts from God's own hand. Our attitude is one of gratitude, not entitlement, and our dreams are those of generosity, not greed.

A spirit of love, faith and hope is what is called for in order to be healthy. Such a way of living will hold us in good stead for the long haul.

Finally, healthy relationships are paramount in our quest for overall health. We were not created to be alone, so we seek companionship. That companionship may be found in any number of ways. The most important thing is to treat each other with respect, dignity and kindness, recognizing in one another that divine spark, which is the mark of our loving Creator. We learn our first lessons of how to get along in the world from our parents. That means that a parent's contribution to a child's psyche is so important when it comes to that child's future. Whether we are, literally, parents or whether we have an opportunity to influence a child, let our influence be for good and a positive witness to our faith. The way we treat each other will be our living testimony to our religious beliefs.

I try to remember (and hope) that I may live a long time. Preparation is everything. We do what we can and pray for strength to endure what we cannot prepare for. The journey is a blessing.

Sandra M. Reed

**Maine Conference, United
Church of Christ
2006 Annual Meeting
Life Abundant: I shall not want...
~Psalm 23~**

The theme of this year's Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ was based on the 23rd Psalm. One might suggest that everything that could be said about this particular Psalm has already been said. Then again maybe not! We were given three different interpretations of the Psalm...the Christian, Arabic and Jewish interpretations. With the reading of each version, one could come away with a slightly different message or theme. So one might ask what does this have to do with anything? Given

the tough resolutions we had to deal with at this year's meeting, it was important that we keep an open mind and listen to each comment, question, and interpretation with discernment before making a decision and casting our vote. Being open to differences was critical to the discussion and ultimately to the final vote. The delegates to this year's Maine Conference approved all of the following resolutions:

- ✓ Resolution to Live in Covenant and Dialogue Regarding the Quality and Equality of Marriage;
- ✓ Resolution Calling the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ to be a Fair Trade/Fairly Traded Conference;
- ✓ Resolution Proclaiming Ourselves as the United Church of Christ;
- ✓ Resolution on Torture.

What else did we do at the Annual Meeting? We participated in wonderful worship services; made beautiful music together; listened to keynote speakers; met old friends and made new ones; heard great sermons, attended workshops and plenary sessions; broke bread together and enjoyed time with each other.

A word should be said about our youth delegates Eric Beal and Nicholas MacCulloch. They were great! They were actively engaged at every level of the meeting. You would have been proud of them! Another bonus was Dusty Warner's attendance at this year's Annual Meeting! One always gains a new perspective when all that is happening around you is viewed through fresh eyes!

It was a great Annual Meeting! The Holy Spirit was definitely in our midst! We appreciate the opportunity to stretch our minds, nourish our souls, and serve you, our church family, as your delegates!

Blessings to you all!

Kathy MacCulloch Eric Beal
Kathy Woodside Nicholas MacCulloch

"Whom Shall I Send..."

Lately, I have been thinking a great deal about our upcoming Annual Church Meeting in November. Some of my thoughts have been focused on my responsibilities as your moderator, but what comes to mind even more frequently these days is the work of our Nominating Committee. They have a huge task before them. Finding the right fit...the perfect person to fill positions on each of our church committees is no easy task. Ministers seek a call or are called to ministry, but what about the layperson...the man, woman, or child sitting in the pew...are they ever called to ministry? I believe that all Christians are called at some point in their lives. Hearing the call and listening to the heart and mind when that call comes to us is part of our human struggle. When Isaiah said, "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'" I do not believe he had only clergy in mind. So when you receive your phone call from a member of the Nominating Committee, think about it, it could be God's way of reaching out to you. And before you say no, remember Isaiah's response to his Lord, "Here I am, send me."

Blessings to you all!
Kathy Woodside
Moderator

HANCOCK--WALDO ASSOCIATION NEWS

This year's Hancock-Waldo Association Annual Meeting was held at First Congregational Church of Ellsworth, United Church of Christ. The officers and various representatives serving on commissions for the Maine Conference United Church of Christ presented reports. Goodbyes and thanks were given to those who have finished their terms as officers and committee members. New officers were

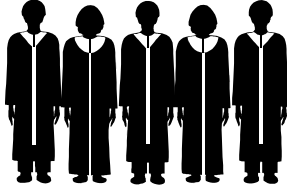
elected and a budget was passed which included a reallocation of funds to increase the seminary student scholarship fund. The entire delegation extended its heartfelt appreciation to Mimi Dickson in recognition of her leadership and hard work as moderator and vice-moderator for the past four years.

A number of other Association and Conference projects/events/issues were discussed:

- Volunteers with skills in the building trades are needed for a trip to Honduras in early February. Anyone who is interested should contact Dusty Warner.
- A major education event is planned for March 23rd and 24th. Watch the Maine Conference website for more information.
- Let it Shine! National Synod 2007 will be held in Hartford, Connecticut in June. Maine would like to send 400 people to this extraordinary event.
- The Mid-Winter Youth Event sponsored by Youth Ministries Advisory Team (YMAT) will be scheduled for the 2nd weekend of February vacation.
- Let It Shine Book Project is an effort to have the United Church of Christ youth create a book using the Synod theme "Let It Shine". The book would be presented to the National Office of the United Church of Christ at General Synod in June 2007. For details see Mary Swift or Kathy Woodside.
- The Hancock-Waldo Association needs a Vice-Moderator and a layperson to serve on the Church and Ministry Committee. For information about either of these positions, contact Mimi Dickson or Kathy Woodside.

The business meeting was followed by a worship service led by the Reverend Victor Stanley of the Somesville Union Meeting House. The highlight of the afternoon was the moving sermon delivered by guest preacher, Reverend Mark Doty of Hammond Street Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Bangor. It was a great meeting!

Kathy Woodside
Delegate



CHOIR NOTES

The Adult Choir will rehearse the Christmas Festival and Christmas Eve anthems on November 9, 16, 30, and December 7, and 14 (Thursdays) from 7:00-7:45PM, devoting the remainder of the choir rehearsal to other anthems (you are more than welcome to stay and join in!). Please speak to me if you are interested in joining us for these Christmas anthems, even if you have "note-reading reservations" or scheduling concerns.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Sunday, DECEMBER 10, 2006, at 3:00PM, for our annual CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL. This year, the Festival will feature a cantata presented by the Alleluia Choir and friends. We may also have a surprise offering involving Sarah St. Denis and the Adult Choir! On a related side-note, congratulations to Sarah who had a starring singing role in the Boston University Chamber Chorus' performance of Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* on October 7 at Boston University. We are very proud of you, Sarah!

The Alleluia Choir continues to grow both in sound and number. We now have 15 singers, 12 girls and 3 boys. In September, they presented the cantata "The Tale of the Three Trees" during a church service and now they are working on a special Christmas cantata with songs in 4 different languages! Please support our youth by attending (and bringing friends) to the Christmas Festival on December 10 and by letting them know how much you enjoy their musical contributions to our church.

Faithfully yours,
Kimberly Haller

Capital Campaign News

Good News – we have made the final payment to Associated Builders for our wonderful new addition to the church.

Bad News – pledges are being paid over a three-year period so we have some catching up to do.

We borrowed from the Endowment Fund to complete the payments to the contractor. We are now starting to pay back the endowment. Basic facts are that we have approximately \$70,000 to collect from pledges between now and December 2007. This money will be used to pay back endowment borrowings. After that, the Trustees will budget money each year to complete the payback to the endowment.

If your pledge is in arrears, we are asking you to catch up if at all possible. If you are able to make a payment ahead of schedule, it will get our endowment fund back to earning money for our day-to-day expenses. If you are one of the many who have completed their pledge, thank you from the Capital Campaign Committee. You have helped us keep our borrowings to a minimum.

If you are able to make another gift to the campaign to help us pay off this debt sooner, it will be greatly appreciated.

Barbara Hepburn

Capital Campaign Book

We are preparing a book to acknowledge those who have pledged to the Capital Campaign and made our new addition possible. Those of you who have given donations, please contact the office at 288-3280 and let us know how you would like to see your names listed, for example, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith, or Fred and Sue Smith, or Fred Smith and Sue Smith, or your name in honor or memory of someone –

your preference. You may, of course, have your gift remain anonymous.

If you were unable to give, or were not here at the time of the campaign, you may still be included in the book by giving now. A gift of any size, as you deem appropriate, will be welcomed and acknowledged.

Veteran's Day Service

All are invited to the annual Veteran's Day Service. It will be held Saturday, November 11th, at 11:00 am, and refreshments will follow.

Annual Healing Service

Mark your calendars for the Annual Healing Service, which will be held Sunday, November 26th, at 7:00 pm.

Annual Christmas Fair

This year's Christmas Fair will be held Saturday, December 9, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Plan now to come and lend a helping hand!

Send a Note of Thanks

William Stidger, a professor and author, once found himself thinking about people who had made a wonderful difference in his life. He decided to let his appreciation be known to some of them. Soon after he had written to an aged teacher who had instilled in him a love for poetry, he received a note from her in which she addressed him as "Billy." (He felt that being called Billy was in itself a blessing now that he was long past childhood.) Her letter went on to say, "I have taught school for 50 years and yours is the first note of appreciation I've ever received. It came on a blue, cold morning and it cheered me as nothing has in years."

Bill Stidger had also written to a retired bishop who had encouraged him when he entered the ministry. The bishop replied: "You will never know how much your letter warmed my heart. I've been walking about in the glow of it all day."

Surely each of us has been grateful for those who have taught us, supported us, blessed us in many and various ways. Why not write a note or send an e-mail letter or telephone those people? Such thoughtfulness and expressions of gratitude will not only bring joy to them, it will do something for our own spirits as well.



To the families of –

Katheryn Stewart
Amy Tinkham

Remember the Faithful Believers

Many denominations celebrate November 1 each year as All Saints' Day. It is a day when we recall those who have died in the faith throughout history.

Obviously there would be no Christianity without faithful Disciples of Christ who have held fast to their faith in good times and in bad. There have been countless martyrs who have died witnessing to the love of God and the saving grace of Christ. And sad to say, in some parts of the world, Christians are still persecuted and even slain for their beliefs.

Take time to think of our Christian heritage, and remember with thanksgiving those who have held fast to their faith no matter what.



Sandra Sawyer and
Scott Hoskins, October 14

Carrie Bickford and
David Emerson, October 27

Lou Ingrisano's Medical Mission

"Illness, fear and war-related stress are a way of life for the people who live in Kabul, Afghanistan, even as they struggle to rebuild from the rubble of Soviet occupation and Taliban rule."

"Lou" who works for the Mount Desert Island Hospital-affiliated Family Health Center and is a member of the Portland, Oregon-based Northwest Medical Team's national disaster relief team recently joined with other medical missionaries as part of Pennsylvania based "Cure International" to help those in desperate need.

Lou has been doing medical missions since 1990 mainly in Bolivia and Ecuador, and notes: "I'd heard from various sources that Afghans were extremely sociable, friendly people," he said. "They are absolutely affectionate, kind and caring. They're amazing people. They are terrified of the Taliban. And the Taliban is getting closer. And they're scared to death."

"Everything outside the downtown was rubble," he says. "People are living in empty, blown-out buildings. The need for health care is outrageous. There's a huge amount of pathology."

"Amid the massive amount of rubble and continuing strife, he says, the signs of reconstruction are everywhere: roads are being rebuilt, trees torn out by the Taliban are being replanted – and watered by hand because there's no rain; the people themselves are optimistic and energetic, despite their fears. And medical missions like this one are part of an overall effort to expand medical education programs and qualify doctors in the region to cope with Afghanistan's health care crisis, which is among the worst in the world."

"Medical care is hampered by inadequate equipment. The emergency room, he says, is

'absolutely naked' – no monitors, IVs, otoscopes, or ophthalmoscopes. In one instance, a Montana doctor brought his own equipment to teach laparoscopic surgery because the hospital didn't have laparoscopes. Doctors usually donate the equipment they come with, he says; they have now performed five successful laparoscopies."

"But the hospital is fairly well stocked with medicine, thanks to Cure, although bureaucracy sometimes makes things difficult."

"The team's stay was accompanied by a certain amount of risk from the moment they landed, beginning and ending with the dangerous airport road. Toward the end of their stay, security agencies discovered the road would be targeted by a car bomb."

"They knew there were seven trucks loaded with explosives," he says. "They knew the color and the make. But they couldn't find them. Three days after we left, the car bomb went off."

"Despite the dangers, he says, the missions draw him for simple reasons – he wants to go where he's needed. In underdeveloped situations, he says, even little things can make a huge difference."

"Mr. Ingrisano is helping people on another front as well, running the Disney Marathon in January 2007 to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Last May, he ran the Boston Marathon with Team in Training, which raised \$750,000 for blood cancer research. Those wishing to make a tax-deductible donation toward his pledge of \$3,500 may make checks payable to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, c/o Lou 'the marathoning snail' Ingrisano, 19 Somes Ridge Rd., Mount Desert, ME 04660."

We **THANK YOU** "Lou" for your service to others.

(With special thanks to *The Bar Harbor Times*, which is the source of the quotations for this article.)

Christian Education

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. Those cool, crisp days with the brilliant colors bring back fond memories of my childhood. For me, autumn is a time to gather, reflect and prepare for the winter ahead. Often I think of years past, getting ready for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. These memories are filled with traditions that I still carry on today. This year as we prepare ourselves for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, let us think of the traditions we shared as a child and the traditions that we are giving our children.

On **Sunday, November 19th**, the Sunday School classes will help sort food for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Each class will be called out individually to help sort a box of food.

We will be making and decorating gingerbread houses on **Saturday, December 2nd**, starting at 10:00am. Please bring candy canes, gumdrops, skittles, chocolate kisses or other treats to share. We will use these goodies to decorate our houses. If you can help make gingerbread house parts for this event, please call Kathy MacCulloch or Bethany Hanson.

Rehearsal for our Christmas Pageant will be held at 9:30am **Saturday, December 16th**. The pageant will be performed **Sunday, December 17th** after the church service at 11:30am. All of our Sunday School children will be participating in this annual event.

The **3rd - 5th Grade Youth Group** is going strong. Every other Thursday, we meet at church for community service activities, socializing, and other projects and activities. Two weeks ago, we hiked to Compass Harbor.

Our goal was to experience places in nature where we can be quiet and listen to God. We all painted a stone to reflect our feelings in that setting. At our next meeting, we made cards to send to shut-ins.

All children in the **3rd to 5th grades** are welcome to join us. We meet right after school at Conners-Emerson School and walk to the church together. Our next meeting is October 26th.

The **Jr. High Youth Group** will be producing a calendar as a fundraiser for their group. We will be taking pictures in nature and using these for the calendar.

Upcoming Events:

December 2 nd	Gingerbread Houses
December 16 th	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
December 17 th	Christmas Pageant
January 6 th	Game Night-Potluck Dinner
January 7 th	Birthday Cake Coffee Hour

Mary Swift

Thank You for Your Help!

A good crowd turned out on Saturday, Oct. 14, to help clean up the church and parsonage and spruce up the entrance out front. A special thank you goes to trustee Richard Rechholtz who organized the painting brigade that scraped and painted our beautiful columns, some of the other trim, and generally spruced up the front. Nearly half a ton of unused items, left over construction debris, and other detritus was removed from the back alley and from the basement, and from the basement of the parsonage. Earl Brechlin and Don Hobbs took a large truck-load of stuff to the demolition debris transfer station in Southwest Harbor. Those deserving thanks besides those mentioned above include Tim Smith, Tony St. Denis, Donna Beals, Glen McPherson, Paul Dickson, Dave Woodside and Bruce Blake.

Earl Brechlin

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Permit Number 32



Special dates

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2006
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2006
- Bible Sunday, November 19, 2006
- Bible Week, November 19-26, 2006
- Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2006
- Christ the King Sunday, November 26, 2006

A day to honor our veterans



On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country's service and to offer Americans the opportunity "to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."

Wanting to recognize more specifically America's veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).

November 2006



November Birthdays

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

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Doug Lee
Assistant Deacon – Rita Johnston

November Liturgists-

5: Anne Warner
12:
19: Bethany Hanson
26:

November Flowers –

5: Anne and Dusty Warner
12: Joy and John Kelly
19: Barbara Waldron
26: James MacLeod / Estelle Megquier

November Coffee Hosts –

5: Beth Paradis
12: Jan Varnum, Barbara and Lynne Richardson
19: DeMauro and Bonsey Families
26:

Lectionary –

November 5: Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

November 12: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 19: 1 Samuel 1:4-20
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14
Mark 13:1-8

November 26: 2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12
Revelation 1:4b – 8
John 18:33-37