

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 9:00 – 11:30 AM

Telephone: (207) 288-3280 E-mail: office@barharborucc.org

Web Site: www.barharborucc.org

October 2011

From the Pastor

Recently a member of our congregation emailed me a devotional reading from the UCC Daily Devotions. (By the way, if you would like to receive this daily devotional by email, the address is: dailydevotional@ucc.org.) As I read through it, I realized that the Rev. Lillian Daniel had hit the nail directly on the head. It was as though she were speaking for me. The devotional wasn't particularly profound, but it splendidly addressed an issue that has irked me since the beginning of my days of ministry. The title of the devotional was, "Spiritual but Not Religious? Please Stop Boring Me." She immediately struck a chord within my pastor's heart.

So, what did the Rev. Daniel say that hit me where I live? Very simply, she addressed the over-used, even hackneyed, phrase pastors so often hear on planes, trains, and on the street: I AM SPIRITUAL, BUT NOT RELIGIOUS. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard this phrase: from family members, strangers, friends, residents of MDI and even people who have been members of congregations I have served. Each time the phrase is uttered – usually confidentially or as a way to ward off my attentions once they learn I am a minister of the Gospel – it is said in reverent tones, the speaker assuming that they have somehow come upon a new and

meaningful way of living of which I am probably not aware. PUHLEEZE! (Say that very slowly, dragging it out, and you will pronounce it correctly.) If I had a dollar for every time I have heard that phrase whispered, shouted or implied, I would have a great deal many more pairs of shoes in my closet.

Lillian Daniel got it right when she said that this particular phrase, of which so many are so fond, is BORING, BORING, BORING! I am so weary of this particular sentiment that I felt compelled to subject you to reading about it this month. Please hang in there with me.

First of all are the people who find God in the sunsets, walks on the beach, at the top of a mountain, or on a hiking trail. They couldn't possibly come to church. Okay, but did they ever stop to think that Christians who attend church see God in these miracles too? I guess these folks think we never escape our church buildings, never get out and give thanks for a God who created such a beautiful world.

Then there are the ones who see God only in the affirmation of life that is present in the birth of a baby. "Pastor, did you ever see a baby smile? How could we ever forget our spirituality when we see that beautiful thing? And what about the person I love? Isn't he/she Godlike as they love and care for me?"

Well, gee whiz, of course God is at work in the birth of a baby. The difference between me and the speaker is that I also see God in the drool, dirty diapers and the sleepless nights because each new life is, indeed, a gift from God. And as for love? How could I argue? After all, "we love because God first loved us."

The only thing these people are missing is that we who are part of Christ's Church see all these things and so much more as we worship and celebrate our life together and Christ's life in us. When we leave the church building at the close of worship (or coffee hour) we are in for a week of God being seen in countless places. We just believe that the way to live out our thankfulness is by being part of a vibrant, loving, imperfect church. This is something that our "spiritual but not religious" friends cannot, somehow, understand in their view of God.

The Rev. Daniel closes her meditation with these words, using the metaphor of riding in an airplane: *Thank you for sharing, spiritual but not religious sunset person. You are now comfortably in the norm for self-centered American culture, right smack in the bland majority of people who find ancient religions dull but find themselves uniquely fascinating. Can I switch seats now and sit next to someone who has been shaped by a mighty cloud of witnesses instead? Can I spend my time talking to someone brave enough to encounter God in a real human community? Because when this flight gets choppy, that's who I want by my side, holding my hand, saying a prayer and simply putting up with me, just like we do in church.*

Thank you, Lillian Daniel, for giving me a chance to blow off some steam. I will take the messy church any day rather than the other choices offered by my spiritually non-religious acquaintances. The next time someone says this to me, I will give them a copy of Lillian's devotional and say, "Thanks for sharing." But enough is enough. "Oh, and have a nice day."

Sandra M. Reed

"Become Involved"

"After 20 years of medical missions in places



like Ecuador, Bolivia and Haiti, Lou Ingrisano has seen his share of pain and suffering. But nothing, he says, compares to his

recent three weeks in war-torn Libya, tending to the wounded on the frontlines of the rebel uprising against the forces loyal to the country's former leader, Moammar Gadhafi. Mr. Ingrisano, who is a physician's assistant at Mount Desert Island Hospital in Bar Harbor, said recently that the experience was emotionally draining. 'Your anxiety is huge,' he confessed. 'You don't feel it until you get out of the zone.'"

"The team [of which he was a part] was well received by the Libyan people. 'Strangers would come up to us, cry and give us a hug,' Mr. Ingrisano said. 'They were very appreciative.' The trauma of his work in Libya has Mr. Ingrisano considering taking a break before taking on another mission. It won't be easy, he concedes; after all, this is what he does. 'I think everybody has a mission in life,' he said. 'This is just my way of giving back.' He offers some advice for those who wish to do the same. 'Become involved,' he said. 'Do something nice for someone every day.'"

Source: *Mount Desert Islander*

With Sympathy

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the families of:

Jean Willis, a Covenant Member of our church and

Mary S. Reed, a Covenant Member of our church



Nathan Waterman and Melinda Laliberte,
Hermon, September 3, 2011

Gerald Johnston and Tena Mills,
Jefferson County, West Virginia, September
4, 2011

Scott Pinkham and Amy Krason, Bar
Harbor, September 10, 2011

WORD OR TWO FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION...

Our first weeks of Sunday School are off and running. We have over 25 children registered from nursery school age through high school. We have a fun and inspirational curriculum for each level and a group of creative and dedicated teachers. It should be a great first session!

I want to welcome Amanda Ward as our new Christian Education Coordinator. Amanda is a teacher at Sumner High School. She also coaches the girl's volleyball team and is their yearbook advisor. Make sure you introduce yourself to her and add your welcome!

HELP WANTED!!

We need teachers for the following sessions and grade levels:

- Pre-K and K Session 2 (12/4-2/19)
 Session 3 (3/4-5/20)
- Grades 1 & 2 Session 2 (12/4-2/19)
 Session 3 (3/4-5/20)
- Grades 5 & 6 Session 1 (now-11/20)
- Grades 7 & 8 Session 3 (3/4-5/20)
- High School Session 1 (10/16)
 Session 2 (12/4-2/19)
 Session 3 (3/4-5/20)

Mimi Dickson would love some help teaching the high school class!!

Remember we have one Family Sunday each month which is a non-teaching Sunday!

We are flexible....if you cannot commit to an entire session we are open to folks sharing a session. We also need folks who are willing to substitute. Snack helpers are also needed. So there are lots of options!

Please see me or Amanda if you are able to help in any way. **We would love to have you be a part of this important ministry.**

Yours in faith,
Kathy Woodside
Christian Education Board Chair

**Family Sunday
Let Us Worship Together!
October 23rd**

Annual Report Deadline

The submission deadline for this year's Annual Report is **October 23**. Your timely response is greatly appreciated.

Stan Short, Administrative Assistant

A Message to Our Church Family

Dear Church Family:

Many parents in the Bar Harbor community have already received a letter similar to this from the Connors-Emerson School assistant principal, Michael Zboray, however, due to the seriousness of childhood allergies the Christian Education Board felt it was important to send a modified version to our church family since it impacts one of our own.

You've all read the headlines and seen the news stories: food allergies are a growing concern across America. Millions of children - children who are perfectly healthy and normal in every other way - must watch every single bite they eat, or risk suffering a severe or even life threatening reaction. In fact, food allergies claim an estimated 150 lives and are responsible for more than 125,000 emergency room visits each year. A major health issue such as this must be taken very seriously, and it has always been our top priority to ensure the safety and well-being of the children in our church.

A child in our church has a serious shellfish allergy. This allergy is so severe that reactions can and have occurred through touching, airborne exposure, and consumption. Regardless of exposure this child must be administered an EPI pen and go immediately to the emergency room. Therefore, we are putting the following safety guidelines into effect:

Please do not send any shellfish, or foods containing shellfish to be eaten as snacks, at potluck meals, or for coffee fellowship.

(FYI: Shellfish include but are not limited to: lobster, crab, shrimp, clams, mussels, oysters, and crawfish and snails.)

If there are other household members involved in food preparation, such as older siblings, grandparents or baby-sitters, please make sure they have this information.

We will place a reminder in the church newsletter and post signs throughout our church building.

If you or your child handled shellfish prior to coming to church, we would greatly appreciate your making sure that hands are washed with soap and water before leaving for church. Water alone does not do the trick!

(This allergy is so severe that a reaction has been triggered by someone who had

shellfish on their clothes from handling shellfish earlier in the day.)

Because children move back and forth and up and down within the building, we must do our utmost to ensure that possible exposure is kept to a minimum. We will also be asking the rest of the church congregation to adhere to these same guidelines.

We appreciate your help and understanding about this important health and safety matter. This is a learning process for all of us, but we trust that you understand how deeply important it is to respect and adhere to these guidelines. If throughout the course of the year you have any questions or concerns about food-allergy-related issues, please do not hesitate to contact Reverend Dr. Sandra Reed or me.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy year.

Faithfully yours,
Kathy Woodside
Christian Education Board Chair

HARVEST POTLUCK

**DATE: Sunday
October 30th**

Time: Right after church

Your Hosts:

**The Christian Education
Board!!**

Bring a dish to share!!

**Bring a pumpkin to
decorate!!**

A COOKIE SMILE

Make these cheerful lollipop cookies to share.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 roll of sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Cookie sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Cellophane treat bags
- Ribbon



What you do:

1. Freeze the roll of dough.
2. Cut dough into ¼-inch slices.
3. Place slices 2 inches apart on cookie sheet.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for five minutes.
5. Remove cookies from oven and place a stick into the bottom of each cookie (about 1 inch into the dough).
6. Return cookies to the oven until done, three to five more minutes.
7. After cookies are cool, make a “face” on each one, using frosting and sprinkles.
8. Put cookies into bags and tie with a ribbon. Then give away these edible smiles!

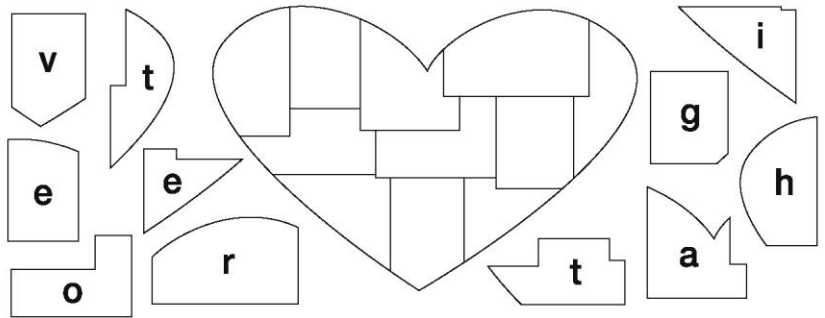


HOW TO GIVE

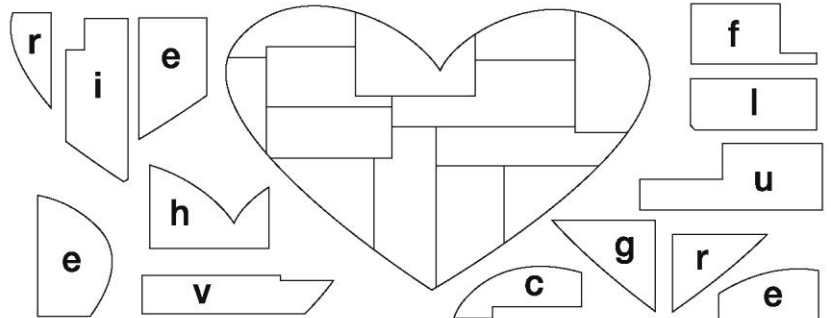
We can give in a variety of ways, including our money, possessions and time. But God says there's only one attitude to have when we give.

Finish the puzzles by matching the pieces and writing out the letters in order to complete 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your ...



... not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a ...



Answers: heart to give, cheerful giver

October



1 Ann Lee
5 Kristie Rechholtz
6 Robert Sanderson
16 Charles Benore
16 Dorothy White
16 Fred Olson
21 Evan Beals
22 Deborah Dyer
24 Michael Bonsey
24 Kathryn Kief
25 Edwin Soule
27 Karl Haller
28 Ellen Reed
29 Eva Bonsey
29 Florence Ames
29 Caroline McMinimy

“A child of God should be a visible beatitude, for joy and happiness, and a living doxology, for gratitude and adoration.”

—Charles H. Spurgeon

“Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”

—Albert Schweitzer

“When our perils are past, shall our gratitude sleep?”

—George Canning

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – Kathy Kief
Assistant Deacon – Laurie Wellman

Liturgists-

2:
9:
16: Al Simons
23:
30:

Flowers –

2: Mr. & Mrs. William Fuller
9: Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Spurling
16: Dows/Bean
23: O'Brien Family
30:

Coffee Hosts -

2: Cindy & Rod Fox
9: Linda Kelley and Sue McKay
16: Apple Festival
23:
30:

Home Bible Readings

2 Exodus: 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philemon 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46
9 Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philemon 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14
16 Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22
23 Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46
30 Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2</p> <p>Communion Sunday 10:00 am</p> <p>Alleluia Choir 11:30</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Cancer Support Group 5-6:30</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00</i></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Adult Choir 7:00</i></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <hr/> <p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am</p> <p>Alleluia Choir 11:30</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Outreach Board 7:00</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Adult Choir 7:00</i></p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am</p> <p>Deacons 11:30 am Alleluia Choir 11:30</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Christian Ed. Board 7:00 <i>Acadia Shawl Ministry 7:00</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>Chimes articles due</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Trustees 5:30 <i>Music Committee Mtg. 5:30</i> <i>Adult Choir 7:00</i></p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Family Sunday – Worship, 10:00 am</p> <p>Alleluia Choir 11:30</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Annual Report articles due</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Church Council 7:00</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Trustees 5:30 Budget Mtg. <i>Adult Choir 7:00</i></p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am</p> <p>Alleluia Choir 11:30</p>	<p>31</p>					

**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:

- World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2011
- Columbus Day Observance, October 10, 2011
- Reformation Sunday, October 30, 2011
- Reformation Day, October 31, 2011

The Son Still Shines

Some of our days seem very dark. Sickness, the death of a loved one, the loss of a job or another struggle overshadows life. In our despair, it can be difficult to sense God's presence. If God were here, we reason, surely he'd be shining his light on our dark circumstances.

When life is bright and joyous, it's easy to sense God; the sun becomes a natural metaphor for God's Son, Jesus, the Light of the world. But even on cloudy days, the sun still shines, its presence not bound by our limited vision. And in the darkest night, the sun remains; the warmth it gave before dusk lingers, enough to preserve us into the dawning of a new day. Sometimes we even catch its reflection in the moon.

"Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5b, NRSV). Trust in God; even in life's dark times, the Son still shines!

Beautiful Gesture of Thanks

In 2005, a female humpback whale became entangled in a web of crab traps and lines just east of the Farallon Islands, off the San Francisco coast. Hundreds of yards of line rope were wrapped around her body, tail, torso and mouth, weighing her down so much that she struggled to stay afloat.

A fisherman spotted the whale and radioed for help. When rescuers arrived, they determined that the only way to save the creature was to dive in and untangle her. This was a dangerous proposition, as one slap of the tail could be deadly.

Rescuers worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed the whale. What she did next surprised the divers: She swam in what seemed like joyous circles, coming back to each person, one at a time, nudging them gently, in what rescuers assumed was a beautiful gesture of thanks.

May you and those you love be surrounded by people who help you get untangled from whatever is binding you and may you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude.