

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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September 2011

From the Pastor

Because I ordered some gifts for my youngest granddaughter online from a well-known toy company, I have been receiving a Disney magazine as well entitled, "Family Fun." It is obviously not intended for someone of my age, but because my name and address were on the billing section of the order form I receive the magazine. I haven't paid much attention to it, but just the other day I picked up the summer edition and thumbed through it. It was an education.

Apparently this issue marked the twentieth anniversary of the magazine, so I expected to find something really outstanding. What I found was very interesting: 20 All-time Best Ideas for Summer, Crafts that Connect Kids to Nature, Fun Foods for the Fourth, and several other articles, all directed toward amusing children throughout the summer. I found that the most popular child related amusement was something called "The Pinaqua," a medium plastic trash bag filled with water and knotted on top. One ties a rope on the knot and throws the bag, water and all, over a tree branch. From there the players treat the bag like a pinata, banging at it with a broom. The winner gets soaked. Okay . . .

At the end of the top twenty I found "Ice Cream in a Bag," in which one places sugar,

half and half, and vanilla extract in a pint-size ziplock bag and then seals it securely. The ice cream apparently results from putting the bag into a gallon-size bag, which contains coarse salt and ice cubes. The successful ice cream maker is the one who shakes the bag until the mixture hardens at which point the ice cream is ready to eat.

In between the first and the last suggestion for super summer fun, there are many other suggestions about how to pass the time and keep away from the boredom monster. I am sure there are some fine ideas. However, having looked through the summer issue of the magazine, I was disappointed to find that there was no reference to any kind of spiritual or religious practice for families. Perhaps a Disney magazine is not the place for such things, but I thought that maybe there might have been a message of a family's observing the Sabbath within the circle of their family. But no, all I found were fun foods to make, activities to keep kids busy, and advice on how to handle the problems that come up from time to time in a not quite idyllic childhood.

The question I have is this: Who is helping parents keep their kiddos connected to God during the summer months? I hope that we are all taking our turns at reminding our

young people that God does not take a vacation, but are we, really? I know that many of our children are missing in action on Sunday mornings and it has been difficult to find enough volunteers to run God's Garden Club this summer. As a pastor I have to say that this concerns me. I realize that many families are on vacation. Some of our kids have gone off to Pilgrim Lodge or another summer camp. Many of our adults have to work hard during the summer to make ends meet in the winter, perhaps even on Sundays. There are lots of reasons why people don't make it to church.

But my question remains: How are we keeping our kids plugged into their faith journeys during the summer when so much else is going on? When you go on vacation do you and your family visit a church near your vacation destination? Do you take some time for family worship in the midst of the activities of summer? Are you praying together as a family? I hope and pray that you are doing these things and more.

Perhaps next Spring I will write a newsletter article entitled, "Ways to Keep Your Kids Connected to God this Summer." I hope it would be very popular.

Sandra M. Reed

Church Office Staff changing

As some of you may know, Paul is taking a leave of absence from the Church Office. For about nine months beginning September 1, he will be in school in Boston learning all about piano tuning and repair. During the time he's gone, Stan Short, our Custodian, will be taking over the office responsibilities. Stan has been training hard during the months of July and August, and he's ready to keep the office up and running smoothly! Please stop by the office when you get a chance and welcome Stan to his new job.



August 6, 2011 - Olamide Olugbenda
Odusami and Kimberly Mae Sawyer, of
Melrose, MA

August 13, 2011 - Jonathan Hobart Hollinger
and Victoria Lincoln Wesner, of
Philadelphia, PA

August 20, 2011 - Donald Campbell Smith
and Shirley May Kramer, of Silver Spring,
MD

A Guide for Giving

"I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little.

"If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them."

—C.S. Lewis



We extend our sympathy to Roxie Brechlin
and her family on the death of her father,
"Squeak" Sawyer, and also to

Charlie Hendricks and family on the death of
his father, Charles Hendricks.



Thank You - Thank You - Thank You You - Thank You - Thank You

As many of you know Kathy MacCulloch resigned her position as Christian Education Coordinator this past spring. However, what you may not know is the countless hours she has volunteered this summer. Kathy has spent many hours making sure there has been a God's Garden Club activity each Sunday. She continues to help the C.E. Board with this year's Sunday School Calendar and the selection of curriculum. I know that much of this work would not get done without her knowledge and expertise. So when you see her, please say thank you!

Kathy Woodside
Christian Education Board Chair

Dear Church Family;
It is hard to believe that summer is almost at its end and that we will begin our Sunday School Year in a few weeks. Once again we will be conducting our classes in three sessions each of which will be about 10 weeks usually with two Family Sundays during each session. We have made some changes in our curriculum for the year, which we hope the kids, parents, and all of you will be as excited about as we are!

Here is what we will be doing....

- Nursery will be doing stories, interactive play, and crafts

- Pre-K through Grade 2 will once again be using the Worship Center Curriculum.
- Grades 3 and 4 will also be using parts of the Worship Center Curriculum along with Kathy MacCulloch's Bible Class.
- Grades 5 & 6 will be using the *Faith in Motion* curriculum.
- Grades 7 & 8 will be using the *Claim the Life* curriculum.
- High School will be offering a number of options: *Burst World Religions*; *Ready to Go Service Projects*; and *Veracity Video Vignettes*.

Rally Sunday will be **September 11th**. We will meet in the fellowship hall for a potluck breakfast at 9 a.m. followed by Sunday School registration. After the children's sermon we will return to the Fellowship Hall for a get acquainted activity.

As always we are looking for folks to teach Sunday School. We currently need people to teach at all levels so please speak to Kathy Woodside or Kathy MacCulloch if you have an interest in teaching or co-teaching a class. We also need folks to help with snack and special activities on Communion Sundays. If you would assist in either of these areas see one of the Kathys. You can contact Kathy MacCulloch (288-4272 or kathymacculloch@gmail.com) or Kathy Woodside (288-5160 or kcwoodside@roadrunner.com). We would love to hear from you!

We look forward to an exciting year of learning and fun! We hope all of you will be a part of it!

Yours in faith,
Kathy Woodside,
Christian Education Chair

The Divine Commandment of Life

...be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:4-8

Our Lords' exhortation to us in verses 38-48 is to be generous in our behavior toward everyone. Beware of living according to your natural affections in your spiritual life. Everyone has natural affections - some people we like and others we don't like. Yet we must never let those likes and dislikes rule our Christian life. "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another" (1 John 1:7), even those toward whom we have no affection.

The example our Lord gave us here is not that of a good person, or even of a good Christian, but of God Himself. "...be perfect just as your Father in heaven is perfect." In other words, simply show to the other person what God has shown to you. And God will give you plenty of real life opportunities to prove whether or not you are "perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." Being a disciple means deliberately identifying yourself with God's interests in other people. Jesus says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

The true expression of Christian character is not in good-doing, but in God-likeness. If the spirit of God has

transformed you within, you will exhibit divine characteristics in your life, not just good human characteristics.

God's life in us expresses itself as God's life, not as human life trying to be godly. The secret of a Christian's life is that the supernatural becomes natural in him as a result of the grace of God, and the experience of this becomes evident in the practical, everyday details of life, not in times of intimate fellowship with God. And when we come in contact with things that create confusion and a flurry of activity, we find to our own amazement that we have the power to stay wonderfully poised even in the center of it all.

"My Utmost for His Highest"
Oswald Chambers

Anyway

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you;
Be honest anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous of you;
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;

It was never between you and them anyway.

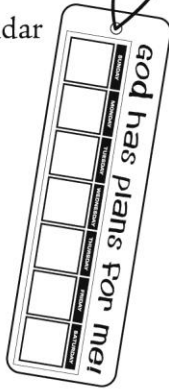
—"The Paradoxical Commandments," Kent M. Keith

A daily reminder

Make this bookmark to remind you that God is with you every day.

What you need:


- An old calendar
- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Glue stick
- Pencil or marker
- Stickers
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn



What you do:

1. Cut out the first line of squares from an old calendar, including the days of the week along the top.
2. Cut the cardstock into a rectangle a little larger than the calendar section.
3. Glue the calendar section onto the cardstock.
4. Write "God has plans for me" (Jeremiah 29:11) on the bookmark.
5. Add stickers or other decorations on the back.
6. Punch a hole on one end of the bookmark.
7. Loop some ribbon or yarn through the hole.





PUZZLE

GOD'S PLAN

When we ask God for guidance, he will show us his perfect plan for our lives.

Directions: Use the shape code to the right to write out Jeremiah 29:11, NIV.

plans know and for hope I not declares give
 to prosper harm have the LORD you future a

Answers: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

September



3 Rob Fry
3 Brian Booher
6 Benjamin Blaney
7 Laurie Olson
12 Tracey McCarthy
13 Jacquelyn Johnson
15 Mimi Dickson
18 Sue McKay
20 Olivia Stanley
22 Wanda Young
23 Anna Naggert
24 Kendra Bonsey
24 Hannah Boyce
24 Geneva Langley
25 Debby Hammond
26 Nathaniel Olsen
27 Jennifer Spurling Gibson
28 Kathy MacCulloch
30 Melissa Reed Young

Happy Autumn



Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon – David Lind
Assistant Deacon –

Liturgists-

4:
11:
18:
25:

Flowers –

4: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dyer
11: Mrs. Vernice Young
18: Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Soule
25: Bob Malaney
Charlie & Michele Croan

Coffee Hosts -

4:
11:
18: Zucchini Festival
25:

Home Bible Readings



4 Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

11 Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

18 Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6
Philemon 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

25 Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philemon 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

SEPTEMBER

				1 <i>Trustees 5:30</i>	2	3 <i>Wedding 4:30</i>
4 Worship and God's Garden Club 10:00 am		6	7	8 Adult Choir (?) 7:00	9	10 <i>Wedding 3:00</i>
11 <i>Rally Day</i> Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am	12	13 Outreach Board 7:00 (?)	14	15 Adult Choir 7:00	16 Kevin Morse's Guitar recital	17
18 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am <i>Deacons 11:30</i>	19	20 <i>Christian Ed. Board 7:00</i>	21 <i>Chimes articles due</i>	22 Adult Choir 7:00	23 <i>First day of Autumn</i> 	24
25 Worship and Sunday School 10:00 am	26	27	28 <i>Church Council 7:00</i>	29 Adult Choir 7:00	30	

**Bar Harbor Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
29 Mount Desert Street
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Special Dates:

- Labor Day, September 5, 2011
- Patriot Day, September 11, 2011
- National Grandparents Day,
September 11, 2011
- Hispanic Heritage Month, September
15–October 15, 2011
- First Day of Autumn, September 23,
2011

Cling to God's Hand

When troubles come, have you noticed that things often seem to fall apart all at once? It could be a string of financial setbacks. First the refrigerator goes out, then the car won't start and then the roof starts leaking. Or maybe our relationships break down or our career unravels.

What can we do when hardships threaten to overwhelm us? Peanuts character Charlie Brown said, "I only dread one day at a time." But we can do better than that.

We can take a deep breath, cling to God's hand and keep walking, knowing that our heavenly Father is always with us.

Source: Newsletter Newsletter

Something Beautiful

"Spread love everywhere you go; to show love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in doing that makes our offering something beautiful to God."

—Mother Teresa

Labor Day

Thinking about Labor Day The Bible affirms the importance of work. Adam was put in the garden "to till and keep it."

In the fourth commandment we are told to "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy." Then we read: "Six days you shall labor and do all your work" (Exodus 20:8-9 NRSV).

Work is important for us. It allows us to use our talent, our minds and our strength to create and bring forth the "fruits" of our labor. Work satisfies an inner need to make a positive contribution to the world. Work helps to bring satisfaction and fulfillment to us as we use our lives for good and uplifting purposes. It is a way of exercising good stewardship of the personal gifts God has given to us: our brain power, our physical strength, our special talents.

Since we have the privilege of being "workers together with God" it seems fitting that we set aside one day a year to think about the goodness and dignity of work. Therefore, let us joyfully celebrate Labor Day.

Source: Newsletter Newsletter