JULY/AUGUST 2017

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Rev. Dr. Sarah M. Foulger

Minister of Music

Eugenie O'Connell

Children's Education Director

Magen Chryplewicz

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Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

125 Townsend Ave. P.O. Box 468 Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538 (207) 633-4757 www.congochurchbbh.org congochurchbbh@outlook.com Dear Friends.

It has been astonishing to see that, whenever there is a need in the life of the church, God sends just the right people and exactly the right gifts to meet the need. I've witnessed this kind of miracle over and over again, in small and large ways, whether in response to a serious illness in a local family or in response to a natural disaster in another country. I experienced it again last week in a good-humored episode on the church lawn.

This little example of God bringing the right gifts into a moment of need started with the arrival of the sign now displayed on the church lawn. The sign, agreed upon by church leadership, says: "Welcome Stranger, Welcome Friend." It refers to the story in Matthew in which Jesus says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

The sign arrived and I decided to try to put it up. There are two PVC pipes in the ground placed by Dick Whittier a few years ago (thank you, Dick) that hold sign poles. I placed one pole in the pipe but couldn't find the other pipe in the ground. I was on my hands and knees feeling around for the pipe but just couldn't find it. Ready to give up, I gathered up the sign and the poles and was just about to head inside when Doreen Dun showed up and, with great persistence, found the other pipe. We tried again. Quickly, however, it became apparent that Doreen and I couldn't properly secure the ropes. We were about to give up when Ginger Rickeman showed up. Ginger, a life-long sailor, was able to secure the ropes with an assortment of effective knots. But the three of us couldn't get the stakes into the ground to stabilize the sign. Once again, we were about to give up when Paul Noah showed up! Problem solved and sign up, thanks to the tenacity of Doreen, the knot know-how of Ginger, and the muscle power of Paul. The right gifts in the right moment of need, thanks be to God.

May our eyes be open to the gifts by which we are divinely surrounded.

With love in Christ,

Sarah

Prayer for Those who Work in the Summer Hospitality Industry

O God, who calls us to be hospitable to others, especially to strangers, thank you for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those who are vacationing in this community. Remind us that, for some of our guests, this is the vacation of a lifetime. Help us to be patient with those who may be discourteous, to be helpful to those who may be in distress, to be understanding with those who may be confused, and to treat our guests as we would wish to be treated. Help our guests to understand that we are only human and grant that they may offer us the respect they would wish for themselves if our roles were reversed. Bless this summer season with joy, meaning and good humor. Amen.

TRUSTEES REPORT

On Sunday, July 9th, please join us following worship for the dedication of our new Remembrance Garden. With your generous donations, we have installed about two thirds of the garden plan so far. If you'd like to help support the completion of the Garden, please contact Heather in the Church Office. Many thanks to Joe Norton and Cathy Conn for their excellent work in getting it this far.

On Sunday July 30th, John Murray Sunday, we will recognize our newest inductees into the John Murray Society – those individuals and families who are working toward, or have already established, a legacy gift.

On Children's Sunday Mackenzie Colby was awarded the second annual Church scholarship of \$5000. One half donated anonymously and the other \$2500 raised by the congregation. Donations towards the congregational match in any amount are needed and greatly appreciated.

The Church's annual audit was completed by William Brewer, CPA. We received a favorable report.

Capturing our Institutional Knowledge – beginning at our July meeting, Heather Lorrain will launch a year of meeting with the Trustees with the goal of capturing what we do on an annual basis – a job description and a calendar for the Trustees. Once complete, she'll move on and spend a year with the Deacons doing the same.

Many thanks to all those who participated in our Spring Clean-Up!

The Trustees will meet again Thursday, July 13th and will not meet in August. We'll rejoin committee night on Tuesday, September 12that 5pm.

DEACONS REPORT

In early June, we celebrated the confirmation of five of our young people, and welcomed them as full members of the church. Hailey Abbott, Glory Blethen, Mason Erhard, Chris Hamblett, and Maren Whitney are all eighth-grade honor or high-honor students at BRES. Hailey has a horse, three cats, a dog, and a guinea pig, and was a member of the Busline League Basketball Championship team, along with Glory, who also runs cross country and track. Glory has an older sister, and volunteers at the Botanical Gardens in the Children's Garden. Mason is a track athlete, sailor, and pianist, has participated in Rebuilding Together, and his family owns horses, dogs, cats, and chickens. Chris is a lacrosse player and swimmer, with two sisters and a brother, and a cat and dog. He recently placed 4th in the State Swimming Meet in the 50 Freestyle. Maren has been swimming for eight years and riding for four. She also sings with the school chorus. She has a sister, and two cats and a dog. Please join the Deacons in congratulating Hailey, Glory, Mason, Chris, and Maren as they complete this very important milestone on their faith journey.

On that day, we also welcomed five new adult members into our church family: Tom Blake, Barbara and Michael Fritz, and Cathy and Richard Shepard. Tom is a long-time Southport resident, and is a builder and caretaker. He has two grown children and a grandson. He enjoys boating, golf, skiing, hunting, and fishing, and he and his wife Laura have two active golden retrievers. Mike was born in Oshkosh, WI, and graduated from the US Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1966. He served three tours of duty in Vietnam. Barbara grew up in Greenfield, MA, and moved around with Mike for several years while he was in the Navy. After his service, they settled back in Greenfield and Mike joined the family lumber business, becoming its owner in 1987. They raised two children there, and bought a seasonal cottage in Boothbay Harbor in 1991. Now retired, they have sold their Greenfield home, and live in the expanded, winterized cottage year-round. Barbara was active in her home church for over 55 years, and looks forward to becoming involved in our faith community. Mike is an avid golfer and volunteers at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Richard and Cathy Shepard are thrilled to become the sixth Shepard family to take up permanent residence on Samoset Road in Boothbay Harbor. All of those family members have been active in the church. Having met each other while performing in their college musical production, Richard and Cathy are delighted to now sing with the choir. Cathy is retired, having spent many years in the mortgage business, and Richard still owns and administers a Maryland-based food distribution company.

Please take time to find all of our new members and welcome them into our church family.

MISSION REPORT



SIN-FREE COFFEE AND CHOCOLATE

The Mission Committee will be selling fair-trade coffee beans and chocolate bars after church during the month of August. The chocolate is made from cocoa beans harvested by a fair trade cooperative in Ghana, and each bar sells for \$6. The coffee is made from Arabica beans, harvested by a cooperative in Guatemala. Each bag sells for \$10.

Enjoy these sinfully delicious treats and know that all profits will go to support the Mission work of this congregation!

MISSION COMMITTEE PROVIDES INTERNATIONAL WORKERS WITH LIST OF RESOURCES

As a continuation of our congregation's long-standing commitment to International Workers, the Mission Committee this year printed and has distributed a card including a list of resources available to these workers -- and all residents and sojourners -- in our community. Copies of these cards are available from Sarah and the church office. If you know of an International Worker in need of special assistance, please provide him/her with one of these cards.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

I hope everyone is enjoying their Summer!! Don't forget to stop down to the Sunday School room on Sundays. We will be there all Summer long making crafts and doing fun projects!! Bring a friend!!

Thank you~ Magen

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER SCHEDULE

There will be no Adult Education classes over the summer months.

Classes will resume September 10th.

Have a great summer!

Please join us in the Church Library for about an hour starting at 8:25 AM Sunday. Each class begins with a $\frac{1}{2}$ hour video lecture followed by an always-stimulating $\frac{1}{2}$ hour group discussion.

9/10	Lecture 24	Sites of the Trial and Final Hours of Jesus
9/17	Lecture 25	Early Jewish Tombs in Jerusalem
9/24	Lecture 26	Monumental Tombs in the Time of Jesus
10/1	Lecture 27	The Burials of Jesus and James
10/8	Lecture 28	The First Jewish Revolt: Jerusalem Destroyed

Each of the 36 classes is self-contained and does not require attending the previous class. A course guidebook is provided at a cost of \$15. Participants are welcome to attend the 30-minute videotaped lecture at the beginning if their schedule has other conflicts.

Betty and Ted Repa, Co-facilitators

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SET FOR SUCCESS

Mission Outreach Sunday · July 16, 2017

To provide every elementary student, grades Pre K – 8th grade with a new backpack, every teacher-requested school supply, a special haircut, medical screenings, and more! For the past five years a July mission outreach Sunday has taken place in thirteen churches throughout our community. This giving Sunday has been the backbone of support. Your gifts of physical supplies from the shopping list or money gifts are essential to our efforts. Money gifts are most appreciated as it allows us to buy in large quantities at very low prices. Checks made payable to BRCRC; memo-Set For Success.

Set For Success Shopping List

3 Ring Binders 1", 1 1/2 ", 2"

Boxes of Ticonderoga Pencils

8 count tab dividers for 3 ring binder

5 count tab dividers for 3 ring binder

Plastic pencil boxes

70 page Spiral notebooks

Erasable Ball Point Pens

Backpacks at least 18" deep

Thin Colored Markers

Clear Sheet Protectors

Water Color set with brush

100 pg. Spiral notebooks

AA and AAA pkgs. of batteries

8 count boxes of crayons

Go Beyond Sound Bites to Learn the Facts

The American Health Care Act: What it Means for Your Health and Our Local Providers

The Public is Invited to a Panel Discussion and Q & A with Local, State, and National Experts



Wednesday, July 12th 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Fellowship Hall

BELLS, BELLS!

Have you been curious about how the Bell Choir operates? How do they work together to make music? How do they

know when to ring? What is the right way to ring a bell? How do they get those different sounds out of a bell? Why does it seem like they are always having so much fun?

Then come join us on August 12th from 10:00 am until noon for a handbell workshop! Bell Choir members will be there to work with you on proper techniques, music notations, the all-important counting – everything you'd need to know to participate in a bell performance. Don't want to commit to joining the Bell Choir? That's okay! The workshop is just for fun and information. No need to commit to anything beyond those two hours. If you are interested, please contact Jamie Knobloch at: jamie.knobloch@gmail.com, or 462-1843 before July 30th.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wednesday, July 12th 6 PM
Public Conversation on Health Care

Thursday, July 13th 6 PM

Church Nights at Carousel Music Theater "Life Is But A Bandstand Dream" \$30 admission*

Sunday, July 16th 10 AM

Set for Success Sunday

Please consider bringing supplies & donations

Sunday, July 23rd 10 AM

Jazz Sunday

Barney Balch and Friends

Thursday, August 10th 6 PM

Church Nights at Carousel Music Theater "Away We Go" \$30 admission*

Wednesday, August 16th 6 PM

Public Conversation on Immigration

Sunday, August 20th 1-3 PM

Set for Success YMCA

Sunday, Aug. 20th 7:30 PM

Lincoln Arts Festival Concert \$20 admission ~Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, Sept. 9th 7:30 PM

Lincoln Arts Festival Poetry Reading and Book Signing with Richard Blanco \$25 admission ~ Reading in the Sanctuary, signing in Murray Commons

Thursday, Sept. 21st 6 PM

Church Nights at Carousel Music Theater "Hold Tight It's 60s Night" \$30 admission*

*The reduced rate of \$30 includes choice of soft drink/iced tea/iced coffee, chowder/ soup/salad, hot entree, dessert, and coffee or tea as well as the stage show listed above. Gratuity and beverages from the bar are not included in this price.

Connecting Threads

LAST CHANCE!

The Community Quilt (a near twin of the one hanging in the stairwell) will be raffled to a lucky winner the end of July. Here's your opportunity to provide a gift to that special someone (maybe you!) who has had a celebration in our church, who misses our community and our church family when they snowbird in the winter, or just because!

Tickets are \$10 apiece; three for \$25, and checks (made out to the church, of course) can be placed in the fishbowl at the top of the stairs.

It's all a donation to the church! So take a chance on the Community Quilt!

-- Marty Helman



Summer Choir meets every Sunday morning at 9 AM. Everyone is welcome to show up and join the group that assembles to put together an anthem to offer during

worship at 10 AM. All ages and all abilities are welcome in this one time commitment. This is an opportunity to try out your voice and meet new people - - every week. Come join us.

John Murray Society

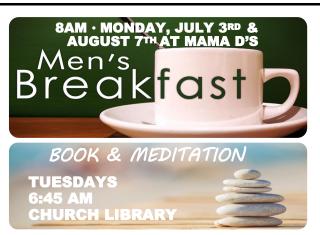
Have you considered remembering our church in your estate plans? There are many ways you can create a legacy gift and support our church's Christ-centered work here in our community. A member of the John Murray Society steering committee would be pleased to discuss the possibilities with you.

On Sunday July 30th, John Murray Sunday, we will recognize our newest inductees into the John Murray Society – those individuals and families who are working toward, or who have already established, a legacy gift. Please feel free to contact one of us for more information.

JMS Steering Committee Members: Peggy Pinkham, Sarah Foulger, Alex Logan, Bob Hilscher, and Ron Ross.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* * * HAPPY	BIRTHDAY A			*		1 Sarah on Vacation
Barah on Vacation Pa Summer Choir Practice Oa Worship	3 Sarah on Vacation	4 Independence Day OFFICE CLOSED- HOLIDAY	5	6 12p AA Meeting	7 12p Food Pantry	8
Da Summer Choir Practice Oa Worship	10 8a Men's Breakfast 4:30p Food Pantry	11 6:45a Book & Meditation 12p Food Pantry Meeting 5:30p Committee Night	12 11:30a Gregory Wing 6p Public Conversation on Health Care	13 12p AA Meeting 5p Trustees Meeting 6p Church Nights at Carousel Music Theater	14 12p Food Pantry	15
6 a Summer Choir tractice 0a Worship-Set for success Sunday undraiser -Bring Supplies & Donations	17	18 6:45a Book & Meditation	19	20 12p AA Meeting	21 12p Food Pantry	22
3 azz Sunday 0a Worship: Jazz sunday	24	25 6:45a Book & Meditation	26	27 12p AA Meeting	28 12p Food Pantry	29
30 Da Summer Choir Practice 10a Worship	31		REFRES	COFFEE H HMENTS A CONATE A S FOR THE	RE PROVI ND SUMM	ER





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AUG	just.	1 6:45a Book & Meditation	2	3 12p AA Meeting	4 12p Food Pantry	5
6 9a Summer Choir Practice 10a Worship	7	8 6:45a Book & Meditation 12p Food Pantry Meeting 5:30p Committee Night	9 11:30a Gregory Wing	10 12p AA Meeting 6p Church Nights at Carousel Music Theater	11 12p Food Pantry	12 10a Bells Workshop
9a Summer Choir Practice 10a Worship	14 8a Men's Breakfast 4:30p Food Pantry	15 6:45a Book & Meditation	16 6p Public Conversation on Immigration with Fatuma Hussein	17 12p AA Meeting 7p LAF Dress Rehearsal	18 12p Food Pantry	19
20 9a Summer Choir Practice 10a Worship 1p Set for Success 7:30p LAF Concert 8:30p LAF Reception	21	22 6:45a Book & Meditation	23	24 12p AA Meeting	25 12p Food Pantry	26
9a Summer Choir Practice 10a Worship	28	29 6:45a Book & Meditation	30	31 12p AA Meeting	SUNDAY CO REFRESHME PROVIDED B TRUSTEES A SUMMER FR THE MONTH AUGUST	INTS ARE BY THE AND IENDS FOR

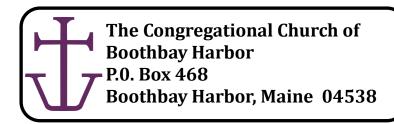


Verna Lewis	08/01	Nan Jackson	08/15
Roger Severance	08/02	Susann Hochstein	08/19
Harold Van Siclen	08/07	Irene Fowle	08/20
Jennifer Marden	08/11	Sally Barter	08/21
Mary Ann Cottrell	08/13	Ken F-Fitch	08/27
Dorothy Ferrell	08/13	Shawn Lewin	08/27
Abby Orchard	08/14		



We need your help! Please volunteer to do an Invocation in July or August. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or contact Kathy Bugbee. You really do make a difference in the worship service experience when you participate in worship.

Please give it some thought and volunteer!



Are You Interested in Joining the Church?

For more information, speak to Sarah Foulger or email her: sarahfoulger@gmail.com.





July 2	"Resting in Wonder: Reading the Whole of Genesis 1" Guest Minister ~ Rev. Dr. Eileen Sypher
July 9	Genesis 22 ~ "The Sacrifice of Isaac: A Behind the Scenes Look"
July 16	SET FOR SUCCESS SUNDAY~please consider bringing school supplies and donations Genesis 25 ~ "Giving Up One's Birthright"
July 23	JAZZ SUNDAY Genesis 28 ~ "God is Present and We Do Not Know It"
July 30	JOHN MURRAY SUNDAY Genesis 11 ~ "Above the Babel"
August 6	Genesis 32 ~ "Wrestling with God"
August 13	Genesis 37 ~ "Dreams that Will Not Die"
August 20	Genesis 32 ~ "How Reconciliation Works"
August 27	Genesis 45 ~ "Am I My Brother's Keeper" Guest Minister ~ Rev. Kenneth Dale