



THE CHIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAR HARBOR CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 29 Mount Desert Street, Bar Harbor, Maine
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From the Senior Pastor:

June 2007

Daisuke Matsuzaka (Dice-K) is an extraordinary pitcher. He is so good that the Boston Red Sox paid an unprecedented amount of money to obtain his ball-throwing services. Dice-K has one pitch that is called a "gyro ball" No one seems to be able to fully describe it. Many people think they have seen him throw this pitch, although they are not quite sure. The gyro ball has taken on mythic proportions. It is the stuff of legends. It is said that the gyro ball cannot be hit; it careens forward and then cuts away just when the batter is ready to attack. Some sports writers have said that the gyro ball has a life of its own. It is a force of nature.

I watch a lot of Red Sox games and I cannot say that I have seen Dice-K pitch a gyro ball. But, then, maybe I have. I know it exists, but I cannot seem to prove it. I keep watching and, some day, I know I will see this extraordinary pitcher throw this extra-extraordinary pitch. But you can't go by me; I like to live within a mystery. Ambiguity doesn't bother me. I don't have to see concrete proof to believe that something exists. There are far too many things I can't explain.

Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary defines "mystery" as, "a religious truth that one can know only by revelation and cannot fully understand." To my mind, that is an excellent definition. The very nature of God is mysterious, shrouded in the unknown, and we seek to grow ever closer to the divine Being. So what if we cannot fully explain who God is or what God does? Did we really expect that God would reveal everything there is to reveal about Himself? Can't God have a few secrets?

What we know about God we know from God's history with His people, what was revealed by Jesus Christ, and continuing revelation. Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection all point to a God who, according to John 3:16, "so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever shall believe in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." For my thinking, that is the greatest mystery of all: that God loved us so much that even His own Son wasn't too great a sacrifice to make for our salvation.

What had we ever done to deserve this? Absolutely nothing. All that is asked of us is that we be faithful. God's love for us is without price, cannot be earned, and will never be taken away. As the old hymn says, "What wondrous love is this?" I have been a pastor for more than twenty-five years now and I cannot explain it. I can only share the good news.

By the way, there are several other things I don't understand. I understand the process of reproduction, but I will never understand how all those little fingers, toes and other equipment all come together to make a baby. I understand a little about how the stars and planets work, but how do the sun and moon know to be so beautiful and inspiring?

I have taken courses on music theory, but where does the beauty of those notes come from as they are strung together to make a melody? The chemistry and biology of attraction are easily written about, but what is it that makes us find that one special person to love for a lifetime? I can paint with watercolors or sculpt with clay but why are some people so talented as to do it in

such a way that others cannot help but gaze upon their work and marvel? Why did God create black flies?

Okay, that last one was silly, but I am convinced we are called to live each day with a holy sense of wonder. It is okay not to understand every mystery. And the greatest mystery of all, God's love for us and God's presence in our lives, is one which we will never fully comprehend. That's fine with me. A touch of mystery is good for us. I'm sure Dice-K would agree.

Sandra M. Reed

Ladies' Night Out

We are planning a Ladies' Night Out for sometime in June. We hope all the women of the church will plan to come for a night of fun and fellowship. Stay tuned for details. We will announce those details in the church bulletins. If you cannot get to church, please feel free to call Sandra Reed at 207-460-9300 or email her at wandsreed@gwi.net. Everyone needs a night out once in awhile.



Outreach Board Missions

The outreach board is committed to mission work locally, state, (even nationally if needed), and internationally. Locally we volunteer at the Food Pantry and help local families as the need arises.

This summer we are planning to do a one-day trip, through the Sea Coast Mission, to Weald Bethel in Cherryfield, ME. Finally, we are sending a second team to Honduras in March 2008.

If you are interested in getting involved, or have any ideas to share, please contact Donna Beals 244-0491

From the Maine Conference

Dear Maine Conference Friends,

We invite you to gather June 9 for an important day in the life of the Conference - to act on a proposed call for an Associate Conference Minister, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Church of Christ in a joyful worship service, and to be in fellowship, renewing old friendships and making new ones in the conference.

At its April 20 meeting, the Coordinating Council received the recommendation of the search committee and, in turn, unanimously voted to recommend that the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ extend a call to the Rev. Susan M. Craig to the position of Associate Conference Minister.

We spent several hours with Ms. Craig and her husband, Brad, in conversation both semi-formal and informal over lunch and are, to a person, enthusiastic and excited about the variety of pastoral gifts she can bring to our Conference and its 170 or so congregations.

Suzie, as she prefers to be called, serves as Senior Associate Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich, CT, where she has held a variety of positions and responsibilities over the last two decades. She has also held a variety of positions in the Connecticut Conference and already is quite familiar with Maine, having participated over many years in numerous volunteer activities at the H.O.M.E. Co-op in Orland, counseled at Pilgrim Lodge, and has worked with the Maine Honduras Partnership.

Therefore, a special meeting of the Maine Conference will be convened June 9 at 1 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Waterville to act on this recommendation from the Coordinating Council. To meet the requirements for a quorum, we will need the presence of at least 30 delegates from at least 30 different congregations and from at least seven

Associations. While we hope and anticipate that many will want to participate in this important moment in the life of the Maine Conference, we ask that churches contact the Conference office by June 1 with detailed information about their attendees. (Please contact Paul in the Bar Harbor office if you plan to go, so he can forward the information to the conference once it is known who's going.)

Immediately following the Conference business meeting, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Church of Christ with, what planners describe as, and energetic worship service with a live band, a Conference choir, participation by the Rev. Peter Panagore, pastor of the First Radio Parish Church of America, the Rev. Dr. William Imes, president of Bangor Theological Seminary, and, it has been hinted, a surprise guest from the national setting.

We will then adjourn to the fellowship hall for light refreshments and an opportunity to greet each other and meet Suzie. Given our need to be somewhat frugal, we are asking delegates and visitors to participate in a kind of pot-luck reception by bringing small sandwiches, veggies, chips and dip and cookies or dessert bars to share. The Waterville church will provide beverages and set out our food donations, which you may leave in the fellowship hall before the 1 p.m. meeting.

While only official delegates - clergy and church lay representatives - may vote on the recommended call, all members and friends of the Maine Conference are invited to join in the June 9 festivities by sharing this exciting worship experience and fellowship opportunity.

We are looking forward to this very special day in the life of the Maine Conference and hope you will join us as we begin a new phase in our covenantal journey together.

Denise Goodman, Moderator
Anita White, Vice-Moderator



Christian Education

Spring Fling

What a great turn-out we had for our Spring Fling! We had great food, great people and wonderful entertainment. Our young people deserve kudos for the fabulous job they did entertaining all of us. The skits they did were entirely made up by them! For those of you who were unable to attend, we hope you will plan to join us next year!

Youth Sunday

Praises to your youth and all the Sunday School children for the wonderful service they prepared for us on Youth Sunday. We heard beautiful music, thoughtful prayers, and the joy of receiving a thoughtful gift from the younger members of Sunday School. Many thanks to Doug McMinimy, Kimberly Haller, and Mimi Dickson for their time and energy in helping make Youth Sunday a success. They helped guide the youth as they planned and prepared for the service.

The third graders received their Bibles during Youth Sunday. They spent 3 weeks prior to Youth Sunday learning about the Bible, finding special verses, and where the books of the Bible are located. Kathy MacCulloch and Kathy Woodside did a wonderful working with our third graders.

Pilgrim Lodge

The various camps fill up fast, so if you would like to go to Pilgrim Lodge, you will need to register soon if you have not already done so! Remember, the church will pay 1/3 of the price of the camp or more assistance if needed.

Upcoming Events

June 3rd we will be recognizing our graduating high school seniors as they move on to new endeavors in their lives.

June 10th is our last day of Sunday School. The children and youth will be celebrating the year with a picnic in the Village Green during Sunday School. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and the day will be warm and sunny.

June 17th, God's Garden Club will start. This is our summer Sunday School Program in which we invite adults within our church to share their talents and gifts with the Sunday School children. For our first God's Garden Club we will be planting geraniums in front of the Cemetery next door. Doug McMinimy will be working with the older youth in our church discussing the music and lyrics of a Christian Band.

June 24th the confirmation class will be confirmed during the Sunday Service. These five young women have been working with their mentors and Sandra since the fall. Alexa Bonsey, Rhiannon Vonder Haar, Caitie Smith, Rachael McMinimy, and Hannah Boyce will all be confirmed on this Sunday.

Sr. High Youth Group

The Christian Education board is planning a day of adventure for our Sr. High Youth. Plans are in the making to take our Sr. High Youth for a day of hands on experience at Camp Beech Cliff. We are hoping that we will be able to go this spring. We can take 16 people and would like a full group. We will pass on more details as plans are firmed up.



Preparing for Dad's Day

(Sunday June 17, 2007)

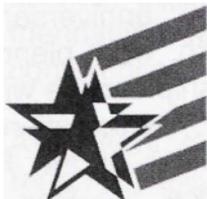
Here are some things you can do for your father on Father's Day:

How about taking him out for breakfast before worship or for lunch after the service? Or both!

Consider starting a Memory Book for him. Collect papers such as his birth and baptism certificates, photos of him as a child, a student, a graduate, a groom, a father, at his job and so on. If your mother has any special letters from your father she would be willing to share with the family, put them in the scrapbook.

Some time during Father's Day, ask him to tell stories about his most exciting adventures, meaningful religious experiences, his greatest joys, etc. Record these wonderful memories and then share them again on future occasions such as his birthday, anniversaries, family gatherings, Thanksgiving, etc.

Flag Day



Since the early 1800s various groups have observed a day to display the American flag. Presidents Woodrow Wilson (in 1916) and Calvin Coolidge (in 1927) issued proclamations

marking June 14 as National Flag Day.

But it wasn't until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved June 14 as a day of national observance. President Harry Truman signed it into law.

Above two articles: The Newsletter



Births

Carter Mills, son of Kevin and Melissa Mills and little brother of Kelsey, born May 4, 2007, grandson of Rita Johnston and Lenny DeMuro.

Julia Kathleen Cockerham, daughter of Jessica Vonder Haar and Terry Cockerham, little sister of Jackson, born May 7 in Dallas, Texas, granddaughter of Ray Vonder Haar and Molly Bogue and niece of Rhiannon and Nathan Vonder Haar.



Dayle Bowen and William Benjamin Eley,
On May 19, 2007 in Richmond, VA.
(Dayle is Dr. Reed's Niece.)

June 2007



1 Ruth Rossi
2 Paul Paradis
3 Addyson Makenna Boyce
5 Jack Drake
5 Tricia Hammond
6 James Macleod
7 Hilda Roderick
7 Seth Kane
8 Michael Gurtler
8 Mary Brown
9 Cynthia Lambert
10 Shari Roopenian
10 Katie Fuller
14 Gardner Skiff
15 Diane Bonsey
16 Raymond Turner
17 Lois Wade
17 Mary Paquet
18 Carla Haskell
19 Norman Nadel
20 Betty Crawford
21 Paul Hammond
21 Rodney Fox
26 Rob Shea
26 Vernice Young
27 Kimberly Haller
29 Martha Hobbs
30 Alexa Bonsey
30 Scott Hammond

Sunday Worship Contributors

Head Deacon - Bruce Blake
Assistant Deacon - Karl Haller

Liturgists

3 Dave Lind
10 Kimberly Haller
17 Kathy Woodside
24 Betty Bryer

Flowers

3 Barbara Adler
10 Mr. and Mrs. William Skiff
17 Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Haraden
24 Rita Johnston and Lenny DeMuro

Coffee Hosts

3 Jan Varnum, Lynn Richardson,
Barb Richardson
10 Mary Reed and Penny Frost
17 Father's Day Coffee Hour
24 Special Confirmation Coffee Hour

Lectionary

3 Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

10 1 Kings 17:17-24
Psalm 30
Galatians 1: 11-24
Luke 7:11-17

17 1 Kings 21:1-14, 15-21a
Psalm 5:1-8
Galatians 2:15-21
Luke 7:36-8:3

24 1 Kings 19:1-15a
Psalms 42 and 43
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

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

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Special dates

- . Trinity Sunday, June 3, 2007**
- . Flag Day, June 14, 2007**
- . Father's Day, June 17, 2007**
- . First day of summer, June 21, 2007**



Showing our love for God

The Spanish saint known as Teresa of Avila taught that the way we show our love for God is by serving those around us. She felt that helping and caring for others - the poor and destitute, the elderly and children, the hungry and the helpless - are ways of showing love for God.

Her attitude reminds us that Jesus said when we serve the hungry, comfort the sick, welcome the stranger, visit the imprisoned, care for the desperate poor, we are serving him. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40, NRSV).

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