

The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ
Arlington, Massachusetts

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

October, 2008

Special programs this month

For youth – apple picking October 5

Both youth groups will go apple picking on October 5. We'll meet at church at 1:00 and return at 4:45. Permission slips with details were sent home on September 28. We will need a few chaperones for this trip. Please let Kate know if you are interested or have other questions.

For women – discussion of *The Second Journey* October 11

Sarah's Circle women's book group will meet Saturday, October 11th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Fireplace Room to discuss *The Second Journey*, by Joan Anderson. What happens when an unexpected change in circumstances causes a woman to reevaluate her direction in life? *[details inside]*

For families – outing to America's Stonehenge, October 18

On Saturday, October 18, the PACC-Men are sponsoring a family trip to Salem, NH, to visit America's Stonehenge. This amazing site is believed to have been built by early native Americans or wandering European explorers over 4000 years ago. Questions? Email Sandy Sherburne *[details inside]*

For adults – lecture by the Rev. Peter J. Gomes October 21

The esteemed Harvard minister and professor the Rev. Peter J. Gomes will speak on the topic, "The Trouble with Scripture: What's So Good about the Good News?" on Tuesday, October 21, at 7:30 p.m. at Old West Church in Boston. Gather in front of the church that evening at 6:15 p.m. to carpool. *[details inside]*

For music lovers -- Longwood Opera's *Don Pasquale* at PACC October 25

This production, with musical direction by Jeffrey Brody, will be staged, costumed and performed in English with piano accompaniment. *[details inside]*

Christian Education News

Communion Education

Prior to the Communion Education workshop on September 28, information was mailed home to families about what children are learning and resources you can use at home to further that learning. If you did not receive it, please talk with Kate Lindheim. Children in grade three and up will stay in church for communion on the first Sunday of each

month. Younger children are welcome to stay in church for communion and their grown up can walk them to their Sunday School classes afterwards.

Sunday School

We'll have a combined Sunday School class on October 12. All ages will meet in the chapel. We'll break up into smaller groups if needed.

Prayer Shawl Knitters

Our prayer shawl knitting group will gather on October 19 in the Fireplace Room after church from 11:30-12:30. We'll get you started, answer any questions and knit together. Bring a pair of size 10 1/2 or 11 needles (the longer kind).

Children's Sabbath

We'll be observing Children's Sabbath on October 19. This is a day when we recognize the needs of children worldwide. As part of our observance, Sunday School children will collect items for the girls of Germaine Lawrence School in our neighborhood. There will be a box in the narthex for toiletries and craft items including shower puffs and shower gels, soaps, lotions, nail polish, towels and face cloths, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, lip gloss, hair brushes and combs, hair clips and elastics, headbands, sculpting clay, markers, journals, yarn, crochet hooks and knitting needles, beads. Sunday School children will sort and package these items for delivery to Germaine Lawrence.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF

Children will be trick or treating for UNICEF on October 26 in Parish Hall after church. Please bring your spare change to donate that day. Kids may keep their boxes for trick or treating on Halloween if they would like to. Boxes will be exchanged for a Halloween treat.

Sarah's Circle to discuss *The Second Journey*

Sarah's Circle women's book group will meet Saturday, October 11th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Fireplace Room to discuss *The Second Journey*, by Joan Anderson. This is a very small book - to give us a break from the heavy reading we've been doing! Amazon.com says, "The call to a second journey usually commences when unexpected change is thrust upon you, causing a crisis of feelings so great that you are stopped in your tracks. Personal events such as a betrayal, a diagnosis of serious illness, the death of a loved one, loss of self-esteem, a fall from power are only a few of the catalysts. A woman caught thusly has no choice but to pause, isolate, even relocate until she can reevaluate the direction in which she should head. Should she stay the course or choose another path? The goal is to come of age in the middle of life rather than live out our days lacking purpose and energy. It's all about rearranging our lives in our own image."

For November we will reread two chapters of *Women Who Run With the Wolves* by Clarissa Pinkola Estes. We'll look at chapter 12 which deals with the boundaries of rage and forgiveness, and chapter 13 which is the story of the Handless Maiden - a look at the bargains we make in our lives.

For December we will read *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy* by Donald B. Kraybill, Steven M. Nolt and David L. Weaver-Zercher.

Those who would like to meditate prior to the meeting are welcome to come at 9:30 a.m. If you have questions, speak with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

PACC-Men Family Outing to America's Stonehenge, Salem, NH

On Saturday, October 18, the PACC-Men and their families will travel to Salem, NH, to visit America's Stonehenge - a place of mystery and wonder. This amazing site is believed to have been built by early native Americans or wandering European explorers over 4000 years ago. It is considered the oldest man-made construction in the United States. Featuring an amazing collection of historic and pre-historic artifacts, America's Stonehenge is a wonderful educational experience for the whole family. Learn first-hand about archeology, walk through stone ruins, hear echoes of ancient incantations, and pet the friendly alpacas! This promises to be a full day of fun and adventure. Get more info at www.stonehengeusa.com. If you are thinking about joining us, please email Sandy Sherburne so we can work out all the travel details. Thanks.

Gomes to speak on "The Trouble with Scripture"

The 2008 Harrell F. Beck Lectureship, sponsored by the Massachusetts Bible Society, features esteemed Harvard minister and professor, The Rev. Peter J. Gomes, speaking on the topic, "The Trouble with Scripture: What's So Good about the Good News?" on Tuesday, October 21, at 7:30 p.m. at Old West Church, 131 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA. The lecture is free and open to the public. Join members of the PACC Evening Bible Group as we gather in front of the church that evening at 6:15 p.m. to carpool to the event. Here is a summary of Rev. Gomes' topic: "Jesus came preaching, but the church wound up preaching Jesus. Why does the church insist upon making Jesus the object of its attention rather than heeding his message? Gomes believes that excessive focus on the Bible and doctrines about Jesus have led the Christian church astray. To recover the transformative power of the gospel -- "the good news" -- Gomes says we must go beyond the Bible and rediscover how to live out Jesus' original revolutionary message of hope." Look for more information about this exciting event in upcoming Sunday worship bulletins.

Mission and Justice

Disaster relief

We hope you will consider making a gift in response to the UCC-issued \$250,000 appeal for those impacted by hurricanes Fay, Gustav, and Ike, as well as tropical storm Hanna. These destructive storms will require our collective, generous response for those affected in the Caribbean, Florida and across the Gulf Coast. You can donate by writing a check to PACC with a notation for 2008 hurricanes.

Imagine Another World is Possible

That is the theme of this year's **Neighbors in Need (NIN)** special mission offering of the UCC. NIN supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects

throughout the United States. The issues addressed by Justice and Witness Ministries that are supported by NIN are too numerous to list individually. The categories into which they fall are: Civil and Human Rights, Economic Justice, Global Concerns, Integrity of Creation (Environment), Peacemaking and Racial Justice. See the full breakdown of individual topics under those broad categories at <http://www.ucc.org/justice/issues.html>. The individual subjects also contain links to pages of information about what WJM is doing or actions requested. NIN funds are distributed to JWM ministries and by a grant application process to local churches and organizations. Please think about these issues and give as generously as you can when we receive the NIN offering on October 5th. Those of you who can't be in church that day can send your offering in at any time through the month of October. Make your checks payable to PACC and put Neighbors in Need in the memo line.

Arlington Food Pantry

The Town of Arlington reports, "With the rising cost of food, an increase in clients and a decrease in donations, the Arlington Food Pantry is in serious need of food and cash donations. The pantry relies solely on community donations for distribution to the Town's most vulnerable residents. This volunteer-run group is overseen by the Arlington Department of Health and Human Services and each month the pantry provides food to over 340 residents in over 150 Arlington families."

"We are seeing an average of 8 new residents per month and we anticipate that number to climb as residents continue to struggle with basic costs" said Warren Johnson, Food Pantry Volunteer Coordinator. "The cost of food is increasing and we are seeing that donations are not able to keep up with rising costs," says Christine Sharkey, Director of Health and Human Services.

PACC has supported the Arlington Food Pantry for many years through a first Sunday food drive. Please leave your non-perishable (unexpired) food items in the Narthex each first Sunday so that our Mission & Justice Ministry may deliver them to the Food Pantry. The Arlington Food Pantry collects and distributes non-perishable items such as cereal, canned fruits vegetables, pasta and sauce, soups, tuna, peanut butter and jelly as well as a number of personal needs items like soap, toothpaste, and toilet paper. Monetary donations can also be delivered. (Checks should be made payable to Park Avenue Congregational Church and labeled "Arlington Food Pantry" in the memo line. Cash can be given through the Morning Offering at any worship service by using the blue envelopes in the pews and labeling the Special Donation line "Arlington Food Pantry".)

If you'd prefer not to wait until October 5th, the Town alert says, "Residents may drop off food on Fridays between 1-3pm at the Food Pantry

The Church of Our Savior, 21 Marathon Street (left side entrance). Tax-deductible financial contributions can be sent to the Town of Arlington, 670R Mass Ave, Arlington, MA 02476."

For more information about any of these projects, talk to your Mission & Justice Deacons, Jill Lewis & Mike Rich.

Membership Ministry

Our Ministry

The membership ministry seeks to attract new members to our congregation. Overall, we as a congregation do a good job of making visitors feel welcome when they come for a Sunday worship service. Eventually, many of them do go on to learn more about us and to join the church. However, we would like to find ways to increase the number of people who choose to give PACC a try. Starting this fall we are working on finding ways so that the individuals and families who are shopping for a church have heard about PACC and will want to learn more.

Come to a Meeting

We need more ideas from you about how to increase our visibility in the community. If you are a recent member, we would love to find out how you heard about the church and what was behind your decision to join. If you are a long-term member you no doubt have information about why you have chosen to continue as a member and good ideas about how we might spread the word.

The Membership ministry will be holding several meetings to invite your participation. In keeping with our new structure, you need not make a long term commitment. The initial meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. If you have any questions you can contact Doug or Anita Clarke.

Successful Town Day

We made a start in this new direction by shifting the focus of our booth at Arlington's Town Day to show more of who we are as a church and to give out information that would be useful to those who are seeking a church. We had a visitor the following Sunday who heard about us there, and hope to see a few more in the coming weeks.

Since outreach is an essential part of who we are as a church, we also raised funds for Heifer Project as part of our Town Day Booth. You may be familiar with Heifer International through the activities of Christian Education; it is an organization that provides breeding livestock to poor families resulting in an ongoing source of food and income. Each family commits to passing along some of the first offspring of their animals to another family in need. We have purchased a Promise Basket with the funds raised; this will provide ducks, chickens, geese and rabbits, more than enough to transform the life of a needy family forever.

We thank all of those who helped to set up, man and clean up our booth on Town Day: Bill Albright, Amy Bernhardt, Anita Clarke, Gary Kane, Jill Lewis, Liz McNenny, Betty and Mike Rich, Doug Record, Christine and Eric Rochon, and Karen Stark.

What's Happening at PACC

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|------|--------|------------|---|
| Thu. | Oct. 2 | 10:00 a.m. | Craft Group in the Nicoll Room |
| | | 7:30 p.m. | Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room |
| | | 7:30 p.m. | Fellowship & Care Ministry at 18 Hillside Ave., Arlington |
| Sun. | Oct. 5 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship with Communion, Neighbors in Need collection |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall |
| | | 11:30 a.m. | Acolyte training in the Sanctuary |
| | | 11:45 a.m. | Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room |

		1:00 p.m.	Youth Groups leave for apple picking
Mon.	Oct. 6	7:30 p.m.	Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
Tue.	Oct. 7	10:00 a.m.	Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room
		7:30 p.m.	Membership Ministry in the Fireplace Room
Wed.	Oct. 8	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Oct. 9	1:00 p.m.	Women's Guild in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Oct. 11	9:30 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	Oct. 12	10:00 a.m.	Worship service; combined Sunday School classes
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:45 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Mon.	Oct. 13		<i>Columbus Day</i> ; office closed
Thu.	Oct. 16	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Nicoll Room
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Oct. 18	tba	PACC-Men outing to America's Stonehenge
Sun.	Oct. 19	9:20 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary
		10:00 a.m.	Worship service includes baptism of Sanna Gibbons
		11:15 a.m.	Communion in the Sanctuary
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:30 a.m.	Youth knitting group in the Fireplace Room
Tue.	Oct. 21		Deadline for November <i>Spire</i>
		1:30 p.m.	Bible Study at Sunrise Assisted Living Center
		6:15 p.m.	Meet to carpool to Gomes lecture
Wed.	Oct. 22	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Oct. 23	10:00 a.m.	Coffee Group in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Oct. 25	8:00 p.m.	Longwood Opera in the Sanctuary
Sun.	Oct. 26	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in Parish Hall, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF
Thu.	Oct. 30	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Nicoll Room
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room

coming later in the year

Fri.	Nov. 7 –		Holiday Fair
Sat.	Nov. 8		
Sun.	Dec. 7	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary
Sun.	Feb. 8	3:00 p.m.	Tuttle Concert in the Sanctuary
Sun.	Feb. 22	3:00 p.m.	Brody Concert in the Sanctuary
Sun.	Apr. 5	3:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir Concert in the Sanctuary
Sat.	Apr. 25		Rummage Sale
Sat.	May 9		Craft Fair

September auctions

Our two auctions in September were successful, in fun-raising as well as in fund-raising. Thanks to the many people who made them happen, including donors, purchasers and those who solicited donations. We are grateful to Judie Phelps, who spearheaded the

Post Office auction. Special thanks to Valerie Censabella, Karen Stark and Betty and Mike Rich, who led the effort; to Margaret Bell, who was responsible for the wonderful food, and to Dick Erickson, who was our auctioneer.

Longwood Opera Brings *Don Pasquale* to PACC October 25

Longwood Opera is presenting Gaetano Donizetti's popular comic opera *Don Pasquale* at PACC on Saturday, October 25 at 8:00 p.m. It will be staged, costumed and performed in English with piano accompaniment. Directed by Scott Brumit with musical direction by our Music Director and Organist Jeffrey Brody, *Don Pasquale* tells the story of an elderly, wealthy (and miserly) bachelor who has no heir. To remedy the situation, he tries to persuade his young nephew, Ernesto, to accept an arranged marriage. Ernesto refuses since his heart is already pledged to a glamorous yet penniless widow. In a fit of anger, Pasquale disinherits his nephew and decides to marry and produce an heir himself. Following a series of comic twists, the story ends with (of course) true love winning out.

Tickets at the door are \$23 general admission, \$18 seniors, \$15 students, \$13 for children 10 and under. For more information, speak with Jeffrey Brody.

Memorial Sunday November 2

On November 2 the worship service will include a time to remember church members and family who have died in the past year. If there is a name that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact the office by October 30.

Fair Cookie Walk needs Cookies: It is time to open up your cook books and look for your recipes, because we need dozens and dozens of delicious cookies for the Cookie Walk Table at the Fair. There will be a sign-up sheet on the kitchen door in the Parish Hall. I have received many coffee cans and will be happy for more if anyone still has a collection. Thank you so much for your help with this popular money maker.

Connie Dugan

PACC Holiday Fair November 7 and 8

The bears are tumbling one by one,
Frolicking on 'til the day is done.
A trip to the Country Store will please
The tummies of all who like candy and cheese
Think of those on your long Christmas list
And buy handmade goods which you cannot resist.
It is always rewarding to pause for a while
And buy a book that brings a tear or a smile.
Let's scamper over to the table with food
And collect all the goods which no diet includes.
Bring the children along for they'll be kept hopping
With their very own table for serious shopping.
All of us together can make the
Fair a quest
To raise the funds we need the most
And give our church your best

- *Sue Erickson*

Photos and Silhouettes: Plan ahead for Christmas gifts and cards!

Mary Caisley, Linda Cohn's sister, who is a talented amateur photographer, will be at the fair with her background and lights to take portraits of children, individuals, families, even pets! You'll get your photos on a CD, so you can make get your own prints and enlargements made. Mary and her husband Don also do beautiful silhouettes, which would make great Christmas gifts. (They also do pet silhouettes. See Linda Cohn if you'd like to see a sample of a pet silhouette and talk about how that could be done.)

New this year at the fair: Adopt me – Dress me – Take me home!

We have many cute stuffed animals (bears and monkeys and a few lions, lambs, and pandas) and the clothes to fit them (dresses, shorts and shirts, jackets, nightgowns, shoes, hats, etc.), plus colorful canvas bags to store it all. Little girls will love dressing their stuffed friend in the ballerina/fairy outfit that includes leotard, tutu, and fairy wings. The clothes will also fit Cabbage Patch dolls and other dolls or animals of about that size.

GOING! GOING!! GONE!!!

PACC will hold a silent auction in conjunction with the Holiday Fair. We're hoping that EVERY PACC family will contribute an item to our auction, whether it be a talent, a service, or a donated item.

EVERYONE has a talent or service that they can donate to our auction. Here are a few possibilities ...

Are you a terrific cook? How about a big batch of homemade cookies delivered to the high bidder's home every month for six months? one birthday cake for each member of the lucky bidder's immediate family during the next twelve months? a complete dinner for four delivered to the high bidder's home? a dinner party for six hosted by you in your home?

Are you an accountant, artist, computer whiz, florist, furniture refinisher, plumber, electrician, wallpaper hanger, painter, window washer, auto mechanic, seamstress, hairdresser, typist, or tutor who can donate your services?

Could you provide lesson(s) in art? origami? music? singing? sewing? computer programming?

Are you a reliable plant sitter? house sitter? baby sitter? pet sitter?

Do you have a condo or summer cottage that you could offer as a weekend getaway or vacation package?

How about dressing as a clown and face painting at a child's birthday party? How about delivering a balloon bouquet or singing telegram? How about videotaping a special event for the high bidder?

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!!!!

We will also most gratefully accept new items to be auctioned off. Or how about gift certificates to local gift shops, supermarkets, department stores, malls, restaurants, book stores, beauty salons, etc.? How about donating movie passes, concert tickets, or tickets to sporting events?

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR SPECIALLY-DESIGNATED BOX IN THE NARTHEX NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2. WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR SUPPORTING THIS IMPORTANT PACC FUNDRAISER.

Holiday Fair Silent Auction
November 7 and 8, 2008

Please return this form to the church office or specially designated box in the narthex
no later than Sunday, November 2.

Name: _____

Talent/service/item(s)/approximate value of each item donated:

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

Restrictions/special instructions on donations (if any): _____

- I will deliver to church on Thursday, November 6
- I will deliver to church on Friday, November 7 by 3 p.m.
- Please pick up my donation. Call me at _____
Best time to call: _____

It will not be possible to accept late donations for the Silent Auction Table, but we will gladly accept them and place them for sale at other Fair tables.

If you have questions, please call Nadine Lombard.