

**The SPIRE**  
**Park Avenue Congregational Church**  
The United Church of Christ  
**Arlington, Massachusetts**

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

March, 2009

**Congregation votes to proceed with Capital Campaign**

At a special congregational meeting on February 22 the membership of Park Avenue Church voted overwhelmingly to proceed with a Capital Campaign as proposed by the Capital Campaign Planning Committee. A committee has been formed to work through this spring to accomplish the next phase of the effort, the pledge drive. See the article inside for more information.

**Deacons sponsor brunch, discussion of new structure**

Following the worship service on March 29 the Council of Deacons is sponsoring a potluck brunch followed by a discussion of the new structure. It is just over a year since we changed from a committee-based institution to one organized around ministries. The Council of Deacons is interested in feedback from the congregation on how this seems to be working. If you are not able to attend the brunch but would like to express an opinion, speak with any of the Deacons: Margaret Bell, Valerie Censabella, Hong Chin, Anita Clarke, Don Cohn, Linda Cohn, Lauren Evans, Karen Friedman, Gary Kane, Beverly Miller, Doug Record, Mike Rich, Jeff Steinheider, Barbara Wagner, and Jeanne Woodin. See the article inside for more information.

**Christian Education News**

**Lent**

We will have a Sunday School Lent service in the chapel on March 1 for the first part of Sunday School. A family Lent booklet with prayers, Bible readings and activities to help families observe Lent at home will be sent home that day. Sunday School children and youth will also bring home collection boxes to collect money for One Great Hour of Sharing. Materials for families and adults for Lent are on the table in the narthex.

**Youth Group Prayer Shawl Knitters**

We'll meet in the Fireplace Room on March 15 from 11:30-12:30.

**Youth Groups**

We'll meet on March 22 from 4-5:30 in the Nicoll Room. Check the March Sunday School newsletter for more information.

**Christian Education Working Group**

Before the church service on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8:45 a.m., the first meeting of the year for the Christian Education (CE) Working Group will take place. This group works with Kate Lindheim, our CE Director, to insure that our CE programs run smoothly, especially Sunday School. We will also focus on some long range planning and discuss adult education. We welcome anyone who is interested in CE to join us. If you have any questions or would like to talk further, please see Barbara Wagner or Kate Lindheim.

### **Evening Bible Group studies story of Samson**

Evening Bible Group continues its study of the Book of Judges with the story of Samson, told in chapters 13-17, which is both entertaining and instructive. All are welcome to join the group, which meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. Bill Albright leads the discussion.

### **ATTENTION PACC-Men**

We have changed our scheduling. Our meetings will now be on the FIRST Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

We had a great, well-attended meeting on February 10th at which Robert Willey shared information and documents to get people started on tracing their family trees and preserving their family stories. Dick Erickson also shared his sister's book Echoes with the true and fictionalized stories of their family going back to Revolutionary times.

For our March 3rd meeting, we will gather at the Church and carpool to Watch City Brewing Company, 256 Moody Street, Waltham, for dinner, fellowship and other Men-stuff.

Contact Mike Rich for more info.

### ***People of the Book* the subject for Sarah's Circle**

The next meeting of Sarah's Circle book group for women will be Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon in the Fireplace Room. Those who wish to meditate should come at 9:30 a.m. The group will discuss *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks.

Here is what Amazon.com has to say about it: "Amazon Best of the Month, January 2008: One of the earliest Jewish religious volumes to be illuminated with images, the Sarajevo Haggadah survived centuries of purges and wars thanks to people of all faiths who risked their lives to safeguard it. Geraldine Brooks, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *March*, has turned the intriguing but sparsely detailed history of this precious volume into an emotionally rich, thrilling fictionalization that retraces its turbulent journey. In the hands of Hanna Heath, an impassioned rare-book expert restoring the manuscript in 1996 Sarajevo, it yields clues to its guardians and whereabouts: an insect wing, a wine stain, salt crystals, and a white hair. While readers experience crucial moments in the book's history through a series of fascinating, fleshed-out short stories, Hanna pursues its secrets scientifically, and finds that some interests will still risk everything in the name of protecting this treasure. A complex love story, thrilling mystery, vivid

history lesson, and celebration of the enduring power of ideas, *People of the Book* will surely be hailed as one of the best of 2008.” --Mari Malcolm

### **Updated rosters available**

An updated roster with contact information for PACC members and friends is available. Contact the office if you cannot pick one up at church.

### **RUMMAGE SALE - APRIL 25**

The Rummage Sale is coming up the last Saturday in April! Here is how you can help:

**Save the date!** If you have not already done so, mark your calendar now and plan to join us for fellowship and fun in this all-church event. (There are also many opportunities to help the two days before the sale.)

**Save your stuff!** We are looking for donations of clothing, clean and in good condition for men, women and children. Better women's clothing will be featured in a special ladies' boutique. We are also looking for housewares, linens, books, small furniture and all manner of white elephants, again, clean and in good condition. We don't want junk!

**Save the hassle!** Do you really want to organize a yard sale, or just to get all those extra household items out of your life? Donate them to the Rummage Sale and help support this worthwhile undertaking.

**Save us the trouble of tracking you down -- volunteer!** There will be sign up sheets at church in April, but why not call one of the people listed below and be among those we know we can count on to help make the sale run smoothly. We always need more sorters and pricers on Thursday and Friday (April 23 and 24) as well as clerks to sell merchandise on Saturday. And an energetic clean up crew following the sale is a must!

We hope you are making lots of progress cleaning out all those closets and drawers and finding some good items for the sale. Due to space limitations, we are unable to accept donations until the week before the sale. We are also not able to accept large items. If in doubt about the suitability of any item, or you must move things earlier, or you have any other questions, contact one of the committee members below.

**Friends welcome!** Perhaps you have friends who would enjoy working with you at the sale. Sign them up and bring them along. And we are always happy to accept donations from your friends and neighbors (stress clean and in good condition!) Talk it up. There is nothing better than an enthusiastic first person approach. Do plan to join us and make this important fund raiser a rousing success!

Judy Miller, Lauren Evans, Diane Wells

### **Capital Campaign Committee formed**

The congregation's vote to undertake the capital campaign brings to an end the work of the Capital Campaign Planning Committee. This committee was formed to look into the capital needs of PACC and the projects we want to accomplish and come up with a plan to present to the congregation. Many thanks to Edith Burge, Linda Cohn, Christie Getto Young, Gary Kane, Meredythe Schober, and Keith Truesdale for their two years of time and effort that resulted in the plan approved by the congregation on February 22.

Now it's time for all of us to get to work to make the capital campaign a success. The actual pledging campaign will take place in May with the organization and preparation time in March and April. We have a new Capital Campaign Committee made up of people who will recruit the various task teams to do the work of the campaign. We need everybody to help in some way. Please do consider prayerfully your talents and your time availability and be open to taking on a task that works for you and contributes to the success of our capital campaign.

Our Capital Campaign Committee is made up of the chairs of the task teams. Thank you to all of the following people for taking on these tasks:

- Linda Cohn -- Chairperson
- Tim Durning and Tom Howard – Advance Gifts
- Doug Record and Keith Truesdale – Church Family Gifts
- Ken Miller – Planned Giving
- Josh Young – Publicity
- Debbie Douglas and Karen Friedman – Brochure
- Margaret Bell and Beverly Miller – Kick-off Dinner
- Christie Getto Young – Dinner Program
- Christine Rochon – Administrative Support
- Judy Miller and Judie Phelps – Recording and Acknowledgement
- Gary Kane – Building Projects
- Sara Hunter – Prayer Group

This committee's initial meeting will be the first week in March with our campaign consultant, who is Andrew Gustafson, the Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship and Financial Development for the Massachusetts Conference of the U.C.C. The organizational work will get under way soon after this initial meeting.

### **Potluck Brunch and Discussion – March 29**

The Council of Deacons held a retreat on January 31 to evaluate PACC's first year with the new organizational structure. The Council focused on what was successful, what could be improved, and specific steps to make us a stronger church going forward. A number of themes emerged from our discussion. Among other things, the Council thought the elections of Deacons proceeded smoothly, the work of the church continued with no glaring omissions, and the transition to the new structure was relatively smooth. The Council also recognized, however, that there were areas where, as a church, we could do better and use the new structure more effectively. For example, communication between the Council and the congregation could be strengthened, and greater involvement of non-Council members in the life of the church could be

encouraged. We also brainstormed specific ways to address those areas which needed strengthening.

The Council would like to share its thoughts and hear from the congregation. We invite you to join us for a potluck brunch and discussion of the new structure in Parish Hall on Sunday, March 29 after worship. The Council will provide hot egg dishes and beverages, and would appreciate it if members could bring salads and baked goods. If your last name begins with A- L, would you bring a salad or fresh fruit? If your last name begins with M-Z, would you bring baked goods such as muffins, bagels, scones, or breads?

In the meantime, please consider the following questions in preparation for our discussion:

- What aspects of the new structure do you think were successful?
- What aspects of the new structure do you think could be improved and (most importantly) **how**?

Thank you! We look forward to hearing from you on this important aspect of church life.

The Council of Deacons

### *What's Happening at PACC*

Sun.	Mar. 1	10:00 a.m.	Worship service includes Communion
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:45 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Mon.	Mar. 2	7:30 p.m.	Capital Campaign Committee in the Nicoll Room
Tue.	Mar. 3	7:30 p.m.	PACC-Men leave for Watch City
Thu.	Mar. 5	10:00 a.m.	Coffee Group in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room

#### **Daylight Savings Time begins. Turn clocks AHEAD one hour.**

Sun.	Mar. 8	8:45 a.m.	Christian Education working group in the Fireplace Room
		10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:45 a.m.	Sacred Conversations on Race in the Chapel
		11:45 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Mon.	Mar. 9	7:30 p.m.	Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
Wed.	Mar. 11	10:00 a.m.	Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room
		7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Mar. 12	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Mar. 15	9:20 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary
		10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Communion in the Sanctuary
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:30 a.m.	Youth knitters in the Fireplace Room
Mon.	Mar. 16	7:30 p.m.	Capital Campaign Committee, Fireplace Room (tentative)

Thu.	Mar. 19	10:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Mar. 21	9:30 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	Mar. 22	10:00 a.m.	Worship service; One Great Hour of Sharing collection
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		4:00 p.m.	Youth Groups in the Nicoll Room
Mon.	Mar. 23	7:30 p.m.	Capital Campaign Committee, Fireplace Room (tentative)
Tue.	Mar. 24		Deadline for April <i>Spire</i>
Wed.	Mar. 25	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Mar. 26	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Mar. 28	9 a. – 1 p.	Spring clean-up
Sun.	Mar. 29	11:15 a.m.	Potluck brunch

*coming later in the year*

Sun.	Apr. 5	8:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday pancake breakfast in the Parish Hall
Thu.	Apr. 9	7:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday worship service in the Sanctuary
Sun.	Apr. 12	10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday worship service
Sat.	Apr. 25	9 a. – 2 p.	Rummage Sale
Sat.	May 9	10 a. – 4 p.	Craft Fair
Sun.	Jul. 19	1:35 p.m.	Lowell Spinners game
Thu.	Aug. 20	7:05 p.m.	Lowell Spinners game

## Mission and Justice News

### Sacred Conversations on Race continue March 8

First there were Reverend Wright's comments, which led to our beginning Sacred Conversations on Race. Several days ago Attorney General Eric Holder made a comment in a speech that set off a hornets' nest of reactions. He said "Though this nation had proudly thought of itself as an ethnic melting pot, in things racial we have always been and continue to be, in too many ways, essentially a nation of cowards."

The Roland Report on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> wrote:

"Holder, the nation's first African American chief law enforcement officer, offered a blistering assessment of America's racial history and called on the nation's citizens to get out of their comfort zones and be willing to discuss and confront the prickly issue of race.

"Holder said, 'We continue to live in a segregated world. Our schools. Our neighborhoods. Our churches. Our forced situations are diverse, but when we have to make the choice ourselves, we go back to our tribal tendencies.'

"Critics of Holder desperately want to ignore America's racial history, and they somehow think that we should just stay positive and everything will take care of itself."

What are your thoughts??? On March 8<sup>th</sup> after church we're showing Part II of "African American Lives." We'd love to take a few minutes before the start of the DVD to hear your views.

## **African-American Lives, Part 2 – Sunday, March 8th, 11:45**

"The Promise of Freedom" --Episode two travels back from the early 20th century to the end of the Civil War to look at how African Americans defined their freedom after slavery. Dr. Gates learns that courthouse records of land acquisitions, documents from the Freedmen's Bureau and the 1870 census - the first in which African Americans were counted as citizens, not property - all prove important resources for tracing the participants' lineage through Reconstruction. Gates' personal story continues as he seeks genealogical research to confirm a family legend - that a white slaveholder is one of his 19th-century ancestors.

**Thank you!** Mission & Justice would like to say a big Thank You for all the extra food you brought in for the Valentine's food drive on behalf of the Arlington Food Pantry. In all about 35 bags were donated. We will continue to collect on our regular Communion Sunday, which is usually the first Sunday of the month.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

*"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Matthew 6:21

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that has provided support to people in more than eighty countries since 1949 – places like Darfur, Afghanistan, and Palestine. OGHS offerings provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, refugee assistance and disaster response.

OGHS is a Lenten Offering. This year's theme is "Where is your treasure?" – reminding us that not only are we all treasure in God's eyes, but in sharing our earthly treasure, we may be transformed by the act of giving. The OGHS allows us to reach beyond the walls of our own church and invites us "to be the church God calls us to be, the church working as one, to share resources and change lives."

The Dedication Day for the offering at PACC will be March 22. Throughout March, we will be sharing stories about actual projects and people supported by our OGHS offerings. Look for further email and bulletin inserts, and check out the Mission and Justice bulletin board for more information about how you can change a life.

Thank you!

### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft Fair to be May 9**

Planning is underway for PACC's 7<sup>th</sup> annual Craft Fair! It will be held on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am until 4 pm. We hope to have several crafters returning from last year's fair along with some new ones. As in the past, there will be crafts available to purchase from our own ladies' craft group as well as a PACC bake table. We also hope to sell lunch again.

Volunteers will be needed to post flyers around Arlington and surrounding communities, to bake yummy goodies, and to help with lunch. We, of course, need everyone to publicize the fair to

their friends and family members so that we have a great turnout! Stay tuned for more information! To volunteer or to ask questions, please see Barbara Wagner.

**SIGN UP** for one or two Sundays (of YOUR choice) a year to bring something for Coffee Hour—a baked item, veggies, fruit, cheese and crackers or a surprise! Because people have offered, we are going to post a sign-up calendar in the Parish Hall. You don't need to serve or clean up but just drop off your donation before church. One of the Hospitality team will call to remind you before your Sunday. THANK YOU in advance.

### **Spring Cleaning**

We will have a work day to focus on cleaning the Narthex and Sanctuary before Easter. Any time you can spend on Saturday, March 28, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. will be appreciated. In addition, we will clear out coats left in the Narthex and donate them to the rummage sale, so please check to see if any of the coats there are yours. A sign up sheet will be on the kitchen door or see Jeff Steinheider for details.

### **Roof work by Revere Road door completed**

For many winters the church entry on Paul Revere Road has been plagued by the threat of snow and ice falling from the roof. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we have installed electric heating panels and cables on the roof, which should eliminate that problem in the future. We appreciate the efforts of Keith Truesdale, who oversaw the work.

---

## *Easter Plants*

I/We wish to have plants for the sanctuary given in memory of/in honor of:

---

# Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ # Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ **\$9.00 each**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take my plant(s) home after Easter services.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please give my plant(s) to a shut-in.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*Please put your order form and check in the Administrative Assistant file in the gray box at the Ushers' Stand or mail to the office. Thank you.  
The deadline is March 30.*