

The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

Arlington, Massachusetts

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

April, 2010

Holy Week Worship Services

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae (extinguishing of candles accompanied by readings from the Passion narratives in the Gospels) at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The choir will sing Stainer's "God So Loved the World."

Good Friday, April 2

Interfaith Worship at noon at St. John's Episcopal Church, 74 Pleasant Street. Bill Albright will participate.

Easter Sunday, April 4

Sunrise service at 6:15 a.m. Please join members of other Arlington churches for a joyful service. Gather at the scenic overlook over the east-facing hill at Robbins Farm Park, across Eastern Avenue from the Brackett School, to welcome the sun (6:22 a.m.) and The Risen Son with prayer, liturgy and song.

Celebration of the Resurrection at 10:00 a.m. A brass quartet will join our organ and Festival Choir, which will sing Mozart's *Alleluia* and Randall Thompson's *Alleluia*. There will not be Sunday School classes. Childcare will be available for children in kindergarten and younger. Older children will receive activity bags to help them sit through the service.

Easter Egg Hunt will be in the Children's Garden after the service.

Rummage Sale April 24

All-church evaluation forms available on Easter

Updates on Capital Campaign work and Merger Study discussions

See inside for more details.

Christian Education News

Easter

There will be no Sunday School on Easter. We will have childcare for children 5 and younger. There will be activity bags to help children sit through the service. After the worship service, we'll have an Easter egg hunt in the garden (next to the playground).

Confirmation

Our confirmation group will meet on April 11 and 25 from 12-1:30 in the Fireplace Room. The confirmation retreat is April 9-10. We'll meet in the Fireplace Room at 5 pm on April 9 to share a quick dinner and then drive to Grotonwood.

Programs for Adults

PACC-Men sponsor trip to Kennedy Library

Tom Putnam, Director of the Kennedy Library, has invited the PACC-Men and adult PACC-family members (high school age and older, please) to a tour of the Museum including some "behind the scenes" rooms that are not generally open to the general public. The event will be on Tuesday, April 6th. Anyone interested should gather at PACC at 6:45 p.m. to leave for the Library at 7:00. Or if you prefer you can meet us at the Library at 7:30. The tour will conclude by 8:45 to return to Arlington by 9:15 or so. To learn more about the Library the website is www.jfklibrary.org. It would be helpful to have a general sense of how many people plan to attend. If you are interested in going, please contact Mike Rich.

Women's Guild to learn about quilts

Lisa Welter will present a program on quilts when Women's Guild meets Thursday, April 8, at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Women are encouraged to bring special quilts that they have. Diane Wells and Doris Wilson will be hostesses. All women are cordially invited.

Evening Bible Group discussing of Gospel of John

In April Evening Bible Group resumes its schedule of meeting on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Chapters 2 and 3 of the Gospel of John will be the topic on April 14 and 28. Everyone is welcome to join us at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. If you have questions, speak with Bill Albright.

Book discussion: *Jesus Interrupted*

Jesus Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible (And Why We Don't Know About Them), by Bart Ehrman will be the topic for discussion on May 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. If you'd like to purchase a copy for \$11.42, please let Betty Rich know by April 4.

Sarah's Circle explores what animals can teach us about being human

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein is the selection for Sarah's Circle when the group meets on Saturday, April 17, from 10 AM until 12 noon. This is a story, written from a dog's viewpoint, about life and living.

- “*The Art of Racing in the Rain* has everything: love, tragedy, redemption, danger, and--most especially--the canine narrator Enzo. This old soul of a dog has much to teach us about being human.” (Sara Gruen, author of *Water for Elephants*)
- “The perfect book for anyone who knows that some of our best friends walk beside us on four legs; that compassion isn't only for humans; and that the relationship between two souls...meant for each other never really comes to an end.” (Jodi Picoult)

As has been the group's practice, those who wish to meditate may come at 9:30. All women are welcome. If you have questions, speak with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

Capital Campaign Implementation update

The Capital Campaign Implementation Committee is working hard to get the Chapel renovation work going. We got bids from two contractors but unfortunately, those bids were quite high. As a result, we have worked with the lower bid contractor to tweak the details, and we hope to begin work soon. We also had this contractor give a rough estimate on the lift work so we could compare all the Capital Campaign items together before diving in. Bids from the new organ companies for the anticipated work on the console are also due to be received soon. We will then be able to assess how all the projects can be done as planned. The timing of the organ and lift work has not been determined, but we will be signing up a new organ company to take care of the organ maintenance as soon as possible.

Meanwhile we will begin preparatory work: creating storage space for A Place to Grow to replace what they're losing behind the Chapel wall, gutter repair, and putting a keypad combination lock on the Paul Revere Road door to provide access for the day care families. These jobs have been separated out to help with scheduling and will be happening in the upcoming months. As soon as we have more information, we'll update you in church or by email.

Donations to the Capital Campaign through March 21 total \$108,934! We appreciate the generosity of the PACC community. If you have a question about the status of your pledge to the Capital Campaign, call Kathy in the office.

RUMMAGE SALE - SATURDAY, APRIL 24 from 9 to 2

Is it time to edit your wardrobe? You know, remove those items you don't wear because they are the wrong size, color, or style and add something fun, fresh, and reasonably priced that just says, "You!" Well, you are in luck! The church rummage sale is just around the corner, and we are happy to accept all clothing items (clean and in good condition) that you are ready to edit out of your wardrobe and give you the opportunity to find some special additions to enhance the whole.

Along with gently worn clothing for men, women, and children and all manner of accessories (hats, scarves, belts, gloves, wallets, pocketbooks), we are also seeking household goods of every description: linens (sheets, blankets, bedspreads, pillows, cushions, towels, tablecloths, napkins, place mats, table runners, curtains, shower curtains, bath mats), housewares (dishes, mugs, glasses, utensils, pots and pans, bake ware, vases, lamps, and small appliances in working order), books, and small pieces of furniture (something that can be carried by one medium sized woman.)

We also sell jewelry, shoes, records, tapes, videos, CDs, DVDs, pet items, sports equipment, yarn, fabric, baby items, paintings, prints, frames, tools, and gardening equipment. Please be sure all items are clean. Please don't give us broken things or junk!

So, here is your rummage sale check list:

- _____ Mark sale date on your calendar now. Also the Thursday and Friday for set up if you can help then.
- _____ Clean out closets, drawers, and cupboards and bag or box donations.
- _____ Save and bring in large clean brown bags (or other large bags), preferably with handles
- _____ **VOLUNTEER** to work Thursday and/or Friday sorting and pricing. We begin at 9 each morning and work both afternoons and Thursday evening.
- _____ **VOLUNTEER** to sell for all or part of the day and/or clean up at 2 on Saturday.
- _____ Share information about the sale with friends, neighbors, and family members who are rummage sale fans.
 - _____ invite them to work with you
 - _____ invite them to make donations.

Please check the Sunday bulletins or listen for announcements as the sale date nears to find out when and where to bring your donations. We will not want anything until the Sunday before the sale at the earliest. If at all possible, bring things in on Thursday, April

22nd when they can be sorted right onto the tables. Workers will be on hand all day and into the evening to accept your donations. **Please bring everything in by Thursday.**

We cannot say too often how much we need your help! This is a huge undertaking, much too big to be left to the same few women who have been involved for years. In order for the sale to go smoothly on Saturday, we need many sorters and pricers on Thursday and Friday. We need strong backs to unload cars and tote boxes. We need people to test electrical equipment. We need people to ferret out the good stuff and price it accordingly. We need an energetic clean up crew. We need lots of volunteers. We need you! So please, save us the trouble of tracking you down. Volunteer! And if you have friends who like this sort of activity, invite them to join you. We can always use more help.

If you have any questions or to volunteer, please contact one of us. **THANK YOU!**

Judy Miller, Diane Wells, Lauren Evans.

Craft Fair is May 8th - mark your calendars now!

Please mark your calendars for the 8th Annual Craft Fair being held the day before Mother's Day. It will be held in Parish Hall from 10 a.m. to 3p.m. There will be 17 tables with a variety of unique and affordable crafts to purchase. Some of the crafters from previous years are returning and some will be new to the Craft Fair. As we have in the past, there will be sandwiches and beverages available for sale around lunchtime!

We will have a PACC bake table and I am looking for folks to provide baked goods and to help with sales on May 8th! Please let me know if you can help out for a few hours. I would also appreciate your ideas of where to place flyers around Arlington and in neighboring towns as well as help distributing flyers to local venues. Let me know if you can help with that!

I will update you with the types of crafts we will have available as soon as we have made our final selections.

Remember - **Mark your calendars** and invite your friends to shop and to have lunch with us on May 8th at this established fundraising event!

Betty Rich

What's Happening at PACC

Thu.	Apr. 1	7:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday worship service in the Sanctuary
Fri.	Apr. 2	12:00 noon	Good Friday worship service at St. John's Episcopal Church, 74 Pleasant Street, Arlington
Sun.	Apr. 4	6:15 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service at Robbins Farm Park
		9:20 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary
		10:00 a.m.	Easter worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Refreshments and fellowship in Parish Hall
		11:30 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt in the Children's Garden
Mon.	Apr. 5	7:15 p.m.	Merger Study Group at Pleasant Street Church
Tue.	Apr. 6	6:45 p.m.	Meet at PACC for tour of Kennedy Library
Thu.	Apr. 8	11:00 a.m.	Women's Guild in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Fri.	Apr. 9		Confirmation retreat at Grotonwood
-Sat.	-10		
Sun.	Apr. 11	8:45 a.m.	CE 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.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
		12:00 noon	Confirmation Class in the Fireplace Room
Mon.	Apr. 12	7:30 p.m.	Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
Tue.	Apr. 13	7:15 p.m.	Merger Study Group & Merger Action Team, Fireplace & Nicoll
Wed.	Apr. 14	10:00 a.m.	Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room
		7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Apr. 15	7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Apr. 17	9:30 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	Apr. 18	9:20 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary
		10:00 a.m.	Worship service includes reception of new members
		11:15 a.m.	Communion in the Sanctuary
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		3:00 p.m.	Margaret Tuttle & Ariel Woodwind Quintet concert, Sanctuary
Mon.	Apr. 19		<i>Patriots' Day</i> ; office closed
Tue.	Apr. 20		Deadline for <i>May Spire</i>

- Tue. Apr. 20 7:30 p.m. Membership Ministry at the Record/Stark home, 15 Bellevue Rd.
- Thu. Apr. 22 all day Rummage set-up in the Parish Hall and Chapel
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
- Fri. Apr. 23 all day Rummage set-up in the Parish Hall and Chapel
- Sat. Apr. 24 9 am- 2 pm Rummage Sale in the Parish Hall and Chapel
- Sun. Apr. 25 10:00 a.m. Worship service
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
12:00 noon Confirmation Class in the Fireplace Room
- Wed. Apr. 28 7:30 p.m. Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
- Thu. Apr. 29 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room

coming later in the year

- Sat. May 8 10 am-3 pm Craft Fair
- Sun. May 9 10:00 a.m. Worship service, recognition of long-time PACC members
- Sun. May 16 10:00 a.m. Worship service includes Confirmation
- Sun. Jun. 13 10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday worship service

Margaret Tuttle performs with woodwind quintet April 18

Pianist Margaret Cheng Tuttle with the Ariel Woodwind Quintet will perform quintets by Danzi and Fine, a Sonata for Clarinet and Piano by Brahms, and the *Sextet for Piano and Winds* by Poulenc at a concert in our Sanctuary on Sunday, April 18, at 3:00 p.m. All are cordially invited. For more details, speak with Mark Tuttle.

Two ways to complete All-Church Evaluation

We are trying something new with the All-Church Evaluation this year. In order to make it easier for the congregation to provide feedback and easier for us to collect the results, we are offering the survey as a web-based form, in addition to the paper survey we have used in previous years. The information on the web form and paper form are exactly the same, so church members only need to fill out one of the surveys. After March 28 the web-based survey will be available at <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dENBWG5UTXNWCXRzbG05R1pvS2R2bGc6MA>. Simply fill out the form and then click on "Submit" at the bottom of the form when you are done. We encourage people to try the web survey, as it will provide us with quicker feedback as well as save paper and mailing expenses.

from the Mission and Justice Ministry

9th Annual Walk for Affordable Housing, April 11, 1-3 p.m.

The Housing Corporation of Arlington (HCA) sponsors this event, which begins at the Jason Russell House (Corner of Mass. Ave. and Jason St. in Arlington). Rain or Shine! This is an easy three-mile, family friendly walk. Jill Lewis usually collects pledges from PACC members and participates in the Walk, but this year she will be out of town that weekend. Will one or more of you consider taking up the cause? For more information, call or visit www.housingcorporationarlington.org.

JOIN US IN TAKING A STAND AGAINST RACISM, April 30 – May 2

You are invited to participate in events being organized in Arlington in conjunction with a national **Stand Against Racism** movement initiated by the YWCA. **Stand Against Racism** began in 2008 to raise awareness that racism still exists in our communities and that it cannot be ignored or tolerated. Our goal in Arlington is to unite as one community in order to celebrate diversity, raise awareness that racism and all forms of prejudice still exist, and silence the voices of those who promote hate.

- *Freedom Writers* Movie Showing
Friday, April 30th; 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., Arlington High School, 869 Mass. Ave.
- Stand Against Racism Community Stand
Saturday, May 1st; 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Mass. Ave. between Town Hall & Pleasant St.
- A Community Conversation About Race.
Sunday, May 2nd; 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 630 Mass. Ave., Arlington

Please come to any or all of these free events, and share this information with others who might be interested. Questions? Talk with Jill Lewis.

Jumping for Justice, May 1

The MACUCC Restorative Justice Task Team will have a table and be doing workshops at the Jumping for Justice conference on Saturday, May 1. Tom Howard and Mike Rich plan to help with the afternoon workshop which starts at 1:30. Interested Arlington people can carpool from the Stand Against Racism event if they'd like. Talk with Mike for more information.

Walk for Hunger, May 2

Jill Lewis and Kate Lindheim will walk 10 miles of the Walk for Hunger as a PACC team on May 2. If you'd like to join us, please let them know. They'd love to have company! If you'd like to sponsor the PACC team, look for pledge sheets after church in Parish Hall on April 11, 18 and 25. Thanks!

Disaster Relief – Thank you!

- Thanks to your generosity, we were able to send 46 Hygiene Kits, 12 completed Baby Kits, and a box of extra cloth diapers, receiving blankets and washcloths to Church World Service for distribution in Haiti. Cash donations were sufficient to cover the cost of mailing 4 very large boxes. Thanks also to the Youth Group (and Kate Lindheim) for assembling the Baby Kits. Additionally, PACC members contributed \$3290, which, added to the \$800 from Christian Outreach, meant that we sent a check for over \$4000 to help the victims of the disastrous earthquake.
- Donations designated for earthquake relief in Chile totaled \$240. We appreciate the willingness of the PACC community to respond to others in need.

Coffee Hour

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.

Office hours: Minister Bill Albright:

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tuesday & Wednesday or by appointment
Christian Education Director Kate Lindheim:

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
Administrative Assistant Kathy Richardson:

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Merger Study Group Update

The conversation about the possibility of a merger of PACC and Pleasant Street Congregational Church (PSCC) has continued through March. Several meetings have taken place, some between PACC's Merger Study Group (MSG) and the Merger Action Team at PSCC and some of the MSG alone.

Following the congregational gathering on February 28th when the MSG updated the PACC congregation, it was clear there were several questions posed about PSCC's finances and about what a merger of the two churches' finances would look like. So a small group composed of people from both the MSG and PSCC has begun to work on preparing a range of financial scenarios to consider in light of a possible merger. As well, another small group has begun some visioning exercises to think about what might be possible by combining the two churches. There will be more congregational gatherings in April, after the work has been completed on these two tasks. We will update the congregation on the financial scenarios and the discussions so far, and will also look for feedback from the congregation.

Tentatively, we have chosen Sunday, May 23rd, as the date on which the PACC congregation will vote on whether PACC should enter into good-faith negotiations with PSCC to work towards a merger. This will not be a vote to actually merge. That question will only arise if the vote on entering into negotiations is approved. If we do enter into negotiations, there will be a second vote on whether to accept the negotiated terms and actually merge.

If you would like to share a comment or concern with the MSG, please speak to any member of the group (Bill Albright, Don Cohn, Linda Cohn, Tim Durning, Gary Kane, Kate Lindheim, Doug Record, Mike Rich, Kathy Richardson and Barbara Wagner) or send an email to the whole group.

keeping in touch

The 2010 roster is available on paper or as a Word document. Contact the office if you would like one.

Subparish lists for 2010 are posted on the easel in the narthex or you can phone the church to find out who your Deacon is. In order to foster a stronger sense of fellowship and community within the congregation, each Deacon on the Council has been assigned to a "subparish" consisting of a small group of individuals and families who live locally. The Deacon will keep in touch with members in their sub-parish informally (a phone call, a conversation on Sunday morning, or a card), but feel free to contact your Deacon if there is some way the church can be of help to you. Families who live a significant distance or are out of state and not currently worshipping here receive the *Spire* for news and should contact the church office if they are in need of help from the church.