

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

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

August, 2010

August at PACC

Worship and one multi-age Sunday School class
every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Evening Bible Group
Wednesdays, August 11 and 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room

Sarah's Circle discusses *Breakfast with Buddha*
Saturday, August 7, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room
(or, if it is hot, at Margaret Bell's)

See inside for details.

also inside:

Capital Campaign update, including photos
Post Office Auction information
Gearing up for the Holiday Fair

Christian Education News

[from the Director of Christian Education]

Sunday School

This month in Summer Sunday School we'll be learning about Daniel, Esther and Zechariah. Check out the July/August Sunday School newsletter for a calendar of what we're learning about and ideas for activities and discussion for home. This is a great way to stay connected to church through the summer. If you'd like me to mail you a copy, please let me know. The newsletter is on the Sunday School bulletin board in the Sunday School hallway.

Towards the end of August, look for an email from me about Sunday School classes and teachers for the fall. If I don't have your email address, I'll send your letter through the mail.

Youth Groups

Youth Group I (5th-7th grade) will meet in the Nicoll Room from 4-5:30 on Sunday, September 19.

Youth Group II (8th grade and up) will meet in the Fireplace Room from 4-5:30 on Sunday, September 26.

Look for more details in the September *Spire* and September Sunday School newsletter.

Confirmation

We need one last meeting to finish up our Baptism Boxes. Let's meet on August 29 from 6-8 in the Fireplace Room. We'll order pizza and finish up the boxes. If that date/time doesn't work for you, please let me know and we can make other arrangements. Thanks!

Kate Lindheim

Evening Bible Group continuing discussion of Gospel of John

Evening Bible Group will continue its discussion of the Gospel of John when it meets on August 11 and 25. Please read chapters 12-14 in preparation for the class. All adults are welcome to come to the Fireplace Room at 7:30 p.m. on those Wednesdays to join the group, which is led by Bill Albright.

Save these dates:

Tuesday, September 7: PACC-Men board game night

Thursday, September 9: Women's Coffee at the home of Marilyn Roche

Sarah's Circle to discuss *Breakfast with Buddha*

Roland Merullo's *Breakfast with Buddha* is the selection for Sarah's Circle's meeting, which will be on Saturday, August 7. As customary, those who wish to meditate can come at 9:30 a.m., and the discussion will be from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. The group will meet in the Fireplace Room at church unless it is too hot; in that event it will be at the home of Margaret Bell. If you are interested in attending but are not on the group email list, please speak with Margaret or with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

From Publishers Weekly:

"Merullo, author of the Revere Beach series and *Golfing with God*, delivers a comic but winningly spiritual road-trip novel. Otto Ringling is a food-book editor and a happily married father of two living in a tony New York suburb. After Otto's North Dakota parents are killed in a car crash, he plans to drive his ebulliently New Age sister, Cecilia, back home to sell the family farm. But when Otto arrives to pick up Cecilia in Paterson, N.J. (where she does tarot readings and past-life regressions), she declares her intention to give her half of the farm to her guru, Volvo Rinpoche, who will set up a retreat there. Cecilia asks Otto to take Rinpoche to North Dakota instead; after a fit of skeptical rage in which he rails internally against his sister's gullibility, he accepts, and the novel is off and running. Merullo takes the reader through the small towns and byways of Midwestern America, which look unexpectedly alluring through Rinpoche's eyes. Well-fed Western secularist Otto is only half-aware that his life might need fixing, and his slow discovery of Rinpoche's nature, and his own, make for a satisfying read. A set piece of Otto's chaotic first meditation session is notably hilarious, and the whole book is breezy and affecting."

Looking ahead – the group is thinking of September 11 for its Annual Celebration pot-luck - mark your calendars! It will be a luncheon beginning at 12 noon.

Also, the group is planning for a lecture by Brunonia Barry, the author of *The Lace Reader*, who will speak at PACC on Saturday, October 9 at 7 p.m.

Brody to conduct Verdi's *Requiem* August 30

Jeffrey Brody will conduct Verdi's *Requiem* for the Paul Madore Chorale SummerSing at Salem's Old Town Hall (32 Derby Square) at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, August 30. The singing will be led by a quartet which includes Sol Kim Bentley, who has sung at several PACC Christmas concerts; Joanna Porackova, who sang the role of Brünnhilde in the Longwood Opera's RING and who is scheduled to appear with Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic; Francisco Casanova, longtime MET star tenor; and basso Fred Furnari, a stalwart of Boston Lyric Opera. For more information, speak with Jeffrey.

Preparing for the PACC Holiday Fair

Help! Need help and advice on woodworking for a simple fair project

I have a very simple pattern for a cat figure and a little mouse that can be cut from a board. Is there anyone who has a saw and could cut the pieces out (actually, who has a saw and a little wood, since I don't have any wood from which to make them). I also have a very easy pattern for a turkey head and tail feathers to turn a pumpkin into a Thanksgiving centerpiece. If we could get the pieces cut out, I'm sure we could find some volunteers to paint and assemble them. Please call or e-mail me if you'd like to help with this.

Linda Cohn

Baskets for the silent auction:

HAPPY SUMMER! It may seem too early to start thinking about the holiday fair, but as we know, it comes up quickly once the summer is over. The Fair and Fundraising group has been talking with Nadine Lombard, who organizes the silent auction. Nadine says that theme gift baskets have sold well in previous years, so let's give it a try.

This is an opportunity for you to do something this summer to get ready for the fair, even if you don't sew or knit or do other crafts. While you are vacationing or relaxing over the summer, please think about a theme - any theme for a basket. Start to gather items for your basket and either put it together yourself or hold the items until fall when we'll plan a day to make up baskets. We will have baskets that you can use.

Some possible theme ideas include a chocolate-lovers' basket, children's books, gift wrapping items, stationery, garden items, tools, kids videos, Christmas, bath and beauty items, coffee and tea, an Arlington theme - the list goes on.

Please just let us know what you can commit to and then start gathering. It will help if you keep track of the value of the items you include so that Nadine can put the value of the basket into the auction list.

If you have questions, speak with Betty Rich or any of the others on the Fair/fundraising team: Diane Wells, Linda Cohn, Beverly Miller, Barbara Wagner and Judy Miller

Cookie Walk

Coffee cans of varying sizes will be needed once again. Please, NO very large cans because they do not sell well. As you gather cans, please store them in a dry place in order to prevent rust. Because I can't be in church very often, I ask that you call me when you have a bagful collected and have left them at church with my name on the bag. The Cookie Walk is a very good money maker, and thank you so much for your help.

Connie Dugan

Capital Campaign update

These good-looking new closet doors are in our Parish Hall, next to the kitchen. They replace the torn curtain that covered the storage niche used by A Place to Grow (APTG). This is part of the work we're doing to see that APTG has suitable storage space to replace what they're losing as we renovate the Chapel.



The Chapel may look like not much has happened, but looks can be deceiving.

Already accomplished:

- Bluestone walk at Paul Revere entrance repaired
- Electronic door lock for APTG on Paul Revere door
- Asbestos flooring removed and carted away
- Far wall of Chapel removed, exposing what used to be closet space for APTG
- A third of the old closet redone as a smaller closet for APTG
- Closet space in other places created to replace the lost storage for APTG
- Carpet and tile delivered
- Cabinetry in production off-site

Will happen soon:

- Rough framing for the walls, new closet and storage areas

Through July donations to the Capital Campaign total \$126,542. If you would like information about the status of your pledge, call the office.

What's Happening at PACC

Sun.	Aug. 1	10:00 a.m.	Worship service includes Communion
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Sat.	Aug. 7	9:30 a.m.	Sarah's Circle, Fireplace Room (or at Margaret Bell's)
Sun.	Aug. 8	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Wed.	Aug. 11	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	Aug. 15	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Communion in the Sanctuary
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Mon.	Aug. 16	7:30 p.m.	Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Aug. 22	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Wed.	Aug. 25	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	Aug. 29	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class in the Fireplace Room
Tue.	Aug. 31		Deadline for September <i>Spire</i>

coming later in the year

Tue.	Sept. 7	7:30 p.m.	PACC-Men in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Sept. 9	10:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee at the home of Marilyn Roche
Sat.	Sept. 11	12:00 noon	Sarah's Circle potluck in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	Sept. 12	10:00 a.m.	Regathering worship service includes Communion
		11:30 a.m.	Special Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary
		12:00 p.m.	Potluck luncheon in the Parish Hall
Sat.	Oct. 9	7:00 p.m.	Sarah's Circle author event: Brunonia Barry
Fri.	Nov. 12 -		Holiday Fair
Sat.	Nov. 13		

Summer Schedule

Office Hours: Until September 6 the church office will be open Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The five-mornings-a-week schedule will resume after Labor Day.

Flower Calendar: Would you like to remember a loved one or share a celebration with the PACC community by dedicating the flowers on Sunday morning? You can do that by signing the calendar in the narthex or contacting the church office. August 1, 22 and 29; September 19 and 26 and October 3 and 17 are available. You can take the flowers home after the service or deliver them to a shut-in. The cost is \$35 or more; you can indicate on the sign-up sheet how much you would like to pay. Or, if you would like to bring flowers from your garden, they would be welcome.

Thank you!

from your Mission and Justice Ministry: Thanks to everyone who brought in disposable diapers or baby wipes for Waltham Creative Start Shelter Program. They'll be distributed to mothers with toddlers or infants transitionally housed at the Homesuites Inn or Cumberland Inn in Waltham. Your generosity is appreciated.

from the Housing Corporation of Arlington: Thank you for your donation supporting the Ninth Annual Walk for Affordable Housing. Over 150 friends and neighbors made this year's Walk one of our most successful events to date. Not only did we raise awareness throughout the Town of Arlington about the need for more affordable housing in our community, but we raised over \$42,000 for HCA's affordable housing and homelessness prevention initiatives.

PACC Post Office Auction Awaiting Your Gift



Summer is almost over and so far we have not received as many packages for the Post Office Auction as we had hoped. We have received packages from Pennsylvania and California, but where are the others? We hope that among your plans you have taken the time to place the mailing labels for the Post Office Auction in your purse or wallet so that you can remember us on your vacation. We ask that you send a small package (or large one) back to PACC to be auctioned off at our Pot-Luck luncheon on September 12th following our Regathering Service.



In the June *Spire*, there were stickers attached to the article explaining the Post-Office Auction fun-time and fund-raiser. In case you misplace your stickers additional stickers are in the Narthex. The address for mailing is:



Auction Postmaster
Park Avenue Congregational Church, UCC
50 Paul Revere Road, Arlington, MA 02476

Packages should have a return address of the city or town from which they are being sent. Do not include your name in the return address. Mark your package “child appropriate” or “appropriate for everyone” if it is something that might be good for children to bid on (children love to bid at an auction.) Many shops will mail these packages for you for a small fee to cover postage. Give them a label for the auction so they will know where to send it.

Don't forget to ask family members and friends who live away from Arlington or plan to travel a distance this summer if they would be willing to pick up a package for you and mail it back to PACC. Give them a label to carry with them for this purpose.



If you have questions, contact Judie Phelps, Betty Rich, or Diane Wells.

Alzheimer's Association Walk September 26

Betty Rich will march with the Helpline Counselor team in the Greater Boston Alzheimer's Association Walk on Sunday, September 26. She invites interested persons to join her on the 3.5-mile long course or to support her participation by donating to help fund care, support and research. You can do this by giving her a check payable to the Alzheimer's Association or go to <http://tinyurl.com/Bettys-Walk>. For more information, contact Betty. Thanks for your support!