

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

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

September, 2010

Regathering Sunday September 12

Worship service

On September 12, Park Avenue Church will celebrate “Regathering Sunday.” This marks the return to active participation in the life of our faith community after vacations and other summertime diversions. During the service we will dedicate our Sunday School teachers.

Congregational meeting

In October 2007 the membership voted to adopt a restructuring plan which replaced numerous committees with a few ministries and, for a three-year period, to suspend the provisions of our By Laws that conflict with the plan. The aim was to have time to test and tweak the new system before codifying its provisions in the By Laws. The anticipated rewriting did not occur during the past year because the possibility of merger with Pleasant Street Congregational Church meant that further revisions might be necessary. Since those talks have ended, the work on By Laws can begin, but more time is needed. See the warrant inside.

Potluck

Following the service and meeting will be our traditional potluck luncheon in the Parish Hall. We request that you bring food according to the following plan:

If your last name begins with A-G, bring a side dish or salad;

If your last name begins with H-L, bring a dessert;

If your last name begins with M-Z, bring a main dish.

The Fellowship and Care Ministry will provide bread and butter and beverages.

Post office auction

Packages have arrived from far and near, and the fun is about to begin. See inside for more information.

**WARRANT
Special Meeting**

A **Special Meeting** of the Park Avenue Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Arlington Heights, Massachusetts, is called for Sunday, September 12, 2010, immediately after Morning Worship (i.e., approximately 11:30 a.m.), in the Sanctuary, for the following purposes:

1. To act on the strong recommendation of the Council of Deacons that the congregation extend until October 31, 2012, the Restructuring Plan adopted on October 14, 2007, and the suspension of the provisions of the By Laws that conflict with said plan.
2. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

/s/ Michael L. Rich

Michael Rich, Moderator

/s/ Valerie L. Censabella

Valerie Censabella, Clerk

PACC Post Office Auction Coming September 12



Summer is over and it is time to finalize our plans for the Post Office Auction. We have received packages from all over. Have we received yours? If not there is still time for you to send it to PACC or bring it to the church wrapped as if you were mailing it, and we will pretend we received it in the mail. Packages for the PACC Post-Office Auction are to be auctioned off at our Pot-Luck Luncheon on September 12th following our Regathering Service.

Sunday, September 12th, being Re-Gathering Sunday, is the perfect time for you to invite a friend to worship with you and join the congregation at the Pot Luck Luncheon following the services. There is always plenty of food for all who come. It is a wonderful time to show your friends how welcoming we are at PACC and what great fellowship the members of your church family have with each other. Many of you have been waiting for a good time to invite someone to join you in church, and Re-Gathering Sunday is that great opportunity. Further information on the Pot Luck Luncheon and what each family is asked to bring, can be found elsewhere in this *Spire*.



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.)

Above all else, remember to bring some extra cash to church on the 12th of September so you will be ready to bid on packages. Since most packages will go for \$10 or less, bring plenty of \$1, and quarters with you. This fund-raiser helps our general fund.



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

Christian Education News

Welcome back to Sunday School! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I love summer but I'm excited to see everyone back at church again and to start our new Sunday School year.

Our Sunday School theme for this quarter is God and the First Families: Stories from Genesis. Some of the stories we'll be learning about this quarter are: Creation, the flood, the tower of Babel, Abraham and Sarah, the births of Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph in Egypt.

The September Sunday School newsletter has a calendar of Sunday School lessons and some ideas for discussion at home. Each week I'll also email home some background and insight on each weekly story for adults. Print copies will be available on the downstairs bulletin board in the Sunday School hallway. If you would rather not receive the weekly email, there will be a box to check on the Sunday School registration form.

Sunday School registration forms and photo permissions will be given out in the first few weeks of Sunday School. I know many of you have filled these out before, but I want to make sure we have a current sheet and photo permission for everyone. Thank you!

Youth Groups

Youth Group I (grades 5,6,7) will meet on Sunday, September 19 from 4-5:30 in the Nicoll Room. Youth Group II (grades 8 and up) will meet on Sunday, September 26 from 4-5:30 in the Nicoll Room. Check the September Sunday School newsletter for more details.

Acolyte training

If you're 8 years old or older and you'd like to be an acolyte or if you've been an acolyte in the past and would like to continue being an acolyte, please come to a brief training after church in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 26. We'll talk about what it means to be an acolyte, why we have acolytes and how to be an acolyte.

Adult Education Opportunities

Bible Study

All adults are welcome to join the Evening Bible Group which generally meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Bill Albright leads the discussion, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room (upstairs). The tentative topics for this fall are:

September 8: John 13: The footwashing and a new commandment

September 29 **[note change of date]**: John 14: The promise of the Holy Spirit

October 13: John 15: Jesus, the True Vine

October 27: John 16: Jesus' relationship to the Father

November 10: John 17: Jesus' "high priestly prayer"

November 24: No meeting

Harvey Cox lectures

The Massachusetts Bible Society's 2010 Harrell F. Beck Lecture Series features five occasions to hear Harvard Divinity School professor emeritus Harvey Cox. The first will be Monday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. when he will speak on "Moses, the Exodus and Archaeology" at Andover Newton Theological School. If you'd like to car pool from

PACC, speak with Bill Albright or Kate Lindheim. For more information, see the flyer on the easel in the narthex or go to <http://www.massbible.org/beck-lectures-harvey-cox>.

Youth Choir starts September 12

Happy September!! I'm looking forward to seeing all Youth Choir members on Sunday, September 12, in the Nicoll Room at 11:45. AND... if you are a newcomer and would like to check it out, please feel free! Children and youth in grade 4 and older can join (although if you have a younger child who is interested, I'm happy to discuss the possibilities). This year, we'll be experimenting with singing some music in smaller groups, in addition to our work together as a larger choir. Enthusiastic singers welcome!

Generally, the Youth Choir rehearses the first three Sundays of each month at 11:45 a.m. (after Church and Sunday School) and performs in church services on the third Sunday of every month from September through June. During rehearsals, we have a brief snack and visiting time, then we warm up our voices and work on our songs. We sing many types of music, including classical and more popular music, folk songs from different countries, rounds, and spirituals, in unison and harmony.

In addition to "third Sundays", the Youth Choir performs as part of the PACC Christmas Concert, Christmas Pageant, and Youth Sunday Service.

Feel free to call me, Andy Hart, for more information.

What's Happening at PACC

- Sun. Sept. 5 10:00 a.m. Worship service
11:15 a.m. Refreshments and fellowship in Parish Hall (downstairs)
- Mon. Sept. 6 *Labor Day*; office closed
- Tue. Sept. 7 7:30 p.m. PACC-Men in the Fireplace Room
- Wed. Sept. 8 10:30 a.m. Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room
7:30 p.m. Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
- Thu. Sept. 9 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee at the home of Marilyn Roche, 87
Clocktower Dr., Unit 302, Waltham
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
- Sat. Sept. 11 12:00 noon Sarah's Circle potluck at the home of Margaret Bell, 33
Birch Hill Road, Belmont
- Sun. Sept. 12 10:00 a.m. Regathering worship service includes Communion
11:30 a.m. Special Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary
11:45 a.m. Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
12:00 p.m. Potluck luncheon & Post Office Auction in the Parish Hall
- Mon. Sept. 13 7:30 p.m. Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
- Wed. Sept. 15 7:30 p.m. Mission & Justice Ministry in the Fireplace Room
- Thu. Sept. 16 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
- Sun. Sept. 19 10:00 a.m. Worship service
11:15 a.m. Communion in the Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
11:45 a.m. Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
4:00 p.m. Youth Group I in the Nicoll Room
- Mon. Sept. 20 7:30 p.m. PACC-Women in the Fireplace Room
- Tue. Sept. 21 Deadline for October *Spire*
- Thu. Sept. 23 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee in the Chapel
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
- Sun. Sept. 26 10:00 a.m. Worship service
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
11:30 a.m. Acolyte training in the Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Youth Group II in the Nicoll Room
- Wed. Sept. 29 7:30 p.m. Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
- Thu. Sept. 30 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room

coming later in the year

Sat. Oct. 9 7:00 p.m. Brunonia Barry speaks
Sat. Oct. 23 7:30 p.m. Coffeehouse with Persian Blue
Fri. Nov. 12 - Holiday Fair
Sat. Nov. 13

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.

Linda Cohn

Baskets for the silent auction:

This year's silent auction will feature theme gift baskets. Can you help by donating items? 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. You could put a basket together yourself or join the party when we assemble them. We will have baskets that you can use.

Please 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 we 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

From your Mission and Justice Ministry

Flooding in Pakistan

You have no doubt been following reports of the unprecedented flooding in Pakistan. According to UN estimates, it has affected 17 million people - roughly one-tenth of the population. An estimated 1,600 people have died and only one million of the estimated six million people in need have received emergency shelter.

The UCC is supporting Church World Service in distributing food and tents for tens of thousands of families in dire need. CWS mobile medical teams are also providing emergency care. If you would like to support relief efforts, you may send a check made out to Park Avenue Congregational Church with "Pakistan Flood Relief 2010" noted on the check.

You can find updates on the disaster and the United Church of Christ response at <http://www.ucc.org/disaster/pakistan/>

Please keep the people of Pakistan in your prayers.

Neighbors in Need (NIN)

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that 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. PACC will receive the NIN offering on October 3 as part of the World Communion Sunday observance. If you would like to support the NIN offering, you may make out a check to Park Avenue Congregational Church with "Neighbors in Need" in the memo line.

Back-to School Collection

Thank you to everyone who contributed school supplies for the Mass. Coalition for the Homeless collection. We had several boxes full of supplies for the Coalition to distribute to homeless children to help them have a better start in the new school year.

Super Saturday October 2

The Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ is sponsoring Super Saturday in Franklin MA on October 2. Included in the program will be 31 workshops with titles such as "Let Us Consider How to Live God's Extravagant Welcome," "Provoking the Politicians," "Money Autobiography: Connecting Our Faith to Our Money," "Faith Formation across the Life Span," "More Members for Your Congregation," "Growing Together as a Community of Faith." Margaret Bell and Mike Rich plan to attend. If you would like to join them, speak with Mike.

PACC-Men schedule game night

PACC-Men will meet for a game night on Tuesday, September 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. All men are cordially welcome -- bring your favorite board game. If you have questions, speak with Mike Rich.

Sarah's Circle begins year with potluck

Sarah's Circle's 9th Annual Celebration (wow!) will be a potluck lunch Saturday, September 11, from 12 noon until 2 p.m. at the home of Margaret Bell, 33 Birch Hill Road, Belmont. In preparation for the appearance of Brunonia Barry on October 9, members are asked to review her books, *The Lace Reader* and *The Map of True Places* to prepare some questions. For more information on the Brunonia event see <http://www.pacc-ucc.org/groups/sarahscircle/>. For more information on the potluck, speak with Margaret or with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

PACC-Women to gather!

The PACC Women will meet on Monday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. I hope all women can and will join us as we plan what we would like to do and how we would like to run our group! Please come with your ideas! Light refreshments (dessert type) will be provided but please feel free to bring a little treat. Please let me know if you might join us (and wish to contribute)!

If you cannot make this first event, please let me know that you are interested and any ideas you might have and I will fill you in!

Betty Rich

Capital Campaign update

The next time you are at PACC, stop by the Chapel and see how it is shaping up. Soon it will be the lovely, accessible site of many church meetings. It has not served as a worship space for many years, and now the Chapel furnishings are gone. What would be an appropriate name for the room? If you have suggestions, please speak with Mike Rich or any other member of the Council of Deacons.

Look for a presentation later this fall on the next project in our campaign.

Through August donations to the Capital Campaign total \$133,751. If you would like information about the status of your pledge, call the office.

Thank you from the heart

Thank you all for your positive thoughts and prayers. Manuel, the fellow that we sponsored originally in his College behind Bars program, but now with our thoughts and cards, had a parole hearing recently and was approved for parole. He should be released in late September. At this time my understanding is that he will be going to El Salvador. He is very grateful for everyone's ongoing support, as am I.

Jill Lewis

Thanks to Doug Record and Don Cohn, who have spent many hours setting up new computers in the church offices. These make it possible for us to work much more efficiently. The computers were purchased with money from the Memorial Fund.

Bill Albright and Kathy Richardson

Thanks to Hong Chin for donating an air conditioner and installing it in the Fireplace Room. It is much appreciated on hot days such as we experienced this summer.

PACC members walking to fight disease

Please consider supporting these folks as they help raise funds to fight dread diseases:

- **Julia Lee** and **Betty Poleet** will be part of Sisters Against Ovarian Cancer on September 11.
- **Barbara Wagner** and **Tim Durning** will join the Caring for Carcinoid Foundation team in the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk on Sunday, September 12.
- **Betty Rich** will walk in support of the Alzheimers Association on September 26.

Talk to them to see how you can help.

You can be part of our Fellowship and Care Ministry

PACC is known as a friendly church, one where people care about and care for one another. The Fellowship and Care Ministry organizes volunteers to visit shut-ins and those who are hospitalized. It also arranges support for those who need occasional help. Would you be willing to help by driving someone to an appointment or to church, preparing a meal, shopping or running errands? If you are interested or have questions, speak with Margaret Bell, Hong Chin or Lauren Evans. Thank you!