

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

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

June, 2011

Special events in June

Worship services every Sunday through the year at 10:00 a.m.

- June 5 The service will feature special musical numbers as we recognize the choir for its inspiring contributions to our worship through the year.
- June 12 Our annual Youth Service, when the Sunday School classes lead our worship, will coincide with Pentecost, when Christians commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Christ after the Resurrection. If you have any red, orange or yellow clothes (the colors of fire), this is the day to wear them.
- June 26 Our worship service will be followed by an all-church picnic and pool party at Lexington Christian Academy from noon to 4 p.m. The Christian Education Ministry will provide hot dogs, chips, condiments, drinks and paper goods. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Bring a swimsuit and towel if you'd like to swim in the pool. Children who are not toilet trained are not allowed in the big pool, but there are smaller wading pools available to fill up. Bring a tennis racquet if you would like to play tennis. We've also had fun in past years with puzzles and board games, so please feel free to bring a puzzle or game to share. The picnic will be held rain or shine; if it's raining we'll be inside.

A map and directions will be in the June 26 bulletin. We'll see you at the picnic!

Christian Education News

Sunday School

Our last day of regular Sunday School will be June 26. Starting on July 3 we will meet as one group, dividing into smaller groups as needed, and will use the Gather Round Summer Sunday School curriculum designed for a multi-age group. The theme for this summer will be Parables and Sayings of Jesus. We'll meet in the Fellowship Room and use the other classrooms if we need them. Summer Sunday School is relaxed and fun, and it's a nice way for kids of all ages to get to know each other.

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday is June 12. It is also Pentecost Sunday, so our worship theme is Pentecost. We'll have a Youth Sunday rehearsal on Saturday, June 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. This is our only rehearsal with everyone together, so please make every effort to be there, even if you can only come for part of the time. If you can't be there, please let Andy or Kate know. Thanks!

Evening Bible Study continues examination of lectionary readings

The Evening Bible Study Group continues its series "From Text to Sermon." Everyone is welcome to join the group Wednesday June 8 and June 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room to discuss the scripture readings which will be the topic of upcoming sermons. So that you can prepare, these are the texts:

June 8 -- Readings for First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday): Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20.

June 22 -- Readings for Third Sunday after Pentecost: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45 *and* Song of Songs/Solomon 2:8-13; Romans 7:15-25; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

Bill Albright is the discussion leader.

Sarah's Circle considers *The Help*

The Help by Kathryn Stockett will be the topic when Sarah's Circle meets Saturday, June 4, in the Fireplace Room from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Those who wish to join in meditation may come at 9:30 a.m. Critics have praised Stockett's skillful depiction of the ironies and hypocrisies that defined the early Civil Rights era as she focused on the fascinating and complex relationships between vastly different members of a household. All women are welcome. If you have questions, speak with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

PACC-Men meet June 7

PACC-Men will meet Tuesday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Following time to check in, an opening prayer and theme song (the hymn *Men of God*), the group will discuss the mission and purpose of our Men's Ministry. They also will plan future programs: Summer meetings? Summer Family Outing? Fall presentation schedule. Service project(s)? All men are welcome. If you have questions, talk with Mike Rich.

PACC-Women try origami - June 20

PACC-Woman will meet on Monday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room where Liz Ramras will teach us how to do origami! If you can join us, please RSVP so that we have enough supplies. You can also bring your own favorite Origami paper if you have some. Call Betty Rich or email your RSVP if you have any questions.

Craft Fair Appreciation

We would like to give thanks for the many people that helped us at the recent Craft Fair - held on May 14th. A project like this cannot be accomplished without the help of many people on the day of the event. This year is no exception. Thank you to our "Lunch Ladies" - Norma Allen, Beverly Miller, Jane Puopolo, Brenda Wesinger, and Edith Burge - who served as our cashier as well as to Judy Miller who helped serve the lunches in the Fellowship Room and kept it running smoothly! Thank you also to the women who helped at the Baked Goods table: Mariamne Boothby, Sarah Hunter, Peg Kyle, Jane Puopolo and Diane Wells.

We had a fabulous turnout from PACC folks who helped post signs in the neighborhood, donated and bought yummy goodies and visited the tables! It is so important to show our support and your attendance was most appreciated! After some expenses, the Craft Fair brought in \$1,162. Thank You!

Betty Rich and Barbara Wagner
Craft Fair Organizers

Premiere of Brody opera in Needham

Longwood Opera will present the world premiere of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Jeffrey Brody and James Saslow at Christ Episcopal Church, 1132 Highland Ave., Needham. The opera, based on the story by Oscar Wilde, will be performed Friday, June 3, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 5, at 2:30 p.m. For prices and additional information visit www.LongwoodOpera.org or speak with Jeffrey.

Minister's Message

Music is so important in our life together at Park Avenue Church. As we approach the end of the Easter season, we will celebrate “Music Appreciation Sunday” on June 5th. Our organist and music director, Jeff Brody, has planned some special music for our enjoyment on that Sunday, so I hope to see you in church for it.

Andy Hart, our Youth Music Director, has also helped us to appreciate some of the music of our Christian tradition recently with two Adult Education events. The first was a “rounds” workshop, when we sang a variety of rounds. (A well-known example of a round is “Dona Nobis Pacem,” in PACC’s “red” hymnal #335.) They were brief but beautiful pieces, sometimes cheerful, sometimes plaintive. We were such quick studies that Andy invited us to join the Youth Choir in singing a round on a Sunday morning. I think that went very well—people said they enjoyed it, so I’m hoping we’ll do it again.

At another Adult Ed event, Andy introduced us to some new hymns from three hymnals, including the *Pilgrim Hymnal* (PACC’s “blue” hymnal), *Hymns of Truth & Light* (PACC’s “red” hymnal), and the *United Methodist Hymnal* (Pleasant Street Congregational Church’s “red” hymnal). It was great fun! We began with a hymn that’s loved by many at PACC, “When in Our Music God Is Glorified” (PACC’s “red” hymnal #33). Okay, so that wasn’t really a *new* hymn, but it set the tone for the evening. I invite you to read and contemplate the words sometime. Here’s the first stanza:

*When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried, “Alleluia!”*

Wow! the whole creation? We’ll sing this hymn again on Music Appreciation Sunday.

At the new hymns workshop, we rated each hymn we sang: “zero” indicated a hymn that we didn’t like at all; “five” for one that was potentially a favorite. One hymn that we rated a four-to-five was from the Pleasant Street hymnal #334. It’s a one-verse hymn called “Sweet, Sweet Spirit.” The words are as follows:

*There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know it’s the Spirit of the Lord’
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

*Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.*

The tune is catchy and cheerful, and we agreed that it would be easy for the congregation to sing on a Sunday morning, perhaps as a response of praise or a benediction response. Some of us remembered singing it during a service at Pleasant Street Church.

Speaking of the Pleasant Street hymnal, we noted with some amusement a page in that hymnal that's entitled "Directions for Singing" (page vii). It was written in 1761 by the founder of the Methodist Church, John Wesley, who wrote hundreds of hymns, many of them still sung in churches today. Here's one such "direction": "Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can."

Here's one our group found especially funny: "Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung [*sic*] the songs of Satan." I admit, we were curious about "the songs of Satan." I presume he was referring to songs people sang lustily in pubs and taverns.

The final "direction," more serious, reflects Wesley's theology of worship: "Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing [God] more than yourself, or any other creature." If you do this, he says, the Lord will "reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven." So, is that *one* way to get into heaven?

The best advice that I know for singing hymns is from the Psalms, where the intention and affection we bring to our singing is so important: "Make a *joyful noise* to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with *gladness*; come into his presence with singing" [100:1-2]. Key phrases in that psalm are "a *joyful noise* ... *all* the earth" and "worship ... with *gladness*." Can you imagine *that*? Not just noise, but *joyful* noise. In a truly Open and Affirming congregation, shouldn't *all* voices be welcome—singing *joyfully* together?

As the Chancel Choir takes a break for the summer, be thinking about some of your favorite hymns in our hymnals, because from time to time (back by popular demand) we'll have "hymn-sings" during our Sunday morning worship ... and possibly at other times, too.

So, if you like congregational singing, come sing with us this summer as we "make a joyful noise" together with the whole creation.

Until then, "May mercy, peace, and love be yours in full measure!" [Jude 2].

—*BILL*

What's Happening at PACC

- Thu. June 2 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee in the Fellowship Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
- Sat. June 4 9:30 a.m. Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room
- Sun. June 5 10:00 a.m. Worship service includes Choir Appreciation, Communion
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
11:45 a.m. Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
- Tue. June 7 7:30 p.m. PACC-Men in the Fellowship Room
- Wed. June 8 7:30 p.m. Evening Bible Group in the Fellowship Room
- Sat. June 11 9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- Sun. June 12 10:00 a.m. Pentecost; Youth Sunday worship service
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
- Mon. June 13 7:30 p.m. Council of Deacons in the Fellowship Room
- Wed. June 15 11:30 a.m. Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room
- Thu. June 16 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee in the Fellowship Room
7:30 p.m. Pastor-Parish Relations Committee in the Fireplace Room
- Sun. June 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
- Tue. June 21 Deadline for July *Spire*
- Wed. June 22 7:30 p.m. Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room

Office open Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. June 27 – September 2

- Sun. June 26 10:00 a.m. Worship service
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
12:00 noon Church picnic & pool party, Lexington Christian Academy
- Thu. June 30 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee in the Fellowship Room

coming later in the year

- Sun. Sept. 11 10:00 a.m. Regathering worship service includes Communion
11:30 a.m. Potluck in the Parish Hall
- Sat. Sept. 17 Town Day
- Fri. - Nov. 11 Holiday Fair
- Sat. Nov. 12

Summer Schedule

Coffee hour: During **July** and **August** the Hospitality Committee takes a break and the coffee hour becomes more simple with coffee and lemonade and a snack, either homemade or store bought. We ask for volunteers (individuals or families) to serve and clean up each week. This involves 15 or 20 minutes before the service and after the coffee hour. There will be someone from the Fellowship and Care Ministry there to make the coffee and to help with questions. **Please** consider signing up for a Sunday that you are available. The sign-up sheet is posted on the kitchen door in the Parish Hall. Thanks in advance for your help!

Office Hours: From June 27 through September 2 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. 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.

Rummage Sale Recap

We couldn't put the Rummage Sale to bed for another year without thanking everyone once again for a job exceedingly well done! There was loads of merchandise. Thank you to all who made such generous donations! There were at least 50 people who volunteered over the three days of preparation and sale, as well as beforehand helping with posters and publicity. Thank you for your willingness to work! There were dozens and dozens of satisfied and faithful customers on hand all day, some of whom report that this is their favorite sale - for the helpfulness of our workers as well as the quality of our merchandise.

There is no question that this is a lot of work, but the cheerful efforts of so many people make it worthwhile in many, many ways. To date the sale has raised \$4244 toward the work of our church. A HUGE thank you to all who participated!

- Judy Miller

From the Mission and Justice Ministry

New outreach opportunity: community suppers. PACC has been invited to participate in a new outreach opportunity. The Somerville Homeless Coalition needs a group of people to prepare, serve and clean up for their weekly community suppers. These suppers provide a hot meal to those in need every Monday at 5 p.m. at First Church Somerville in Davis Square. Calvary Methodist Church in Arlington has agreed to take the fourth Monday of every month and has asked if PACC would like to be their partner.

Why should PACC, as a church, accept this invitation when we are all so busy and there are so many different demands on our time? First, it allows us to work together as a church to respond to Jesus' message: "Feed my sheep." Second, it provides a wonderful opportunity to work along side another local church and get to know them.

Many in the congregation expressed interest after this was announced in church recently. If we have a large enough group and work with Calvary Methodist, our individual commitment will not be burdensome, but our commitment as a church will be sustained and consistent. Will you join us? PACC is a very generous church with respect to money for outreach. Could we also be generous with time for outreach? Please let us know if you are interested in participating.

Jill Lewis and Karen Friedman will attend an orientation session on June 6 and will have more detailed information after that. If you have questions, feel free to contact them before then so they can ask those questions at the orientation.

U.S. Spring Storms Appeal: The United Church of Christ's national disaster ministries has issued a U.S. Spring Storms Appeal, launched in response to the severe flooding and tornadoes that have devastated portions of the middle and southeastern United States. It will help local partners with short-term response as well as provide long-term assistance to repair and rebuild homes. If you would like to contribute, you may write a check payable to PACC with "U.S. Spring Storms Appeal" in the memo line and put it in the collection plate or mail it to the church.

Walk for Hunger: Donations for the PACC team that participated in this year's Walk for Hunger will be collected thru June 5. If you wish to make a donation, you have 2 options. You can give a check, made out to Project Bread - Walk for Hunger to Jill Lewis or Kate Lindheim. Or you may make a credit card donation at www.projectbread.org. Click on "The Walk for Hunger" on the left side. On the next screen, middle of the page, "Donate to a participant". The next screen, Find a Participant or Team, select the Team option, then enter PACCinArl_UCC. Then click on PACCinArl_UCC to make a donation to our team.

Deacons seek input on new governance structure

In its last two meetings the Council of Deacons has devoted considerable time to discussions of PACC's governance structure and by-laws. Although the structure of seven ministries rather than thirteen committees is preferred by all of the deacons, it could be improved. What is the opinion of those who are not deacons? What is the best way to get input, both from folks who have been around a long time and from those who are relatively new to PACC? There will be a new task force, called the Structure Evaluation Group, which will address these questions. If you might be interested, speak with Tim Durning.

Concert to benefit PSCC

You are invited to a dramatic evening of music at Pleasant Street Congregational Church with Heather Gallagher, mezzo-soprano and Simon Jacobs, organist and pianist. Works of Bach, Britten, Rossini, Strauss and Rogers and Hammerstein will be featured. Tickets are \$10 at the door. All proceeds will benefit the church. Friday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary at Pleasant Street Congregational Church, 75 Pleasant Street, Arlington.

Capital Campaign Update

It is hard to believe that we are at the two year mark on our three-year Capital Campaign. The entire congregation has benefitted from a lot of hard work and sacrifice and should be proud of what we have accomplished together. The Fellowship Room is the lovely, accessible meeting space that we dreamed of. Our pledges of \$318,246 (and donations to date of \$190,367) have enabled us to complete this first project with money ready to begin the remaining projects.

Though we should be pleased with this success, there is still a good bit of work to be done. In the coming month, the Capital Campaign Implementation Committee will re-engage the congregation to report on what has been done to date and what to expect in the coming year. We will post schedules on the up-coming projects -- front access ramp, the lift and the organ work -- report on outreach activities, publish financial status of the accounts, as well as post opportunities where assistance is needed. We'll send out this update at the end of June with the quarterly financial reports. Thank you to all for your continued support.

From the Capital Campaign Implementation Committee: Christie Getto Young, Anne Kelly Contini, Gary Kane, Eric Rochon, Doug Record, Linda Cohn

Capital Campaign Outreach Funds

Five per cent of the funds raised in PACC's Capital Campaign (approximately \$16,000) has been designated for a special outreach project or projects. With so many worthy organizations and so many pressing needs, how do we decide? The Mission and Justice Ministry wants to hear from you. Do you know of a charitable organization with a special need or project – not just a donation to the organization's general operating fund – that we might support as a congregation? If so, please fill out the Capital Campaign Outreach Project Proposal on the next page and submit it by June 19. The Proposal forms are also available on the table in the narthex. The M&J Working Group will meet over the summer to compile a list of projects which will be distributed to the congregation on Regathering Sunday. After an opportunity to review and discuss the projects, we will vote as a congregation to select the project(s) most meaningful to us. Proposals may be submitted to Anne Kelly Contini, Karen Friedman, Kathy Richardson in the church office, or they may be dropped in the box in the narthex. Questions can be directed to Anne or Karen. Thank you for your input and support.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OUTREACH PROJECT PROPOSAL

As you know, five percent of the funds raised in PACC's Capital Campaign have been designated to support a special outreach project or projects. If we receive all funds pledged, that amount will be approximately \$16,000. If you know of an organization with a special need, please fill out this form with your proposal. The proposal should be for a special project rather than a donation to an organization's general operating fund. Please return proposals to Anne Kelly Contini, Karen Friedman, Kathy Richardson in the church office or drop them in the box in the narthex. Questions? Contact Anne Kelly Contini or Karen Friedman. Thank you!

Your Name: _____

Your contact info. _____

Name of Charitable Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Website: _____

Contact person/Contact information: _____

Year established: _____

Brief Summary of Organization's Mission/Goals:

Description of specific project in need of funds:

Approximately how much money would be needed to fund the project? _____

How would the organization use the amount designated?

Why should PACC, as a church, support this organization/project?