

The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

Arlington, Massachusetts

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

June, 2008

Special events in June

The service on June 8 will feature special musical numbers as we recognize the choir for its inspiring contributions to our worship through the year. And June 15 will be Youth Sunday, when the Sunday School classes lead us in worship. In addition, there are several other special events this month.

New Orleans comes to PACC - Saturday, June 7

You can help host a pot-luck for Gary Arndt, the dynamic minister of Good Shepherd Church (where Jill & Kelly stayed while doing hurricane relief work), and his wife Karen. Due to an event already scheduled in Parish Hall at 8 p.m., the dinner will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. followed by a talk and conversation with Gary in the Sanctuary. Please contact Jill Lewis if you'll be coming, so we can have an idea of numbers. Thank you.

A party to welcome back the newlyweds - Saturday, June 14th

Join your church family at 4 p.m. in the Parish Hall as we extend our CONGRATULATIONS! There will be lots of appetizers, or dessert if you prefer, and time to visit with Karen and Bill. No gifts please. Questions? Call Beverly Miller.

All Church Picnic – Sunday, June 15

The annual PACC picnic will be at Lexington Christian Academy from 12 noon to 4 p.m. The CE ministry will provide hot dogs, condiments, lemonade and popsicles. Please bring a side dish or salad. Bring a bathing suit and towel if you would like to swim and a tennis racquet if you would like to play tennis. There is also lots of shade if you prefer to sit and chat. Please note that children in diapers are not allowed in the big pool even with swim diapers, but there are smaller pools to fill up for children.

Christian Education News

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday is June 15. We'll have a rehearsal June 14 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the sanctuary. This is the only rehearsal with all of our Sunday School, so please make every effort to be there.

Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School will start on June 22. We'll have one class for all ages. Summer Sunday School is a relaxed, fun time. We use the summer Bible Quest curriculum for a mixed-age group. We need some adults or older teens to help out. You won't need to do any planning or preparation, just show up to lend an extra pair of hands and be a second adult in the room. You can sign up for just one Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet on the kitchen door in Parish Hall. Thanks!

Youth Group

On June 1, we'll meet at PACC at 4:15 p.m. and bike to Mario's in Lexington center for dinner. We'll ride on the bike path. Please bring a helmet and a bike lock if you have one. Permission slips were sent home, but there will be extras available on June 1. The rain date is June 8.

Spirituality in Fairy Tales the topic for Sarah's Circle

The next meeting of Sarah's Circle will be Saturday, June 14th from 10 AM until 12 noon. Those who wish to participate in a 15-minute meditation session should arrive at 9:45 a.m. The group will pursue spirituality in Fairy Tales for the discussion. Feel free to choose any Fairy Tale (one or more) that may speak to you about spirituality. Remember, in addition to Grimm's and Hans Christian Anderson's tales, there are many fairy tales that are specific to various cultures. If you have questions, speak with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

Regathering Sunday, Potluck, and Summer Post Office Auction Fund Raiser



In the Fall, or for that matter on Sunday, September 7th, we will be celebrating "Regathering Sunday" in our church. On this Sunday, most congregants have completed their summer vacations and are back to their normal schedule. Regular Sunday school classes will resume that day after a summer of special activities for the children during Sunday school time. Everyone, children included, is asked to "bring a friend to church" on Regathering Sunday. This will be a great day to extend our hand of friendship to others in our families and community who might enjoy meeting with us in worship.

After our worship service we will be having a Pot Luck Luncheon that we hope everyone and their guests will attend. At the luncheon, we will have a "Post Office Auction." Packages to be auctioned off will be from our summer travels



and activities.

Attached to this newsletter you will find mailing labels to place in your wallet so that when you travel, you can purchase a small souvenir from where you are, and mail it back to the church to be auctioned off at the pot luck luncheon. Items that can be sent can be as varied as your imagination. To give you an idea of the kinds of souvenirs that can be mailed back, some suggestions are Salt Water Taffy from Cape Cod, Maple Sugar Candy or syrup from Vermont, a whistle or play badge from a Fireman's Museum, or some shells or sand from a beach. For those that travel far and wide, the packages can be really exciting. Nothing to identify the contents of the package will be placed on the outside of the package – only the area from where it is being mailed. Often gift shops or stores will mail the package for you if you give them the label and postage.



In case you misplace your stickers there are additional stickers in the Narthex, or the address for mailing is:

Auction Postmaster
Park Avenue Congregational Church, UCC
50 Paul Revere Road
Arlington, MA 02476-5748

If you have questions, contact Judie Phelps.

PACC Gala Auction

Mark your calendars now: **Saturday, September 13** is the PACC Auction to raise money for the church's general funds. Do Red Sox tickets catch your attention? How about a concert or a movie with babysitting included? Could you use a day of yardwork? Do you just want to have a fun evening with your PACC friends? Those are just some of the ideas that have already been discussed by the Auction Planning Committee at its first meeting on May 21.

By September we hope everyone will be involved. Do you have a good idea for something that would make a great auction item? Would you be willing to help us obtain it? Are you interested in helping plan the party? (Yes, we expect this to be LOTS of fun!) Can you contribute some appetizers? Could you help us plan the event? Then join us at the next planning meeting Monday, June 10, 7:30 pm at the church.

Want to help but can't come on June 10th? Send a message to Valerie Censabella or Karen Stark.

And the Holiday Fair silent auction makes three

PACC will be auction central this fall as we have scheduled three of them! Each will have its own character. The Post Office Auction on September 7 will feature small items from summer travels. The Gala Auction on September 13 will be an evening party with Dick Erickson as auctioneer. And our Holiday Fair will include the traditional Silent Auction. We hope you'll participate in all of them. If you have an item to donate and don't know which would be the best place for it, put the information in the "Auction"

folder in the grey box in the narthex (or contact the church office), and the organizers will decide. Thank you for your support!

Coffee Cans for fall Church Fair Cookie Walk Table

It's time to begin saving empty coffee cans for the fall Church Fair Cookie Walk Table. I use metal cans, tall cans from Trader Joe's, plastic Folger Cans --- all with covers. Please strip off paper, if you can, wash and dry thoroughly, and store in a dry place, but not in a plastic bag. Plastic causes condensation, and then the cans rust. If you would like to bring some to church in a paper bag in order to get them out of your way, that would be just fine. Leave them in the kitchen with my name on the bag. Thanks very much for your time and effort. I appreciate it.

Connie Dugan

Jeanne Woodin joins Council of Deacons

Jeanne Woodin has been selected to fill the seat on the Council of Deacons which was vacated when Sandy Sherburne resigned recently. Jeanne will join Connie Dugan heading up the Worship and Music Ministry. Doug Record, who had been part of that ministry, will work with Anita Clarke in the Membership Ministry. Jeanne has assumed the subparish that was Sandy's.

Spring Meeting of MBA Report

The spring meeting of the Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ was held on April 27, 2008 at The Wellesley Hills Congregational Church. Attending from Park Avenue were Rev. Bill Albright, Rev. Tom Howard, Sara and Rev. Richard Hunter, Judie and Rev. Dick Phelps, and Mike Rich. The meeting opened with greetings from Area Interim Minister Rev. Wendy VanderHart and Massachusetts Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Jim Antal. They then led the meeting in Worship.

The Main Speaker for the meeting was Nariman Behraves, a member of Hancock United Church in Lexington and Chief Economist and Executive Vice President for Global Insight. Mariman has been seen on CNN, PBS, and NPR where he is consulted as an expert on Economics. His Message was titled "Pinching the Pocket or the Soul? - Faith and the Economy."

A Plenary session followed during which the changes in standings of ministers in the MBA were announced along with the introduction of those students of ministry in care of the MBA. The finances of the Association, its budget and spending, were discussed and those recommended for leadership in the MBA by the nominating committee were elected to serve. Rev. Dr. Fran Bogle reported on the Just Peace Players followed by a report on the City Mission Society by executive director Rev. June Copper. Our own Mike Rich reported on the Restorative Justice Committee and asked that congregations support a Resolution on forming a Massachusetts Innocence Commission which will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the MACUCC in the fall.

All handouts from the Spring Meeting may be viewed in the office of the church for any who wishes further information.

Judie Phelps, delegate from PACC

All-church evaluation: All members and active friends are encouraged to complete and return the annual all-church evaluation form by June 10. If you did not receive one and wish to have input, please call Kathy in the office.

What's Happening at PACC

Sun.	Jun. 1	10:00 a.m.	Worship service, Tom Howard preaching
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:45 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
		4:15 p.m.	Youth Group bike trip to Lexington for dinner
Thu.	Jun. 5	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Nicoll Room
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Jun. 7	5:30 p.m.	Potluck and discussion on New Orleans, Parish Hall/Sanctuary

Summer office hours begin – Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Sun.	Jun. 8	10:00 a.m.	Choir Recognition Sunday worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:45 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Mon.	Jun. 9	7:30 p.m.	Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
Tue.	Jun. 10	7:30 p.m.	Auction Committee in the Fireplace Room
Sat.	Jun. 14	9:00 a.m.	Rehearsal for Youth Sunday in the Sanctuary
		9:45 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room
		4:00 p.m.	Reception in the Parish Hall
Sun.	Jun. 15	9:20 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary
		10:00 a.m.	Youth Sunday worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		12:00 noon	All-church picnic at Lexington Christian Academy
Tue.	Jun. 17	1:30 p.m.	Bible Study at Sunrise Assisted Living Center
Thu.	Jun. 19	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Jun. 22	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Tue.	Jun. 24		Deadline for the July <i>Spire</i>
Thu.	Jun. 26	10:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee in the Chapel
Sun.	Jun. 29	10:00 a.m.	Worship service includes Communion
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:30 a.m.	Hogan baptism in the Sanctuary

coming later in the year

Sat.	Aug. 30	5:05 p.m.	Lowell Spinners game
Sun.	Sept. 7	10:00 a.m.	Regathering Sunday worship service
		11:30 a.m.	Regathering potluck and post-office auction
Sat.	Sept. 13	tba	Gala auction
Fri.	Nov. 7 –		Holiday Fair
Sat.	Nov. 8		

Summer Schedule

Office Hours: From June 9 through August 29 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.

Summer Fellowship Hour-During July and August the attendance at church is less, the refreshments are lighter, and the Hospitality team takes a break. Please consider filling in during the summer serving at the Fellowship Hour. It is fun to serve as a family or with a friend. The coffee and lemonade will be made for you. There will be purchased cookies on hand or you can bring something of your choice. Just come fifteen minutes before church and stay fifteen minutes after coffee hour to clean up and put supplies away. Remember it is the opportunity for fellowship that is important. Thank you in advance from the members of the Fellowship and Care Ministry who work hard the rest of the year baking and supplying food for the coffee hour. The sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall. Questions? Call Beverly Miller.

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.

This summer: If you would like to bring flowers from your garden, they would be welcome. If not, our florist will provide an arrangement.

September 2008 – June 2009: The calendar for next year is also in the narthex. Because of escalating energy costs, the minimum amount will be \$35.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Lauren Evans has reserved tickets for PACC to go to the Lowell Spinners baseball game on Saturday, August 30, beginning at 5:05 p.m. This is a great event that allows us to reconnect with friends and families over the summer. A sign-up sheet is hanging on the door to the kitchen. Hurry because tickets go fast!

GoodSearch – another way to help PACC

If you begin your internet searches at GoodSearch.com (www.goodsearch.com) and enter Park Avenue Congregational Church in field labeled “Who do you Goodsearch for?”, a small amount of money is credited to our church. We have already received a check thanks to friends who have done this.

Mission & Justice opportunities

China earthquake relief

On Saturday May 12, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southwest China. Relief efforts are underway as aid and support begin to reach those devastated by the earthquake. Tens of thousands of people have died and hundreds of thousands have been injured. Officials with UCC partner and Action by Churches Together member, Amity Foundation, report many buildings, including government facilities, are collapsed or severely damaged, and that the demand on local emergency responders is great. To assist impacted Chinese families, please consider making a donation payable to PACC marked for "OGHS International Emergency Fund/China Earthquake".

Pride Parade

There is a sign up sheet on the kitchen door in Parish Hall for anyone who would like to march in the Boston Pride parade under the UCC banner. The parade is on June 14 beginning at noon. Questions? Speak with Kate Lindheim or Jill Lewis.

Walk for Children's Hospital

Some weeks ago at church, Janet Forté began asking for prayers for a four-year-old boy in her classroom, Annand Ramsaran, who was waiting for a heart transplant. Recently he received a donor heart and is doing well as he recovers at Children's Hospital. To show support for the wonderful work Children's has done, Janet will participate in the NSTAR Walk for Children's Hospital on Sunday, June 8th. If anyone is interested in pledging, they may do so by check (made payable to Children's Hospital Boston) or online. Go to <http://howtohelp.childrenshospital.org/walk/pfp/?ID=FJ0053> to sponsor her. Pledges for her walking team, "Annand's Angels," will go directly to Annand's medical expenses.

Arlington Relay for Life

To honor her grandmother and others, Amanda Chin will again participate in the Arlington Relay for Life on June 20th. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check, payable to the American Cancer Society, to her home address.

MS Bike Ride

Jeffrey Chin will be riding 175 miles in the MS Bike Ride from Quincy to Provincetown on June 28-29. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please send a check payable to the "National Multiple Sclerosis Society" to his home address. If you prefer to make an online donation, please email him and he will send you a link to his web page. Jeffrey promises to keep us posted on his progress.

THE MARKETPLACE

PACC is launching a new fundraiser! Unlike most fundraisers that have a committee and date, time, and place, this will be ongoing and require virtually no work on anyone's part. Sound impossible? Read on.

Once or twice a month we will publish a list of items that all of us potentially have around the house that we no longer want that are too big or too mundane or for whatever reason are not appropriate to donate to the Fair or the Rummage Sale or the Auctions. People who wish to have items listed in The Marketplace would submit the information to office (information to include the item, a brief description, the asking price, and the name and phone number and/or e-mail address of the donor). Then any interested buyer would contact the owner directly, and a deal could be arranged. The first person who contacts the owner who is willing to pay the asking price will get the item. If no one offers this amount, the owner has the option of accepting the best offer received. To keep the number of items manageable, they should be valued and priced no lower than \$10.

To make this more attractive to those listing items, the buyer would pay the seller directly with the understanding that the seller would then donate at least 50% of the amount received to the church. (And yes, we would be delighted to receive 100%!) Some items may not sell, but those that do will provide a nice bit of additional income to the church with practically no work.

Here are the first items:

DVD video player: Toshiba SD-K600 \$15

Ken and Bev Miller

Wooden play stove and refrigerator in good condition, \$30.00.

Stove is approx. 25"w x 35"h x 12"d and refrigerator is approx. 16"w x 37"h x 13"d.

Liz and Nick Dokos

Spreader: True Value Green Thumb Drop Spreader, a few years old but barely used, \$10

Hal and Judy Miller

Weights: York Bar Bell Set includes 2 each of 5 lb. and 25 lb. weights and 4 each of 10 lb. and 1-1/4 lb. weights. Also a curling bar and 2 short (hand) bars. Set is 40+ years old, iron, and starting to show its age but will get the job done! \$20

Hal and Judy Miller

Please contact the seller directly if you are interested in any item. Hurry if you want to be the first!