

The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

Arlington, Massachusetts

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

July, 2008

Christian Education News

Thank you

Thank you for a great Youth Sunday to all the kids who participated and the families who got them there! Thank you to Andy Hart for working with our children and youth to make such beautiful music. Thanks to Barbara Wagner for being our LCA contact and making sure everything ran smoothly. Thanks to Jeanne Domenichella for helping get our picnic set up. Thanks to Jan Roberts-Breslin for the beautiful flowers. Thanks to all who came to our picnic and had fun!

Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School has started. We are all one group in the summer and use the Bible Quest curriculum for a multi age group. There is a list of all the stories we will be learning about on the bulletin board in the downstairs Sunday School hallway. Take the list home and read the stories with your family this summer. This is a great way to stay connected to church even when you are on vacation.

Images of God

Check out the bulletin board in Parish Hall. The images of God that children created for Youth Sunday are on the bulletin board along with the meditation written by the Disciples class and the different names and images for God written by all youth and children

Sarah's Circle will continue discussing fairy tales on July 19

On Saturday, July 19th, members of Sarah's Circle will continue looking at nursery rhymes, fairy tales, dreams, and folk tales, seeking spiritual messages in them. Among the stories discussed at the June meeting were "The Wolf and the Seven Kids," and Hans Christian Anderson's "The Snow Queen." Looking at the spiritual messages from these stories, the group was quite amazed at what is underneath. Fairy tales contain moral and life lessons, telling us to listen and learn, and to seek the Divine. Often passion and appetite - greed - entraps the soul in the lower levels of spirit. Fairy tales are often about reclaiming your life, and connecting with God. All women are welcome to attend -- bring your own stories and experiences.

For August they will read *Women Who Run with the Wolves* by Clarissa Pinkola Estes. This is a larger book (600 pages), so participants may want to get a head start on their reading!

The group meets from 10 AM until 12 noon; those who wish to participate in a 15-minute meditation session should arrive at 9:45 a.m. If you have questions, contact Merrith Sabo-Jones.

Remember our three auctions

PACC will be auction central this fall as we will have three of them! Each will have its own character. Here is a recap:

The Post Office Auction on September 7 will feature small items from summer travels. We have already received packages from California and Colorado as well as Massachusetts. Items that can be sent can be as varied as your imagination. 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. Additional mailing labels are on the table in the narthex or just send to Auction Postmaster, Park Avenue Congregational Church, UCC, 50 Paul Revere Road, Arlington, MA 02476-5748. .If you have questions, contact Judie Phelps.

The Gala Auction on Saturday, September 13, will be a party with Dick Erickson as auctioneer. A group is meeting regularly to ensure an evening to remember. Do Red Sox tickets catch your attention? How about a concert or a movie with babysitting included? Could you use a day of yardwork? Those are just some of the ideas that have already been discussed by the Auction Planning Committee. Do you have an idea for something that would make a great auction item? Would you be willing to help us obtain it? Can you contribute some appetizers? Could you help us plan the event? Send a message to Valerie Censabella or Karen Stark.

The Silent Auction at the Holiday Fair November 7 and 8 will feature items and services from PACC members and friends as well as local merchants.

We hope you'll participate in all of these events. 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

Mission & Justice News

Sacred Conversations on Race - continued

We are looking to form a group which would be interested in continuing the dialog on race that was started on May 18th. The UCC is working on study and dialog resources. So, to continue the momentum, we'd like to plan some activities for the fall. If interested, please contact Jill Lewis, Mike Rich, or Kate Lindheim.

“For the BIBLE Tells Me So” DVD available to borrow

If you were not able to attend the showings of “For the BIBLE Tells Me So” when it was shown at church, you can now borrow the DVD to view at home. Or perhaps you did see it and would like to share it with others. From the back of the DVD: "Through the experiences of five very normal, Christian, American families - including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson - we discover how people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child or family member. Offering healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity, this landmark film 'boldly takes on a loaded topic and examines it both intellectually and emotionally'." Call the church office, 781-643-8680 if you are interested.

Food pantry needs peanut butter and jelly

The Arlington Food Pantry has put out a special call for those staples of children's lunches, peanut butter and jelly. Donations left in our narthex (entry) will be delivered to the pantry. Thank you!

Tornado and flood relief

Recent tornadoes and flooding in the Mid West have severely impacted the region. Flooding has reached record levels causing damage to homes, buildings, dams, and agricultural fields and forcing the evacuation of hundreds of homes in the region. These floods follow tornadoes that struck some of the same communities that are now flooded.

The United Church of Christ, National Disaster Ministries is seeking \$200,000 for the current response and long-term recovery efforts. The United Church of Christ is assisting with clean up and will participate in rebuilding. Part of the clean up effort includes supplying some of the safety equipment needed by home owners and volunteers to protect against health issues related to mold and bacteria.

Upfront money – what will it buy? \$6.98 will purchase one each: Tyvek coverall with hood and boot, chemical splash goggle, nitrile glove, and N95 respirator. This equipment will help to protect homeowners and volunteers during clean up. A minimum of 2000 pieces are being provided to Indiana. Safety equipment will also be needed in the other states that have been impacted.

When long term recovery begins in the states impacted, funds will be needed to assist communities to rebuild. Preliminary inquiries indicate that there are large numbers of families who do not have insurance and will need assistance with repairing/rebuilding their homes. The United Church of Christ will be part of the ecumenical efforts that will restore lives by assisting people back into their homes.

Even as the water continues to rise, disaster response organizations have begun providing assistance, assessing needs and planning response. Responders from regional United

Church of Christ Conferences, United Methodist conferences, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, CRWRC, Disciples of Christ and Mennonite Disaster Service were amongst those responding Monday.

A 250 mile stretch of the Mississippi River from Fulton, IL, to Clarksville, MO, will be closed later this week by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because of the flooding. The closure, which could last up to two weeks, will bring a stop to barge traffic on the river.

Across the Midwest, dams are being pushed to their limits, officials said. The National Guard has been deployed to help with sandbagging efforts all across the region in an effort to hold back the torrents.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Pray for people affected by tornadoes and floods.
2. Send gifts payable to P.A.C.C. marked for "2008 Spring Tornadoes and Floods".

OR

3. Send gifts, made out to Wider Church Ministries and marked in the memo portion "2008 Spring Tornadoes and Floods" to the Office for Global Sharing of Resources; Wider Church Ministries; 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

OR

4. Check out volunteer opportunities at <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/disaster-recovery-volunteers/midwest-floods-tornadoes.html>.

Keep up to date on the UCC response at:

www.ucc.org/disaster/spring_2008_tornadoes_floods_in_central_us.html or talk to our Mission and Justice Deacons: Jill Lewis or Mike Rich for more information.

What's Happening at PACC

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

Thu.	Jul. 3	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Jul. 6	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Wed.	Jul. 9	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Jul. 10	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Jul. 13	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Thu.	Jul. 17	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Jul. 19	9:45 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	Jul. 20	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Tue.	Jul. 22		Deadline for the August <i>Spire</i>
Wed.	Jul. 23	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Jul. 24	10:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee in the Chapel
Sun.	Jul. 27	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Thu.	Jul. 31	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Nicoll Room

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
Sat.	Sept. 20		Town Day
Sun.	Oct. 5	3:00 p.m.	Concert in the Sanctuary
Fri.	Nov. 7 –		Holiday Fair
Sat.	Nov. 8		

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!

Sign up

Summer Fellowship Hour: 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, 781-643-8680.

This summer: If you would like to bring flowers from your garden, they would be welcome. If not, our florist will provide an arrangement for \$30 or more.

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.

THE MARKETPLACE

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

Flatware - 8 full sets - good condition (two spoons slightly nicked from encounter with garbage disposal). Originally purchased at Bed Bath & Beyond. \$60

Karen Friedman

The buyer will pay the seller for any item purchased, and the seller will donate at least 50% of the purchase price to the church. The seller may accept a lower bid if the asking price is not met. So, start bidding and let's make this fundraiser a success! And next time plan to include some of your items on the list.

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.