

# **The SPIRE**

**Park Avenue Congregational Church**

The United Church of Christ

**Arlington, Massachusetts**

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

August, 2008

## **Fun, Fellowship and Fundraising**

Gala Auction Donations Needed!! Please give info by August 15!

PACC's live gala auction on Saturday, September 13 is shaping up to be an enjoyable evening for our community. To give everyone a chance to plan their bids for some major items, we will be giving out an auction booklet describing each item on Regathering Sunday, when the "post office auction" for summer travel souvenirs will kick off the fun. You will then have until Saturday evening to pour over the booklet with its descriptions of items available for the big auction and to plan your bidding strategy.

In order to have the big auction booklet available in advance, we are asking everyone to submit their donation information by August 15 using the form on the next page. Please include descriptive information, and make sure to let us know who you are so that we can check it with you. Some items may be reserved for the silent auction at the holiday fair.

Do you have a talent, hobby or enthusiasm you can share with lessons? Can you cook and deliver a hot meal for a family? Do you have a vacation home you could share? Tickets to an exciting event? Can you offer free babysitting to give parents an evening out? Provide a fall yard clean up or gardening help and advice? Have paintings or furniture that no longer fit your décor? Have an idea you want to discuss or a question? Contact: Valerie Censabella or Karen Stark.

*[continued on next page]*

Some terrific items already submitted:

- choose music for the prelude or postlude for Sunday service
- jelly and jam making class
- a Waterford crystal vase
- autographed sports memorabilia
- a photography workshop
- a guided tour of the MIT Museum
- voice/music lessons
- champagne and hors d'oeuvres for four
- ferry tickets to the Boston Harbor Islands

Please return your form by August 15 so we can add your items to our auction booklet!

# Auction Donation Form

PLEASE RETURN BEFORE AUGUST 15, 2008

DONOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DONOR'S ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

DONOR'S PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE: For PACC Gala Auction  For the holiday Fair  For either

ITEM(S) TO BE DONATED (please describe for our auction booklet!): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ESTIMATED VALUE OF DONATION(S): \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The committee may decide to save some items for the silent auction at the Annual Holiday Fair. Please indicate above if you have a preference for the holiday fair or The Gala Auction on September 13, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Donor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Remember our other auctions**

**The Post Office Auction** on September 7 will feature small items from summer travels. We have already received packages from Hong Kong, Gibraltar and England as well as several states. 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 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!

## **Christian Education News**

### **Summer Sunday School**

We meet as one group in the chapel where it is nice and cool! We've been traveling back to Bible times and learning about Moses, Esther and Daniel. Next we'll be learning about some of Jesus' parables. Come join us!

### **Youth Group Prayer Shawl Knitters**

Would you like to join the prayer shawl ministry and learn to knit a prayer shawl? The pattern is easy and no experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn. Talk to Kate if you would like to learn more about this.

### **Youth Group**

We recently gathered to watch Joseph and the Amazing Techicolor Dreamcoat and eat pizza. Watch for another meeting in late August before we start our regular schedule in the fall.

## **Coffee Cans for fall Church Fair Cookie Walk Table**

Remember to save 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. Leave them in the kitchen with my name on the bag. Thanks very much for your time and effort. I appreciate it.

Connie Dugan

### **Sarah's Circle to discuss *Women Who Run with the Wolves***

Sarah's Circle's August meeting will be Saturday, August 9th from 10 a.m. to noon in the Fireplace Room. The topic will be *Women Who Run with the Wolves* by Clarissa Pinkola Estes. All women are welcome to attend.

Amazon.com carries this review from *Publishers Weekly*: Folklore, fairy tales and dream symbols are called on to help restore women's neglected intuitive and instinctive abilities in this earthy first book by a Jungian analyst. According to Estes, wolves and women share a psychic bond in their fierceness, grace and devotion to mate and community. This comparison defines the archetype of the Wild Woman, a female in touch with her primitive side and able to rely on gut feelings to make choices. The tales here, from various cultures, are not necessarily about wolves; instead, they illuminate fresh perspectives on relationships, self-image, even addiction. An African tale of twins who baffle a man represents the dual nature of woman; from the Middle East, a story about a threadbare but secretly magic carpet shows society's failure to look beyond appearances. Three brief, ribald stories advocate a playful, open sexuality; other examples suggest ways to deal with anger and jealousy.

Our annual pot luck celebration lunch will be Saturday, September 13, from 12 noon to 2 p.m.; more details will follow.

If you have questions, speak with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

### **PACC-Men Pre-Season Pizza Party**

We hope you're enjoying your summer and are recharging those batteries. That's very important! We hope, too, that you're looking forward to a new season of PACC-Men events, discussions, sharing and fun. We are planning our first meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, in the Fireplace Room. We will talk about ideas for upcoming meetings that may include such considerations as: what makes a good pair of hiking boots, where can you get the best ice cream in New England, what are the Five Pillars and why should we care, what can you learn about yourself at a weekend retreat that features sand – sun - and spirituality, and flower arranging for guys – positively! Come with your own ideas of things you'd like to see the PACC-Men take on this year. At that first meeting, we will also talk about the upcoming Auction on Sept 13 and how we can help make it a rousing success. So, don't miss this important kick-off meeting. There will be pizza - your donations to defray expenses will be cheerfully accepted! Remember, all men are welcome. Please call Sandy Sherburne if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you.

## *What's Happening at PACC*

Sun.	Aug. 3	10:00 a.m.	Worship service includes Communion
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Thu.	Aug. 7	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Nicoll Room
		1:00 p.m.	Youth knitting in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Aug. 9	9:45 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	Aug. 10	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Thu.	Aug. 14	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Nicoll Room
		1:00 p.m.	Youth knitting in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Aug. 17	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Tue.	Aug. 19		Deadline for September <i>Spire</i> – <b>NOTE CHANGE OF DATE</b>
		10:00 a.m.	Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Aug. 21	10:00 a.m.	Coffee Group in the Chapel
		1:00 p.m.	Youth knitting in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Aug. 24	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Mon.	Aug. 25	7:30 p.m.	Council of Deacons in the Fireplace Room
Tue.	Aug. 26	7:30 p.m.	PACC-Men in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Aug. 28	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Nicoll Room
		1:00 p.m.	Youth knitting in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Aug. 30	5:05 p.m.	Lowell Spinners game – <b>SIGN UP ON THE KITCHEN DOOR</b>
Sun.	Aug. 31	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall

### *coming later in the year*

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		
Sun.	Dec. 7	tbd	Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary

**Church office hours:**

Office hours will change the last week of August. The office will be staffed on Tuesday and Thursday, but hours may vary, so call ahead if you need to get in. Also, the deadline for the September *Spire* will be August 19, one week earlier than previously announced. The office will return to the Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. schedule after Labor Day.

**Summer Fellowship Hour:** Please consider filling in during the summer serving at the Fellowship Hour. August 3 and 24 are still available. 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.

August 10: 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 any item. Hurry if you want to be the first!

**Bone China Teacups** - England, variety of patterns. \$10 each Hal and Judy Miller.

**Bicycle Repair Stand** or tune up rack. Cannondale. Do your own maintenance. For narrow frame/narrow tire bikes. \$10; Hal and Judy Miller.

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 fly! 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](http://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 Moment*

United Church of Christ

### **Our Congregation Can Make a Difference in Our Community**

The small city of Hanover, in south central Pennsylvania, had never experienced racial conflict. There were no more than 20 black families in the community. But in the summer of 1991, a confrontation between a few black youth and some young white men drew a tumultuous crowd of 500 people to the town square. It wasn't exactly a race riot, but the turmoil still gained Hanover unwanted notoriety in area newspapers.

When racial tensions erupt into threats and violence, two opposing groups often intervene. Churches, schools, social and service organizations seek to promote healing, understanding, and reconciliation. But outside hate groups sometimes try to stir up emotions and generate disorder.

Fortunately for Hanover, people in the community who were committed to equality, diversity, and nonviolence reacted immediately. Among the leaders of Hanover United, the organization they formed, were members of Grace United Church of Christ. Indeed, the church provided space for the weekly meetings where the concerned citizens discussed ways to deal with the situation. Those discussions became even more urgent when a Ku Klux Klan offshoot organization applied for a parade permit. Worship services, school programs, and a poster contest, among other things, raised the community's consciousness. And when the hate group showed up for their demonstration, Hanover residents stayed home.

If the crisis had passed, latent but deep-seated attitudes remained. Hanover United now set out to deal with the unresolved racial issues in the community. According to Rev. Bruce Bouchard, senior minister at Grace UCC, "Our congregation has seen that we can make a difference in our community by using our faith to promote good values and positive social change."

### **Sacred Conversations on Race - continued**

We would like 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, in order to continue the momentum, we'd like to plan some activities for the fall. If you are interested, please contact Jill Lewis, Mike Rich, or Kate Lindheim.



*Thank you*

**Arlington Relay for Life:** Amanda Chin would like to thank all of her PACC sponsors for helping her to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Despite the rain, the annual event was a success. Your support will make a difference in the lives of all those touched by this disease.

**MS Bike Ride:** Jeffrey Chin is pleased to report that he completed the 175 mile ride from Quincy to Provincetown. The weather was good and so was the level of his bike team's enthusiasm. Many thanks to all those who made a donation to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

**Disaster relief:** We have sent a check for \$480 to the Massachusetts Conference, UCC, representing contributions made by PACC members and friends in response to the appeals following natural disasters in Myanmar, China and the Midwestern states. Thank you!