

The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

Arlington, Massachusetts

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

April, 2009

Holy Week 2009

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 5

Pancake Breakfast: Come join us for breakfast on Palm Sunday! The youth group serves pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit, coffee and juice from 8:30-9:30 in Parish Hall. See next page for more information.

Worship service at 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion and Blessing of the Palms. Brass and organ will play music of K. K. Davis and Richard Wagner.

Sunday School will meet together in Parish Hall to learn about the events of Holy Week through stories, crafts and a special snack.

Maundy Thursday, April 9

Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae (extinguishing of candles accompanied by readings from the Passion narratives in the Gospels) at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The choir will sing Stainer's "God So Loved the World."

Good Friday, April 10

Interfaith Worship at noon at St. John's Episcopal Church, 74 Pleasant Street. Bill Albright will participate.

Easter Sunday, April 12

Sunrise service at 6:00 a.m. Please join members of other Arlington churches for a joyful service of Resurrection! This brief service will be at Robbins Farm Park.

Celebration of the Resurrection at 10:00 a.m. Brass and organ will play music of Brubeck, Mozart and Korngold. There will not be Sunday School classes. Childcare will be available for children in kindergarten and younger. Older children will receive activity bags to help them sit through the service.

Easter Egg Hunt will be in the Children's Garden after the service.

Christian Education News

One Great Hour of Sharing boxes

Please bring your boxes in to church between now and Easter. Thanks to those who have sent in their boxes!

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

The youth groups will host and serve pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit, coffee and juice from 8:30 to 9:30 in Parish Hall. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children, with a \$15 maximum per family. Proceeds will benefit the Youth Fund. If you would like to help with set up, clean up, or during the breakfast please talk to Barbara Wagner or Kate Lindheim. Youth should be at church at 8 a.m. on Sunday, April 5 to help.

Holy Week Workshop

We'll have our Holy Week workshop on Sunday, April 5. All classes will meet in Parish Hall for crafts, activities, music and a special snack to help us learn about the events of Holy Week.

Easter

Older kids will hide eggs for younger children for the Easter Egg hunt after church. If you would like to help hide eggs, please meet in the narthex on Easter morning at 9:45 and we'll go outside and hide eggs before the service.

Sunday School

There will be no regular Sunday School on Sunday, April 19. We'll have a combined class in the chapel.

Walk for Hunger

If you'd like to join Jill Lewis and Kate Lindheim for 10 miles of the Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 3, please talk to one of us. We'd love to have a group of walkers from PACC.

History of PACC's building to be topic for Women's Guild

Women's Guild will meet Thursday, April 2, at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel for a potluck brunch. All women are cordially invited to attend and to enjoy Dick Erickson's presentation on the history of our church building. Doris Wilson and Diane Wells will be hostesses.

Dick Erickson to present "My Life as a Florist" for PACC-Men

We had a great gathering on March 3rd at Watch City Brewing Company, Waltham, with Bill Albright, Hong Chin, Dick Erickson, Gary Kane, Mike Rich & Robert Willey. There was good food (thanks for the recommendation, Gary) and great conversation (thanks for attending, PACC-guys).

I was lucky to ride over and back with Dick and Hong and so got a double tour -- Dick being forever the tour guide and historian and Hong sharing his knowledge from having been born and growing up in Waltham.

During dinner Dick gave us a preview of the presentation scheduled for our April meeting -- his life in the flower business. He said that the family florist used to know as much about people as the family lawyer did. He mentioned that business people often had both home and business accounts with their florists and it was essential for the florist to be sure the invoices went to the right address for each. Otherwise who knows what the wrong people would find out about.

Find out the rest of the story at our next meeting on April 7th, the first Tuesday in April, in the Fireplace Room at PACC starting at 7:30. Our presenter will be Dick Erickson on "My Life as a Florist."

Contact Mike Rich for more information.

Sarah's Circle to discuss *Those Who Save Us*

Sarah's Circle women's book group will meet Saturday, April 18th, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Fireplace Room to discuss *Those Who Save Us* by Jenna Blum. Those who wish to meditate may come at 9:30. For more information, speak with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

From Amazon.com: Family secrets of Nazi Germany are at the core of this powerful first novel told in two narratives that alternate between New Heidelberg, Minnesota, in the present, and the small town of Weimar near Buchenwald during World War II. Trudy is a professor of German history in Minnesota, where she's teaching a seminar on women's roles in Nazi Germany and conducting interviews with Germans about how they're dealing with what they did during the war. But her mother, Anna, won't talk about it. Trudy knows, she remembers, that Anna was mistress to a big Nazi camp officer. Why did she do it? Was he Trudy's father? The interviews introduce a range of attitudes, from blatant racism to crippling survivor guilt. Anna's story is a gripping mystery in a page-turner that raises universal questions of shame, guilt, and personal responsibility.

RUMMAGE SALE - SATURDAY, APRIL 25 from 9 to 2

Is it time to edit your wardrobe? You know, remove those items you don't wear because they are the wrong size, color, or style and add something fun, fresh, and reasonably priced that just says, "You!" Well, you are in luck! The church rummage sale is just around the corner, and we are happy to accept all clothing items (clean and in good condition) that you are ready to edit out of your wardrobe and give you the opportunity to find some special additions to enhance the whole.

Along with gently worn clothing for men, women, and children and all manner of accessories (hats, scarves, belts, gloves, wallets, pocketbooks), we are also seeking household goods of every description: linens (sheets, blankets, bedspreads, pillows, cushions, towels, tablecloths, napkins, place mats, table runners, curtains, shower curtains, bath mats), housewares (dishes, mugs, glasses, utensils, pots and pans, bake ware, vases, lamps, and small appliances in working order), books, and small pieces of furniture (something that can be carried by one medium sized woman.)

We also sell jewelry, shoes, records, tapes, videos, CDs, DVDs, pet items, sports equipment, yarn, fabric, baby items, paintings, prints, frames, tools, and gardening equipment. Please be sure all items are clean. Please don't give us broken things or junk!

So, here is your rummage sale check list:

- _____ Mark sale date on your calendar now. Also the Thursday and Friday for set up if you can help then.
- _____ Clean out closets, drawers, and cupboards and bag or box donations.

- _____ Save and bring in large clean brown bags (or other large bags), preferably with handles
- _____ **VOLUNTEER** to work Thursday and/or Friday sorting and pricing. We begin at 9 each morning and work both afternoons and Thursday evening.
- _____ **VOLUNTEER** to sell for all or part of the day and/or clean up at 2 on Saturday.
- _____ Share information about the sale with friends, neighbors, and family members who are rummage sale fans.
 - _____ invite them to work with you
 - _____ invite them to make donations.

Items may be brought to church starting the week of the sale and left in the chapel; however, if it is at all possible, bring them in on Thursday (the 23rd) when they can be sorted right onto the tables. Workers will be on hand all day and into the evening to accept your donations. **Please bring everything in by Thursday.**

We cannot say too often how much we need your help! This is a huge undertaking, much too big to be left to the same few women who have been involved for years. In order for the sale to go smoothly on Saturday, we need many sorters and pricers on Thursday and Friday. We need strong backs to unload cars and tote boxes. We need people to test electrical equipment. We need people to ferret out the good stuff and price it accordingly. We need an energetic clean up crew. We need lots of volunteers. We need you! So please, save us the trouble of tracking you down. Volunteer! And if you have friends who like this sort of activity, invite them to join you. We can always use more help.

If you have any questions or to volunteer, please contact one of us. **THANK YOU!**

Judy Miller, Diane Wells, Lauren Evans

7th Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, May 9th

Please mark your calendars for the 7th annual PACC Craft Fair on Saturday, May 9th! The doors will open at 10 a.m. and remain open until 4 p.m. There will be an assortment of beautiful crafts as in previous years, such as jewelry, photographs, greeting cards, fused glass items, scarves and more. The PACC ladies craft group will again have a table.

Because it was so successful last year, there will be a PACC Bake Table again. We are asking you, the members and friends of PACC, to bake items (cakes, cookies, brownies, muffins, breads, etc.) for this table. All the proceeds from the Bake Table directly benefit PACC. We are hoping to offer lunch again as well.

Now is the time to remind family and friends of the date for the Craft Fair. It is the perfect opportunity to purchase affordable, handmade gifts for all occasions such as Mother's Day, birthdays, graduations, weddings and anniversaries. There will also be baby gifts to purchase.

For the Craft Fair to be successful, we need volunteers to donate baked goods, to staff the Bake Table and to help prepare and serve lunch. If you are able to help, please contact Barbara Wagner. Thank you for your help and support!

SUNDAY, MAY 3 (EVENING) CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF CELEBRATION

What's Happening at PACC

Thu.	Apr. 2	11:00 a.m.	Women's Guild in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Apr. 5	8:30 a.m.	Pancake breakfast in the Parish Hall
		10:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday worship service includes Communion
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:45 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Mon.	Apr. 6	7:30 p.m.	Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
Tue.	Apr. 7	7:30 p.m.	PACC-Men in the Fireplace Room
Wed.	Apr. 8	10:00 a.m.	Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Thu.	Apr. 9	10:00 a.m.	Craft Group in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday worship service in the Sanctuary
Sun.	Apr. 12	10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday worship service
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:30 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt in the Children's Garden
		11:45 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room (tentative)
Mon.	Apr. 13	7:00 p.m.	Capital Campaign training in the Nicoll Room
Thu.	Apr. 16	10:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Apr. 18	9:30 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	Apr. 19	9:20 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary
		10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Mon.	Apr. 20		<i>Patriots' Day</i> ; office closed
Tue.	Apr. 21		Deadline for <i>May Spire</i>
		7:00 p.m.	Capital Campaign in the Nicoll Room
		7:30 p.m.	Membership Ministry in the Fireplace Room
Wed.	Apr. 22	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Apr. 23	9 a. – 9 p.	Rummage set-up
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Fri.	Apr. 24	9 a. – 5 p.	Rummage set-up
Sat.	Apr. 25	9 a. – 2 p.	Rummage Sale
Sun.	Apr. 26	10:00 a.m.	Worship service, Andy Gustafson preaching
Mon.	Apr. 27	7:00 p.m.	Capital Campaign training in the Nicoll Room
Thu.	Apr. 30	10:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room

coming later in the year

Sun.	May 3	evening	Capital Campaign Kick-off Celebration
Sat.	May 9	9:00 a.m.	Spy Pond clean-up
		10 a. – 4 p.	Craft Fair
Sun.	Jun. 14	10:00 a.m.	Children's Sunday worship service
		12:00 noon	All-Church Picnic at Lexington Christian Academy
Sun.	Jul. 19	1:35 p.m.	Lowell Spinners game
Thu.	Aug. 20	7:05 p.m.	Lowell Spinners game

Mission and Justice projects

Mother's Day Collection for Sandra's Lodge

For the last several years we have done one or two collections a year for Sandra's Lodge in Waltham, with Ann Bruhn being our contact and deliverer. At this time Ann says they can use socks, hand sanitizer soaps (push plastic bottles), boxes of Kleenex, \$5 gift certificates for CVS, Walgreens, etc. You're encouraged to think of both the kids and the Moms. We will collect up to May 3rd, so we can deliver in time for Mother's Day. If you have questions, contact Ann Bruhn or Jill Lewis. Briefly, the Lodge is an emergency intake family shelter for homeless single mothers and their children. The program is funded by the Department of Transitional Assistance and provides a safe environment with ancillary services to thirty-five homeless families. The essential goals of the program are to secure permanent, affordable housing for its residents and offer the appropriate support services which will enable the family to function independently. Thank You from the Mission & Justice Ministry.

Mug challenge

The Mission and Justice committee invites you to participate in an activity starting on April 19th and continuing through the remainder of the church year as a way to celebrate our planet Earth. Starting on April 19th please bring your own mug or coffee cup to Coffee Hour to help cut down on our paper waste. On average, 40 – 50 used cups are thrown away each week; that's at least 2600 cups a year added to our waste. Hope you are up for the challenge!

Trail clean-up

As part of our Earth Month celebration, the Mission and Justice Ministry invites you to join us for a few hours of spring cleaning along the path that parallels Route 2, between Lake St. and Pleasant St., Arlington on **Saturday, May 9 at 9 a.m.**

The Event is hosted by the Spy Pond Environment Task Group. The work will involve trail maintenance, controlling invasive plants, pruning vistas, trash pick up, and generally improving this scenic slice of public land. All equipment and snacks will be provided. Participants should bring sturdy footwear, work clothes, water, hat and sunscreen, rain gear. Liability waivers will be available and must be signed by all participants (under 18 need approval from—and are preferably accompanied by—a parent or guardian).

This is one small way we can be faithful stewards of our natural resources – right here in our own backyard! Please contact Lauren Evans or Karen Friedman if you are interested in participating.

Membership Ministry Update

Growing the membership of PACC is something that God calls us to do as well as something that is needed for the long term health of the church. Over the past several years we have continued to add new members every year, but this has only allowed the membership to hold steady and not grow our overall membership.

Our Membership Ministry was created do the important work of growing the church. With a more focused effort we should be able to grow our membership beyond its current size and share the good news with a larger church family.

In order to accomplish this, our Membership Ministry is working on two key efforts. These are finding ways that we can attract people who have not been part of our community, and then once they are here, making sure that they feel welcome, comfortable returning, and becoming integrated into the PACC family.

We can use your help in several ways:

It has been demonstrated that the best way to bring in new people is with an invitation from someone who is already part of our church community. We need everyone at PACC to be aware of others they know who could be invited to join us and be looking for opportunities to invite them to visit. Keep in mind that the most comfortable way to do this may be to invite them to some activity related to the church other than the Sunday worship service, although that is not discouraged. Keep in mind other activities you may be involved with such as choir, youth group activities, evening programs, the rummage sale, etc. People tend to continue to visit if they like the people they meet and feel comfortable and welcome. Our ministry is also working on scheduling some activities specifically to invite new people to.

PACC has always done a good job of making visitors feel welcome. When you see someone new, introduce yourself and spend a couple minutes getting to know them.

Come join us at our monthly Membership Ministry meetings. We are meeting the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Fireplace room and are working on these two important aspects of membership. Our next meeting is on April 21.

If you have any questions, speak to Doug Record or Anita Clarke

Council of Deacons' March meeting

In addition to information included elsewhere in this newsletter, the Council of Deacons discussed the following at its March meeting:

- Guidelines for outside groups to use the Sanctuary

- All-church evaluation: Because every year fewer people complete the survey, it was agreed that the frequency should be decreased. Annual staff evaluations will be handled as follow-up conversations in the years when there is not a survey. Of course, whenever there is a concern about any aspect of the church, members should speak directly with one of the Deacons or a staff member.
- PACC's delegates to the Metropolitan Boston Association meeting April 26 will be Judie Phelps and Mike Rich.
- The next meetings of the Council will be Monday, April 6, and Monday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the Nicoll Room. This is a change from the usual schedule in order to accommodate Capital Campaign meetings. Meetings are open to all interested persons, but only official members of the Council can vote.