

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

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

May, 2009

PACC Capital Campaign 2009
Ready ... Set ... Go!

The plans have been made for our Capital Campaign, and we're ready to go! Here's what we need everyone to do:

- **Know what the campaign is all about.** Campaign information packets have been distributed. If you didn't get one, please call the church office.
- **Come one, come all to the Campaign Kick-off Celebration in our Parish Hall on Sunday, May 3!**
 - 6:00: Hors d'oeuvres accompanied by the music of the JEM jazz trio
 - 7:00: Learn about the highlights of the campaign; tour the Skinner organ
Delicious desserts and coffee with more jazz accompaniment
- **Schedule a campaign visit.** Campaign visitors will call everyone who lives locally to make an appointment for a personal visit to talk with you about the campaign and encourage you to make a pledge. These visits won't be high pressure, but a friendly call from volunteers in our church family. We will try to schedule all of these visits in the first two weeks of May.
- **Make your pledge.** We need everyone in our congregation to participate financially on some level. We recognize that the amount that people can give varies widely, but we trust that if everyone gives as generously as possible within their means, the total of all the pledges, large and small, will accomplish our goals.
- **Celebrate the end of a successful campaign at coffee hour, Sunday, May 17!**

*For more information about the celebration on May 3,
see the calendar page in the center of this newsletter.*

Christian Education News

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who came to the breakfast and ate pancakes! Thank you to our youth groups for setting up, serving and helping to clean up! Special thanks to Hong Chin for his expert pancake making and flipping. Many thanks to Lauren Evans, Andy Hart, Janet Forté, Elaina Evans, Jeanne Domenichella, Rod Lindheim and all the parents

who helped make our breakfast go smoothly. Thank you to the hospitality people who were patient with us and helped us clean up.

Barbara and Kate

Sunday School

- May is Bible Month in Sunday School. This month we'll learn some of the familiar parts of the Bible that our curriculum doesn't cover. Our classes will learn the Lord's Prayer, the 23rd Psalm and the Ten Commandments. Our youngest class will continue to learn and practice table graces.
- There will be no regular Sunday School on May 24, the Memorial Day weekend. Childcare will be available.
- We'll have a Sunday School potluck on Friday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace and Nicoll Rooms. All Sunday School families are invited. We'll share a potluck dinner and then do some activities related to what we've been learning about in Sunday School. There will be a sign-up sheet on the kitchen door in Parish Hall when we get closer to the date.
- May 31 is Pentecost. We'll be doing some special Pentecost activities in Sunday School. Wear your red, orange or yellow clothes that day!
- Mark your calendars for June 14, Youth Sunday and the PACC picnic. We'll have one rehearsal for Youth Sunday on June 13. More information will be sent home as the date gets closer.

Youth Group Knitters will meet in the Nicoll Room from 11:30-12:30 on May 17.

Youth Groups

We'll ride bikes to Mario's in Lexington center for dinner on May 31. We'll meet at church at 4:30. Permission slips will be sent home on May 17.

The Christian Education Working Group

All who are interested in Christian Education are invited to a meeting on Sunday, May 17th, at 8:45 a.m., to plan for Youth Sunday and to review plans for adult education in the fall. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Wagner or Kate Lindheim.

Women's Guild potluck, Annual Meeting on May 7

The Women's Guild of Park Avenue Congregational Church will have its annual meeting followed by a pizza and salad lunch on Thursday, May 7. All women are cordially invited to come to the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. If you have questions, speak with Diane Wells.

PACC-Men plan dinner at Zocalo Cocina Mexicana

Our April meeting included a GREAT presentation by Richard Erickson. The turnout was very good -- Bill Albright, Hong Chin, Dick Erickson, John Gardner, Jim Gibbons, Dick Hunter, Gary Kane, Mike Rich, Keith Truesdale and Robert Willey. Our speaker provided bunches of stuff to look at, a photo show, handouts and even a door prize of a beautiful flower arrangement made on the spot.

Our next meeting will be on the second Tuesday of May -- 5/12. We will gather at the church at 7:30 and car pool to Zocalo Cocina Mexicana, 203A Broadway, East Arlington (www.zocaloarlington.com) for dinner and fellowship.

In June will revert to our first Tuesday meeting schedule -- 6/2. It will be a program evening but neither the subject nor the presenter has yet been decided upon

For July we discussed an outdoor, weekend, daytime, family event - possibly a bikeway and Arlington's Great Meadows hike. (I don't know if the recent major brush fire there will detract from the early summer floral bloom about which Dick Erickson was telling us.)

The Parish Hall Coffee Hour clean up we worked out in our April meeting seems to be working. (Though I did get a comment from someone on April 19th that the chairs and table gathering seemed to have started a wee bit early.) We set up a schedule of PACC-Men who agree to be responsible for gathering people to help put away the chairs and tables (and if they are not going to be there on any given Sunday, to arrange for another facilitator): First Sundays - Eric Rochon & Gary Kane; Second Sundays - Mike Rich, Third Sundays - Hong Chin; Fourth Sundays - Robert Willey; Fifth Sundays - Hong Chin (and various Sundays, when he's around, Keith Truesdale).

For more information about PACC-Men activities or to suggest a speaker or program for our June meeting contact Mike Rich.

7th annual Craft Fair, Saturday, May 9th, 10 am to 4 pm

It's almost time for the Craft Fair! There will be 18 tables of crafts—wood turned boxes and gifts, photographs, baby quilts and gifts, silk scarves, jewelry, hand blown glass gifts, fabric handbags, soaps, potpourri, baskets, fused glass dishes and vases, paperweights, coasters, clay flower arrangements, greeting cards, and more! The PACC women's craft group will have a table and baked goodies will be sold at the PACC bake table. Karen Stark will again be selling her photographs. Do you need gifts for Mothers' Day, birthdays, baby showers, weddings, graduations, anniversaries? Or something for yourself? The Craft Fair is the place to purchase them. As in previous years, a scrumptious lunch will be available to purchase which will also benefit PACC.

To make this fundraiser successful, we need your help. First of all, please publicize the Craft Fair by posting flyers and inviting your family and friends to come to the Fair. Please consider baking goodies for the bake table and helping to staff the table during the Fair. Perhaps you could help with lunch. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Barbara Wagner. Every fundraiser is important for PACC. Thank you for making the Craft Fair successful!

How you can help with the Capital Campaign Kick-Off Party May 3

- Help with party set-up and decorations. (Call Christine Rochon)
- Make phone calls for party RSVPs or offer rides to the party for people who need them. (Call Beverly Miller)

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no “coffee hour” after church on Sunday, May 3rd. However, the good news is that there will be people transforming the Parish Hall so that you may return at 6 p.m. in the evening to enjoy our CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICK OFF CELEBRATION. This will be an evening of fun, fellowship, good music, food, a short program and a time to catch up with friends. WE HOPE YOU WILL BE THERE.

What's Happening at PACC

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| Sun. | May 3 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship service includes Communion
NO Coffee Hour |
| | | 11:45 a.m. | Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room |
| | | 6:00 p.m. | Capital Campaign Kick-off Celebration |
| Mon. | May 4 | 7:30 p.m. | Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room |
| Wed. | May 6 | 10:00 a.m. | Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room |
| Thu. | May 7 | 11:00 a.m. | Women's Guild in the Chapel |
| | | 7:30 p.m. | Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room |
| Sat. | May 9 | 9:00 a.m. | Spy Pond clean-up |
| | | 10 a. – 4 p. | Craft Fair |
| Sun. | May 10 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship service |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall |
| | | 11:45 a.m. | Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room |
| Mon. | May 11 | 7:00 p.m. | Capital Campaign Committee in the Nicoll Room |
| Tue. | May 12 | 7:30 p.m. | PACC-Men outing to Zocalo Cocina Mexicana |
| Wed. | May 13 | 7:30 p.m. | Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room |
| Thu. | May 14 | 10:00 a.m. | Craft Group in the Chapel |
| | | 7:30 p.m. | Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room |
| Sun. | May 17 | 8:45 a.m. | Christian Education Working Group, Fireplace Room |
| | | 9:20 a.m. | Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary |
| | | 10:00 a.m. | Anniversary Sunday worship service |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall |
| | | 11:30 a.m. | Youth knitters in the Nicoll Room |
| Mon. | May 18 | 7:00 p.m. | Capital Campaign in the Nicoll Room |
| Tue. | May 19 | 7:30 p.m. | Membership Ministry in the Fireplace Room |
| Thu. | May 21 | 10:00 a.m. | Women's Coffee Group in the Chapel |
| | | 7:30 p.m. | Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room |
| Sun. | May 24 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship service; no Sunday School classes |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall |
| Mon. | May 25 | | <i>Memorial Day</i> ; office closed |
| Tue. | May 26 | | Deadline for June <i>Spire</i> |
| Wed. | May 27 | 7:30 p.m. | Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room |
| Thu. | May 28 | 10:00 a.m. | Craft Group in the Chapel |
| | | 7:30 p.m. | Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room |
| Fri. | May 29 | 6:30 p.m. | Sunday School potluck in the Fireplace and Nicoll Rooms |
| Sun. | May 31 | 10:00 a.m. | Pentecost worship service – WEAR SOMETHING RED |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall |
| | | 4:30 p.m. | Youth groups meet for bike ride |

coming later in the year

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 News

One Great Hour of Sharing

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of the PACC community, we are able to send a check for \$1658 as our contribution to the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. The children in our Sunday School classes donated \$54 of this. This year's donations were more than double last year's figure of \$817.

Walk for Hunger

Jill Lewis and Kate Lindheim will walk 10 miles of the Walk for Hunger on May 3. Please talk to Jill or Kate if you'd like to join us for the walk.

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.

Pride parade June 13

Would you like to be part of a group from PACC marching in Boston's Gay Pride Parade on Saturday, June 13? We would march with other UCC churches under the banner of the Massachusetts Conference. Each church which is represented will have a sign with its name. In order to have a PACC sign made, we need to notify the Conference by the middle of May if we will participate. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Jill Lewis or Kate Lindheim by May 11.

Relay for Life

Amanda Chin will be participating for a third year in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Arlington, which raises money and awareness for the fight against cancer. If you would like to sponsor her, a check made payable to ACS can be mailed to her home address: 42 Eustis St, Arlington, MA 02476. The deadline is May 30th.

Thank you

to everyone who participated in the clean-up day March 28. The focus was on the yard (including replacement of timbers around the beds), narthex and sanctuary. Thanks also to Lexington Lawn which donated mulch for our flower beds.

to all who worked long and hard to make the Rummage Sale such a success. Well done, everyone!

PACC subparishes

Subparish lists for 2009 are posted on the easel in the narthex or you can phone the church to find out who your Deacon is. In order to foster a stronger sense of fellowship and community within the congregation, each Deacon on the Council has been assigned to a "subparish" consisting of a small group of individuals and families who live locally. The Deacon will keep in touch with members in their subparish informally (a phone call, a conversation on Sunday morning, or a card), but feel free to contact your Deacon if there is some way the church can be of help to you. Families who live a significant distance or are out of state and not currently worshipping here receive the *Spire* for news and should contact the church office if they are in need of help from the church.