

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

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

June, 2009

Capital Campaign Update

The pledging phase of PACC's *Restoring, Renewing, Reaching* Capital Campaign is winding down, and I am thrilled to announce *that to date we have 86 pledges for a total of \$299,238!* Thank you to everyone for your work and prayers and participation in this Capital Campaign.

If you haven't yet made your campaign pledge, it's not too late, and we still need you. Every campaign has its own uncertainties, and this one is no exception. It's never clear whether all pledges will end up being paid in full or whether a couple of years down the road cost estimates will turn out to have been inaccurate. Our success to this point is due to the way so many people have contributed what they could. The contributions of those who have yet to send in their pledge can ensure that we have enough money to successfully complete all of the projects we have planned.

Entirely aside from the money we have raised, doing this campaign has had many benefits for us as a church, not the least of which is the good feeling that we attempted a challenging task in difficult economic times and are accomplishing it in style. We are demonstrating yet again that at PACC we can pull together and make things happen!

Many thanks to all those who volunteered as campaign visitors, wrote prayers for the campaign, decorated and set up and cleaned up for our wonderful kick-off party, stuffed envelopes, or did any of the tasks, large and small, that are bringing this campaign to a successful conclusion.

Finally, resounding cheers and grateful thanks to the members of the Capital Campaign Committee, truly a dream team, whose creativity and hard work have brought us so far:

Tim Durning and Tom Howard – Advance Gifts
Doug Record and Keith Truesdale – Church Family Gifts
Josh Young – Publicity
Debbie Douglas and Karen Friedman – Brochure
Margaret Bell and Beverly Miller – Kick-off Celebration
Christie Getto Young – Program
Christine Rochon – Administrative Support
Judy Miller and Judie Phelps – Acknowledgement
Gary Kane – Building Projects
Sara Hunter – Prayer Group

It looks like we can now set about accomplishing the goals we set for this campaign – more accessibility, an upgraded Chapel, a restored organ, an emergency fund, and the opportunity to do increased outreach to those in need. Now let's look forward to the blessings that these will bring to PACC!

Linda Cohn
Capital Campaign Committee Chair

PACC Picnic June 14

The all-church picnic will follow the Youth Sunday service at Lexington Christian Academy. Bring your bathing suit and a towel if you like to swim, a tennis racquet if you like to play tennis, and a favorite game if you like to play games. Parents, please note that children who are not toilet trained may not go in the pool, but there are smaller pools to fill up. The Christian Education Ministry will provide hot dogs, chips and lemonade. Please bring a salad/side dish or dessert. Questions? Speak with Kate Lindheim.

Lowell Spinners nights

Lauren Evans has reserved two nights for PACC to see the Lowell Spinners:

- Sunday July 19th at 1:05 they take on the Williamsport Crosscutters
- Wednesday August 19th at 7:05 they take on the Auburn Doubledays

Why not join the gang for a fun-filled evening at the Le Lacheur Park. Tickets are \$5 for reserved seats (bleacher-like seating). You can email Lauren with the number you need or catch up with her at church some Sunday.

Christian Education News

Youth Sunday rehearsal

We will have our one and only rehearsal for Youth Sunday on Saturday, June 13 from 9:30-11 in the sanctuary. Please make every effort to be there, even if you can only stay for part of the time. Please let Kate or Andy know if you will not be there. Thanks!

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday will be on June 14. In Sunday School this year, we've learned a lot about people in the Bible who have been called by God to lead and to teach people about God. The theme for this year's Youth Sunday is Journeys with God. We'll recall the many people in the Bible we've learned about this year, and share the beginnings of our own faith stories as we journey with God. All children and youth should meet in the chapel at 9:30 so we can be ready for our service.

Sunday School

June 21 will be the last day of regular Sunday School. Starting on June 28, we'll have one multi age class in the chapel. We'll be using the Gather Round multi-age summer curriculum, learning about the early church. Summer Sunday School is a fun, low key introduction to Sunday School. It's a great time for kids to bring a friend to Sunday School and for adults who may have wondered about helping out with Sunday School. There will be a sign up sheet on the kitchen door in Parish Hall to be a Summer Sunday

School assistant. It's easy: You just need to sign up for one or as many Sundays as you like to be the second adult in the room. Please talk to Kate or Barbara if you have any questions.

Ice Cream Social for Incoming and 5th-8th grade Youth Group members

If you will be joining the 5th-8th grade youth group in the fall, please join us for an ice cream social on June 28 from 6:30-7:30 in the Nicoll Room. We'll make ice cream sundaes and play a few games.

Programs for Adults

PACC-Men

All men are welcome to join PACC-Men when they meet on Tuesday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m. The program is yet to be decided. If you have questions or suggestions, speak with Mike Rich.

Sarah's Circle

When Sarah's Circle book group meets on Saturday, June 13 the topic will be meditation. Each person should select her own book on the topic. All women are welcome to join the group at 10 a.m. in the Fireplace Room. As usual, those who wish to meditate may come at 9:30 a.m. Summer meeting dates are tentatively July 11 and August 8. Questions? Contact Merrith Sabo-Jones.

Evening Bible Group

The Evening Bible Group, which meets on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of every month, is about halfway through Paul's Letter to the Romans. In June the group will address Paul's "Christian supersessionism" and "anti-Judaism vs. anti-Semitism" in chapters 9-11. Chapters 12-16 address a variety of themes, including: "the new life in Christ," Paul's admonition to "be subject to civil authorities," Jesus' "love command" à la Paul, a recap of Paul's perspective on Jews, a few of Paul's personal comments and plans, Paul's greeting of the "saints" in Rome, and some closing remarks. All are welcome to attend June 10 and/or June 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. The sessions are led by Bill Albright.

Mission and Justice Projects

Birthday Box

Did you know that on Route 2 at the Gateway Motel there is a homeless shelter for families? We can help the children there to have happier birthdays by providing some of the supplies for their celebrations. There is a box wrapped like a gift in the Parish Hall under the bulletin board. Please feel free to add any of the following to it:

Party table cloth

Goodie bags

Decorations

Small toys to fill the goodie bags

Candy

And anything else you can think of to make a child's birthday special

As Kate Lindheim said, "Birthday celebrations are something that kids can really relate to and this is a way for our children to feel they've helped brighten someone's birthday."

Pride Parade

The Boston Pride parade is on Saturday, June 13 at noon. If you'd like to walk under the UCC banner with a group from PACC and other UCC churches, please talk to Kate Lindheim or Jill Lewis.

Father's Day Collection for Gateway Motel:

As many of you may know, the Gateway Motel in Cambridge provides transitional housing for 79 families. One volunteer working closely with the families has said that the men at the Gateway tend to be somewhat underserved in terms of donations. We have some wishlists and will be collecting items for Father's Day such as socks, T-shirts, shorts, razors, and ties. Sign up sheets will be available after church in Parish Hall. For additional information, please call Karen Friedman.

MS Bike Ride

Greetings! I will be riding 175 miles in the MS Bike Ride from Quincy to Provincetown on June 27-28. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please send a check payable to the "National Multiple Sclerosis Society" to my home address. If you prefer to make an online donation, please email me and I will send you a link to my web page. I appreciate your support and will keep you posted as to my progress in next month's *Spire*.

Jeffrey Chin

Pillow Blankets for Children in Louisiana

I had the blessing of being able to deliver, on behalf of the congregation of PACC, 282 fleece pillow blankets to children attending Airline Park Elementary School in Metairie, Louisiana. Airline Park is where Karen Arndt, wife of Pastor Gary Arndt, a visitor to our church who shared Katrina experiences and a message of hope, teaches in the Pre-K program. Words truly cannot adequately describe the joy and thankfulness each child expressed as the message took hold that the blanket each chose was that person's to keep AND take home, "for real".

This delivery would not have been possible without the support and cooperation of the entire congregation. When we vote at annual meeting to approve a budget, we become partners in support of projects too numerous to mention. This partnership of and in faith that each of you is a part of every time you contribute in whatever way God's Spirit moves you brought hope and comfort to children sorely in need of both.

Dance with the children and staff of Airline Park Elementary School for the happiness you sent as members of the Body of Christ!!

Liz McNenny

What's Happening at PACC

Mon.	June 1	7:30 p.m.	Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
Tue.	June 2	7:30 p.m.	PACC-Men in the Fireplace Room
Wed.	June 3	10:00 a.m.	Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	June 4	7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	June 7	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
Wed.	June 10	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	June 11	10:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	June 13	9:30 a.m.	Children's Sunday rehearsal in the Sanctuary
		9:30 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	Jun. 14	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.	June 16	7:30 p.m.	Membership Ministry in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	June 18	7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	June 21	10:00 a.m.	Worship service; music appreciation and Moore baptisms
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall

Summer office hours begin; office open Tuesdays and Thursdays

Tue.	June 23		Deadline for <i>July Spire</i>
Wed.	June 24	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	June 28	10:00 a.m.	Worship service includes Communion
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		6:30 p.m.	Youth Group ice cream social in the Nicoll Room

coming later in the year

Sat.	July 11	9:30 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room (tentative)
Thu.	July 16	11:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee meets to go out to lunch
Sun.	Jul. 19	1:35 p.m.	Lowell Spinners game
Sat.	Aug. 8	9:30 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room (tentative)
Thu.	Aug. 13	11:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee pizza lunch in the Chapel
Thu.	Aug. 20	7:05 p.m.	Lowell Spinners game
Sun.	Sept. 13		Regathering Sunday

Summer Schedule

Coffee hour: During **July** and **August** the Hospitality Committee takes a break and the coffee hour becomes more simple with coffee and lemonade and a snack, either homemade or store bought. We ask for volunteers (individuals or families) to serve and clean up each week. This involves 15 or 20 minutes before the service and after the coffee hour. There will always be one of the Fellowship and Care Deacons (Margaret, Hong or Beverly) there to make the coffee and to help with questions. **Please** consider signing up for a Sunday that you are available. The sign up sheet is posted on the kitchen door in the Parish Hall. Thanks in advance for your help!

Office Hours: From June 22 through September 4 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.

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. You can take the flowers home after the service or deliver them to a shut-in. The cost is \$35 or more; you can indicate on the sign-up sheet how much you would like to pay. Or, if you would like to bring flowers from your garden, they would be welcome.

Report on the Spring 2009 Meeting of the Metropolitan Boston Association

The Spring Meeting of the Metropolitan Boston Association of the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ, was held on Sunday, April 26, 2009 at the United Church of Walpole. In attendance from PACC were Judie and Dick Phelps and Michael Rich. The business meeting included the election of new officers and committee representative for the coming year. Rev. Ken Bailly was elected to the position of Moderator. Bill Albright will continue as Scribe for the Association, a position he has held for several years and for which he does a yeoman's job. The entire assembly gave him a rousing round of applause for the excellent minutes he provides of all the business of the association. By-Law changes were approved, One adding the Scribe (Bill Albright) as a co-signer for all checks of the association which exceed \$5000. The other By-Law changes increased the time and pool of candidates who could be appointed to the Fitness Review Committee and the rescheduling of Ecclesiastical Councils when quorums have not been met.

The next order of business was the approval of the Budget for 2009. This was followed by reports from Rev. Tony Kill on the Committee on Ministry, Rev. Marian Williams on the Committee on Ministerial Standing, Rev. Fran Bogle on Just Peace and Paul Baxter on the City Mission Society.

One item in the report of the Committee on Ministry that will affect PACC in the future cites the expansion of the role of the local church's In Care committees. The local In Care Committee will be asked to meet with each of their In Care candidates and their advisors to review their polity paper, in order to explore and evaluate how well the candidate has integrated the ecclesiology, Polity and practices of the UCC. "Candidates in Care" will now be called "Members in Discernment", terminology recommended by the National UCC's Ministry Issues Implementation Committee. It was also reported that MBA will be requiring Boundary Awareness Training for all Clergy.

The Just Peace Ministry report included the many facets of this mission. The Just Peace Players will be focusing on ecology and caring for creation. The Just Arts Program continues to focus on art, spirituality and Justice and invites new members to join in. A new Urban Youth Photography Project used photography to help 6-10th graders experience and record God's presence in their lives and in the world around them and is looking for invitations from youth groups to participate. The Women of the

Greatest Generation Project is looking for women who lived through the Second World War to record their stories of faith, hope, love and courage.

The City Mission Society has a fund-raiser with Shaw's Market. Folks who shop at Shaw's and wish to donate part of their grocery bill to the City Mission, should go to www.shaws.com, click on "Community Rewards", click on the "Shoppers Login or register with your Shaw's Rewards Card" link. Once logged in, click "Sign Me Up". Make "City Mission Society" your community rewards partner (ID number 49001018925). I hope that, if you shop at Shaw's, you will do this as it is a painless way to support City Mission Society.

Rev. Wendy VanderHart, Associate Conference Minister greeted the assembly and reported on the changes in the MBA since the last Fall meeting.

The topic for the speakers at the meeting was "Turning the Tables: A Prophetic Response to the Economy". Speakers were Larry Gordon, senior organizer with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), an organization that develops local leadership among congregations and faith-based communities. Gordon spoke on organizing and working for social transformation and justice. Gordon also spoke of the changes that have taken place between the 3 anchors in our communities – market, government, and civil society (which includes religious groups, unions, PTA's, volunteer organizations and any organization in which the members of the group have a shared interest). His talk gave us much to think about regarding how and why our economy is in trouble. Rev. Dan Smith spoke on the church's response and the plans that GBIO has for further actions especially around small group meetings, telling the stories of economic hardship, and efforts to begin to rebuild our communities and our nation.

A "Sharing the Abundance" liturgy and communion service ended the assembly.

Respectively Submitted,
Judie Phelps
PACC delegate to MBA Spring Meeting

Get your *Spire* by email. It arrives as a Word document attached to an email and is reformatted to letter-size paper, so you can print any pages that you wish. You will have it earlier than if it is sent via the postal service. What you will not receive is the clip art. Call the church office to request this change.

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.

Heartfelt thanks

Thanks to Barbara Wagner, who organized our Craft Fair again this year, to Beverly Miller, who headed up the lunch crew, and to everyone who baked, made items to sell, staffed the kitchen and the sales tables and otherwise helped to make the event a success. We made \$1228 for the General Fund.

Many thanks to Hong Chin, who assumed leadership of the bake sales at folk concerts this spring when Diane Wells was unable to get out. Thanks also to those who baked and those who helped with sales. We earned over \$350 on the three concerts.

The Coffee Hour after church each Sunday is a vital part of the Fellowship and Care Ministry. We would like to express our gratitude to the Hospitality Committee and to those people who brought a donation over the last few months to help with this ministry.
THANK YOU!

-- The Fellowship and Care Ministry