

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

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

August, 2009

August at PACC

Worship and one multi-age Sunday School class
every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

PACC-Men learn about fly fishing
Tuesday, August 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Sarah's Circle discusses *Sepulchre*
Saturday, August 8, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room

Evening Bible Group
Thursday, August 12 and 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room

Women's Coffee Group has pizza lunch
Thursday, August 13, at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Outing to Lowell Spinners game
Wednesday, August 19, at 7:05 p.m.

Youth Group views *Jesus Christ Superstar*
Sunday, August 30, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireplace Room

See inside for more details.

Christian Education News

Sunday School

Summer Sunday School is in full swing. We're learning about letters to the early church. If you're going to be away in August, pick up a copy of our August Sunday School schedule on the table in the narthex. There's a list of all the lessons we'll be learning through Labor Day with the scripture reading and some ideas for discussion at home or wherever you'll be.

Youth Group

We'll meet on Sunday, August 30, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireplace Room for a movie night. We'll watch *Jesus Christ Superstar* and have popcorn.

Fly fishing topic for PACC-Men

When PACC-Men meet Tuesday evening, August 4, Hong Chin, a Department of Fish & Game-certified fishing teacher, will present a program on fly fishing and making flies. All men are welcome to join the group at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. The evening will also feature Thai food from a local restaurant. If you have questions, contact Mike Rich.

Sarah's Circle to discuss *Sepulchre*

Members of Sarah's Circle are reading Kate Mosse's novel, *Sepulchre*, a follow-up to *Labyrinth*, which the group discussed previously. They will meet in the Fireplace Room from 10 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturday, August 8. All women are welcome to attend. Those who wish to meditate may come at 9:30.

From the Amazon.com review: Kate Mosse has capitalized on the success of *Labyrinth* with a new novel boasting similar elements: strong female heroines, dual narratives connected across a vast span of years, the villages of southwestern France and even a search for historic artifacts. But this time it's a quest for family secrets -- not a treasure hunt -- that binds the twinned tales.

If you have questions, contact the office.

Evening Bible Group continues with study of Paul's letters

The Evening Bible Group is discussing Paul's first letter to Timothy. All are welcome to attend the sessions on August 12 and/or August 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. The class is led by Bill Albright.

Fellowship opportunities for women

The Women's Coffee Group will meet in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. on August 13 for a pizza lunch. On September 10 the group will resume its schedule of meeting at 10:00 a.m. on alternate Thursdays.

Do you enjoy Scrabble? Cribbage? Other board or card games? All women who are interested in getting together to enjoy these pastimes should contact Doris Wilson. She is trying to find a time that would be convenient for women to get together on a regular basis beginning in the fall.

Capital Campaign Update

PACC's *Restoring, Renewing, Reaching* Capital Campaign continues to receive strong support from members and friends of this church. As of July 21 we have 103 pledges for a total of \$318,147! Payments to date are \$46,797. 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.

Gary Kane, Doug Record, Anne Kelly Contini, Eric Rochon and Linda Cohn have agreed to serve on the Capital Campaign Implementation Committee; a couple of other folks are considering whether to make this commitment. This is the group which will determine how to proceed with the various projects. Simultaneously, the Mission and Justice Ministry is considering possibilities for the outreach portion of the money raised.

Facts and Figures

Jan. – June	<u>budget</u>	<u>actual</u>	<u>difference</u>	
income		\$129,549	\$123,153	(\$6,396)
expenses		\$132,301	\$134,917	\$2,616
difference		(\$2,752)	(\$11,764)	

Note that the figures above are for the General Fund and do not include monies received or expended for the Capital Campaign.

Plate collections (pledges and other gifts) are \$6,385 under budget, matching the shortfall in income. Is your pledge up to date? Statements were sent recently; if you did not receive one and wonder about your pledge status, please call the office. We have received special payments to cover denominational dues (\$18.50) from fourteen members. It is not too late to contribute for this purpose. The budget assumes that we will clear \$10,000 on the Fair, \$4,500 on the rummage sale and \$5,000 on other fundraisers. Income to date for these activities is \$6,300.

The facilities cost overrun of \$5,909 is partially offset by lower than anticipated expenses on other lines of the budget.

If you have questions, call the church office or speak with Ken Miller.

Preparations underway for the Church Fair November 13 & 14!

Our Church Fair will be November 13 and 14, and preparations have begun. Summer is a great time to make jams and jellies, to bake and freeze desserts, to set aside books that others will enjoy, to plan your donation to the silent auction, to knit or crochet or sew, to select items to give to the jewelry table. Also, please save coffee cans with lids for the Cookie Walk – wash and store in paper bags so they don't rust. Perhaps you have an idea for a new item that we might sell. Let us know how we can help to make that happen.

Linda Cohn plans a project involving photo transfers. It will require a color ink jet printer, which neither she nor the church office has. Do you have one that Linda might use? If so, please call her.

Can you help with the Cookie Walk? If you are willing or have questions, speak with Connie Dugan.

Most of all, MARK YOUR CALENDARS for November 13 and 14. If you are not available then, perhaps you could help set up on November 12 or assist with publicity in

the weeks prior to the fair. This event is important for our church, both as a fundraiser and as a FUN-raiser. Its success depends on the support of everyone.

What's Happening at PACC

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| Sun. | Aug. 2 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship service includes Communion |
| | | 11:30 a.m. | Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall |
| Tue. | Aug. 4 | 7:30 p.m. | PACC-Men in the Fireplace Room |
| Sat. | Aug. 8 | 9:30 a.m. | Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room |
| Sun. | Aug. 9 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship service |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall |
| Wed. | Aug. 12 | 7:30 p.m. | Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room |
| Thu. | Aug. 13 | 11:00 a.m. | Women's Coffee – pizza lunch in the Chapel |
| Sun. | Aug. 16 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship service |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall |
| Wed. | Aug. 19 | 7:05 p.m. | Lowell Spinners game |
| Sun. | Aug. 23 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship service |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall |
| Mon. | Aug. 24 | 7:30 p.m. | Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room |
| Tue. | Aug. 25 | | Deadline for September <i>Spire</i> |
| Wed. | Aug. 26 | 7:30 p.m. | Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room |
| Sun. | Aug. 30 | 10:00 a.m. | Worship service |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Communion in the Sanctuary |
| | | 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall |
| | | 7:00 p.m. | Youth Group in the Fireplace Room |

coming later in the year

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| Sun. | Sept. 13 | 10:00 a.m. | Regathering worship service includes Communion |
| | | 11:30 a.m. | Potluck lunch in the Parish Hall |
| Sat. | Sept. 26 | | Town Day |
| Sun. | Nov. 1 | 3:00 p.m. | Concert in the Sanctuary |
| Fri.- | Nov. 13- – | | Church Fair |
| Sat | Nov. 14 | | |
| Sun. | Dec. 6 | 3:00 p.m. | Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary |

Take me out to the ball game!

Join PACC friends at LeLacheur Park on Wednesday, August 19th at 7:05, when the Lowell Spinners take on the Auburn Doubledays. Tickets are \$5 for reserved seats (bleacher-like seating). Sign up on the kitchen door or email Lauren.

Summer Schedule

Coffee hour: In the summer 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 for your help!

Office Hours: Kathy Richardson will be on vacation August 12-24. Otherwise, the church office will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in August. 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. August 3, 23 and 30 and September 6 and 13 are available. 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.

Outdoor interfaith worship and picnic August 16

Pleasant Street Congregational Church, UCC, will have an outdoor worship service and picnic on Sunday, August 16. Park Avenue folks, along with those from other local churches, are invited for either the worship service, the picnic, or both. Check the bulletin or call the PACC office for more details.

From our Music Director and Organist

We at PACC are most fortunate to enjoy the ministry of music by both the Chancel Choir and the Youth Choir. Indeed, music plays an extremely important role in our worship. It is your fervent support of our music program which inspires me, week in and week out, to aim for the very best possible performance. I should like to take this opportunity to invite and welcome any and all PACC congregation members to join our music ministry by singing in our Choir. While ideally it is preferable if one can read music, this is not a must by any means. As most any person in our Choir will attest, I take an almost inordinate amount of time in assuring that all are as prepared as possible. To this end, I spend many hours putting the various new works onto Finale, my music software-writing program, in order to generate midi files, a latter-day high tech version of practice tapes---these help immeasurably in the learning of the various new compositions outside of the usual Thursday rehearsal.

Those folks who are not in the choir are most likely unaware that I spend the majority of June and July in the most careful consideration and planning for the next season's music. I prefer to have a schedule or road map of the entire upcoming year's music, both choral and organ. This enables me to see the picture of our music as a totality for the entire season. While nothing is set in concrete, I expect that my 2009-2010 plans will remain mostly intact. And here I must share with you my highest plans for the coming choir season! It promises to be most exciting as we revisit many familiar and beloved pieces and, at the same time, add novel and interesting works to our repertoire. Among the planned new works will be first PACC performances of compositions by Rachmaninoff (part of the "All-night Vigil", Op. 37); "Antiphon" from the *Five Mystical Songs* of Vaughan Williams, "Gloria" from the *Mass* by Leonard Bernstein; "Prayer" by Erich Wolfgang Korngold; and the almost unbearably moving closing chorus of the *St. Matthew Passion* of Johann Sebastian Bach.

For those of you who would enjoy singing with us but not on a regular basis, the Festival Choir is your place! The Festival Choir will assist our Chancel Choir not only on Easter (with Alleluias of Brubeck and Mozart) but also in our annual Christmas Concert which this year features the first 2 of the 6-movement choral masterpiece *Christmas Oratorio* by J. S. Bach. The bulk of the Thursday evening rehearsal is spent on the Xmas concert music. Those folks who enjoy raising their voices to God in prayer and celebration are more than welcome to join us as we prepare for our annual concert!

It is indeed a thrill and a pleasure to be PACC Music Director. I enjoy the opportunity of preparing some of the greatest works in the choral repertoire and to collaborate with a group that by now I consider virtually extended family. Please think about joining us in active musical ministry this coming year. From my aural vantage point every Sunday it is clear to me that the PACC congregation can and likes to sing! Whether it be for the regular Sunday choir or simply the Festival Choir I promise you a most satisfying musical experience as we seek to offer our best efforts in the ceaseless praise of Holy God, our Creator and Sustainer.

Jeffrey Brody

THE MARKETPLACE

Student desk: Seven-drawer desk measures 55" x 20" x 30". Natural ash finish. \$25. Contact Kathy Richardson.

The buyer will pay the seller, and the seller will donate at least 50% of the price to the church. Next time plan to include some of your items on the list.