

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

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

October, 2009

Happening this month

- | | |
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| For believers
and seekers | Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School for children at 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study October 14 and 28
New Member breakfast October 24 |
| For families | Outing to Purgatory Chasm, October 3 |
| For men | Dinner at Red Bones October 6 |
| For readers | <i>People of the Book</i> discussed October 7
<i>My Stroke of Insight</i> topic on October 10 (women only) |
| For women | Women's Guild October 8
Craft Group October 1, 15 and 29
Coffee October 22 |
| For pet owners | Blessing of the Animals October 11 |
| For youth | Projects to prepare for church Fair October 18 and 25 |
| For game enthusiasts | Games Group October 21 |
| For singers | Chancel Choir rehearses Thursday evenings
Youth Choir rehearses most Sunday mornings |
| For music lovers | Music to Cure MS Concert October 4
Longwood Opera Puccini's <i>Tosca</i> October 25 |

Christian Education News

Sunday School

We'll have regular Sunday School classes on Sunday, October 11. Andy Hart will be coming to our classrooms that day to share music with us.

Youth Groups

Youth Group I (fourth and fifth graders) will meet on October 18 from 4-5:30 in the Nicoll Room. We'll be making some lap counters for the Fair.

Youth Group II (sixth grade and up) will meet on October 25 from 4-5:30 in the Nicoll Room. We'll be making some soup/cookie mixes for the Fair.

Adult education

The first of several book discussions will be Wednesday, October 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. The subject that evening will be *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, a novel of the journey of a 15th century haggadah. All are welcome to attend. The discussion will be led by Barbara Wagner and Kate Lindheim.

The Evening Bible Group will continue its study of the Book of Revelation at 7:30 p.m. on October 14 and 28 in the Fireplace Room. This includes a discussion of the nature of apocalyptic literature, comparing Revelation with examples from both biblical and other sources and reflecting on the relevance (if any) of such literature for Christians today. All are welcome to participate; attendance at prior sessions is not required.

Sarah's Circle to discuss *My Stroke of Insight*

My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey by Jill Bolte Taylor, Ph.D. will be the topic when Sarah's Circle meets on Saturday, October 10, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon in the Fireplace Room. If you wish to meditate, please come at 9:30 a.m.

From the Amazon review: When Jill Bolte Taylor, a 37-year-old brain scientist, experienced a massive stroke, she observed her own mind completely deteriorate to the point that she could not walk, talk, read, write, or recall any of her life. It would take eight years to heal completely. Today Taylor is convinced that the stroke was the best thing that could have happened to her. It has taught her that the feeling of nirvana is never more than a thought away. By *stepping to the right of our left brains*, we can all uncover the feelings of well-being and peace that are so often sidelined by our own brain chatter. A fascinating journey into the mechanics of the human mind, *My Stroke of Insight* is both a valuable recovery guide for anyone touched by a brain injury and an emotionally stirring testimony that deep internal peace truly is accessible to anyone, at any time.

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

PACC-Men plan to explore Purgatory - a PACC-Family event

Purgatory Chasm that is: A unique natural landmark, Purgatory Chasm runs for a quarter of a mile between granite walls rising as high as 70 feet. See <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/central/purg.htm>

Saturday, October 3rd - Going a little ways south on that weekend we should be hitting that area's peak foliage season making the drive and the scenic views at the park quite glorious. Gather at PACC at 10:00 to carpool to Sutton, MA (about an hour's drive mostly on the pike and then a bit south). We'll spend about 2 hours exploring the walking trails and pseudo-caves. Bring or pick up snacks at the fast food places along the last leg of the trip as it does not appear that there is any concession stand in the park itself. (There is a visitor center and accessible bathrooms though.)

Those who will need additional sustenance for the trip back from Purgatory plan to stop at either the Long Horn Steakhouse or T.G.I.Friday's which are on the road between Purgatory and the Pike.

PACC-affiliated folks (members, friends, family) of all ages, gender identifications and marital statuses are invited to attend. RSVP to Mike Rich by September 30th with the number of people in your party, whether you want to drive or be passengers and your restaurant preference.

Other PACC-Men Plans

October 6th – Regular monthly meeting on first Tuesday evening.

The PACC-Men will celebrate Hong Chin's birthday by having our rowdy bunch of adult male escapees from Purgatory take him and ourselves out for **dinner at Red Bones** on Holland Street, near Davis Square, Somerville. Gather at the church at 7:15 p.m. to car pool to Red Bones for approximately 7:40 arrival. RSVP to Mike Rich by 6:30 on October 6.

November 3rd – Our **November meeting** will be on the 3rd at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

The activity that evening will be book, movie and other resource reviews by several of us in order to select a book to read and discuss as a group at a subsequent meeting and to select a movie or two for subsequent meetings. All men should feel free to attend the November meeting and tell us about blurbs and reviews of books, resources or videos they would like us to consider for group study. We will also discuss further plans including possible field trips, food outings, fundraising events and other future activities.

Mike Rich

Report on special congregational meeting of September 13

Robert Willey was appointed interim treasurer until the annual meeting in January. Our by-laws stipulate that a treasurer must be elected at annual meeting, so this enables us to fill the position until then. Many thanks to outgoing treasurer Ken Miller for his years of conscientious service.

The congregation authorized the Capital Campaign Implementation Committee to undertake the Chapel improvement project, as voted on Feb. 22, 2009, as the first project in the PACC Capital Campaign. See article below for more details.

from the Capital Campaign Implementation Committee:

The Capital Campaign Implementation Committee is planning to have work on the Chapel begin after Christmas and be completed before Easter. Given the concerns raised during the Congregational meeting regarding accessibility, the Implementation Committee will be conducting an "inventory" of overall church accessibility issues that could be addressed in the near term, rather than waiting until we're ready to do the ramp and lift. If you have specific issues and/or ideas, please see Gary Kane. Additionally, the Mission and Justice Ministry will begin working on ideas and recommendations to meet our Outreach goals for the Campaign. If you have ideas or questions about the Outreach portion of Implementation, please contact Karen Friedman. In the meantime, please note

that while we have collected \$50,000 so far which enables us to move forward with the Chapel project, we still need you to send in your donations as scheduled. Please contact Christie Getto Young with any Implementation questions. Thank you.

Here's how you can help:

The Capital Campaign Implementation Committee has begun planning the Chapel Improvement Project! If you have anything stored in the Chapel, please see Christie Getto Young or Linda Cohn. We will need to determine what we will store, what will be disposed of and what we will donate - we will need to have the Chapel emptied out in the next couple of months. Thank you!

New member breakfast October 24

Anyone who would like to learn more about Park Avenue Congregational Church, its history and beliefs or who might be interested in joining the church on November 15 is welcome to come to the Fireplace Room (upstairs) at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 24, to discuss faith journeys with the minister and some of the Deacons. If you have questions, speak with Bill Albright, Anita Clarke or Doug Record.

Report from the Council of Deacons

- The Council of Deacons has prioritized tasks that require its attention. All of the items at the top of the list are financial: 2009 budget shortfall, fundraisers, the 2010 budget and a ten-year financial plan.
- Judie Phelps and Karen Friedman were appointed voting delegates at the Massachusetts Conference, UCC, annual meeting October 16-17.
- A group has met with a consultant at the Mass. Conference about this fall's stewardship drive. The task force includes Linda Cohn, Tim Durning, Anne Kelly Contini, Ken Miller and Josh Young with participation by Bill Albright.
- The election for the 2010 Council of Deacons will begin with distribution of ballots October 25. They must be returned by November 9 and will be counted by Bill Albright, Valerie Censabella, Don Cohn and Mike Rich.
- The Council confirmed Mike Rich and Valerie Censabella's selection of Betty Gitlin-Rich as one of two Fundraising Co-coordinators. The other co-coordinator is still considering the position. Both co-coordinators will be officially installed later this month.
- The Council acknowledged a generous, anonymous gift of a beautifully redecorated upstairs kitchen and new equipment and accessories for both kitchens. More details are elsewhere in this edition of the *Spire* in an article from the Fellowship and Care Ministry.

The next meeting of the Council of Deacons will be on Tuesday, October 13, instead of the usual second Monday, due to the Columbus Day holiday on the 12th. Council meetings are open to all though only Deacons are eligible to vote. Agendas are available in the narthex on Sunday mornings before meetings.

New Games Group to meet monthly

Do you enjoy cribbage? Scrabble? Other board or card games? Come to the new Games Group, which meets on October 21 (and the third Wednesday of every month) at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Bring your favorite games or just come to play whatever games show up. If you have questions, speak with Doris Wilson or Diane Wells.

Women's Guild begins new season October 8

All women are cordially invited to attend the Women's Guild regathering meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 8 in the Chapel. The group will enjoy refreshments and fellowship and plan its meetings for the rest of the year: December, February, April and May. Dorothy Gibson, Belle Fitzgerald and Diane Wells will be hostesses. If you have questions, speak with Diane.

Blessing of the Animals October 11

On Sunday, October 11, we will offer, jointly with Pleasant Street Congregational Church, UCC, a "Blessing of the Animals." It will take place in the garden area between Arlington Hall and Robbins Library at 1:00 p.m. (time subject to change). The public is invited to participate in a brief introductory liturgy (singing, readings, prayers), followed by the ministers' blessing of people's pets. All are welcome.

in the wider community

Music to Cure MS: Enjoy opera, songs and chamber music in a concert to benefit the Accelerated Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis. It will be in our Parish Hall on Sunday, October 4, at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door; \$10 for students and elders. For more information, go to <http://singtocurems.org/>.

Puccini's Tosca: Longwood Opera will perform *Tosca* in English and costumed with piano accompaniment in our Sanctuary on Sunday, October 25, at 2:30 p.m. General admission tickets are \$23; seniors \$18; students \$15, and children 10 and under \$13. For more information go to www.LongwoodOpera.org or speak with Jeffrey Brody, Music Director of the opera group as well as of PACC.

What's Happening at PACC

Thu.	Oct. 1	10:00 a.m.	Craft group in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Oct. 3	10:00 a.m.	Gather for family outing to Purgatory Chasm
Sun.	Oct. 4	10:00 a.m.	Worship service, Communion, Neighbors in Need offering
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:45 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room

- Mon. Oct. 5 7:00 p.m. Capital Campaign Implementation Group, Fireplace Room
- Tue. Oct. 6 7:15 p.m. PACC-Men leave for dinner at Red Bones
- Wed. Oct. 7 7:30 p.m. Book discussion in the Fireplace Room
- Thu. Oct. 8 11:00 a.m. Women's Guild in the Chapel
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
- Sat. Oct. 10 9:30 a.m. Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room
- Sun. Oct. 11 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
1:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals at Town Hall (time tentative)
- Mon. Oct. 12 *Columbus Day*; office closed
- Tue. Oct. 13 7:30 p.m. Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
- Wed. Oct. 14 10:00 a.m. Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room
7:30 p.m. Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room
- Thu. Oct. 15 10:00 a.m. Craft Group in the Chapel
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
- Sun. Oct. 18 9:20 a.m. Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Worship service
11:15 a.m. Communion in the Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
4:00 p.m. Youth Group I in the Nicoll Room
- Tue. Oct. 20 7:30 p.m. Membership Ministry in the Fireplace Room
- Wed. Oct. 21 1:00 p.m. Games Group in the Chapel
- Thu. Oct. 22 10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee in the Chapel
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
- Sat. Oct. 24 10:00 a.m. New Member Breakfast in the Fireplace Room
- Sun. Oct. 25 Ballots distributed for Council of Deacons election
10:00 a.m. Worship service
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
4:00 p.m. Youth Group II in the Nicoll Room
- Tue. Oct. 27 Deadline for November *Spire*
- Wed. Oct. 28 7:30 p.m. Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room
- Thu. Oct. 29 10:00 a.m. Craft group in the Chapel
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
- coming later in the year*
- Sun. Nov. 1 3:00 p.m. Concert in the Sanctuary
- Fri.- Nov. 13- – Church Fair
Sat Nov. 14

Mission and Justice News

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety

of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. PACC will receive the NIN offering on October 4 as part of our World Communion Sunday observance. If you will not be in church that day, you can mail your donation or put it in the collection plate any other Sunday through October.

Birthday Box

PACC's Mission and Justice Ministry invites you to assist an organization called Birthday Wishes to provide birthday parties for children in homeless shelters. Look for a box wrapped like a gift in the Parish Hall under the In the News 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 and anything else you can think of to make a child's birthday special. Questions? Speak with Lauren Evans or Joan Amon.

Back-to-School collection - thanks

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the Back-to-School collection for the children at the Gateway Motel. We were able to provide shoes and underwear for over fifty children. The children were apparently very excited - when we arrived with the last "shipment", they were already trying on their shoes. Special thanks to Judy Miller for her help in organizing the collection, to Margaret Bell for help managing receipt of the items and to Christie Getto-Young for delivering a carload of bags and boxes. It's amazing how much our small church can do. More to follow!

Church Fair November 13 & 14:

See also the last three pages of this newsletter

Fair Cookie Walk: Coffee cans for the Cookie Walk should be brought to the church, and placed under the wooden table in the Parish Hall in paper bags with Connie Dugan's name on them, no later than the middle of October. Please contact her to let her know that they are there. Thank you very much.

Cookie Walk needs cookies: Dozens and dozens of your most delicious cookies are needed for the Cookie Walk. There will be a sign-up sheet on the kitchen door in the Parish Hall. Thank you so much for your help with this popular money maker.

Thank you

Truly there is no way that we can effectively say thank you for the love that has been bestowed on us by **an Angel whom we have been calling Our Anonymous Donor (or OAD)**. We, of the PACC family want to say thank you for all that you have given us here at PACC through your generosity, kindness and thoughtfulness. The transformation of the upstairs kitchen has brought new life to a very important part of our church. The make over and new equipment have created a much more pleasant and comfortable gathering spot. The blue kitchen adds a feeling of serenity with the flowered blue curtains covering supplies and whimsical flowers dancing over the cabinets. Plus OAD gave us new dishes, glasses, pitchers, dish strainer, terrific pots, labeled plastic containers, drawer organizers to hold a can opener, silverware, ice cream scoop, cookie sheets, serving utensils, new 100 cup coffee pot, 8 elegant red table cloths for long tables, a 12 cup

coffee maker, microwave (and microwave popcorn), pretzels, pizza cutter, ice cream bowls and hot chocolate cups. One would never need Tylenol or bandaids working in this lovely kitchen but OAD provided those too. We appreciate having the hand-stitched Last Supper scene by OAD's grandmother in our Parish Hall plus the Kitchen Blessing plaque from OAD's other grandmother by the door.

- Fellowship and Care Committee

**YES! I would like to volunteer to help
with the
2009 PACC HOLIDAY FAIR!**

Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14

- I will bake a pie or pies for the Friday night pie room
- I will bake cookies for the Cookie Walk
- I will bake items to be sold at the baked goods table
- I will make sauce, jam, candy, pickles, fudge
- I will sew, knit or crochet items
- I will bring leftover Halloween candy or _____ for the Country Store
- I will save and bring to the church books and jewelry in good condition
- I will help decorate
- I will work at a sales table. Table preference, if any _____
 - Friday evening (6 to 9)
 - Saturday (Fair is from 9 to 2) Hours I am able to work Saturday: _____
- I will help set-up _____ Thursday _____ Friday
- I will help clean -up
 - Friday after the dinner
 - Saturday at 2:00
 - Sunday after coffee hour
- I will help with the advertising (contact newspapers, distribute flyers, web site)
- I will give a monetary donation to defray the costs of the fair
(food for making lasagna dinner, supplies etc.)
- I have another idea (Please specify _____)

THANK YOU FOR HELPING. Please fill out this form and leave it in the box provided in the Narthex (by November 8 at the latest).

Your Name _____

Telephone Number _____

Questions? Speak with Linda Cohn or Bev Miller.

Complete a Silent Auction form. Return to the table in the Narthex.

GOING! GOING!! GONE!!!

PACC will hold a silent auction in conjunction with the Holiday Fair. We're hoping that EVERY PACC family will contribute an item to our auction, whether it be a talent, a service, or a donated item.

EVERYONE has a talent or service that they can donate to our auction. Here are a few possibilities ...

Are you a terrific cook? How about a big batch of homemade cookies delivered to the high bidder's home every month for six months? one birthday cake for each member of the lucky bidder's immediate family during the next twelve months? a complete dinner for four delivered to the high bidder's home? a dinner party for six hosted by you in your home?

Are you an accountant, artist, computer whiz, florist, furniture refinisher, plumber, electrician, wallpaper hanger, painter, window washer, auto mechanic, seamstress, hairdresser, typist, or tutor who can donate your services?

Could you provide lesson(s) in art? origami? music? singing? sewing? computer programming?

Are you a reliable plant sitter? house sitter? baby sitter? pet sitter?

Do you have a condo or summer cottage that you could offer as a weekend getaway or vacation package?

How about dressing as a clown and face painting at a child's birthday party? How about delivering a balloon bouquet or singing telegram? How about videotaping a special event for the high bidder?

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!!!!

We will also most gratefully accept new items to be auctioned off. Or how about gift certificates to local gift shops, supermarkets, department stores, malls, restaurants, book stores, beauty salons, etc.? How about donating movie passes, concert tickets, or tickets to sporting events?

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE AND RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR SPECIALLY-DESIGNATED BOX IN THE NARTHEX NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8. WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR SUPPORTING THIS IMPORTANT PACC FUNDRAISER.

Holiday Fair Silent Auction
November 13 and 14, 2009

Please return this form to the church office or specially designated box in the narthex
no later than Sunday, November 8.

Name: _____

Talent/service/item(s)/approximate value of each item donated:

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

Restrictions/special instructions on donations (if any): _____

- I will deliver to church on Thursday, November 12
- I will deliver to church on Friday, November 13 by 3 p.m.
- Please pick up my donation. Call me at _____
Best time to call: _____

It will not be possible to accept late donations for the Silent Auction Table, but we will gladly accept them and place them for sale at other Fair tables.

If you have questions, please call Nadine Lombard.

Imagine another world is possible

They Could be Homeless

Sue Kupfer, coordinator of Urban Mission Experience/St. Louis, a program for youth in grades 6-12, says she is “touched by the youth that come to work with us and the transformation that occurs for some as they experience how God’s love and grace touches loves.”

A recent experience that touched Sue’s heart involved a 7th grader named Josh. “Josh was part of a middle school group from a St. Louis suburb,” says Sue. “The group worked in food pantries, a low-income day care center, and a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. The kids also took part in a walk through downtown St. Louis that depicts, in a small way, the path a homeless person would need to travel to have their basic human needs met.

“After walking ‘The Trail,’ Josh wanted to talk about how he felt. He said that after this experience he would not view people in the same way. When noticing a person walking around with a backpack, he would not assume they were a student, and when noticing someone carrying a suitcase he would not assume they were a traveler. With tears in his eyes he said very softly, ‘They could be homeless and need our help.’ Josh’s message brought tears to my eyes. It meant that he ‘got’ what we hope the youth coming to our program will understand.”

As a 2008 recipient of a Neighbors in Need grant, Urban Mission Experience/St. Louis’ goal is to try to open the eyes of young people to things that go on in their city: issues of poverty, hunger, oppression and discrimination.

Your gift to this special UCC offering provides significant help toward that goal.

Thank you!