

The SPIRE

Park Avenue Congregational Church

The United Church of Christ

Arlington, Massachusetts

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

November, 2009

Holiday Fair

Friday, November 13, 6 – 9 pm

Lasagna Dinner, 5:30 – 7:30 pm ~ Pie Shoppe, 6 – 8:30 pm

Saturday, November 14, 9 am–2 pm

Coffee & Donuts, 9 – 10:30 am

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon, 11:30 am – 1 pm

Holiday Crafts ~ Baby & Toddler Boutique ~ Baked Goods

Cookie Walk ~ Pet Boutique ~ Hand-Made Gifts

Silent Auction ~ Country Store ~ Books ~ Jewelry

See inside for more details

Christian Education News

Trick or Treat for UNICEF

Thank you to all who donated to UNICEF during Trick or Treat for UNICEF! The boxes are heavy! We'll report our totals next month when we collect the boxes from children and youth who took boxes to collect while trick or treating on Halloween night.

Advent workshop

During Sunday School on November 29, we'll have an Advent workshop. We'll read a story and make some crafts and do some activities to help us understand Advent and get ready for this season of waiting and anticipation. All classes will meet together in the chapel and then we'll go to our individual classes for activities and crafts.

Christmas pageant

Our Christmas pageant will be on December 13 during the worship service. We'll start deciding what parts we want to be and practicing music in Sunday School. There will be only one rehearsal, on December 12 at 9:30 in the sanctuary.

Youth groups

Both youth groups will help serve at the lasagna dinner and pie shoppe on Friday, November 13. Traditionally, Youth group I (grades 4-6) help serve at the lasagna dinner and Youth group II (grades 7 and up) help at the pie shoppe, but we'll need some older kids to help at the lasagna dinner to help show the younger kids what to do. Please talk to Lauren if you'd like to help at the pie shoppe and Kate if you'd like to help at the lasagna dinner. We'll also talk about this in Sunday School.

Both youth groups will meet on November 29 from 4:00 to 5:30 for some Advent activities.

Christian Education meetings

The CE working group will meet on Sunday, November 8, at 8:45 am in the Fireplace Room.

We'll have a Sunday School teachers' meeting on Sunday, November 22, at 8:45 in the Fireplace Room.

PACC-Men to plan future discussions

PACC-Men will meet Tuesday, November 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. The activity will be book, movie and other resource reviews in order to select a book to discuss at a later meeting and to select a movie or two for subsequent meetings. All men are invited to come and participate. The group will also discuss further plans including possible field trips, food outings, fundraising events and other future activities.

Sarah's Circle to consider women's psychological development

In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development by Carol Gilligan presents the thesis that psychology has persistently and systematically misunderstood women because its developmental theories have been built on observations of men's lives. It will be the topic when Sarah's Circle meets on Saturday, November 7, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at the home of Mariamne Boothby. All women are cordially invited to

attend. Those interested in meditation are invited to arrive at 9:30. If you have questions, speak with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

Fresh Florida Oranges and Grapefruit

Those who purchased oranges and grapefruit from PACC last year know how delicious freshly-picked citrus is. Others have an opportunity to find out. Simply place your orders with Jill Lewis by November 8, and she will have your fruit at church the following Sunday. The prices are the same as last year: \$26 for a whole box (20 pounds), and \$13 for half a box of navel oranges or pink grapefruit. There are order forms on the table in the narthex or phone the church office.

Since the orchard can cancel the shipment if they feel the fruit is not up to their standards, no check will be cashed until we know the truck is on its way. Cash is also accepted, and likewise would be returned if the shipment doesn't arrive.

Jill would appreciate some help in picking up the boxes and bringing them to church. If you can help or if you have questions, contact Jill.

What does Park Ave Congregational Church do for you, your family and our community?

In November each Sunday worship service will feature a brief "Stewardship Moment" with someone from the congregation giving a personal testimony about how a particular PACC Ministry has impacted the life of their family. The following Ministries will be highlighted: Christian Education; Fellowship and Care, together with Mission and Justice; Membership; Worship and Music; Finance and Property, together with Administration. Also, there will be a descriptive bulletin insert on each Sunday that relates to the particular PACC Ministry featured in the Stewardship Moment. Look for a packet of information, which will be mailed November 10, and prayerfully consider your pledge for the work of Park Avenue Church in 2010. Pledges will be collected and blessed on Ingathering Sunday, November 22.

Your **PACC Stewardship Working Group**: Linda Cohn, Anne Kelly Contini, Tim Durning, Karen Friedman, Andy Hart, Gary Kane, Ken Miller, Josh Young and Bill Albright.

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 calling the church office. November 15, 22 and 29 are available. 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.

Report from the Council of Deacons

In addition to items reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the Council of Deacons discussed the following items at its October meeting:

- Initial numbers for the budget for 2010
- Anne Kelly Contini has joined Betty Gitlin Rich as co-coordinator of fundraising.
- Judie Phelps will be a lay delegate from PACC to the Fall Meeting of the Metropolitan Boston Association on November 1
- Anticipating the congregation's concern about possible H1N1 (Swine Flu) infection, we will not offer the whole loaf of bread to communicants but only slightly larger pre-cut pieces of bread for individuals to dip into the Communion cup. We also need alternatives to shaking hands during the Passing of the Peace.
- Voted to spend up to \$240 from the undesignated Memorial Fund to purchase 15 hymnals to give to new Deacons

The next meeting of the Council of Deacons will be on Monday, November 9. Council meetings are open to all though only Deacons are eligible to vote. Agendas are available in the narthex on Sunday mornings before meetings.

Election of 2010 Council of Deacons

All active and associate members of the church should have received ballots for the election of eight members to the 2010 Council of Deacons, the governing board of the church. Seven members who were elected last year will continue on the board through next year. If you did not receive a ballot, call the office. The deadline for returning them is November 9. They should be in an envelope with your name and may be deposited in the box in the narthex or mailed to the church.

One ballot left in the box in the narthex was not in an envelope, which means that we do not know that it is the only ballot that we will receive from that PACC member. If it is yours, please contact the office or a member of the Election Committee (Mike Rich, Valerie Censabella, Don Cohn or Bill Albright).

Accessibility matters

The side door to the Narthex has been repaired and is safe for use! There is still a sign on it discouraging use. This is to discourage our tenants because if they continually use it, it could get overused and fall into disrepair again. It will be unlocked and available as a handicapped accessible entrance for church services every Sunday. We will also open the gate to the playground before church to make that accessible as well. If you have any questions about this, please see Gary Kane. Thank you!

WELCOME GEOFFREY A. BLACK!

The United Church of Christ is welcoming a new General Minister and President on October 1. His name is the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black.

Having served as the UCC's New York Conference Minister since 2000, Rev. Black was elected this summer at General Synod 27 in Grand Rapids to succeed the Rev. John H. Thomas, who is completing 10 years of service in the office.

A 15-year local church pastor, a college chaplain and a former national staff member, Rev. Black offers an infectious sense of humor, a gentle spirit, keen

pastoral sensibilities, an ecumenical outlook, a commitment to church growth and evangelism, and a deep concern for justice and peace. He is also passionate about many eclectic interests, from cycling to jazz music, skiing to model railroading.

This is why our voice is needed: so that all people will know that they are God's people.

-- The Rev. Geoffrey A. Black

Rev. Black says he loves the United Church of Christ because it is a church that respects and affirms your intellect, while affirming the presence of Jesus Christ in the midst of all that we do.

"The teachings of Christ -- that's who we are," he said to one newspaper upon his election.

Rev. Black earned degrees from Lincoln University in 1969 and Yale Divinity School in 1972. Ordained in the American Baptist Church in 1976, he joined the UCC the following year.

He is the spouse of Patricia Williams-Black and the father of one adult daughter, Makeda Black.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

From your Mission and Justice Ministry

Neighbors in Need

Thanks to your generosity, PACC is sending \$1150 for the ministries of justice and compassion supported by the Neighbors in Need offering.

Your Outreach Funds at Work

The Mission and Justice Ministry has contributed \$500 from the PACC Outreach Fund to the UCC to support disaster relief in response to the recent typhoon, tsunami and earthquake in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. The UCC has set a goal of \$250,000 to support UCC partners providing relief, recovery and rehabilitation aid in the region. You can read more about the effects of these natural disasters and the UCC response at <http://www.ucc.org/news/ucc-sets-250000-goal-for.html?autologin=true>. If you would like to contribute personally, you can write a check to Park Avenue Congregational Church with "UCC/Pacific Disaster Fund" in the memo line. Thank you.

Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries

Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries' 43rd Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner: "Social Change and the Spirituality of Hope: Dialogue and Action in Multifaith America," Tuesday, November 17th, First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden St., Cambridge, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. The evening features Dr. Diana Eck of Harvard Pluralism Project and other speakers; dinner; jazz and awards presentations to Kathe McKenna/Haley House; Moishe Kavod House/MAS Boston; and Bethel AME/Congregational Church of Needham. Ticket pPrices: \$15 pre-registered; \$18 after

November 9; \$9 students and low to moderate income. Do join us for the interfaith event of the season! To reserve tickets or display tables for your congregation/agency, contact Alexander Levering Kern, CMM Executive Director.

Sacred Conversations on Race

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational UCC invites you to its 2nd Friday Film Series, which will feature the acclaimed PBS series *Race: The Power of an Illusion*. The schedule is

- November 13: “The Difference Between Us” -- Is there a biological basis for race?
- December 11: “The Story We Tell” -- Did you know that the concept of race is a recent invention?
- January 8: “The House We Live In” -- How do our institutions advantage whites at the expense of other groups?

Come for a free movie, dessert bar, interesting discussion and good friends.

Hanging of the Greens

Please join us on Saturday, November 28, at 10:00 a.m. as we decorate the church for Advent. This traditional time of work and fellowship is the perfect way to begin the holiday season. If you have questions, call the office.

What's Happening at PACC

Sun.	Nov. 1	10:00 a.m.	Memorial Sunday worship service with Communion
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:30 a.m.	Capital Campaign Implementation Group in the Chapel
		11:45 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
		3:00 p.m.	Concert in the Sanctuary
Tue.	Nov. 3	7:30 p.m.	PACC-Men in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Nov. 5	10:00 a.m.	Coffee Group in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Nov. 7	9:30 a.m.	Sarah's Circle at the home of Mariamne Boothby
Sun.	Nov. 8	8:45 a.m.	Christian Education working group in the Fireplace Room
		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.	Nov. 9		ballots due for Council of Deacons' election
		7:30 p.m.	Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
Tue.	Nov. 10	10:00 a.m.	Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room
		7:30 p.m.	Election Committee, location TBD
Wed.	Nov. 11		<i>Veterans' Day</i> ; office closed
		7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Nov. 12	all day	Fair set-up in the Parish Hall, Chapel and Nicoll Room
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary
Fri.	Nov. 13	morning	Fair set-up in the Parish Hall, Chapel and Nicoll Room

		5:30 – 9:00	Church Fair
Sat.	Nov. 14	9 a. – 2 p.	Church Fair
Sun.	Nov. 15	9:20 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary
		10:00 a.m.	Worship service includes reception of new members
		11:15 a.m.	Communion in the Sanctuary
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Tue.	Nov. 17	7:30 p.m.	Membership Ministry in the Fireplace Room
Wed.	Nov. 18	1:00 p.m.	Games Group in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Study in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Nov. 19	10:00 a.m.	Women’s Coffee in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Nov. 22	8:45 a.m.	Sunday School teachers in the Fireplace Room
		10:00 a.m.	Ingathering worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Mon.	Nov. 23		deadline for December <i>Spire</i>
Thu.	Nov. 26		<i>Thanksgiving Day</i> ; office closed
Fri.	Nov. 27		office closed
Sat.	Nov. 28	10:00 a.m.	Hanging of the Greens
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary
Sun.	Nov. 29	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		4:00 p.m.	Youth Groups I and II in the Nicoll Room

coming later in the year

Sun.	Dec. 6	3:00 p.m.	Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary
Sun.	Dec. 13	10:00 a.m.	Worship service includes Christmas Pageant
Thu.	Dec. 24	4:00 p.m.	Family-oriented Christmas Eve service
		10:00 p.m.	Candlelight Christmas Eve service
Sun.	Jan. 24	12:00 noon	Annual meeting of Park Avenue Congregational Church

2009/2010 PACC Concert Series

For the Benefit of the Music Program is pleased to present

The Romantic Flute

Judith Braude, flute, Jeffrey Brody, piano

including pieces by Brahms, Brody and Wagner

A former Boston Conservatory flute faculty member, Ms. Braude has appeared with the NJ State Opera Orchestra, New Bedford Symphony, Merrimack Valley Philharmonic and has collaborated with Mr. Brody often.

Currently Music Director of Longwood Opera and Principal Accompanist of the Paul Madore Chorale, Mr. Brody is active as composer, conductor, vocal coach, collaborative pianist and organist throughout the United States.

In the Sanctuary of the

Park Avenue Congregational Church

50 Paul Revere Road, Arlington MA

Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 3:00 PM

Please join us for a Post-Concert Reception in the Parish Hall

In advance: Adults - \$15, Seniors/Students - \$10

At the door: Adults - \$20, seniors/Students - \$12

**for more information check our website at pacc-ucc.org
or call the church office**

Annual PACC Holiday Fair

Friday, November 13 & Saturday, November 14

Help get the word out! There are brightly-colored flyers (half-sheet size) on the table in the narthex. Take some to give to friends. Post them on bulletin boards. If you would like more, call Kathy in the office, and she will get them to you. Or you could email invitations to your friends – or use Twitter or Facebook.

This is very important to our church, both as a much-needed fundraiser and as an event that combines fun and fellowship with meaningful work for the good of the church. It will be successful if everyone participates in some way. Look over the following list of ideas and see if there is something you can do to make this year's fair one of our best.

New this year at the Fair:

- Order your Wilson Farms Thanksgiving pies and Christmas greenery. We split the profits with them.
- Pet boutique: dog sweaters, catnip mice, homemade dog bones, Christmas bandannas to slip over pet collars
- Attic treasures
- Placemats with holiday designs and other table linens
- Beach or bath towels to pop over a child's head
- Photo notecards with flowers and animals. These make nice little teacher or thank-you gifts.
- Soft cuddles – small security blankets for little ones

Other ways to help now:

- Bake and freeze cookies for the cookie walk or items for the bake table
- Sort jewelry to donate to the jewelry table
- Set aside used books in good condition to donate to the book table
- Think about special items to donate to the silent auction

If you have questions about the fair or would like to volunteer to help, please call the office.

We would like to acknowledge the generous person who donated several boxes of sports trading cards to PACC. They will be one of the items in the fair's Silent Auction. Please identify yourself by calling Nadine Lombard. Thank you very much.

**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.