

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

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

January, 2010

WARRANT
Annual Meeting

The **Annual Meeting** of the Park Avenue Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Arlington Heights, Massachusetts, is called for Sunday, January 24, 2010, at 12:00 noon, in the Parish Hall, to consider the following:

1. To receive the report of the treasurer and vote on the annual budget;
2. To receive the reports of the minister, officers, ministries, and other organizations;
3. To elect a treasurer;
4. To approve the Council of Deacons' selection for moderator, vice moderator, clerk, treasurer and financial secretary;
5. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

If for any reason (such as weather) a quorum should not be present on January 24, the meeting will be adjourned to Sunday, January 31, 2010, at 12:00 noon.

/s/ Michael L. Rich
Michael Rich, Moderator

/s/ Valerie L. Censabella
Valerie Censabella, Clerk

Active members and associate members are urged to attend.

Save the date: Sunday, January 17
Potluck and Hymn Sing with Pleasant St. Congregational Church

See inside for more details of both events.

Christian Education News

Youth Groups

Youth Group I will meet on Sunday, January 10 from 4-5:30 for a game afternoon. Bring a favorite board or card game. Kate will also bring a selection of games. We'll have popcorn and play some games.

Youth Group II will meet on January 31 from 4-5:30 for a Wii tournament. We'll have Beatles Rock Band, Guitar Hero and Wii Sports.

Confirmation

We'll have a meeting with parents and mentors on Sunday, January 10 at 11:45 in the Fireplace Room. We'll discuss why we have confirmation, review the schedule and lunch details, what we'll be learning in confirmation and what role mentors play in confirmation.

Our first confirmation meeting with confirmands will be on Sunday, January 31, in the Fireplace Room at 11:45.

Sarah's Circle to discuss *The Lace Reader*

The Lace Reader by Brunonia Barry will be the topic when Sarah's Circle meets on Saturday, January 9. Barry dreamt she saw a prophecy in a piece of lace, a vision so potent she spun it into a novel. *The Lace Reader* retains the strange magic of a vivid dream, though Barry's portrayal of modern-day Salem, Massachusetts--with its fascinating cast of eccentrics--is reportedly spot-on.

The group will meet in the Fireplace Room from 10 AM to 12 noon (9:30 meditation for those who wish to). If you have questions, speak with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

Architecture to be topic for PACC-Men

The PACC-Men (that is all adult male members, friends and relatives of the extended PACC family) are invited to the Fireplace Room on Tuesday evening, January 12th, 7:30 p.m., when Gary Kane will present a program on Architecture. Note the change from the group's usual meeting schedule. If there are questions, speak with Mike Rich.

Evening Bible Group begins study of *The Lord's Prayer*

On January 13 and 27 the Evening Bible Group will consider *The Lord's Prayer* in Matthew and Luke. All are welcome to the class, which meets in the Fireplace Room at 7:30 p.m. If you have questions, ask Bill Albright, who will lead the discussion.

Potluck and Hymn Sing with Pleasant Street Congregational Church

Plan to come to our Parish Hall on Sunday evening, January 17, at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and hymn sing with the members of Pleasant Street Congregational Church. The evening will begin with dinner. To assure a reasonably balanced meal, we request that you bring food according to the following plan:

If your last name begins with A-D, bring a dessert;

If your last name begins with E-K, bring a side dish or salad;

If your last name begins with L-Z, bring a main dish.

The Fellowship and Care Ministry will provide bread and butter and beverages.

After eating we will join in singing hymns chosen by both congregations. Everyone is encouraged to nominate their favorite. There will be forms in the worship bulletins January 3 and 10 or you can phone or email the office to let us know what you would like to have included.

There will be child care during the hymn sing. If you are interested, please let Kate Lindheim or Barbara Wagner know by Sunday, January 10.

If you have questions about this evening or any other aspect of the proposed merger, please ask any member of the Merger Study Group: Bill Albright, Don Cohn, Linda Cohn, Tim Durning, Gary Kane, Kate Lindheim, Doug Record, Mike Rich, Kathy Richardson, and Barbara Wagner. You can also send email to them..

We hope you will come, enjoy the food and singing and get to know our neighbors from Pleasant Street!

News of the current Capital Campaign ...

The Capital Campaign Implementation Committee plans to issue drawings at the end of December to the two contractors who will be bidding on the Chapel renovation. Actual work should begin in mid-January.

Before the work begins we need to finish clearing out the room. Anyone who has items there should claim them. And we would appreciate help on Saturday, January 9, beginning at 10 a.m. to clean out the space.

This project is the first of several to be funded by your gifts to the Capital Campaign Fund. As of December 27 donations total \$80,611. Thank you!

If you have questions, speak with any member of the Implementation Group: Gary Kane, Eric Rochon, Anne Kelly Contini, Doug Record, Linda Cohn or Christie Young.

... and memories of the last one

Prior to the current Capital Campaign, the previous one began in 1959 for the purpose of building our Sanctuary and classrooms. Tjaard Hommes, who was PACC's Associate Minister at the time, took many photos of the demolition of the previous structure and the construction of the new one. His widow, Anne, sent the slides to Ralph Sexton for the

church archives, and Ralph had them converted to prints which he assembled in a notebook along with copies of documents concerning that earlier campaign. The notebook is in our church library for those who would like to look at it.

In her letter conveying the slides Anne wrote, “When the old sanctuary was demolished, Tjaard asked for the chancel furniture to be used in the Sweden, Maine, Community Church. It includes a communion table, lectern and two chairs. Every Sunday I worship in our Sweden church I remember P.A.C. and pray for its continued ministry and well being.”

Our thanks to Anne for sending the photos and to Ralph for his work to make them accessible to us.

Here’s how you can help:

On Saturday, January 9, beginning at 10 a.m. we will remove the greens from the Sanctuary and Narthex and finish clearing out the Chapel in preparation for its renovation. It would be great to have many hands and strong backs to help with this work.

In preparation for Annual Meeting

Annual reports

There will be copies of reports of staff, officers and ministries along with financial information on the table in the narthex beginning January 10. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the office.

Important Budget Meeting – PACC needs your input!

In order to prepare a balanced budget for 2010 some choices need to be made. The budget meeting on January 17th (after the Worship Service) is the opportunity to voice your views and help guide the Finance and Property Ministry in making these decisions. It is a very important meeting for all who care about PACC. Come, learn, and participate.

Lunch to precede Annual Meeting

The Council of Deacons will provide a soup and sandwich luncheon preceding the Annual Meeting. You do not have to bring any food; there will be a basket for donations to offset the expense of the meal.

Annual Meeting Childcare

We'll have childcare available for young children during Annual Meeting on January 24 and a movie for older children. Please let Kate Lindheim or Barbara Wagner know by January 17 if you will need childcare. Thanks!

Concerning donations

Donation statements

To ensure that your church contributions are tax deductible, do not file your 2009 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving this written acknowledgement, which will be mailed mid-January.

Offering envelopes for 2010

If you indicated on your pledge card that you would like offering envelopes, there is a box with your name on the table in the narthex. Those remaining at the end of the month will be mailed. If you would like yours sent sooner, please call the office.

Have you sent in your pledge?

Thank you to all the people who responded promptly to our stewardship drive! As of December 29 we have received 84 pledges totaling \$142,569. In 2009 we had 98 pledges for \$153,087. If you are uncertain whether you returned a pledge card, call the office. Every pledge is important. We depend on these estimates of giving to build our budget for the coming year.

What's Happening at PACC

Fri.	Jan. 1	Office closed
Sun.	Jan. 3	10:00 a.m. Worship service includes Communion 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall 11:45 a.m. Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Mon.	Jan. 4	Deadline for annual reports 7:30 p.m. Merger Study Group in the Fireplace Room
Tue.	Jan. 5	7:00 p.m. Merger Study Group + Council of Deacons with Pleasant Street Church counterparts in the Parish Hall
Thu.	Jan. 7	10:00 a.m. Women's Coffee Group in Parish Hall 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Jan. 9	9:30 a.m. Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room 10:00 a.m. Remove greens from Sanctuary and Narthex & clear out Chapel
Sun.	Jan. 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 Sanctuary 11:45 a.m. Confirmation parents and mentors in the Fireplace Room
Mon.	Jan. 11	7:30 p.m. Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
Tue.	Jan. 12	7:30 p.m. PACC-Men in the Fireplace Room
Wed.	Jan. 13	7:30 p.m. Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Jan. 14	7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Jan. 16	Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service
Sun.	Jan. 17	9:20 a.m. Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary 10:00 a.m. Worship service 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall 11:30 a.m. Budget discussion in the Parish Hall 5:30 p.m. Potluck & hymn sing with Pleasant St. Church, Parish Hall
Mon.	Jan. 18	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; office closed</i>
Tue.	Jan. 19	7:30 p.m. Membership Ministry in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Jan. 21	7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Jan. 24	10:00 a.m. Worship service 11:30 a.m. Luncheon in the Parish Hall 12:00 noon Annual meeting in the Parish Hall
Mon.	Jan. 11	7:30 p.m. Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
Tue.	Jan. 26	Deadline for February <i>Spire</i>
Wed.	Jan. 27	7:30 p.m. Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Jan. 28	7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Jan. 31	10:00 a.m. Worship service 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall 12:00 noon Annual meeting in the Parish Hall (snow date)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance

22nd Anniversary: Sunday, January 24

Guest Speaker: State Representative Marie P. St. Fleur
Music by Love Devine

Tapas begins at 6 p.m.

Please bring finger food or dessert to serve six.

Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Robbins Memorial Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Ave.

Call 781-643-4345 for more information

Coming Soon

Sun. Feb. 7 3:00 p.m. Trumpet & Organ Concert

Sun. Mar. 28 3:00 p.m. David Pangelosi in Concert