

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

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

March, 2010

**Holy Week begins March 28**

**Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28**

**Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast:** Come join us for pancakes on Palm Sunday! The Youth Groups will serve pancakes, bacon, sausage and fruit from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 28. \$5/adults, \$4/children, \$15 family maximum. All proceeds benefit the Youth Fund.

**Worship service** at 10:00 a.m. with Holy Communion and Blessing of the Palms.

**Sunday School** will learn about the events of Holy Week through stories, crafts and a special snack.

**Maundy Thursday, April 1**

**Service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae** (extinguishing of candles accompanied by readings from the Passion narratives in the Gospels) at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The choir will sing Stainer's "God So Loved the World."

**Easter Sunday, April 4**

**Celebration of the Resurrection** at 10:00 a.m. A brass quartet will join our organ and Festival Choir, which will sing Mozart's *Alleluia* and Randall Thompson's *Alleluia*. There will not be Sunday School classes. Childcare will be available for children in kindergarten and younger. Older children will receive activity bags to help them sit through the service.

**Easter Egg Hunt** will be in the Children's Garden after the service.

*Metropolitan Opera tenor David Cangelosi in concert*

Sunday, March 28 at 3 p.m. in our Sanctuary

*details inside*

## Christian Education News

### Sunday School

- We are starting a new quarter in Sunday School. Our theme for this quarter is Living the Good News Together. We'll learn more stories about Jesus' life and ministry, his death and resurrection and how Jesus' followers continue his ministry.
- On Sunday, March 21, we'll have a Communion workshop during Sunday School. We'll learn what Communion is, why we celebrate Communion and how it is practiced in our church. A packet of information will be sent home in mid March with more information about the workshop.
- Our Holy Week workshop will be during Sunday School on March 28. We'll learn about the events of Holy Week through stories, crafts and a special snack.
- Materials for observing Lent at home are available in the narthex. Sunday School families have coin boxes for collecting money during Lent. The first page of the Family Lent booklet explains more about this. Please bring your coin boxes back to church on Easter. All money collected will be donated to Church World Service.
- The Sunday School newsletter is available on the bulletin board in the downstairs Sunday School hallway.

### Youth Groups

Youth Groups I and II will serve at the Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast on March 28. Please be at church at 8 am to help set up for the breakfast.

### Confirmation

The Confirmation group will meet on March 7 and 21 from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

### Adult programs

- Evening Bible Group will discuss the first two chapters of the Gospel of John when it meets March 3 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. Everyone is welcome to join this group, which is led by Bill Albright.
- *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor is the topic of a discussion which will conclude Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. You need not have attended the first part to participate in the second session. According to the dust jacket, "From simple practices such as walking, working, and getting lost to deep meditations on topics like prayer and pronouncing blessings, Taylor reveals concrete ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see. As we incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do."

## **PACC-Men plan outings**

PACC-Men will have dinner at Summer Shack on Tuesday, March 2. All men are welcome. Car pools will leave the church at 7:30 p.m. Whether you plan to get there on your own or by car pool, please RSVP by 4:00 p.m. to Mike Rich so we can give the restaurant an idea of the size table we'll need.

The April 6 meeting will be a special tour of the Kennedy Library led by Tom Putnam. This will be open to everyone in the congregation of high school age or older. See next month's *Spire* for more details.

### **Sarah's Circle to relate *Tess* with *Women Who Run with Wolves***

Sarah's Circle will meet in the Fireplace Room on Saturday, March 13th from 10 a.m. until 12 noon; those who wish to meditate may come at 9:30.

February's discussion on Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* was quite lively - bringing up much on spirituality/authenticity versus structured dogmatic religion, and paganism versus established religion. The group will continue some of this discussion at the March meeting, and relate some of the themes in *Tess* to some of the themes in *Women Who Run with the Wolves* by Clarissa Pinkola Estes. Participants should bring a chapter or subtopics from *Women Who Run with the Wolves* that resonates with them and perhaps illustrates some of Hardy's themes: poverty and power, nature versus society, Christianity versus paganism, education versus innate knowledge, purity/goodness versus evil, Victorian morality versus natural sexuality.

All women are welcome to join the group. If you have questions, speak with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

### **Invitation to join support group for caregivers**

Pleasant Street Congregational Church invites PACC members who have special caregiving responsibilities to attend a support group on March 14 at 7 p.m. in their Parlor. PSCC's minister, Reebee Girash writes, "Many in our congregation have family members who are in need of unusual care right now. Aging parents, spouses with health conditions, children with special needs or conditions. On Sunday evening, March 14, we will offer a very informal time to meet with each other and share our struggles and offer support to one another. This will be open to PSCC folks as well as members of our two potential merger partners. RSVP's to Reebee would be helpful. Note: if this time doesn't work for you, but you would like to participate in the future, would you let Reebee know?"

## from the Mission and Justice Ministry

**“The Black List”** Sunday, March 21, 8:30 - 9:45 A.M., Fireplace Room.

Back by popular demand, you're invited to a new selection of interviews from “The Black List” DVDs. Like last month's showing, you're asked to THINK on 3 questions:

- 1) What does it mean to be white?
- 2) Do you ever think about race in your daily life?
- 3) How does whiteness impact you?

Bring your own hot beverage of choice. If you RSVP, other breakfast goodies will be provided. If you need childcare during that time, please let Kate Lindheim know ASAP. Questions: Jill Lewis.

**OGHS:** *“Do you love me? . . . Feed my sheep.” John 21:15-17; March 28*

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, administered by Wider Church Ministries, is the refugee, relief and development fund of the United Church of Christ. It provides support to people in more than eighty countries in the form of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, refugee assistance and disaster response. The theme for 2010 is inspired by John 21:15-17 where Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" When Peter confesses that he does, Jesus tells him, "Feed my sheep." We too are called to care for all who are in need, just as God cares for us. The Dedication Day for the OGHS Lenten Offering at PACC will be March 28. Throughout March, we will be sharing stories about actual projects and people supported by our OGHS offerings. Look for further email and bulletin inserts for more information about how you can help "feed his sheep".

**9th Annual Walk for Affordable Housing**, April 11, 1-3 p.m.

The Housing Corporation of Arlington (HCA) sponsors this event, which begins at the Jason Russell House (Corner of Mass. Ave. and Jason St. in Arlington). Rain or Shine! This is an easy three-mile, family friendly walk. Jill Lewis usually collects pledges from PACC members and participates in the Walk, but this year she will be out of town that weekend. Will one or more of you consider taking up the cause?

**Stand Against Racism** April 30 - May 2

The town of Arlington will participate in a nationwide event celebrating YWCA's Stand Against Racism. Tentative plans are for a movie Friday night, April 30th, a "Stand" Against Racism Saturday morning, May 1, in front of Town Hall 11 - 1, and a forum May 2, Sunday evening. Please mark your calendar. A quote from Martin Luther King, Jr., to keep in mind: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." We hope PACC will not be silent but will be an integral part of the weekend.

### **Race and Justice Issues in Massachusetts**

The Mission and Justice Commission of the Mass. Conference UCC is going to host a brainstorming/discussion/discernment/leadership development session about Race and Justice Issues in Massachusetts session on Saturday, March 13, 2010, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon in Framingham. The session will focus on what's happening in our churches around issues of race and antiracism. Jill Lewis plans to attend. If you are interested in going, please speak with her.

### **Survey**

We appreciate all the thoughtful responses we received to our survey. Thank you to everyone who took the time! We will summarize the results and report back to you later this month.

### **Help for injured Haitians**

The Mass. Conference has received a request from Church World Service for volunteers to assist in hosting injured Haitians and accompanying family, who are being medically evacuated to the United States. This is a wonderful opportunity for UCC members and congregations to extend hospitality to our Haitian sisters and brothers. The UCC is making a financial grant from the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund to support this hospitality effort. Volunteers who are interested in supporting Haitian Medevac cases should call Church World Service (212) 870-3300.

### **Conference & Association dues**

We pay dues to the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ and to the Metropolitan Boston Association totaling \$19.30 per member. We ask those who are active members of the church to make a special donation to cover this expense.

### **Thank you**

*From the Housing Corporation of Arlington:* Thank you for your support of HCA's Homelessness Prevention Fund! Your donation of \$300 will help our Arlington friends and neighbors who are experiencing a housing crisis to receive a grant to pay back rent, security deposits or relocation costs.

*From Church World Service:* Thanks to caring donors like you, Church World Service can provide food, water and other necessities to families displaced by war or natural disasters. And with your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable water sources and build a more sustainable future.

*From the Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee:* Your sponsorship of the annual Dr. King Observance in Arlington helps bring the community together to remember and honor Dr. King. It also makes a statement in support of justice and equality for all people.

## **RUMMAGE SALE - APRIL 24**

The Rummage Sale is coming up the last Saturday in April! Here is how you can help:

**Save the date!** If you have not already done so, mark your calendar now and plan to join us for fellowship and fun in this all-church event. (There are also many opportunities to help the two days before the sale.)

**Save your stuff!** We are looking for donations of clothing, clean and in good condition for men, women and children. Better women's clothing will be featured in a special ladies' boutique. We are also looking for housewares, linens, books, small furniture and all manner of white elephants, again, clean and in good condition. We don't want junk!

**Save the hassle!** Do you really want to organize a yard sale, or just to get all those extra household items out of your life? Donate them to the Rummage Sale and help support this worthwhile undertaking.

**Save us the trouble of tracking you down -- volunteer!** There will be sign up sheets at church in April, but why not call one of the people listed below and be among those we know we can count on to help make the sale run smoothly. We always need more sorters and pricers on Thursday and Friday (April 22 and 23) as well as clerks to sell merchandise on Saturday. And an energetic clean up crew following the sale is a must!

We hope you are making lots of progress cleaning out all those closets and drawers and finding some good items for the sale. Due to space limitations, we are unable to accept donations until the week before the sale. We are also not able to accept large items. If in doubt about the suitability of any item, or you must move things earlier, or you have any other questions, contact one of the committee members below.

**Friends welcome!** Perhaps you have friends who would enjoy working with you at the sale. Sign them up and bring them along. And we are always happy to accept donations from your friends and neighbors (stress clean and in good condition!) Talk it up. There is nothing better than an enthusiastic first person approach. Do plan to join us and make this important fund raiser a rousing success!

Judy Miller  
Lauren Evans  
Diane Wells

## Easter Festival Choir Rehearsals Starting

Do you like to sing but don't have the time to be part the choir each Sunday? Do you have a friend who likes to sing? Would you like to try out the choir without a long term commitment? Consider joining and/or bringing a friend with you to be part of our Festival Choir for Easter. This year we will be singing Mozart's *Alleluia* and Randall Thompson's *Alleluia*.

Our rehearsals are at 7:30 PM on Thursdays in the Nicoll Room. We will work on the Easter Music at the start of the evening and then the Festival Choir can leave when we turn to the music for Sunday. We hope to see you on Thursdays between now and Easter, April 4. If you have any questions you can talk to Jeffrey Brody or Doug Record.

## *What's Happening at PACC*

- |      |         |            |   |
|------|---------|------------|---|
| Tue. | Mar. 2  | 7:30 p.m.  | PACC-Men meet to car pool to Summer Shack               |
| Wed. | Mar. 3  | 7:30 p.m.  | Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room               |
| Thu. | Mar. 4  | 10:00 a.m. | Coffee Group in the Parish Hall                         |
|      |         | 7:30 p.m.  | Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room                      |
| Sun. | Mar. 7  | 10:00 a.m. | Worship service includes Communion                      |
|      |         | 11:30 a.m. | Refreshments and fellowship in Parish Hall (downstairs) |
|      |         | 11:45 a.m. | Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary                  |
|      |         | 11:45 a.m. | Confirmation Class in the Fireplace Room                |
| Mon. | Mar. 8  | 7:30 p.m.  | Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room                   |
| Wed. | Mar. 10 | 10:00 a.m. | Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room                     |
|      |         | 7:30 p.m.  | Book discussion in the Fireplace Room                   |
| Thu. | Mar. 11 | 7:30 p.m.  | Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room                      |
| Sat. | Mar. 13 | 9:30 a.m.  | Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room                    |

### **Daylight Savings Time begins – turn clocks ahead one hour**

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|------|---------|------------|--|
| Sun. | Mar. 14 | 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           |
| Tue. | Mar. 16 | 7:30 p.m.  | Membership Ministry in the Fireplace Room          |
| Wed. | Mar. 17 | 7:30 p.m.  | Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room          |
| Thu. | Mar. 18 | 10:00 a.m. | Coffee Group in the Parish Hall                    |
|      |         | 7:30 p.m.  | Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room                 |
| Sat. | Mar. 20 | 9:00 a.m.  | Spring clean-up in the Sanctuary and Narthex       |
| Sun. | Mar. 21 | 8:30 a.m.  | “The Black List” in the Fireplace Room             |
|      |         | 9:20 a.m.  | Youth Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary             |
|      |         | 10:00 a.m. | Worship service, PACC's 111 <sup>th</sup> birthday |
|      |         | 11:15 a.m. | Communion in the Sanctuary                         |
|      |         | 11:15 a.m. | Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall                     |
|      |         | 11:45 a.m. | Confirmation Class in the Fireplace Room           |
| Tue. | Mar. 23 |            | Deadline for April <i>Spire</i>                    |

- Thu. Mar. 25 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room  
 Sat. Mar. 27 10:00 a.m. New Member Breakfast in the Fireplace Room  
 Sun. Mar. 28 8:30 a.m. Pancake breakfast in the Parish Hall  
 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday worship service includes Communion,  
 One Great Hour of Sharing collection  
 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall  
 3:00 p.m. David Cangelosi in Concert  
 Tue. Mar. 30 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room

*coming later in the year*

- Thu. Apr. 1 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship service in the Sanctuary  
 Sun. Apr. 4 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday worship service  
 Sat. Apr. 24 9 am- 2 pm Rummage Sale  
 Sat. May 8 10 am-3 pm Craft Fair

## **Spring cleaning**

We will have a work day to focus on cleaning the Narthex, Sanctuary, and Church grounds before Easter. Any time you can spend on Saturday, March 20 between 9 AM and 1 PM will be appreciated. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the kitchen door or see Jeff Steinheider for details.

## **Capital Campaign Implementation update**

The Capital Campaign Implementation Committee is working hard to get the Chapel renovation work going. We did get bids from two contractors. Unfortunately, those bids were quite high. We are working with one of those contractors to see how we might get the bid down, and if that doesn't look likely, we'll seek other bids. Meanwhile we're looking to start some preparatory work: creating storage space for A Place to Grow to replace what they're losing behind the Chapel wall and putting a keypad combination lock on the Paul Revere Road door to provide access for the day care families. These jobs do not have to be done by the company that gets the bid for the work on the Chapel. As soon as we have more information, we'll update you in church or by email.

Additionally, Jeffrey Brody and others knowledgeable about the organ are continuing to interview companies qualified to perform the anticipated work on the console. The timing of that work has not been determined, but, given the untimely death of our long-time organ technician, it is important to find a successor soon.

Donations to the Capital Campaign through February 21 total \$104,908! We appreciate the generosity of the PACC community. If you have a question about the status of your pledge to the Capital Campaign, call Kathy in the office.

## **Photos of Dallin windows on display**

Did you know that the six stained glass windows in our Chapel were designed by Arthur Dallin, the son of Cyrus Dallin? Photos of them are included in an exhibit of the work of both men on view in the second floor gallery of Arlington Town Hall through March 31.

Hours are

Monday – Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon

The exhibit is free and handicap accessible

## **Merger Study Group Update**

The Merger Study Group (MSG), which was formed in November by a vote of the Council of Deacons and ratified by PACC's membership at the Annual Meeting, has been gathering information to study the possibility of a merger with Pleasant Street Congregational Church (PSCC). This group's mandate is to study the question, not to negotiate a merger. At least two congregational votes must occur for a merger to take place. First, the congregation would vote whether or not to enter into good faith negotiations with PSCC. If we vote to enter into negotiations, there would then be a second vote whether or not to accept negotiated terms and actually merge.

In February the MSG met two times with the Merger Action Team (MAT) of PSCC in order to convey the questions, thoughts and concerns that the PACC membership has expressed. We have received from them more details about the traditions and practices that they would like to bring to a merged church as well as more information about their finances. After church on February 28 (after this newsletter is printed) the MSG will present this information and gather more feedback from our congregation. As these conversations with PSCC move forward, it is critical that we hear your questions and comments and understand what it is we need to know before we vote on this issue.

We hope that all members and friends will engage in the ongoing conversations. If you are not able to attend, please contact a member of the MSG (Bill Albright, Don Cohn, Linda Cohn, Tim Durning, Gary Kane, Kate Lindheim, Doug Record, Mike Rich, Kathy Richardson and Barbara Wagner) or email the entire group to arrange a conversation at another time.

## **PACC Concert Series concludes 2009-2010 season**

On behalf of the PACC Concert Committee I would like to extend a personal invitation to each and every member of PACC to attend the final concert in our 2009-2010 season. We are incredibly fortunate to have secured the services of Metropolitan Opera tenor David Cangelosi. I have worked with this estimable artist for almost 15 years in my capacity as coach/repetiteur. When I assumed my present position at PACC I told a number of close artistic colleagues about our concert series, and David was among the first to offer his services, not only as a benefit for our organ restoration/music program but also to actually perform a concert with me at the piano; in all the years we have worked together we have never actually performed as a duo, so this will be a first.

Mr. Cangelosi has firmly established himself as an artist who combines both excellent singing and winning characterizations. He has performed highly acclaimed character tenor roles with many prominent companies in the U.S and abroad. In 2004, Mr. Cangelosi made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Mime in *Das Rheingold*, conducted by James Levine and has since returned for performances as Spoletta in *Tosca* and Incredible in *Andrea Chenier*. A former member of the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists, Cangelosi made his Lyric Opera of Chicago debut in *Salome* in 1997.

Further engagements with Chicago Lyric Opera have included roles in *Madama Butterfly*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Zauberflöte*, *Falstaff*, *Carmen*, and his recent critically acclaimed role debut as Mime in Wagner's *Siegfried* under the direction of Sir Andrew

Davis. (Full disclosure: the role of Mime is one that I have worked on with David for 5 or 6 years or so, intensively for 7-10 days every summer, and it was a distinct honor and privilege indeed to watch him triumph in this role in Chicago after so much hard work! I could not believe what I was seeing and hearing!) Additional recent engagements have included performances with the Cincinnati Symphony, Columbus Symphony, Boston Lyric Opera, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood under Maestro Seiji Ozawa. Mr. Cangelosi recorded the Sword Forging Scene from Siegfried with Placido Domingo for the recently released CD "Domingo/Scenes from the Ring" with EMI Classics. Among other engagements, he is to reprise his signature role of Mime in both *Das Rheingold* and *Siegfried* for the San Francisco Opera next season.

Mr. Cangelosi's program for PACC will include a wide variety of repertoire encompassing the world of opera and classical song, as well as works from musical theater and a hymn tune arrangement which I have made specifically for this occasion. Brahms, Fauré, Tosti, Lalo, Stephen Sondheim and Claude-Michel Schoenberg are but a few of the composers whose works we will enjoy on March 28 at 3 PM in this concluding PACC concert. It is a tremendous coup indeed to have an artist of such international renown appear in our concert series and I most cordially invite everyone to attend.

Jeffrey Brody

**Tickets** for the March 28th final concert of this year's Concert Series, "An Afternoon with David Cangelosi in Concert: Opera, to Art Song to Broadway" will be sold in the Parish Hall at coffee hour Sunday mornings in March or you can purchase them during office hours: 8:30 – 12:30, Monday - Friday. Advance prices are Adults - \$15, Seniors/Students - \$10.

## New Member breakfast March 27

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 is welcome to come to the Fireplace Room (upstairs) at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 27, to discuss faith journeys with the minister and some of the Deacons. Breakfast will be served! If you have questions, speak with Bill Albright, Anne Kelly Contini, Anita Clarke, Scott Jones or anyone with the yellow name tags of the membership ministry.

## 8th Annual Craft Fair to be Saturday, May 8th

Planning is underway for PACC's 8<sup>th</sup> annual Craft Fair! It will be held on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am until 3 pm. We hope to have several crafters returning from last year's fair along with some new ones. As in the past, there will be PACC bake table. We will also sell lunch again.

Volunteers will be needed to post flyers around Arlington and surrounding communities, to bake yummy goodies, and to help with lunch. We, of course, need everyone to publicize the fair to their friends and family members so that we have a great turnout! Stay tuned for more information! To volunteer or to ask questions, please see Betty Rich .

# Easter Plants

I/We wish to have plants for the sanctuary given in memory of/in honor of:

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# Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ # Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ **\$9.00 each**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take my plant(s) home after Easter services.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please give my plant(s) to a shut-in.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*Please put your order form and check in the Administrative Assistant file  
in the gray box at the Ushers' Stand or mail to the office. Thank you.  
The deadline is March 22.*