

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

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

July, 2010

July at PACC

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

Evening Bible Group
Wednesday, July 21 and July 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room

PACC-Men plan summer activities
Tuesday, July 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room

Sarah's Circle discusses *Buddha's Brain*
Saturday, July 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room

Outing to Lowell Spinners game
Sunday, July 11, at 5:05 p.m.

See inside for details.

Christian Education News

Summer Sunday School

There will be one multiage Sunday School class during the summer. We'll gather together and then break into smaller groups for activities. Our theme for the summer is Stories of God's People. We'll be learning about Ruth and Naomi, Daniel, Jonah, Esther and lots more.

There is a sign up sheet on the kitchen door in Parish Hall if you'd like to help out with Summer Sunday School. No preparation needed-- just come and join our Sunday School class as a much needed extra adult. High school kids are welcome to sign up to help. Thanks!

If you're on vacation or away from church, pick up a Summer Sunday School calendar and read the Bible story of the week as a family. Attached to it are ideas for discussion and some simple activities to do at home. Look for it on the CE bulletin board in the downstairs hallway or phone the office to ask that one be mailed to you.

Evening Bible Group continuing discussion of Gospel of John

Evening Bible Group will continue through the summer though the meeting schedule is modified to accommodate vacations. On July 21 and 28 the group will discuss the eighth and ninth chapters of the Gospel of John. All adults are welcome to come to the Fireplace Room at 7:30 p.m. on those dates to join the group, which is led by Bill Albright.

Buddha's Brain is topic for Sarah's Circle

Buddha's Brain: The Practical Neuroscience of Happiness, Love, and Wisdom by Rick Hanson, Ph.D. with Richard Mendius, M.D. will be the topic for Sarah's Circle when it meets on Saturday, July 10. Neuropsychologist and meditation teacher Hanson suggests that an understanding of the brain in conjunction with 2,500-year-old Buddhist teachings can help readers achieve more happiness. He explains how the brain evolved to keep humans safe from external threats; the resulting built-in negativity bias creates suffering in modern individuals. All interested women should gather in the Fireplace Room at 10:00 a.m. For those who are interested, meditation begins at 9:30 a.m. Questions? Speak with Merrith Sabo-Jones.

PACC-Men to meet July 6, schedule summer outing

The July meeting of the PACC-Men will be Tuesday, July 6th at 7:30 p.m. at PACC. We'll talk about the mission of our PACC-Men men's ministry, plan our next meeting and decide on a location and date for an outdoor summer activity. Bring your ideas for activities moving forward and a savory snack, appetizer or beverage for those who haven't had dinner yet (we'll have a mini-pot luck). Some ideas that have been batted around so far: an evening family trip to Kimball's for ice cream (and mini-golf?), a Saturday family trip to Purgatory Chasm (Sutton, MA) for trail walking and exploring, a nature walk (Middlesex Fells, Great Meadows) or a history walk (Minuteman National

Park) followed by a trip to Kimball's, a sunset cruise on the Charles River with ice cream for adults or families, or a family day at the beach. Call Mike Rich or email him if you have a vote or any ideas but can't attend.

Tickets available for Lowell Spinners game July 11

In the mood for a get together during the summer, I have planned this year's church outing to the Lowell Spinners for Sunday, July 11th. The game will start at 5:05 p.m. so hopefully it will not be too hot. It is "Baha men who let the dogs out" night. I have no idea what that means but it sounds interesting to me. Kids get to the run the bases after the game. We will be sitting on the third base side as usual and I have 40 tickets for the event. If you would like me to hold tickets for you, email me or call. The cost per ticket is \$5.00.

Lauren Evans

Capital Campaign Update

Work on the Chapel has finally begun. 90% of the contracts have been signed and are under agreement. Some materials, such as carpet and ceramic tile, have been purchased. The bluestone sidewalk in front of the Paul Revere Road door has been repaired, and A Place to Grow's electronic door hardware has been moved to that door from the one into the Chapel. Currently there are three new closets under construction that will be used for A Place to Grow's displaced storage needs. Once this preparatory work is complete, the real work will begin. The Chapel will be off-line for the months of July and August with an anticipated completion for Regathering Sunday. Volunteer painters will be needed around the end of August to help defray the construction cost. Anyone interested in helping should contact Jeff Steinheider. The Capital Campaign Implementation Team will meet over the summer to discuss next steps and will make recommendations to the congregation come September.

From the Council of Deacons

At its June meeting the main topic of discussion for the Council of Deacons was the church web site. Many thanks to Mark Tuttle and the Membership Ministry for recent upgrades which make the site more vibrant and appealing to visitors. The Membership Ministry, with broad input from people in the church, has the responsibility for the content and appearance of PACC's web presence, and the Administration Ministry is responsible for the technical aspects. Suggestions for content and/or further improvements are welcome. Contact anyone in the Membership Ministry (Anita Clarke, Scott Jones, Anne Kelly Contini, Doug Record, Betty Rich, Karen Stark or Mark Tuttle) with your ideas.

Our web site should convey to visitors who we are as a church and who we strive to become. What is our message? What is our vision? These will be topics for the entire church community to address in the coming year.

The Deacons also addressed the issue of Sunday morning conversations in the narthex which are easily heard in the sanctuary. People who are seated and wish to listen to the

prelude find the background noise distracting. Consequently, it was decided to close both doors between the sanctuary and the narthex as the prelude begins. Of course, people can open a door to enter the sanctuary quietly when they are ready. This is something we're trying as a way to acknowledge that the Prelude serves as a time of centering for those who wish to have a few moments, guided by music, to prepare their hearts and minds for worship.

The Deacons voted to spend up to \$1250 from the Memorial Fund to purchase a new computer and two monitors. Bill Albright, whose computer is so old that it restricts his ability to work efficiently, will receive the one currently in Kathy Richardson's office, and she will use the new one. Both of them will have new monitors.

The next meeting of the Council of Deacons will be August 16.

A note about the Mass Conference Annual Meeting

On June 27 the Hospitality group served "Fair Trade Coffee" purchased at the Massachusetts Conference, UCC, annual meeting in Worcester. Margaret Bell reports that she had an inspiring, educational and fun time at the conference. She hopes that we will continue with Fair Trade Coffee and encourages more PACC members to participate in the Conference meetings in the future.

What's Happening at PACC

Sun.	July 4	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Tue.	July 6	7:30 p.m.	PACC-Men in the Fireplace Room
Sat.	July 10	9:30 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	July 11	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		5:05 p.m.	Outing to the Lowell Spinners game
Sun.	July 18	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Wed.	July 21	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Sun.	July 25	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
Tue.	July 27		Deadline for August <i>Spire</i>
Wed.	July 28	7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room

coming later in the year

Sun.	Sept. 12	10:00 a.m.	Regathering worship service
		11:30 a.m.	Special Congregational meeting in the Sanctuary
		11:45 a.m.	Potluck and Post Office Auction in the Parish Hall
Fri.	Nov. 12 -		Holiday Fair
Sat.	Nov. 13		

New members named to Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee was formed to support and maintain an open relationship between the minister and members of the congregation. The Committee welcomes conversations with parishioners, and you may speak in confidence to any member of the committee after church on Sundays, or you may contact them at home.

Valerie Censabella
Beverly Miller
Tom Putnam
Keith Truesdale
Christie Getto Young

You may email the entire group.

PACC Post Office Auction Awaiting Your Gift



Now that summer has arrived, most of us have started, if not completed, planning for our summer vacations. Families are looking forward to travel, rest, and relaxation. We hope that among your plans you have taken the time to place the mailing labels for the Post Office Auction in your purse or wallet so that you can remember us on your vacation. We ask that you send a small package (or large one) back to PACC to be auctioned off at our Pot-Luck luncheon on September 12th following our Regathering Service. To date a few packages have been received, but we know that many more can be expected as you get on with your vacation plans.

In the last *Spire*, there were stickers attached to the article explaining the Post-Office Auction fun-time and fund-raiser. In case you misplace your stickers additional stickers are in the Narthex. The address for mailing is:

Auction Postmaster
Park Avenue Congregational Church, UCC
50 Paul Revere Road, Arlington, MA 02476



Packages should have a return address of the city or town from which they are being sent. Do not include your name in the return address. Mark your package "child appropriate" or "appropriate for everyone" if it is something that might be good for children to bid on (children love to bid at an auction.) Many shops will mail these packages for you for a small fee to cover postage. Give them a label for the auction so they will know where to send it.



Don't forget to ask family members and friends who live away from Arlington or plan to travel a distance this summer if they would be willing to pick up a package for you and mail it back to PACC. Give them a label to carry with them for this purpose.

If you have questions, contact Judie Phelps, Betty Rich, or Diane Wells.

Preparing for the PACC Holiday Fair

Baskets for the silent auction:

HAPPY SUMMER! It may seem too early to start thinking about the holiday fair, but as we know, it comes up quickly once the summer is over. The Fair and Fundraising group has been talking with Nadine Lombard, who organizes the silent auction. Nadine says that theme gift baskets have sold well in previous years, so let's give it a try.

This is an opportunity for you to do something this summer to get ready for the fair, even if you don't sew or knit or do other crafts. While you are vacationing or relaxing over the summer, please think about a theme - any theme for a basket. Start to gather items for your basket and either put it together yourself or hold the items until fall when we'll plan a day to make up baskets. We will have baskets that you can use.

Some possible theme ideas include a chocolate-lovers' basket, children's books, gift wrapping items, stationery, garden items, tools, kids videos, Christmas, bath and beauty items, coffee and tea, an Arlington theme - the list goes on.

Please just let us know what you can commit to and then start gathering. It will help if you keep track of the value of the items you include so that Nadine can put the value of the basket into the auction list.

If you have questions, speak with Betty Rich or any of the others on the Fair/fundraising team: Diane Wells, Linda Cohn, Beverly Miller, Barbara Wagner and Judy Miller

Cookie Walk

Coffee cans of varying sizes will be needed once again. Please, NO very large cans because they do not sell well. As you gather cans over the summer, please store them in a dry place in order to prevent rust. Because I can't be in church very often, due to Bob's illness, I ask that you call me when you have a bagful collected and have left them at church with my name on the bag. The Cookie Walk is a very good money maker, and thank you so much for your help.

Connie Dugan