

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

The Rev. Dr. William Albright, Pastor

November, 2010

Holiday Fair

Friday, November 12, 6 – 9 pm

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

Saturday, November 13, 9 am–2 pm

Coffee & Donuts, 9 – 10:30 am

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

Holiday Crafts ~ Hand-Made Gifts ~ Baked Goods

Cookie Walk ~ Silent Auction ~ Country Store

Attic Treasures ~ Doll Clothes ~ Books ~ Jewelry

See inside for more details

Christian Education News

Youth Groups

Our Youth Groups traditionally help serve at the Lasagna Dinner and the Pie Shoppe at the Fair. Please come to the Fireplace Room after church on Sunday, November 7, so we make sure everyone who wants a job has one and knows what to do. We'll also figure out time slots, so everyone will know when they'll be helping. This will be a quick 15-20 minute meeting. Check the November Sunday School newsletter for more details. If you can't come to this meeting, but want to help out, please talk to Kate.

Leaf Raking

Youth Group I (5th-7th grade) will rake leaves on Sunday, November 13 from 3-4 p.m. Then we'll return to PACC for hot chocolate. Please bring a rake if you've got one. We'll supply gloves and leaf bags. We'll meet at PACC at 2:50 and carpool to the yard we'll be raking. Pick up will be at PACC at 4:30. Permission slips will go home on November 7.

Youth Group II (8th grade and up) will rake leaves at Pastor Bill and Karen's house on Sunday, November 21 from 2-4 p.m. We'll meet at PACC at 1:50 and walk up to Pastor Bill and Karen's house. Please bring a rake if you've got one. We'll supply gloves and leaf bags. We'll return to PACC at 4 p.m. for hot chocolate.

Advent workshop

On Sunday, November 28, we'll have an Advent workshop during the worship service. Instead of going to our Sunday School classes, we'll all meet in Parish Hall for an Advent story and then we'll break into smaller groups to plant paperwhite bulbs and do some other crafts and activities to help us get ready for Advent.

Materials for observing Advent at home for adults and children will be on the table in the narthex on November 28. If you'll be away that weekend and want materials earlier, Kate will leave some on the table in Parish Hall on November 21.

Sarah's Circle reads *Naomi and Her Daughters*

Our author event was a smashing success! Brunonia Barry was just delightful, and funny, and so gracious...all who attended enjoyed it immensely.

For November the group is reading *Naomi and Her Daughters* by Walter Wangerin, Jr., which is a retelling of the biblical story of Naomi and Ruth. It will meet in the Fireplace Room at PACC from 10 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturday, November 6 [**date may be changed – check with Merrith Sabo-Jones or the office**]. For those who are interested, a short meditation period begins at 9:30 a.m.

Men's Spirituality will be topic for PACC-Men

Bill Albright will lead a discussion of Men's Spirituality when PACC-Men meet on Tuesday, November 9. NOTE CHANGE FROM THE USUAL MEETING DATE. All men are cordially invited to join the group in the Fireplace Room at 7:30 p.m.

PACC-Women to meet again in January

Given the busy holiday season, PACC-Women have decided not to meet in November and December. The January gathering will be on Monday, January 24. If you have questions, speak with Betty Rich.

Celebrating 20 years of Christmas Concerts

All singers are invited to join the Festival Choir for PACC's Annual Christmas Concert, which will be Sunday, December 3. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Nicoll Room (upstairs). In celebration of twenty years of these concerts, the musical selections are a cross-section of what has been programmed from the beginning up to last year. If you have questions, speak with Jeffrey Brody or any member of the choir.

Hanging of the Greens

Please join us on Saturday, November 27, at 9:00 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.

2010 financial summary through September

	<u>actual</u>	<u>budget</u>	<u>difference</u>
income	\$183,555	\$187,671	(\$4,116)
expenses	\$189,356	\$195,481	(\$6,125)
difference	(\$5,799)	(\$7,809)	

Payments on pledges are \$5,045 behind budget. As of the end of September, there are 14 pledging individuals / households that are more than \$100 behind. Is your pledge up to date? If you have questions, call Kathy in the office.

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.

from your Mission and Justice Ministry

We will be sponsoring two familiar outreach projects and one new project this Advent season – Adopt-A-Family, City Mission Society Christmas Shop, and Adopt-A-Vet.

Adopt-A-Family is organized by the Town of Arlington and gifts go to Arlington families. We will have “wish lists” for individual family members and you may sign up in Parish Hall after Coffee Hour starting Sunday November 14th through November 28th. Please bring **wrapped** gifts to church by December 5th.

The Christmas Shop is sponsored by the City Mission Society. Suggested gifts are listed below. Please bring a new **unwrapped** gift to church by December 12th. Gifts may be left under the Christmas Tree. The PACC Youth Group will help sort gifts at First Church in Winchester on December 19th. It would be great if some of the PACC adults could join them. We tried last year but were snowed out! If you would like to help sort gifts, please let Jill Lewis or Karen Friedman know.

Christmas Shop Gift Suggestions

- Winter coats, sweaters and sweatshirts (large sizes especially)
- Hats, mittens, gloves and fleece scarves
- white socks, underwear
- Blankets and backpacks
- Toys, games, and books for all ages
- Gift cards from Target, Walgreens, CVS, Kohls or other merchants
- Basic toiletries to pack in CMS "Spread the Joy" bags to be shared with people who are homeless

NEW **Adopt-A-Vet** is sponsored by the New England Center for Homeless Veterans. We will receive wish lists from NECHV and you may sign up in Parish Hall in November if you would like to provide a gift for a homeless veteran this Christmas. Information on dates to bring in your gifts and whether it should be wrapped or unwrapped will follow.

Thank you for your generosity!

Through October 24 your donations for Neighbors in Need total \$1430! The response of the PACC family to this annual offering, which supports the United Church of Christ’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, is truly heartwarming. Members of the church also have been very generous when there are special appeals for disaster relief. Earlier this fall we sent a check for \$660 to help with recovery from the earthquake in Pakistan.

Chapel update

The Chapel painting party had a long but successful day priming most of the new room on October 23. Thanks to all who helped out. With some minor scheduling adjustments we are still hoping to have the Chapel useable for the Fair. We still need volunteers to help with painting more primer and finish coats over the next couple of weekends. Please contact Eric Rochon or Gary Kane. Saturdays and Sundays up until the Fair we could use anyone's help if you are able.

Donations to the Capital Campaign through October 24 are \$145,244. This is nearly half of the \$318,246 which was pledged.

What should we call the Chapel?

There are five gold boxes on the table in the narthex, each with a proposed new name for what has been the Chapel. You can vote for your choice by dropping money in the appropriate box or by mailing a check to the church, indicating your choice. Voting will continue until Sunday, November 7. The winning name will be the one that raises the most money. All proceeds will benefit the General Fund.

Amounts for each name will be announced every week so that people can continue voting for their favorites. Here are the results from the first two weeks:

Fellowship Room	\$75
Memorial Room	\$21
Peace Room	\$12
Congregation Room	\$4
Genesis Room	\$0

Report from Church Council

At the Council of Deacons' October meeting the Rev. Paul Nickerson, MACUCC Associate Conference Minister for Evangelism and Church Vitality, made a presentation titled "Discerning Your Congregation's Future." After devoting much of our energy in the past few years to restructuring our governance, to the capital campaign and to talks about a potential merger, the Deacons are considering a process in which we all might participate to update this congregation's vision.

Report on the MBA Fall Meeting

On Sunday afternoon, October 24, 2010, Margaret Bell and Judie and Dick Phelps attended the Fall Meeting of the Metropolitan Boston Association of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ at East Congregation Church, UCC, in Milton, MA. At the meeting, business of the Association was discussed and reports were received. Rev. Ken Baily, Moderator of the MBA, welcomed all in attendance as did Rev. Eric Marean, co-pastor of the Milton Church. Rev. Wendy Vander Hart, Associate Conference Minister, welcomed the assembly and reported on changes taking place in the MBA local churches. One church in transition is the Goodland Congregational Church, a Korean congregation, just beginning their ministry in West Medford.

Reports were also received from the MBA Treasurer, Just Peace Ministry, and City Mission Society. A testimonial was given by Rev. Karin Case, a newer Clergy, who spoke on the value of the Pastoral Excellence Program sponsored by the MBA and MACUCC. This program reaches all clergy, new and seasoned, providing them with professional development and area discussions to assist them in their ministry. The Offering of the afternoon went to the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Endowment Campaign of the Massachusetts Conference which sponsors these programs.

Following the business meeting, the delegates, clergy, and visitors moved to the Sanctuary of the church for a program on the new songbook of the UCC, "Sing! Prayer and Praise". The workshop included singing several of the new songs from the songbook, which some may define as contemporary Christian music, but which the UCC would rather have defined as songs that support the theology and beliefs of the UCC and its members. It is the first time that the UCC has published a songbook of this type. Those in attendance were inspired by the music and joy that came from singing Christian songs. Branden Grimmett, Organist at the First Congregational Church of Somerville, who served on the committee that published the songbook for the UCC, led the workshop. He told of the development of the songbook, and responded to a question and answer session concerning music in our Worship.

The Fall Meeting closed with communion and a blessing.

Respectfully submitted,
Judie Phelps and Margaret Bell,
Lay Delegates to the MBA Fall Meeting

**November is Stewardship Month:
“Joyful Living, Joyful Giving”**

November is Stewardship month at PACC, and your church leaders urge you to join them in carefully and prayerfully considering the level of financial support for the church that each of us will commit to for 2011. **Pledge Sunday is November 21st**, when the morning worship service will include the dedication of our pledges for the coming year. Soon you will receive more information and a pledge card in the mail. As you prepare to receive this material, we would like for you to think about four aspects of this year’s stewardship campaign:

Give generously and joyfully; it enriches your soul.

“One person gives freely yet gains even more; another withholds unduly but comes to poverty. A generous person will be enriched, and anyone who refreshes others will be refreshed” [Proverbs 11:25-26].

Give generously to enable your church to maintain, or even *increase*, its current level of ministry, Christian education, and outreach.

Your church needs your generous financial participation if we want to continue to fund the ministry and programs as they exist today. Without your ongoing support, our church will not thrive into the next generation.

Make a commitment ... and PLEDGE.

It’s important that you make a commitment to the well-being of our church by pledging toward its financial health throughout the coming year. To be sure, your decision about your level of giving is a personal one, based on your own financial situation, the needs of PACC, and the significance of church in your life. But our goal is for **everyone** to pledge. It’s a *faith* decision, for commitment is at the heart of authentic Christian living.

So give God your *very best*.

Does your giving reflect the kind of relationship that you want with God, the hope that you have for your church’s future, and the joy that you wish to experience in your faith?

On behalf of Park Avenue Church—its leaders, members and friends—we thank you!

What's Happening at PACC

Tue.	Nov. 2	7:30 p.m.	Election Committee at the home of Bill Albright
Thu.	Nov. 4	10:00 a.m.	Coffee Group in Parish Hall
		11:30 a.m.	Basket assembly in Parish Hall
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sat.	Nov. 6	9:30 a.m.	Sarah's Circle in the Fireplace Room (tentative)
		11:00 a.m.	Memorial service for Bob Dugan in the Sanctuary followed by collation in Parish Hall
Sun.	Nov. 7		Daylight Savings Time ends; turn clocks <u>BACK</u>
		10:00 a.m.	Memorial Sunday worship service includes Communion
		11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall
		11:30 a.m.	Youth Groups to Fireplace Room for Fair assignments
		11:45 a.m.	Youth Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Mon.	Nov. 8	7:30 p.m.	Council of Deacons in the Nicoll Room
Tue.	Nov. 9	7:30 p.m.	PACC-Men in the Fireplace Room
Wed.	Nov. 10	10:30 a.m.	Staff meeting in the Fireplace Room
		7:30 p.m.	Evening Bible Group in the Fireplace Room
Thu.	Nov. 11		<i>Veterans' Day</i> ; office closed
		9:00 a.m.	Fair set-up in the Parish Hall and Nicoll Rooms
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary
Fri.	Nov. 12 -	5:30 p.m.	Holiday Fair
Sat.	Nov. 13	9:00 a.m.	Holiday Fair
Sun.	Nov. 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
		2:50 p.m.	Youth Group I meets for raking party
Tue.	Nov. 16	7:30 p.m.	Membership Ministry at the home of Doug Record and Karen Stark, 15 Bellevue Rd., Arlington
		7:30 p.m.	Capital Campaign Implementation Committee, Chapel
Thu.	Nov. 18	10:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee in the Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Sun.	Nov. 21	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
		1:50 p.m.	Youth Group II meets for raking party
Mon.	Nov. 22		Deadline for the December <i>Spire</i>
Tue.	Nov. 23	7:30 p.m.	Choir rehearsal in the Nicoll Room
Thu.	Nov. 25		<i>Thanksgiving Day</i> ; office closed
Fri.	Nov. 26		Office closed
Sat.	Nov. 27	9:00 a.m.	Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary and Narthex
Sun.	Nov. 28	10:00 a.m.	Worship service
		11:15 a.m.	Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall

coming later in the year

Sun.	Dec. 5	3:00 p.m.	Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary
Sun.	Dec. 12	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Pageant during the worship service, Sanctuary
Fri.	Dec. 24	4:00 p.m.	Family-oriented Christmas Eve worship in the Sanctuary
		10:00 p.m.	Candlelight Christmas Eve worship in the Sanctuary
Sat.	Mar. 5	3:00 p.m.	Trumpet and Organ Concert in the Sanctuary
Sun.	Apr. 3	3:00 p.m.	Vox Lucens Concert in the Sanctuary

Help Wanted: for the Holiday Fair, November 12 and 13

Workers for Holiday Fair. Must be willing to work hard, have fun, laugh, join in the joy of the season and help at tables and the luncheon as needed. Would also like help with publicity. We need help serving lunch, and being willing to float where needed at tables. This is an equal-opportunity event - all are welcome! Payment will be in the form of many hugs, laughter, a sense of community and - indirectly, raising funds for PACC. This is our biggest fundraiser and all are strongly encouraged to attend - and work! Please sign up on the volunteer sheets in the narthex or when asked by our volunteer coordinator, Judy Miller.

Get your oranges and grapefruit

PACC again will be ordering delicious oranges and pink grapefruit as a fund raising project in December 2010 and March 2011. The oranges come about 35-40 to a box, and in December will be seedless navels (very juicy and sweet; usually one orange will fill a 6 oz. glass), and in March will be temples (a few seeds, easily peeled). The grapefruit come about 20 to a box, and will be pink both times. They are \$28 per box, \$14 a half box... and, yes, you may buy 1/2 box of each, or 1-1/2 boxes, or... . Although the orchard went up in price, and thus we have had to also, it is still about the same price as the grocery store on a per-pound basis, and a far better price than the gift catalogs. They make good gifts for others and good healthy eating for yourselves. If you are interested, please pick up a form from the table in the narthex, fill it out and return to me (or to Kathy in the office) with a check or cash fruit by December 5 for delivery on December 11. The orchard will not ship the fruit if they are unhappy with the quality for any reason, so no checks will be cashed until the fruit arrives. Thank you.

Jill Lewis

Wreaths in Time for Christmas

We have the opportunity to purchase wreaths again this year through Wilson Farms. We won't be selling pies again because last year they were not as wonderful as many had hoped and many were frozen - not fresh. However, if anyone might be interested in purchasing a wreath in time for Christmas, please contact me, and I will get you a pre-order form that you can return to me with payment. PACC would get 50% of the profit so this would be a fundraiser. I would like to see enough people show interest before I confirm with Wilson Farms. There will not be a

separate table at the Fair due to limited space. Please let me know if you are interested and would want an order form.

Betty Rich

More ways you can help make the Fair a success

Gift baskets

The Fair is coming soon, and PACC is buzzing with activity. So far we have about 15 gift baskets promised. We are still accepting offers of more! Please let Betty Rich know what your gift basket(s) will be including title - like Coffee Lover's Basket - and the approximate value if you know it. If you have promised one and need help putting it together, we will have a workshop right after Coffee Group (approximately 11:30 a.m.) on November 4 in Parish Hall to get the baskets ready to display. If you need help, please contact Betty Rich, Lauren Evans or Diane Wells and plan to attend the workshop. We may have a few empty baskets so if you can bring one with you to assemble, please do so before the workshop! You may bring your basket in on the 4th and we will store it until the Fair. All baskets are due Thursday, November 11. Thank you.

Attic Treasures

We will have a table at the Fair called Attic Treasures. Space is limited but if you have an item that is much too good for the rummage sale - but not really a silent auction item, please call Lauren or Betty to discuss your item. Space is limited. Please - no rummage items - these are meant to be something that you might want to give as an attractive gift.

Pie Shop

The Pie Shop is going to hang a sign-up sheet on the kitchen door with pie suggestions. Please consider baking a pie or two to help make our pie shop successful!

Jewelry Table

Now is the time to go through your jewelry boxes and look for pieces that you haven't worn for a while, are out of fashion, or that you never liked in the first place. We can sell them at the jewelry table. Please get them to Diane as soon as possible. Thanks

Books

We will have the book table again this year but we need your books to make it work. Looking for those, especially, that might be good to give as a present - or any book that is relatively current and in good shape! Please drop them off on Thursday or Friday during the set-up!

Cookies for Cookie Walk

The Cookie Walk is one of our most popular tables at the Fair. Your wonderful cookies make it so - we need dozens and dozens of your most delicious offerings. There is a sign-up sheet on the kitchen door to let us know that you will be bringing some. Thank you!

**YES! I would like to volunteer to help with the
2010 PACC HOLIDAY FAIR!**

Friday, November 12 and Saturday, November 13

- I will bake a pie or pies for the Friday Pie Shoppe (please speak to Lauren Evans)
- 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 bring an item for Attic Treasures
- 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 bring in all non-perishable items on Thursday, November 11. Please fill out this form and leave it in the box provided in the Narthex (by November 7 at the latest).

Your Name _____

Telephone Number _____

Questions? Speak with Lauren Evans or Betty Rich or Diane Wells

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 7. WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR SUPPORTING THIS IMPORTANT PACC FUNDRAISER.

Holiday Fair Silent Auction
November 12 and 13, 2010

Please return this form to the church office or specially designated box in the narthex
no later than Sunday, November 7.

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 11
- I will deliver to church on Friday, November 12 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 Lauren Evans, 978-692-9176.