

# PAKACHOAG MESSENGER

A publication of Pakachoag Church, UCC  
January/February 2010, Volume 32, No. 1

**WORSHIP SERVICE:** Sunday at 10:00 AM  
(Communion is the first Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted.)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays - Fridays, 10:30 AM-4:30 PM

**CONTACT US:** Church Office - (508) 755-8718      Church Fax - (508) 795-1603

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**OUR WEBSITE:** [www.pakachoag.org](http://www.pakachoag.org)

## **CHURCH STAFF:**

Dennis R. Knight ..... minister@pakachoag.org  
Minister Emeritus and Interim Minister

Randy Bloom, Interim Organist ..... conbloom@aol.com

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Director of Education and Family Ministries

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Church Administrative Secretary

## **A Message from our Minister**

### ***Dennis Knight***

Dear Friends,

The imagery in the hymn “In the Bleak Midwinter” is well understood in New England where the season brings with it vistas of stark, denuded landscapes, exposed hillsides, brittle undergrowth, leafless limbs, and ice glazed surfaces. Most surfaces are washed white with glistening snow, which only intensifies the sense of a frozen and immobilized realm.

Yet, as much as all of nature seems still and lifeless at this time of the year, life’s rhythms carry on unseen and unnoticed.

There is a wooded patch behind the condo where I live, with a stretch of lawn between the tree line and the house. It would seem that this area is void of animal presence. Yet whenever there is a new snowfall, I watch that area, and find tracks begin to appear on the fresh canvas of snow and that tells me there is a great deal of activity out there I otherwise do not observe. When I observe my back yard when the ground is bare, or covered only with groomed lawn, I would say not much goes on there. When I look at it with a covering of snow, it is as if I am scanning a radar screen and all sorts of “blips” show up that tell a whole lot is happening there.

I routinely put food on the rail of the deck for the birds (and squirrels as well, who know no manners when it comes to letting the birds feed undisturbed), and I consistently notice an array of prints on the ground below where some scraps fall, indicating there has been a lot of activity there. I have even seen the imprint of crows’ wingtips as they have swooped down to gather morsels.


Rarely do I ever see the animals who leave their marks, but I know they are there in numerous kinds and relative abundance.

The same may be observed of people. Whereas an initial glance, or even a lengthy period of contact, may suggest someone is otherwise a “plain” person, there may be much more contained within them than is readily evident. I recall perceiving someone as stiff and formal, even cold, in manner when I first came to know her. One day when I stopped by her house to confer on a church matter, as we chatted, her cat hopped into her arms, and I noticed how caringly she held and stroked the animal. Her manner with the cat was very telling to me, and I begin to look for other signs after that of a side of her personality that I had obviously missed. I

eventually came to appreciate that there was a profoundly warm person who existed beneath an otherwise formal exterior, and I grew in both admiration and affection of her.


I think as well of an older couple I knew in my first church setting. They too were formal people whom I initially found to be somewhat unapproachable. In truth, I thought of her as downright formidable, with a manner that was intimidating. Over time, though, the ice thawed, and we warmed to each other. She was a robust woman who had difficulty walking and one day as I was helping her into the passenger side of the car, she remarked, "How I wish I could be dribbling a basketball between my legs." I was startled when she informed me that she had been a student athlete, and had in fact been a gym instructor in earlier years. Over time I also came to know she and her husband had endured the loss of a child from disease, and that while their grief was lasting and had torn much from them, there was a deep sense of caring inside them that they still wanted to offer over to others.

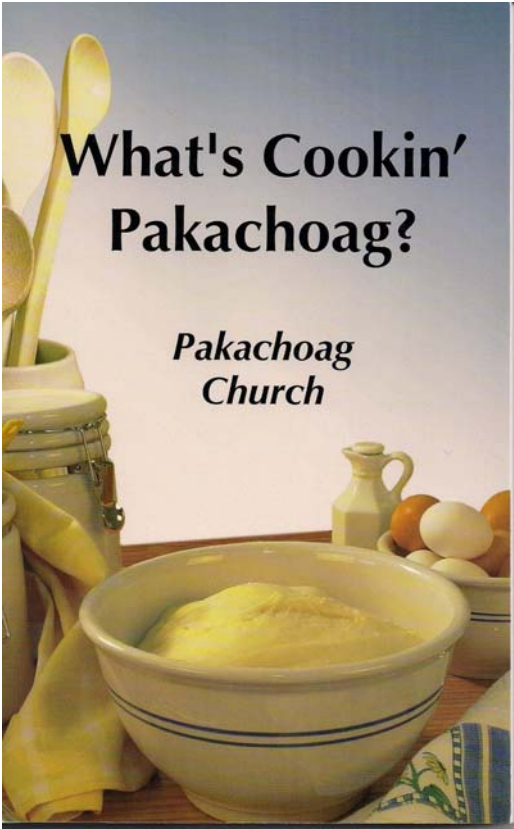
As with winter's landscape, some people may seem bleak, when that is not the case. As a snow cover can provide a slate on which we can see signs of life we would not otherwise notice in our very own yards, so too it is with people that there may be more depth and complexity to be revealed over time and with patience than we might otherwise assume.



*We would like to welcome the newest member of the Pakachoag family, Laine Hanlon, our new Director of Education and Family Ministries.*

*Check back here for more about Laine,  
or better yet, stop by on Sunday to welcome her in person.*





The cookbook is now available for purchase.

To order your copy, please stop into the church or fill out the following form and send it in with your check, made out to Pakachoag Church. Thank you again for your support.

Please send me \_\_ copies of "What's Cookin' Pakachoag" for \$12 each or 2 for \$20, plus \$3 S&H per book ordered to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



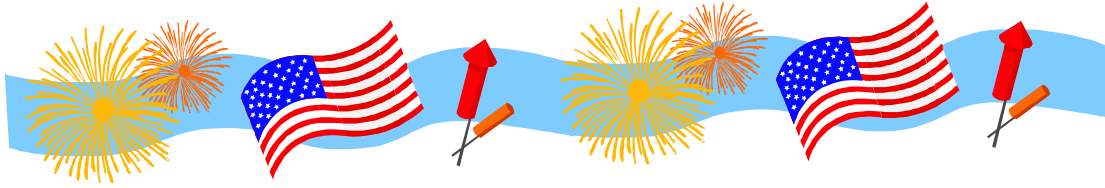
## January Birthdays

Moneen Daley Hart.....	1
Linda Sinsigalli.....	6
Kelsey Milinazzo .....	19
Joshua LaBonte .....	21
Travis Hintlian .....	25
Pat Blanchard.....	27
Gail Watkins .....	31

## February Birthdays

David Stebbins .....	3
Peg Gifford.....	5
Alex Carlson .....	20
MacArthur Mills .....	26

OOPS ... belated birthday wishes to Christine Taylor. Christine's birthday was December 21.



## **Pakachoag Soldier of the month**

Many of us have family and friends in the armed forces. We ask that you keep all our men and women in the armed services in your thoughts and prayers. Perhaps you could send a letter of support, donate to a package for this soldier (you can drop items off at the church), or even send a care package of your own. **If you do know of someone serving away from home, or soon will be, please contact Lynn Blanchard.**

**Shayna Heron  
ACAG KAIA  
(McNeil Technologies)  
APO, AE 09354**



This month, the Pakachoag Soldier of the Month is **Shayna Heron**. Many of us know Shayna from our own church. She is currently overseas, working in a civilian capacity; however she is still a soldier.

Please drop her a note and let her know she, and the soldiers serving with her, are in our thoughts and prayers.

**Thank you to all who serve, and the families who support them.**

## **THANK YOU**

Dear Members and Friends of Pakachoag,

*"Thank you so very much for the lovely luncheon and the most generous gifts. It was a day I will always remember! My prayers are with all of you during this new year. Thank you again."*

Rev. Dee



## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT PAKACHOAG CHURCH**

(all events are open to the public)

**Auburn Department of Recreation and Culture** is sponsoring a free multimedia presentation by Tom Ingrassia on "Motown and the Civil Rights Movement" on **February 4** at 7 PM in the Great Hall.

**Mardi Gras Party** on **Wednesday, February 17** at 5:30 PM. Join us for the celebration of Fat Tuesday (a day late)! Come and eat waffles and yummy desserts. Following the festivities, join us for our **Ash Wednesday Service** in the Great Hall.

**Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester** is having a Faculty Recital on **Saturday, February 27** at 2:00 PM featuring Maxim Korn, Peter Hughes, Caroline Reiner-Williams, Amy Carroll, Nike Beaudry, Curtis Smith and Lea Lucia Lipner.

## **Who am I?**

**by Lynn Blanchard**

Many people enjoy the “sport” of people watching. You know what I mean, sitting in a public place, and watching as people pass by. Maybe you look at the clothes they are wearing, or check out the different hair styles. Maybe you’re like me and you enjoy watching how people interact with one another. You watch as people coo at the adorable baby in the carriage, or notice even more when someone doesn’t. You notice as woman passes by who looks worn down, and you imagine what her day was like to make her so tired. Did she just finish a long shift? Is she a single mom, who was up all night with a sick kid? Or is that just the way she carries herself? Perhaps you notice a group of people walk by and try to guess what their relationship is to one another. A young couple; did they just meet, and this is their first date? Or have they been together for years?

I wonder when I pass by, what is it others see in me?

I think many of us, although maybe not affected, were certainly affected by the recent earthquake in Haiti. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives, and hundreds of thousands more, are left suffering. Millions of people from around the world have been brought together by this horrific event. Perhaps we were brought together, if even in a fleeting moment, in prayer. This was something they had no warning, and nothing they could do once it started. It reminds all of us, to stop and remember how precious life is. None of us know when our life will be over.

My mom doesn’t like it when I write about her. However, she’s a big part of my life, so when I talk about my life, well, she comes up a lot...so sorry mom. But we were just having a conversation about making the most of every day. Not others peoples definition of “making the most of it”, but in our hearts, what we know fulfills us.

I spent too much of my past stuck in the state of, “I should be...”. It was “I should be working.” “I should be finished with school.” “I should be...” well, you get the point. My mom’s answer to this was, “You should be, according to whom?”

The question made me stop and think about how much I’d been beating myself up. I know God has a plan for me. God has a plan for each of us.

But it wasn't until I stopped to listen, instead of constantly berating myself that I began to see the light of God shining in my life. Perhaps I'm not meant to be the CEO of a multi-million dollar company (nor would I want to be), but there are a lot of things that I can accomplish (and have) that perhaps that CEO can't or won't. The gifts I have are from God, and I am learning to use them as God had intended.

So in the spirit of "people watching, I've witnessed some people who are angry that celebrities and the rest of us alike, came together to help the people of Haiti, rather than helping here in the states with our own hungry and suffering. Perhaps they can be grateful for the giving spirit of all who helped. Maybe they can feel the hope it brings to know, even in a difficult time, we can step up and help those in need. Maybe this can be a catalyst for them, to find a way to bring aide to those closer to home.

Maybe, just maybe, each of us can take a lesson from those in dire circumstances, and find hope in everyday. God does have a plan.

***Proverbs 3: 3-6***

***"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."***



## Haitian Relief

The United Church of Christ supports worldwide health, education and mission activities, largely through its Board of Wider Church Ministries, in turn from support provided by local churches through OCWM contributions.

You can go directly through the UCC using the following online link, which you can cut and paste into your computer's browser.

[https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Donation2?df\\_id=1234&1234.donation=form1](https://secure3.convio.net/ucc/site/Donation2?df_id=1234&1234.donation=form1)

Additional information about UCC missionary efforts is available through the UCC website or the Massachusetts Conference website.

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult."*

Psalm 46:1-3 (NRSV)



## **ATTENTION AUBURN ARTISTS**

The Auburn Cultural Council is accepting applications for **“Art for the Arts” Show and Sale** to be held on **Saturday, April 10** from 10 AM to 4 PM at Pakachoag Church.

Applications are available at the Auburn Library. Registration deadline is March 20, 2010. The ACC is a division of the MA Cultural Council and strives to bring a variety of cultural activities and experiences to our residents. For more information, please contact Marilyn Kulesa at 508-832-4081.



**Have something for the Messenger? Please send it to  
[PakMessenger@charter.net](mailto:PakMessenger@charter.net)  
Articles are due no later than...**

**March & April issue**  
deadline for articles is February 15<sup>th</sup>

**May & June issue**  
deadline for articles is April 15<sup>th</sup>

**July & August issue**  
deadline for articles is June 15<sup>th</sup>

**September & October issue**  
deadline for articles is August 15<sup>th</sup>

**November & December issue**  
deadline for articles is October 15<sup>th</sup>

## JANUARY CALENDAR DATES

HR - Hex Room; FH - Fellowship Hall; GH - Great Hall  
Dates and times are subject to change.

### **January 10**

**10:00 AM**

**11:00 AM**

1:30-4:00 PM

**Worship Service**

**Coffee Hour (HR)**

Violin Recital - students of Maxim Korn (GH)

### **January 12**

**7:00 PM**

**Executive Board Meeting (HR)**

### **January 13**

9:30 & 10:30 AM

Music School Classes (FH)

### **January 14**

10:30 AM

4:00 PM

**7:00 PM**

Music School Class (FH)

Music School Drama/Music Rehearsal (FH)

**Choir Rehearsal (GH)**

### **January 15**

9:30 & 10:30 AM

10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Music School Classes (FH)

InterValley Project Meeting (HR)

### **January 16**

9:30 & 10:30 AM

Music School Classes (FH)

### **January 17**

**10:00 AM**

**11:00 AM**

**Worship Service**

**Coffee Hour (HR)**

### **January 19**

10:00 AM

Music School Class (FH)

### **January 20**

9:00 AM-3:00 PM

9:30 & 10:30 AM

Mass Care Meeting (HR)

Music School Classes (FH)

**January 21**

10:30 AM

4:00 PM

**7:00 PM**

Music School Class (FH)

Music School Drama/Music Rehearsal (FH)

**Choir Rehearsal (GH)**

**January 22**

9:30 & 10:30 AM

Music School Classes (FH)

**January 23**

9:30 & 10:30 AM

Music School Classes (FH)

2:00 PM

Alumni Organ Recital (GH)

**January 24**

**10:00 AM**

**11:00 AM**

**Worship Service**

**Coffee Hour (HR)**

**January 26**

10:00 AM

Music School Class (FH)

**January 27**

9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Mass Care Meeting (HR)

9:30 & 10:30 AM

Music School Classes (FH)

**January 28**

9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Mass Care Meeting (HR)

10:30 AM

Music School Class (FH)

4:00 PM

Music School Drama/Music Rehearsal (FH)

7:00 PM

Meadowbrook Condo Meeting (HR)

**7:00 PM**

**Choir Rehearsal (GH)**

**January 29**

9:30 & 10:30 AM

Music School Classes (FH)

**January 30**

9:30 & 10:30 AM

Music School Classes (FH)

**January 31**

**10:00 AM**

**11:00 AM**

**Worship Service**

**Coffee Hour (HR)**

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR DATES

HR - Hex Room; FH - Fellowship Hall; GH - Great Hall  
Dates and times are subject to change.

### **February 2**

10:00 AM Music School Class (FH)

### **February 3**

9:30 & 10:30 AM Music School Classes (FH)

### **February 4**

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)  
4:00 PM Music School Drama/Music Rehearsal (FH)  
7:00 PM Auburn Dept. Recreation & Culture Event (GH)

### **February 5**

9:30 & 10:30 AM Music School Classes (FH)

### **February 6**

9:30 & 10:30 AM Music School Classes (FH)

### **February 7**

**10:00 AM** **Worship Service with Communion**  
**11:00 AM** **Coffee Hour (HR)**

### **February 9**

10:00 AM Music School Class (FH)  
7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting (HR)

### **February 10**

7:30-9:30 AM Chamber of Commerce Breakfast (GH)  
9:30 & 10:30 AM Music School Classes (FH)

### **February 11**

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)  
4:00 PM Music School Drama/Music Rehearsal (FH)  
**7:00 PM** **Choir Rehearsal (GH)**

### **February 12**

9:30 & 10:30 AM Music School Classes (FH)

**February 13**

9:30 & 10:30 AM

Music School Classes (FH)

**February 14**

**10:00 AM**

**11:00 AM**

1:00 PM

3:00 PM

**Worship Service**

**Coffee Hour (HR)**

Wedding: Julia Sullivan and Ryan DeLuca

Worcester AGO Recital (GH)

**February 17**

**5:30 PM**

**After Party**

**Mardi Gras Party (HR)**

**Ash Wednesday Service (GH)**

**February 18**

**7:00 PM**

**Choir Rehearsal (GH)**

**February 19**

**10:00 AM-2:00 PM InterValley Project Meeting (HR)**

**February 21 – First Sunday in Lent**

**10:00 AM**

**11:00 AM**

**Worship Service**

**Coffee Hour (HR)**

**February 23**

10:00 AM

Music School Class (FH)

**February 24**

9:00 AM-3:00 PM

9:30 & 10:30 AM

6:00-9:00 PM

Mass Care Meeting (HR)

Music School Classes (FH)

Music School Board of Directors Meeting (HR)

**February 25**

9:00 AM-2:00 PM

10:30 AM

4:00 PM

**7:00 PM**

Mass Care Meeting (HR)

Music School Class (FH)

Music School Drama/Music Rehearsal (FH)

**Choir Rehearsal (GH)**

**February 26**

9:30 & 10:30 AM

Music School Classes (FH)

**February 27**

9:30 & 10:30 AM

Music School Classes (FH)

2:00 PM

Music School Faculty Recital (GH)

**February 28 – Second Sunday in Lent**

**10:00 AM**

**Worship Service**

**11:00 AM**

**Coffee Hour (HR)**