

PAKACHOAG MESSENGER

A publication of Pakachoag Church, UCC
May/June 2010, Volume 32, No. 3

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

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A Message from our Minister

Dennis Knight

Dear Friends,

The weather is a perennial topic of conversation in New England. No doubt that traces to the fact that it is fickle, constantly changing, and exhibits such extremes from season to season. Now well into Spring and its pleasantries, it was only a few weeks ago that we were coping with snow, ice, sleet and slush.

Accustomed as Central Massachusetts is to repeated rounds of snow over the winter, a few inches generate little comment, and even the occasional blizzard becomes a blip shortly after roads, drives and parking lots are cleared. Given the almost blasé attitude in these parts to snowfall, it was with some admittedly uncharitable bemusement that I followed the news of repeatedly heavy snowfalls this winter in the mid Atlantic region. Not at all used to such blanketing, cities like Washington and Philadelphia literally froze up. One resident interviewed on camera said plaintively, “we just don’t know where to put it all.” I thought in response to this of the mounds of snow around the border of our and other parking lots, and along the edges of sidewalks, that only grow taller as winter wears on, and mentally mused, “you put it wherever you can, and wait for it to melt come Spring.”

In the end, the winter of 2009-10 saw more snow fall on Washington, DC than fell on Worcester, Massachusetts, and that was unusual. Directly affected by this, many politicians in Washington spoke to the matter as only politicians can. Several latched onto this unusual surge of cold weather as proof certain the global warming is a myth perpetuated by alarmists. How could global warming be upon us, they scowled on camera and to anyone who would listen, with such snow around them?

The first informed retort I heard in response to this was clarification by a climatologist that the term global warming has been supplanted by the phrase “climate change, “ and that unusual shifts in weather patterns are in fact part of that scenario. Some places might get warmer while others are getting colder. But more immediate anecdotal countervailing evidence was to be had in the fact that, while snow plowing was happening in Washington, snow making was underway in the mountains outside Vancouver where the Olympic Games were taking place. In fact, those areas that were always covered in snow in the winter, had to have snow brought in buckets slung under helicopters so the events could take place because the temperature had been warmer than usual.

This parallel phenomenon went unnoticed and unremarked on in Washington, largely because, it appeared, that the opining politicians were taking their evidence only from what was approximate to them, and what was inconveniencing them. They did not look beyond their own limited experience to inform their opinions. Markedly parochial in their perspective, they lost sight of the bigger picture. Because they were cold and inundated, they made the intellectual leap of assuming that those conditions were pervasive.

Politicians are not singular in limiting the scope of their view and interpretation of the world to what is immediately before them, or making simplistic assumptions based on fragmentary information. It is a temptation for all of us to make quick, and often sweeping, assumptions based on partial knowledge. Where any of us would pause and consider carefully whether we might want to leap a chasm, we can jump mental chasms with ease and no forethought. People can draw conclusions about other people's actions and intentions on the scantiest of input. People can express the staunchest of opinions based on the slightest bit of information, and often with no in-depth background in the subject at hand.

Circumspection and fact gathering, holding ones tongue in short, does not provide the same emotional "kick" that an impulsive, ill-considered retort does, but that approach generally leads to more informed and grounded opinions and successful courses of actions.

BIG BAND COMING TO AUBURN

Pakachoag Church is pleased to present a **free** community concert featuring the Compaq Big Band on **Sunday, June 13** from 2:00-4:00 PM.

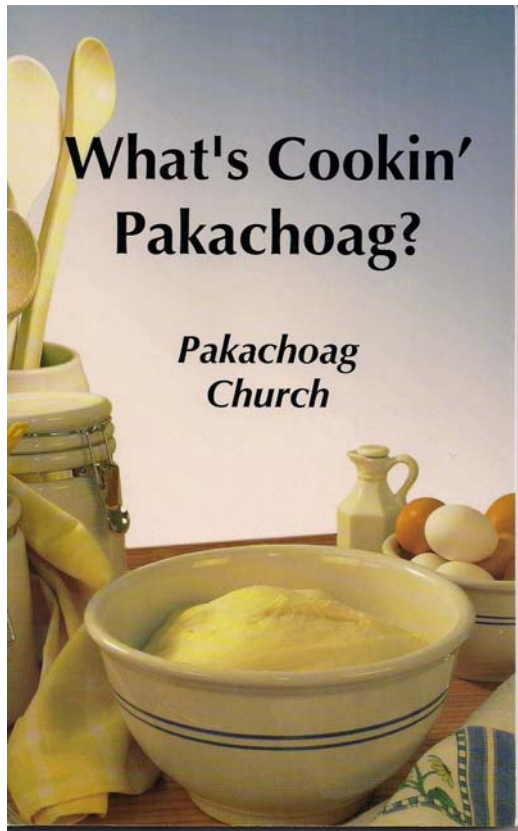
This is an outdoor concert.

Bring a blanket or chairs, pack a picnic, and join us for this up temp concert to help welcome summer 2010!



Light refreshments will be available.

The Compaq Big Band showcases the powers of 15 horns, a cookin' rhythm section, a great feature vocalist, and terrific instrumental soloists for a diverse range of clients and events across the Greater Boston, Greater Worcester, Rhode Island, and Southern New Hampshire regions. For more information Compaq's Big Band's web address is www.compaqbigband.com.



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.

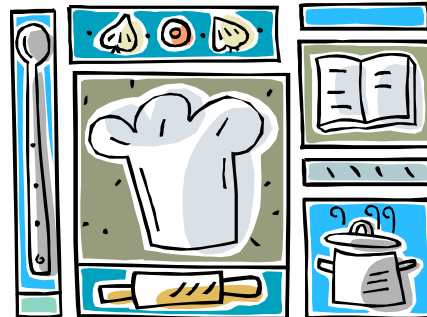
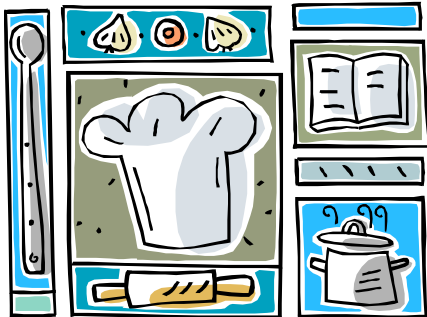
Please send me __ copies of "What's Cookin' Pakachoag" for \$12 each or 2 for \$20, plus \$3 S&H per book ordered to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____



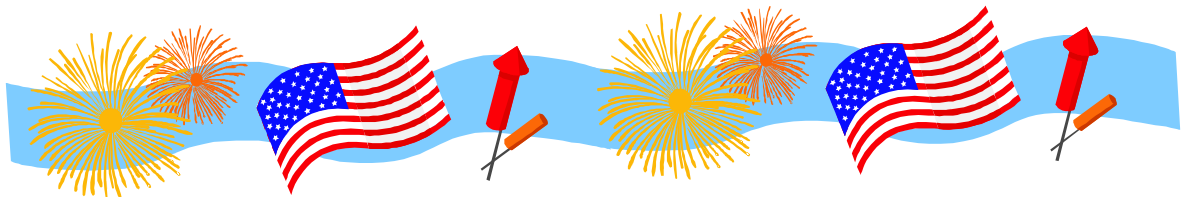
May Birthdays

John Hintlian	16
Steve Hubbard	25
Luke LaBonte	28
Cecelia LaBonte	28
Jillian LaBonte	28



June Birthdays

Jewell Holden.....	4
Chuck Demazure	6
Sophie Kosky	9
Shayna Heron	26

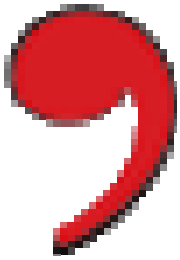


Pakachoag Soldier of the month

Please keep all our men and women in the military, no matter where they serve, or what our feelings are on the war, in our constant prayers. That they may come home to their families and loved ones.

If you do know of someone serving away from home, or soon will be, please contact Lynn Blanchard.

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

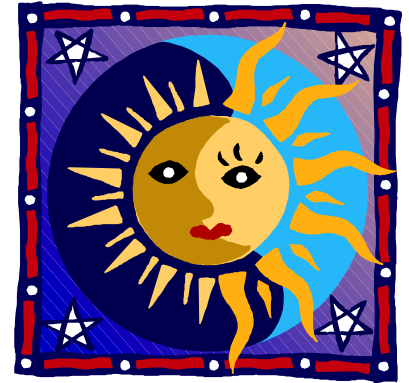


*Want to become a voice for the "God is Still speaking" campaign?
Go to <http://www.ucc.org/god-is-still-speaking/voices-registration.html> and register today.*

Or go to www.UCC.org and click on "Big things Still speaking ministries" to find the link.

PRESERVING THE SPACE ENVIRONMENT

Worcester Area Mission Society (WAMS) invites you to attend a program on "Preserving the Space Environment" at the Goddard School of Science and Technology in Worcester on **Wednesday, June 2** from 10-11:15 AM. The speaker will be physicist David Wright whose Global Security team at the Union of Concerned Scientists in Cambridge is helping the Obama administration develop a new national space policy.



Orbital space is a valuable natural resource, serving as home to satellites that are essential to communications, weather forecasting, Earth observation and other activities. However, satellite orbits are becoming congested with debris, the result of the expanded utilization of space for scientific, commercial, and military purposes. Given the speed of orbital objects, a piece of debris the size of a marble can disable a satellite.

God Lives Under the Bed

Submitted by Ellen Gaboury; Author Unknown

I envy Kevin. My brother Kevin thinks God lives under his bed. At least that's what I heard him say one night. He was praying out loud in his dark bedroom, and I stopped to listen, 'Are you there, God?' he said. 'Where are you? Oh, I see. Under the bed...' I giggled softly and tiptoed off to my own room. Kevin's unique perspectives are often a source of amusement. But that night something else lingered long after the humor. I realized for the first time the very different world Kevin lives in.

He was born 30 years ago, mentally disabled as a result of difficulties during labor. Apart from his size (he's 6-foot-2), there are few ways in which he is an adult. He reasons and communicates with the capabilities of a 7-year-old, and he always will. He will probably always believe that God lives under his bed, that Santa Claus is the one who fills the

space under our tree every Christmas and that airplanes stay up in the sky because angels carry them.

I remember wondering if Kevin realizes he is different. Is he ever dissatisfied with his monotonous life? Up before dawn each day, off to work at a workshop for the disabled, home to walk our cocker spaniel, return to eat his favorite macaroni-and-cheese for dinner, and later to bed. The only variation in the entire scheme is laundry, when he hovers excitedly over the washing machine like a mother with her newborn child.

He does not seem dissatisfied.

He lopes out to the bus every morning at 7:05, eager for a day of simple work. He wrings his hands excitedly while the water boils on the stove before dinner, and he stays up late twice a week to gather our dirty laundry for his next day's laundry chores.

And Saturdays - oh, the bliss of Saturdays! That's the day my Dad takes Kevin to the airport to have a soft drink, watch the planes land, and speculates loudly on the destination of each passenger inside. 'That one's goin' to Chi-car-go!' Kevin shouts as he claps his hands. His anticipation is so great he can hardly sleep on Friday nights.

And so goes his world of daily rituals and weekend field trips. He doesn't know what it means to be discontent. He will never know the entanglements of wealth of power, and he does not care what brand of clothing he wears or what kind of food he eats. His needs have always been met, and he never worries that one day they may not be.

His hands are diligent. Kevin is never so happy as when he is working. When he unloads the dishwasher or vacuums the carpet, his heart is completely in it. He does not shrink from a job when it is begun, and he does not leave a job until it is finished. But when his tasks are done, Kevin knows how to relax. He is not obsessed with his work or the work of others. His heart is pure. He still believes everyone tells the truth, promises must be kept, and when you are wrong, you apologize instead of argue.

Not confined by intellectual reasoning, when he comes to Christ, he comes as a child. Kevin seems to know God - to really be friends with Him in a way that is difficult for an 'educated' person to grasp. God seems like his closest companion.

In my moments of doubt and frustrations with my Christianity I envy the security Kevin has in his simple faith. It is then that I am most willing to admit that he has some divine knowledge that rises above my mortal questions. It is then I realize that perhaps he is not the one with the handicap. I am. My obligations, my fear, my pride, my circumstances - they all become disabilities when I do not trust them to God's care.

Who knows if Kevin comprehends things I can never learn? After all, he has spent his whole life in that kind of innocence, praying after dark and soaking up the goodness and love of God. And one day, when the mysteries of heaven are opened, and we are all amazed at how close God really is to our hearts, I'll realize that God heard the simple prayers of a boy who believed that God lived under his bed.

Kevin won't be surprised at all!

MAY CALENDAR DATES

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

Wednesday, May 12

9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mass Care Meeting (HR)
9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

Thursday, May 13

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

Friday, May 14

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

Saturday, May 15

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
1:00-6:00 PM Music School Student Recital (GH)

Sunday, May 16

10:00 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Coffee Hour (HR)
Noon-6:00 PM Music School Student Recital (GH)

Tuesday, May 18

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

Wednesday, May 19

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
4:00 PM Music School Guitar Recital (FH)
6:00-9:00 PM Music School Board of Directors Mtg. (HR)

Thursday, May 20

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

Friday, May 21

9:30 AM Music School Class (HR)
10:30 AM Music School Class (HR)
7:30 PM Senior Student Recital (GH)

Saturday, May 22

9:30 AM Music School Class (HR)
10:30 AM Music School Class (HR)
4:00 PM Music School Alumni Recital (GH)

Sunday, May 23

10:00 AM **Worship Service with Baptism**
11:00 AM **Coffee Hour (HR)**
2:00-4:00 PM LaBonte Birthday Celebration (FH)

Tuesday, May 25

10:00 AM Music School Class (FH)

Wednesday, May 26

9:30 AM Music School Class (HR)
10:30 AM Music School Class (HR)

Thursday, May 27

9:00-2:00 PM Mass Care Meeting (HR)
10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

Friday, May 28

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

Saturday, May 29

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

Sunday, May 30

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

Monday, May 31

Closed – Memorial Day Observance

JUNE CALENDAR DATES

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

Tuesday, June 1

10:00 AM Music School Class (FH)

Wednesday, June 2

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

Thursday, June 3

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

7:00 PM **Choir Rehearsal (GH)**

Friday, June 4

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

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

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

Saturday, June 5

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

3:00 PM Students of Curtis Smith Recital (GH)

Sunday, June 6

10:00 AM **Worship Service**

11:00 AM **Coffee Hour (HR)**

2:00 PM Music School Adult Student Recital (GH)

Tuesday, June 8

10:00 AM Music School Class (FH)

7:00 PM **Executive Board Meeting (HR)**

Wednesday, June 9

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

Thursday, June 10

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

7:00 PM **Choir Rehearsal (GH)**

Friday, June 11

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

Saturday, June 12

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

Sunday, June 13

10:00 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Coffee Hour (HR)
2:00-4:00 PM Compaq Big Band Concert

Tuesday, June 15

7:00-9:00 PM Pond View Condo Meeting (HR)

Wednesday, June 16

9:00 AM-3:00 PM Mass Care Meeting (HR)
6:00-9:00 PM Music School Board of Directors Mtg. (HR)

Sunday, June 20

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

Thursday, June 24

9:00 AM-2:00 PM Mass Care Meeting (HR)

Sunday, June 27

10:00 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Coffee Hour (HR)
1:00-5:00 PM Christening Celebration/Party (GH/Kitchen)

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no worship service on Sunday, July 4.

