

PAKACHOAG MESSENGER

A publication of Pakachoag Church, UCC
October 2009, Volume 31, No. 8

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

CHURCH STAFF:

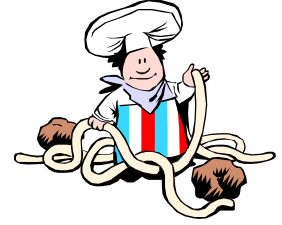
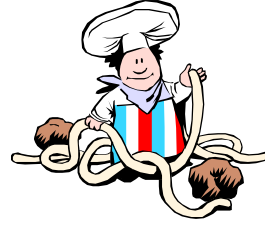
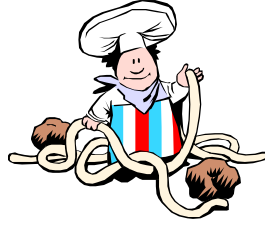
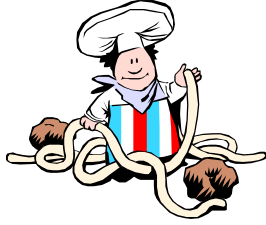
Rev. Dennis R. Knight minister@pakachoag.org
Minister Emeritus and Interim Minister

Randy Bloom, Interim Organist conbloom@aol.com

Rev. Deidre C. Scott education@pakachoag.org
Director of Education and Family Ministries

Carolyn Kreft office@pakachoag.org
Church Administrative Secretary

Manny Hernandez
Church Custodian



PASTA DINNER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009
5:00 PM

at Pakachoag Church
203 Pakachoag Street, Auburn, MA

*Dinner includes pasta, meatballs and sausage,
assorted breads, salad, green beans,
dessert, beverage*

\$8/adult
\$3/child (children under 3 are free)

Call the church office for tickets at 508-755-8718.

All proceeds will be given to
charitable work beyond Pakachoag Church.

A Message from our Moderator

Jeff LaBonte

Dear Friends,

So much happens in a year. Pakachoag has definitely moved forward, and we are beginning to realize some normalcy in our administration. While we still lack traditional, functional “committees,” our congregation is managing along well under the current congregational meeting format. While not ideal, we needed to adapt to our current membership levels and circumstances, and we have done that.

We have seen the return of some families and individuals who had not been to Pakachoag in some time. We have seen other members become more engaged in church activities. These are certainly welcome developments, ones I hope we see more of as we enter a new programming year.

Several things give me a sense of optimism that I can’t say I felt last year at this time. More and more, the message is spreading that Pakachoag Church is “back.” We have hosted several events that were very well attended by the community. We are moving ahead with a green church initiative which should have far reaching implications for our church and community. We are receiving more interest from outside organizations wishing to use our facilities. We have become more financially conservative and, while still reliant on the Foundation for our operation, we have reduced the draws significantly and brought expenses more in line with our present circumstances.

We still face an uphill climb to replenish our membership, increase our revenue and reestablish Pakachoag Church as a force in our community. But significant progress continues and will continue through the coming months and years. Some of the highlights thus far:

- We have reopened the lines of communication with the Music School and are working on a “Statement of Understanding” that will reaffirm Pakachoag Music School’s importance to the Pakachoag Church community and establish a five year plan for our organizations’ interdependence.

- We have established better communication with the outside foundation members and improved the working relations between the Church and the Foundation.
- We are working more closely with Town officials on a variety of issues, including the use of Pakachoag Meadows and the Church property, our participation in Town events such as the Fall Festival, and coordination with the Recreation and Culture Department on using the Church for some of their programming activities.
- After a year of discussions, the Auburn Chamber of Commerce has officially decided to use Pakachoag Church for the Best of Auburn Awards Ceremony in October, and for their Christmas Business After Hours party in December.
- Our web site has been overhauled and improved tremendously.
- We will be working with another area church to host a second IHN week at Pakachoag next summer.
- Our first “green” meeting was well attended by several area leaders on environmental causes. While there was some initial skepticism around this initiative at Pakachoag, I believe now that people will be surprised at the potential of this program. Between our building, the land we own and the land we abut, there is a tremendous opportunity for us to impact the community in a far-reaching way.
- Our music program is taking shape. The choir has been resurrected and Randy has been actively ~~harassing~~ encouraging the musically inclined in our congregation to participate in future worship services. While brought in as a “supply” organist, Randy has become instrumental (get it?) at Pakachoag.
- Our Sunday school will begin a new, exciting curriculum this fall. Rev. Dee has found a program that involves more of the congregation and utilizes individuals’ strength and interests. This program eliminates the traditional commitment by a small group of teachers, instead calling upon more members of the congregation for shorter periods. Church school volunteers will also work with a range of ages. Having committed to one of the modules, I can tell you first hand that I have reviewed the material and I am excited about the content. I think this will be fun and rewarding for children and adult volunteers alike.

Our challenge now is to sustain our momentum and push further. We must still grow our membership which, at this point, requires the current congregation to reach out. People may trickle in here and there, but without active recruitment on our part, our member numbers will likely stay flat.

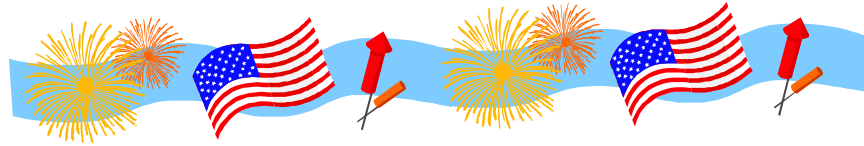
I strongly believe that our Arts Series is critical for increasing our visibility, bringing people to our Church and fund raising potential. We are working on some potential activities with other organizations that would create a nice Arts Series for 2009-2010. I'll pass along more information as it becomes available.

Finally, we must continue to be a strong and faithful congregation. In spite of all the activity and buzz during the church year, our overriding mission is to spread the words and actions of Christ. We can and do accomplish this in many ways, and I am a firm believer in continuing and expanding our outreach as well as fostering a faithful and strong congregation.

I am looking forward to the coming year as it should provide many opportunities, celebrations and surprises. I hope that everyone had a chance to regroup and recharge over the summer and that you are ready to bring your energy, talents and enthusiasm to the Pakachoag Church congregation.



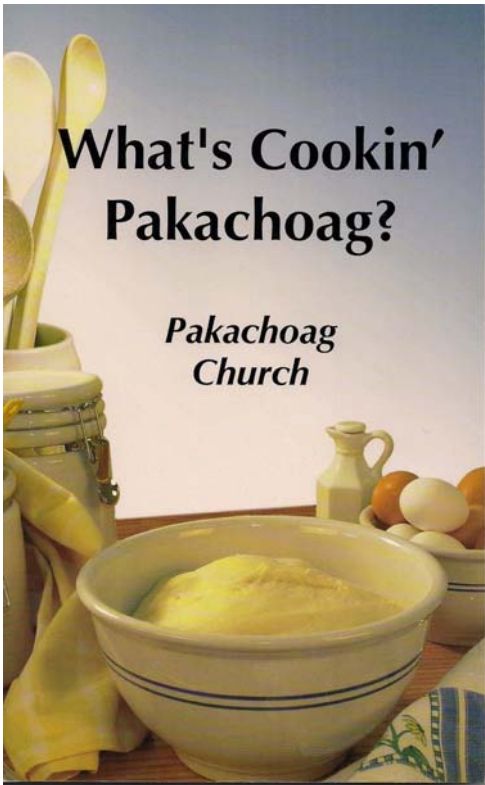
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Marilyn Kulesa	31



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.**



A great **BIG thank you** to all who contributed to our church family cookbook. We finished with 294 recipes!!! Everything from soup to nuts (literally!).

The cookbook is now available for purchase.

To get your copy, stop by the church office (Mondays through Fridays, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM) OR fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to Pakachoag Church.

Thank you again for your support.

Please send me ___ copy(ies) of "What's Cookin' Pakachoag" for \$12.00 each or 2 for \$20.00, plus \$3.00 S&H per book ordered to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

On the Edge of the World

Story and photo by Lynn Blanchard



I worked my way carefully down the rocks, minding my aching knees. I was having what I call a “knee day”, meaning I was moving a little more slowly than usual, and the pain was bad enough to make me wince. But I was at one of my favorite places on the planet, and painful knees or not, I was going to feel the fresh ocean air on my face. I had decided that today I

wasn't going to let my knees dictate my actions. I slowly worked my way down to where all I could see was ocean, all I could hear was the crashing water moving in time with the rolling thunder of waves.

I stood on the edge of the rocks, feeling the pulse of the ocean, and watching the sea gulls search for food. My thoughts drifted and I found myself praising God in a prayer of thanksgiving. “Thank you, God, for surrounding me with beauty. Thank you, God, for allowing me to be here, now, and allowing me to appreciate the wonders you create.”

There were people everywhere, but as long as I stood on the edge of this vast ocean, I was alone with God. I had no pain, no worries, no fear, and no doubt. I was in the loving arms of God, and I was being renewed.

After my private time with God, I worked my way back up the rocks to where Cathy was waiting, enjoying a little peace of her own. We sat quietly for a while, not needing to speak a word, but understanding the power of the time we spent there.

Before we left, I wanted to take some pictures in hopes of capturing a glimpse of the majesty I had witnessed. I paused to let a woman and her elderly father pass. The path wasn't easy for him, but I recognized the look in his eyes. Nothing was going to stop him. He needed to use a walker, as well as a bit of help from his daughter, but he was determined to get to the right spot. She didn't hold him back as he led the way to a nearby bench. As soon as he sat down, I could see the joy come over his face. I smiled at him and said, “Beautiful isn't it?” He nodded, and his daughter said, “It reminds you you're alive.” I started to smile, and he said, “It why we're alive.”

The pained look that enveloped his whole being as he struggled to get out of the car was gone. He now, sat with his daughter, and had his own private time with God. He sat, at the edge of the world, and found himself in a prayer of thanksgiving, "Thank you, God, for surrounding me with beauty. Thank you, God, for allowing me to be here, now, and allowing me to appreciate the wonders you create."



Have something for the Messenger? Please send it to PakMessenger@charter.net no later than the 15th of the month prior to publishing.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

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

October 4	10:00 AM	Worship Service with Communion
	11:00 AM	Coffee Hour (HR)
October 9	6:00-9:30 PM	Worester Numismatic Meeting (GH)
October 11	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	Coffee Hour (HR)
October 12		Church Office Closed
October 13	10:00 AM	Music School Class (FH)
	7:00 PM	Executive Board Mtg. (HR)

October 14	7:30-9:30 AM	Chamber of Commerce Meeting (GH)
	9:30 & 10:30 AM	Music School Classes (FH)
October 15	10:30 AM	Music School Class (FH)
	1:30 PM	Music School Class (FH)
	4:00 PM	Music School Drama/Music Class (FH)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (GH)
October 16	9:30 & 10:30 AM	Music School Classes (FH)
October 17	9:30 & 10:30 AM	Music School Classes (FH)
	5:00 PM	Pasta Dinner (GH)
October 18	10:00 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	Informal Congregational Meeting (HR)
	1:00-4:00 PM	Auburn Women's Club Brunch and Fashion Show (GH/Kitchen)
October 20	10:00 AM	Music School Class (FH)
	7:00 PM	Music School Board of Directors Meeting (HR)
October 21	9:00 AM-3:00 PM	Mass Care Meeting (HR)
	9:30 & 10:30 AM	Music School Classes (FH)
October 22	9:00 AM-2:00 PM	Mass Care Meeting (HR)
	10:30 AM	Music School Class (FH)
	1:30 PM	Music School Class (FH)
	4:00 PM	Music School Drama/Music Class (FH)
	6:00-9:00 PM	AYFS Wine Tasting Event (GH/Kitchen)
October 23	9:30 & 10:30 AM	Music School Classes (FH)
	10:00 AM-2:00 PM	InterValley Project Meeting (HR)
October 24	9:30 & 10:30 AM	Music School Classes (FH)

October 25	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Worship Service Coffee Hour (HR)
October 26	TBD	Music School Performance Class (GH)
October 27	10:00 AM	Music School Class (FH)
October 28	9:30 & 10:30 AM	Music School Classes (FH)
October 29	10:30 AM	Music School Class (FH)
	1:30 PM	Music School Class (FH)
	4:00 PM	Music School Drama/Music Class (FH)
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (GH)
October 30	9:30 & 10:30 AM	Music School Classes (FH)
October 31	9:30 & 10:30 AM	Music School Classes (FH)