

COMMUNITY YARD SALE



PLACE: PAKACHOAG CHURCH

DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

TIME: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM (RAIN OR SHINE)

Large indoor spaces are available for \$20 to sell your own items. To reserve, call Carolyn at Pakachoag Church (508-755-8718) or send an email to office@pakachoag.org.

Items (also clothes in good condition) may be brought to the church anytime **but before** September 16. Please **no** stuffed animals, encyclopedias or school books.

A Message from our Senior Minister Emeritus Rev. Dennis Knight

Dear Friends,

One Sunday morning I put on a sports coat that I had not worn in awhile, and realized there was a piece of paper in the inside pocket. I reached in, wondering what this might be and pulled out a boarding pass left over from the last time I had flown. There was a certain irony to finding that particular item in that I was heading to service at Pakachoag, and thought, what if we had to have boarding passes to get into church.

That is of course on the surface a frivolous notion, but upon reflection not as absurd a consideration as it might seem. Some churches actually do have requirements a person must meet before he/she is granted the equivalent of a pass to “get onboard.” Many churches are governed by doctrinal formulation, or canon, which contain official faith positions that members are required to subscribe to for full membership. Such standards are explicit and codified.

Often, though, the codes for belonging to churches are embedded in the habits and practices of the organization, and as a result may be difficult to discern. While the simplistic notion might prevail that churches “belong to God,” the reality is that churches often are essentially private corporations. The rules for who can gain access to any given church are determined by that church’s membership, history, understood or implied practices, habits, and customs. Those particulars may or may not be of an especially godly nature.

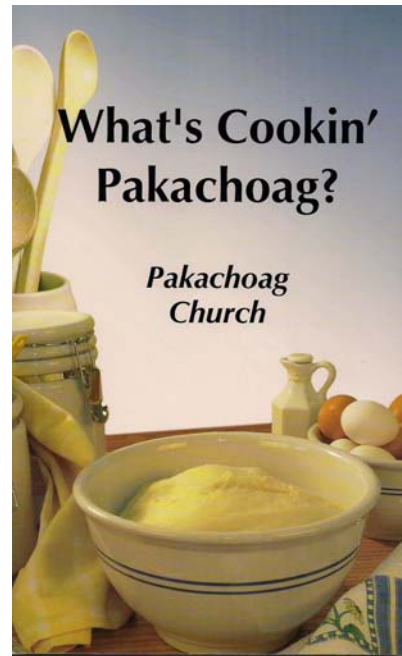
Sometimes a person may be unaware of the rules that exist in a church until they are violated. Those violations may be very minor, but they can have the weight of law. Some such violations may include sitting in the wrong pew, or brewing the coffee in the wrong urn, or suggesting the use of “debts” for “trespasses” or vice versa in the Lord’s Prayer, or opining that a certain hymn is old and tired or a favorite anthem is overly sentimental and ought to be retired.

These are amusing and perhaps even petty examples, although they illustrate that there is a strong level of presumption within churches about what is permissible. It is essentially of no consequence to brew coffee in the wrong urn (after all, there is always Starbucks). It is another matter, however, to discover that your skin color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status, or other such factor, functions as a tag that influences your standing or welcome in a given church community. Yet these particulars are factors in many church settings.

As we begin another program year at Pakachoag, I encourage us all to consider what it is that we expect of ourselves and others who seek to be active participants in the life of this community. We need to make sure we understand the standards that shape and govern our being together. We need to clarify what our written and unwritten codes are, and ask, do they make sense, and do we adhere to them? And possibly most important of all the questions we should consider, are there obstacles we present that stand in the way of others being a part of life at Pakachoag, or are our ways and habits encouraging to others and make it possible for them to “get onboard”?



Blair Coté	1	belated wishes
Michelle Carlson	12	
Roland Nelson	20	
Michelle Heron	23	
Karen Stallonis	28	



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 _____

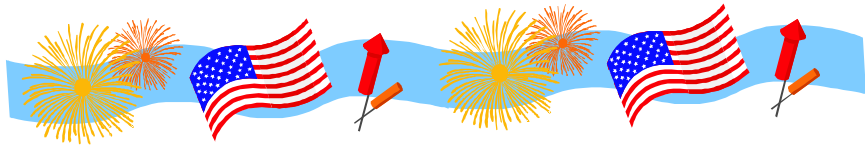
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

RALLY DAY AND ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

It's hard to believe that summer is over and September is at hand. We will kick off the fall season on **September 13** with Rally Day and an all-church picnic.

Please bring your church school registration form(s) with you on the 13th. We will celebrate with a picnic after service. **Bring along salads and/or desserts to share for lunch.** We will cook hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill.

At our picnic we will be having a "Crazy Hat Contest." Either bring a hat or make one that day. Small prizes will be given for: most original design, funniest and ugliest.



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.**

SAVE THE DATES

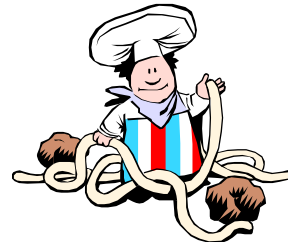
Sunday, September 27 - Family Ministry, Apple Picking.
More information to follow.

Sunday, October 4 - we will once again hold a Blessing of the Animals Service in the Memorial Garden at 2:00 PM. All animals and their owners are invited to attend. Please spread the word to your neighbors and friends.



Saturday, October 17 – Pasta Dinner – 5:00 PM

Dinner includes pasta, meatballs and sausages, assorted breads, salad, vegetable, dessert and beverage. Tickets will be available during coffee hour or by calling the church office beginning next Sunday, September 13.



Knowledge by Lynn Blanchard

I think it is amazing how much knowledge there is out there. I'm not talking about just "God related" knowledge, but knowledge in general. For instance, I took four semesters of American Sign Language for my language requirement toward my degree. I learned over a thousand signs. I learned about the sentence structure of the language, how to express intention and feeling. I even learned to "sing" a couple songs in ASL to better my understanding of the lessons taught. But the truth of the matter is, I

probably wouldn't be able to have a productive conversation with another person only in sign. Sure I could spit out a question or two, but even after all that practice and schooling there is so much more for me to learn.

For those of you who don't know my mother, she is, among many other things, an avid reader. She loves to get lost in a good mystery, or expand her mind reading about how the brain works, or theories on healthy living, or any number of things. She is the one I call when I have a question about...well, just about anything. Even if she doesn't have an answer, she can make an educated guess, or at the very least, point me to where I might find my answer. She has spent a lifetime feeding her desire to learn about all kinds of things, but she still isn't done. At least once a week (usually more often) she will share with me newly acquired knowledge. She is by far, one of the most intelligent people I have ever known. But still, she continues to learn.

Cathy and I were watching a Red Sox game the other day, and they had kids from The Jimmy Fund on talking about how cancer has impacted their lives. There were teenagers and small kids alike, but the thing that struck me was their strength and courage when facing something that could kill them. Not one of them came on and said "Why me?" or "I can't handle this burden." Each and every one of them faced this horrible disease and leant strength to their family and friends who love them. Now I understand this was all meant to get me to open my wallet and offer financial support to this particular fund, but I think it did more than that. For me, anyway, it left me feeling I can face whatever life throws at me, if these kids can do it when facing cancer ...

Being a Christian is a lot like these simple life lessons. No matter who you are, no matter how much you know, there is ALWAYS more to learn. I saw a commercial the other day for the Church of Latter Day Saints. They have a new website for you to go on and ask your "faith based" questions. Questions like. "Does God have a place for me?" or "What does God want me to do with my life?" Honestly, I had to laugh. I understand that we live in a "fast food"

kind of world, where we want everything handed to us, and we want it NOW, but shouldn't those be questions we find the answers to on our own? Sure, through relationships, study and faith these questions are answered with the suggestions of those we trust, or maybe the slightest bit of guidance. But in the end, isn't that something we need to follow our own hearts to answer? Isn't that what life is all about; the journey to our own answers?

Some of the biggest strides I've made in my own personal faith have been from learning what it is I don't believe. I love talking to people about how they believe, and not just what they believe; they are two very different things. So continue on your journey, don't ever stop learning. Grow your faith by challenging it. God has some wonderful things in store for you.

In Memoriam Marion Gaffney

The Pakachoag community was sad to learn of the death on August 7, 2009 of former area resident and member of Pakachoag Church, Marion Gaffney. Marion joined this church while she was a student at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, from which she received an M.D. Previous to this, she had been a faculty member at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Marion held two degrees from the Julliard School of Music in piano, and was, by common acclaim, a brilliant pianist with an exceptionally promising future in the field when she chose to enter medicine. Upon completing her M.D., she embarked in a residency program in psychiatry and was a practicing psychiatrist at the time of her death.

Marion's outstanding skills were matched by a deep sense of spirituality and a profoundly caring and compassionate manner. While a member of Pakachoag, she supported the then young enterprise of the Pakachoag Community Music School and the work of the Pakachoag Church AIDS Support Group. She resettled her parents to this area from her native Buffalo, New York so she could care for them at a time of declining health. In time, Rev. Knight officiated at memorial services at Pakachoag

Church for her mother and father respectively. Marion was living in Westboro at the time of her death, and was the mother of two sons, aged eleven and ten. In addition to her boys, she is survived by a brother and sister and extended family, a host of devoted friends, and her former husband Michael Salloum, who along with many others, abided her during an illness lasting from March until August. Marion was 53 when she died.

IHN Week

We had a wonderful week and thoroughly enjoyed our guests.

Thank you to everyone who prepared dinner, hosted dinner, slept over night, made breakfast, or helped unloading or loading the truck. A big shout out to *Edla Ann and Randy Bloom, Blair Coté, Andi Esposito, Michelle Heron, the LaBonte family, Kathy Papineau, Dee and Michah, Mary Ann and Alexis Wilson, Dennis and Carolyn* and especially to *Chottsie Coté*, our chairperson. Thank you to all mentioned and those that we may have inadvertently missed.



MUSIC NOTES

Pakachoag Church Singers . . .

are part of the life and worship of the church. The group performs most weekly Sunday worship services at 10 AM as well as selected special services during the church year. Membership in the choir is available to singers with a commitment to making good music to enhance the worship experience.

Rehearsals . . .

are held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 PM in the Great Hall. Each Sunday the choir meets before the worship service at 9 AM to warm-up and refine the music for that morning.

Choir rehearsal will be starting up on **Thursday, September 10** at 7:00 PM in the Great Room.

For more information please contact Randy Bloom, Interim Organist and Choir Director at conbloom@aol.com or at the church (508-755-8718).



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



Check out our website: www.pakachoag.org

The *Pakachoag Messenger* is available through the website. If you download this electronically, you will save the church the expense of printing and postage, you will have contributed to our “green” effort, and the material will get to you sooner. You can even forward a link to your family and friends so they will be able to keep up with life at Pakachoag.

This will be your last copy of the *Messenger* that will be mailed to your home. If, however, you prefer to receive a copy via post office mail, please let the office know. Carolyn has already received a few calls from folks who are unable to receive the newsletter via our website.

**2009 Harvest Festival
Overlook Farm, Rutland, MA
October 3 and 4
11 AM – 4 PM**

Explore the homes in the Heifer Global Village to learn about traditional harvest celebrations in Peru, Poland, Kenya and more. Take a horse-drawn hayride to the gardens and enjoy other activities such as face painting, crafts and a hay maze. Purchase local pumpkins and browse Shop@Heifer that features fair trade and unique hand-crafted items from around the world. Throughout the day, learn about Heifer International as you meet many of Heifer’s animals including water buffalo, a yak, llamas and traditional farm animals such as pigs and goats.

Admission: \$5 per person / children 12 and under are free.
(A fee will also be charged for food and pumpkins.)



SUMMER FAMILY FUN FEST – held on **Saturday, August 8** was enjoyed by all. A **BIG** thank you to everyone who participated; we couldn’t have done it without you! More pictures of this event are on our website: www.pakachoag.org.

