

PAKACHOAG MESSENGER

A publication of Pakachoag Church, UCC
March/April 2010, Volume 32, No. 2

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

CHURCH STAFF:

Dennis R. Knightminister@pakachoag.org
Minister Emeritus

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Laine Hanlon education@pakachoag.org
Director of Education and Family Ministries

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Church Administrative Secretary

A Message from our Minister

Dennis Knight

Dear Friends,

There is probably no higher standard of achievement for an athlete than to compete in than the Olympic Games. A great deal of drama shows itself in these games. Those who meet with success find their spirits soaring in triumph. Frustration and disappointment are to be had as well, along with a whole gamut of other human emotions. Every Olympics has those moments that cause hearts to pound and breaths to stop.

One measure of each Olympics is the “medal count.” This seems to be a favored detail of the media. This metric offers an indicator of how well each nation’s athletes are performing. In 2010, the United States set a new record for the number of total medals at a winter Olympics.

A medal count, however, is not fully disclosing of the effort, the dedication, or the skills the individual athletes exhibit, or the dynamics that play out within the competition. For example, a Canadian skater won a bronze medal two days after her mother died unexpectedly while in Vancouver to encourage her daughter along. By the “objective” standards of the judges, her performance did not measure up to the silver or gold medalists. The scale the judges were using, though, did not provide a scoring mechanism for emotional fortitude or force of will. By those measures, her performance was unexcelled, having carried on as she did under the emotional burden of her immediate loss.

Similarly, while the Canadian hockey team ultimately prevailed and won the gold this year, the United States team which gained the silver, will be remembered for its perseverance and skill far beyond what was expected. The medal count for the 1980 Winter Olympics lingers nowhere but in the record books, yet the remarkable performance of the United States “Dream Team” of that year remains a vivid memory three decades on, and may well have inspired this year’s team.

No person’s achievement in winning an Olympic medal can or should be understated. Medals notwithstanding, the noble tradition of the Olympics reminds us that triumph is to be had in the quality of the competition itself and not just in the winning.

Simply to get to the Olympics is itself a high benchmark of success. The number of medals that return home do not reflect the full measure of what winning is about. The excellence that is bred over years of preparation, the sense of mutual regard that derives from earnest striving with an opponent, the promotion of teammanship, and the development of the kind of

fortitude that helps overcome loss and set back, are all part of the win that any athlete can take from the Olympics, whether a medal winner or not.

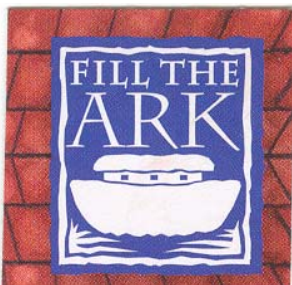
Such standards apply to all of us who may not see ourselves as competitors, but who surely nonetheless are striving to meet the highest level of excellence we can. Personal best is something we all can achieve, whether anyone awards us a medal for that or not.

A LITTLE MORE...
ABOUT OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Lainey Hanlon attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where she earned a Masters degree in Elementary Education and a Bachelor's degree in flute performance. She has taught at God's Little Children Preschool in Shrewsbury and was a lead teacher at the Mercy Center in Worcester. Currently she is a music teacher in the Shrewsbury Public School program offering private flute instruction and she coaches the flute choir at Notre Dame Academy in Worcester. Lainey is married to Worcester police officer Michael Hanlon and they are the parents of two adorable little boys, Paul, age 3 and Jack age 9 months.



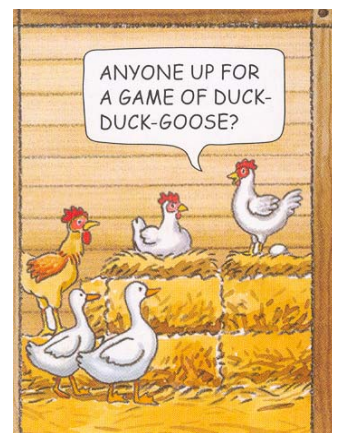
Coin Banks are now available



We are starting our **Heifer Project** on **Sunday, March 14**. We invite all families to take home a bank and fill it with coins during this Lenten season. Feel free to take more than one bank.

Banks need to be returned by Sunday, April

28.



Call to the Annual Meeting

To All Members of Pakachoag Church, UCC:

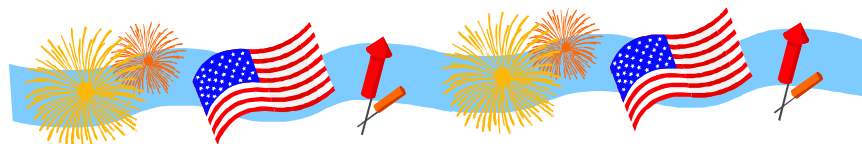
Pursuant to Article X, Section 1, of the Bylaws of Pakachoag Church, you are hereby called to the Annual Meeting on **Sunday, March 28, 2010**, immediately following morning worship.

On the agenda:

- Minutes from the last Annual Meeting, March 22, 2009
- Report on the Membership
- Slate of officers and board members
- Proposed 2010 Budget
- Report from Pakachoag Church Foundation

Twenty voting members constitute a quorum.

Ellen C. Gaboury
Clerk



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.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday

10:00 AM Worship Service



Thursday, April 1 **Maundy Thursday Service**

5:30 PM Waffle Supper (Hex Room)

7:00 PM Service in the Great Hall

After our delicious waffle supper, we will gather in the Great Hall for a service with Communion and scripture readings.

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunday

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Coffee Hour



Easter flowers

Order forms will be included in the bulletins or call Carolyn and she will take your order.

Lilies (single) - \$8; Tulips (6") - \$8

An Easter Egg hunt will be held during Coffee Hour.



Following worship on Easter Sunday we invite all the children to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Memorial Garden (weather permitting). This is a fun event for all ages. If you would like to help make this day special, donations of wrapped candy are greatly appreciated. Please drop off at the church office by Palm Sunday.

Happy Birthday!!



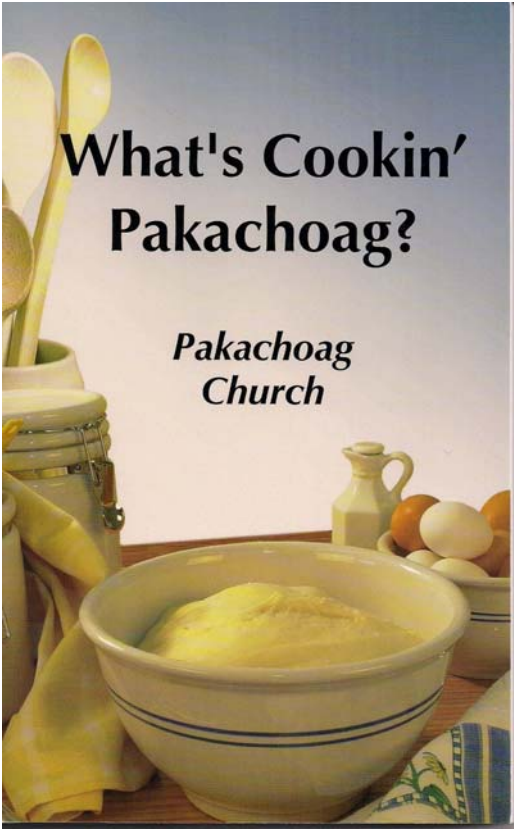
March Birthdays

Jeff LaBonte	2
Ava Harte	9
Linnea Eldridge.....	12
Mathew Coté	24
Rachel Hubbard	27
Madeline Seaman	28

April Birthdays

Mary Ann Wilson	1
Carolyn Kreft	5
Zachary Taylor	30





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: _____

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

by Lynn Blanchard

When Mary left home on Friday, I'll bet she was thinking about her day ahead. She may have been contemplating a conversation she'd had with her husband of 40 years, Al, or the plans she'd made for the weekend. Perhaps she was going to visit her mother, daughter or grandchildren. I can guarantee, she never thought, even for a moment, she wouldn't return at all. Yet, Friday, February 26th, driving home alone from a laughter filled visit with friends, the unthinkable happened. My friend, teacher, and mentor, Mary Dunkerly, was tragically killed in an accident on a highway in New Hampshire.

I met Mary when I was a young girl of 13. Like many freshman girls my age, I was trying to figure out how I fit in my own skin. Mary was the Drama Director at the school, and we met when I volunteered to do the lighting and audio for the fall production. I was moved by the way she spoke to the other students, and it was clear to me Mary truly cared about the students she was working with. When she took a personal interest in you, she was sincere, and I believe never said anything she didn't mean. She was one of those people who knew the "right thing" to say, when it needed to be said.

Soon, I found myself, more involved in the drama club, not only working the technical aspects of the production, but also acting, and yes, even singing in front of other people!! Now you have to understand, I was a bit of a wall flower in my younger years. Mary taught me to believe in myself, to try new things, and even learn to trust other people too. She helped me find glimpses of confidence that grew with nurturing and patience.

In my four years there, I was involved in every production in some way. When I was too booked with sports to act, I would help with sets, costumes, lighting and staging. Mary taught me to get outside my comfort zone and step up for things, I soon found were important to me. When I graduated from high school, I continued with my passion for the stage. I majored in media arts, and took many acting, public speaking and production classes. Yes, I continued in drama in college too.

As often happens, we lost touch after a few years. She had other students, and I had a life of my own to live. But a couple years ago, I was online and came across her name. I contacted her and we started talking. I found out she'd left teaching after many years and was pursuing her passion ... writing. Of course that gave us plenty to talk about. I was able to tell her what she meant to me, how the lessons she taught me, I was still living. I

thanked her for being the wonderful, caring person she was, and I promised her I would never forget it.

Over the past few days, I've been talking to friends who knew her. I am overwhelmed with how many people had stories similar to mine. Stories of how she went out of her way to be there for them in a way only she knew how. How in times of great need for understanding and compassion, she was a light shining brightly for many of us, to guide us to a safe harbor.

In the past I've mentioned people who have somehow helped me with my faith. People whom I believe, God put in my path to help me with challenges as well as triumphs. But Mary was there for me when I wasn't sure who I was yet. She taught me gentle lessons that helped form the woman I have become. She encouraged my dreams, and even helped me realize I had them. She was truly a gift to this world.

So I ask you to do something for yourself. I guarantee it will make you feel wonderful. Look up that teacher; that neighborhood mom or dad; the minister; the family member; that old friend; and tell them how very much they mean to you. More importantly, be that person who takes a moment to be there for someone. Sometimes, all it takes is a casserole when they have lost a loved one; a card, just to say hello; or even taking a few minutes out of your busy day, to listen.

"When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice."

Cherokee Expression



Photo taken by April Babineau, from her back porch in Albuquerque, NM. 01/31/10

**Have something for the Messenger? Please send it to
PakMessenger@charter.net
Articles are due no later than...**

May & June issue
deadline for articles is April 15th

July & August issue
deadline for articles is June 15th

September & October issue
deadline for articles is August 15th

November & December issue
deadline for articles is October 15th

MARCH CALENDAR DATES

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

Sunday, March 7 – Third Sunday in Lent

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

Tuesday, March 9

10:00 AM Music School Class (FH)
5:00-9:00 PM Auburn Democratic St. Patrick's Dinner (GH)

Wednesday, March 10

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, March 11

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
4:00 PM Music School Drama Class (FH)
7:00 PM **Choir Rehearsal (GH)**
7:00-9:00 PM Forest Park Condo Meeting (HR)

Friday, March 12

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal (GH)

Saturday, March 13

9:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
2:00 PM Music School Honors Recital (GH);
 Reception following in the HR
6:00 PM Wedding (GH)

Sunday, March 14 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM **Worship Service**
11:00 AM **Coffee Hour (HR)**
12:30 PM Information Session on "SNAP" (HR)

Monday, March 15

6:30 PM Music School Performance Class (FH)

Tuesday, March 16

10:00 AM Music School Class (FH)

Wednesday, March 17

6:00-9:00 PM Music School Board of Directors Meeting (HR)

Thursday, March 18

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

Friday, March 19

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, March 20

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

Sunday, March 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Tuesday, March 23

10:00 AM Music School Class (FH)

Wednesday, March 24

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, March 25

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

Friday, March 26

9:30 AM Music School Class (HR)
10:30 AM Music School Class (HR)
1:00 PM Music School – Cabaret Show (GH)
7:30 PM Music School – Cabaret Show (GH)

Saturday, March 27

9:30 AM Music School Class (HR)
10:30 AM Music School Class (HR)
1:00 PM Music School – Cabaret Show (GH)
7:30 PM Music School – Cabaret Show (GH)

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday

10:00 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Annual Meeting of the Congregation
12:30 PM Worcester Fellowship Ministry

Tuesday, March 30

10:00 AM Music School Class (FH)

Wednesday, March 31

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

APRIL CALENDAR DATES

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

Thursday, April 1

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
4:00 PM Music School Drama Class (FH)
7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service (GH)

April 4 – Easter Sunday

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

Monday, April 5

6:00 PM Music School Performance Class (FH)

Tuesday, April 6

10:00 AM Music School Class (FH)

Wednesday, April 7

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

Thursday, April 8

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)
4:00 PM Music School Drama Class (FH)
4:00-6:00 PM Art Show Pictures being dropped off (GH)
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (GH)

Friday, April 9

9:30 AM Music School Class (HR)
10:30 AM Music School Class (HR)
During the day Set up for Art Show (GH)

Saturday, April 10

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

Sunday, April 11

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

Monday, April 12

6:00 PM Music School Performance Class (FH)

Tuesday, April 13

10:00 AM Music School Class (FH)

7:00 PM Executive Board Meeting (HR)

Wednesday, April 14

9:30 AM Music School Class (HR)

10:30 AM Music School Class (HR)

Thursday, April 15

10:30 AM Music School Class (FH)

4:00 PM Music School Drama Class (FH)

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (GH)

Friday, April 16

9:30 AM Music School Class (HR)

10:30 AM Music School Class (HR)

7:00 PM Music School Drama Show (GH)

Saturday, April 17

9:30 AM Music School Class (HR)

10:00 AM-3:00 PM Interim Ministry Network Meeting (HR)

10:30 AM Music School Class (HR)

Sunday, April 18

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Coffee Hour (HR)

Monday, April 19

7:00-9:00 PM Pine Ledge Condo Meeting (HR)

Wednesday, April 21

6:00-9:00 PM Music School Board of Directors Meeting (HR)

Thursday, April 22

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

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (GH)

Friday, April 23

6:00-9:00 PM

MasterSingers Wine Tasting Gala (GH)

Sunday, April 25

10:00 AM

Worship Service

11:00 AM

Coffee Hour (HR)

Tuesday, April 27

10:00 AM

Music School Class

7:00 PM

Auburn Women's Club presents

"Women of the Bible" program (GH)

Wednesday, April 28

9:30 AM

Music School Class (HR)

10:30 AM

Music School Class (HR)

Thursday, April 29

10:30 AM

Music School Class (FH)

7:00 PM

Choir Rehearsal (GH)

Friday, April 30

6:00-9:00 PM

ADNA Wine Tasting Gala (GH)