

# The Messenger

## Payson Park Church



United Church of Christ - Congregational

365 Belmont Street, Belmont, MA 02478

617-484-1542 fax 617-484-1526

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## July/August 2008

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### Our Mission Statement

*"We believe God is calling us to walk in the ways of Jesus Christ  
and to bear witness to the Gospel through worship and service, empowered by the Holy Spirit."*

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As I write these words, over one hundred children and youth gather in the sanctuary to learn new songs about faith and love. They sing and clap, talk and laugh, with old friends and new classmates. It's the week of Vacation Bible School, and Payson Park Church is filled with God's Spirit of exuberant welcome and abounding joy.

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Jesus' statement in Mark's gospel often inspires us to think about how we form our relationships with God and the church. Greeting people in the narthex this morning I saw the multiple dimensions of these words come to life. Some boys and girls ran into the church with confidence, finding their nametags and t-shirts quickly. I watched as new students entered quietly, lighting up when they recognized a friend. Still others remained shyly by their parents' side, hands held, heads hidden. "Let the little children come to me." The statement implies we are welcomed to arrive at this place with unleashed enthusiasm as well as with feelings of uncertainty and fear.

What an important reminder. As we grow as individual disciples and as a community of faith, we can take heart that it is in the fullness of our humanity we're invited to develop our relationships with God and one another. Through good times and bad, through joyful moments as well as in times of challenge and strain, the teachings of Jesus lead us to be people of compassion, offering God's abiding love not only to others but also to ourselves. This is the healing power of the gospel message: God reaches out to us in all of our humanity. As the weeks of summer unfold, I pray we may be open to such transforming grace. Peace be with you!

The Reverend Lael Atkinson

F R O M T H E



PASTOR

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## July and August Worship Schedule



**Sunday, July 6, 2008** 10:00 a.m.  
**Union Service at Waverly Congregational Church**  
471 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA  
The Reverend Chung Soon preaching

**Sunday, July 13, 2008** 9:30 a.m.  
The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching  
Sermon "Help Is on the Way!"  
Scripture Psalm 51:1-12; Mark 1:35-45

**Sunday, July 20, 2008** 9:30 a.m.  
The Reverend Rob Asinger preaching

**Sunday, July 27, 2008** 9:30 a.m.  
The Reverend Rob Asinger preaching

**Sunday, August 3, 2008** 9:30 a.m.  
Union Service at Payson Park Church  
The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching  
Sermon "Can You Hear Me Now?"  
Scripture Psalm 85: 8-13; Mark 7: 31-37

**Sunday, August 10, 2008** 9:30 a.m.  
Allen Vander Meulen, Church member and  
Seminary candidate, preaching

**Sunday, August 17, 2008** 9:30 a.m.  
The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching  
Sermon "To See or Not To See"  
Scripture Psalm 31: 21-24; Mark 8: 22-29

**Sunday, August 24, 2008** 9:30 a.m.  
The Reverend Rob Asinger preaching

**Sunday, August 31, 2008** 9:30 a.m.  
Union Service at Plymouth Congregational  
Church  
582 Pleasant Street, Belmont, MA  
The Reverend Alan Baughcum preaching

On Sunday, August 3, we at Payson Park Church will be hosting worship for our members and friends in addition to welcoming the members of our Belmont UCC neighbors, Plymouth Congregational Church and Waverly Congregational Church. This Communion Service will begin at 9:30 a.m. Please join us and extend God's loving welcome and fellowship to our neighbors!

We will also have the opportunity to worship with our friends in their home churches. The union services will begin as we worship at Waverly Congregational Church on Sunday, July 6, at 10:00 a.m. On Sunday, August 31, Labor Day Weekend, we will gather at Plymouth Congregational Church at 9:30 am. Please call our Church Office if you have questions about these services or need a ride.



Scripture Readers Welcomed!

### SUMMER WORSHIP

Would you like to read Scripture on Sunday? Please call the Church Office or speak with Lael. We would love to have you lead us in worship in this way!

## Education and Fellowship Opportunities

### SUMMER SABBATH:

#### FELLOWSHIP AND EDUCATION EVENTS TO RETURN

With schedules shifting in the days of summer, several of our fellowship and educational groups will not meet in July and August. Be sure, however, to keep your calendars open! With the arrival of September, Caregivers Unite, The Good Afternoons, Parents' Night Out, and the No Strings Attached Guitar Group and other evening educational events will resume.

### THE WIDER CHURCH:

#### UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Are you interested in attending educational or other events offered by our denomination? The offices of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, located in Framingham, provide a host of classes and workshops that are available to lay and clergy members alike. Events are regularly posted on our bulletin boards, or you may log on to the denomination's website: [macucc.org](http://macucc.org)

Upcoming Musical Event: Adult Music Camp, Thursday, July 24 - Saturday, July 26, Craigsville Conference Center, Centerville, MA. Join other musically minded Christian adults for the opportunity to spend a long weekend making beautiful music together.

### PAYSON PARK NURSERY SCHOOL

Are you looking for a nursery school program for your child? Do you have neighbors or friends who are making plans for their young children for the fall? The Payson Park Church Nursery School is currently accepting applications for enrollment in September. Scheduling is flexible, and discounts are available for church members. Please call Janet Coleman, Nursery School Director, for more information (617/489-4824) or email at [nurserydirector@paysonpark.org](mailto:nurserydirector@paysonpark.org)

### SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL

Please welcome Elizabeth Smith who returns as our Summer Church School Head Teacher for our One Room Schoolhouse Program. Elizabeth will be leading Church School beginning June 29 and throughout the summer months. She will be assisted each Sunday by Jennie Reis, a fellow seminarian. Jennie is the Campus Minister at Emmanuel College and has a MA in Pastoral Ministry from Boston College. If you have any questions about our summer program, you may contact Elizabeth at her email address: [esmith28@bu.edu](mailto:esmith28@bu.edu) or the Christian Education Director, Cindy Lou: [cedirector@paysonpark.org](mailto:cedirector@paysonpark.org)

### GATHERING TOGETHER IN FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

#### WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

All women of the church are invited to join together Wednesday evenings this summer. Inspired by the knitting of prayer shawls, this is a time of "sharing and caring" in the spirit of faith, hope, and love. Whether you knit or not, please consider coming once or every week to get together with new and old-time friends of the church. On extremely hot evenings, we'll find a cool place to gather!

### SUMMER CITY OUTREACH:

#### TERRIFIC TUESDAYS IN DORCHESTER:

Help youth stay off the streets! Through the month of July, "Terrific Tuesdays" will be held at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Dorchester, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Working with the staff and volunteers from City Mission Society, you can lead games and craft activities or help teach a church school lesson. For more information, call The Reverend John Odams 617/282-0456 or speak with Lael.

### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Please note the church office will be open Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. in July and August. If you have a question or concern that needs to be resolved at another time, please call our pastors at home.

# Mission and Other News

## A Grateful Committee

As we look back over the past three months, we on the Mission and Outreach Committee wish to express our gratitude to the wonderful people at Payson Park Church. Thanks to your very generous support, our mission projects have been successful: 336 sandwiches were made and delivered to Bristol Lodge at our April 20 sandwich-making workshop; 27 Mother's Day bags were assembled and delivered to Second Step on May 4; \$800 was collected for Church World Service blankets leading up to Mother's Day. Whether you contributed financially, with helping hands, or through your prayers, we are grateful for your support. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the coming months. Thank you.



## Wanted: Gently Used and Loved Children's Books

As adults are in the middle of spring cleaning and children are dreaming of the end of another school year, it seems the perfect time to identify some gently used children's books that could go to a new home to entertain and inspire other children this summer. The Mission and Outreach committee will be collecting gently used children's books to be donated to Cradles to Crayons, a non-profit organization serving the Boston area that provides, free of charge, low-income and homeless children from birth to pre-teen the basic essentials they need to be safe, warm, ready to learn, and valued. There will be a box in the narthex to collect the books each Sunday. Please see Liz Stanziola or Kate Tigelaar with any questions.



## Summer Committee Meetings

While summer can be a time of Sabbath from our usual activities during the program year, we also work to prepare for the fall season during this time. To that end, some committees may be meeting in July and August, but at the time of this Messenger's publication, dates had not been set. All meetings of the church are open, and if you are interested in attending any committee of which you are not a formal member, please see the weekly calendar in the worship bulletin or call the church office. Meetings of the Church Council, Bylaws, Transition, Finance & Property and other committees during the summer are not "secret" gatherings. Please call the church office or our moderators if you would like more information!

## A Word of Thanks for Our Prayer Shawl Ministry

Dear Members of the Faith, Hope, and Love Fellowship, who so carefully knitted the very beautiful prayer shawl for me. I just love it and I feel so blessed that you sent it to me from all of you. It was especially nice that you all signed the card so that I knew how many selected the colorful yarns that were used to knit it. I shall think of each of you when I lay it over my knees to keep me warm. My daughter has told me how much she loves each one of you for your kindness.

Blessings and love,  
Mary Pence

**Answer to kidspage located on page 8 is:** angels; sun; moon; stars; fire; snow; wind; Mountains; hills; trees; cattle; birds; men; women; glory; heaven

## Sharing and Caring

### A WORD OF THANKS FOR ELIZABETH SMITH'S MINISTRY

On Sunday, June 22 we bid our Ministerial Intern, Elizabeth Smith farewell, expressing our gratitude for her devoted presence among us. In addition to offering leadership during worship, Elizabeth worked joyfully with our youth and music programs, developing not only her own skills for ministry but also nurturing the faith of many others. As she leaves this position to continue her studies at Boston University, working, as well, at the Tufts Chapel, we say, "Thanks and God be with you!"

### IN LOVING SUPPORT

Joan Blackman is very proud of her grandson, Sergeant Michael Ricci. This is Michael's second duty in Iraq. Michael was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for exemplary professional service. He was cited for "professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving as coalition enterprise regional information exchange and voice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom." The commendation went on to say that he displayed outstanding judgment and the capacity to make accurate, timely decisions as he single-handedly increased operational capabilities in Western Iraq and installed and managed the network for over 250 users on Camp Fallujah. His initiative, perseverance and dedication to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corp and US Naval Service. This is quite a credit to a marine who has just celebrated his 22nd birthday. We remember him as a young boy who often came to church with his sister Melissa when they visited Joan and Jack, and we are all proud of him. His address is:

Sgt. Ricci, Michael R.  
9th, COMM BN B CO  
Data Plt.  
Unit 42580  
FPO AP 96426-2580

### PASTORAL COVERAGE THIS SUMMER

Throughout the weeks of July and August, Rob and Lael will continue leading worship, attending meetings, and offering pastoral support, covering for each other during times of vacation, study leave, and family care giving. August 8 - 15, when both ministers are away, the Reverend Alan Baughcum of Plymouth Congregational Church in Belmont, will provide pastoral coverage. Alan can be reached at 617/484-5257. You may also call our Senior Deacons, Marty Gledhill or Alice Holt.



I am writing to explain the coffee hour schedule for the coming year. It begins July 13. For the summer months there will be a supply of lemonade, cookies, coffee, cream and sugar in the kitchen for those who are in church and would like a coffee hour. As you read the schedule on the board outside the church office, there are some Sundays throughout the year that are listed "A Family". If you would like to be the family to be in charge of coffee hour for that particular Sunday, please sign up. I hope this will take the pressure off the same people who put on the coffee hours each week. The summer supplies are different. I will have them there for whoever needs them during the summer.

Thank you.

Marty Gledhill, Co-Senior Deacon

### JUNE 2008 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

We thank you for worshipping with us.

Attendance in June was as follows:

June 01	110	June 15	121
June 08	114	June 22	105

## A Letter from the Ministerial Intern

In my last sermon, I talked about God's providence in our lives. About the way I believe - no, I know- that, despite all that is wrong in the world and all the ways that God seems hidden, God is really just the master of disguises. Of curve balls. Of unfinished stories. And in a way, this is more comforting than if everything were perfect, for if everything were, in fact, perfect, there would be no more story to tell. Just "the end." I, for one, am thankful that none of us, individually or collectively, are finished.

And what's more is that, unfinished and imperfect though we are, and though our world is, I see God's fingerprints everywhere. It's just the God does not act in a obtrusive "lightening bolt on my enemies" kind of way, but in a way so much more true to God's real character. It is a presence that generously and permissively stands back as we make our own way, but yet, ever so hidden, holds an unperceivable hand to our backs, beckoning us toward (as the psalm says) verdant pastures and still waters. This is how I experience my two and a half years at Phillips/Payson Park Church.

If anyone had asked me two years ago where I was to do my field education, a one-year requirement for seminarians seeking their Master of Divinity, I would likely have not described something like this. Not that this was not what I wanted. I simply didn't know that one could have it all. I applied to several different places. Some places were prepared to offer me positions in music with little involvement in "div" stuff - preaching, education, liturgy, pastoral conversation- all the stuff I love. Other places were prepared to offer me positions in the aforementioned with little involvement in anything that would utilize my music degree - directing choirs, composing, accompanying - all the stuff I love!

And then, as God always does, God found me where I was and came through. I first came to Phillips three Christmases ago. I came because my friend and classmate from Boston University, Cathy Meyer, thought of letting me work with her youth choir to get some extra conducting practice in over Christmas break. Little did I know that Cathy's invitation was really God speaking to me, beckoning me toward one of the best decisions of my life. I guess I owe the biggest thanks to Cathy, for, as they say, 99% of success is showing up. Without her idea, I'd have never done so. Phillips wasn't even on my radar. But all of you reading this know what I'm talking

come to and easily leave. I don't even remember how, but suddenly, I was sitting in the Snow Room of the Phillips building with Rob Asinger talking about all the things I could - and would - do here. My second thanks has to be to Rob. Little did I know it then, but I now know that his amazing mentorship has forever impacted my sense of ministry. Thank you, Rob, for all your endless faith, candor, time, wisdom, and the thousand other things there aren't room to name.

In fact, two years later, I realize that all of you at Payson Park have, these two and a half years, have had impacts that I will carry with me forever. I have been blessed not only by Rob's mentorship, but, this last year, also by Lael's care. I have had more fun than I'd have ever dreamed of making music with Cathy, all our talented adults, and each wonderful child. I have immensely enjoyed working with Cindy Lou and am thankful for her trust and invitations to work with God's Garden. And, I have been moved by relationships with so very many of you that I cannot list all of the ways in which you have blessed me. The only true testament I can offer for how much thanks and love I have for everyone in this church community is that I could not leave after one year, and that year two was even more amazing than the first.

As I conclude my role as ministerial intern at Payson Park Church Sunday, June 22, I give thanks to you. For allowing me to worship with you. For allowing me to make music with you. For allowing me to learn from you. For allowing me to teach you. For allowing me to know you. For allowing me to know your wonderful children. For allowing me into your lives - your joys, your troubles, your stories, your complaints, your struggles, your jokes, your consolidation experience - your world.

I give thanks that the Christian Education Committee hired me to teach church school this summer. I relish every day that I get to continue sharing in the faith journey of this church, and, when the summer is over, please do know that I take with me the love and faith that lives here. Praise be to God, for, while neither of our stories are yet finished, I am both confident and thankful that you are a chapter in my unfinished story, and I pray that I may play some worthy role in yours.

Elizabeth Smith, Ministerial Intern

## Music News

### DO YOU SING? OR PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

Hello! Are you looking for a fun, low-stress opportunity to sing or play your instrument this summer? Please consider playing or singing for a worship service! I'd be very happy to talk with you about special music for any summer service. Whether you're a beginner or a professional, there's sure to be a time when your musical skills will fit in beautifully with our worship. Please contact me at [musicminister@paysonpark.org](mailto:musicminister@paysonpark.org) or at 617-491-0766.

Summer blessings,  
Terry Halco  
Minister of Music



*Thank You for all your  
thoughts and prayers*

To My Payson Park Church Family,  
Thank you so much for all your thoughts and prayers this past month for me and my family. I have especially appreciated the cards that fill my mailbox and the prayer shawl that brightens the room around me. We continue to look forward to the birth of our son and are anxious to introduce him to all of you!  
Peace,  
Cathy Meyer



**MUSIC FESTIVAL**

### PAYSON PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL WEDNESDAYS 6:45 P.M.

Looking for some live entertainment this summer? Don't forget the free concerts at Payson Road Playground, just three blocks up Payson Park Road from the church. Join with new and old friends from our Community for these spirited summertime offerings.



### OPEN CHOIR SUNDAY AUGUST 3, 2008

Attention all PPC singers: Pick-Up Choir, Chancel Choir, and enthusiastic pew singers! On Sunday, August 3, we will be hosting the Union Service for our Belmont UCC neighbors. In years past, we have often put together a choir of volunteers on that day to sing an anthem or other special music in worship. We would like to continue this tradition this year.

So if you're free, please come to the Sanctuary at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, August 3. We will do a quick warm-up and prepare an easy anthem for the 9:30 a.m. service. Hope to see you there!

Terry Halco  
Minister of Music

P.S. If possible, please let me know ahead of time if you intend to participate in the Open Choir. This will help me to choose a song suitable for the number of singers we have. Please contact me at [musicminister@paysonpark.org](mailto:musicminister@paysonpark.org) or 617-491-0766. Thank you!

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REQUESTS

Are you looking for a way to serve the church? The Nominating Committee is currently seeking volunteers to help on the Mission & Outreach and Nursery Committees. This work not only helps build community at Payson Park, but also aids us in reaching out to the wider community. Please contact Carl Miller if you are interested in offering your time and talents in this way!

# Kid's Page

What's happening  
this month in  
*God's Garden,*  
*Growing in*  
*Faith...*

Sunday, July 13

Church School is  
Open!

We are offering a  
One-Room  
Schoolhouse led by  
Elizabeth and  
Jennie.

All Are Welcome!

The answer to the  
puzzle is somewhere  
in the Messenger—  
Can you find it?

Power Lab VBS was  
a great success, over  
150 people.

A-ha!



**Unscramble the letters under the blank spaces to find  
the words that complete the Psalm.**



### Psalm 148 (verses 1-4, 7-14)

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his \_\_\_\_\_; praise him, all his host!  
(legans)

Praise him, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; praise him,  
(uns) (nomo)

all you shining \_\_\_\_\_!  
(stras)

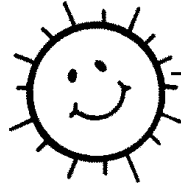


Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters  
above the heavens!...



Praise the Lord from the earth, ... \_\_\_\_\_ and hail, \_\_\_\_\_  
(reif) (swon)

and frost, stormy \_\_\_\_\_ fulfilling his command!  
(dwin)



\_\_\_\_\_ and all \_\_\_\_\_,  
(snaitMoun) (slihl)

fruit \_\_\_\_\_ and all cedars!  
(seter)

Wild animals and all \_\_\_\_\_, creeping things  
(taclet)

and flying \_\_\_\_\_!  
(dribs)



Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and  
all rulers of the earth!

Young \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ alike, old and young together!  
(nem) (nowem)

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone  
is exalted; his \_\_\_\_\_ is above earth and \_\_\_\_\_....  
(rylog) (veenah)

Praise the Lord!

# July and August 2008 Calendar

## Wednesday, July 2

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

## Sunday, July 6

10:00 AM Worship at Waverly Congregational  
471 Trapelo Road, Belmont

## Wednesday, July 9

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

## Sunday, July 13

9:30 AM Worship & Church School  
10:30 AM Fellowship Hour

## Tuesday, July 15

7:00 PM Church Council

## Wednesday, July 16

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

## Sunday, July 20

9:30 AM Worship & Church School  
10:30 AM Fellowship Hour

## Wednesday, July 23

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

## Sunday, July 27

9:30 AM Worship & Church School  
10:30 AM Fellowship Hour

## Wednesday, July 30

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

## Sunday, August 3

8:45 AM Open Choir Rehearsal  
9:30 AM Union Service at Payson Park  
10:30 AM Fellowship Hour

## Wednesday, August 6

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

## Sunday, August 10

9:30 AM Worship & Church School  
10:30 AM Fellowship Hour

## Wednesday, August 13

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

## Sunday, August 17

9:30 AM Worship & Church School  
10:30 AM Fellowship Hour

## Wednesday, August 20

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

## Sunday, August 24

9:30 AM Worship & Church School  
10:30 AM Fellowship Hour

## Wednesday, August 27

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

## Sunday, August 31

9:30 AM Worship at Plymouth Congregational  
582 Pleasant Street, Belmont

### Do You Need to Reach the Pastors?

The Reverend Lael Atkinson can be reached through the Church Office or at home (617) 464-4990.

The Reverend Rob Asinger can be reached through the Church Office or at home (781) 891-5605.

THE MESSENGER

PAYSON PARK CHURCH

365 BELMONT STREET

BELMONT MA 02478-3438

Rev. Lael Atkinson, Rev. Rob Asinger, Pastors; Rev. Terence R. Willis, Pastor Emeritus; Cindy Lou Benson, Director of Christian Education; Terry Halco, Minister of Music; Cathy Meyer, Director of Music; Elizabeth Smith, Ministerial Intern; Walter Guertin, Treasurer; Betsy Hay, Assistant Treasurer; Kevin Cassidy, Sexton; Sally Markham, Messenger Editor; Carol Martinos, Administrative Secretary; Janet Coleman, Nursery School Director

**Thank you to everyone for being part of  
Youth Sunday's wonderful spirited service!**

**"Celebrating Life in Abundance"**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**Power Lab,**

**Discovering Jesus Miraculous Power**

**Vacation Bible School 2008**

**A Success!**

**85 Participants**

**24 Teen Counselors and Over 30 Adult Helpers**

**A- ha!**