

The Messenger

Payson Park Church



United Church of Christ - Congregational
365 Belmont Street, Belmont, MA 02478
617-484-1542 fax 617-484-1526
office@paysonpark.org

May 2008

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."*

Celebrating Pentecost on May 11, we have the opportunity to give great thanks for our life together. While we may not literally be moved to speak in tongues, there are many ways we are experiencing the Spirit's movement among us: our children are singing with joy, preparing for their spring musical; the mission trip to Biloxi offered rewarding opportunities for our people to serve those in need; several of our youth will confirm their faith and dedication to God; friends of our congregation are expressing their desire to become full members of the church. From our youth and music programs to our adult education events, from our Mother's Day mission projects to Sunday worship services, we are a community filled with the Spirit's presence, our varied gifts coming together beautifully. We are thriving as the living body of Christ!

Giving thanks for such vitality, we remember Paul's words to the early church in Corinth: "faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love...love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude...it hopes all things, endures all things." As these days of spring lead us to celebrate the birth of the church, I am grateful that such love forms the base of our life together. May we continue to be open to God's presence as we seek healing for ourselves and the world. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Amen.



Inside This Issue

Worship Schedule	2
Education	3
Sharing & Caring	4
Music News	5 & 6
Mission & Outreach	7
VBS/C Ed Director	8
May Calendar	9

May Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 4, 2008 **10:30 a.m.**
Mission Trip Sunday

**The Reverend Rob Asinger &
 The Reverend Lael Atkinson presiding**

Anthem "Sound Over All Waters" Paul Halley
 Sara Wyse-Wenger and Matthew Stansfield, soloists

Our Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the Finance and Property Committee. Altar flowers are given by Armen and Janet David and children in loving memory of Thomas and Marion Serino and Joan Agius and Chris and David Martin in loving memory of Edward and Marjorie Dwyer and by Marty Gledhill in loving memory of her parents, Adelaide and Prentice Wright..

Sunday, May 11, 2008 **10:30 a.m.**
Pentecost/Mother's Day/Music Sunday

The Reverend Rob Asinger preaching

Anthems "God, You Move Among Us" Carson Cooman
 "Rise Up, My Love" Daniel Pinkham
 "As-salaamu Lakum" ("Peace Be With You")
 Cherub Choir
 "Kyrie Eleison" ("Lord, Have Mercy")
 Alleluia & Junior Choirs
 "Santo, Santo, Santo" (Holy, Holy, Holy")
 Youth & Senior High Choirs
 "Veni, Sante Spiritus" (Come, Holy Spirit")
 Pick-up Choir

Our Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the Endowment Trustees. Altar flowers are given by Willa Wye Rockett in loving memory of her mother and father, Bertie and William Wye and her husband, Frank Rockett

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.

Sunday, May 18, 2008 **10:30 a.m.**
Confirmation Sunday

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching;
 The Reverend Rob Asinger presiding**

Sermon "What Seeds Do You Sow?"
Scripture Romans 13: 8-10; Luke 8: 4-15
Anthem "All Good Gifts" Stephen Schwartz
 Matthew Fitzpatrick, soloist

Our Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the Diaconate. Altar flowers are given by Bruce and Holly Bloomfield in loving memory of Holly's mother, Eileen Brennan and Bruce's father, Harold H. Bloomfield, Jr.

Sunday, May 25, 2008 **10:30 a.m.**
Elizabeth Smith preaching

The Reverend Lael Atkinson presiding

Sermon "The God Who Says No"
Scripture **Isaiah 49: 8-16; Matthew 6: 24-34**
Anthem "God Who Made the Earth" Malcolm Archer

Our Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the Music Committee. Altar flowers are given by Merry and Terry Ray in loving memory of Merry's parents Reverend and Mrs. J. Walter Sillen and Terry's father, Mr. S. Bruce Ray.

**April 2008
 Worship Attendance**

We thank you for worshipping with us this Easter Season. Attendance in April was as follows:

April 6	152
April 13	152
April 20	101
April 27	125

Education and Fellowship Opportunities



Springtime Adult Education Series
The Purpose & Power of Prayer
Wednesdays, May 14, 21, & 28
7:00— 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Would you like more peace in your life? Do you wonder how your faith might help you deal with the day-to-day anxieties of living? Would you like to learn about different types of prayer?

Join Lael Atkinson and others for a time of conversation and meditation as we appreciate how the practice of prayer can help us grow as individuals and as a community.

Each class session will include a time of group worship, biblical discussion, and individual prayer. Come to one workshop or all...and consider bringing a friend!

New Members to be Received Into the Life of Payson Park Church

Are you looking for a church to call “home” at this time in your life? Would you like to explore what it means to be a member of Payson Park Church and the United Church of Christ? New members will be received into the life of this congregation on Sunday, June 1. Please speak with Lael if you would like to join in this time of conversation.



**Celebrating Our Mission
Work in the World: Biloxi
Mission Trip Worship Service**

Join us on Sunday, May 4, as we celebrate the work of our mission team that has returned from Biloxi, Mississippi. As part of our worship service, the men, women, and youth who traveled together will lead our service, reporting through word, song, and prayer how their experiences changed their own and others' lives. Come, give thanks for all our efforts to help rebuild hope and caring community in the living Spirit of God!

**The Good Afternoons:
Tuesday, May 20, 2:00—3:30 p.m.**

At our May meeting with everyone's help, we will review current research on wellness which we have covered in the last two years—exciting developments in both prevention and ways of helping our miraculous bodies heal themselves. Share what has interested you, and hear what others have found useful. As always, whether you have attended before or not, come enjoy the fellowship, information, healthy refreshments and humor. Many resources will be on display for browsing.

Sharing and Caring

Caregivers Unite:

A Time of Support and Sharing

One of the great opportunities offered in Christian community is to gather together for support and prayer. This caregivers group provides a time of confidential sharing for those caring for loved ones near or far away. If you would like to join together with others facing the joys and challenges of caregiving, please join Lael Atkinson on Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 pm in the Pastor's Study. Caregivers unite: a YOU night for caregivers!

Payson Park Nursery School

Enrolling now!

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).

Disturb Us, Lord

when we are too pleased with ourselves; when
our dreams have become true because we
dreamed too small; when we arrived safely
because we sailed too close to the shore. Disturb
us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we
possess we have lost our thirst for the waters in
life. Disturb us, Lord, to dare boldly; to venture
on wider seas where storms will show your
mastery, not ours; where in losing sight of land
we shall find the stars. This we ask in the name
of our captain, Who is Jesus Christ.

Poem by Sir Walter Raleigh

Calling All Graduates

A Time of Celebration

Do you have a member of your family graduating this spring. Please call our Christian Education Director, Cindy Lou Benson at the church office, 617-484-1542 so that it may be published in our June newsletter as well as celebrated and recognized at our traditional Youth Sunday Worship Service, June 15, 2008.

Announcements in Worship:

Sharing Our Lives with One Another

At the April meeting of the Diaconate, the sharing of announcements and prayer requests in worship was discussed. As with many elements of our services, it was decided we would try something new in this transitional time. Community events and prayer requests will continue to be announced at the start of the service, but they will be made by the ministers and other staff. The Diaconate agreed this will help us all to hear and make note of our celebrations and concerns. Please be sure to speak with Rob or Lael during the week or before Sunday services so that your information may be shared. You may also give a written request to an usher. For more information about this process, please speak with our Senior Deacons, Marty Gledhill or Alice Holt, or to our ministers.

New Chalice Hymnals

In celebration of the faith and love that lives in our worshipping community, 75 new Chalice Hymnals have been purchased in memory of Mary C. Ripley. We look forward to using these new books and will appreciate them as they unite our new congregation in song.

Music News

The Pick-up Choir Welcomes YOU!

It seems that everyone in our church is balancing a busy lifestyle. There are only so many places where you can devote your precious time. However, many people who sing with the Pick-up Choir have found that their participation doesn't detract from their busy lives, but provides them with an opportunity to do something that makes them feel good about themselves and the community that surrounds them. Here is what some people have said about our group:

- "It's fun. We laugh during warm ups, and some of the time we treat ourselves to shoulder massages. It's easy-going and not too rushed. If someone has trouble with a certain part, we'll go over it a couple extra times for them."
- "I sing with the Pick-up Choir because I enjoy it. I enjoy singing for the congregation, sending them a message through music. It gives me a sense of belonging."
- "I enjoy singing with the Pick-up Choir because I don't have to make a long-term commitment. Rehearsing before church is easy as the music is usually familiar. It's rewarding to sing with the many voices and make beautiful music together. I would encourage anyone who likes to sing to participate when they can."

Our next rehearsal is Sunday, May 11, at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Music is always available the week prior on the table in the narthex for people who would like to preview what we'll be singing. So why not come and treat yourself?



"Oh, Jonah" Performances

Our Children's Music Ministries program will be presenting a musical version of the story of Jonah and the whale. Don't miss out on this special event! We hope you will take this opportunity to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to this performance so they can see what a vibrant, fun, faith-filled community we have.

Not only will we be performing at Payson Park on May 4, but we will also take our show "on tour" to the Brighton House retirement community (located at 341 Mount Auburn Street in Watertown) on Tuesday, May 13, at 3:30 p.m. This is a continuation of the relationship between our children's choirs and the Brigham House: the children enjoy sharing their ministry and love for music, and the Brigham House residents are ever-welcoming of our vitality as we share our message of God's love.

Music News

Music Appreciation Sunday: A Pentecost Celebration, May 11

We hope you'll join us for a special worship service as we celebrate God's awesome gift of music, as well as the musicians in our congregation who share their gifts with us!

Since Music Appreciation Sunday falls on Pentecost, our celebration will be reflective of the reading from the book of Acts: *On the day of Pentecost, all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting... The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak... But they were surprised, because they were hearing everything in their own languages.* As we contemplate this story, we can experience for ourselves what was happening at the very moment of the Church's birth: the Holy Spirit enables us, just like the early Christ-followers, to cross lingual and cultural boundaries that may otherwise seem impossible.

As we hear the word of God in many different languages in this spirit, we will be honoring the gifts and talents in our congregation. As we listen to God's word, may we be open to feeling the Spirit move us – just as the Spirit moved the people on the very first Pentecost. Let us all be prepared for it can happen at any time: in the musical offerings, in the scripture readings, in Rob's message, or in the handshake of a visitor. If you would like to participate in the service, we are still looking for volunteers to read scripture (either in English or in another language), to share a musical offering, or to join the Pick-up Choir. For more information or to volunteer, please speak with Cathy Meyer, our Director of Music.

Sing with the Chancel Choir in May

The Chancel Choir invites you to sing in May! This month, you are especially invited to join the Chancel choir for rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and then rehearsals (usually at 9:30 a.m.) before church on Sunday.

As members of the Chancel choir will attest, the benefits to singing in the choir are numerous. Regular participation in worship brings many of us the satisfaction of responding to God's call in a continuing way throughout the year. Members of the choir enjoy the opportunity to work with our talented and creative musicians, and to learn from them. Since the Chancel Choir meets regularly and often, members form bonds with each other that extend beyond the walls of the church building.

Everyone agrees that singing is good for the soul. Did you know that singing is good for the body as well? Singing improves breathing and posture, tones the abdominal and intercostal muscles and the diaphragm, and stimulates circulation. Singing has been shown to release pain-relieving endorphins, helping you to forget your aches and pains. Research at the University of Frankfurt in Germany found that singing in a choir not only strengthens the immune system but also notably improves the singer's mood.

To share in these wonderful benefits, you don't have to read music well or have a beautiful voice. You don't have to commit to singing every Sunday—it's perfectly possible to sing with the Chancel Choir on a part-time basis. All you need is the ability to match pitch, and to be able to commit to some Thursday evening rehearsals and Sunday worship services.

If this sounds intriguing and you would like to give the Chancel Choir a try, please contact Terry Halco at musicminister@paysonpark.org or 617-491-0766.

To God be the glory— Terry

Mission and Outreach News

The Mission and Outreach Committee has two wonderful opportunities to serve in the month of May, one locally and one globally, one a Payson Park tradition and one a Phillips tradition. The Mission & Outreach Committee is trying to be mindful of the traditions of both congregations, but realizes this increases the demands placed on our new consolidated congregation. Please participate as you feel comfortable, recognizing that any contribution either of time or money is greatly appreciated.

Back Bay Mission Trip

As you read this, our team of 13 volunteers will have returned from working in Biloxi on the rehabilitation of homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. You have made this trip possible for us and we thank you for your faithful generosity in buying shares, attending the family concert and spaghetti dinner, pledging to the church Mission budget, supporting past youth projects, making a yard sale and bake sale profit donation and contributing to the Easter offering. Look for your postcard in the mail and plan to attend worship on Sunday, May 4, when we will participate in the service with reflections, photos and prayer. Thank you!

Church World Service Blankets

The Mission and Outreach Committee will be offering Church World Service blankets during late April and early May. For a donation of \$5.00 each, you can help CWS send these warm wool blankets to many desperate people in need of their comfort throughout the world. For each \$5.00 donation you make, you may add the name of a loved one to a list to be published on Mother's Day and choose a card to send to someone special. A table will be set up in the parlor after services on May 4. Thank you for supporting this global mission opportunity.



Help Make Mother's Day Bags for The Second Step Shelter

The Mission and Outreach Committee will be collecting items for Mother's Day gift bags for 16+ women of The Second Step Shelter on Sunday, May 4. Please place your donations in the box in the narthex. We also need children and adults to help assemble the bags following worship on May 4. The following items are needed: toiletries, body wash, nail polish, make-up, socks, office supplies, candles, books or anything you think a woman would like to receive on Mother's Day! If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please see Cathy Meyer, Liz Stanziola, or Kate Tigelaar.

Bristol Lodge Food Kitchen

Date: Thursday, May 29, 3-5 p.m.

Menu: Sausage and peppers, tossed salad, rolls

Next Date: Sunday, June 29, 3-5 p.m.

Menu: Taco salad, bread

Please help the 85 men and women who come to Bristol Lodge daily for a nourishing meal. Sign up on the Mission and Outreach bulletin board (to the right of the church office) to cook a meal for 12 people and take a recipe.

A Message From the Christian Education Director

Welcome to Power Lab: Discovering Jesus' Miraculous Power. In just a few short weeks, Payson Park will go wild with many youth seeking fun and adventure at our Power Lab VBS! To have the best adventure possible, we need lots of volunteers who can give some time, energy, and love to the children who will attend. So let me share a few ideas about ways you might be able to make this program a success. *Station Leaders:* Use easy-to-follow leader manuals and prepare one 20-minute session for each day. Repeat that session, as children rotate through stations in either crafts, games, video adventure, snacks, Bible discovery, or PowerPoint drama. Ask Cindy Lou to help you choose the best station that suits your needs! *Lab Crew Leaders:* Shepherd a group of children through each day's activities...and there's no preparation! When the expected 100 children register, we'll need over 25 Lab Crew Leaders!! Please sign up to help today! *Lab Crew Leaders-In-Training-* Speak with Cindy Lou about this opportunity for younger teens. *Lab Crew Leaders for preschoolers:* Be a friend and helper to a group of preschoolers...again, with no preparation! *Maybe this interests you? We'd also love to have a...* registration team, decoration team, publicity coordinator, supply coordinator! We've got a place for you! We believe that God will use this incredible program to reach many children with the message of his love, so please prayerfully consider your role in Power Lab. To learn more about volunteering or register online - www.groupvbs/.com/webtoybox/myvbs/paysonpark

Please feel free to contact the directors, Cathy Meyer, Music Director, or myself by e-mail, in person, or by phone at 617-484-1542.

Thank you. *Cindy Lou Benson,*

cedirector@paysonpark.org

musicdirector@paysonpark.org

Confirmation Sunday: May 18

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism with the Barner family on April 27, we remembered that the ritual marks our commitment as a community to raise a child like Anna Gail in the Christian tradition. The Confirmation program is designed to provide the means by which youth may come to know God fully and make the Christian faith their own. It offers an opportunity for youth to wrestle with their relationship with God, forming, then, a faith-based way to make life's decisions. After a period of study, the youth have the chance to confirm their beliefs by reading a statement of faith in front of the congregation. At this time they are confirmed and become full voting members of the congregation. Payson Park's Confirmands will be received into the life of this congregation on Sunday, May 18. All are welcome as we celebrate the faith and commitment of our young people!

Jonah and the Whale

Has An Ending!

God's Garden, Growing in Faith is currently studying the Bible story, "Jonah." This is a whale of a story with a big message from God for children to catch. Children learn that you can't hide from God – even in a whale! Children discover that Jonah ran away from God because he didn't "get" God's message of Compassion, Mercy, and Grace for everyone who repents. In the writing workshop the children create the ending to a Jonah story. Please enjoy reading the collaborate work of the Alleluia Class, grades K- two. "Suddenly Jonah gets it. He prayed to God asking for help. Jonah went back to Nineveh and helped the people. He will make a new home and puts dry clothes on. Jonah says everyone should be nice and he enjoys painting. He builds a church. He builds an orphanage. Jonah goes swimming and becomes a minister in his church. Jonah prays. The End."

May 2008 Calendar

Thursday, May 1

7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 4

10:15 AM Worship Before Worship– Nursery Chapel
 10:30 AM Worship & Church School
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour –Mission Trip Social
 5:00 PM “Oh Jonah” Spring Musical and Dinner

Tuesday, May 6

1:00 PM Staff Meeting
 3:30 PM Junior Choir Rehearsal
 4:15 PM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
 6:30 PM Orientation for New Committee Chairs
 7:00 PM Church Council meeting

Wednesday, May 7

9:45 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal
 3:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal
 4:30 PM Senior High Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship
 7:00 PM Adult Education

Thursday, May 8

7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, May 10

10:00 VBS Decorating Party

Sunday, May 11 Music Appreciation Sunday

10:30 AM Worship & Church School
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
 4:00 PM Special Youth Group Meeting

Tuesday, May 13

1:00 PM Staff Meeting
 3:15 PM “Oh Jonah” Spring Musical Performance
 Brigham House, Watertown
 7:30 PM Finance & Property Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 14

9:45 AM Cherub Choir Rehearsal
 3:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal
 4:30 PM Senior High Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

Thursday, May 15

7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, May 17

6:00 PM Parents' Night Out

Sunday, May 18 Confirmation Sunday

10:30 AM Worship & Church School
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
 12:00 noon Christian Education Committee Mtg

Tuesday, May 20

1:00 PM Staff Meeting
 2:00 PM Good Afternoons
 3:30 PM Junior/Alleluia Choir Party
 7:00 PM Diaconate Meeting

Wednesday, May 21

9:45 AM Cherub Choir Party
 3:30 PM Youth/Senior High Choir Party
 7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship
 7:00 PM Prayer Workshop

Thursday, May 22

7:00 PM Caregivers Unite
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 25

10:30 AM Worship & Church School and
 Alleluia Chapel Worship Service
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
 7:00 PM Youth Group Meeting

Monday, May 26**Memorial Day—Office Closed****Tuesday, May 27**

1:00 PM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 28

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship
 7:00 PM Prayer Workshop

Thursday, May 29

7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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

“Oh Jonah!”



All Are Welcome!

Our Children's Music Ministries program will be performing their spring musical,

“Oh, Jonah,” on Sunday, May 4, at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Please be sure to write this on your calendar so that you won't miss this special event!

Invite all your friends and neighbors! Dinner will follow.