

The Messenger

Payson Park



United Church of Christ - Congregational

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June 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."*

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

Crossing the Memorial Day threshold into June inaugurates summer and thoughts of a summer Sabbath. Most of us long for summer's slower pace as a respite from our overly hectic schedules and can't wait for a little vacation. But is that what we really need?

The word vacation means empty, vacant. Is emptiness going to truly refuel our souls and minds? We all know that muscles not used atrophy and deteriorate. We also know that to build a healthy body we need moderate exercise – not a cycle of overexertion followed by total inactivity. Our spiritual health is the same.

Sabbath is not a vacation. Sabbath is not a day of emptiness. It is a day without the distractions of work so that we can be completely focused on and filled with God's presence. It is a day without physical exercise so that we may exercise our spirit.

Jesus knows we don't truly long for more emptiness in our lives, but rather more fulfillment. That is why in the above scripture Jesus does not offer his disciples an empty vacation but a different kind of exercise, a yoke that will bring peace and rest for their souls.

As we enter into summer, as we prepare for Sabbath and vacations, let us aim for more than the momentary lapse into peace and serenity that vacation brings. Let us aim to feed and nourish our souls with a lasting peace by using the down time of summer to focus more on God's presence in our lives.

On the first three Wednesdays of this month, June 4, 11, and 18, I will be leading an adult education class on "Sabbath Spiritual Practices." Together we will learn personal spiritual practices that can be practiced alone or on the road so that if we are away from church or on vacation this summer we can still focus on God's presence. In that way, the summer will become a true Sabbath rather than just a vacation. That way, the peace of summer and Sabbath won't evaporate in the fall when our schedules resume but will become a part of us and remain with us always.

The Reverend Rob Asinger

F R O M T H E



PASTOR

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June Worship Schedule

Sunday, June 1, 2008 **10:30 a.m.**
The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching;
The Reverend Rob Asinger presiding

Sermon "House Hunting?"

Scripture Psalm 46:1-7; Matthew 7:21-29

Anthems "God Is Our Refuge and Strength"

W. A. Mozart

"Jubilate" (O Be Joyful) W. A. Mozart

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

Sunday, June 8, 2008 **10:30 a.m.**
The Reverend Rob Asinger preaching;
The Reverend Lael Atkinson presiding

Sermon "Finding Time for God"

Scripture Genesis 12:1-9; Matthew 9:9-13; 18-36

Anthems "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

John Rutter

"God is My Refuge" Allen Pote

Our Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the Endowment Trustees. Altar flowers are given by the Benjamin family in loving memory of Harold S. and Olive Moore, and by Bob Shaffer and family in loving memory of Shirley Shaffer and Louis F. Ascii.

Sunday, June 15, 2008 **10:30 a.m.**
Youth Sunday

Theme "Celebrating Life in Abundance"

Scripture John 10, Psalm 100

Anthems "Thankful" Jay Stocker

"Give Thanks" Susan Nipp

Our Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the Diaconate Committee.

Sunday, June 22, 2008 **10:30 a.m.**
The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching;
The Reverend Rob Asinger presiding

Sermon "First Things First"

Scripture Psalm 86:1-7; Matthew 10:34-39

Our Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the Christian Education Committee.

Sunday, June 29, 2008 **10:30 a.m.**
The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

Sermon "Sacrificing Peace"

Scripture Genesis 22:1-14; Matthew 10:40-42

Solo "O Day of Peace" Daw/Parry

Our Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the Personnel Committee.

Call for Special Business Meeting of Payson Park Church, Sunday, June 22, 2008

In accordance with Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph 1 of the By-Laws, a Special Business Meeting of Payson Park Church is hereby called for Sunday, June 22, 2008 immediately following the worship service in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to approve expenditures for the 2008 capital projects.

May 2008

Worship Attendance

We thank you for worshipping with us.

Attendance in May was as follows:

May 4	158
May 11	168
May 18	106
May 25	87

Education and Fellowship Opportunities

Adult Education Series

“Sabbath Spiritual Exercises”

Wednesdays, June 4, 11, & 18

7:00— 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Going away for the summer? Won't be able to attend church on a certain Sunday? Then take God with you. Over the three weeks of this class we will learn time honored spiritual practices that can be practiced alone, in a hotel room, on the beach, on an airplane, or on a walk or run. These practices will allow us to take a vacation from work but not a vacation from God. All are welcome!

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

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).



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 or the Christian Education Director, Cindy Lou: cedirector@paysonpark.org

The Good Afternoons: Tuesday, June 24, 12:00 Noon

With summer's arrival, The Good Afternoons will break from their monthly discussions about the care and healing of the body to gather together for a time of more informal sharing at *Not Your Average Joe's* in Watertown Square. Group members say this is a restaurant with plenty of healthy menu choices. Join us for fun and fellowship! If you need a ride, call the church office by Monday, June 23.

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 Wednesday, June 25 at 7:00 pm in the Pastor's Study. Caregivers unite: a YOU night for caregivers!

Mission and Outreach 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.

A Note of Thanks to our Missionaries!

We give great thanks to the members of our mission team who returned from Biloxi, Mississippi at the end of April. If you were not able to attend worship on May 4 to hear about their travels and work, be sure to view the special bulletin board in the Parish Hall on Sundays. The service of these men, women, and youth inspire us all to reach out to those in need in new ways. From the UCC's service organization they received this note:

Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to share the week with you at Back Bay. Biloxi would not be where it is in its recovery without people like you who are so generous with their time and talents. Thank you for all you gave to the Biloxi area. We look forward to your return trip in the future.

Sincerely,

Back Bay Mission

Bristol Lodge Food Kitchen

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

Menu: Taco salad, bread

Please sign up on the M & O bulletin board outside the church office and take a recipe. Monetary donations are also welcomed to purchase beverages. Thank you for reaching out to neighbors in need!

The answer to the Kid's Page Puzzle is *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."*

Sharing and Caring

Congratulations Graduates!



Aby Bartalini is graduating with honors from Belmont High School and will attend UMASS Dartmouth, concentrating in Science.

Victoria Gaisford is graduating from Harvard Divinity School this June with a Master's of Divinity.

Annie Isaacs is graduating from Arlington School at McLean and will attend Salem State, concentrating in Marine Biology.

T. J. (Timothy John) Roche is graduating from Watertown High School and will attend Salve Regina, RI concentrating in Criminal Justice.

Brian Scully is graduating from Watertown High School and will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute concentrating in Engineering.

Gina Scully graduated with honors from Stonehill College, MA with a BA in Psychology.

Matthew Stansfield has graduated from the Boston Conservatory of Music and plans to pursue the Graduate Performance Diploma, a two year program.

Charles Sullivan is graduating from Belmont High School and will attend Syracuse University, concentrating in Music, Film, and Psychology.

Dennis Arthur Sullivan graduated from Pepperdine University with a BS in International Business, hoping to continue research and publishing in the global financial industry.

Celebrating Life in Our Congregation

Giving thanks for the children in our midst, we look forward to celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism with Carolyn and Jay Gulley, children of Ned and Wendy, on Sunday, June 8. This is a time marking our covenant with God and one another to support a child's growth in spirit and community. Mark your calendar for this special part of our worship service!

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.



NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

With great joy we received 3 new members into the life of Payson Park church on Sunday, June 1. Please continue to extend a warm welcome to Erin Buchner, Ben Mailhot and his fiancée Lynne DeSisto.

Power Lab

Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, June 24 - Friday, June 27

Registration deadline is Monday, June 9 at Noon

Forms are available in the church office,
or better yet, register online today at:

www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/paysonpark

Thank You!

To our Payson Park family:

This month Craig, Anna and I are moving west to live near my parents in Shrewsbury - the town where I grew up. We hadn't planned to move for another few years, but we happened to find "the" house and took it as a sign that it was time to go. It hasn't been easy preparing for the move with little Anna (hopefully soon we'll find which box we packed her in - ha!), but putting our things into boxes actually turned out to be the easy part. Watertown has been a wonderful home, and this community is no small part of why we love it here. We've never met a group of people so naturally loving as at Payson Park and all three of us are very lucky to have found this place. We're taking all of you with us: in the ways we've grown our faith through Payson Park, in the prayer shawl that Anna was baptized in, and of course in our hearts and prayers. We'll be back from time to time to visit and we look forward to seeing you all then!

In love,
Kelly Barner



We are still collecting pennies (nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars) in our "Pennies for a Purpose" jar in the Parlor. We will soon be turning these pennies into animals and plants with the help of Heifer International which provides animals and fruit bearing plants to individuals in the grip of poverty. In return these individuals give the seeds and offspring to others in their community thus making establishing an economic base for a community to be self-sufficient. If you have not yet made a donation please do so. If you have made a donation, thank you and there is time to make yet another donation. Then watch as your spare change makes real change in the lives of people around the world.

Dear friends at Payson Park,

Julie and I want to thank you all once again for being so supportive and helpful during my ordination process, and we want to offer a special word of thanks to everyone who contributed to making my ordination service such a joyful and memorable event. We're meeting new friends at our new church home in Somerville, which we are enjoying; but we already miss you very much, and will never forget you. We remain just a couple of towns over, so we hope it will not be too long before we have the opportunity to see you again. In the meantime, we wish you all the best, and are keeping you in our prayers.

Many blessings,
Jeff VonWald

The Power & Purpose of Prayer

"Common prayer does not dispense us from private prayer. The one sustains the other. Let us each day take time to renew our personal intimacy with God." The words of Roger Schutz from "The Rule of Taize" were appreciated during our series of Prayer Workshops held in May. In these classes, participants were given the opportunity to experiment with individual prayer practices through the written word, meditation with music, and other forms of creative expression. We also shared favorite prayers we've collected over the years. The following was written by Gretchen Dunoyer's grandfather, The Reverend Louis F. Arhelger, who served as a minister in the Congregational Church in the Midwest:

"Our God in Heaven, help us never to forget thy love to us. It comes with the light of the morning. It remains with the stars of the night. It looks up at us with the beauty of the flower. It shines upon us in the smile of a friend. Help us to know this in our hearts, that when our life here is over, our bodies may return in peace to the earth that nourished them and our spirits to you, through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen."

Music

“Oh, Jonah”

A special thank you goes out to all the cast members, parents, and volunteers who worked so hard to make our Children’s Music Ministries spring musical a success! There were over 40 children in the production that performed the show to over 250 audience members at Payson Park Church and at the Brigham House retirement community in Watertown. Congratulations on a job well done!



Pick-up Choir

“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High. For you make me glad by your deeds, O Lord, I sing for joy at the works of your hands.” Psalm 92 shows us that joining together in song is a wonderful way to thank God for all the gifts that we have been given! The Pick-up Choir invites you to join in praise on Sunday, June 8. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. to warm up our voices and learn the anthems “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” by John Rutter and “God is Our Refuge” by Allen Pote. If you are a night owl, consider joining the Chancel Choir on Thursday, June 5 at 8:45 p.m. to learn the anthems and then join us at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. Would you like more information? Speak with Cathy Meyer, Director of Music, on a Sunday morning or email her at musicdirector@paysonpark.org.

CELEBRATING OUR SEMINARIANS

As we come to the end of this program year, we find ourselves saying “thank you” and “God bless you” to our Ministerial Intern, Elizabeth Smith. Elizabeth has served the church for three years, offering her time and talents to us all through her leadership in worship and work with the Pick-Up and children’s choirs. She leaves us to continue her studies at Boston University, where she will complete a Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Music next year. She will also be sharing her gifts in ministry by planning and leading worship at Goddard Chapel at Tufts University. Join us as we celebrate her ministry with us on Sunday, June 22.

Kid's Page

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

Sunday, June 1

Worship Before Worship

Meet at 10:15 in the Nursery Chapel for a special moment with the pastor. All Are Welcome!

Sunday, June 8

Youth Sunday Rehearsal


Sunday, June 15

Youth Sunday!

Sunday, June 22

Youth Group End of Year Party

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




Just for KIDS

Changes

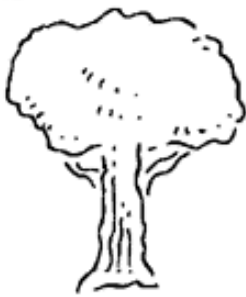
Everyone experiences changes in life.
Sometimes they make us happy – sometimes not!
What does the Bible say about this?

Find Ecclesiastes 3:1 below.
Change some letters – then read the verse.



Change:

W's to N's
L's to T's
Z's to O's
J's to E's
P's to H's
Q's to I's
X's to R's
K's to S's
B's to A's



“

L P J X J Q S B

L Q M J F Z X

J V J X Y L P Q W G' B W D

B K J B K Z W F Z X

J V J X Y B C L Q V Q L Y

U W D J X P J B V J W”

June 2008 Calendar

Sunday, June 1

10:30 AM Worship & Church School
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
 12:00 noon Personnel Committee Meeting

Monday, June 2

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship
 7:00 PM Endowment Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, June 3

1:00 PM Staff Meeting
 7:00 PM Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 4

7:00 PM Adult Education

Thursday, June 5

7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, June 8

9:00 AM Pick-up Choir
 10:30 AM Worship & Church School
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
 4:00 PM Youth Group trip to Hope Church

Monday, June 9 Vacation Bible School Deadline

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

Tuesday, June 10

1:00 PM Staff Meeting
 7:30 PM Finance & Property Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 11

7:00 PM Adult Education

Monday, June 16

7:00 PM Faith, Hope and Love Fellowship

Tuesday, June 17

1:00 PM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, June 18

3:30 PM Vacation Bible School Training
 7:00 PM Adult Education

Saturday, June 21

9:00 AM Youth Group Activity

Sunday, June 22

10:30 AM Worship & Church School
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour
 12:00 noon Christian Education Meeting
 7:00 PM Youth Group End of Year Party

Tuesday, June 24—Friday, June 27

9:00 AM—12:00 noon

Vacation Bible School—Power Lab!!!

Tuesday, June 24

12:00 noon The Good Afternoons
 7:00 PM Diaconate Meeting

Wednesday, June 25

7:00 PM Caregivers Unite

Friday, June 27

12:00 noon Counselor Strike Set/Pizza Party

Sunday, June 29

10:30 AM Worship & Church School
 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

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

You're Invited to the Youth Sunday Worship Service

June 15, 2008

“Celebrating Life in Abundance”

The Worship Service is written, led and spoken by the children of *God's Garden, Growing in Faith* and the *Children's Music Ministry* Programs

All Are Welcome!

The Awards Ceremony and
the Annual Ice Cream Social
Will Follow During Fellowship Hour

“I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

John 10:10

