



# ON THE STREET

## The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for June, 2008

*"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"*

### CALENDAR

#### Film/Movie Night –

- ? Fourth Friday, June 27, 6-8pm. **"The Pursuit of Happiness"** – followed by discussion.

#### Song and Hymn Sing –

- ? Every Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30pm.

#### Upcoming Services

- ? Sun, June 8, 10am: For June, Gay Pride month, we look at **"Marriage Equality."**
- ? Sun, June 15, 10am: Celebrate **"Juneteenth"** at Peoples Church.
- ? Sun, June 22, 10am: **Solstice Service** followed by **potluck**.
- ? Sun, June 29, 10am: Guest speaker **Rev. Denise Tracy**.

*All services followed by fellowship, with coffee and light refreshments.*

#### Other Events

- ? Sat, June 14, 9:30am: **23rd Hunger Walk**, Montrose Harbor.
- ? Thurs, June 19, 7pm: **Summer stroll** through the neighborhood...
- ? Fri, June 27, 6pm: Movie night, **"The Pursuit of Happiness."**

### 2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, a free lunch is served in the lower floor Anderson Hall of the church. All are welcome.

If you would like to volunteer, come by after 10:00am, and Isaac will put you to work.

#### Minister's Notes:

#### A Sacred Conversation

*Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling*

A couple of weeks ago Peoples Church accepted the invitation from the UCC and the National Council of Churches to begin a "sacred conversation on race." This long-sealed closet door – race in America – has been cracked open by the media furor over Barack Obama's connection with Trinity UCC and its retired pastor Jeremiah Wright, and so it struck me as an ideal time to begin this conversation.

We'll begin the conversation by reading the speech Obama gave in Philadelphia on March 18<sup>th</sup> – a speech that finally named some of the anxiety and discomfort blacks and whites have silently lived with.

We term this conversation "sacred" not because we approach it with piety, or with preconceived ideas of the answers, but because we want to honor the genuine experience and feelings of everyone here, and because we intend that everyone treat one another with the dignity and respect that all children of God share.

Some of my African American friends – younger ones – have said they are "tired of" educating whites. I don't want our members of color to feel any obligation to do this. I do hope they are willing to share some of their perspective with those of us who, belonging to the majority and dominant race, lack the perspective, the "dual-consciousness" that W.E.B. DuBois spoke of, nearly a hundred years ago. Perhaps this sacred conversation can be a way for us to begin educating ourselves. Perhaps it can be a beginning of relief from the discomfort of silence.

We'll have copies of Obama's speech at church Sunday, and you can read it on-line (or hear a live recording) at:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/03/18/obama-race-speech-read-t\\_n\\_92077.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/03/18/obama-race-speech-read-t_n_92077.html)

Our next conversation will take place over potluck lunch, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hope to see you there!

peace, *Jean*

*cont'd...*

## Hunger Walk

Saturday, June 14, at 9:30am, the 23rd Annual Hunger Walk sets off from Montrose Harbor for a 3.5 mile walk along the lakefront. Peoples Church walkers will meet near the registration tables.

Donations benefit the Greater Chicago Food Depository, which provides food for our 2 Li'l Fishes program, as well as hundreds of other programs around the Chicago area. If you want to support 2 Li'l Fishes specifically, include our agency name and code (**Preston Bradley Center, A00512**) with your donation and send it to:

Hunger Walk  
Greater Chicago Food Depository  
4100 W. Ann Lurie Place  
Chicago, IL 60632

## 2 Li'l Fishes Expanding: *New opportunities to serve*

Thanks to a generous grant from Divine Word Mission, we are beginning an ambitious plan to expand our lunch program from three days to all seven days of the week. It is still in the planning stage, but will include getting Isaac access to computing power, and adding equipment and water to 3 ½ West, where we hope to serve the 40-60 people who are not eligible to eat with the REST clients downstairs. We'll start with one additional day a week in September, and then add another by January. The plan is to begin with Sundays.

We'll need some teams to prepare and serve meals and clean up afterwards. Would you like to be part of a Sunday team?

We are also interested in finding folks who can help with REST evening meals. Contact the REST volunteer coordinator, Kari, at 773-784-0909, and mention Peoples Church.

## Labor Day Picnic

Plans for the annual Labor Day picnic are underway. Each year Peoples Church serves a free barbeque to 4-500 people in the park along the lakefront. It's an extravaganza, with food, softball, games and enjoying the park.

Phone if you'd like to help, 773-784-6633, and leave us your name and a good way to reach you.

## A Walk in the Neighborhood

Join us for a regular evening stroll this summer around the Uptown neighborhood. Meet here at the church on Thursday evenings after choir practice, at 7pm. We'll start **Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**.

## Facelift!

By Bob Ford, Exec. Dir., Preston Bradley Center

This last few months have been very active both above and below the surface.

We've solved the engineering problems associated with getting the ventilation system running properly in both the shelter and REST office areas, and installed part of the equipment needed to make it happen. We've replaced a number of old light fixtures with more energy efficient fluorescent ones. We've replaced one pair of the exterior front doors and are restraining the rest. We've refinished a large conference table donated by REST.

In the sanctuary, we've removed several sections of chairs to create more space for small gatherings, either classroom style or dining style.

We've excised the asbestos in the boiler room, preparing to dismantle, remove and replace the old boiler, which goes on as I write this.

In addition, we are repairing the copper roof on the building's southern exposure, a job being undertaken by an old-fashioned trade known as steeplejacking, in which the workers rappel down from the main roof and then either pull themselves back up or exit into windows above the level of the high voltage Com Ed wires in the alley.

When all of this is added to the gradual face-lifting and more structural-mechanical repairs we have accomplished in the last few years, this goes a long way to bringing the once-neglected old building back to its former condition.

**The Peoples Church of Chicago**  
941 W. Lawrence Avenue, P.O. Box 408319  
Chicago, IL 60640-8319  
[www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org](http://www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org)  
773-784-6633 fax 773-784-6760

# Calendar – June-July 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Celebrating Gay Pride month
9	10	11	12	13	14 9:30am, Montrose Harbor – Hunger Walk	15 Juneteenth
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Potluck Sunday Sacred Con- versation on Race
23	24	25	26	27 Movie Night: 6pm – “The Pursuit of Happiness”	28	29
30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 PC Trustees mtg

