



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for March-April, 2009

"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"

CALENDAR

Film/Movie Night –

- ? Fourth Friday, Apr 24, 6-8pm.
Spike Lee's **"Do the Right Thing,"**
– followed by discussion.

Song and Hymn Sing –

- ? Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30pm.

Upcoming Services

- ? Sun, Mar 22, 10am: **"Hope Springs Eternal"** celebrating the Spring Equinox w Maggie Catfish.
- ? Sun, Mar 29, 10am: **"Whole Stories, Whole Lives"** – Rev. Eliz. Harding, preaching, followed by **Sacred Conversat'n on Race.**
- ? **Palm Sunday**, Apr 5, 10am:
Palm procession & celebration.
- ? **Easter Sunday**, Apr 12, 9am:
Breakfast; 10am: **Easter Service.**

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

Other Events

- ? Sat, March 28, 8:30-9:30pm –
Earth Hour – turn off your lights!
- ? Sat, April 4, 7pm: **Classical Piano Recital with Joseph Bures.**

2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, a free lunch is served in Molly's Café, on 3 ½ West. All are welcome.

If you would like to help, phone Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, 773-754-6102.

Minister's Notes:

Heart-Work

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

There's a story in the Hebrew Bible (Numbers, or "In the Wilderness," as it's known in the Torah), when Moses is on the 40 year trek through the desert with the Hebrews, escaping from Egypt, looking for the Promised Land. In this particular episode, people are complaining about the terrible food and lack of water, about why the heck did they leave Egypt after all, and who does Moses think he is, anyway, to take them on this wild goose chase?

And then they run into a bunch of poisonous snakes, which bite and kill the people, and they believe God has sent this curse to punish them for not trusting in God and in Moses. Moses raises a bronze snake on a pole, and the people are healed.

What hurts us can also heal us – when it is transformed.

As we think about the crisis with our economic system, it's quite obvious that some people's prosperity has been a disaster for others. As a result, the newspapers are full of people's rage at AIG executive bonuses – it's just plain greed, to most of us.

It's current among many churches to preach a "prosperity" gospel, in which your faith will bring you riches. This fits hand in glove with American individualism, our idea of ourselves as pioneers, thrashing out a living on the frontier, with no help – or interference – from anyone.

How can we transform this distorted idea of prosperity, the one that thinks of itself in isolation, the poisonous snake that bites and kills, to the bronze snake that heals?

We need to think of ourselves as being part of a larger whole, connected to one another – not as slaves to a yoke, but as free and caring members of a family.

When we have lots of public parks, when we have well-running mass transit, when our streets are clean and safe, we are all richer. When people have jobs and are paid a decent wage, when all children have access to a quality education, when jobs aren't purchased by the highest bidder, we are richer by far.

cont'd...

Minister's Notes, cont'd

We live in an interconnected Universe – on our little planet we see it in the internet, for example, and in the global marketplace. This is a place of abundance, not scarcity.

Let's start thinking differently, creatively, about what prosperity is, and how we can better connect with and help one another in our community, here in Uptown and across the globe.

peace, *Jean*

Earth Hour

This coming Saturday evening, March 28, people all over the world will be turning off their electric lights to celebrate **Earth Hour** from 8:30-9:30pm – it's an opportunity to become more aware of our carbon footprint on the earth, and our connection with people everywhere. It started in Sydney, Australia in 2007, and has spread all over the world. See <http://www.earthhour.org/home/>.

Turn off your lights! Look outside, see the stars!



2 Li'l Fishes: Will it have to close?

by *Virginia Tolk, Treasurer*

On February 3, did you see Harry Porterfield's TV show, "Someone You Should Know"

featuring Isaac Barrantine and 2 Li'l Fishes? Isaac explained his dream to feed people daily, and our guests told how much the program means to them. What they didn't say was how we pay for the program.

Rev. Jean and the 2 Li'l Fishes committee have applied to many funding agencies. Although the agencies are very supportive, we've either missed the deadline or their funds are limited. A \$30,000 donation from Divine Word Missionaries, a \$10,000 grant from Credit Suisse, \$2,500 from Jewel/Osco, ongoing support from Roger Aurelio, and donations from many individuals have allowed the program to expand to 4 days a week which has meant nearly 240 more meals per week. Since adding just one day per week to our schedule in September we've gone from serving 1500 meals a month, to serving 2500 a month.

Currently **the program is in danger of closing** unless additional funds come in for April and May.

As you prepare for Easter please think of the many homeless men and women in Uptown who receive nutritious meals at Peoples Church. Any donation you send will help us feed many, as Jesus did with the two little fishes and the five loaves.

P.S. You can see the Harry Porterfield video on the web, ABC7Chicago.com/Formerly Homeless Man Now Helps Others. (or <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/video?id=6639715>)

Homework Help

Homework Help – a new program:

We are calling for students to bring a parent or guardian and sign up at The Peoples Church of Chicago on **Wednesdays** for FREE homework help run by a Chicago Public School teacher.

Grace Itter teaches at Edison Park Elementary School and will run the program at The Preston Bradley Center, 941 W. Lawrence Avenue, **Wednesdays from 4:30pm to 5:30pm.**

Every student is welcome; however, a parent or guardian must register each student for the program. Phone Grace at 773-771-5350 for more information.

First Fridays in Molly's Café:

"How do you eat an elephant?"

May 1st, 6pm, we begin holding a monthly Taizé-style service and discussion of the really big questions. "One bite at a time" – the answer to the question above – is how we will delve into the meaning of life and the other spiritual biggies, using readings as a jumping off place.

And afterwards, **from 7-9pm**, you're invited to stay for the **Jazz Coffeehouse**, with special guests jazz duo **The Unit Of Two**, keyboard and guitar, and guests. Sample some of Ludie's cake and fresh brewed coffee, all without much strain on your wallet.

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www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org

773-784-6633

fax 773-784-6760

Got \$35 dollars and a little love in your heart?

Saturday, April 18, 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Fat Cat

4840 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60686 US

Then join me - Patrick Dugan - on Saturday April 18 at Fat Cat as I raise funds for 2 Li'l Fishes, a free lunch program that is "restoring hope one plate a time" to needy folks in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood. The program, which serves over 700 meals a week, desperately needs our help to keep going during these tough economic times.

Basically, your donation will buy you good karma *and* a good time: Expect an afternoon of hip tunes, buffet goodness, two hours of open bar (beer, wine, and liquor), and nonstop merriment. We will also have a cool silent auction and raffle prizes.

Please invite your friends, family, neighbors and all the fun-loving/charitable peeps you happen to know. Thanks in advance for your generosity that I know will make this event a huge success!

Info or RSVP to Patrick: 773-710-9869



Peoples Church of Chicago

— like a chocolate truffle: a fancy shell, soft and sweet inside!

941 W. Lawrence, in Uptown
www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org
773.784.6633

EASTER SEASON

- **Sundays, 10am** service every week – a blend of liberal Christianity, world wisdom, and today's news
- **Palm Sunday** – joyful procession, remembering.
- **Good Friday Tenebrae Service** – a service of lights and shadows, of readings, music & reflection.
- **Easter Sunday** – breakfast at 9am, service of joy at 10.



"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"

"How

do you eat an elephant?"

You're invited to the first of a monthly Taizé-style service and discussion of the really big questions.

Friday, May 1st, 6pm
Taizé Service & Discussion

"One bite at a time"

– the answer to the question above – is how we will delve into the meaning of life and the other spiritual biggies, using readings as a jumping off place.

at Molly's Café

3rd floor, Preston Bradley Center
941 W. Lawrence Ave

www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org/Events

Jazz Coffeehouse

at Molly's Café

Enjoy An Evening Of Jazz
941 W. Lawrence – 3rd floor
Preston Bradley Center

Fri May 1, 2009 7 to 9 PM

"The Unit Of Two"
Jazz Duo -

- Pleasant Atmosphere
- Beautiful People
- Delicious Dessert, Coffee



www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org/events

Calendar – April 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2 5:30 – music	3	4 7pm Joseph Bures Classical piano	5 PALM SUNDAY 10am Service 11:30 PC Trustees
6	7	8	9 NO MUSIC PRACTICE	10 6pm – Good Friday Tenebrae Service	11	12 EASTER 9am - Breakfast 10am Service
13	14	15	16 5:30 – music	17 6-10pm Illinois Peace and Justice Conf. http://icjpe.org/	18 8:30am – 6pm ICJPE conf 3-5pm – 2 Li'l Fishes fundraiser at FAT CAT	19 10am Service
20	21	22	23 5:30 – music	24 6pm – Film night	25 •	26 10am Service 11:30am Potluck Sacred Conversa- tion on Race
27	28	29	30 5:30 – music	1 MAY NEW! <i>In Molly's Café -</i> 6 – Taizé service 7-9 Jazz Coffee- house – see <i>flier</i>	LOOK!	