

Calendar – Aug 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 communion 10am Service	2 -----	3 <i>Rev. Jean gone</i>	4 <i>during Aug ----</i>	5 -----	6 -----	7 -----
8 10am Service	9	10	11	12	13 No "2nd Friday" during August	14 7pm Joseph Bures classical piano <i>P.C. auditorium</i>
15 10am Service	16	17	18	19 1:30 – 2 Li'l Fishes Development Comm	20	21
22 10am Service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10am Service	30	31	1 <i>Sept</i> Labor	2 Day Picnic	3 coming up...	4



Both the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ work for peace in this world. This summer the UUA passed a groundbreaking statement that can be extremely helpful in our transcending very genuine differences among us over how to create peace.

Creating Peace: The 2010 UU Statement of Conscience

“We believe all people share a moral responsibility to create peace.” These words help introduce the Creating Peace Statement of Conscience endorsed at the 2010 UUA General Assembly. The wording of the statement is online at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/13394.shtml>. After four years of study and comment by various UU congregations and passage on a near unanimous vote by the UU General Assembly in June, 2010-11 is considered a year of implementation, when individuals and congregations begin the work of formulating ways to act on the document.

A Radically Inclusive and Transformative Approach

Throughout the statement, there is an affirmation that our faith “honors the truths of multiple voices from a theology of covenant grounded in love”. For example, the document forcefully states, “We all agree that our initial response to conflict should be the use of nonviolent methods”. Nevertheless, the statement also acknowledges the right to defend oneself and to offer support to those who respond to aggression. Similarly, the document affirms a “range of individual choices, including military service and conscientious objection”. The statement recognizes, “Though we have always held diverse views on the justification of defensive and humanitarian wars, at our best we have worked together...to remove the underlying causes of war.”

One of the most strongly-worded parts of the documents repudiates “aggressive and preventive wars, the disproportionate use of force, covert wars, and targeting that includes a high risk to civilians” It

also calls for nuclear disarmament and abolishing other weapons of mass destruction.

Resources for Implementing the Statement

The Statement concludes with a series of “Calls to Action”. Numerous resources are available for UUs to devise their own ideas. Each congregation has received a DVD entitled *Peacemaking: A Commitment to Study and Action*. Materials at the UUA website include a file with ideas for religious education, “Peacemaking in Congregations: A Guide to Learning Opportunities for All Ages”. Information is also available online for creating congregational peace pledges. In the Chicagoland area, one church which has created and adopted its own Peacemaking Commitment is the UU Society of Geneva. The Commitment can be found at <http://content.uusg.org/peacemaking-pledge/>. Congregations interested in the process used in Geneva may contact Jean Pierce through 630-232-2350.

Celebrate International Day of Peace, September 21st

One way in which congregations are implementing the peacemaking statement is by celebrating the International Day of Peace on September 21st. Some UU churches in Chicagoland are inviting speakers and showing films. Two suggested films include “Rethink Afghanistan” and “The Day After Peace” from <http://PeaceOneDay.org>. Whether or not your church is sponsoring a formal celebration, individuals can participate in the Odyssey Network's “A Million Minutes for Peace”. The purpose is to connect people of all faiths worldwide in a monumental moment of prayer for peace. There is an online pledge at www.AMillionMinutesforPeace.org.



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ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for August, 2010

"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"

CALENDAR

Film/Movie Night

Resumes in September.

Upcoming Services

- ? **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service, **guest speakers** during August:
- ? **Sun, Aug 8, 10am: Rev. Bob Ford**, on "Because It's There."
- ? **Sun, Aug 15, 10am: Ed Feldmanis** speaking.
- ? **Sun, Aug 22, 10am: Rev. Sam Manansala** speaking; special collection accepted for the Philippines mission.
- ? **Sun, Aug 29, 10am: Grace Itter.**

Other Events

- ? **Sat, Aug 14, 7pm, Piano Recital:** Joseph Bures plays classical.
- ? **"Second Friday" skips August.** We begin September 10th with guest artist **Mark Dvorak**.
- ? **Rev. Jean** will be out of town in August. Please contact **Rev. Bob Ford** for any pastoral issues.

2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, a free lunch is served in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

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

Minister's Notes: "In Memory of You"

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

I never had the pleasure of meeting Billy Hand Robinson, who was an unforgettable member of Peoples Church for a number of years. He was a man of generous heart who had been through rough times and knew what people in that situation needed: not just a good meal, but respect and dignity, and reassurance of God's love – expressed through our own hands and words. From him comes the prayer someone says each Sunday morning: "If no one has told you today that he or she loves you, I want you to know that I do – I love you, and you, and you, and everyone here – and I thank God for the love that he puts in my heart."

He also started the Labor Day picnic that we've been celebrating every year for over 15 years.

Recently we found a photo of Billy on an old bulletin board, and a brief bio, that said he was raised on the South side of Chicago, received degrees from Wright College, Lewis U. in Romeoville, and a Masters from U of South Alabama in Mobile. "Billy," it says, "also received an intense education in the Illinois Prison system – including stays at Stateville and Pontiac, and in the Cook County Jail."

He was a poet and teacher, and taught writing at Arai Middle School, as well as informal settings with people on the street.

But, the obituary concludes, "Billy was most of all a voice for justice, especially for those who were homeless and unemployed or underemployed. In a world that worships consumption, Billy was proud that he never accumulated more than he needed to get through the day. His generosity with his money and his time was extraordinary."

Won't you join us to celebrate, on September 6th? We'll be in Margate Park, a block or so north of Lawrence off Marine Drive.

To volunteer your time or to donate food or cash to help buy ribs and chicken, phone the church office (773-784-6633) and leave your name and a way to reach you. Help us carry on the spirit of a great heart.

peace, *Jean*
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