



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago

Newsletter for August, 2012

“A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience”

CALENDAR

Movie/Film Night

- **Movie Night** is on vacation for the summer...

Upcoming Sundays

- **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service.
- **Sun, Aug 5:** **Grace Itter** speaking.
- **Sun, Aug 12,** **Ed Feldmanis.**
- **Sun, Aug 19:** **Dave Karcher.**
- **Sun, Aug 26:** **Bob Ford**, or **Seth Fisher**, speaking. No potluck in August.

Other Events

- **NO Second Friday** in August. Coffeeshouse, resumes in September with **Merry Measure**, live.
- **Thurs, Aug 25, 5pm:** Uptown Chamber energizer here, foyer.
- **Sat, Aug 25, ALL DAY:** Macy's sale event at Old Orchard – buy a 25% off coupon from us for only \$5!
- **Sat, Aug 25, 4pm:** Spiritual Beans meets at Inspiration Kitchens.
- **Sat, Aug 25, 7pm:** Joseph Bures classical piano recital.
- **Sun, Aug 26, 2-5pm:** PBC and Arts Center fundraiser at Marty's Martini Bar.
- **Mon, Sept 3, 10-2pm:** **Annual Labor Day Picnic in Margate Park.**

Minister's Notes:

Summer Snapshots...

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

Some summer snapshots:

I am walking past a vacant lot on my way home the other night and notice the tattered webbing lying among the weeds. Not long ago it had hung on the fencing that surrounded the lot, while they were dumping fill dirt in it, which they later removed.

It had all seemed like pointless activity – the old dig-a-hole-and-fill-it-in routine. The vacant lot is as sad and vacant as before.

But then I notice the wildflowers growing up all along the edges of the lot, where the fence had protected the ground. Lovely, tiny sculpted yellow flowers – “butter and eggs,” according to one wildflower source – toadflax, plantain family... little jewels.

Something about those flowers, growing so joyfully, so persistently, in that neglected and uncared-for space, reminds me of this church, this neighborhood.

Or this image:

I'm driving north along the curving street toward Evanston. On my right is the lake, and the tumbled square stones, like a giant-child's blocks, abandoned where they have fallen.

As I speed past, I see a tall young man leap off the last stone three feet down onto the sidewalk, with the panache of an Olympic gymnast – he seems to have been running across the blocks, delicately navigating their uneven surfaces and gaps. In that brief moment when I see him and he sees me seeing him, he grins at me – I have seen his prowess, his delight. Infectious!

Or this:

A summer storm – only a few splatters of rain, but a great light show. Lightning now here, now there, around the sky. And then a great bolt, straight ahead, from heaven to earth, nearly vertical, and then following in its path another and another, following like rain drops down a window, once the first trail is blazed.

2 Li'l Fishes

Starting soon, 2 Li'l Fishes will serve a free hot lunch every day but Wednesday, downstairs in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

To help out, contact Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, twolilfishes@yahoo.com.

cont'd...

Minister's Notes, cont'd

And this:

5:30am – Sitting on my back stoop, looking between the buildings at the lake.

Rosy, blue, gold dawn... the lake gently rippling, reflecting the still sky, with its veils and shreds of cloud. Gulls wing over, arc'ed limbs driving heavy bodies forward, high above.

The sun's rosy face begins to appear at the edge of the world, each moment more of it, more intense and pink – the clouds' faces light up... Soon it will be too bright to regard. (Is that what they meant about looking on God's face and surviving?)

Summer... It is wonderful to be alive.

peace, Jean

Labor Day Picnic

It's time again for our annual end-of-summer blow-out in the park, with giant pots of veggies, grilled chicken and ribs, chips and cookies, and lemonade, all served up with heartfelt warmth by our volunteers.



Every year for some 20 years we've been serving 400-600 plates of food to all comers on Labor Day, to commemorate the holiday and the life and work of Billy Hand Robinson and his commitment to homeless and hungry people. "It takes a lot of work to be homeless," he said. "We need to recognize how hard people work to keep body and soul together when they have so few resources."

Last year we played softball, flew kites, played cards (tough when it's windy!), and were treated to the dulcet tones of singer Kristin Lems, who serenaded the folks waiting for lunch to be served.

Isaac Barrantine, who coordinates the 2 Li'l Fishes lunch program, and who has himself experienced homelessness, talks about how important these family holidays are for many people, and how we can – a little bit – fill that need, reminding people of the happy times they had in the past, at a time when it isn't always possible for them to be with family.

The Labor Day picnic is a special event of Peoples Church, and Isaac, Will and Michael, of 2 Li'l Fishes, are always a tremendous help. It couldn't happen without some of our regular volunteers preparing and grilling the meat – Ludie, Iris, and John, among others. We are also pleased that the Harvard Family UCC church in Oak Park has been sending their youth group to help serve.

We need your help to make this a memorable feast – won't you please consider making a generous donation? It will help us pay for food and meal supplies for this wonderful picnic. You can make checks out to "Peoples Church of Chicago." Thanks!



"Spiritual Beans"

Treasures of Uptown interfaith discussion group meets on Saturday, August 25, 4-5pm at Inspiration Kitchens, 4715 N. Sheridan, for another lively conversation. For more information, see www.TreasuresofUptown.org.

Classical Piano Recital, Saturday, August 25, 7pm:

Joseph Bures explores the digital piano with a variety of sounds, with music by Edward Elgar and J.S. Bach.



The Peoples Church of Chicago

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Calendar – August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 Treasures steering comm.	2 <i>Pastor Jean on vacation all</i>	3	4 <i>of August</i>
5 10am Service	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10am Service	13	14	15	16	17	18 10 JustEmbrace Sole Care foot clinic 10-noon PBC board meeting
19 10am Service	20	21	22	23 5pm Chamber of Commerce energizer	24	25 ALL DAY – Macy's sales event 4pm Spiritual Beans at Inspir. Kitch. 7pm Joseph Bures recital
26 10am Service	27	28	29	30	31	

