



# ON THE STREET

## The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for January, 2012

*“A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience”*

### CALENDAR

#### Movie/Film Night

- **Fri, Jan 27, 6pm:** “Let the People Say, Amen!” – documentary: a church transforms its neighborhood.

#### Upcoming Sundays

- **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service with Rev. Jean Darling preaching.

#### Other Events

- **Second Friday, Jan. 9:** 6pm Taizé service, Coffeehouse at 7 with **Lee Murdock**.
- **Sun, Jan 22, 11:30-12:15:** **M.L. King** birthday bash and Civil Rights sing-along with Kristin Lems, cake and music.
- **Sun, Jan 22, 2-4pm:** **Treasures of Uptown** collaborates with BorderBend – come help make an interfaith quilt.
- **Sat, Jan 28, 10am:** Prayer breakfast in Molly’s Café, with good food, music, readings.
- **Sat, Jan 28, 7pm:** **Joseph Bures** plays music by the Impressionist Debussy, and a waltz by Emil Waldteufel.

#### Minister’s Notes:

#### It’s a New Year – Plus Ça Change?

*Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling*

I was talking with some of our folks after church the other day, and asked if anyone remembered what they thought the next century would be like, when they were little kids. One person remembered thinking that there would be flying cars by now – (he’d been a fan of the Jetsons cartoon show),

We agreed, the future (now) doesn’t look very futuristic – except for the phones – GPS, bus-tracker, looking up things on the internet while you walk across the street in traffic, texting your friends while driving...

And some things seem not to have changed very much – there is still violence and misery, hunger and war. Is it really “Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose”? (That oh-so-French saying, “The more it changes, the more it stays the same.”)

But after this tumultuous year, I actually feel pretty hopeful. The Arab Spring was completely unexpected, and an amazing view as this part of the world cracked open, an amazing show of people power, a transformation of numerous autocratic governments in the direction of democracy. And here at home the Occupy movements seemed finally an answer to the economic crisis, and the helpless anger it had generated.

A rather cynical article in a recent Vanity Fair suggests that we are stuck in some kind of 1980s time-warp. Even the “grass-roots political movements are remakes” – the Tea Party and the Occupy Wall Street protests are just remakes of the 1960s protests, the article says.

And why are we stuck? “Driving all the populist rage, right and left,” says the article, “is the unprecedented flatlining of economic progress: Americans’ median income is just about where it was 20 years ago, as unchanging as American style and culture.”

I think they have something there – we don’t change our styles of clothes, or cars, or buildings – culture – because we feel insecure and we want *something* to stay the same amidst all the turmoil and uncertainty of modern-day life.

But I disagree that these movements are just retreads. **cont’d...**

### 2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tues, Thurs, Sat and Sunday, a free hot lunch is served downstairs in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

To help out, contact Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, [twolilfishes@yahoo.com](mailto:twolilfishes@yahoo.com).

### **Minister's Notes, cont'd**

What I think we are seeing in these movements – and not just here, but around the world – is a larger consciousness – a consciousness that objects to the excesses of corporations, the excesses of autocratic governments. And this consciousness has been made possible with the new voice that comes from social media, a new way of making itself heard.

What it's creating is the consciousness of border-crossing, of being connected across those arbitrary boundaries between countries, as people with the same dreams and hopes for lives where we can have an effect on decisions that impact our own future. We're tired of our leaders fighting over the steering wheel while we head straight for the cliff (when they are wearing a golden parachute).

How does the democratic spirit relate to religion? The prophets have long railed against tyrants, against injustice toward the little person. If we believe that a little bit of God, of Christ lives in each of us, then it makes sense that no single individuals or narrow groups of people should "inherit the earth." We need to share the Earth's abundance – as we all share in its common fate.

peace, Jean

### **Christmas Dinner – Thanks!**

We are grateful to volunteers and members of Temple Shalom for all their help in serving this year's Christmas dinner. Thanks also to those who provided food and supplies for the meal. Rabbi Shoshanah Conover blessed the meal, and some forty volunteers dished and brought plates of food to guests at the tables. It was a bounteous meal!

### **Lee Murdock at the Coffeehouse**

Join us on Friday, January 13 for our Second Friday in Molly's Café (floor 3 1/2). Begin with a respite from your hectic week, the meditative **Taizé service** with chant, candles, poetry, and silence. The Peoples Church **Coffeehouse** follows at 7pm, where **Lee Murdock** sings his unique Great Lakes sailing and shipping songs, sea shanties of the Midwest Coast.

Besides the live music, the Coffeehouse features cheap eats: fresh-brewed coffee and Ludie's fabulous desserts.

### **Celebration & Civil Rights sing-along –**

Sunday, Jan 22 at 11:30, Peoples Church celebrates Martin Luther King's birthday with cake and punch and music and spoken word, with Kristin Lems hosting. Everyone welcome!



### **Interfaith News...**

#### • **Spiritual Beans**

Spiritual Beans (a project of Treasures of Uptown) continues its lively interfaith conversations around the table at Starbucks on Wilson at Magnolia. The next gathering, on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4pm, will address "faith and law." Does your faith "comply" with the civil law? When does your faith demand that you break the law? Seth will have a lot more provocative questions to ask us. See you there!

#### • **Interfaith Fabric Arts Workshop**

Treasures of Uptown hosts a quilt-square workshop for you to design and make one piece of an interfaith banner, or a stand-alone piece, on Sunday, January 22, from 2-4pm in Molly's Café at Peoples Church.

We'll supply materials and assistance, to help you make a beautiful fabric mosaic that you can keep or contribute to an interfaith banner that will travel with us to interfaith events around Chicago.

#### • **On-line interfaith clearinghouse**

Also, Treasures is developing its website into a clearinghouse for interfaith groups in the Chicago area. It will have a calendar for events, a speakers bureau, and other resources that member groups would like to have. See [www.TreasuresofUptown.org](http://www.TreasuresofUptown.org).



### **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

# *Calendar – January 2012*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>NEW YEAR'S</b> 10am Service	2 New Year's – Office closed	3  6:30pm Treasures	4	5	6	7
8 10am Service 11:30 Trustees mtg	9	10	11	12  1:30pm 2 Li'l Fishes	13  6pm Taizé svc, Coffeehouse with Lee Murdock	14
15 <b>ML King Sun.</b> 10am Service 11:30 Potluck	16 M.L. King Holiday Office closed	17	18  6:30pm Worship committee	19	20	21  10-12 PBC board
22 10am Service 11:30 ML King party and Civil Rights sing-along 2-4pm Treasures of Uptown event	23	24	25	26	27  6pm Movie Night "Let the People Say, Amen!"	28 10am P.C. Prayer breakfast  7pm Joseph Bures piano recital
29 10am Service 12:30 Climate Change workshop	30	31				