



# ON THE STREET

## The Peoples Church of Chicago

### Newsletter for March, 2013

*"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"*

## CALENDAR

### Upcoming Sundays

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

- **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service, Rev. Jean Darling preaching.
- **Sun, Mar 3:** Peoples Church **Annual Meeting**, following service, with dinner and entertainment provided. Elect your Board of Trustees!
- **Sun, Mar 31, 9am:** **Easter breakfast potluck**, followed by Easter service with Seth Fisher preaching.

### Other Events

- **Fri, Mar 8, 6pm:** Second Friday: Singer-songwriter **Heather Styka**.
- **Weds, Mar 13, 6pm:** **Treasures of Uptown** interfaith steering committee.
- **Sat, Mar 16, 10am:** PBC Board meets, Molly's Café.
- **Thurs, Mar 21, 1:30pm:** 2 Li'l Fishes development committee, foyer.
- **Sat, Mar 23, 4pm, at Golden House Pancakes:** Spiritual Beans discuss'n.
- **Sat, Mar 23, 7pm:** Joseph Bures plays Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, surrounded by Grieg's phantasms.

### Minister's Notes:

#### What are we giving up for Lent?

*Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling*

Here we are, smack dab in the middle of the season of Lent, a time of reflection before the joyful day of Easter.

I was thinking about how, back in the Middle Ages, people took these religious seasons very seriously. One of the religious lights of the 1100s was Hildegard of Bingen, a Christian mystic, Benedictine Abbess, writer of songs, poetry, and books of healing herbs. One of her poems goes like this:

O moving force of Wisdom, encircling the wheel of the  
cosmos,  
Encompassing all that is, all that has life,  
in one vast circle.  
You have three wings: The first unfurls aloft  
in the highest heights.  
The second dips its way dripping sweat on the Earth.  
Over, under, and through all things whirls the third.  
Praise to you, O Wisdom worthy of praise!<sup>1</sup>

Lent is a time for reflection, a time to be aware daily of the gifts God gives us. Some people give up something for Lent, as a reminder – one of our friends tells me she has given up chocolate – not an easy thing for her, she said: she eats chocolate every day!

The idea of giving things up doesn't always sit well with us – many people have a nagging sense of deprivation, and the idea of giving something up for Lent only heightens this feeling. If instead you are filled with gratitude, bless you!

But in case giving something up seems difficult, consider giving up something you'd like to stop doing anyway – for Lent, give up criticizing yourself for every little thing, give up telling yourself negative messages, give up nagging someone you love, give up putting things off till tomorrow. You know what it is you would like to give up.

*cont'd...*

### 2 Li'l Fishes

2 Li'l Fishes serves a free hot lunch Tuesday, and Thursday through Sunday, downstairs in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

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

<sup>1</sup> Hildegard von Bingen, *O Virtus Sapientiae / O Moving Force of Wisdom*

## Minister's Notes, cont'd

We are here, like flowers, to grow from the seed of our infancy, to bloom as the snowdrop, or the daffodil, or the rose, or the chrysanthemum – each of us different, each with different gifts. We are like different musical instruments in a grand orchestra that is life. Hildegard wrote:

The marvels of God are not brought forth from one's self.  
Rather, it is more like a chord, a sound that is played.  
The tone does not come out of the chord itself, but rather,  
through the touch of the Musician.  
I am, of course, the lyre and harp of God's kindness.<sup>2</sup>

This Lenten season may we take with us Hildegard's words, her beautiful sensibility of God's constant loving presence:

The soul is kissed by God in its innermost regions.  
With interior yearning, grace and blessing are bestowed.  
It is a yearning to take on God's gentle yoke,  
It is a yearning to give one's self to God's Way.<sup>2</sup>

Lent is a time to attune ourselves, to align ourselves – giving something up is practice for God's gentle yoke. So let us give up all those things that stand in the way of our connecting with others, with ourselves, with God, all those things that keep us from loving.

peace, Jean

<sup>2</sup>Hildegard von Bingen, attributed, *Soul Weavings*



## "Spiritual Beans" interfaith discussion

Saturday, March 23, 4pm,

Treasures of Uptown meets at Golden House Pancake Restaurant

for another lively discussion – this month's topic: "The Limits of Tolerance." Do we tolerate the intolerant?

## Classical Piano Recital

Saturday, Mar 23, 7pm: "Good Grieg!" – Is it a Charlie Brown Moonlit night? Joseph Bures' monthly piano recital sandwiches Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata between slices of Grieg's phantasmagoria.



## Pastor Jean out of town

Over Easter, Jean and her husband Ken are traveling to Argentina for the wedding of their AFS "son" Augusto. We haven't seen him since he was 18 – 17 years ago – Yow! It's high time he married! Here he is looking cool.



## Heather Styka, at the Coffeehouse

Friday, March 8, 6pm: Join us for the meditative Taize service with chant, poetry and candles, followed at 7pm by live folk music from the amazing **Heather Styka**,

plus fresh brewed coffee, and goodies from Ludie's famous kitchen.

## 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 – March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH</b>					1  <b>CARSON'S</b>	2  <b>FUNDRAISER</b>
3 10am Service 11:30 Annual Meeting – elect your Trustees!	4	5	6	7	8  6pm Taizé 7pm Coffeehouse w Heather Styka	9
10 10am Service 11:30 Trustees	11	12	13  6pm Treasures steering comm., foyer	14	15	16 10 JustEmbrace Sole Care foot clinic 10-noon PBC board meeting
17 10am Service	18	19	20	21  1:30 2 Li'l Fishes	22	23  4pm -Spir. Beans @Golden Pancake  7pm Jos. Bures piano recital
24 <b>PALM SUN.</b> 10am Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 <b>EASTER</b> 9am Breakfast 10am Service Seth Fisher						