



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago

Newsletter for October, 2011

“A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience”

CALENDAR

Movie/Film Night

- **Fri, Oct 28, 6pm:** “Chop Shop” – the third world thrives under the flight path to LaGuardia, where a 16-yr old orphan works & dreams

Upcoming Services

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

Other Events

- **Sun, Oct. 2, 3-5pm:** song-writing workshop led by satirist **Roy Zimmerman**
- **Thurs, Oct 13, 7pm:** Carbon Sabbath with **Scott Claassen**.
- **First Friday, Oct. 7:** 6pm Taizé service, Coffeehouse at 7 with singer-songwriter **Brian Cutean**.
- **Sun, Oct 9, 10-noon:** **Health screening** in Anderson Hall – get checked for high blood pressure or diabetes by doctors from the Compassionate Care Network
- **Sat, Oct 29, 7pm:** Joseph Bures plays Gabriel Faure, Emmanuel Chabrier, & Franz Liszt.

Minister’s Notes:

Whose Are We?

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

*By the shores of Gitche Gumees
By the shining Big-Sea-Water...¹*

I stood one morning recently looking out over Lake Michigan before the sun rose, when the lake, still, almost like glass, reflected the sky’s rosy, silvery, shell-like colors. Those words came back to me – the famous poem my dad recited to us when we were children, evoking the mystery of Native Americans from long ago and far away, awakening in us a curiosity and tenderness that has lasted a lifetime.

Was this the lake? I wondered. No, not Lake Michigan. Gitche Gumees was far to the north, the shining Lake Superior, where the Ojibwa lived who inspired Longfellow and other 19th century Romantics to write about them.

This lake like glass, so still, so softly colored, so beautiful... and only a few days before lashed to an astounding fury – wave after wave towering to 23 feet in the middle of the lake in that terrific wind-storm we had last week.

At a ministers’ retreat, we pondered the question, “Whose are we?” We belong to God, we answer: we belong to each other, we belong to our families, our spouses, our churches, our neighborhoods. We belong to the Earth, we belong to nature, we belong to the beautiful sunrise, we belong to Gitche Gumees.

A placid lake – like us, with unknown depths, surprising in how those depths can move us.

Together, we ministers reflected on our call, on our responsibility, to you and to our institution. We mulled over what we want to do to live into it more fully.

And I am convinced that everyone has some sort of call. It’s quite obvious among our staff who work for 2 Li’l Fishes – their commitment to our lunch program goes far beyond what one feels for a “job of work.” Do you have a call? What is your call?

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, phone Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, 773-630-4452, or twoliifishes@yahoo.com.

cont’d...

¹ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “Hiawatha”

Minister's Notes, cont'd

One of my colleagues talked about how good things are at his church, and satisfying, and on track, and how he and the members are enjoying each other. And then he mentioned that in addition to the call to his church, he is feeling a pull he can't quite pin down, another kind of call.

It's something deeper, still undefined, but gestating, like an egg, something eventually that will be born.

Much of what we are doing at Peoples has that kind of feel – something in process, that will become something, but just how is not yet clear.

My own journey feels like that right now, as well.

Nearly ten years ago, between 9/11 and the U.S. invasion of Iraq the following March, I stood holding a sign with other peacemakers at the federal plaza downtown for an hour each Tuesday morning. Perhaps I thought – naively – that we could keep the U.S. government from going to war with Iraq. I just know that it was something I cared deeply about – so much so that I stood in the freezing January weather with those others (so much more committed than I, they are still there in that silent vigil each Tuesday). It was something I *had* to do.

I am now listening for that voice, the one that tells me I *must* do something – I have a feeling it is there, has been all along – and I haven't kept still enough, haven't left enough silence for it to be heard.

That's what I want to do in the coming days and weeks ahead – stay quiet and listen. Allow the tumultuous surface of my internal lake to settle and to reflect what this Word might be.

And I invite you to do the same. Reflect on Whose you are – who you belong to, and what your call is, and how you can be true to it.

May we keep each other company on this journey, and come out the other side joyous and knowing what our path is, or at least that we are going in the right direction.

peace, Jean

New Foyer Face

Preston Bradley always ended his radio talks with "Keep looking up!" If you follow his advice as you come up the main steps into the foyer, you might notice the beautiful new plastering job on what was

a rather beat-up looking ceiling, from a long-ago plumbing leak.

We are grateful to Barbie Markay and G3Design for donating their materials and expert labor to make this important cosmetic repair. Beauty is important! Many thanks to Barbie for this meaningful gesture.

Brian Cutean at the Coffeehouse

On October 7, at 7:15pm, the Peoples Church Coffeehouse welcomes the acoustadelic gypsyhoopla mojobfolkmedicine (and music!) of Brian QTN, in Molly's Café (floor 3 1/2). Besides the live music, the Coffeehouse features cheap eats: fresh-brewed coffee and Ludie's fabulous sweet treats. The Coffeehouse follows the 6pm Taizé service, from our ministry intern, Seth Fisher.

Wow! Hear the new Voices of Praise

The past few Sundays, we have been blessed with a brand-new element of the service, a praise choir! Led by Demetrius Porter, the group is working up praise songs for us to include in a section of the service that will be uplifting and exciting, a new way of celebrating our connection with the Divine.

Carbon Sabbath

Scott Claassen is spending a year minimizing his carbon emissions. He won't be flying or driving, heating or cooling his home, etc. But, he will be riding all over the country on his bicycle and talking about it. Come on by and join the conversation. Free and open to all. <http://carbonsabbath.org/>

Thursday, October 13, 7pm, in Molly's Café, at Peoples Church, floor 3 1/2.



The Peoples Church of Chicago

941 W. Lawrence Avenue

P.O. Box 408319

Chicago, IL 60640-8319

www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org

773.784.6633

Calendar – October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 10am Service 11:30 Trustees mtg 3-5pm songwriting workshop with Roy Zimmerman	3	4	5	6	7 6pm Taizé svc, Coffeehouse with Brian Cutean	8
9 10am Service 11-1 health screening in Anderson Hall	10	11 6:30pm Treasures	12	13	14	15 10-12 PBC Board
16 10am Service 11:30 membership orientation	17	18	19 6:30pm Worship committee	20 2:30pm 2 Li'l Fishes	21	22 9-2 PC Trustees retreat
25 10am Service	26	27	28	29	28 6pm Movie Night	29 7pm Joseph Bures piano recital
30 10am Service POTLUCK	31 Hallowe'en					