



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago

Newsletter for September, 2011

“A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience”

CALENDAR

Movie/Film Night

- **Fri, Sept 23, 6pm:** “The Fast Runner” “a story of love and survival, tradition and superstition,” set among the Inuit of the Arctic.

Upcoming Services

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

Other Events

- **Mon, Sept 5, 10am-2pm:** Peoples Church annual **LABOR DAY PICNIC** in Margate Park. Softball, music, ribs and chicken and more.
- **Second Friday, Sept. 9th:** 6pm Taizé service, Coffeehouse at 7 with legendary singer-songwriter **Michael Smith**.
- **Sun, Sept 11:** Treasures of Uptown interfaith event, on the “**Golden Rule**” – Jewish, Muslim and UU perspectives, discussion.
- **Sat, Sept 24, 7pm:** Joseph Bure: plays “baby food” – some light pieces by Liszt and others.

Minister’s Notes:

My Summer Vacation

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

I’m an urban girl – I like the city. But I had a chance to spend a few days with several friends out west and experience being in nature and away from the sirens, the traffic, the press of people on the el. We looked at the Milky Way, its vast swath of stars sweeping across the night sky, saw our friends Cassiopeia – the constellation that looks like a “W” – and Orion (early in the morning) and Scorpio’s curving tail of stars, low on the horizon.

We picked up rocks that looked like arrowheads, and once in a rare while a painted potsherd from hundreds of years ago. We were surprised by a snake crawling up between the wall and the open door – not a rattler, fortunately – and took apart a log-pile (a favorite rattler hang-out) carefully, with rakes and lots of banging about.

It was a welcome respite.

But we also read two daily newspapers and had fractious arguments with our friends about guns and the death penalty and the future of the human race. If at times a cause of raised voices, it was still fun.

These sometimes heated conversations reminded me, though, as we approach the tenth anniversary of September 11th, that it is sometimes hard not to feel discouraged at the direction we humans seem to be going. This Sunday we will reflect on those terrible events and their aftermath, with “Memories and Forgiveness” the sermon topic.

And Sunday afternoon, we hold another in our interfaith series for the Treasures of Uptown, with Jewish, Muslim and Christian/Unitarian Universalist perspectives on “The Golden Rule” – how does our faith address issues of forgiveness and reconciliation, and how do we respond personally to this sometimes difficult challenge?

I’m looking forward to bringing you other thoughts and reflections from my time out west, particularly having heard speakers on the idea of evolutionary consciousness – Rev. Michael Dowd, the author of *Thank God for Evolution*, and his wife Connie Barlow,

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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 twolilfishes@yahoo.com.

Minister's Notes, cont'd

author of *Green Space, Green Time*. They see the world from the kind of larger perspective that helps us, too, see that we are just one small part of something so magical, so wonderful, that awe is the only possible response.

When we get depressed listening to or reading the news, we need to return to the places of ultimate meaning – whether it is our Bible, nature, poetry, art or philosophers. To be continued!

peace, Jean

Labor Day picnic

Our Labor Day picnic took place Monday, with dozens of people working very hard cooking and chopping and grilling and serving, ribs and chicken, beans and corn, cookies and lemonade. We served over 500 plates of food, while singer-songwriter Kristin Lems serenaded the guests standing in line.

We want to thank all the many volunteers, from Peoples Church, the youth group of Harvard Family Church in Oak Park, Streetwise, and particularly the 2 Li'l Fishes and church staff, who put in extra hours making the day a success.

Treasures: the Golden Rule

This Sunday, Sept 11th, from 2-4pm, the Treasures of Uptown interfaith action coalition will hold a September 11th Commemoration based on "The Golden Rule." This interfaith dialogue and meditation on the meaning of the Golden Rule in our different faiths will be led by Rabbi Shoshanah Conover, Rizwan Kadir, and Rev. Jean Darling.

The well-known statement "Do to others as you want others to do to you" has a foundation in at least 13 different faiths around the world. Join us as we commemorate the anniversary of September 11th with speakers from the Muslim, Jewish and Christian /Unitarian backgrounds illuminating the significance of this "rule" in their faith.

For more information, contact Aisling, Treasures intern, at aislingholt@gmail.com, or see the website, www.TreasuresofUptown.org.

Roy Zimmerman returns Oct 2

Sunday afternoon, October 2, from 3-5pm, musical satirist Roy Zimmerman returns to Peoples Church with a special program for budding songwriters.

In this two-hour workshop, Roy works with students' songs, complete or incomplete, to expand their pallet of melodic, harmonic, rhythmic and lyrical options. What would make this song more compelling? More direct? Catchier? Funnier? Does it need a bridge? Is it really two songs in disguise? How does a thought, an inspiration, an experience, an emotion become a song? And how can the songwriting process be a liberating influence on other creative endeavors? Roy has taught this Master Class at the University level (including at DePaul University) and privately for twenty years.

Registration limited to 20 people. Call or email the church office to register.

Greetings from our new Intern Minister

Hello to all you beautiful Peoples' People! My name is Seth Fisher and I will have the pleasure of serving you as an intern minister until May. I'm a full time student at Loyola University Chicago's Institute of Pastoral Studies, and I'm in the Master of Divinity program there. I'm also an Aspirant in the ministerial fellowship process of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

My main focus during my time here will be to reach out to the local community and try to spread the word about Peoples Church. I'll also get to do some preaching while I'm here. I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you, to learning more about Peoples Church, your vision for this church, and hopefully helping you get one step closer to it. See you in church!

Keep the faith!
Seth



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Calendar – September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Communion 10am Service Labor Day picnic planning meeting	5 LABOR DAY Picnic in the Park	6 6:30pm Treasures	7 6:30pm Worship committee	8	9 6pm Taizé svc, Coffeehouse with Michael Smith	10 10-12 PBC Board
11 10am Service 11:30 Trustees mtg 2-4pm Treasures of Uptown: the Golden Rule , in Molly's Café	12	13	14	15 2:30pm 2 Li'l Fishes	16	17
18 10am Service	19	20	21	22	23 6pm Movie Night, "The Fast Runner"	24 7pm Joseph Bures piano recital
25 10am Service POTLUCK	26	27	28	29	30	