



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for November, 2011

“A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience”

CALENDAR

Movie/Film Night

- **Fri, Nov 18, 6pm:** “Juno” – an offbeat young woman faces an unplanned pregnancy.

Upcoming Sundays

- **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service, with Rev. Jean Darling preaching.
- **Sun, Nov 13: Reader/Liturgist** training after service.
- **Sun, Nov 27: Member orientation II:** What are the UUA & UCC?

Other Events

- **Every Weds, 5:30-6:30pm:** Bible study with readings from Hebrew and Christian scriptures.
- **Second Friday, Nov. 11:** 6pm Taizé service, Coffeehouse at 7 with troubadour **Steve Justman**.
- **Thurs, Nov 24, 11:30-1pm:** **Thanksgiving Dinner** for all who are looking for food and company!
- **Sat, Nov 26, 7pm:** Joseph Bures plays Massenet, Strauss, Fauré, Chabrier, Chaminade, Liszt.

Minister's Notes:

Putting a Good Face on It

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

Someone once said that this church is like a bumblebee – it ought to be too heavy to fly, its wings are so small – and yet it does keep flying. (My husband, with his physics background, tells me that it's really about whether a bumblebee can hover – it can't – but as long as it is moving forward, it is fine.)

Around the Preston Bradley Center here on Lawrence, we are living an emotional roller-coaster, as we get good news one day and mounds of bills the next. We are not pretending that the bad news is not there, but we are acting *as if* things are all going to be okay. This church has survived worse, I'm told by long-time members, and we expect to keep flying.

There are a lot of changes taking place, and some of it is painful. The shelter organization that has been here in our building for over 20 years is teetering on the edge of existence – its lights are about to wink out. But the city of Chicago is finding another shelter provider to take over, and we are holding our breath.

The shelter that is closing owes us over \$100,000 in back rent that they are unable to pay. We are not hopeful that we will ever see that money.

One of our favorite programs is at risk – 2 Li'l Fishes feeds hungry people in Uptown four days a week year-round, and three staff people – all formerly homeless themselves – depend on the salaries we pay.

2 Li'l Fishes fed 20,000 meals last year – but feeding people isn't all it does. Hundreds of volunteers pass through our kitchen. A dozen people in the EarnFare system (welfare-to-work) learn to cook with Isaac and Will – and a number of them have gone on to highly rated training programs with Inspiration Corporation and the Greater Chicago Food Depository. 2 Li'l Fishes has hosted health screenings by groups such as the Compassionate Care Network, and looks forward to more such collaborations.

2LF staffers are determined to keep feeding people, even though PBC's extremely tight finances are impacting their jobs. Isaac, the program coordinator, says, “We were here (12 years ago),

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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, contact Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, twolilfishes@yahoo.com.

Minister's Notes, cont'd

when there was nothing to feed people but beans and rice, peanut butter and stale French bread. We've come a long way and we don't want to give up now!"

That's the kind of determination we thrive on.

And, like the bumblebee, we are not hovering – trying to stay in one place – that would be our downfall. With all the changes facing us, we are adapting, and we're finding new energies popping up, in particular around the arts in this neighborhood.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel has been talking up Uptown as a new theater / arts destination in the city. The two alderpersons of the 46th and 48th wards are both interested in seeing Uptown revitalized and are supportive of our re-visioning the Preston Bradley Center as a new home for smaller theater groups, artists, musical and community events.

We've met some theater people and some artists, and they are helping move us forward, toward this new vision. Just this week historic preservationists are looking at the WPA paintings in Mason Hall. We are excited about the possibilities.

We're making progress, but in the meantime, we could sure use your help.

"Putting a good face" on something usually means that you're covering up or glossing over something – pretending that things are okay, when they're not. But we can see light at the end of the tunnel, and we believe in what we are doing.

It is coming down to faith – plus a lot of work – and hope – and envisioning a future that is sustainable, that is enlivening, that nourishes us in spirit as well as in bricks and mortar.

This garden we live in has flowers of every hue and form – the hopes and dreams of the people who come here; the lives of people in trouble saved by intervention or enriched by respect; the artistic creations our space fosters; the conversations, the learning that stretch our minds.

This bumblebee has a lot more flowers to taste, to help grow and create seeds for a lush and resplendent future.

peace, Jean

Steve Justman at the Coffeehouse

Join us on November 11 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 7:15pm, welcoming live acoustic music from singer, troubadour, musician, entertainer, collector and caretaker of songs, **Steve Justman**.

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



Give back for Thanksgiving

Are you looking for a way to give back, this year? Help provide Thanksgiving Dinner! Peoples Church is serving a community Thanksgiving dinner to folks in the neighborhood, homeless or not, hungry for a good meal, a bit of community. We'll serve at noon, but need volunteers from 10am to 2pm, for set up, serving and clean up.

Call the church office (773-784-6633) or drop us a note (admin@PeoplesChurchChicago.org) and let us know you'd like to help. Or consider making a donation to help provide this festive meal. Thanks!



The Peoples Church of Chicago

941 W. Lawrence Avenue

P.O. Box 408319

Chicago, IL 60640-8319

www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org

773.784.6633

Calendar – November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30pm Treasures	2	3	4	5
6 10am Service 11:30 Trustees mtg	7	8	9 5:30pm Bible study	10 1:30pm 2 Li'l Fishes	11 6pm Taizé svc, Coffeehouse with Steve Justman	12
13 10am Service 11:30 training for Readers/Liturgists	14	15	16 5:30pm Bible study 6:30pm Worship committee	17	18 6pm Movie Night "Juno"	19 9-12 PBC Work Day 10-12 PBC committee meeting 8pm Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band
20 10am Service Thanksgiving potluck	21	22	23 5:30pm Bible study	24 11:30-1pm Thanksgiving Dinner	25 office closed	26 7pm Joseph Bures piano recital
27 10am Service 11:30 membership orientation II – UUA, UCC history, theology	28	29	30 5:30pm Bible study			