



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for February, 2009

"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"

CALENDAR

Film/Movie Night –

- ? Fourth Friday, Feb 27, 6-8pm.
"Inherit the Wind," dramatization
of the "Scopes Monkey Trial."

Song and Hymn Sing –

- ? Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30pm. No
practice 2/12.

Upcoming Services

- ? Sun, Feb 1, 10am: "**The Labour Church**" – Rev. Jean talks about her trip to the London archives...
- ? Sun, Feb 8, 10am: "**The Seven Deadly Sins: Envy**"
- ? Sun, Feb 15, 10am: "**Thank God for Evolution!**"
- ? Sun, Feb 22, 10am: **Ed Feldmanis**, on his Spiritual Journey, from Japan to Jung.

*All services followed by fellowship,
with coffee and light refreshments.*

Other Events

- ? Sat, Mar 7, 7pm: **Classical Piano Recital with Joseph Bures.**

2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, a free lunch is served in the new space on 3 ½ West. All are welcome.

If you would like to help, phone Will Pruitt, our new volunteer coordinator, 773-754-6102.

Minister's Notes:

Time for Love

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

February is the month when winter seems the longest, and we are grateful for a few warm days that give promise of spring. And it is time for a holiday!

A Korean friend of ours told us that in her culture there is now a romantic celebration each month on the 14th – not just February, but January, March, April, May... Wikipedia says:

The 14th of every month marks a love-related day in Korea, although most of them are obscure. From January to December: Candle Day, Valentine's Day, White Day, Black Day, Rose Day, Kiss Day, Silver Day, Green Day, Music Day, Wine Day, Movie Day, and Hug Day.

It seems calculated to encourage people to spend money – and Koreans are some of the highest spenders in Asia for Valentine's Day. It turns out that "St. Valentine" was actually the name of several early Christian martyrs, and no one knows anything about them except where at least two of them were buried. Well. But even if we have no sweetie to celebrate with on the 14th, consider these words from *The Soul of Sex*, by Thomas Moore:

The opening of the heart in personal affection plays an important role in the development of a spiritual life... We can be outrageously affectionate toward our lovers and spouses and thus give the world the model it needs for living from the heart. We can nurture our affection for animals, things, and places... The task is to recognize that the spiritual life is rooted in love, not merely in understanding, and then to cultivate affection and sensuality as part of our spiritual practice.

What Moore is advocating has two aspects: one, that we be in touch with the *sensual* – not in any lascivious way – but meaning our senses. Buddhists would talk about being in the moment, being aware.

And the second aspect is treating affection as a spiritual practice. This idea really knocked me upside the head. We think of affection as something spontaneous – either we feel it or we don't.

cont'd...

Minister's Notes, cont'd

But Moore is telling us to cultivate it, to practice creating it in ourselves.

My brother said, "but if you do that, aren't you laying yourself open to be hurt?" If you are affectionate with someone, and they reject you or act nasty... why, yes that would hurt, if you were expecting something in return.

But if you express or feel affection as a spiritual practice, then you are doing it not to get something back, but simply to do it.

As I was beginning to think about this column, having read this passage some weeks ago, I was trying to remember the word "affection." I thought of several words, as I was trying to prompt my memory: *tenderness, humor, acceptance.*

I realize that these three words seem to define affection for me. When the habits of someone I care about begin to annoy me, I try to muster up these words, and allow their sum to rise up and occupy my heart, where annoyance had been residing.

We close with words Geoffrey Chaucer wrote in his poem, *Parliament of Fowls*, to help us remember that spring isn't so far away, and soon the birds will return, birds which joyfully show us the way with their nesting each spring:

*Qui bien aime a tard oublie*¹.

"Welcome, summer, with sunshine soft,
The winter's tempest you will break,
And drive away the long nights black!

Saint Valentine, throned aloft,
Thus little birds sing for your sake:
Welcome, summer, with sunshine soft,
The winter's tempest you will shake!

Good cause have they to glad them oft,
His own true-love each bird will take;
Blithe may they sing when they awake,
Welcome, summer, with sunshine soft,
The winter's tempest you will break,
And drive away the long nights black!"

peace, *Jean*

Homework Help

Homework Help – a new program:

Students:

Bring your Parent or Guardian and sign up at The Peoples Church of Chicago on

Wednesday March 11

for FREE homework help run by a Chicago Public School Teacher.

Grace Itter teaches at Edison Park Elementary School and will run the program at The Preston Bradley Center, 941 W. Lawrence Avenue, Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Every student is welcome; however, a parent or guardian must register each student for the program. Phone Grace at 773-771-5350 for more information.

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¹ *Qui bien aime a tard oublie.* Who loves well forgets slowly.

Calendar – February 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 10am Service 11:30 **Annual Meeting**
2	3	4	5 5:30 – music	6	7 7pm Joseph Bures classical piano concert	8 10am Service
9	10	11	12 5:30 – music	13	14	15 10am Service
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 10am Service
23	24	25	26 5:30 – music	27 6pm – Film Night “Inherit the Wind”	28 11:30 Black History celebration in music and spoken word – 2 LF choir!	