



# ON THE STREET

## The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for June, 2009

*"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"*

### CALENDAR

#### Film/Movie Night –

- ? Fourth Friday, June 26, 6-8pm.  
Comedy **"Moolaade"** from the great Senegalese film director **Ousmane Sembene**.

#### Upcoming Services

- ? Sundays, 10am: Worship Service, spirit filled, Jesus-centered.  
*All services followed by fellowship, with coffee and light refreshments.*

#### Other Events

- ? **FIRST FRIDAY, June 5, 6pm:**  
**Taizé service and discussion.**
- ? **First Fridays, 7pm: Jazz Coffeehouse:** we're looking for up-and-coming jazz, folk, world music and experimental artists to perform. Call Jean 312-405-9470.
- ? **Sun, June 7, 1-3: Licorice Sticks** clarinet band, live in Peoples Church auditorium.
- ? **Sat, June 20, 9:30am: HUNGER WALK** – help raise food funds for our 2 Li'l Fishes lunch program.
- ? **Sat, June 27, 7pm:** Joseph Bures, **Classical Piano Recital.**

#### 2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, a free lunch is served in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.  
If you would like to help, phone Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, 773-754-6102.

#### Minister's Notes:

#### To Question is the Answer

*Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling*

I grew up with a faith that some people question is a "faith" at all. Some people even say things like, "Oh, Unitarians can believe anything they want to." It's true that we don't prescribe what people should believe about the unknowable – life after death; heaven and hell; the nature, even the existence of God.

But this religion is ethically based – that is, what you **do** in this life is important. The Golden Rule covers the basics – you empathize with others, and don't do anything to them that you wouldn't want done to you. This carries forward into working for public policies that protect minorities and those whose voice is not heard; policies that promote fairness, that make the playing field level.

Many of our members, as children in other faiths, asked too many inconvenient questions of their religious leaders and were chastised for it. Unitarian Universalists have been known for facing authority with "attitude," summed up in that lapel button that reads "Question Authority."

One of the songs in our hymnal concludes with these words: "Even to question, truly is an answer."

Growing up with this – almost extreme – sense of doubt was not always helpful. I was taught to doubt because of my parents' rejection of authoritarian instruction – and for years I questioned everything.

It has taken a lot of soul nurturing to develop trust.

But now at Peoples we are engaging in a process that relies on questions. It's called Appreciative Inquiry – and as the name implies, it begins with appreciation, it begins from an assumption that positive qualities can be found in any sort of situation, and they can be found by asking questions.

We are discovering that the kind of questions we ask one another can help us arrive at truth – the truth of our congregation, of its members, its history. But even more, the kinds of questions we ask can determine whether we look forward with enthusiasm, or look backwards with longing; whether we will cling to a past long gone or carry forward with us into the future the best of what came before.

*cont'd...*

### **Minister's Notes, cont'd**

It's exciting to be embarking on this process – we are hopeful that we will engage everyone in this quest of discovery, that people will learn a lot about this church and one another in these on-going conversations, that we will find new reasons to be together, and we will eventually discover where we are going.

If you'd like to read about it, see website [www.appreciativeinquiry.com](http://www.appreciativeinquiry.com).

It's a process nurturing in itself – instead of *kvetching*, we are looking for things to celebrate! Instead of focusing on problems, we are finding the best of what was and engaging our most creative energies towards the future.

It's a process that builds on us humans, made in the image of God; it's a process that counts on a God who is working with and through us in creating a new world; it's a process that allows us to embrace the best of who we are and can be.

It's a process of questioning, not out of suspicion, but out of appreciation, out of curiosity and caring about our fellows in this project that is the church. Sometimes to question truly is the answer.

peace, *Jean*

### **Hunger Walk**

In *On the Plate*, the new newsletter for 2 Li'l Fishes, Will Pruitt writes:

On Saturday June 20, 2009, more than 5,000 people will step off at Montrose Harbor for the Greater Chicago Food Depository's 24th annual Hunger Walk to benefit member agencies like 2 Li'l Fishes. Our Staff and Volunteers will be part of the crowd enjoying the 2.5-mile stroll along the Lake helping to raise money to boost our food budget and provide our much needed service to hungry neighbors in the Uptown community.

You can help by making a donation that will be administered by the GCFD and is fully tax deductible. You can send a check payable to GCFD, Agency: The Preston Bradley Center / 2 Li'l Fishes, Number A00512, our host agency; or go online to [www.chicagosfoodbank.org/hungerwalk](http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/hungerwalk) and enter Preston Bradley Center-A00512 when prompted.

If you want to come to the Walk as well there will be entertainment for the family, event t-shirts, snacks and beverages. Get together is at 8:30 a.m. and the step-off is at 9:30 a.m.

Your support during the Hunger Walk is a vital part of our annual food budget and very appreciated.

Join dozens of us Saturday morning the 20<sup>th</sup> at Montrose Harbor – we'll get you a 2 Li'l Fishes headbands to wear.

This is the second year we've taken part in the Hunger Walk; last year we raised some \$2800 toward our account with the Food Depository, where we get most of the food we serve for our free lunches at 2 Li'l Fishes.

This year our goal is to raise \$5000 and have over 30 walkers. Be part of this great event!

Phone Will at 773-754-6102 for more information, or sign up at coffee hour after service on Sunday.

You can also register on-line at the GCFD – see Will's instructions above.

### **First Fridays in Molly's Café:**

**June 5, 6pm**, come to the monthly Taizé-style service in Molly's Café on 3 ½ West. We hope to show a short video on what Taizé is, and sing some meditative songs. Jean likes to include short poems and readings, which we can reflect on, from our own experience.

The **Jazz Coffeehouse** is regrouping – if you are, or know of any jazz, folk, or indie musicians who would like to play, send them our way.



**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 fax 773-784-6760

# *Calendar – June 2009*

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday           | Friday                 | Saturday                                  | Sunday  |
|--------|---------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| 1      | 2       | 3         | 4<br>5:30 – music  | 5<br>6 – Taizé svc     | 6   | 7<br>10am Service<br>11:30 PC Trustees                                  |
| 8      | 9       | 10        | 11<br>5:30 – music | 12                     | 13  | 14<br>10am Service  |
| 15     | 16      | 17        | 18<br>5:30 – music | 19                     | 20  | 21<br>10am Service  |
| 22     | 23      | 24        | 25<br>5:30 – music | 26<br>6pm - Film Night | 27<br>7pm Joseph Bures<br>classical piano | 28<br>10am Service<br>11:30 Potluck<br>Sacred Conversa-<br>tion on Race |
| 29     | 30      |           |                    |                        |   |   |