



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for November, 2008

"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"

CALENDAR

Film/Movie Night –

- ? Fourth Friday, Nov 28, 6-8pm.
"The Great Debaters" – followed by discussion.

Song and Hymn Sing –

- ? Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30pm.

Upcoming Services

- ? Sun, Nov 2, 10am: "All Souls."
- ? Sun, Nov 9, 10am: "Speak Softly" – civility & boundaries.
- ? Sun, Nov 16, 10am: "Give Me That Old Time Religion" – Maggie Siegfried and Frank Simpson play and sing old time gospel.
- ? Sun, Nov 23, 10am: **Guest.**
- ? Sun, Nov 30, 10am: **Rev. Rudra Dundzila** ushers in Advent, with **Thanksgiving Potluck** following.

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

Other Events

- ? Sat, Nov 22, 2-4pm: "Prospects for Peace after the Election."
- ? Sat, Dec 6, 7pm: **Classical Piano Concert 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 volunteer, phone the church office to get on the schedule: 773-784-6633.

Minister's Notes:

A New Day

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

After a tense election season, in which the divisions between Americans seemed to be drawn even more sharply, we elected as our President the first African American to hold that office.

Pundits have said that it was the bad news about the economy that sent Barack Obama over the top, or that it was Obama's message of change during an unpopular Republican administration.

I believe, though, that people responded to their desire for our leaders to do business in a new way, one that doesn't involve strife and contention, that instead attempts to arrive at solutions that involve everyone concerned.

Obama appealed to our desire to come together. Early on election night in Grant Park, one (white) spectator was discovered to be a Republican. He had purchased a ticket for \$150 over ebay. The interviewer asked him why a Republican would want to be there. He said (I'm paraphrasing), "It's an historic moment. I wanted to be part of it." He was smiling.

One television reporter, speaking from an Eastern historically black college, described how the students waited, somewhat subdued, even as large and important states like Ohio went for Obama, as if they did not trust that he could win, afraid that the election would be stolen. When the election was finally called, their exuberance burst forth, and they poured into the courtyard of the school, dancing and leaping and shouting.

It was moving to see a late election-night interview with Walter Fauntroy, veteran civil rights activist and former aide to Martin Luther King, where people had gathered at his New Bethel Baptist Church in Washington DC to watch the returns and wait. Fauntroy spoke about King's dream realized, how far we had come.

And John McCain revealed the good and gracious man he is in his concession speech, in which he shushed the boos of his supporters when he mentioned Obama's win, not once but twice. But their own good hearts were revealed in their applause when McCain spoke of our history, the "cruel and prideful bigotry" of earlier times, and how proud we can be at this historic moment.

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Minister's Notes, cont'd

It is a time of relief – a time for rejoicing – a time for hope. There will be time enough later to press for the contents of our dreams, to hold our leaders accountable for the hopes inspired in this election. Along with our new President, it is time to roll up our sleeves and get to work creating the world we want to live in.

peace, *Jean*

from the Treasurer:

Virginia Tolk, Board of Trustees Treasurer
Stewardship and budget are two anxiety-provoking, but necessary words in the work of the church.



We are beginning to develop a 2009 budget and need your support. Some think of a pledge as “paying our dues” but it’s really a spiritual practice that comes from an abundant and faith-filled life.

This has been a year of significant change at Peoples Church. On October 1, 2007, Rev. Darling began a half-time position as Congregational Development Minister. She has instituted weekly choir practice and monthly movies and restored monthly potlucks followed by a continuing discussion on race. The church website now includes church activities as well as basic information. Through Rev. Jean’s guidance, our meals program is available four days a week and attendance keeps growing.

Like Dr. Bradley, Rev. Jean believes the church should be an inspiration in this city in the cause of truth and justice.

If you agree with our mission and believe your blessings are part of God’s plan, please show your generosity through a check or a pledge. Help us continue God’s work in this community.

Virginia

2 Li'l Fishes Update:

We're ready! The **2 Li'l Fishes** lunch program will be expanding into 3 ½ West beginning this week. We'll start Sunday, and get all the kinks worked out, and then serve there on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday as well. We still need teams of volunteers, especially for Tuesday. **Can you help?** Call Angie at the church office and get on the schedule, 773-784-6633.

Panel Discussion on Peace

On Saturday, November 22, 2-4pm, Peoples Church welcomes Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Peace Task Force, presenting: **“Prospects for Peace After the Election”** panel presentation and discussion. Speakers include **Ra Chaka**,

Director, African American Alliance for Peace and Justice, **Brad Lyttle**, Presidential Candidate for the United States Pacifist Party, and **David Pyle**, Unitarian Universalist seminarian and chaplain candidate. The panel will be moderated by Western suburban UU peace activist **Jean Pierce**.



Light refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public

from the Mailbag:

Jean asked, in the last newsletter: What **is** community? ...What makes you feel at home? ...How do you meet people in your building, on your street, in your neighborhood?

Kate writes, by email: “In answer to your question, my first thought is that people like to help. From what I know, across all cultural lines, people enjoy helping if they (we) feel it makes a difference and if it's something that can be done within the limits of what one has available to give. (And one always has something.) I wonder what compelling project there might be that would be separate from everyone's immediate needs, where the focus would be the project itself, not getting to know one another?”

Keep writing – we'll publish excerpts from your letters.

The Peoples Church of Chicago
941 W. Lawrence Avenue, P.O. Box 408319
Chicago, IL 60640-8319
www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org
773-784-6633 fax 773-784-6760

Calendar – November 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 7pm Joseph Bures classical piano concert	2 “All Souls” 10am Service 11:30 PC Trustees Membership Sun
3	4 ELECTION DAY	5	6 5:30 – music	7	8	9 10am Service
10	11	12	13 5:30 – music	14	15	16 10am Service – Maggie Siegfried & Frank Simpson – Old Time Gospel
17	18	19	20 5:30 – music	21	22 2-4pm – UUSJ “Prospects for Peace After the Election”	23 10am Service Guest Speaker
24	25	26 2LF Thanksgiving Dinner – Roger’s gp	27 Thanksgiving	28 6pm – Film Night: “The Great Debaters”	29	30 1 st Sun. Advent 10am Service Thanksgiving Potluck Sacred Conversation on Race continues