

Calendar – October 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Rosh Hashanah	1	2 Eid al-Fitr – end of Ramadan 5:30 – music	3	4 7pm Joseph Bures Classical piano	5 “7 Deadly: Pride” 10am Service 11:30 PC Trustees
6	7	8	9 Yom Kippur 5:30 – music	10	11	12 Columbus Day 10am Service UUA Assoc Sunday: “Growing Our Spirit”
13	14	15	16 5:30 – music	17 6pm – Spiritual Supper #1 – our journey in colors	18	19 “Voting – privilege, right, honor” 10am Service
20	21	22	23 5:30 – music	24 6pm – Film night: “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington”	25 3pm – Poetry reading and workshop with Jeanne Towns	26 Keith Scott 10am Service 11:30am Potluck Sacred Conversation on Race continues
27	28	29	30 5:30 – music	31		

Minister's Notes, cont'd

Perhaps there was a little bridging of that gap, a little bit more community created by the very meltdown the organizers never expected.

Here in Uptown, some of us have also held the idealistic idea that people can get to know each other across this economic divide. But it is not obvious how we can nurture community, when we are so deeply divided by class, by culture, by circumstance.

What **is** community? What makes you feel alienated or alone? What makes you feel at home? When do you greet people on the street, and when do you hurry past, eyes averted? How do you meet people in your building, on your street, in your neighborhood?

Help us think about this together. Send me email (minister@PeoplesChurchChicago.org) or phone me with your thoughts.

peace, *Jean*

from the Prez:

Grace Itter, Board of Trustees President

Spiritual Suppers

Larry and I are inviting you into our home to start a new chapter in the life of the congregation expressing ourselves through music and art. October 17th will be the first of three dinners, meeting at 6pm. We will spend a couple of hours dining and exploring our spirituality, using the visual arts. Hope to see you there!

Membership Sunday

On November 2nd, in the service, we will invite everyone to celebrate our participation in this our church home by affirming our commitment for the coming year, as members or friends.

Peoples Church is jointly affiliated with the UCC and the UUA.

During the month of October after church we'll be watching short videos to help you understand a little more about the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Do you have questions? Now's the time to ask!

Grace
773-771-5350

2 Li'l Fishes Update:

The **2 Li'l Fishes** lunch program has been feeding people four days a week (Tues, Thurs, Sat & Sun) since the beginning of September, and we've been serving up to 160 people at a sitting. Just this past week, we've started to see people coming from the Salvation Army program, which used to serve breakfast and lunch to some 200 people 365 days a year. September 30th was their last day.

The **new lunch space** in 3 ½ West is nearly complete, with sink, fridge, and steam table – new plumbing and wiring are in, and we are painting the floor. It looks like we'll be able to open it at the beginning of November for serving meals.

Can you help? Call Angie at the church office and get on the schedule, 773-784-6633.

The Sacred Conversation on Race

In October, on Sunday the 26th, we have special guest **Keith Scott**, UCC minister and organizer for the Good News Pantry. He will preach on the intersection between **race and the criminal justice system** and then lead the sacred conversation on race. Keith has brought his leadership to congregations around the U.S., helping churches get started on this difficult conversation.

Poetry Reading and Workshop

CALLING ALL POETS! Poet **Jeanne Towns** will read from her works and lead a poetry workshop, Saturday, October 25, from 3-4:30pm in the church foyer. Bring some of your own work to share, or bring your creative mind.

(This program is funded in part by Poets & Writers, Inc., through a grant it has received from an anonymous donor.)

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ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for October, 2008

"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"

CALENDAR

Film/Movie Night –

- ? Fourth Friday, Oct 24, 6-8pm.
"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"
– followed by discussion.

Song and Hymn Sing –

- ? Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30pm.

Upcoming Services

- ? Sun, Oct 5, 10am: **"Pride"** – Part I of the Seven Deadly Sins.
- ? Sun, Oct 12, 10am: **"Columbus Day"** - honoring the First Peoples of America.
- ? Sun, Oct 19, 10am: **"Voting - Privilege, Right, Honor"** - Rev. Jean preaching.
- ? Sun, Oct 26, 10am: **Keith Scott** on race and the criminal justice system: the **Sacred Conversation on Race** continues.

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

Other Events

- ? Sat, Oct 25: **Jeanne Towns, Poetry Reading & Workshop.**
- ? Sat, Nov 1, 7pm: **Classical Piano Concert with Joseph Bures.**

2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, a free lunch is served in the lower floor Anderson Hall of the church. All are welcome.

If you would like to volunteer, come by after 10:00am, and Isaac will put you to work.

Minister's Notes:

What is Community?

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

Years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote a book called *Chaos or Community?* He was urging us – of course – toward community. He was addressing the anxiety that many were feeling over the racial tensions that were running so high at the time – Black Panthers portrayed as terrorists in the media, Malcolm X and others preaching hatred of the "white devil"... and addressing the schism he was feeling in the black community as well, between the old-school nonviolent integrationists and the new, black power, separatist militants.

At the end of his too brief life King had arrived at the idea that economics were key – that race was not all that was causing the problems black people were facing in America.

Economic justice – that people be paid a living wage, that they gain some control over the conditions under which they have to work, that they be able to have dignity in their work – this was what was at stake for the garbage workers in Memphis, where King went to support the strikers, and where he was killed.

The greater the gap between the haves and the have-nots, the more difficult it is for us to experience ourselves as belonging to the same community. How do we bridge that gap?

I read of a congregation in a neighborhood like ours (but in a smaller town) that tried to bridge the gap by having community dinners where the haves and have-nots could rub shoulders and get to know one another. It was a great idea, theoretically. The homeless folks came to the dinners, and the members of the church came, but the neighbors didn't.

They didn't like the idea at all.

In fact, the neighbors hated the idea so much that they got their city council to pass an ordinance against groups of larger than 50 people meeting together – as a way of stopping these community dinners.

Well, of course the ordinance had to be thrown out as unconstitutional. And in the process, they held town meetings at which a lot of these issues got aired, and people got a chance to talk about things that normally we never talk about. **cont'd...**