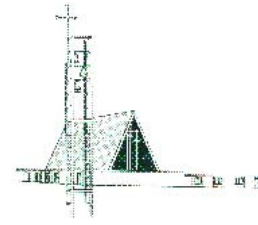


Peace United Church of Christ
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Organization
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Duluth, MN



PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Peace Bell

DULUTH, MN. * REV. KATHRYN NELSON, PASTOR * JANUARY 2005

Wolf Ridge Winter Camp! January 28-29th

Cost= \$80/person
(Scholarships available)

It's not just for families anymore...! All are welcome to join us for a weekend of fun, learning, and camaraderie in the north woods. There will be the ropes course, rock climbing, snowshoeing, winter ecology, skiing, and more!

Though the deadline has passed...we STILL want folks to sign up and join us for this fun weekend. We have about 10-15 places still open. If you've signed up here are some important items:

* Please pay! We need to collect all the money before we go to Wolf Ridge. (Children 4 and under are free)

* **There will be a mandatory meeting for all who are going on the trip on Jan 16th immediately after 10:30 am service (at 11:30am)**



Korkki Ski Day Jan 22nd

Join us for 1 or 2 or 5 hours of cross country skiing at Korkki Nordic, off the Homestead Road. There's a warming house where we'll put on some hot soup and ski trails for the adventurous or mildly so. Check out the map on the window in the Narthex.

Cost = donations for the trail services.



Annual Men's Retreat February 4-6

The men's retreat will be held February 4-6 at the Isernhagen cabin on Sim's Lake near Gordon, Wisconsin. It is about a one hour drive and maps will be available in the church office. The retreat starts with supper on Friday, the 4th, and ends after breakfast and worship on Sunday morning the 6th. Feel free to come for the entire time or only a portion as it fits your schedule. Cross country skiing and ice fishing opportunities are close. Area roads are available for those who opt to exercise by walking. Come to relax a bit, enjoy both informal and some organized discussion with other men, enjoy some good food, and (usually) a bad movie.

A sign up sheet will be posted. Please indicate when you plan to be there. Call Dick Goese or Jerry Cleveland if you have any questions.

Annual Financial Meeting

Sunday, January 23rd at 11:30 am
Please stay after worship.

AGENDA:

1. Discuss and vote on our 2005 proposed budget
2. Update on our Building Project .

If you are not interested in receiving the Peace Bell, please call or e-mail the office (see phone # and e-mail address above)

MY PASTOR

Congratulations to Emily Youngstrand, who was selected as one of the winners of SMDC's "Light of Love" essay contest. She wrote her essay on Pastor Kathy Nelson, as an important person in her life. Emily was invited to read the essay at a ceremony at SMDC on Dec 5th.

"My pastor is a very important person to me. She inspires me by making me feel like I don't have to do what everyone else says. That makes me feel awesome. I love when she talks about the Lord in her soft and kind voice. She is the most kind person I have ever met. She probably inspires everybody in church including her two children and her husband. I love the way she doesn't yell at anybody. She is a beautiful, young pastor. Her name is Kathy Nelson. In my opinion she does an extraordinary good job at being a pastor. She also does a good job of raising her children. She is a hard working, smart and very put together person. I enjoy being around her. She is wonderful!!!"

PEACE BELL is a monthly publication of Peace United Church of Christ, Duluth, Minnesota. Our vision is to be an accessible, open and affirming community growing in Christian faith, committed to peace and justice, and reaching out in healing love to all people, respecting the diversity of people's sexual orientation, race, culture, gender, age, opinions, and physical and mental abilities. Visitors are always welcome!

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Last year each Monday I took the girls in my daughter's fifth grade class to the library for an hour to talk about books we were reading. The books gave us a way of talking about their lives--about parents, fears, cliques. Speaking to one another with words beyond 'yo' and 'wassup'. The books opened up new worlds and new ways of thinking. There is power in words.

John knew this. He opens his Gospel with some of the most beautiful and powerful words ever written . . . Words about the Word. In the beginning was the Word . . . the word with the power to create, the power to judge, the power to redeem. And the word was with God and the word was God.

Of all the books we read last year, Lois Lowry's *Number the Stars* was the favorite. It engaged the girls as it was a story of a friendship between two girls their age: Annemarie, a Christian and Ellen, a Jew, living in Denmark during World War II. They must pose as sisters as Anne Marie's family helps Ellen and her family, the Rosen's, escape to Sweden during the Nazi occupation of Denmark.

An especially moving part of the book was early on. Lowry wrote about how the people of Denmark loved King Christian. "He was not like a fairy tale king, who seemed to stand on balconies giving orders to subjects, who sat on golden thrones demanding to be entertained and looking for suitable husbands for their daughters. King Christian was a real human being, a man with a serious, kind face. Each morning he had come from the palace on his horse, Jubilee, and ridden alone through the streets of Copenhagen, greeting his people. "

One evening Papa had told Annemarie that earlier he was on an errand near his office, standing on the corner waiting to cross the street, when King Christian came by on his morning ride. One of the German soldiers had turned, suddenly and asked a question of a teenage boy nearby. "Who is that man who rides past here every morning on his horse?" the German soldier had asked. Papa said he had smiled to himself, amused that the German soldier did not know. He listened while the boy answered. "He is our king", the boy told the soldier, "He is the King of Denmark."



"Where is his body guard?" The soldier had asked. And do you know what the boy said, Papa had asked Annemarie. . . The boy looked right at the soldier and he said, "All of Denmark is his body guard."

I thought of this story as I read John's words about our Word . . . and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . . Our God too is not a fairy tale king, but a real man—a man with a kind and serious face .

John 1 :14 is one of the most astounding verses in scripture, "And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." The Word, which is the very essence of God, has now been made visible, touchable, hearable in the flesh of Jesus. God has chosen to dwell, to pitch a tent with us, with humanity. God rides among us unguarded. Grace and truth comes to us in Jesus-- a babe, grown to be a teacher, healer, redeemer. He continues to ride into our lives and the cities of this world unarmed. May we be his body guards—and guardians of one another, especially those most vulnerable.

Peace Friends ~ Pastor Kathy

COMMUNITY

A Note of Thanks

Dear Rev. Kathy and Company,

In an era when many use religion as a distancing phenomenon that fosters exclusion, you and the folks at Peace Church have created a welcoming atmosphere by design. This is a "hamisha" place (ask Rabbi Amy). I can imagine how comfortable Jesus would feel in your pews and sanctuary. It is likely he would say "now this is what I am talking about!" The soul of these people greatly exceeds the confines of their building. They reach out to Muslims and Jews and other children of God. These congregants cannot sleep at the foot of disparity. They take action that promotes inclusion and work to end injustice. These good people are willing to plant trees whose fruit they may never taste.

A church is just a building that depends upon the passion of its congregants to breathe it life. Peace Church is alive and beckoning. The hearts of its people beat in unison, their arms are open and their fingers joined. They can feel a common pulse, a connection between religion and the secular world that surrounds them. These Christians have found a workable context, and it is something miraculous to behold.

We who share a single God are grateful for your kindness and the opportunity to break bread and gather closer to one another at Peace Church. Thank you for living your religion with grace and sharing this wonderful space with us. It is a great irony that people like you who are so down to earth and giving, have no clue that a magnificent light flows from your magnanimous being. And that's the truth!

With warm affection, enormous respect and love,

Your Friends from the Jewish and Muslim Communities

Sing For Your Life

A workshop to help people find their "inner singer" and sing together in four-part harmony, will be held January 21-23 at Weber Auditorium, UMD. The leader is Shivon Robinsong, co-founder and director of the very popular Gettin' Higher Choir in Victoria, BC (www.shivon.com). Shivon has a special gift for re-awakening the singer in each of us and is passionate about creating vocal community that is joyful and inclusive. No singing experience is necessary. The cost for all three days is \$119, with some partial scholarships available. To register, send a deposit of \$59 to Virginia Shapiro, 2153 Sussex Ave., Duluth MN 55803. Be sure to include the name, address, and phone number of the person(s) attending. For more information, contact Virginia at 728-9004.

CHUM NEEDS

The **Family Center needs:** (call 720-6521) Pots, pans, small working appliances, baby bath tubs, children's winter coats, night lights, brooms and dustpans, alarm clocks, baby wipes and large size baby diapers, pocket calendars and day planners, area rugs.

Housing Stabilization needs: brief cases, portfolios, pocket calendar and appt. books, work gloves, wallets, small purses, thermoses and lunch boxes, white shirts, suit coats, ties.

CHUM Church: Someone to pick up 2-4 people in Piedmont area between 2:30 and 2:45 one Sunday a month and drive them to CHUM church at Peace. Call Meg 727-2391

Food Shelves: Trucks and drivers to transfer food between Food Shelves every 2 or 3 weeks. People available "on call" to unload trucks at West Food Shelf. Food packers at East Food Shelf Mon. 3:30—6:30, Weds & Frid 10 am-1:45 pm (Sharon/Meg727-2391)

CHUM Website is www.chumduluth.org

JANUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Nursery

- 2 Amy and Eric Larson, Angie O'Connell, Julia Horner
- 9 Kaelene Arvidson-Hicks, Jennifer Langdon-Larson, **volunteer needed**
- 16 Schombergs, Swanoski family
- 23 Carla & Chris Stegmann, Barb Hanka, Mia Vaydich
- 30 Jonie/Carla Langdon-Larson, Jen Hudyma, Sarah Messerer

Coffee Set-Up

- 2 Devlins
- 9 Pat O'Connell, Marsha Hystead
- 16 Linda Lundberg, Susan Kehtel
- 23 Pomroys
- 30 Barb Forrest, Georgette Sarkela

Coffee Servers

- 2 Njoki Kamau, Carl Etter
- 9 Dan Green/Melissa Kadlec
- 16 Pat Isbell, Sharon Kirtley
- 23 Devlins
- 30 Seversons



Dishwashers

- 2 Njoki Kamau, Carl Etter
- 9 Nettie Bothwell, Jayme Hennen
- 16 Justin & Jessica Olson
- 23 Devlins
- 30 Georgette Sarkela, Jerry Cleveland

Greeters

- 2 Nettie Bothwell, Naomi Christensen
- 9 Justin Olson, Steve Coll, Sharon Kirtley
- 16 Chris & Carla Stegmann
- 23 Holly & Doug Bowen-Bailey
- 30 Cindy Johnson & Pam Jakubiak

Ushers

- 2 Alison Wood, Caroline Harris, Pomroys
- 9 Susan Kehtel, Amy Galarowicz, Lundbergs
- 16 Tom & Linda Curran, Hysteads
- 23 Hubert, Gilah Messerer, Laurie Berner
- 30 Nettie & Naomi, Denise Perry, Cynthia Fairbanks

Monday Meals

- 3 Doug Bowen-Bailey
- 10 Lisa Brown
- 17 Janell Kohls
- 24 Shari Tedford
- 31 Kim Squillace

Lay Leaders

- 2 John Ameel
- 9 Mike Swanoski
- 16 Holly Bowen-Bailey
- 23 Laurie Berner
- 30 Lisa Horner

Damiano Soup Kitchen January 9

- 1:30 Cynthia Coffin & Emily Ramsey, Carrie Plamann & Rolf Hagberg
- 4:30 Bettie Bothwell & Naomi Christensen, Betty Biazzo

Sunday Drivers

- 2 Don/Lillian— Springsteeles
Ken— Brian Eklund
Shirley— Seversons
- 9 Don/Lillian—Diana Soland
Ken—Pat O'Connell
Shirley— Kadlec/Green
- 16 Don/Lillian—Springsteeles
Ken—Carl Etter
Shirley— Seversons
- 23 Don/Lillian—Diana Soland
Ken—Kaelene Arvidson-Hicks
Shirley—Kadlec/Green
- 30 Don/Lillian— Springsteeles
Ken—Schombergs
Shirley— Seversons



COMMUNION SERVERS

8:30 Service

- 2 Julie Flotten
- 9 Linda Goese
- 16 Janell Kohls
- 23 Calbreaths
- 30 Lyn Kaim

10:30 Service

- January 2**
Jr. High Youth
(Cindy Macaulay)



SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

We continue to have two services each Sunday morning. Childcare is Available During Both!!!

Our Early Service is always a communion service with times of quiet. Special music is often a part of this worship time. Our 10:30 am service has communion the first Sunday of each month and includes a children's time and singing by our choir. The sermon and prayers are the same for each service. Large Print Bulletins are now available from the ushers.

Sunday, January 2nd

Second Sunday After Christmas

Cindy McLean will be our guest preacher. Rev. Bob Stevens will lead communion at both services this day.

Sunday, January 9th

First Sunday After Epiphany

Rev. Dan Batson will be preaching at both of our services. Dan will be preaching as part of a neutral pulpit. This is an opportunity for members of the congregation that is considering calling him as their pastor to hear him preach.

The praise and worship team will lead the music at the 10:30 service and our liturgical dance team will participate in our worship.

Kathy Nelson and Julie Flotten will be in the Twin Cities with our confirmands as part of our Urban Immersion Weekend.

Sunday, January 16th

Second Sunday After Epiphany

Texts: Isaiah 49: 1 – 7 and John 1: 29 – 42
Sermon: "Come and See"

This morning at 10:30 we will commission Cizzarie Schomberg as our new parish nurse.

Sunday, January 23rd

Third Sunday After Epiphany

Texts: Isaiah 9: 1 – 4 and Matthew 4: 12 – 23
Sermon: "Get on Board"

This morning our praise and worship team will lead the music at our 10:30 service. **Our annual financial meeting** will be at 11:30. Plan on staying for this important meeting.

Sunday, January 30th

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Texts: Micah 6: 1 – 8 and Matthew 5: 1 – 12
Sermon: "Paths of Justice, Shouts of Liberation"

Interested in Joining Peace?

Next Inquirer's Classes will be January 19 & 26, and February

**2 Wednesday Evenings 6—7 pm
New Members received on Feb. 13**

We will have a series of 3 Inquirer's classes starting this month. Come meet others who are new to Peace United Church of Christ and learn more about this congregation and the United Church of Christ. This is an important class for folks who are considering joining the congregation. You are welcome to come early for our Wednesday supper at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Here's what happens at each session:

January 19—The UCC and Peace—an overview of our roots and beliefs told in video, booklet and discussion.

January 26—The grand tour—from the tunnel to the day care, with stops to hear about the library and the prairie garden.

February 2—Peace today—our mission statement and long range planning process, boards and committees, volunteer ministry and pledge forms.

We will welcome new members on **February 13th** during worship. If you have any questions, or if you wish to join Peace Church, talk to Pastor Kathy or call the church office.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday Adult Forums

9:30 in the Fireside Room

All are welcome—the coffee is on!

January 2nd – Bob Stevens will lead a Bible Study on the scripture readings for Epiphany. Matthew 2: 1 – 12 and Isaiah 60: 1 – 6.

January 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

“Sacred Stories” Video and Discussion

Four 15-20 minute segments present writers Frederick Buechner, Maya Angelou, and James Carroll recreating stories from their own lives. As they share their personal triumphs and tragedies, the presence of God is revealed at work. Designed as a starting point for personal reflection and discussion.

2004 Pledges

THE LAST DAY TO TURN IN MONEY/PLEDGES TO BE COUNTED TOWARD YOUR 2004 CONTRIBUTIONS IS **JANUARY 9TH**. ANYTHING RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL GO TOWARDS 2005.

2005 Pledge Drive Update

To date we have 136 pledges totaling \$202,000. If you are planning to pledge but have not turned in your pledge card yet, please do so a.s.a.p. This will help us greatly as we try to put together our 2005 budget.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

6—7 pm in the Fireside Room

January 5, 19, 26 and February 2

Discussion using the book ***Heart of Christianity, Rediscovering the Life of Faith*** by Marcus Borg

“Many people will find this book an impetus for a venturesome rethinking, which is exactly what Borg intends it to be.” —Walter Brueggemann. McPheeters Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.

An excerpt from the book:

“The born-again experience can be sudden and dramatic. It can involve a dramatic revelation, a life-changing epiphany, as in the case of Saul on the road to Damascus, an experience through which he became Paul. Such dramatic conversions continue to this day; some people can name a day or even an hour when it happened. There is no reason to doubt that such “sudden conversions” occur. William James not only reports many such experiences, but speaks of them as one of the most remarkable psychological phenomena known.

But for the majority of us, being born again is not a single intense experience, but a gradual and incremental process. Dying to an old identity and being born into a new identity, dying to an old way of being and living into a new way of being, is a process that continues through a lifetime. The Christian life as it matures is ever more deeply centered in the Spirit—that is, centered in the Spirit of God as known in Jesus, the Spirit of Christ.”

Join us even if you haven’t had time to read the book.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Boards and Committees will meet on Wednesday, January 12th. Dinner will be served at 5:30 with meetings beginning at 6:00. Childcare is provided.

COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Coordinating Council will meet on Tuesday, 18th at 7 pm. This is a crucial meeting as we finalize the 2005 Budget.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



By Cizzarie Schomberg
Parish Nurse

Prior to Christmas Week this year, we were very busy in our house. Not wrapping presents or finishing Christmas shopping, or even trying to make time to reflect on the meaning of Christmas. Nope, we were busy driving our three children to the ER and clinic, dealing with croup, fever, coughs and rashes. Eventually everyone got mostly better, so we were finally able to get excited about sledding and snow-shoeing in our great North Woods. I still packed every remedy and medication I thought we might need for our annual family trip with Jesse's family. Then, one day into the trip, Isabelle broke her leg. I hadn't planned for that one. Luckily, we were able to get her to the ER and have it splinted without any problem, and were able to keep her mostly content on the couch for the rest of the trip. Even though things weren't as we planned, we all still had a good time just being together. Once again, I am reminded that things don't always go according to my plans, but they usually work out anyway.

As we start the new year, I look forward to formally beginning my role as the Parish Nurse and have many ideas, although, as with the family trip, I'm quite sure things won't go quite as planned.. I am planning to initiate a blood pressure clinic between church services, a popular starting point for many Parish Nurse programs. I also will be working with the Health and Wellness committee to design and distribute a Congregational Needs Assess-

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Philip Hubert	14 Bob Simpson
Karl Regehr Bottorff	15 Bill Pomroy
Klaus Regehr Bottorff	Lisa Pomroy
3 Katie Sawyer	16 Brandon Buxbaum
4 Joy Swanoski	18 Andy McLean
5 Anthony Squillace	19 David Goltz
6 Josephine Humphreys	Lauren Christensen
Daniel O'Connell	20 Chris Finch
7 Conrad Birkhofer	Judy Seligo-Punyko
Amanda Cran	Todd Lind
Doreen Marciniak	21 Margaret Paulson
Kathy Nelson	22 Matthew Morris
Natalie Walker	23 Bill Kohlts
8 Susan Goltz	Brennen Larson
Alexey Martins	24 Jerome Springstele
Kayden Kozelka	Cynthia Poirier
10 Cody Aplin	Inga Nordgren
Andrew Green	25 Norris Rolfson
Tom Hayes	Evan Poirier
11 John Ameal	Llonda Thompson
Barb Forrest	Ryan Zimny
Scott Kottke	27 Cindy Johnson
12 Mike Hatlestad	29 Joyce Clement
Judy Hlina	30 Cizzarie Schomberg
Emily Youngstrand	31 Michael Proetz
13 Patty Bambenek	David Arvold

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PEACE BELL ARTICLES IS THE 20TH OF THE MONTH!

ment, in order to starting planning appropriate programming and services for the congregation as a whole. I will establish office hours at the church, during which time I welcome anyone to stop by for a visit, and will work with Pastor Kathy to connect with those who are in or returning home from the hospital. The Health and Wellness committee has had it's first meeting, the Parish nurse program will be officially voted on at our January meeting, and I am beginning to assemble the equipment needed for the program. So far, things are going smoothly. I ask for prayers and support for this program and those working to establish it, and patience when it doesn't go quite as planned.

MORE JUST PEACE

Conscientious Objection

The Just Peace Committee is interested in furthering our understanding of nonviolent peace-making. With continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan we are concerned about our participation as Christian citizens. While there is no current draft, it still remains as an option to our government. As peacemakers, what are some of our options?

On January 22, 2005, there will be a training workshop for Conscientious Objector (CO) Counseling in the Twin Cities. Sponsored by Veterans for Peace and Every Church a Peace Church, information will be provided on different CO deferment categories and how to organize a file that can be used in a court of law. The workshop is aimed at people who are willing to be a resource for community young people as they explore this option. If you are interested in attending please contact Sharon Kemp, 525-5041 or skemp@d.umn.edu by January 8, 2005.

**We would also like to know if there are any COs in Peace Church.
If you are a CO, would you also contact Sharon Kemp.**

REMEMBER THE DREAM—Strong Minds, Great Hearts, Ready Hands, True Faith

The Twin Ports community is invited to a series of events commemorating and continuing the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. All the events are free and open to the public.

Saturday – January 15th – 6:00 PM

Interfaith Prayer Vigil

Temple Israel – 1602 E Second Street

Planned by the Children of Abraham planning committee, this evening will focus on working towards Dr. King's vision of peace from a variety of faith traditions and perspectives. It will include songs, readings, and dance.

Sunday – January 16th – 5:00 PM

Ecumenical Worship Service

Christ Temple Victory Center - 330 N 59th Ave W

Monday - January 17th

Free Community Breakfast- Serving begins at 7:00 AM

First United Methodist - 230 E. Skyline Parkway

This breakfast will include a live telecast of Juan Williams, senior correspondent for National Public Radio and a best selling author, speaking in Minneapolis on the theme of *Remember the Dream: Strong Minds, Great Hearts, Ready Hands, True Faith*. A local program will follow the telecast at 9:00 AM.

March and Rally - 11:00 AM

Washington Center to Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center

Marchers will begin gathering at 10:30 a.m. at Washington Center (on the corner of 4th St. and Lake Ave.) The march starts at 11:00 AM with a route is from Washington Center through downtown to DECC. The rally begins in the DECC Auditorium at 11:30 AM and features Rep. Neva Walker, the first black woman elected to serve in the Minnesota legislature.

ASL interpreters will be provided for the Breakfast and the Rally on Monday.

For more information: <http://www.mlk-duluth.org> or contact Fahad or Althea B'hutto at 786 -9655.



MODERATOR'S REPORT by Justin Olson

The December council meeting was one of great optimism. As we gathered together to plan the budget for 2005 the good news that greeted us was that based on the increased pledges turned in so far, the congregation believes in what Peace church stands for (the radically inclusivemessage that Jesus offers everyone) and are willing to support it. When I come to worship on Sundays I look around and see a wonderfully diverse group of people who are not afraid to welcome every person who walks through the door. We might be a little bit shy but that doesn't stop us from extending a hand. I believe that it is by embracing this diversity that we can continue to share the message of peace and compassion that is so much a part of our congregation.

Not all pledges have been turned in yet. So if you still have yet to pledge for 2005 please do so as soon as possible.

PEACE CHURCH BOOK CLUB

Thursday January 27

6—7:30 in the Fireside Room

Book: *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

Synopsis: Taking us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the present, *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini is the unforgettable, beautifully told story of the friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul. Raised in the same household Amir and Hassan nonetheless grow up in different worlds: Amir is the son of a prominent and wealthy man, while Hassan, the son of Amir's father's servant, is a Hazara, member of a shunned ethnic minority. Their intertwined lives, and their fates, reflect the eventual tragedy of the world around them. When the Soviets invade and Amir and his father flee the country for a new life in California, Amir thinks that he has escaped his past. And yet he cannot leave the memory of Hassan behind him.

New members are always welcome! Hope you can join us.

† MEMORIALS †

Thank you for the gifts to Peace Church
In memory of **George Maske, Frieda Maske and Edna Naddy** from Peggy Maske
In memory of **Richard Neumann**
from Kyra and Matthew Bremer

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CHURCH SCHOOL

Welcome Back!

Church School starts up again Jan. 9th. Meet us in the sanctuary at 9:30 for our 'welcome back' opening.

Church School Teachers:

A few notes for you:

* If you haven't received your winter curriculum books yet, check in the back of the double classroom. Also, just a reminder to check in that same place for notes and announcements.

* **Teacher Meeting Jan 16th 8:45am.**

We'll take some time for a check in and look ahead to the rest of the year. Training Topic: how to use GAMES in class.

Junior and Senior High Church School

9:30 Sunday morning...Peace Church... it's the place to be!

Junior High—you'll be digging into hot topics—music, relationships, parents and more!

Senior High—it's going to be a wild winter and spring:

☞ **January:** Bible games and artwork

☞ **February:** Music and spirituality—what do YOU listen to?

☞ **March:** What do the Gospels say anyway?

☞ **April:** What are the fundamentals about Fundamentalism?

☞ **May:** Surprise....heh heh heh

CHUM NEWS

Gathering to bless, empower legislators — Sunday, January 9

As a follow-up to the November CHUM Community Assembly, there will be a community meal and blessing ceremony on Sunday, January 9 for members of northeastern Minnesota's state legislative delegation and other newly elected area officials at the CHUM Drop-In Center before they head to the Capitol to craft public policy. The meal will be served at 4 p.m. with a short service to follow at 5 p.m.

The November CHUM Community Assembly attracted 110 participants who explored the connections between faith-based values – especially as they speak to the needs of society's marginalized member -- and public policy. The Community Assembly identified politics as liturgical in nature – a work of the people – with profoundly spiritual dimensions. Governmental budgets were also highlighted as theological documents that reflect ultimate concerns and priorities of the citizens.

At CHUM's December Board of Directors meeting, a nonpartisan resolution rooted in faith values was adopted supporting a "fair and equitable income tax increase to insure the provision of services to those in crisis and need during a time of economic difficulty." This resolution will be shared with congregational delegates during CHUM's February 1 annual meeting to bring to their respective faith communities for consideration.

UMC bishop to speak at CHUM's annual meeting Tuesday, February 1

Newly installed United Methodist Church Bishop Sally Dyck will speak about the call to "bring forth justice" from Isaiah 42 at CHUM's annual meeting on Tuesday, February 1. The meeting will occur in a context of worship and prayer at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 4831 Grand Avenue. The gathering time with dessert will be at 6:30 p.m. with the formal part of the evening to begin at 7 p.m.

Three main items will be before the delegates: approval of new CHUM member congregations, consideration of CHUM's updated multi-year plan, and discussion of a resolution recently approved by the CHUM Board of Directors to support a state income tax increase earmarked to provide services for people in need and crisis.

JUST PEACE—Reflections on the School Of Americas Watch (SOAW)

On Nov. 19 through Nov. 21, 2004, sixteen thousand non-violent protesters gathered in Columbus Georgia and at the gates of Ft. Benning to promote change in US policy and remember the voiceless Latin Americans who have been killed by the graduates of the School of Americas (now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation). Eight Peace people participated in the weekend activities and seven of them have shared some of their reactions with Peace Bell readers. Our hope is that next year, our Peace Church delegation will grow and this experience at SOA Watch will be shared by many more Peace Church people. For more information www.soaw-ne.org

Katie Sawyer reported that she was energized and impressed by the wide variety of people of all ages willing to support SOA Watch. She was happy to see so many Duluthians (over 50 people) and was inspired by people willing to cross the line. The variety of information booths, especially those promoting political action, was helpful and educational. Katy especially appreciated the Loaves and Fishes community of Duluth because they stayed after the protest was **over and supported the 21 folks who were arrested.**

Rodger and Penny Cragun shared that the large diverse group of people, especially so many young people who participated, brought hope for a peaceful, non-violent world. In spite of all the barriers the government has created (i.e. tall fences around the protest area), people come and express themselves non-violently and the collective spirit of hope continues to grow.

Bill Hardesty's thoughts were on Ryan Debeltz, his stepson, who was trained at Fort Benning and now is fighting in Baghdad, Iraq. He concluded US foreign policy that created the Iraq war for oil and empire building is not very different from US policy to dominate Latin America economically and to kill or "keep people in line" with US trained military. The SOAW protest demonstrates that non-violent resistance is the preferred approach to changing violent conflict in the world.

From **John and Lyn Pegg**: "This was our fifth year of traveling to vigil at the School of the Americas. Other than our first year there, which is always a "mind-blowing" experience, I would have to say it was probably the most powerful. Part of it was the tremendous boost in morale it gave, following this year's national election, as the largest turnout ever showed up (some 16,000 people of all ages and from all parts of the country) to raise one voice in protest to our government's policies of war and militarism and in affirmation of life for all people. Part of it was traveling there and participating in the vigil with a priest from Colombia, who I had in my heart and prayers at all the previous SOAW events. Padre Campo said prayers and we all remembered and honored the lives of those he knew personally whose lives had been taken by armed men trained at the School of the America, including one outspoken priest named Padre Alcidez Jiminez, who was murdered while celebrating mass in 1998. This year was a special act of solidarity and demonstration of hope for a change in our nation's ways of warring madness."

From **Ann Mead**: "There is a beautiful peace that comes over me when I come together with 10,000 strangers as an act of non-violent resistance to something we feel is unjust. Everybody comes to the demonstration from a different place in life but the fact that we are there creates a phenomenal understanding between us. I felt less like they were strangers and more like they were 10,000 members of my family and closest friends."

JUST PEACE

PEACE UCC - A JUST PEACE CHURCH TAKING A SMALL STEP to promote peace and justice within ourselves, our church, our community and the world. A Just Peace Church strives to achieve this goal through spiritual development, education, community witness and political advocacy.

December's Small Step: Submitted by Jessica Lilja Olson

It's January – that time of resolutions, cleaning out the closets, starting anew, etc., etc.,... The small step for January is to recycle. The average Minnesotan produces **6.2 lbs.** of garbage each day...and it's rising!

Make a resolution that as you clean out closets, separate items from your trash that can be used again in some way. Everyone who lives within the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District has the opportunity to recycle. People who live in the cities of Duluth, Cloquet, Carlton, Hermantown, and Proctor can recycle at the curbside with their regular garbage hauler. Call your garbage hauler for recycle bin sorting instructions and other recycling information. Recycling sheds are conveniently located throughout the surrounding townships to provide recycling opportunities for residents who do not have curbside recycling services available to them.

Another way to recycle items that might otherwise be thrown (old toys, furniture, clothes, etc.) is by advertising them on a free recycling web page. Two web-sites to check out are: www.freecycle.org and [Minnesota Materials Exchange](http://MinnesotaMaterialsExchange.com).

Additionally, you can write, call, or email the Peace Church office and have an item listed in the Peace Bell for recycling among our members (this works the other way, too - if you are seeking a used item, you can put in a request for it).

Peacemaker of the Month—BROOKS ANDERSON

This month we recognize Brooks Anderson, retired Lutheran Pastor, as a peace maker in our community and throughout the world. His 40 year passion for social justice has made him a man of action. His response to injustice has been "to do something positive". He has been a creative problem solver, an inspiring leader and role model for people from all walks of life. In his quiet and thoughtful manner, he has lived out the gospel message of love for neighbors and enemies.

As a UMD chaplain, Brooks acted on his convictions about civil rights in 1965, and together with some UMD students, marched from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He helped organize and led AWARENESS NOW which educated 22,000 households in Duluth about opening up all housing to people of color. Brooks has been a leader in the prevention of domestic abuse in Duluth for over 25 years and was active in opposing the Viet Nam war. He initiated the Duluth-Soviet Sister City Project in 1987 and established the Duluth International Peace Center and Gift Shop in 1988. In the 1990's, Brooks made four trips to Cuba and was unsuccessful in designating Pinar Del Rio as another Duluth sister city. He visited El Salvador and became committed to "being a voice for the oppressed in Latin America". He acted in their behalf by joining the School of Americas Watch call to close the School of Americas at Ft. Benning Georgia. He was arrested in 1997, 98 and 99 for trespassing on the Army Base and in 2000 was among ten activists that were tried and sent to prison for civil disobedience. Brooks continues to be that voice for Latin America as an active Witness for Peace Midwest board member and a protester at Ft. Benning each November. He believes that SOA Watch is a hopeful movement which is a part of a larger societal transformation.

Brooks has led and inspired several generations of Duluthians who seek peace and the end of violence in our world and for that we are nominating him as a peace maker among us.

NEW YEAR'S JUMP

By Julie Flotten, Children, Youth and Intergenerational Minister

By the time you read this I will have warmed up. Hopefully. If not, give me a call and tell me to get into urgent care because I'll need it. My toes will take the longest...they always do, but after 12 years of jumping in Lake Superior on New Year's Day, I guess it makes sense; I may have damaged my circulation a bit. Yes, we do jump in. We don't do it with the hordes of people on Park Point or invite the TV crews or sit in the sauna beforehand. We just get together with a small group of folks (the numbers have dwindled over the years so it's just 2 this year!), pack a thermos of hot coffee, a few extra blankets, our wool socks or water sandals—so our feet don't freeze to the rocks on our way out—and find a quiet secluded spot on the shore. It's a New Year's tradition I'll do as long as I can or until it kills me... and some years it feels awfully close to doing just that.



There is nothing comparable to coming out of that lake on a frigid January morning and standing on the rocks, towels steaming, while looking out over the expanse of blue. It feels as if the world has begun again. (And it feels like my heart stopped and started again too!) And that, for me, works better than a new year's resolution. This time of year, the chaos of the holidays is over, school has started again and it's almost like we're back in our routines from the year before. But this yearly 'baptism' into the lake reminds me that it's not "just the same." It IS a new year.

Every week in advent we lit a candle: one each for hope, peace, joy and love. We lit candles to help us prepare for Christmas, for the celebration of Jesus' birth, and for the light his birth and his life can give to our world. We spent time preparing for Christmas by taking time to think about what it means to be Christians now, in this time and in this place.

And now here we are... post-solstice, the light is growing, literally. And what about the light of hope, peace, joy and love? Is that growing as well? Are we shedding those things that keep us in "the dark"? That grudge that we held on to, the project that we didn't quite finish, the apology we stalled in giving, the people we forgot to say "I love you" too, the stranger we're too scared to smile at...

This new year can be a time to spread our own light. Whatever we lacked the time or courage to carry out last year...we get another crack at it this year. Jumping in the lake reminds me of this fresh start. I emerge, take a deep breath of that cold, cold air, feel my skin tingling from the icy water and I feel new. Whatever you do to start off the new year, I encourage you to take a moment and realize the fresh possibility before us all...the possibility of this year ahead. It's enormous. You don't have to jump in the lake...but if you do, let me know...I'll join you!

YOUTH

Jr/Sr High

Welcome to 2005 Youth Group!!

THE PIT—we're re-opening starting Jan 9th. Hours are 6-9pm every Sunday. Ping Pong, dancing, homework, snacks, music, games...all of it happens at the PIT!

Committees

Next Committee meeting Jan 12th. Have a say in worship, social events, service activities...make your voice heard in the youth group.

Upcoming Events

Jan 7-9th Urban Immersion

Jan 17th DEADLINE FOR CYE registration!

Jan 19th Tubing @ Mont Du Lac (or should I say "tubbing") 7-9pm

Jan 22nd Korkki Ski Day

February 13th Sterling Waters/Sara Thomsen Youth Benefit Concert (talk to Paul Winchester about how to get involved in making this happen)

February 18-20th Conference Youth Event...sign up on office window.

SUMMER!

"Oh the weather outside is frightful
But thoughts of summer are just delightful..."
Be a part of Peace Church Trips this summer!

SALSA—Service and Learning in San Antonio
June 11-18

Backpacking—Hiking in the Big Horn Mountains
July 18-23 (hiking experience necessary) Cost TBA

Canoeing—Paddling the BWCA
August 15-18 Cost TBA



If you're interested in any of these trips...check out the new **YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD** on the office window. Sign up sheets will be posted as well as news about upcoming events. Save your spot on these trips now before spaces fill up!

FUNDRAISING—all these great events—
unfortunately—cost MONEY. Help us raise the funds that help you be a part of these activities and trips.

**PARENTS—if you can chaperone
or want to help plan a youth
event... Contact Julie ...
we love having you involved!**

SALSA—Service and Learning in San Antonio

Saturday, June 11th - Friday, June 17th

Next Summers Work Camp will be with the Salsa program in San Antonio, Texas. It will be a great week of service and learning. We will have an opportunity to go to Mexico one of our days and learn what life is like for folks who live along our borders.

Cost to each youth will be around \$250 (this includes air fare) – we have a lot of fundraising to do to make up the difference. Scholarships are available.

Please turn in \$150 by February 6th as a deposit on the week. We need to know who exactly is going for totaling our costs and estimating fundraising. Tickets will be ordered in March or April. Confirmands are strongly encouraged to join us on this great trip!

SHARED MINISTRY—LOAVES AND FISHES

By Georgette Sarkela, Shared Ministry Coordinator

As part of the outreach ministry of Peace Church and the Just Peace Committee, Monday meals have been provided to the Loaves and Fishes Community by a group dedicated individuals. Their loving generosity exemplifies Christ's teaching of serving others.

I have asked Joel Kilgour, a staff person of this community to share information about this ministry. If you feel called to be involved in this ministry of sharing meals with others, please contact the Just Peace Committee or Doug Bowen-Bailey for more information.

Loaves & Fishes Catholic Worker by Joel Kilgour

Loaves & Fishes Community is the Duluth arm of the international Catholic Worker movement. The Catholic Worker is an de-centralized movement of lay Catholics and associates who strive to live Jesus' teachings through direct and personal service to the poor, communal living, simple lifestyles and advocacy for peace and social justice.

Loaves & Fishes began in 1989 when Angie Miller and Steve O'Neil opened their Endion neighborhood home to homeless Duluthians and refugees from Central America. We now own three houses, two of which currently provide temporary housing to families, pregnant women and men. These are not shelters, but large households in which volunteers and guests live side-by-side, learning to respect one another and break down class barriers. Loaves & Fishes isn't funded by the government, foundations or the Catholic church. We depend entirely on the generosity of individual and congregational donors and our own work. Members of Peace UCC have graciously served as "meal angels" at Dorothy Day House for years. Every Monday, a person or family from Peace provides the evening meal for our household of 10-20 people. Those who are able stay and eat with us, further breaking barriers between helper and helped. By providing meals, volunteers from Peace free our live-in volunteers to focus on counseling and caring for guests. In-kind donations of food are also very important. Our annual budget for all three houses is tight: around \$35,000 per year. Peace has also generously purchased bus tickets and other special needs for our guests, offered meeting space for Loaves & Fishes-sponsored peace and justice events, and provided delicious pies for our Christmas Party, which draws nearly 200 former house guests each year. We are grateful for your on-going support. For more information, feel free to call or just stop by!

Dorothy Day House
1712 Jefferson Street
724-2054



Olive Branch
1614 Jefferson Street
728-0629

Thank you to all who have served and are currently serving in this ministry.
It is a privilege to share with others the blessing God has given us.

Isaiah: 6:8 "Here I am, send me"

PEACE PEOPLE

THANK YOU

- * To Tom and Peter Hystead for getting the trees for our sanctuary
- * To Marian and Don Jensen for creating the beautiful wreath for our entry way and to all those who helped to decorate our church during the Advent Workshop
- * To everyone who donated something for our Giving Tree. We were able to give over 50 gifts to the youth of Life House and folks at Loaves and Fishes
- * To everyone who made pies for the Loaves and Fishes Annual Christmas Party
- * To everyone who made cookies for the annual Christmas Party for the inmates of the County Jail.
- * To the choir, Jim Pospisil, Janet McLeod and our musicians for a wonderful Christmas Cantata. Special thanks to Jerry Cleveland for putting the Cantata together.
- * To Dick and Linda Goese for cooking a delicious dinner for our staff Christmas Party
- * To Gail Blum for coordinating the new sign in our front yard. It looks great!
- * To Tom Liddle for leading our Wednesday Bible Study on the Book of Amos
- * To Joann Mork for leading the women's Bible Study on the Christmas Stories
- * From Llonda Thompson, "I want to say thanks to Jim Pospisil, the choir, Dr. Goese, and the musicians for all their hard work on the Christmas Concert. It was so incredible to hear and see such beautiful voices, musical accompaniment, and narration come together to remind us of all that Christmas is truly about. It was an awesome performance that moved many in spirit."
- * Thank you and Merry Christmas from Habitat for Humanity. We would like to extend a special holiday greeting to your congregation in honor of all the prayers and work that you have done over the past year with Habitat.

* From the ladies of the Campus Ministry House—"Thank you very much for your generous donation to the Campus Ministry House of the Northern Lakes United Campus Ministry. We will invest this money into our expanding ministry of sharing Jesus Christ with the campus community. Our ministry would not be possible without the support of your gifts and prayers."

* To Dan Green and the property committee for the new back door. The automatic entry button will be installed soon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- * Benjamin Fena, son of Andy and Libby Fena, who was baptized on December 12th
- * John and Ellen Lindgren on the birth of their daughter, Ahnnali on December 15th
- * Jacob Koski, son of Dinel and Paul Koski and grandson of Bill Staubs, who was baptized on December 20th at Peace Church.
- * Anna Imes, daughter of Maren and Nathan Imes who was baptized at the Christmas Eve Service
- * Lindze Waters and John Swenson who were married at Peace Church on December 11th.
- * Nathan Husiemuellor and Mervin Decouta who celebrated their Holy Union at Peace Church on December 14th.

KEEP I IN YOUR PRAYERS

- * Don Day dealing with severe back pain
- * Troy Paumen, dealing with colon cancer
- * Shirley Swenson who has had difficulty getting around due to leg soreness
- * Ryan Debeltz, Brian Sinclair and James Sandomierski, all serving in Iraq.

SYMPATHY TO:

- * John Ameel in the death of his mother, Henrietta.
- * Gary Kohls in the death of his mother, Leona.

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE



5pm: Childrens' Choir 5:30pm: Dinner for all
6pm: Faith Weavers, Adult Study, Inquirers' Class (Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2)
6:15pm: Senior Choir
7:30-9pm: Youth Group 8-9pm: Confirmation
(Confirmation I—1st & 3rd Weds., Confirmation II—2nd & 4th Weds.)

Wednesday Activities resume Jan 5th— Come join us!

FAITH WEAVERS WEDNESDAYS 6:00-7:00PM KINDERGARTEN—5TH GRADE

Miriam and Aaron—This month is the month of Miriam and Aaron, siblings of Moses. What was the journey of the Israelites like from their perspective? We'll sing songs, give speeches and build some things. All are welcome to join us!

FW Special Project: Faithweavers are going to start **weaving**...literally! Once each month we'll learn a bit about the craft and history of weaving (we may even go see the real sheep!) and ultimately create a gift for Pastor Kathy...join us!



HELPFUL ADULTS: Faith Weavers is booming! The energy emanating from that room on Wed. evening is awesome. We have a good group of helpers but we don't want to burn them out. Join in on the rotation and you'll end up helping out less than once a month...please call Julie to sign up to help out on a Wednesday evening. Thanks!

CONFIRMATION

First Year Confirmation Class

The class meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month from 8 - 9pm.

Wednesday, January 5th—Gospel of Mark, Chapters 1 and 2

Wednesday, January 19th—Gospel of Mark Chapters 3 and 4

Second Year Class

This class meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month from 8 – 9 pm.

Wednesday, January 12 —Jesus Christ: Risen Savior

Wednesday, January 26—Jesus Papers Due; Plan the Ash Wednesday Service

BOTH CLASSES—Urban Immersion Retreat in Minneapolis—Friday, January

7 until Sunday, January 9th We will be leaving from the church around 4 pm. We will be staying at the Minneapolis Council of Churches retreat center and will work at a variety of service sites—Salvation Army, Helping Hands, etc. We will return on Sunday after worship and a brief stop at Camp Snoopy. A letter with details is coming soon. Cost is \$50—scholarships available. **\$50 payment is due now—please get it in as soon as possible!**

SEE YOUTH PAGE FOR INFO ON SALSA (Service and Learning in Texas)

ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

SUNRISE COFFEE

Jan 3rd 7:53 am
21st Ave E and Lakewalk & look
for the sign and coffee mug to find us!



Next month—Feb 7th 7:24am

QUESTIONS ON THE WAY



TUESDAYS 12-1PM

FIRESIDE ROOM

Bring a book that has captivated your interest, bring a poem you'd like to share, bring a question to get our minds turning...this group is known for it's rambling discussion and thought provoking topics...come, join us on Tuesdays at 12 noon in the Fireside Room.

Men's Supper Monday Jan. 3 at 6pm

Peace Church Men—Join us for Men's Supper at 6 pm Monday January 3rd in the Fireside Room.

Women's Brown Bag Bible Study

Wednesday, January 26th at noon

Join us for a great discussion and lunch. Dessert and Beverages provided. Cheryl Walsh will lead us in our time of learning and sharing.

From Your Home Gallery. . . to our Sanctuary Gallery

Anyone wanting to share an original artwork (ready to hang) on our gallery wall for 3 months starting February 2005, Contact Steve Coll, 726-0694, scoll69@hotmail.com



Women's Retreat

New Time and New Place

Friday April 22 at Solbakken Resort

We are planning a Spring Retreat at Solbakken Resort on Friday, April 22nd. Cost will be \$40 per person. This includes your own bed with linens. We will be responsible for our meals. Let Pastor Kathy or Cindy McLean know if you would like to help with the planning.

The Altar

It's the backdrop for our worship and gives us an area on which to focus our eyes and minds. Tending the altar is an act of care and devotion, involving simple, mundane tasks, like keeping the eternal flame lit; changing the tall candles when they get too low, and changing banners and decorations with the liturgical year.

I have been performing these tasks for almost a year now. I would enjoy sharing the job for the next year or so. I envision a year of an "old" and "new" person sharing the tasks, then finding a new person the following year.

Please consider if this task would fit your spiritual gifts—please contact me if you feel any interest. I'd be happy to talk with you about it.

Thank you, Leslie Williamson White, 728-9545

UPCOMING EVENTS

☞ **Sara Thomsen & Sterling Waters Youth Benefit Concert Feb. 13th**

☞ **An evening with Sam Cook—slides and supper—March 10th**

GABRIEL PROJECT

The Gabriel Project is a collaboration between CHUM and six Hillside congregations: Gloria Dei, Trinity, First Lutheran, Peace, St. Mark's, and Temple Israel. Our collective goal is to help support people living in our neighborhood and to create positive social change through community organizing. Here's a quick update from Steve O'Neil:

I will be continuing to work with Gabriel Project/CHUM. In January I will begin to serve as the Second District St. Louis County Commissioner. I will be reducing my CHUM work to one-quarter time. Please keep me in your prayers in my new work...Steve O'Neil.

[Great successes in our housing efforts: after six months of absolutely no response from their landlord, our Morgan Park tenants are seeing improvements in every unit; the Rice Lake Road student housing project is moving closer to fruition;](#) We continue to participate with the Homelessness Summit Group on creating a City wide plan to end Homelessness.

Recent Good News for Duluth's Low Income Renters—Duluth HRA managed to stave off the pain of the federal cuts to section 8 housing for the current year. However, there are still 1500 Duluthians on Section 8 waiting lists. Consider writing letters to President George W. Bush and Senator Norm Coleman about the need to at least maintain and preferably increase funding for Section 8 and other low-income housing programs. President Bush has proposed an additional 15% reduction in Section 8 funding in 2005 after significant cuts during 2004. Section 8 provides rent subsidies that enable low-income people to rent apartments and homes on the open market. Address letters to: President George W. Bush; The White House; Washington, DC 20001, or Senator Norm Coleman; 320 Senate Hart Office Building; Washington, DC 20510.

Two great events are coming up: **On Sunday Jan. 9 at the Drop-In Center, we will be blessing and sending off of our legislative delegation for the new session.** Once again Gabriel Project is co-sponsoring the **Citizens in Action Workshop Jan. 29 at UMD.** A great chance to learn about opportunities for citizen involvement.

We continue to seek out dentists who are willing to see low income patients without private insurance and will be meeting with Yvonne Prettnner-Solon on New Years Eve Day to discuss dental legislation possibilities. And stay tuned for the unveiling of our newest staff member... the "Tooth Fairy!"

Questions or comments? Call Steve, Emily and Ben at 625-1739.

PEACE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Kathy Nelson
Children, Youth, and

Intergenerational Minister: Julie Flotten
Shared Ministry Coordinator: Georgette Sarkela
Music Director: Jim Pospisil

Befriender Ministries: Cheryl Walsh
Bookkeeper: Beth Chelseth
Office Coordinator: Janell Kohls
Custodian: Brad Larson
Gabriel Project: Emily Larson (310-0063)
Parish Nurse: Cizzarie Schomberg

PEACE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY—9-3, PHONE: 218-724-3637

EMAIL ADDRESSES: Kathy—knelson@peaceucc.org Georgette—georgette@peaceucc.org
Julie—julie@peaceucc.org Beth or Janell—office@peaceucc.org

If you would like to be on our email list to receive notices of church events, please email the office.

ABOUT THE UCC AD . . .

COMMENTARY SUBMITTED BY PEACE CHURCH COUNCIL TO THE DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE:

The United Church of Christ, of which Peace UCC and Pilgrim Congregational UCC are members, is not a denomination that is as widely known as Lutherans or Catholics. Yet the UCC has a long history, tracing its roots back through its Congregationalist forebears to the Pilgrims arriving in 1620. This history means the search for freedom of religious expression is nothing new to our denomination, but it does not diminish our disappointment in the decisions by NBC and CBS to reject an ad created as part of the United Church of Christ's new identity campaign.

Ironically, the ad that the networks chose to exclude is one that emphasizes the United Church of Christ's commitment to being inclusive. The ad states that -- like Jesus -- the United Church of Christ seeks to welcome all people, regardless of ability, age, race, economic circumstance or sexual orientation. The 30-second spot features two muscle-bound "bouncers" standing guard outside a fabled, picturesque church and selecting which persons are permitted to attend Sunday services. Written text interrupts the scene, announcing, "Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we." A narrator then proclaims the United Church of Christ's commitment to Jesus' extravagant welcome: "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." (The ad can be viewed online at www.stillspeaking.com.)

NBC and CBS based their refusal to accept the ad on their belief that it is too controversial. The perceived controversy seems to arise primarily from the fact that among the people turned away are two men who may appear to some viewers to be gay. "Because this commercial touches on the exclusion of gay couples and other minority groups by other individuals and organizations," reads an explanation from CBS, "and the fact the Executive Branch has recently proposed a Constitutional Amendment to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, this spot is unacceptable for broadcast on the [CBS and UPN] networks."

Given all the advertisements that NBC and CBS ran during the recent election campaign, it is difficult for us to see how an ad that proclaims that all people are welcome into a church is too controversial to air. Other denominations have weighed in on the networks' decision as being overly arbitrary and one that restricts the freedom of religious expression. Larry Hollon, who leads the national advertising effort for The United Methodist Church, told his denomination's newspaper:

"The reasons given by the networks for rejecting this message should bring a chill to everyone who supports freedom of religious expression because they are saying that a fundamental tenet of Christian belief is politically unacceptable for the public dialogue. The belief that God loves every person without condition is so basic to Christian teaching that if a denomination cannot make this assertion what can it say? Such decisions shut out the Christian community from the national conversation."

As members of the United Church of Christ, we firmly believe that issues of faith should be a part of the public dialogue. Additionally, this national identity campaign grows out of our belief that belonging to a faith community positively impacts people's lives and that the United Church of Christ is an option that people might want to consider if they are looking for a church. It is not that the

(over)

(UCC Ad continued)

UCC is the only or best option for everyone. It clearly is not. God is too big to be contained in only one denomination or tradition. And in all honesty, UCC congregations do not always live up to the standard of Christ's radical hospitality.

Yet the UCC's emphasis on inclusiveness does resonate with many people. After the ad was shown in test markets in March, attendance at UCC congregations jumped by as much as 27%. The ad is primarily designed to appeal to people who had negative experiences with churches and currently are not a part of a faith community. In fact, according to the UCC's press release, "In focus groups and test market research conducted before the campaign's national rollout, the UCC found that many people throughout the country feel alienated by churches. The television ad is geared toward those persons who, for whatever reason, have not felt welcomed or comfortable in a church."

This welcome described in the ad is one we believe is biblically rooted in the extravagant hospitality witnessed in Jesus, who shared table with the outcasts of his time. Unfortunately, this word of welcome was rejected by NBC and CBS. We think their decisions are a disservice to all who value the freedom of religious expression. They should air the ad as well as ads from other denominations and faith traditions, so that issues of faith can be fully a part of the national conversation.

Determined to reach a wider audience, UCC releases new pre-Christmas commercial on television networks

By J. Bennett Guess, United Church News, Written on Dec. 17, 2004

Insisting that its message of "extravagant welcome" must be seen and heard on the broadcast networks, the United Church of Christ today (Dec. 17) released a new 30-second television advertisement and has purchased a "significant ad buy" on broadcast and cable networks, including CBS and NBC, for the week before Christmas.

"From the beginning, we have been insistent that reaching a network audience is a matter of inclusion and justice," said the Rev. Robert Chase, director of the UCC's communication ministry. "Not everyone can afford or has access to cable television. Although it is significantly more expensive for the UCC to buy time on the major networks, we want to make sure that our message of invitation is heard by all."

Chase said the UCC remains steadfast that the networks erred in refusing the church's first ad, and said the church will proceed with an FCC challenge against two CBS and NBC network owned-and-operated stations in Miami based on the networks' refusal.

"We will continue to fight for our distinctive religious voice to be heard." Chase says. "But, at the same time, we want to make sure that our campaign—which has always been more than any single ad - reaches the broadest possible audience. This is what we intend to do with this new, significant ad buy."

Special thanks to the Just Peace Committee for organizing the Christmas Caroling outside Channel 6 to thank them for carrying the UCC ad the the NBC network refused. The caroling was fun and generated great interest in the UCC. We received several calls from folks including one from a mom who was elated to learn that there was a place for her gay daughter in the body of Christ.