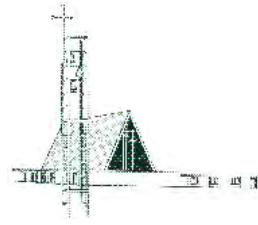


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PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# Peace Bell

DULUTH, MN. \* REV. KATHRYN NELSON, PASTOR \* MARCH 2005

## EASTER WEEK

### Palm Sunday—Making Easter Real

March 20th—9:30—10:30

Intergenerational Church School—Instead of church school, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall to learn about the meaning of Easter. We'll have some special guests that you can get a "backstage pass" to meet. Who was on the road to Jerusalem? Who washed Jesus' feet, who taunted him, who helped him? Meet them right here at Peace Church! (and eat some Jelly Beans too!)

### Service of Healing and Wholeness

Wednesday March 23 at 7 pm (see article elsewhere)

### Maundy Thursday Service, March 24 at 7 pm

This service will include a symbolic foot washing, dramatic reading and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Join us as we remember the final meal Jesus shared and continues to share with his disciples.

### Joint Good Friday Service

Trinity Lutheran, Glen Avon and Peace Church  
Friday, March 25th at 7 pm at Glen Avon Presbyterian Church at 2105 Woodland Ave.

During the service we will hear the Passion Story again as candles are slowly extinguished to symbolize the flight of the disciples and others around Jesus. Members of all congregations will be readers and three choirs will be singing.

### Easter Vigil at Trinity Lutheran Sat. March 26th

5 pm Hot Dog Supper, 6 pm Service

Gather as we sing songs of anticipation, chase darkness to light, and listen to stories of our faith, as we look forward to the joy that comes with Easter morn.



## EASTER MORNING

### 8:30 am Service

Worship led by our Youth

### Easter Egg Breakfast

9:30-10:30 am

Served by the Peace Church Youth in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your family and celebrate Easter as you share in a meal with the church community. The youth will be serving egg bake, bagels, fruit, and juice for free will donations. Proceeds go to the youth for work camp and summer trips. Come fill your stomach as Easter joy fills your soul.

### Hallelujah Hunt

**10 am — Fellowship Hall**  
Children are invited to meet at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall at 10 for a Hallelujah Hunt. Children will hunt for eggs filled with special little reminders of what Easter is really all about.

### Festive Easter Worship

10:30 Traditional Easter Service including Choir Cantata, "Classic Easter", sermon, and brass accompaniment.

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

## Slides and Supper with Sam Cook March 10<sup>th</sup> 5pm at Peace Church

Suggested donation: \$10/adults; \$5/kids 6 years old and over

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of adventure.

See and hear of Sam's adventures down rivers to Hudson Bay, rafting in the mountains of Alaska, paddling the Brooks Range in Alaska, dog sledding Great Slave Lake and beyond, as well as closer to home romps in all seasons.

Carnivores and Herbivores welcome at the meal. There will be food for all.



**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

The Saturday before Easter last year the church was filled with activity. The youth were downstairs making breakfast and hiding Easter eggs, the choir was rehearsing and others came to burn our prairie. Flames slowly burnt away the old growth as smoke mingled with the snow. People came out to watch. And we remembered . . .the children whose ashes were part of this garden — Asher and Aurora, Sky and Savanna. Time has brought healing, but so does the remembering. Holy Saturday seemed such an appropriate day to have the burn, smoke like incense surrounding our building as the choir sang the Hallelujah Chorus.



No one was singing the day the women went to the garden. The women, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and others go early to the tomb, loaded down with spices and incense. They go to do what they hadn't had time to finish on Friday before the Sabbath began. They come in their grief, to touch one more time the one they have loved and who taught them so much about the power of love.

They go to the tomb and they are met with a challenge, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Two men in dazzling white appear to them. The women are afraid, about to run and yet the question holds them, it captures their hearts and imaginations. Why do you see the living among the dead?

Jesus was not in the tomb. He would be found instead out among the grieving, among his disciples, and later in a Samaritan village and the households of a Gentile centurion and a jailer. "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" the angel ask and then continues . . . Remember . . . Remember how he told you how he would be crucified and on the third day rise again . . . Remember . . . And the women remember his words. . . In the remembering they are made alive and the women go out.

The criminal on the cross asks to be remembered . . . "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom". Jesus replies, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Remembering this criminal meant making him present with Jesus in the kingdom. This kind of remembering is our hope too . . . We remember the life of Jesus, we make it part of our story, our lives, and we trust that we will be remembered at our death just as the criminal was . . . alive in paradise.

Remembering Jesus story, sharing his resurrection, sends us back out into the world. We can not merely remember to be faithful. We have to go out. Go out and tell this amazing news. Back out to care for it as Jesus did, to love those Jesus loved.

There has been much to grieve in these days of war and the devastating tsunami. And yet we come up the hill to this place with it's burned over garden. . . We come together and we remember the hope of life and life eternal that has been planted with in us through Christ Jesus . As Doug Bowen Bailey wrote when our Prairie was first begun, "We come not to bury but to plant." We, like the women, are ones who are sent . . . this is no idle tale . . . but amazing grace . . . remember . . . and someday you T00 shall be with him in paradise

*Peace Friends ~ Pastor Kathy*

## COMMUNITY

### CHUM NEWS

#### **Islamic *Salaam* (Peace) Dinner to Benefit CHUM on Saturday, April 9**

Members of the Twin Ports Islamic Community will once again sponsor a benefit dinner and silent auction in support of CHUM. A meal of dishes from Islamic societies will be served at **Peace United Church of Christ** at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. There also will be a silent auction and musical selections by the Interfaith Peace Choir. Tickets are \$25 and available at the CHUM office. For more information call Max Proetz at 720-6521.

Needed: • People from the congregation willing to help with set up, serving and clean up • Theme baskets...Peace Church will be collecting items for "a leisure moment" basket...such items as tea, coffee, books, sweet treats, mugs, napkins, etc. There will be a basket in the narthex for collecting the items and then we will put the baskets together...any questions, call Jeanie Peterson, Peace Church delegate to CHUM, at 724-6313. MANY THANKS...and do plan on coming, the food is delicious and it is a great fundraiser for CHUM.

#### Food Shelf March FoodShare Drive

*"Neighbors Helping Neighbors—  
It's the Minnesota Way"*

Any cash or food donations to the CHUM Duluth Emergency Food Shelf during March will generate additional dollars to be used to meet the needs of hungry people. Cash donations are always most welcomed, as it can be used to purchase perishable goods for a very low price from the Northern Lakes Food Bank. If you want to donate foods—especially needed are canned juice, pork & beans, vegetable and chicken noodle soups, peanut butter, peas, macaroni and cheese.

#### Million Mom March Meeting

March 12 10:30 am at Pilgrim Church

The Northland Chapter of the Million Mom March invites you to attend an informative meeting on Saturday, March 12 at Pilgrim Congregational Church. Our guest speaker will be David Lillehaug, the lead attorney in two lawsuits that challenged the constitutionality of the Minnesota "conceal-and-carry" bill passed in 2003. As you may know, several local churches, including Peace, were involved in this lawsuit. A judge in Ramsey County ruled that the "conceal and carry" law was unconstitutional in May of 2004. The ruling was appealed in January of 2005 with the outcome unknown at this time. Questions? Ask Joan Peterson, 724-6570 or [joan@chartermi.net](mailto:joan@chartermi.net)

#### "Oscar Romero: A Martyr's Homily"

Thursday March 3 at 7:30 at Mitchell Auditorium College of St. Scholastica

Free Will Offering

This is a one man show about Oscar Romero's life and death by Al Staggs, a Baptist minister, performance artist and hospital chaplain. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about Archbishop Romero's personal transformation to walk with the poor.

#### St. Patrick's Irish Dance

Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> at St. James Catholic Church (715 N 57<sup>th</sup> Ave W)

*Sponsored by Loaves and Fishes Community*

Fun for the whole family—no experience necessary. Dance instruction at 7:30; dance begins at 8pm

Tickets \$10 at the door, \$8 in advance (Green Mercantile and Positively Third St. Bakery) Proceeds to violence-reduction efforts of the Peaceforce in Sri Lanka. More info—728-4062

## MARCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### Nursery

- 6 Amy and Eric Larson, Angie O'Connell, Matt Swanoski
- 13 Katie Sawyer, Kaelene Arvidson-Hicks, Cynthia Fairbanks
- 20 Schombergs, Swanoski Family
- 27 Jonie/Carla Langdon-Larson, Barb Hanka, Mia Vaydich

### Coffee Set-Up

- 6 Barb Forrest, Georgette Sarkela
- 13 Pomroys
- 20 Pat O'Connell, Marsha Hystead
- 27 No Coffee Hour



### Coffee Servers

- 6 Njoki Kamau, Carl Etter
- 13 Seversons
- 20 Marlis Cran, Sharon Kirtley
- 27 No Coffee Hour

### Dishwashers

- 6 Njoki Kamau, Carl Etter
- 13 Georgette Sarkela, Jerry Cleveland
- 20 Cindy Macaulay
- 27 No Coffee Hour

### Greeters

- 6 Diana Soland, Cindy Macaulay
- 13 Heidi Severson, Laurie Berner
- 20 Georgette Sarkela & Bill Hardesty
- 27 Bev and Dave Cave

### Ushers

- 6 Justin & Jessica Olson, Naomi Christensen, Nettie Bothwell
- 13 Alison Wood, Caroline Harris, Pomroys
- 20 Susan Kehtel, Amy Galarowicz, Lundbergs
- 27 Hysteads, Devlins

### Lay Leaders

- 6 Joan Peterson                      20 Cheryl Walsh
- 13 Doug Bowen-Bailey            27 Bob Stevens

### Monday Meals

- 7 Rodger & Penny Cragun
- 14 Georgette Sarkela & Bill Hardesty
- 21 Todd Kneebone
- 28 Beth Bartlett

### Damiano Soup Kitchen March 13

- 1:30 Jessica and Justin Olson, Pat O'Connell, Cindy Macaulay
- 4:30 Melanie Shepard & Al Netland, Barb Forrest



### Sunday Drivers

- 6 Don/Lillian—Diana Soland  
Ken—Kaelene Arvidson-Hicks  
Shirley—Kadlec/Green
- 13 Don/Lillian—Springsteales  
Ken—Schombergs  
Shirley—Seversons
- 20 Don/Lillian—Diana Soland  
Ken—Laurie Berner  
Shirley—Kadlec/Green
- 27 Don/Lillian—Springsteales  
Ken—Brian Eklund  
Shirley—Seversons



### COMMUNION SERVERS

#### 8:30 Service

- 6 Dave and Judith Arvold
- 13 White Family
- 20 Julie Flotten
- 27 Linda Goese

#### 10:30 Service

- March 6**
- Lundberg Family



## SUNDAYS IN MARCH

Worship is each Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30 am—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 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, March 6 — Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Scripture: I Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23  
and John 9: 1-41  
Sermon: "Trusting What God Sees"

This morning we will celebrate the Lord's Supper at both services and receive our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Please give generously to this crucial offering for Church World Service.

### **Sunday, March 13 — Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Scripture: John 11: 1 - 45  
Sermon: Rev. Cromwell Rabaya ("Tibo") from the Philippines will be our preacher.

This morning our praise and worship team will lead our music.

### **Sunday, March 20 — Palm Sunday**

Scripture: Psalm 118 and Matthew 21: 1 - 11  
Sermon: "Voices Raised to God"

New members will be received today. Following our 10:30 service we will have a congregational meeting to approve the loan for our remodeling project and then there will be a Birthday Potluck Lunch. Folks are encouraged to sit at lunch with people who share their birthday month.

*See Holy Week services on front page*

### **Easter Sunday — March 27**

8:30 am Worship led by our Youth (First Year Confirmation Class). The praise team will lead the music at this service.

**9:30- 10:30 Easter Egg Breakfast** Fundraiser for Youth

**10 am Easter Egg Hunt** for kids

**10:30 Traditional Easter Service** including Choir Anthems, sermon and brass.

### Sunday Adult Forums

9:30 in the Fireside Room

*All are welcome—the coffee is on!*

**March 6th and 13th** — Richie Townsend will speak about Creation Spirituality in the **Fireside Room**.

**March 13th in the Fellowship Hall**  
Rev. Tibo of the Philippines will be with us and speak about our partnership  
**March 20th** — Making Easter Real  
An intergenerational gathering in the Fellowship Hall. Come — experience Easter.

**March 27th** — Easter Egg Breakfast Fundraiser for Summer Youth Programs.

### Important Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 20th at 11:30 am

We will have a congregational meeting to approve the acquiring of a loan for our building remodeling and approve changes in our bylaws that the bank requires for the loan

After the meeting join us for a birthday potluck lunch downstairs!

### Birthday Pot Luck

Sunday March 20

Join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship as we share a meal together, sitting with others in our birthday month. A-D bring bread, E-M, salads, and N-Z hot dishes. Needed—**Volunteers to help with set-up, serving and clean-up—call Georgette if you can help.**

## ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### No Men's Supper in March Put April 4 on your calendar

Next one will be April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. All men of the church invited. Program will feature Mike Schrage who will tell us about the moose research he has been involved with.



### SOUP & SNOWSHOES.... THE SEQUEL...

Bring your snowshoes (completed or in progress) to the Rupel-Wilkowske home, 4712 Crosley Ave, at 2:30 on Sunday March 6. We have a great yard that backs up to city-owned woods--perfect for exploring on snowshoe. If you haven't finished yours yet, bring 'em along and work by our fireside.... or just come to visit & play. Potluck supper at 5 or so. We'll provide a pot of vegetarian soup or chili--please bring something to share! KIDS WELCOME!!

Directions: from Superior St or London Rd--head "UP" on 47th Ave E--one block past Glenwood, take a right on Crosley. 2nd house on the right. From Woodland/Snively--take Glenwood "down" to Crosley (the 4-way stop by the Baptist church). Turn left, go one block further to our house on the right. 733-0866.

### SUNRISE COFFEE

March 7<sup>th</sup> 6:36am

21<sup>st</sup> Ave E and Lakewalk & look for the sign and coffee mug to find us!

Next month--April 4 6:41am



### QUESTIONS ON THE WAY

TUESDAYS 12-1PM

FIRESIDE ROOM

Bring a book, poem or question to get our minds turning...this group is known for it's rambling discussion and thought provoking topics...come, join us every Tuesday at 12 noon.



### Women's Retreat

April 22 & 23 at Solbakken Resort

Our Women's Retreat this year will be at Solbakken Resort near Lutsen, from Friday evening until Saturday afternoon, with an option to stay over Saturday night as well. Cost will be \$35 per person per night. This includes your own bed with linens. Sign up sheet is outside the office window. **Please pay for the retreat as soon as you can, as we need to pre-pay the resort.**

### "Women as PieceMakers"

We as women present and past, are woven together as individuals, as a congregation, and as a community. Like unique pieces in a beautiful quilt, together we are able to wrap each other and those we meet in the healing warmth of God's love. Come this year to the women's retreat to explore how each of us is part of this complex warp and weave. Some of the events for our time together include Bible study, worship, communion, yoga, singing, walking/communing with Lake Superior and enjoying the wonderful fellowship of other women.

This year we are providing all our own meals. Cizzarie Schomberg will be coordinating food and assigning everyone to a meal team. Interested in being part of the planning? Your talents are truly wanted. Please contact Pastor Kathy or Cindy McLean or just show up at the next planning meeting, March 13, after the late service in the Fireside Room.

### Women's Brown Bag Bible Study

Wednesday, March 23rd at noon

Join us for a great discussion and lunch. Dessert and Beverages provided.

## BOOK TALK

### The Peace Church Book Club

meets at 6:00-7:30 in the Fireside Room. Due to schedule conflicts, the club did not meet in February but is making it up, by meeting twice in March. Hope you can join us.

#### March 3

We are discussing short stories so there is still time to do the reading and join us. All stories are available on line at [www.peaceucc.org](http://www.peaceucc.org). Come if you read any or all. Here's the list. A Rose For Emily"-William Faulkner  
"The Yellow Wallpaper"-Charlotte Perkins Gilman  
"The Lottery" - Shirley Jackson  
"The Garden Party" - Katherine Mansfield  
"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"- James Thurber

#### March 31

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman

Synopsis: Lia Lee was born in 1981 to a family of recent Hmong immigrants, and soon developed symptoms of epilepsy. By 1988 she was living at home but was brain dead after a tragic cycle of misunderstanding, overmedication, and culture clash: "What the doctors viewed as clinical efficiency, the Hmong viewed as frosty arrogance." The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down is a tragedy of Shakespearean dimensions, written with the deepest of human feeling.

#### April 28

The Memory of Running Ron McLarty

Synopsis: Smithy is a 279-pound, hard-drinking, chain-smoking, 43-year-old misfit who works in a G.I. Joe factory putting arms and legs on

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Tom Hystead	19 Andy Pomroy
David Cave	Autumn Finch
3 Claudia Gagnon	20 Casey Aplin
4 Mary Martin	Alan Netland
Terese Tomanek	Peter Tomhave
Jeni Wergeland	21 Howard Anderson
Pamela Mittlefehldt	22 Charley Kendall
5 Erik Lundberg	Benjamin Fena
6 Louise Grams	23 Lorraine Anderson
Donald Jensen	Dick Goese
10 Deloris Thompson	Bea McMillan
12 Linda Goese	Paul Winchester
Betty Greene	Kelly Punyko
Jill Caraway Carlson	24 Cheryl Walsh
Lila Kahmann	25 Sharon Crosby
13 Brian Eklund	27 Joann Mork
Sherry Kozelka	28 Marjorie Hayes
Ryan Gressman	29 Patty Beech
14 Heidi Severson	30 Marcelle Beerhalter
Jeanie Peterson	Marlis Cran
15 Joshua Aas	
Sarah Messerer	
16 Daniel O'Connell	
17 Carl Etter	
Alexis Christensen	
18 Philip Wood	
18 Lori Morris	
Charla Buxbaum	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



*If your birthday doesn't appear in the Peace Bell, please give the office a call!*

### **Apologies to our February babies!**

Your birthdays were inadvertently left out of last month's Peace Bell. Belated 1st birthday wishes to Olivia Augustine (11th), Lucy Gressman (23rd), Aurora Kahmann (5th), Colby Larson (7th), Hannah Liddle (15th), and Eli Nelson (22nd)

G.I. Joes. By all accounts, including Smithy's own, he's a loser. But when Smithy's life of quiet desperation is brutally interrupted by tragedy, he stumbles across his old Raleigh bicycle and impulsively sets off on an epic journey that might give him one last chance to become the person he always wanted to be. As he pedals across America, he encounters humanity at its best and worst and adventures that are by turns hilarious, luminous, and extraordinary.

Service for Healing and Wholeness — Wednesday March 23 at 7 pm

As a child, Lent was the time to give up something (usually chocolate for me, and always unsuccessfully). I never really understood what this was for, except maybe when I wanted chocolate, I was supposed to think about God. All I thought about was chocolate. Reading the Peace Bell last month there was an article that asked the question "What exactly is Lent?" In the ancient church, the forty days of Lent was a time of intense preparation for baptism and a time of renewal and penitence for the baptized. A time when the community of faith is confronted with its absolute dependence on God, who gives breath to each and the whole community itself. (UCC Website). Not one mention of chocolate.



As we approach the end of the Lenten season and the celebration of Easter, there will be an opportunity to come together as a community for a Service for Healing and Wholeness on Wednesday March 23. It will be a time to acknowledge and pray for those things in our lives that keep us from God.

In describing the reason that some people attend these services, the UCC resource states: We come to such services seeking healing in our bodies, our lives, but also wholeness in our families, our congregations, our communities, and our world. We seek God's shalom, justice, healing, peace and compassion. As Rachel Naomi Remen says, "when we pray, we don't change the world, we change ourselves. We change our consciousness. We move from an individual, isolated making-things-happen kind of consciousness to a connection on the deepest level with the largest possible reality." Please consider being part of this time in community as we pray not only for ourselves, but also for those in our lives and world in need of healing and wholeness.

The idea of Lent as a time for contemplation and prayer is a slightly more mature perspective, one that encourages continued growth in our faith, instead of more guilt about our failures (I really like chocolate). It is a time to renew our relationship with God and to be open to God's continued presence in our lives at all times. It is also a time of penitence, a time to acknowledge our brokenness and to seek the wholeness that is God's gift to each of us. I suppose the change in understanding comes to all of us as we grow from a child to an adult and travel on our own faith journey, with all of its joys and sorrows.

Healing Shawl Group — Sundays Mar. 6 & 20 at 11:30 in the Fireside Room

A healing/prayer shawl is created to offer comfort to those in need due to illness, loss or bereavement, or to help celebrate a marriage, birth, or other rite of passage. They can be woven, knit, sewn, or crocheted. The important feature of any shawl is the intent behind its creation. Positive energy, prayers and good intentions directed towards the recipient are incorporated into the shawl as it is created. (Look at the link on the Peace website [www.peaceucc.org](http://www.peaceucc.org))

The Peace Church Healing Shawl Group will meet on the first and third Sundays of the month for one hour after the 10:30 am service. Patterns and instruction will be provided. This is a great project for knitters of any ability—we will even teach you how to knit!

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Movie Night  
Thursday, Mar 24 at 8 pm  
Fireside Room  
Mel Gibson's "The Passion of Christ"

We will read some of the gospel story before viewing the film. What does our faith say to us about this movie, about Christ's death. This story is crucial to us, it is our story too. What parts are we playing? As Walter Wink wrote, "Jesus died just like all the others, but something went awry with Jesus. They scourged him with whips, but with each stroke of the lash their own illegitimacy was laid open. They mocked him with a robe and a crown of thorns, spit on him and struck him on the head and ridiculed him with ironic ovation, "hail the king of the Jews", not knowing that their acclamation would echo down the centuries. They stripped him naked and crucified him in humiliation, all unaware that the very act had stripped them of their last covering that disguised the wrongness of the way of living that their violence defended.

The cross marks the failure, not of God, but of violence. The powers that dominate threw at Jesus every weapon in their arsenal, but they could not deflect him from the trail that he and God were blazing. Because he lived that way, because he loved so deeply, with a love that would not die, we too can take up the cross and find our own path .



April 15th and 16th  
at Pilgrim UCC  
2310 East 4th Street

Co-Hosted by Peace Church & Pilgrim Congregational  
The mission of the 5th Annual Opening Our Doors, Opening Our Hearts Conference is to assist communities of faith in accepting and welcoming gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) people and their families. The conference offers the opportunities to examine and challenge myths about family and marriage in our society from the perspective of several different disciplines.

Because the Judeo Christian heritage of scripture and tradition has often been used to exclude and oppress GLBT people and the families, the conference will pay particular attention to the ways in which holy scripture upholds the sanctity and dignity of all blessed relationships.

The conference will include: Bible study with Dr. David Frederickson, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, a presentation by Prof. Paula Pedersen of UMD , opportunities to worship together with Ovation Choir, Sara Thomsen and the Three Altos, personal stories of acceptance and exclusion, and help in the hope and joy of welcoming all people and families into our faith communities.

Service of New Beginnings  
to celebrate what has been and to embrace the new  
in the Minnesota Conference

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1:00 pm  
First Congregational United Church of Christ,  
Hutchinson MN

Rev. John Thomas preaching  
This service marks the merging of our three Associations, meaning that the Minnesota Conference will now act as an Association for the purposes of the standing of churches and clergy. Jerry Cleveland of our congregation will be attending. Call Jerry at 724-4391 if you are interested in carpooling.

## MODERATOR'S REPORT

The big news this month was that we are getting closer and closer to breaking ground on our building expansion. It looks like April is the magic month. The building plans were recently updated so if you haven't taken a look at them in a while make sure you do.

In the spirit of "opening our doors, building peace" it was nice to learn of reformation of the Open and Affirming Task Force. They will be busy finding ways to make it clear that Peace Church welcomes everyone. It's just one of the many things I like about our Church and the people who make it what it is.

Look for more of those wonderful and catchy United Church of Christ ads on the television. The national church office is asking for \$500 from each congregation to run them nationally. The members of the council pledged our church and then backed up that pledge by pledging over \$400 themselves.

### Building Committee Update

Architectural plans are being finished and will be presented at the March 20<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting. At the meeting we will also provide information on the loan for the project and vote on whether or not to proceed. If we do proceed, we are planning on breaking ground about April 1, 2005.

### Upcoming Events:

#### **Youth and Parents: (YAP) April 12<sup>th</sup> 7-8pm**

Youth Group needs youth, but it also needs parents. In April, we'll be starting a group, that will meet quarterly to talk about youth activities, how parents can be involved and help steer the youth group, and other issues or concerns or topics that seem to arise. It is open to both parents and youth and adults who don't even have their own kids in youth group.

#### **Peace at Play Day May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Have you been coming to church for years and realize that there are faces you don't recognize on Sunday mornings? Have you just joined and don't know faces let alone recognize them? Would you like to spend more than the quick 30 seconds talking to someone after church and find out what they like to do, who they are, what their favorite lawn game is? Well then...it's time to PLAY!

#### **April 16 Peace Church Prom** Fund raiser for the church kitchen

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## JUST PEACE

### Update on the Philippines Partnership

At long last, we have heard from our partners in the Philippines. They started by apologizing for the delay in returning our communications. Their reasons were twofold: one, was the lack of computers for emailing; and, the other, the need to convene a meeting of their PEER (Partnerships, Ecumenical and External Relations) Committee, which is mandated by their conference before they can pursue a partnership. They asked us to bear with their difficulties and together to begin to seek ways to develop the partnership. The PEER Committee is comprised of representatives from the clergy and lay people of member churches from the Surigao District Conference (SUDISCON) of the UCC in the Philippines, which is the conference in which the three churches we are partnering with belong. In their email, they outlined some of the programs that their conference is involved in. One is the development of an inter-denominational partnership with the Iglesia Filipina Independiente. This is a local partnership between their two churches, who are working to develop some collective institutional responses to religious and social concerns within their area. Another program, Lay Ministry Development Training, aims to provide basic theological and ministerial orientation for lay people. The conference is also involved in developing children's ministries within their member churches as well as holding annual "pastor's fellowship" activities for clergy and their families. The conference is also very involved in larger social and political concerns, including a continuing campaign against unregulated mining by foreign concerns, which is having significant environmental and social impacts on their area. Another issue is their stand against tax measures being imposed by the government on the already impoverished people, without a return investment by the government in services to benefit these people.

There are two things we will be doing in the near future for the partnership on our end. One is hosting Rev. Cromwell Rabaya ("Tibo"), at our service on March 13. He is the former coordinator for Philippine Partnerships from the jurisdiction of the UCCP which includes our partners. The other is to re-form all who are interested in working with the partnership committee, so that we can begin to work on an informational letter and maybe slide show on Peace Church and our ministries that we can send to our partners in the Philippines. If you are interested in helping out with either of these activities, please contact Charley Kendall at 724-2793 ([kendall6@charter.net](mailto:kendall6@charter.net)) or the church office. We need hosts for Rev. Rabaya, help in planning a get together, and rides to and from St. Paul for him that weekend.

NOTE: See the text of the email from the Philippines on our Web page, [www.peaceucc.org](http://www.peaceucc.org)

### BEFRIENDERS *"Changing Lives Together"*

The trainers from the Befriender Ministry Program in Minneapolis are offering an Information Session at Peace Church on **Tuesday afternoon, April 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1 pm**. There is NO obligation to sign up to become a Befriender; this is only to provide information. If you have been considering participating in this type of one-to-one intentional lay ministry, this session will provide answers to your questions.

Peace church and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church have a combined group of trained Befrienders available to provide a caring, supportive, listening presence to those experiencing a difficult challenge, so that no one needs to feel alone.

If you need a Befriender or would like to have more information about this ministry, call Cheryl Walsh, 525-4129.

## 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.

March's Small Step: To befriend people in our community who are in need of support.

Support could mean anything from a listening ear to a home-cooked meal to a free night of baby-sitting to a financial gift when needed. How many times have we been supported in times of need? It is all a part of Jesus' mission for us: to love and care for one another.

There are many ways to support people around us - the following are just a few:

- Frequently there are needs listed on the office window for meals, etc. for folks who might be struggling with some health issues or recovering from a time in the hospital. Check it out!
- Soon we will have the opportunity to shower a new family in our community with basic household items... keep an eye out for more information on this action...
- Community Action Duluth is working with local families to provide Circles of Support - a way to match families in our community who are working to get themselves out of poverty with three allies in the community. The circles provide informal support from a willing group - building effective relationships across race and class lines. Contact Pastor Kathy if you interested in this ministry.
- The Habitat for Humanity houses in our community are ALWAYS in need of a few helping hands - a couple of hours of your time can make a big difference - call them at 722-3875 to learn about when and where help is needed.
- Contact the office at church (724-3637) for more information on the following opportunities:
- Each year a list of volunteers for the Damiano Soup Kitchen is put together - when you help serve the meal, it's a way to then sit down and have some great conversations with the people who eat meals there.
- On Monday nights, people from our church provide meals to people at the Loaves and Fishes houses - another great way to get to know some folks you might not otherwise have met.
- Sunday mornings, there are a few folks in our congregation who can use rides to church - if you've got an extra fifteen minutes, your time and wheels are appreciated!

There are MANY other ways to support those around us who are in need... keep an eye on the Peace Bell for other ideas, and be creative!

### Witness for Peace Report back from Cuba, Nicaragua on March 13 at Peace

This past January Witness for Peace - Upper Midwest sponsored three delegations, two to Cuba and another to Nicaragua. Both countries are in the Caribbean Basin, have a rural economy, and speak Spanish, but that's where the similarities stop. Cuba has been excluded from trade with most of the Western world due to the U.S. embargo, and Nicaragua has been a captive of globalization and the demands of IMF and the World Bank. The contrasting outcomes are amazing! Learn about how U.S. economic and military policies have affected these two countries, and discuss what steps we can take to promote justice and a lasting peace in Latin America. Delegates from these delegations will share their experiences at Peace Church, on **Sunday, March 13th**. We will begin with a **potluck at 5:30** and program following with personal accounts and photos. Call Lyn or John Pegg at 218-348-3048 or 218-349-1786 for more information.

## CHURCH SCHOOL and OTHER KID'S STUFF

### Junior and Senior High Church School

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

**Jr. High**...relationships, relationships, relationships...what to do? Come to Church School this month as we explore what faith says about relationships and what YOU say about relationships.

**Sr. High**...It's almost Easter and Jesus' story is front and center (well, it is all year I guess!) but what do the Gospels say anyway. This month we'll take an in-depth look at the Gospel of Mark.

### Childcare Committee Meeting

March 13th 11:30am

Do you have kids in the nursery or are you interested in helping make childcare at church safe, welcoming, and educational? Then join us after church on March 13th to talk about what is happening with childcare currently and how we can support and improve it. Talk to Gail Blum or Cizzarie Schomberg if interested.

### Vacation Bible School

Unbelievable...but it's true: summer is coming! VBS will be August 1-5, 2005. Get ready! (If any parent would like to help coordinate or plan VBS, please contact Julie)

## YOUTH

### CONFIRMATION

#### First Year Confirmation

**March 2** — Mark, Chapters 9 - 10

**March 16** — Mark Chapter 11 - 12

**Thursday, March 24** No Class during Holy Week; Youth are encouraged to participate in the Maundy Thursday and/ or Good Friday Services.

**Sunday, March 27th— Easter**

The class will lead the 8:30 service

#### Second Year Class

**Wednesday, March 9** — Spirit, Spirit, Who's Got the Spirit; Jesus papers are due

**Thursday, March 24** — Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm

**Reserve Friday, May 6th for our Confirmation Overnight**

**Confirmation Sunday is May 15th.**

### **YOUTH NOTICE—SALSA—Service and Learning in San Antonio Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**

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 We will be driving to San Antonio because of the high cost of flights. Scholarships are available.

**Please turn in \$150 NOW as a deposit on the week.** We need to know who exactly is going for totaling our costs and estimating fundraising. Confirmands are strongly encouraged to join us on this great trip! Adult leaders so far include Jim McLean, Sarah Peterson, Pastor Kathy and Julie Flotten.

## YOUTH

### Jr/Sr High

Youth Group ...whew...we just can't have any more fun...!

The PIT in March:

PIT Ping Pong (P<sup>3</sup>) Tourney March 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Sign up in the Youth Room.

No PIT on March 27th

### Committees

Next Committee meeting March 9th.  
Have a say in worship, social events,  
service activities...make your voice  
heard in the youth group.

### SUMMER EVENTS!

Meet new people, hike to high  
places, paddle on pristine lakes...  
join us in the woods this summer

**Backpacking**—Hiking in the Big Horn  
Mountains July 18-23 (hiking  
experience necessary)  
Cost \$250  
Trip Informational Meeting  
April 24<sup>th</sup>. Come for informa-  
tion, bring a friend.



**Canoeing**—Paddling the BWCA  
August 15-18 Cost TBA



### FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We've been doing a great job so far!  
Thanks Mary C for coordinating the baby-  
sitting night (we brought in over \$100).  
Thanks to Paul W. for coordinating the  
Benefit Concert (we brought in over  
\$400). We have a couple of fundraisers  
left...jump on board to be a part of the  
leadership in making these happen...!

### Upcoming Events

**March 10<sup>th</sup>—Sam Cook Supper and Slide Show**  
(we'll need volunteers to make, serve and clean  
up..contact Morgan, Emily W., Parker or Levi if you  
can help.)

**March 12<sup>th</sup>—Ski Day at Giant's Ridge** with Pil-  
grim. Cost \$35. Includes lift ticket, transportation,  
dinner. Sign up on office window.

**Parents...interested in joining us? Or volunteer-  
ing to drive? Contact Julie ASAP.**

**March 20<sup>th</sup>—Making Easter Real**—the youth will  
be helping with this intergenerational event...come  
to Church School for more info...!

**March 25<sup>th</sup>—Movie and Discussion: The Pas-  
sion 8pm** following Maundy Thursday service.

**March 26<sup>th</sup>—10 am—Youth Easter Service and  
Breakfast Prep, Set up and Service Rehearsal**

(Sunday early service and 9:30 breakfast)

**All Sr. High Confirmation youth, youth attending  
NYE, and interested Jr. High youth should be at  
church by 10am (Saturday) to prepare for the  
Easter Service and breakfast and should be pre-  
sent Sunday morning to serve.**

### Earn some money to put toward your summer trips

Sign up to babysit for the Peace Church Prom April  
16<sup>th</sup>. Contact Georgette at the office if interested.

**THE YOUTH BOARD:** on the way into or out  
of church...take a gander at the youth bulletin  
board. It has sign up sheets for events, it has infor-  
mation about summer...**it's where the info is....**

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

## SHARED MINISTRY—ARE YOU CALLED?

By Georgette Sarkela, Shared Ministry Coordinator

*Are you called to be a speaker?*

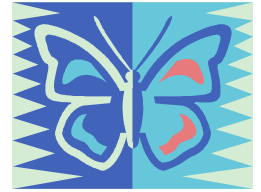
*Then speak as though God is speaking through you.*

*Are you called to help others?*

*Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies.*

*Then God will be given glory in everything through Jesus Christ.*

**1 Peter 4:10,11**



April at Peace Church is a time we begin to plan program ministries for the coming year. It is a time set aside to identify our God given gifts and explore opportunities to use them. This year the process is taking on a new look and will include both youth and adults of our congregation. Early in April a new spirituals gifts survey will be mailed out to the members and friends of Peace Church. This survey is a tool to help you recognize possible spiritual gifts, passions, interests and skills, and will provide data for the Shared Ministry program. When a ministry is in need of volunteer help, we can identify who in our congregation has this gift, and invite them to consider serving in that ministry.

During a Peace Church ministry fair, held in the fellowship hall during the coffee hour on April 10th, you will have an opportunity to check out the different boards and committees, learn about their role, ask questions, and meet others who are involved in this ministry. Understanding what is needed for a particular ministry will help you determine if this is your place to serve. The Ministry Fair will be held in the fellowship hall during the coffee hour.

The shared ministry form will look slightly different and is a much longer form this year. We have included all current ministries as well as possible future ministries. With our church growing, we expect new ministries to emerge. We're thinking "out of the box" as we prepare for this growth. If there is a new ministry that interests you, please select it so that we can plan for its creation. Others may want to start that same ministry.

Finally, I would like to extend to our youth at Peace church an invitation to consider becoming more involved with the Boards or Committees. It will create a wonderful intergenerational opportunity and allow us to learn from each other. You are important to Peace Church and we need your ideas and contributions.

**Isaiah 6:8 "Here I am, Send me"**

### Peace Church Ministry Fair—Sunday, April 10th

We will have a ministries fair in the Fellowship Hall on April 10th as a way for people to learn more about all the ways to volunteer at Peace Church and the wider community. Boards and Committees will have display tables. Come learn more about the ways we serve God and one another.

#### **BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

Gather on Wednesday, March 9th for dinner at  
5:30 pm. Meetings will begin at 6 pm.  
Childcare and Faith Weavers available for  
children during this time.

#### **COORDINATING COUNCIL**

The Coordinating Council will meet on  
Tuesday, March 15 at 7 pm in the Fire-  
side Room. Guests are always welcome.

## PEACE PEOPLE

### THANK YOU

\*To Steve Coll for changing our Gallery Space in the Sanctuary. The wall now features artwork of members and friends of the congregation.

\* From Steve Coll—"Thanks for the amazing support and sharing your home artwork on our Peace Sanctuary Gallery Wall—to Cynthia Coffin and Emily Ramsey, Kim Squillace, Nettie Bothwell and Naomi Christensen, Sarah Engebretson, Gary and Janell Kohls, Marsha and Tom Hystead, Mary Martin, Llonda Thompson, and myself."

\* Thank you so much for the cute stuffed animal and balloons that Amanda received at the hospital! Thanks everyone for the cards (she loves getting mail) and the great meals! We are hoping to get to church soon—it will be one of our first outings after surgery. Sincerely, Ginny, Stew and Amanda Cran xoxoxo

\* To the youth for an amazing concert by Sterling Waters and Sara Thomsen, Paul Winchester and the Harbor City Danceline! The youth raised over \$400 for our Summer Work Camp

\* To Jessica Olson for making lunch for both the Open and Affirming Committee meetings and helping with the Peak Oil Lunch

\* To Dr. Phil Cook for an inspiring sermon on Peak Oil and for pushing us to think deeper about the use of energy and our role in it. The congregation is submitting a resolution to General Synod.

\* To Diana Soland for the hours she puts in every week tallying and depositing our offering, & to her summer replacements, Denise Perry, Lisa Pomroy and Doug Bowen-Bailey.

\* From Miguel at Loaves and Fishes: Thank you so very much for your donation to our community this month. Your gift this month will help us with maintenance to our van we use for food distribution. We are most grateful.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

\* Samantha and Nathan Anderson who were baptized on February 6th. Nathan is the son of Matt and Samantha. They joined the church on February 13th.

### KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

\* Peter Barnett, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. Peter has been hospitalized since Christmas eve due to issues with his shunt. Cards would be greatly appreciated.

\* Amanda Cran recovering at home from back surgery

\* Albert Johnson in hospice at Golden Oaks. Albert has pneumonia.

\* Don Grams recovering at home following hospitalization.

\* Mary Martin recovering at home with a broken wrist.

\* Bob and Anne Simpson as they deal with the progression of Bob's Alzheimer's.

\* Matt Anderson recovering at home following hospitalization.

\* Bonnie Schelin recovering at home from neck surgery.

### SYMPATHY TO

\* Julia Cheng on the death of her father, Hou-Shyi Cheng.

### † MEMORIALS †

**Thank you for the gifts to  
Peace Church**

From Julia Cheng in memory of  
Hou-Shyi Cheng

From Diana Soland and Sherry Anderson  
IN HONOR of Amanda Cran's birthday

## WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

### WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE

5pm: Childrens' Choir 5:30pm: Dinner for all

6pm: Faith Weavers, Adult Study—Living the Questions, 6:15pm: Choir

7:30-9pm: Youth Group 8-9pm: Confirmation

(Confirmation I—1st & 3rd Weds., Confirmation II—2nd & 4th Weds.)

No Wednesday Activities on March 23rd



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

David We've been learning about David and how he surprised a lot of people. We'll continue with this shepherd's story AND do some weaving, and preparing for Easter.

We hope you'll join us!



FW Special Project: Faith Weavers have become true WEAVERS.

**Don't' forget to bring in material to use for our weaving project by March 9<sup>th</sup>!**

HELPFUL ADULTS: We're still (and ALWAYS!) looking for helpful adults to pitch in during Faith Weavers. You don't need to have kids to help...just a desire to be with them. This is a great way to get to know the children in our congregation...give it a try.



Wednesday  
Evening Study  
6—8 pm Fireside Room

*All are welcome!*

#### **Each session includes:**

- conversations with leading theologians, church leaders, sociologists and biblical scholars
- sermon and lecture clips
- digital parables illustrating aspects of an evolving faith
- concrete spiritual practices (e.g., lectio divina, body prayer, journaling)
- spiritual disciplines (centering, openness, patience, etc.)
- suggestions for engagement in acts of social justice
- fresh, original jazz interpretations of classic hymns arranged by Barb Catlin other internet resources (including a glossary of traditional theological ideas re-interpreted for the 21st Century)

#### SCHEDULE FOR LIVING THE QUESTIONS

**March 2**—Creativity and stories of creation

**March 9**—Restoring relationships

**March 16**—Evil, suffering and a God of love

**March 23**—**NO CLASS**  
(Easter Week)

**March 30**—Intimacy with God

**April 6**—Social justice

**April 13**—A kingdom without walls

**April 20**—Lives of Jesus

**April 27**—Compassion: the heart of Jesus' ministry

**May 4**—A passion for Christ: Paul the apostle

**May 11**—Out into the world:  
Challenges facing progressive Christianity

## WE WALKED ON THE MOON by Steve Coll

Due to a handshake with Julie Flotten on a Sunday at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (WR) near Finland, MN, I am writing to you from her usual spot in the Peace Bell. The buzz word among WR program staff is: "mountain-top" experiences. This is my version of some highlights of the Peace Church mountain-top experience – my return handshake to Julie.

Some 70 of us invaded Wolf Ridge from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon on January 28 to 30. The WR naturalists and teachers kept complimenting us for not being 70 fifth or sixth graders. This compliment was an easy success for us to accept cause we were ages 6 months to 6 decades; men/women, boys/girls; 10 pounds to 30X10 pounds; etc. Those facts and many others contained the beauty and attractiveness of Peace Church: our diversity.

The WR staff also valued our experience cause many of us were returning for a second time. We could help the "newbies" get settled and acquainted. Some of us returned to share a weekend with friends. Some of us returned to brave the weather. Some of us were returning to Guy and Nadine's evening gaming industry to recoup losses from last years' card games. For whatever reason, as all of us, new and "veteran," settled into the dorm, it almost felt like coming home.

In daylight hours, activity choices included rockwall climbing (indoors), CC skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, "Chickadee Landing", or catching up on your current reading in our posh dormitory lounge,,,,, OR the ropes course. When first passing the abandoned ropes course while hiking alone, the array of wire cables and 3 logs connecting 5 35-ft tall towers seemed like a weird power installation to me. So I signed up for the Saturday morning class quite naively, Frost Bowen-Bailey told me in the safety of the dorm lounge, he did it in 2004 and it was FUN. Well, 500 more words for the ropes course came into my head by noon (and not that many of them were synonymous with fun), but all drama aside, Frost was right. Our morning team was a microcosm of our bigger group with a wide range of athletic prowess, age, and abilities—Cizzarie Schomberg must've said to herself: "hip replacement surgeries be damned, today, I'm doing the ropes course." Our church (team) provided its own truly qualified spotters at each landmark tower of the course (i.e., Doug BB, Josh Schomberg, and John Steines)

Dylan was the only member of our team anywhere near sixth grade, but WR naturalist, Meghan, comfortably and capably gave the standard orientation to everyone in our diverse group. Nettie went first and I was her on-the-ground partner. Cindy Macaulay helped me shout encouraging words. Nettie gave me the courage to take my turn. Everyone of the Peace Church morning team succeeded on January 29. The afternoon team was equally successful. From our team, I learned from a fearless 4-year old, peers, and the divine spirit among us. To co-opt a favorite word of Julie's: we were "awesome." And I'm here to tell you that Peace Church fulfilled the team building goal on the ropes course in an amazing heterogeneous way.

I felt terrifically honored to be partnered with Nettie and for 20 to 30 minutes each that morning we encouraged each other to "walk on the moon." (The ravens flew beneath us)...

Our merry group—some of us were gay, too—had two times of worshipfully valuing ourselves together. Leadership was delegated to Jonie and Carla and family on Saturday evening and to Jane Rupel on Sunday morning. Both times together were very creative, user friendly to the entire age range of attendees, and rewarding spiritually. Especially because they were peppered by Cynthia Cofin's guitar playing, our teenagers singing as an ASL choir, and dramatic storytelling by Cindy McLean. (What would our church do without our Cynthias?)

So now we're back, what to do? I want to hear more sermons by our pastor about how we can continue to fit the mold of a great faith community. And if I attend a Bible study led by Tom Liddle, I'm sure he will find an Old Testament story that metaphorically parallels Peace Church conquering the ropes course! Peace, Friends (if I may co-opt that farewell from Kathy?)

## HABITAT HOUSE NEEDS A FINAL PUSH!

**Let's Finish Katie's House!** Habitat for Humanity – Duluth is mounting for a final push with Peace United Church of Christ to complete the house for Katie Bridges on Clark Court. HFH-D has recently received word that it has a final deadline to finish two of the houses on Clark Court (407 and 413 Clark Court) by the end of March. **Due to federal funding that Habitat accepted in order to acquire land, the houses are under a strict deadline to be completed to occupancy stage by March 31<sup>st</sup>.** Together, with Habitat and volunteers from First United Methodist Church, **WE** can reach this deadline and complete all that we have worked so hard for and get Katie into her home. **Habitat has recognized the needs in order to meet this deadline and have adjusted to building Monday through Saturday 8am – 4pm.**

They have set a day by day plan of what is to happen next:



- Completion of Mudding and Sanding of the Walls (2/28 – 3/03 )
- Priming and Painting of the Walls, Doors, and Trim (2/28 – 3/09)
- Installation of Doors, Trim, and Electrical components (light fixtures and face plates) (Post painting)
- Cleaning of the floors in prep for Flooring Installation (Post Mudding)
- Flooring Installation (Second/Third week in March)
- Cabinet Installation (Second/Third week in March)
- Final hook-ups of Electrical and Plumbing systems

Please volunteer some time whenever you are able, regardless of experience. Habitat and Peace together appreciate **ALL** of the hard work from this congregation that has gone into the building and know that now, **TOGETHER**, we can beat the deadline, and complete Katie's home.

### Help Needed for Packing and Moving Church Offices

We're excited that building is due to start April 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be moving the offices into the youth room during the construction. Call the office if you think you have any time to help with sorting and packing—we'll need to pack up all the storage closets and cupboards in the hallway, narthex and classroom. This can be done anytime—the sooner the better. **Donations of large clear plastic bins, or small cardboard boxes for packing books would be most welcome!**

**Clean the Garage Day” Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> after church—please wear old clothes and stay if you can help!** Come and help us free up space for storage during construction.

**Friday March 18—Office Packing Day—Office will be closed to all but packing helpers!**

**Saturday March 19—Office Moving Day** We will need many hands and strong backs—Please call or sign up in the Narthex if you can help. We'll provide pizza lunch to all our crew!

#### 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 Cizzarie—cizzarie@care2.com

## PEAK OIL RESOLUTION—for 25th annual General Synod of the UCC

At its February meeting the Council agreed to sponsor a General Synod Resolution written by Dr. Phil Cook that urges communities of faith to look at the how we care for God's creation during the coming period of declining fossil fuels. We have 9 other congregations joining us in supporting this resolution. Pilgrim UCC has agreed to be a co-sponsor. The resolution is as follows:

**Calling on the United Church of Christ to Create and Initiate a Plan for Supporting Congregations and Providing Guidance for Stewardship of God's Creation during the Coming Period of Declining Fossil Fuels**

WHEREAS Jesus in the sermon on the mount, before assuring that God provides what people need (Mathew 25: 30-33), warned that one should not store material treasures on earth, rather treasures stored in heaven are "where your heart will be also" (Mathew 6: 17-21);

WHEREAS solar energy uniquely sustains life and has caused the earth to become rich with diversity and order while evolving at God's pace;

WHEREAS fossil fuels, particularly petroleum, natural gas and coal, are a one time gift from God to be used wisely by humans to create sustainable and just conditions for life and society. But this gift has too often been used profligately with little regard for future generations and the cumulative degradation of the environment;

WHEREAS availability of energy is the most fundamental requirement for functioning of modern civilization, yet some uses and inequitable distributions can create injustices and destruction of life;

WHEREAS humankind presently appears to be largely unaware of the consequences of the significant depletion of non-renewable energy supplies. Exponentially increasing rates of consumption of fossil fuels have led to unavoidable increases in degradation of the environment both locally and globally as in the case of climate change;

WHEREAS rates of consumption of these finite resources are poised to exceed rates of supply. Limits to material growth continue to be ignored because they contradict the established economic models. And the lack of planning for the resource limitations of the near future magnifies the potential for catastrophic outcomes;

WHEREAS the Church has addressed peace and justice issues that are often present manifestations of energy inequities, the approaching unstable period during which more sustainable conditions must be reached requires immediate attention, regardless of present uncertainties for the exact timing of events;

WHEREAS during the coming period of declining petroleum and natural gas, the Church will be challenged as never before to advance the teachings of Christ to alleviate fear, to provide hope, and to bring people together in harmonious actions aimed at finding new, sustainable living conditions for all with justice and peace; and

WHEREAS economic and political conflicts during a period of adjusting to declining energy resources may challenge the faith of individuals and families, while disrupting communities, businesses, and governments, the Church needs to prepare a hopeful stewardship based pathway for congregations to follow with faith on this journey to create a more sustainable and just 21st century.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ engage this fundamental long term problem by first assembling a task force to prepare a report on the challenges to the mission of the UCC and its member churches posed by future reductions in energy and associated resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of clergy and laity from member churches as well as a representative of the UCC. In addition to theological perspective, members with expertise in relevant scientific disciplines such as environmental science, ecology, human behavior/sociology, economics, energy technologies, etc. would be desirable.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the task force report to the 26th General Synod on its conclusions with proposals for action to support congregations and provide guidance for promoting stewardship of God's creation during the coming period of declining fossil fuels.

Funding for this action will be made in accordance with the overall mandates at the affected agencies and the funds available.

## MORE ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Arrowhead Interfaith Council Annual Meeting

Creating Faith Communities  
Visiting the Future

**March 15, 2005**

*Hope United Methodist Church*  
301 W. St Marie Street

5:45 <> Registration    6:15 <> Meal  
7:00 <> Brief Meeting    7:15 <> Evening Program

The evening program will feature a variety of performances by youth, including drumming, dancing, and a bell choir. Our evening's emcee will be Kathy Helzer.

**RSVP: Peace Church, 724-3637 by March 9.**  
Jamaican cuisine by Hummingbird Catering.  
Please indicate either lamb or vegetarian option for your meal.  
\$15 suggested donation for meal.

For more information, visit  
<http://www.arrowheadinterfaith.org>.


*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering—Sunday, March 6*  
*When was it we saw you...a stranger and welcomed you? -Matthew 25:38*

Through one Great Hour of Sharing, the love of Christ transforms lives around the world. Your gift makes Christ's love real for people who suffer the effects of **severe economic hardship, disasters, or conflict** and for all who serve them through gifts of money and time . . . including you!

Of every dollar you give, \$.95 goes directly for mission—to international programs in health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. Please give generously.

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

**EASTER LILY ORDER FORM**



**On Easter Sunday, we will fill the altar with a memorial garden of lilies.** If you wish to have a lily placed in memory or honor of someone, please complete the form below and return it in the offering or to the office by Wednesday March 23rd. The price per plant is \$12 with any extra going to the Peace Church Transportation Fund

I would like to order \_\_\_ Lilies at a cost of \$12 per plant.

Please enclose check made out to Peace Church and mark it "Lilies"

From: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcome to the following people who joined Peace Church on February 13<sup>th</sup>—Jen Stenerson and Melissa Boyle, Samantha and Matt Anderson (Nathan), Pamela and Bill Mittlefehldt, Rick Dalen and Karola Whitfield, Nathan and Maren Imes (Anna), Peggy Devall, Phil and Elsie Cook, Tracy Mayer (Cindy), and Aaron Molina and Kyle Elden (Stella). Several people who weren't able to join that Sunday will be received into membership on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Talk to Pastor Kathy if you are interested in joining.

### Peggy Devall

**What is your vocation?** Home Health Aid—CNA and Homemaking

**What are your hobbies/passions?** Outdoors, canoeing, walking, planting and caring for flowers, sewing, crafts

**What brought you to Peace?** Moved into apartment across the street from Peace. A friend, Caroline Harris, is a member here, so I go with her.

**What is an obscure fact about yourself that others may not know but would enjoy?** I care about and befriend my elderly clients, my niece and nephew, kids and friends, and everyone I know.

### Jen Stenerson

**Family members:** Melissa Boyle, Aven (the cat)

**What is your vocation?** Growing native plants

**What are your hobbies/passions?** Exploring nature, reading, cooking, gardening

**What brought you to Peace?** I was new to Duluth and didn't know many people. I was told that Peace Church would be a good place to connect with people that share similar interests.

**What is an obscure fact about yourself that others may not know but would enjoy?** My hometown of Granite Falls is where Janell Kohls grew up. (Editor's Note: Many, many years earlier! And we even share the same home church. JK)

### Melissa Boyle

**Family members:** Aven—the official Darn! Socks test kitty.

**What is your vocation?** Craftsperson. I create Darn! Socks and Three Blind Mice recycled cat toys, felted wool sweater slippers and mittens, and vintage magnet sets.

**What are your hobbies/passions?** Giant bubble making, organizing, vegan cooking, and my new feline friend Aven

**What brought you to Peace?** Jen Stenerson who happened to be living just down the block from me before we were set up on a blind date.

**What is an obscure fact about yourself that others may not know but would enjoy?** I am an unexpected twin—all along the doctor told my Mom one big baby boy, not my sister and I.

### Kyle Elden

**Family members:** Aaron Molina, Stella Molina

**What is your vocation?** Yoga Instructor, student

**What are your hobbies/passions?** Yoga, reading, writing

**What brought you to Peace?** Beautiful and open community, social justice

### Aaron Molina

**Family members:** Kyle Elden, Stella Molina, Sam the cat

**What are your hobbies/passions?** Photography, music, art, outdoors, wood working, home remodeling.

**What brought you to Peace?** The nice people.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

### Pamela J. Mittlefehldt

**Family members:** William Mittlefehldt

**What is your vocation?** Writer/retired professor (St. Cloud State University—Community Studies/American Studies)

**What are your hobbies/passions?** Writing, fiddling, tapestry weaving, alphabets (old books and lettering)

**What brought you to Peace?** Commitment to social justice and action; abundance of intergenerational energy; the Praise band's music; vibrant sense of community.

**What is an obscure fact about yourself that others may not know but would enjoy?** I'm writing a mystery, a book on the meaning of place, and a book on story as a tool for social change and community-building.

**Comments:** I look forward to becoming a part of this vibrant and generous community.

### Bill Mittlefehldt

**Family members:** Pamela Jean

**What is your vocation?** Education and Business Consultant

**What are your hobbies/passions?** Natural systems, energy efficiency, guitar, kids, politics, canoeing

**What brought you to Peace?** A tradition of striving for justice and an intergenerational vitality.

**What is an obscure fact about yourself that others may not know but would enjoy?** I have had canoeing adventures on Lake Superior.

**Comments:** Pamela and I enjoy the zest of the congregation.

### Nicholas Zeitler, Essie Geiger

**Family members:** Ourselves, and Nina (our dog)

**What are your hobbies/passions?** Fishing, canoeing, watching movies, watching NASCAR, camping, board games, pets.

**What brought you to Peace?** Peace brought us to Peace. In which we mean that Peace UCC in Rochester MN, where Essie has been a lifetime member, connected us to this Peace Church.

**What is an obscure fact about yourself that others may not know but would enjoy?** We live above Cynthia and Emily (members of Peace).

### Tracy Mayer

**Family members:** Daughter Cindy Saari, dog, Jenna

**What is your vocation?** MRI Technologist

**What are your hobbies/passions?** Reading, computers, and downhill skiing.

**What brought you to Peace?** It is a welcoming community of faith to raise my daughter.

### Maren Imes

**Family members:** Nathan Imes, daughter Anna, cat Tayler

**What is your vocation?** LPN, Full-time RN student

**What are your hobbies/passions?** Spending time with husband and daughter, traveling and spending time outdoors

**What brought you to Peace?** I began attending with my husband and his family and really appreciated the open, welcoming atmosphere.

### Nathan Imes

**Family members:** Maren, Anna and Tayler the cat

**What is your vocation?** Investigator

**What are your hobbies/passions?** Playing with Anna, hiking, travel.

**What brought you to Peace?** I was confirmed into the UCC when I was young. Wanted to attend UCC and this was a good fit. My parents are also members.