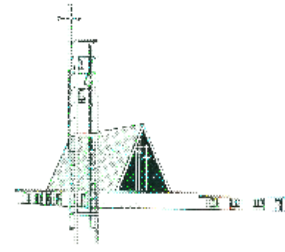


Peace United Church of Christ
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PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Peace Bell

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



Attention all Church School Families!!!
 Mark your calendars and save September 11th
 for Rally Sunday!

Excitement is “**building**” for this year's Church School classes. Be sure to join us on Sunday, September 11th! We are digging right in and starting with our large group gathering (parents and children) in the sanctuary at 9:30am with music and the children's offering. Children will leave from the sanctuary for their first official day of Church School with their teachers.

PARENTS! You are asked to attend a brief but important meeting in the sanctuary following the Church School opening. We'll cover important information regarding the upcoming Church School year, plus you'll need to register your child for Church School. Please plan on staying and spending some time with the Christian Ed. (CE) committee. We'll have coffee and treats!!

DONATIONS, PLEASE! In order to accommodate our church school classes in alternate space during our construction (and provide some much needed ambience), we are asking for donations of **BEAN BAG CHAIRS** for our Jr. High Students and **CAMP CHAIRS** (the chairs in the nylon bags that fold up) for our 5th graders. Your donation will be put to good use!

The CE Committee looks forward to seeing you on September 11, 2005, at 9:30am, in the sanctuary!

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25

Do you remember the aroma of baked turkey (cooked by our very own "turkey roasters"), rolls, and apple dessert rising from the church kitchen that one Sunday last fall? Well, mark your calendars for September 25 as preparations for the Annual Fall Harvest Festival are already underway! Ask anyone who has attended in past years, you won't want to miss this Peace Church tradition. Join us after worship for a delicious meal and great fellowship. Hours are from **11:30-1:30**—invite your friends! (Read more on page 3.)

Ticket prices—Family (up to 4 adults) \$20.00, Individual \$6.00, Child 5-12 yrs \$4.00, Under 5 eat free.



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

Welcome to worship at Peace Church—Sunday Services at 8:30 and 10:30 am

PEACE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Kathy Nelson
 Children, Youth, and

Intergenerational Minister: Julie Flotten

Shared Ministry Coordinator: Georgette Sarkela

Music Director: Jim Pospisil

Organist: Janet MacLeod

Visitation: Cheryl Walsh

Bookkeeper: Beth Chelseth

Office Coordinator: Janell Kohls

Custodian: Brad Larson

Gabriel Project: Emily Larson (310-0063)

Parish Nurse/Befrienders: Cizzarie Schomberg

Seminary Intern: Jonie Langdon-Larson

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

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

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

Food has a way of bringing us together, of creating community—we remember the tastes and smells of family and gatherings. It was Chong He's cooking that her family remembered fondly as we told stories about her life in preparation for her memorial service — Her family spoke about how her rice cooker was never off, and no one knew how to make her Korean BBQ, because she never used a recipe. It was those foods she made for Vicky's graduation open house this spring.

Jesus gives his disciples a recipe for an open house of his own. The crowds keep coming to Jesus. And he continues to work until the sun begins to set. Send them away, the disciples say. No, you feed them.

But the disciples are overwhelmed. And so Jesus patiently teaches them again. He shows them how to use the resources there are. Taking the five loaves and two fishes, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples . . .and all were filled.

As Jana Childers wrote, "It is a little clue. Did you catch it? He looked up to heaven and blessed the loaves. . . Jesus performed an act of ordinary thanks, simple, mundane, predictable, quick, almost skip over it in the text and keep going kind of thing. He thanked God and blessed the bread. And his faith and thanks was the multiplying power."

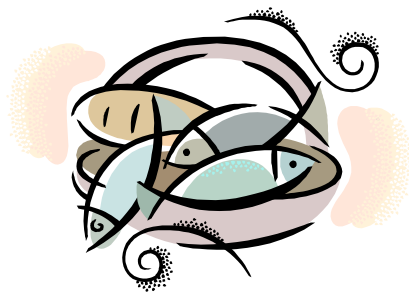
The font that funded Jesus' ministry came out of a life of thanks. A lifetime of giving thanks for ordinary things. Morning by morning, evening by evening and every meal. Walking, talking, rising, sitting. A habit, a routine, a rhythm of paying attention to God's most ordinary gifts and giving thanks for them.

The bread is still needing to be blessed and passed in the potluck of our time. As we dish up our plates we need to keep one eye on those in line behind us. We know that others have not yet been served.

We learned recently of the famine in Niger. A land locked country in Africa where the president was ashamed to ask for help, and we did not see or hear the cries for food. A British journalist traveled there and her televised report caught the world's attention. Lack of significant rainfall in the 2004 planting season coupled with a massive infestation of desert locusts has created conditions of acute malnutrition for approximately 3.5 million persons in vast parts of Niger's Sahel region. Church World Service is trying to make a difference. You can donate on line or through the church.

Jesus looks upon the crowd with compassion and says to the disciples, feed them . . . What kind of feast are we to host? Our faith speaks of potlucks where all bring what they have to share, and give thanks. Let us sit down in the grass of God's love and pass that love along .

Peace Friends ~ Pastor Kathy



ITEMS OF INTEREST

"RUN WITH PRIDE"
5K Fun Run, Walk and Roll
Saturday, September 3



9:00 AM \$5.00 per person
\$10.00 per family
Western Waterfront Trail, Duluth
Sponsored by Duluth-Superior
GLBTQAI Pride

More info: Gary Anderson (218)728-4085

Kid's Closet of Duluth

Kid's Closet provides free clothing for children in need, including gym shoes, socks, underwear, school outfits and winter outerwear, including boots. Anyone unable to buy the clothes your children needs is eligible; talk to your school social worker for a referral. If you'd like to help out, you may donate money, or new or good used clothing—donations are fully tax deductible. For more information, call 628-4899.

Beach Sweep 2005

Sunday September 18—9am - 2pm
Sponsored by the Aquarium
Volunteers needed at Brighton Beach, Endion Station, Franklin Tot Lot, Lafayette Community Club or Park Point Beach House.

Womanist/Feminist

Summer Book Club

Facilitated by Jonie Langdon-Larson
Beyond God the Father by Mary Daly
Sept. 7th 7 pm At Sara's Table

Harbor House Crisis Shelters

Harbor House Crisis Shelter has a current need for funds for a much needed expansion of the dining area. If you can help with this please mark your gift— Harbor House Shelter. If you need more information, please contact Rev. Barbara Certa-Werner at 394-9608.

MN Conference UCC Women's Fall
Retreat September 30 - October 2
at Pilgrim Point

This year's retreat is titled "Tending the Tree of Wisdom from Branch to Blossom, Root to Crown: Exploring our Life Stages and our Life Choices through humor, compassion and attention to the Spirit". Expect creativity and sharing, high tea and holy times, worship and renewal, laughter, quiet, connecting.

Registration materials are available in the Narthex. Registration deadline is Sept. 15. All women welcome—cost is \$80 including meals and lodging—scholarships available. Check in begins at 4 pm on Friday the 30th.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Maxine Proetz	17	Mac Tobin
	Aidan Erickson		Betty Biazzo
4	Jay Finch-Newkirk	19	Todd Kneebone
	Eponine Schomberg	20	Eli Beech Brown
	Meredith Hill	21	Naomi Christensen
5	John Greene		Stacy Sudoh
	Lauretta Shrake	22	Emily Punyko
	Siri Larsen		Peter Provost
8	Sharon Geisert		Grant Provost
9	Cameron Mitchell	23	Lisa Messerer
10	Mason Branstrator	24	Sergei Hanka
12	Emily White	26	Nancy Nelson
13	Don Day		Ingrid Nisswandt
	John Jordan		Isabelle Schomberg
	Rod Schelin		Anne Simpson
	Tom Liddle	27	Charlie Bray
14	Anne Beauchamp	28	Sara Hansen
	Emily Larson		Jessica Zimny
	Beth Ruark		Andy Fena
16	Jerry Cleveland	30	Chris Bode
	Bonita Schelin		
17	Hans Arvidson-Hicks		HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Nursery



- 4 Julie/Matt Etterson, Lisa Brown
- 11 Amy/Eric Larson, Chris/Carla Stegmann
- 18 Christa Knudsen, Holly Bowen-Bailey, Julia Horner
- 25 Barb Hanka, Charlie/Pat Kendall

Coffee Set-Up

- 4 Jessica/Justin Olson
- 11 Devlins
- 18 Cindy Macaulay, Barb Forrest
- 25 Pat O'Connell, Marsha Hystead



Coffee Servers

- 4 Njoki Kamau, Marlis Cran
- 11 Ameer/Ryan Debeltz
- 18 Cindy Macaulay, Barb Forrest
- 25 Bill Kehtel, Kyle Eldon

Dishwashers

- 4 Marge Anderson/Jerry Cleveland
- 11 Ryan/Ameer Debeltz, Georgette Sarkela
- 18 Janell/Gary Kohls
- 25 Doug Bowen-Bailey, Pamela Mittlefehldt

Greeters

- 4 Cindy Macaulay, Laurie Berner
- 11 Jack/Sharon Kemp
- 18 Nettie Bothwell, Aaron Molina
- 25 Chris/Carla Stegmann

Ushers

- 4 Jack/Sharon Kemp, Jeff Samuel
- 11 Susan Kehtel/Amy Galarowicz, Lundbergs
- 18 Seversons, Joan/Alan Peterson
- 25 Lori Lind family, Nettie Bothwell, Diana Soland

Lay Leaders

- 4 Katie Sawyer
- 11 Lisa Horner
- 18 Jerry Cleveland
- 25 Betty Greene



Monday Meals

- 5 Lyn/John Clark-Pegg
- 12 Mary Nienaber
- 19 Jesse/Cizzarie Schomberg
- 26 Justin/Jessica Olson



Damiano Soup Kitchen—Sept. 11

- 1:30 pm Bev Cave, Caroline Harris, Jessica Olson
- 4:30 pm Tom and Kim Heinitz, Cynthia Peterson

Sunday Drivers

- 4 Ken—Brain Eklund
- 11 Ken—Laurie Berner
- 18 Ken—Carl Etter
- 25 Ken—Pat O'Connell



to all our wonderful Volunteers!!

COMMUNION SERVERS

8:30 Service

- 4 Janell Kohls
- 11 Linda Goese
- 18 Julie Flotten
- 25 Calbreaths

10:30 Service

- September 4**
- Susan Goltz



SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

We continue to have two services each Sunday morning. At 8:30 we have a Meditative Communion Service and at 10:30 we have our Traditional Service with children's time and choirs. The sermon at both services is the same.

Large Print Bulletins are now available from the ushers.

Sunday, September 4

Open and Affirming Celebration

This Sunday's Worship Service is part of the community wide Pride Events. We will host a breakfast at 9:30 that is open to the whole community. If you'd like to help with the breakfast, please let Pastor Kathy know. Our seminary intern, Jonie Langdon-Larson will be our guest preacher and Steve Coll is putting together a community choir for our service. If you would like to sing as part of this event contact Steve.

Sunday, September 11

Rally Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 18: 21 – 25
Sermon: "Lego, Let God"

Our praise and worship team will lead the music at our 10:30 service. Today we will begin our church school and adult forum classes at 9:30. Join us for a great day, as we pause in remembrance, and look ahead in building peace.

Sunday, September 18

Scripture: Jonah 3: 10 – 4: 11
Sermon: "In the Belly of . . ."

Today we will celebrate the baptism of Kellen O'Connell. Sara Thomsen will help to lead our music.

Sunday, September 25

Scripture: Exodus 17: 1 – 7 and Matthew 21: 23 - 32
Sermon: "Quenching our Thirsts"

The Praise and Worship Team will lead our music at 10:30..

More on the Fall Harvest Festival!

At 11:30 everyone is invited downstairs for a feast. Our Fall Harvest Festival is an annual fundraiser. Join us for this delicious meal and great fellowship. The Care and Fellowship committee is even trying to organize live music for the event. The meal is from 11:30 - 1:30. Invite your friends — this is a wonderful way to introduce others to our Peace Church community. Proceeds from the event this year will benefit the "kitchen fund".

Events like this one would not happen without help from many volunteers. The Care and Fellowship Committee needs your help to make this event a wonderful event. **Volunteers are needed to donate food for the event, help the committee cook on Saturday 9/25/05 in the church kitchen, set up tables, serve the meal, and clean up after the event (see the sign up sheets in the Narthex).**

To feel a part of, one must become a part of. Become a part of this wonderful fall celebration and together let's make this a heart warming, community building day to remember.

Choir! Choir! Choir!

Peace Church Choir will practice Wednesdays beginning at 6:15. Everyone is invited to join us for dinner at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall and then go to the Sanctuary for rehearsal. Practice will begin on Wednesday, September 7th. Jim Pospisil is our music director



Children's Choir — All children age 3 - grade 5 are invited to join us for choir practice in the fireside room on Wednesdays from 5 -5:30, beginning Weds. Sept. 21st. Jim Pospisil and Sarah Engebretson will be leading the group. (See article on page 7 for more info.)

ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES



SUNRISE COFFEE

September 5 — 6:33am

(it's Labor Day. Come if you want, or sleep in!!)

21st Ave E & Lakewalk

Look for the sign & coffee mug to find us!

Next month: October 3: 7:10am

QUESTIONS ON THE WAY



We're coming back! Join us for lunch and discussion (about a wide range of topics) each Tuesday at 12pm. We'll start Sept 13th. The first meeting will be a chance to see what books, readings, topics we want to dig into. Bring a bag lunch and thoughts to share.

The Brown Bag Bible Study will meet

Wednesday, September 28th at noon

in the second floor lounge at the Benedictine Health Center. We will continue our discussion of the 23rd Psalm. Dessert and beverages provided.

Boards and Committees

Boards and Committees will meet on Wednesday, September 14th. Dinner is served at 5:30 and meetings begin at 6 pm. This is a very important meeting as we look at calendars and plan for the year together.

Coordinating Council.

The Coordinating Council will meet on Tuesday, September 20 at 7 pm in the Fireside Room. Visitors are always welcome.

Care of the Altar

Dear Peace Folks: We are still looking for people who might want to share in the care of the altar and "dressing" it for the various seasons in the liturgical year. With the help of my family, I have been doing this for the last year or so. I will be attending school full time this year starting in the Fall, and will need to have more help with these duties. It would be wonderful if a few folks were familiar with the few simple procedures needed to change and care for the altar, such as removing the glass safely to replace the altar hanging, lighting the eternal candle, changing banners, etc. This would suit a person who likes to decorate a home, or be a meaningful activity for a family, with or without children. Most altar-changing activities happen around Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Please give Leslie (728-9545) or Georgette, in the Peace Office, a call if you feel at all interested and would like to learn more.

Thank you, Leslie Williamson
White

Monday Men's Group

Monday Men's Group will not meet in September, but will start on October 3rd at 6 pm in the Fireside Room

Mark your calendar—Men's Retreat

February 10-12, 2006

RECYCLING PEACE

There are two pianos at the end of the Fellowship Hall. We would like to give them away — call the office if you're interested.

Substantial collection of Vegetarian Times magazines from the '90's free to a good home! Call Sarah at 590-7996.

Sarah Engebretson would like to borrow a guitar for the next few months. If you have one to lend, please call her at 590-7996.

MORE PEACE PEOPLE

CONGRATULATIONS TO

☼ Annahli Lindgren, daughter of Ellen and John Lindgren, who was baptized on Sunday, August 14.

☼ Colby Larson, son of Amy and Eric Larson, who was baptized on Sunday, August 14.

☼ Lou Barker and Lisa Nelson, who celebrated their Holy Union on Friday, July 29th. Pastor Kathy officiated.

☼ Earl Salemkink and Linda Inglebright married on August 26th. Pastor Kathy officiated.

☼ Dick and Linda Goese who are grandparents times 2—Sarah (Goese) and Jason Dockter had a baby boy, Nico Rys Dockter on July 16th, and Susan (Goese) and Scott Savery had a baby girl, Rebekah Clara on August 19th.

☼ Ann Sudoh who came in 8th in the Brewhouse Triathlon.

☼ Kathy Bray who was named one of the 2005 "Super Lawyers" by the Minnesota Law and Politics Magazine.

New Addresses — for folks who have moved away from Duluth:

Anne Simpson
370 Marshall Ave. #405
St. Paul MN 55105

Shari and Randy Tedford
611 E. Main
Gardner KS 66030

Kristine Regehr
213 ½ Academy St.
Hesston KS 67062

Kenji and Stacy Sudoh
2832 Schadt Drive
Maplewood MN 55119

BOOK CLUB

SEPTEMBER 22—6-7:30

1984 by George Orwell

Things are gearing up for the fall and so is the Peace Church Book Club. We meet the fourth Thursday of each month (with a change of dates to accommodate Thanksgiving and Christmas) from 6:00 to 7:30 in the Fireside Room. Our reading choices come from a variety of genres - fiction, non-fiction, poetry and short stories. Both men and women attend. A special invitation goes out to persons new to Peace. This is a great way to meet people and really get to know them.

Many have asked if we could post the books that we will be reading more than a month ahead. This is of particular value to those who have limited reading time or can only attend the club from time to time. Therefore the first four books have been chosen. They are:

September 22- *1984* - George Orwell
October 27 - *The Dogs of Babel* by Carolyn Parkhurst
December 1 - *The Spiral Staircase* by Karen Armstrong
December 29 - *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi

For our March meeting we will be reading the book chosen for the One Book, One Community reading program. Generally the Duluth Public Library announces the book in January. Community discussions are held in April.

1984 by George Orwell (Sept. book)

Did you read 1984 in high school? Remember newspeak, doublethink and thoughtcrime. Read it again-you won't regret it. Once considered futuristic, Orwell's classic continues to deliver its horrible vision of totalitarian society and cannot be read noting parallels with contemporary times. ***Come join us for our first meeting, September 22.***

PEACE PEOPLE

THANK YOU

- ☼ To every one who gave time, money, energy or even prayers for VBS. We had another successful (and silly) week. Between visiting clowns, sunny skies, and tons of great attitudes the week went brilliantly. THANK YOU! ~ Julie
- ☼ Dave Cave and Andrew Sparrow for preaching in August.
- ☼ To all our special musicians in August – Paul Winchester, Peter Provost, Steve Horner, Three Rivers Kantele Ensemble—We are blessed to have so many magnificent musicians in our midst.
- ☼ To the Audubon group that meets at Peace Church, for donating a portable movie screen.
- ☼ From Bill Hardesty and Georgette Sarkela: “Thank you to the members and friends of Peace Church for your prayers of support, the beautiful plant, your expressions of sympathy and the prayer shawl. Pastor Kathy, your visits, and sharing communion with my mother meant a lot to her during this time, thank you. Everyone has been so thoughtful and your kindness gave us strength and encouragement as we prepared to say our final goodbye to my mother. Peace Church is a loving community and your support at this difficult time made it easier.
- ☼ From Helen and Matthew Carter: “Dear Rev. Kathryn Nelson, This is to send a belated note of thanks for your June honoring as Peacemakers of the Month. As a family, we have been blessed in so many ways in terms of community and supportive neighbors. In spite of early challenges, caring souls like Bill Hardesty and his family always brought us comfort. Likewise, this thoughtful gesture by your congregation touches us in a special way. Please accept our heart felt thanks for this kind recognition.”

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

- ☼ Shari and Randy Tedford who moved to Kansas to begin a new business this month. We are thankful for their presence among us these past 6 years. Randy and Shari were our CHUM delegates.
- ☼ Darlene Kolhts who was recently hospitalized with an infection
- ☼ Karyn MacLean who recently completed her chemo therapy for breast cancer
- ☼ Mary Martin currently undergoing chemotherapy
- ☼ Jen Hudyma's Dad, George, who is recovering from surgery.
- ☼ Laurie Walker recovering from surgery.
- ☼ Harriet Peterson, recovering from angioplasty.

SYMPATHY TO

- ☼ Vicky Johnson on the death of her mother, Chong Johnson. Chong was killed in an automobile accident. Pastor Kathy officiated at her memorial service July 26th.
- ☼ Jenny Tomhave , whose mother died in August.
- ☼ Georgette Sarkela, whose mother, Virginia Salo, died in August.
- ☼ The family of Tony Johnson, who died on August 11th. A memorial service was held at our church on August, 16th.
- ☼ Jerry Cleveland on the death of his brother Bob.
- ☼ The family and friends of Patty Johnson who died on August 20th. Patty had been a member of the Dismantling Racism team at Peace Church.
- ☼ The family of Patricia Jordan, whose funeral was held at Peace Church on August 24th.

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Adult Forum — 9:30 in the Fireside Room

Wisdom of Faith begins Sunday, September 11th

Six Week Adult Forum Series—Join us for All or Part

Bill Moyers talks with scholar Huston Smith about six great religions — Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam — how they differ, and their common themes. Enriched by art, architecture, music, and poetry, this series will be co-led by Tom Sharkey and Pastor Kathy.

Wednesday Adult Study — 6—7 pm in the Fireside Room

“Romans: A Letter for Today” — Begins Wednesday, September 21

The book of Romans has been called the most influential letter ever written. These words to the Church in Ancient Rome echo still with energy and power. In this real letter to real people, we witness Paul wrestling dynamically with enduring issues: justification and grace, sin and salvation, a vision of unity and the faithfulness of God. Join us for 7 Wednesday as this book inspires us to faithful living.



Worship and Arts Notes

The Worship and Arts Committee would like to establish a tradition of fresh flowers on the altar during Worship. Members and friends of Peace are invited to display flowers from their gardens or other floral arrangements on the Altar. Please reserve your Sunday to bring flowers—there's a sign-up sheet on the wooden wall in the Narthex. When signing up, please indicate if you will be taking the flowers home with you after the 10:30 service or if you would like them donated. Please arrange your flowers in a vase (vases at the church are in the cabinets in the corner of the Fellowship Hall) and drop the arrangement off at the church on Friday or before the 8:30 am service on Sunday.

INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

OUTDOOR HAPPENINGS

Bangin' in the Brush: Sept 24th (time TBA)

Up for a bit of trail running, jogging, sauntering? Come join this great event out at the Korkki Ski Trails. A 6.6 mile run literally through the woods. Hope for rain as it gets muddier! And stay for the prizes—everyone walks home with something, a jar of homemade jam or a bag of zucchini.

Fall Color Paddle Oct 9th Join us as we paddle the St. Louis and bask in the glory of fall. Canoes, kayaks, rafts all welcome! 1pm-4pm



Welcome Back from Summer!

We've got a great group of leaders who are excited to spend time with you this summer. Here's some info about the year:

Youth Group

the what, where why and who

Meets each Wednesday
(beginning Sept 21st)

- at 7:30pm in the small youth room
- at the end of the Fellowship Hall.
- is a time for fun, sharing, music, singing, playing, exploring, (and ping pong!)
- is for both Jr. and Sr. High (6-12th grades) We often split into Jr. and Sr. high.

Here's a sampling of some of the stuff we'll be doing this year:

- ☺ Movie Nights
- ☺ Giant's Ridge Ski Trip
- ☺ Service Sundays (or) Saturdays (see "Service Hours" in next column)
- ☺ CYE's
- ☺ TuBBing...and MORE!

Youth Committee @ 6pm
the 2nd Weds. of each month

It's a group of folks that help plan and organize what we do and when we do it. If you want to put your 2 cents in...come to the meeting!

YAP (stands for: Youth And Parents)

The youth group is a great place for teens and youth here in the church but it's only as great as the people who put energy in—and both adults and youth are instrumental in it's success. We're looking for parents and youth to meet regularly throughout the year to help figure out just where we're headed.

First Meeting Sept 20th 6-7pm

CONFIRMATION

First Year Confirmation Class

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 14th at 7:30 pm with youth and parents. The first year class includes: Ben Hlina, Julia Horner, Mariah Kirsh, Sarah Messerer, Cameron Mitchell, Grace Richey, Matt Shober, and Mia Viadich. Other ninth graders are invited to join us.

This class will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 7:30 – 9 pm We will begin with large group worship and then go into class from 8 – 9 pm. Most of the first year we will focus on the life and teachings of Jesus based on the book of Mark. We will have a winter retreat and confirmands are strongly encourage to participate in our Summer Work Camp.

Second Year Confirmation Class

Class will begin again on Wednesday, September 21st at 7:30 pm. We will meet on the first and third Wednesdays from 7:30 - 9 pm. We will always worship with the youth group from 7:30 - 8 and then go to class from 8 - 9.

Both Classes Remember

- Sunday worship — beginning in the fall you need to attend 50% of the time.
- Also you need service hours of 4 per month.

SERVICE HOURS

Crop Walk September 25th at 1:30 starting at First Lutheran Church. The walk is a great way to raise money for Church World Service which works on hunger issues around our world. Sign up in the office to be a walker. All you have to do is find folks who will pledge and wear some walking shoes. Call Julie for more information! The same day, we have been asked to help with **clean up after the Fall Harvest Festival from 12 - 1:30**. Come if you can, and we'll carpool to Crop Walk—otherwise, meet us at 1st Lutheran at 1:30.

By Georgette Sarkela, Shared Ministry Coordinator

I would like to share briefly a personal story of the power of the prayer shawl ministry of Peace Church. My hope is that you will get a glimpse of the importance of this ministry and how God uses all our ministries and gifts to reach out to others with love, compassion and comfort.

Since the end of June, up to her death in August, my mother had suffered with extreme back pain, compounded with respiratory diseases. At the beginning of her hospitalization I asked our parish nurse to bring a prayer shawl to her. I wasn't sure how my mother would receive this shawl. I knew my mother had a faith in God but she never talked about the depth of her faith. It wasn't until after her death, when I found some poems she wrote that I understood the depth of her faith and why the prayer shawl became so meaningful. Upon receiving this shawl, I explained to her that the meaning of the shawl was to experience the love and presence of God and the love and prayers of Peace Church wrapped around her. Once she knew the meaning of this shawl, it became her constant companion throughout her illness. It brought comfort and a sense of security that was deeply spiritual and is difficult to explain. She took it every where. It was with her throughout her day, during tests and it was with her when she passed on into eternity. The shawl became her security blanket similar to that of a child. Touching the shawl provided a peaceful presence for her. She wasn't able to talk about the impact of this prayer shawl, but she demonstrated it.

As I watched the power of her prayer shawl take on significant meaning for my mother, I was reminded of the power of God and how our gifts are used to bring God's love to others. Sometimes we are given the privilege to see this experience but often we share our gifts on faith, not ever knowing the outcome.

I want to thank all those who are part of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Your ministry shares God's healing love to others as it brings comfort to those who receive a shawl. Your gifts are a special blessing and I pray that you are blessed by sharing your gifts.

If you can knit and would like to be a part of this ministry please contact our parish nurse Cizzarie Schomberg. Knitting can be done at home or at the Shawl Ministry gathering that takes place occasionally on Sundays after the 10:30 Service. Everyone is always welcome.

Isaiah 6:8 Here I am send me

An addendum to this story is that my mother's prayer shawl will be passed on to her granddaughter, Martia. And because of my mother's experience, her home church, St. James Presbyterian Church in Tower, is now starting a prayer shawl ministry. **"And the gift goes on."**

Wednesday Helpers—Schedule for September

14 Boards & Committees
Prep= Georgette Sarkela
Cleanup= Just Peace Committee

21 Prep= Jerry Cleveland and Marge Anderson
Cleanup= Patti Beech, Jane Rupel

28 Prep=Doug Bowen-Bailey
Cleanup=Schombergs and Lisa



GABRIEL PROJECT

The Gabriel Project is a collaboration between CHUM and six Hillside congregations: Temple Israel, Peace, Trinity, St. Mark's, First Lutheran, and Gloria Dei. Our collective goal is to **support families living in our shared neighborhood and to strive for economic and social justice throughout Duluth**. Here's a quick update:

Our 4th Annual Grandma's Marathon Fundraiser numbers are in! Over 40 people committed to **"Running to Help Keep People on their Feet"** and **raised \$5300** to help meet the financial needs of our neighborhood. Many thanks to the runners, 50 water station volunteers, dozens of donors, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for helping us exceed our goal.

The **Grant School Reading Partners Program** needs more volunteers! Befriend a young student and support our neighborhood school at the same time. Plus it's a great excuse to read kids books again. Please call Jonathon at Men as Peacemakers for more info: 727.1939.

Questions about Gabriel Project? Call Kim, Ben, Emily, or Steve at 625.1739.

CHUM Drop-In Center/Emergency Shelter Ongoing Needs...

There is an immediate need for working washing machines and dryers that can be delivered to the Drop-In Center. Other needs include: large-sized microwaves, deodorant, sample-sized personal hygiene & toiletry items; pillows, single fitted sheets, clean twin plastic mattress covers, washable blankets, towels, pots & pans; playing cards & cribbage boards; and wall phones.

There is also an opportunity for an adult church group (6-12 people) to work on the Family Emergency Shelter. We need painters, scrapers, and someone with masonry repair skills. Time is flexible. Contact Kim Randolph at 726-0153 or kimrand@frontiernet.net

ANTI-RACISM EVENTS

**Walking to Emmaus:
Understanding and Dismantling Racism
Saturday, 8:30 to 4 pm October 22,
Duluth Congregational Church
3833 E. Superior St., Duluth, MN**

Everyone is invited to attend a one-day workshop, sponsored by the MN conference UCC Anti-Racism Team, that looks at the racism operating in the institutions and systems of our society, and that explores the deeply transformative journey of dismantling that racism.

This workshop is participatory in nature using videos, discussions and exercises, and is designed to engage, in a respectful manner, a variety of perspectives and experiences regarding racism.

The suggested fee is \$25, but everyone is invited to attend and no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Includes lunch and child care. Scholarships are available to help with travel expenses.

Contact Jerry Cleveland (724-4391) or Lyn Clark Pegg 348-3048) for more information and to register.

Come, be part of a Spirit-filled journey toward social justice and God's great shalom!

Race, Culture, and the Achievement Gap Campaign Summit

**Friday, October 28th — 4 to 9, and
Saturday, October 29th — 8:30 to 5
Lincoln Park School, 2424 W. 5th St.**

For parents, students and youth, educators and concerned community members

For more information and to register, call Alanna Oswald, at 218-628-4881

YOUTH/CHILDREN/CHURCH SCHOOL

More Youth news...

Church School— is not just for the little kids! Come on Sunday mornings @ 9:30.

Jr. High—you'll meet in the fellowship hall with your teachers and explore a new topic each week.

Sr. High Forum—you're in the Youth Room. Using movies, guest speakers and "chat" days we'll explore faith and issues that are important to you!



YOUTH WEBSITE

Philip Hubert (aka The White Knight) is still up and running. Check out the photos (especially the skiing ones!), add to the forums, post an announcement! You can access it through the Peace Website or go to: <http://www.youth.guybert.com/> THANKS PHILIP!!

Church School

This year in Church School we are going on an adventure! We are going on a 'quest' to learn about the Bible—the stories, the people, the lessons. With the help of **Bible Quest**, a new curriculum, each class will focus on key biblical stories, helping all learners to get an historical and chronological sense of the bible. Each week, all students learn the same story, using musical, artistic, linguistic, kinesthetic, individual and group approaches to reach multiple learning styles.

We will begin Church School in the sanctuary at **9:30am each Sunday morning, starting September 11th**, as a large group. This opening is a time of prayer, singing, collecting offering, celebrating birthdays, welcoming visitors and hearing the main idea for the week's lesson. The students will then be dismissed to their classes.

Childcare Committee

We are blessed with a growing congregation. We have over 20 preschoolers this year and even more infants/toddlers. We are starting a Childcare Committee that will help the congregation continue to provide safe, welcoming, and effective childcare options and programs for our community's youngest members. If you're interested in helping out with this committee, please contact Gail Blum: 728-5519.

Children's Choir: Beginning Sept 21st

Get those voices warmed up for another fun year of Children's Choir!

We had a great year with Christa Knudsen last year—thanks for all your work, Christa. This year our director will be Sarah Engebretson....Welcome Sarah!



From Sarah—*"Making music with others has been a part of my life since I listened to the "old time band" made up of various relatives playing polkas and waltzes at my grandparents' house. Later, I played clarinet with that band as well as the St. Olaf Band. Singing songs was always my favorite part of summer camp, and for many years I taught campers how to sing the songs I loved as a child. I am honored to be a part of our Worship Team and am looking forward this year to making music with our youngest members of Peace!"*

LITTLE BLUE LINES

By Julie Flotten, Children, Youth and Intergenerational Minister

For as long as I have been camping, you'd think I would have known better. I should have known that when you see a thin, little blue line on a map next to a portage, you should take the portage. And you should do so especially when the summer has been a dry one. For little blue lines on a map look as if they have water in them...but in reality, they are shallow brown lines, full of mud and gunk and you stand in the middle of it all and shake your head and say "why?! Why did we do this."



But on the Jr. High BWCA canoe trip this summer, we saw some open water and took the little blue line. What an adventure it turned out to be! It is true there WAS water in the beginning and it lasted through many curves and bends; I even thought we might be fortunate enough to paddle the entire way. Wrong. The 3 ft. of water turned into 1.5 ft of watery grassy stuff turned into some beaver dams and then 4 ft of thick goopy mud; mud soft enough to sink in but too thick to paddle through. I looked around at all of our Jr. High youth, anticipating frowns and complaints and angry looks. Once again, wrong. Before I could say, "wait," they had jumped in, literally, up to their armpits to try and drag the canoes through. They spread mud on their faces, bright white teeth shining through their dirty masks in huge smiles. They were having a blast. And when I took time to look around: a completely clear, blue-sky day, a beautiful bog surrounding us, and laughter from the group...who couldn't smile? I set my paddle down in the boat and joined in the fray.

It is far too tempting to stay on the well-traveled path. We can predict what it will entail; we have heard where the tough spots may be and where we can rest. It is familiar and known. The road less traveled has none of that. But it does offer what the well-worn portage cannot: it offers new perspective, new challenges, new opportunities. Oh, I have done muddy beaver pond creeks before but still I learned something on this little blue line. I learned (or was reminded) to slow down, to ignore the watch, and to jump right in to whatever the task at hand. I learned, by watching the kids, that to make the task fun, regardless of how grimy, you **do** have to put your whole self into it. And I learned, from hearing all of us recounting the stories later that night, and the next day and the next, that the adventurous road can often be the most memorable.

We all survived the little blue line and I think, after showered and rested, we are all better for it. May your own lives hold opportunity for little blue lines.

JUST PEACE

Letter to UCC President

This is a copy of the letter written to John Thomas, the president of the national UCC, from the Just Peace Committee and the Coordinating Council:

We, the Just Peace Committee and Coordinating Council of Peace UCC in Duluth, Minnesota, are writing to ask that the UCC issue a statement of support for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the Israeli government and the people of Israel during this difficult period of withdrawal from and dismantling of the Israeli settlements within the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank. Ariel Sharon's life has been threatened, the government is in turmoil and the Israeli people are divided about this action, with pressure being brought by the settlers who will be evicted and the extremists and protestors who support them. We have, for a long time now, spoken out for the Palestinians in their struggle for an independent homeland and justice from the Israeli occupation and oppression. Now, as Israel begins to right this wrong, we must speak up with words of encouragement for them as well.

We pray that God will give them the strength to complete what they have started with the withdrawal and dismantling in Gaza, and that God will give them the resolve to carry through with their plan in the even more contentious West Bank.

We ask that you also appeal to other church bodies within the United States and the world and ask that they join the UCC in offering words of support as well.

Thank you.

2005 CROP Walk Moves Outside to the Lakewalk! September 25th

1:30: Registration at at First Lutheran Church at 1100 E. Superior

2 pm: Walk on the Lakewalk begins

Mayor Herb Bergson will be joining us in our walk to raise funds and awareness so that we can overcome hunger in our community, in our nation, and in our world. For more information or to register for the team online, visit: www.arrowheadinterfaith.org/CROP.html.

Join the 2005 Peace Church CROP Walk Team



We're looking for people to join our team of people who will walk to end hunger. Please consider being a part of this important effort which raises funds to combat hunger both locally and globally. Locally, funds raised support for CHUM Food Shelf, the Salvation Army Food Shelf, Loaves and Fishes, the Damiano Center, and the Union Gospel Mission. Globally, Church World Service works in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries to meet human needs and foster self-reliance. Because CROP WALKS are ecumenical, interfaith, multi-cultural events, individual donors have the option of designating their gifts to approved international hunger-fighting agencies.

"Opt Out" Opportunity

Did you know that the No Child Left Behind Act now requires high schools to make student contact information available to military recruiters? Did you also know that the law gives parents and guardians the opportunity to opt out their child from military recruitment lists? For the upcoming school year, you must do so by the end of September, and you have to do it each year. Here's how to do it. With this easy to use website, <http://www.ucctakeaction.org/ctt.asp?u=3362&l=10278>, you can automatically generate an opt out letter to your superintendent and to the Pentagon.. Print, sign, stamp and mail your opt out letters to your local superintendent and to the Pentagon. Be sure to follow-up with your district to make sure your child has been opted out.

JUST PEACE

Report back from the Just Peace Picnic

Thanks to all who attended the Just Peace Planning Potluck Picnic on August 15th at Enger Park. It was a lovely evening and we had some great discussion of issues for our committee to focus on this year. Some of the topics that came up, in no particular order, were:

- Human rights • living wage • poverty
- war and peace • creating coalitions
- health care • Philippines Partnership
- simple living • Peak Oil
- homelessness • GLBT issues
- accessible technology
- involving all people in causes
- living justly and non-violently
- bridging the gap between Left and Right • environmental classism/racism
- gun violence • working with elected officials to make change
- economics/love of money
- acceptance and diversity.

This is not an all-inclusive list - but lets us know some of the issues that folks in our congregation are passionate about. If you have items to add to the list, or specific ideas to address any of the "Just Peace" issues, please share them with someone on the committee, or better yet, come to a meeting (2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.). Look for more ways to get involved with specific issues in upcoming Peace Bells!

Looking Ahead—Oct. 22 SHARE Food Drive Rapidly Approaching as Summer Winds Down

Duluth's annual SHARE Community Food Drive is set for Sat., Oct. 22 – the same day as National Make a Difference Day (<http://usaweekend.com/diffday/>).

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.

September's Small Step is focusing on ending hunger. Meeting basic human needs is the first step in working toward a just world. What did Jesus ask us to do? Love God, and Love Others (Matthew 22:37-39). There are two small things we could do this month as part of much bigger efforts around the country:

☞ Get involved with the 2005 Crop Walk, happening September 25th at 1:30 p.m. at the Lakewalk – beginning at First Lutheran Church (1100 East Superior Street). Even if you aren't able to walk, you could gather pledges for the Peace team, and donate money yourself. Funds raised benefit both local efforts at eliminating hunger in our community and global efforts in 80 countries to "meet human needs and foster self-reliance." (See article on next page)

☞ Sojourners is calling on more than 30,000 people to declare to President Bush their intention to fast and pray during the World Summit, which is happening in New York September 14-16 during the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly. Additionally, they would like people to call on the president to stand up for life by committing an additional \$5 billion in development assistance in the 2007 budget, accelerating 100% debt cancellation for the world's poorest countries, and supporting more just trade policies. Fasting could be something as small as giving up one type of food or one meal – and can serve as a personal and spiritual act of solidarity with hungry people around the world. Find more information at http://go.sojo.net/campaign/30000_children

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES—COMING SOON!

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES WILL BEGIN WITH A KICK-OFF ON SEPTEMBER 21

5pm: Children's Choir 5:30: Dinner for all

6pm Faith Weavers, Adult Study, Inquirer's Class (Sept. 21, 28, Oct.5)

6:15pm: Senior Choir 7:30-9pm Youth Group 7:30-9pm Confirmation (Confirmation I—2nd & 4th Weds. Confirmation II—1st & 3rd Weds.)

September 14th: Board and Committee Meetings with dinner provided

FAITH WEAVERS BEGINS SEPTEMBER 21ST!

WEDNESDAYS 6:00-7:00PM
KINDERGARTEN—5TH GRADE
REGISTRATION BEGINS!



Please fill out the registration form to sign your children up for this fall's Faith Weavers Program.

Faith Weavers is an hour of programming on Wednesdays, which focuses on Bible stories through song, crafts, games, creative snack making, drama, journal time, and service.

All kindergarten through 5th grade kids are welcome to join us any time. A \$15 (per year/per kid) donation is requested to help cover the cost of supplies.

IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION

In order to ensure a safe and effective program, we need 1-2 adult helpers at each Faith Weaver session. If your child is enrolled in Faith Weavers, we will ask you to volunteer to help out on a rotational basis throughout the year. The more parents who are willing to help, the fewer times every one will be assigned. Please call Julie with questions or comments.

FW FRIENDS REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Child _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Known Allergies (Including food) _____

Special Needs _____

What else would you like us to know about your child? _____

Adult Helpers—are you willing to help lead/co-teach Faith Weavers on a rotational basis?

Check here if interested. _____

PARISH NURSE NOTES *By Cizzarie Schomberg, Parish Nurse*

As summer winds down, the **Health and Wellness Committee**, like everyone else, is looking ahead to what we will be doing in the coming year, and it's pretty exciting. At the last meeting of the Health and Wellness committee, we decided to focus on three main activities this year.

First, we are working to provide the opportunity for more of us to take a yoga class here at Peace. A number of people expressed interest in **Yoga** on the survey in the spring, and we hope to have at least one more class offered here. (see below) If there is more interest, we could also pursue the possibility of more classes. Yoga offers a great opportunity to enhance overall well-being as well as a great way to strengthen your body.

Second, many of us indicated that *diet/exercise/weight* were areas of concern. As a means of addressing some this, we are going to offer some **cooking classes**, focusing on using whole foods and vegetarian cooking as a way to improve our diets. Monica Liddle and Jodie Cope have offered to teach a cooking class in October that will give people the opportunity to learn more about vegetarian cooking that is quick, easy, and tastes good. Discussion about how to prepare the foods and the opportunity to sample the meals will be included. We also hope to work with the Whole Foods Co-op, offering classes on using whole foods. If there are other areas of interest, please let the Health and Wellness Committee know, as we would like to offer more classes.

Third, we are encouraging parents and youth to be involved in the **Our Whole Lives** program, a sexuality class that comes as a joint effort from the UCC Church and the Unitarian Church. The class is being offered this fall in Duluth at Pilgrim. The class requires a pretty significant time commitment, every Tuesday Night for 12 weeks, but it is a frank and open discussion



about sexuality that isn't being offered in schools. There will be informational meetings at Pilgrim Congregational Church and the Unitarian Church. (Letters have been sent to parents of 7th - 9th graders)

The **Parish Nurse Program** will continue, under the guidance of the committee as well. I will be having office hours again on Thursday from 9-12, and hope to be able to add another day. Marilyn Mayry and I will

be taking the Coordinator Training for the Befrienders Ministry in September, taking over for Cheryl Walsh, who has done a great job getting the ministry established here at Peace. With Pastor Kathy, I am planning a *Service for Healing and Wholeness* later in September (date TBA), as a time to come together to pray for the Wholeness that God desires for us. This contemplative service is a time not only to pray for physical healing, but also for spiritual comfort for ourselves or others.

Are you interested in having your **BP checked at home**? Please let me know and we can arrange a home visit.

Cizzarie Schomberg, RN, Parish Nurse

YOGA Class — Mondays 5:30-6:30

Beginning September 19th, 2005 a new Hatha Yoga class will be offered at Peace Church on Mondays from 5:30-6:30pm in the Fireside Room (1st Monday of the month will be in the Fellowship Hall). Hatha Yoga incorporates breath-work, meditation, postures, and deep relaxation with the intention of increasing flexibility, strength, and alignment. This class is open to the community and designed to accommodate people at the beginner/intermediate level. There are many pricing options: \$58 ~ eight week session, \$9 ~ drop in, \$7 ~ students/senior drop in, as well as low income and punch card options. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Kyle Elden RYT: yogakyl@msn.com or 218-724-0493 or feel free to drop in at any time.



MODERATOR'S REPORT by Linda Lundberg

From looking at the Planning calendar for the upcoming year, we sure are a busy group of folks. We welcome Jonie Langdon-Larson, who is doing her seminary internship at Peace. Her focus will be on small group ministry, visitation and worship. As I write this, I am looking forward to the upcoming planning sessions on the Hal-ler/Rolfson estates. It's an exciting time for the church, as so often in the past we have struggled financially. I hope you were all able to attend one of the sessions—feel free to call me with questions or ideas if you were unable to attend. Pledges did a little summer-slip, so check to see if you can help. Lots going on 'behind the scenes' to keep things running smoothly== thanks to all. Linda..

INTERESTED IN JOINING PEACE?

Next Inquirer's Classes will be **Wednesday Evenings,**

September 21, 28 and October 5 from 6—7 pm

New Members received on October 9

We will have a series of 3 Inquirer's classes starting in September. This is not required for membership, but it is a great opportunity to learn more about our local congregation as well as the UCC denomination. It's a good time to meet others who worship here, ask questions, and see where you might fit in with all that goes on here at Peace Church. You are welcome to come early for our Wednesday supper at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

September 21—The UCC and Peace—an overview of our roots and beliefs told in video, booklet and discussion.

September 28—The grand tour—from the tunnel to the day care, with stops at the library and the prairie garden.

October 5—Peace today—our mission statement and long range planning process, boards and committees, volunteer ministry and pledge forms.

If you have any questions, or if you wish to join Peace Church, talk to Pastor Kathy or call the church office.

Noon Bell Ringing—Have you heard our Peace Bells ringing at noon? A woman from our neighborhood has requested that our bells be rung every day at noon to call people to pray and to eat.

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HURRICANE KATRINA—UCC RESPONSE

We have all been heartbroken to learn of the devastation following Hurricane Katrina. We respond with our prayers and our financial resources.

Below is a prayer written by Rev. John Thomas, president of the UCC, for us to use in our personal devotions. We can also respond by making a gift to Church World Service.

We have several churches in the area and also one of our largest missions, Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. We have included information from this important ministry of the UCC.

Aug. 30, 2005

*Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

- Be present, O God, with those who are discovering that loved ones have died, that homes and jobs are gone. Embrace them in your everlasting arms.

- Be present, O God, with those who suffer today in shelters, hot and weary from too little sleep and too much fear. Let them know they are not alone.

- Be present, O God, with those who wonder what they will find when they return to homes battered by wind and engulfed by flood. Teach them to hope.

- Be present, O God, with those who have not been able to reach loved ones, who are frantic with worry. Offer them consolation.

- Be present, O God, with those who have hardly recovered from last year's storms, who are unsure how much they can bear, who yearn only for quiet. Grant them peace.

- Be present, O God, with all who respond - mayors, police, firefighters, FEMA employees, Red Cross workers, pastors, church disaster response coordinators. Their work is just beginning, and will not end for many months. Strengthen them for service.

- Be present, O God, with the people of the United Church of Christ in storm damaged areas, and especially with the staff and clients of the Back Bay Mission in Biloxi where we fear so much has been damaged. Inspire us by their determination to care for others amid their own trials.

- Be present, O God, to each of us as we pray, that distance may not deter us from generous giving and enduring companionship. Help us remember tomorrow, and next week, and next month.

- Be present, O God, with all affected by Hurricane Katrina. May Immanuel, God with us, our precious Jesus, take every hand and lead us home. Amen.

John H. Thomas, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ

HURRICANE KATRINA—UCC RESPONSE

*The following is information from the UCC web page www.ucc.org
There is much more information available on the website.*

Hurricane Katrina, a category 4 hurricane, stormed ashore the U.S. Gulf Coast this morning with extraordinarily strong winds and heavy rains. Extensive wind damage and flooding is anticipated along the projected track of the storm from the Gulf Coast to the Ohio River Valley. Katrina crossed southern Florida on Friday resulting in 9 deaths and extensive flooding.

One Great Hour of Sharing is rushing \$25,000 to Church World Service for the initial response to Hurricane Katrina.

UCC National Disaster Ministries' staff have been in contact with Conference Disaster Coordinators, Alan Coe from South Central Conference; Will Rabert from Southeast Conference; Bill Wealand from Florida Conference and Shari Prestemon, Executive Director of Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi to express concern and offer One Great Hour of Sharing financial support for clean up and recovery in aftermath of this storm. Contact has not yet been made with staff of Dillard University in New Orleans.

Back Bay Mission staff has evacuated to safety away from the coast and will return to Biloxi as soon as it is safe to do so.

Will Rabert and Alan Coe are prepared to travel to the disaster area, as soon as possible, to provide assistance to UCC congregations, institutions and local communities as they assess recovery needs. The Florida Conference disaster response team in Pensacola is monitoring the situation and will respond as needed.

Church World Service Disaster Response and Recovery Liaisons are on call to work with local agencies to organize to address the unmet needs of those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

How you can help

1. Pray for people who live in communities affected by hurricanes.
2. To help those affected by disasters you may send gifts payable to Peace Church marked for "Emergency USA " with the request they be sent through your Conference office on to Wider Church Ministries.
OR
3. Send gifts payable to Wider Church Ministries and marked in the memo portion "Emergency USA" to the Office for Global Sharing of Resources; Wider Church Ministries; 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.
OR
4. Make a secure on-line donation now at www.ucc.org and clicking on the Emergency USA button <http://www.ucc.org/disaster/d082905.htm>