

Peace United Church of Christ
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Non-profit
 Organization
 US Postage PAID
 Permit No. 84
 Duluth, MN



PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Peace Bell

* REV. KATHRYN NELSON AND TONY CLARK, PASTORS * APRIL 2007

Palm Sunday, April 1

At 10:30 the choir will have two special anthems and our children will lead us in a Palm Processional. At both services we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together.

April 1 Making Easter Real

(9:30am Fellowship Hall)

How do we welcome the return of the light and the promise of life of Easter? We will plant seeds, fill Jelly Bean Eggs, make cards, butterflies, and more!

This activity is for all ages. Join in the fun and help prepare for Easter!

Maundy Thursday, April 5 at 7 pm

This service will include a symbolic foot or hand washing, dramatic reading, sermon by Tony 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

A joint service with Trinity Lutheran and Glen Avon Presbyterian Churches will take place on **Friday, April 6th at 7 pm at Trinity Lutheran** 1108 E 8th St. (2 blocks downhill from Peace)

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 the three choirs will be singing a Joint Anthem.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

Start at **6:30pm** in Peace Church Parking Lot. We will walk the cross down to the Good Friday Service with a community of others, stopping along the way for prayers and readings.

The walk offers a way to reflect on our daily walk to be part of the building of the kingdom that began in the life and ministry of Christ.



Holy Saturday Vigil at 6:30 pm – at Jeannie and Craig Peterson's (4440 London Road)

Gather for a fire, singing, and scripture and readings that use the elements to tell the story of God's ongoing work of salvation for all creation. Service will include communion and the tossing of stones into the lake as part of our time of confession. After the service we will roast marshmallows. Children are welcome!



EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 8th

8:30 am Worship led by our Youth. This service will include a dramatic reading, communion and lots of special music.

9:30- 10:30 Easter Breakfast Fundraiser for Youth (French Toast, Fruit, and Juice)
 There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for kids at **10 am**.

10:30 Traditional Easter Service including Choir Anthems, Children's Choir, solo by Peter Provost, sermon, and brass accompaniment on hymns and anthems. This year the choir will be singing an anthem just recently composed for them by Symeon Waseen, our accompanist..



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

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

Lead Pastor: Rev. Kathy Nelson
 Associate Pastor: Tony Clark
 Children's Ministries: Cynthia Coffin
 Music Director: Jim Pospisil
 Accompanist: Symeon Waseen
 Visitation: Cheryl Walsh

Bookkeeper: Beth Chelseth
 Office Coordinator: Janell Kohls
 Receptionist: Nancy Nelson
 Custodians: Brad Larson and Dan Shepard
 Gabriel Project: Veronica Gaidelis (310-0063)
 Parish Nurse: Cizzarie Schomberg
 Peace Partner Coordinator: Marilyn Mayry

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

EMAIL ADDRESSES: Kathy: knelson@peaceucc.org Tony: tony@peaceucc.org
 Cynthia: coffin@peaceucc.org Beth, Janell or Nancy: office@peaceucc.org
 Cizzarie: cizzarie@care2.com

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

Early in the morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. The Easter story begins in the dark. All resurrection stories begin in the dark, the night time of our hearts. Times in the dark — where have been those moments for you?

Last year on Good Friday the church was open all day. People were in and out — folding bulletins, setting the altar. In the midst of it all a young man came in and said, “Are you the pastor?” “Yes,” I replied. He slumped in the chair in the office and began to cry. “I need to go home — came to find work, I’m living in my car, I have nothing to eat.” It was truly a night time for his soul.

It was dark in Marcelle Beerhalter’s room when Dorrie Godden and I went to visit her last year during Holy Week. She was napping at Lake Shore Lutheran Home. It was her last day there, her last day in Duluth — the town where she had lived all her life. The next day she would be moving to a memory care facility in the Twin Cities, close to two of her daughters. We knocked and woke her up. It was dark, but she recognized us, turned on a little light, and sat up. Dorrie knelt down — on her knees she helped Marcelle put on her shoes. Shoes on so we could walk out of the dark and have a cup of coffee, a last supper of sorts. I knew I had just watched the foot washing.

Early in the morning while it is still dark. No one can encounter resurrection unless they have spent some time in the dark. Mary goes to the tomb early, while it is still dark; her hope is extinguished. It is over — this walk with her teacher Jesus, teacher of a new way, a way of love. It is over. It is finished, as Jesus had said as he hung from the cross. Finished, and now it is dark. She walks to the tomb. It is quiet and still — stars are beginning to fade from the sky.

Mary senses someone behind her. She turns in the changing morning light and sees a man. In the midst of her grief, she sees only a gardener until Jesus says to her — “*Mary*”. An awakening happens within her. Her spirit turns from sorrow and she answers — “*Rabboni*”. Hope comes in a name spoken — Mary. While it is still dark hope comes to her and allows her to move on. We continue to speak each other’s names in hope, and it helps us move on.

Last Good Friday we were able to help a young man go home. I gave him what we had — a bag of bagels and a jar of peanut butter, gas money. I helped him make a phone call home so his family would know he was coming — a little light for his journey.

Last year during Holy Week, Dorrie, Marcelle and I shared a cup of coffee. After we finished the crumble cake and drained our cups, I took out my travel communion set and poured small cups of grape juice and offered a plate of thin wafers. Together the three of us broke the bread and drank the cup — symbols of the fact that Christ was fully present with us in the meal and in all of life. After sharing communion we held hands and prayed the Lord’s Prayer. And Marcelle said with full assurance, “Our Father . . . who are in heaven, hallowed be thy name.” She knew the prayer and the hallowedness of the name. She knew the name of the one who knows each of our names . . . Mary, Marcelle, Chad . . . each of our names. Christ names us quietly, lovingly, and asks us to follow — follow in spite of our fears. Trust that there will be light for our darkness, hope in the midst of our despair. Let us follow our God all the way home into that life that has no end. Let us go — bringing bagels and coffee, peanut butter and the cup — enough for all to share.
Peace friends ~ Kathy

APRIL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Nursery

- 1 Beth Kinney, Nam Provost, Barb Hanka
- 8 Amy Fitzpatrick, Maggie Fink, Maddy Carpenter
- 15 Susan Ranfranz, Jesse Schomberg, Emily Punyko
- 22 Emily Richey, Deb Stricker, Sandy Moore
- 29 Tom and Kim Heinitz, Maddy Carpenter

Coffee Set-Up

- 1 Caroline Harrie, Daina Rosen
- 8 *Easter Breakfast, no coffee hour*
- 15 Sally Larson, Karie Simpson
- 22 Bill and Lisa Pomroy
- 29 Georgette Sarkela, Essie Geiger



Coffee Server/Dishwasher

- 1 Seversons (serve) Kohls (dishwashers)
- 8 *Easter Breakfast, no coffee hour*
- 15 Mary Wergeland, Goltz family
- 22 Linda Lundberg, Barb Kehtel
- 29 Barb Hanka, Jim Johnson

Ushers

- 1 Georgette Sarkela, Pomroys, Mike Swanoski
- 8 Seversons, Laurie and Mariah Berner
- 15 John and Lyn Pegg, Lori Lind family
- 22 Diana Soland, Peter Barnett, David and Holly Jorde
- 29 Devlins, Hysteads

Greeters

- 1 Laurie Berner and Mariah
- 8 Raquel and Bryan Jensen
- 15 Elaine Augustad, Barb Forrest
- 22 Doug and Holly Bowen-Bailey
- 29 Gary and Janell Kohls



Lay Leaders

- 1 Essie Geiger
- 8 Tim Carpenter
- 15 Sandy Moore
- 22 John Ameel
- 29 Holly Bowen-Bailey

Monday Meal

(at Loaves and Fishes)

- 2 Bob & Kay Stevens
- 9 Essie Geiger
- 16 Stacy Crawford
- 23 Lisa Brown
- 30 Andrew Sparrow

Damiano Soup Kitchen

April 8

- 1:30: Kevin Skwira-Brown, Raquel Jensen, Carrie Plamann and Rolf Hagberg
4:00: Leigh McMullen, Pat O’Connell, Betty Greene

Communion Servers

8:30 Service

- 1 Susan Kehtel
- 8 Steve Coll
- 15 McLeans
- 22 Liddles
- 29 White Family

10:30 Service

April 1

Cindy Macaulay



Wednesday Helpers

- 4 4:30 Prep=Hummingbird, Nettie Bothwell
Clean-up=Barb Hanka
- 11 4:30 Prep=Cizzarie Schomberg, Jane Rupel
Clean-up=Spiritual Life Board
- 18 4:30 Prep=Britt and Leon Rohrbaugh
Clean-up=Youth Group
- 25 4:30 Prep=Jerry Cleveland, Marge Anderson
Clean-up=Nat Brown, Patty Beech

COMMUNITY

Northland Birth Network Pregnancy
Info Night on April 12 6 – 9 pm
Peace Church Fellowship Hall



Meditation in Motion Hatha Yoga Classes

Beginner and intermediate students are welcome to the experience of "openhearted & compassionate movements of body and mind." The practice of yoga calms the body and mind, lowers blood pressure, increases circulation and oxygen while toning muscles, nerves, and tendons in different combinations throughout the body. Please attend a complimentary class to see if my teaching style fit your needs. Classes on-going on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room at Peace Church. Contact Leigh McMullen at 525-7804 or email lmcmulle@d.umn.edu for additional information. Certified instructor, 27 years experience.

Women Basketball Players!

Are you a "retired" women's basketball player? Do you yearn to return to the floor and see if you can still make that perfect shot? If any of this entices you, then think about joining a group of "old" women and having some fun. Ladies 30 and over who have played in the past—whether competitive or not—we want to hear from you. If interested contact Karie Simpson 728-4971 or Ann Skwira-Brown 728-3079.



Peace Bell Deadline is
the 20th of the month.



Men As Peacemakers
4th Annual Used Tool Sale
Saturday, May 5 from 7AM-2PM
at Builders Commonwealth

They are currently looking for people to donate tools of all types that are in good working condition. Please contact 727-1939 to arrange for donated tools to be dropped off. All tools donated are tax deductible. And then don't forget to attend the sale! All proceeds will benefit Men As Peacemakers programs such as the Grant Reading Partner Program and the school-based mentoring program.

Rooms for Rent? Grandma's Marathon,
June 15 - 17

Here's a creative way that you can help both the **Northern Communities Land Trust** and people in need of housing during Grandma's Marathon (the weekend of June 15—17). Since there is such a high demand for housing during the marathon each June (as you know, hotels in Duluth and the surrounding area are booked far in advance of the event), we are asking if you would be willing to make available spare bedrooms in your home (or your entire house if you are planning to be out of town that weekend) to people who are in town for the marathon, and then donate the proceeds to the Land Trust. The amount collected from renters and donated to the Land Trust would be a tax-deductible contribution from you to the Land Trust.

For more information, call Heather Murphy at 727-5372 or heather@landtrustduluth.org Thanks for supporting Northern Communities Land Trust!

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

We continue to have two services each Sunday morning. At 8:30 we have a quiet, communion service and our 10:30 service includes children's time and senior choir anthem. The sermon at both services is the same.

Palm Sunday, April 1

Scripture: Isaiah 50: 4 – 9
and Luke 19: 28 – 40

Sermon: "Going On"
Pastor Kathy preaching

At 10:30 the choir will have two special anthems and our children will lead us in a Palm Processional. At both services we will celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Easter Sunday, April 8

8:30 am Worship led by our Youth. This service will include a dramatic reading, communion and lots of special music.

9:30-10:30am Easter Breakfast Fund-raiser for Youth (French Toast, Fruit, and Juice). There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for kids at 10 am.

10:30am Traditional Easter Service including Choir Anthems, Children's Choir, solo by Peter Provost, sermon by Pastor Kathy and brass accompaniment on hymns and anthems. This year the choir will be singing an anthem just recently composed for them by Symeon Waseen, our pianist.

Sunday, April 15

Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 5: 27 – 32
and John 20: 19 – 31

Sermon: by Tony Clark

Sunday, April 22 Earth Day Sunday

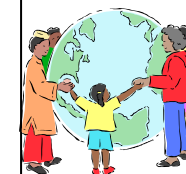
Jesse Schomberg will be our guest preacher this day

Sunday, April 29

Philippine Partnership Sunday

Dr. Eleazar Fernandez, Professor of Constructive Theology at United Seminary, will be our guest preacher. Eleazar is from the Philippines and returns home often. He recently presented a theological reflection piece at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, DC. He will help us reflect further on our partnership as we hold in prayer Tom Little who will be in the Philippines meeting with our three partner congregations during this time.

Celebration of Community Peace Makers **Sunday, April 22nd at 2 pm** **at Mitchell Auditorium (CSS)**



Join us for a great time of singing, puppets, listening to stories told by John Donahue and songs sung by our children's choir and the Echoes of Peace Choir as we honor 3 community peace makers: 1 youth, 1 adult and 1 organization. The youth from Arrowhead Juvenile Detention Center will bake cookies for this event as a way for them to pay it forward. Join in the celebration!

Acolyte Schedule for March

April 1 Megan Manthey, Mychala Marshall
April 8 Alex Martins, Matthew Morris
April 15 Marianne Peterson, Sylvia Bowen Bailey
April 22 Courtney Simpson, Casey Aplin
April 29 Hans Arvidson-Hicks,
Talia Beech Brown

ADULT EDUCATION

ADULT FORUMS — Sundays 9:30am

*Grab a cup of coffee in the Narthex
and join us!*

Topic Study in the Fireside Room

Bible Study in the Conference Room

Sunday, April 1 — Making Easter Real

An intergenerational event in the Fellowship Hall

Fireside Room—Final Brueggeman DVD and discussion (Countering Pharaoh)

Sunday, April 8 — Easter Breakfast for all in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 15 — Daily Devotions

Members of our congregation will share various resources they use in their daily devotional life and the importance of such a discipline. What do you do to stay faithful in your day to day life? Bring any thoughts or resources you have to share!

Sunday April 22 Just Peace Series — Earth Day

Jesse Schomberg and the Environmental Justice Committee “Climate Justice: A Christian Perspective on Global Warming” — in the Fireside Room.

Sunday, April 29 – Dr. Eleazar Fernandez in the Fireside Room

Eleazar will share some of his thoughts and reflections on the situation in the Philippines. This is a time of critical reflection for us as Tom Liddle will be in the Philippines visiting our three partner congregations. Dr. Fernandez wrote in a recent sermon, “We must dare to pursue life and the values of truth, freedom and justice--through daring acts of crying out and expressing our outrage in public against the human rights violation and extra-judicial executions; through daring acts of making the Arroyo administration be accountable for its criminal acts; through daring acts of calling for the end of U.S. financial and military assistance to the Philippine counter-insurgency campaign—a campaign which does not address the roots of insurgency; and, through daring acts of letting justice have its day and bring the killers to the bar of justice.”

Wednesday Night - Adult Forums
6 pm in the Fireside Room

Wednesday, April 4 – Countering Pharaoh – Dr. Walter Brueggeman's DVD and discussion

Wednesday, April 11 – Boards and Committees

Wednesday, April 18 – The history and theology of the United Church of Christ – This is part one of our Inquirer's class, but also great for folks who are already members.

Wednesday, April 25 – Part 2 of our Inquirer's class – a look at our local church structure, budget, history and a tour of our building.

Want to learn more about
Peace Church?

Interested in Membership?

Our next set of Inquirer's Classes will be on **Wednesdays, April 18th and April 25th**. These classes are from 6 – 7:30 pm. Dinner is served at 5:30 and childcare is available. Please note more info in article above.

We will welcome new members on Sunday, May 6th.

Last Lenten Vesper Service

April 4 – 7 pm

This will be the last of our Lenten Services using the Holden Village Evening Prayer Service. Many thanks to Tim Carpenter and Patty Beech for singing this service for us throughout Lent.

PEACE PEOPLE

THANK YOU

- To Peter Provost and Steve Horner for playing at the Annual Chum Drop In Center Memorial Service coordinated by Pastor Kathy. We remembered over 12 Drop In Center guests who had in the last year.
- To Mary Martin for painting the Heritage Room Floor and for getting the new signs for all our rooms.
- To Dick Goese, Alan Peterson and Beth Chelseth for getting our new financial software set up and running.
- To Joan Peterson for preaching on “God not Guns” in March.
- To our Praise and Worship Team, Choir and to Clear for all the amazing music that fills our worship.
- To all those who gave homilies during our Lenten Vesper services – Jim Pospisil, Tom Liddle, Phil Cook, Dennis Crumb and Jerry Cleveland.
- To Dave Cave and Gail Blum for the new letter holders in the narthex. Come and read some of the letters from our Philippine Partner Congregations.
- To Mike and Jen Hudyma for donating a scanner and computer to the church office.
- To Gudrun Witrak and Bill Hardesty for donating lots of frequent flyer miles to allow Gilah Messerer and Phil Hubert, two youth members of our Search Committee, to travel to Tony's ordination in Columbus.
- To the Care and Fellowship Committee for the Birthday Potluck on March 25th and to everyone who contributed to Tony's welcome basket. Special thanks to Daina Rosen who donated the delicious free range roasted chickens.
- To Bill and Brian Kehtel for putting our cornerstone and time capsule back into the brick

wall by the sanctuary.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Steve Coll at Miller Dwan Hospital.
- Vicky Barnes recovering from knee surgery.
- Mark Nelson and Kathy Tate undergoing chemotherapy.

CONGRATULATIONS

- To Mia Vaydich who was baptized on March 25 during the 10:30 worship service.
- To Liz Drivdahl and John Adcock married by Pastor Kathy on March 7 at Gateway Towers.
- Tony Clark's Ordination Service will be held on April 22 in his home church in Columbus, Ohio. Congratulations to Tony on this important milestone in his journey. Three members of our congregation who were part of the Search Committee, Jerry Cleveland, Gilah Messerer and Phil Hubert, will be traveling to Ohio to be present at the service.

REMEMBER OUR SERVICEMEN

Currently two of our members are serving in Iraq—Chad Robinson and Mike Nugent. Mike will be coming home soon. We have an address for Chad here at church—please call or email if you'd like his address to send greetings.

Katie Robinson regularly sends care packages to units in Iraq. She says there are many who don't have families to send them things. If anyone would like to donate items to be sent over, call Katie at 260-5466. She said the most popular item to send is beef jerky—other snacks like granola bars are welcome, as are current magazines and newspapers and Amazon gift cards.

NEW MEMBERS

Here are interviews with some more of the folks that joined Peace Church in February. NOTE: There is a photo album on the table by the bulletin board in the Narthex with photos of some of our newest members. Please help to make them feel welcome at Peace Church!

Julie Deters

Name: Julie Deters

Family members: Ron, Julie, Sam (son, age 10) and Sylvie (daughter, age 7)

What is your vocation? I am a Visual Arts teacher.

What are your hobbies/passions? Painting and drawing (*when I can here and there*), yoga, working out, hangin' out with my family, reading, paddling canoes.

What brought you to Peace? Welcoming, peaceful, nonjudgmental, caring congregation, pastor and atmosphere. Excellent music. Meaningful, educational worship. Kids love it.

What is an obscure fact about yourself that others may not know but would enjoy? My favorite book is Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver.

Nick and Christina Mullozzi

Family members: Tyler (14), Adrianna, (7), Bennett, (5), Joseph, (4) and Annie (our 9 year old cat).

What is your vocation? Nick—ICU RN, Christina—RN, nonpracticing.

What are your hobbies/passions? Christina—KIDS!, Scrapbooking, hiking, traveling; Nick—Fishing, downhill skiing, water-skiing.

What brought you to Peace? Our children visited VBS this last summer (2006) and we were very impressed with the community at Peace.

What is an obscure fact about yourself that others may not know but would enjoy? The whole family (all 6 of us) took the train to Glacier National Park last year!

Comments: We are excited to be a part of the community of Peace Church.

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 April 4th. The price per plant is \$10.

I would like to order ____ Lilies at a cost of \$10 per plant.

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

From: _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



BUILDING PLAN / CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

WE HAVE A PLAN!

A building plan that is. As most of you have hopefully seen, we have a new plan for the sanctuary. It's been on display out in the narthex for a couple weeks now. The building committee has been meeting with the Architects, Melissa Graftaas and Wayne Dahlberg to make sure the congregation's input has been incorporated into the new plan. So far we think they've done a wonderful job of recognizing everyone's ideas and concerns. We hope to have renderings (3-D drawings) by Easter, which will also be available to view in the narthex.

As with all plans, they may change and we may have to adjust accordingly. That's the way life is, and that's the way building plans go. Hopefully, we've addressed the major issues and as we move forward we will only be making minor adjustments to the "plan." We still need everyone's input to make it "your" plan so please feel free to talk to building committee members to let them know what your ideas are. Our committee members are Jim McLean, Dennis Crumb, Betty Greene, John Erickson, Tim Carpenter, Dick Goese, Dan Green and Pastor Kathy Nelson.

We are gearing up for construction and should have a schedule posted in our next article, but I can say it's going to start getting noisy around here sometime this summer, **if we are able to raise at least half of the funds necessary for this project.** And speaking of adjusting, we'll be making arrangements to hold services temporarily in the Fellowship Hall or possibly another location for some portion of the construction period. I'm not sure how this will all shake out yet, but with our wonderful staff and volunteers I know Peace Church can do it. We ask for your patience with this process and keep in mind how pleased we all were when Phase I became a reality. ~ Dan Green



"Opening Doors, Building Peace, Praising God" was chosen as the theme for our 2007 Capital Appeal because it represents the continuation of our first appeal three years ago and adds the dimension of creating a new worship space. With this new building project, we will be opening doors for accessibility in our worship space, creating more seating and redesigning the worship space to better meet our needs.

Pastor Kathy, Justin Olson and I have been meeting regularly with Steve Olson of the James Company to plan the Appeal. We are currently recruiting members of the Leadership Team, which includes Spiritual Emphasis Leaders, Communication Leaders, Advance Visitors, Delivery Leaders and Event Leaders. If you have not been contacted and would like to help, please let one of us know. There are training meetings set up for April 19th and 26th for the Leadership Team. The Appeal will run during May, with Celebration Sunday set for June 3rd. We ask that all members and friends of the congregation pray for the success of this project.

The new building plans are in the Narthex. Take a look! They are beautiful.

"Worship at Peace Church renews, refreshes and challenges me. Space affects my worship experience. I am involved in this project because I believe..." ~ Lisa Pomroy

FROM PASTOR TONY

*I'm gonna move when the Spirit says move,
I'm gonna move when the Spirit says move,
And when the Spirit says move, I'm gonna move, Lord Lord,
I'm gonna move when the Spirit says move.*

This song has been stuck in my mental i-pod, playing over and over again. It's a song about listening and responding to the Spirit, which seems appropriate on so many levels for me right now. It is a leap of faith to move anywhere, and the song gives me assurance that I can trust the Spirit in the move.

I know this is my story right now—moving—but it is also the story of our faith, which means it's the story of all of us. I've been wondering if Sarah and Abraham had to figure out where to do their banking when they moved from Haran to the land of Canaan. Maybe it took the Israelites so long to get from Egypt to Israel because they were stuck on hold for 40 years while they attempted to change their billing addresses for their department store credit cards. Did Ruth and Naomi unwrap all their dishes only to be left with mounds of paper to have to recycle? With all the boxes in my house, I understand why Jesus told the disciples to "... take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts..." (Mark 6:8); it is so much easier to move with nothing than worry about all the stuff. But when the disciples got where they were going, did they have to figure out where the grocery store and Target were?

It seems that our faith has been worked out by people on the move. If you look at the Biblical stories as a whole progression, you see our forebears creating a theology of moving. As the Ancient Israelites moved in the Exodus from Egypt to Israel, they were seeking the place where their ancestors worshipped their God in Israel, where God was believed to be more holy or more present. Then during the Exile, the Israelites asked, "How can God still be on our side if we cannot worship at the Temple, where we believe God lives?" In the midst of moving, the Ancient Israelites figured out that God is not fixed to one location and can be worshipped anywhere. This is a standard basis of our faith today, but at the time was fairly radical thought for any religion.

We understand today that our God is mobile, or perhaps better to say, universally present. Our God is over all creation; God is the same here in Duluth as in St. Louis. This is comforting, since I would hate to have to learn a new God! I'm glad that when the spirit says move, I can rely that God will not abandon me in the move. I'm also grateful that the members of Peace Church have been God-bearers to me in showing me the ropes! ~ Pastor Tony

BOARDS & COMMITTEES All boards and committees will meet on **Wednesday, April 11**. Dinner is served from 5:30 until 6 pm with meetings beginning at 6 pm. This month committees will need to begin work on their annual reports which are due on May 1, and also let Linda Lundberg or Pastor Kathy know who is planning to continue on their committees for 2007 – 2008. Our annual congregational program meeting will be on May 20th at 11:30am.

COORDINATING COUNCIL The Coordinating Council will meet on **Tuesday, April 17th** at 7 pm in the Conference Room. Visitors are always welcome.

HISTORICAL NOTES—"BITS OF HISTORY"

In honor of this year's 50th anniversary of the UCC, our Heritage Committee is writing articles about our history. This month they found a couple of entries from old Bulletins that are of interest as we make plans for another building project. These writings refer to our previous location at 3rd St. and 10th Ave. E. (now an apartment building.)

"A Bit of History" ~ January 30, 1944

This church was founded on March 11, 1872. On March 22nd of that same year, two plots of ground were offered the very small congregation as building sites: One of these lay on Third Street and the other on Fourth, both bordering on Tenth Ave. E. The congregation voted to accept the location on Third Street.

That same year, on August 25th, it was decided to build a church with a residence for the pastor in the basement. On the following year, the new church was dedicated to the glory of God with a debt of only \$700.00.

"A Bit of History" ~ February 13, 1944

Have you ever wondered why our church, located as it is on the lower side of the street, was built so high out of the ground that fifteen steps are necessary to reach the main auditorium? When the church was first built, the reason for that was perfectly plain. The basement was used as a residence by the pastor. Fearing that, if sunk down too much, the basement would be always damp, and thus very unhealthy for those living down there, the fathers of this church wisely built the basement above the ground, thus providing their pastor with a dry and comfortable home. Today, of course, those steps are one of our major hazards and problems.

In the early 1890s, the present roomy parsonage was built. About the same time, the present ceiling and interior finish was added to the church. Up to that time, the bare studding of the walls and rafters of the roof were uncovered. Someone has said: "The church was just a shell—it was all on the outside." Covering the walls with lath and plaster, and building the ceiling cost the congregation \$2500, all of which was on hand, when the congregation moved back again into the church, but \$300. By means of a house to house campaign, the members of the Ladies Aid had that debt paid off in a very short time. Ei, ei, wenn wir unsre Frauen nicht haetten!



*Peace Church Library
Check it out!*

This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Church of Christ. If you are interested in digging into the historical roots of our denomination, formed from the union of the Evangelical and Reformed and the Congregational Christian Church, our church library has two books written by one of the founders, Louis H. Gunemann. The first, *The Shaping of the United Church of Christ*, (call number 285.834 GUN) is about the founding, and traces the roots of the two founding denominations, as well as placing this union in the context of the changes going on in our society as a whole.

The second, *United and Uniting*, (call number 285 GUN) is about the first thirty years of the denomination and where the vision is going.

Look on the shelves in the Narthex for copies of these books.

LOOKING AHEAD

Annual Spring Rummage Sale, Saturday May 19

The Peace Church annual spring rummage sale will be held on May 19 in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will go to Tom Liddle's Philippine trip.

As in the past, no rummage will be accepted before **Thursday afternoon May 17**. Items can also be brought in to the church Thursday evening and all day Friday.

As you may know, there is a cost to recycle electronics—printers, scanners, CPUs, laptops, fax machines are currently \$5 each at the Materials Recovery Center; video equipment, TVs and monitors are \$10 each. **We discourage you from bringing in any electronic items to the sale.** Anyone who does, must have their name and phone number attached so we can contact you if the item doesn't sell and you can pick it up and recycle it. It can get quite pricey for us to recycle multiple items, and it would be a shame if we had to divert any of the money from Tom's trip to pay for recycling!!!

PEACE PROM MAY 5th

Save the date because this is one event you don't want to miss! It's our 3rd annual Peace Prom from 7-11 p.m. at the Elk's Club on Haines Road. This is the perfect excuse to wear something you don't usually get to wear (formal, vintage, ethnic, eclectic...) and hang out with a lot of other great Peace members and friends. Music will be varied and upbeat, with room to dance for those so inclined. There'll be a cash bar, light snacks, and corsages or boutonnieres to complement any outfit made-to-order for a nominal donation.

We'll be giving out awards to singles and couples in a variety of categories including creative dress. (Bonus points this year for incorporating duct tape into your Peace Prom outfit.) Tickets are only \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, available in the office or from Carrie Plamann or Nadine Hubert. The only date you need is this one: Saturday, May 5th! (Proceeds from this event are going toward upgrading the Fellowship Hall coffee brewing system.)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2	Melissa Kadlec Nore Heinitz Judith Arvold	16	Bo Brown
3	Jason Proetz Adrianna Hudyma	17	Cindy Macaulay Lillian Day Todd Hayes Bill Pearson
4	Kristina Green Sophie Wilkowske Davis Provost Carl Sjoding	19	David Sipila Brita Larsen
7	Tom Heinitz Kai Soderberg Nadine Hubert	20	Grace Richey Rachel Scott
8	Julia Finch- Newkirk Michael Poe Cooper Carlson	21	Sophie Netland
9	Lyle Staubs	22	Betsy Mork Justin Olson Brad Larson
10	Matt Hlina Paula Young Patty Johnson Lyn Kaim Andrew Sparrow	23	Cylar Stegmann
12	Gabriel Taggart Mary Christensen Kailin Hatlestad	25	Harold Peterson Jasper Timm
14	Bud Trnka Nicki Seibert	26	Marge Anderson Mary Nienaber Joel Filiatrault
15	Keely Shrake Kelly Larson	27	Cathie Ham Lucas Finch
		30	Lyn Clark Pegg Mike Schrage Bryan Jensen



YOUTH GROUP

For all 6th—12th graders!

Meets each Wednesday

7:00-7:30 pm Worship

7:30-8:30 pm Youth

Group/Confirmation

Upcoming Events

Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30pm for 6th through 12 graders.

April 4 Easter stuff

April 11 NO ACTIVITIES

April 18 Where do you see God?

April 25 Garbage Clean up

Saturday, April 7th 10:00am to Noon

Junior and Senior High youth – Come and help fill and hide Easter eggs, cut up fruit, and decorate for Easter Sunday! *This is a...*

Confirmation Class Requirement!!

Stay for Pizza, and move on to...

ROCK CLIMBING

Saturday April 7 — 1-4pm

All junior and senior high youth — come rock climbing with the youth group on Saturday, April 7th. 1-4pm at Vertical Endeavors in Canal Park.

Cost: \$14. Make it a day to hang out. First come help fill Easter eggs from 10-12, eat pizza together and then head to rock climbing. We need at least 8 kids to go! Sign up in the narthex.



PARENTS

If you can chaperone or help plan a youth event... Contact Tony.

YOUTH

Second Year Confirmation Schedule

Wednesday, April 4 — Class at 7:30pm. Resurrection – Planning to lead the Early Easter Sunday Service. Holy Spirit Papers are due at this time!!!

Sunday, April 8 – Easter Sunday
Help to lead the early service and work on Easter Breakfast.

Wednesday, April 18 – class at 7:30pm
Stepping Out into the World.

Friday, May 4 – **Confirmation Overnight**

Gather at Church at 4pm and head up the shore – return by noon on Saturday. Mandatory for Confirmation We will be staying at a cabin at Larsmont Cottages. We will be contemplating the confirmation decision, planning the service and taking some time for hiking, a swim and a bonfire. This is a required meeting for confirmation.

Wednesday, May 2 – No Meeting due to the overnight

Wednesday, May 16 – Final Class in preparation for Confirmation Sunday.

Sunday, May 20 – **Confirmation Sunday** at 10:30 Worship. Invite your friends and relatives. **Special breakfast** for you and your families at 9:30 am.

Senior High Church School

Don't sleep in this month!

April's theme is resurrection!
Come watch Narnia!

April 1	NO CS - Making Easter Real
April 8	NO CS - Easter Egg Hunt
April 15	Narnia
April 22	Narnia
April 29	Narnia/Coffee/ Discussion

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES — THE SCHEDULE

5pm: Children's Choir in Music Room 5:30: Dinner for all 6pm: Faith Weavers
6:15pm: Senior Choir in Music Room;
Adult Study/Inquirer's Class (April 18 & 25) in Fireside Room (see page 4)
7-8:30pm: Youth Group/Confirmation (Confirmation II—1st & 3rd Weds.)
Only dinner (5:30) & Board and Committee meetings (6pm) on **April 11th**

NO WED. ACTIVITIES APRIL 11th (Duluth Public School Spring Break)

FAITH WEAVERS

WEDNESDAYS 6-7PM
KINDERGARTEN—5TH GRADE

Faith Weavers (K-5th) We have been making crafts, acting out stories, and playing games the last few months and with only 6 more sessions left, we're kicking into high gear on Wednesdays from 6-7pm. Join us!



This month themes:

April 4: Mount of Olives

April 11: NO FAITH WEAVERS

April 18: Barnabas

**April 25: Lois, Eunice,
and Timothy**

We have been averaging 20 kids on Wednesdays! Thanks to those parents who have seen how much energy we have in the classroom on Wednesday nights and have stayed to help. You are ALWAYS welcome to lend a hand...

Last Lenten Vespers 4/4 at 7pm

*Check Page 4 for info on
Wednesday evening classes*

*Check the Wednesday Helper
Schedule on Page 21*

Peace Kid's Choir taking a field trip!!!

Celebration of Community Peacemakers

Sunday, April 22nd

Meet at 1:30pm @ Mitchell Auditorium St. Scholastica

The kid friendly program starts at 2pm. We will gather at 1:30 to warm-up our voices and rehearse our songs. We will be singing two songs for this celebration...

**"Let Your Little Light Shine"
and "What Can One Little Person Do"**

We have done both of these songs before and they are on your Kid's Choir CD. Please review the songs on your own and let Cynthia know if you can or cannot perform with us on the 22nd.

Interfaith Kids Choir—Sing for Peace

"Puzzle Peace" is the new interfaith kids choir for ages: pre-K (with an adult) through 5th grade who wants to SING FOR PEACE!

**Rehearsal: Sunday, April 1 (no fooling),
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
145 Winona St, Duluth, MN 55803

We will sing 2 really cool songs at this year's Art of Peace event on **Saturday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m.**

(rehearsal at 5:30 with light supper)
at Harbor City International School.

Let's join our voices for PEACE in the world and have some fun too!

For more information, call director, Cyndi Gritzmacher at 728-9774.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Traveling Toilets ??

The Youth Group is trying something new this year to raise money for Work Camp in Chicago this summer.



Tom Little rescued a couple of old toilets, and we are going to make use of them. In the month of April, one of these toilets could appear on your lawn. Don't worry; it will be decorated beautifully and will be sure to get the attention of your neighbors. Now, if you really do not want to see one of these toilets in your front yard, you have the chance to buy some insurance. The cost is only \$5, and you will be guaranteed protection from the traveling toilets. If you are up for the fun, here are the options if you discover a toilet in your yard:

\$10 for removal

\$15 for removal and to choose next location

\$20 for removal, choose next location, and guaranteed toilet does not come back

Look for the table in the narthex on Sundays in March to sign-up for insurance. Remember it is for a good cause!



Shares! Shares! Shares!

It's that time again when the youth start "hawking" shares after Church. Help the youth get to Chicago this summer to spend a week with DOOR—purchase a share!

One Share costs \$10

One Share = a handwritten postcard from the youth during their trip describing their experience.

Women's Retreat

Caribou Highlands Resort
near Lutsen on April 20-21

Theme — "Messengers"

There is still time to sign up – call the office or sign up in the Narthex.

We will be staying at Caribou Highlands Resort near Lutsen. Many thanks to Lisa Pomroy for arranging this for us. The Retreat will officially run from Friday, April 20th beginning with the evening potluck meal at 7pm until Saturday afternoon. There is a two night option for any who would like more time. The cost is \$40 per night. Everyone will have her own bed. **We will have a brief but important meeting at 11:30am on Sunday, April 1st in the Fireside Room.**

Our theme is "Messages", and we will be using the poem, "Messages" by Mary Oliver as our opening devotion. We are asking everyone to bring a poem, letter or a bit of prose that has been meaningful to them. We will create something out of our messages. There will also be a time for Bible study on Saturday morning. We will be using Revelation 12: 1 – 8, 13 – 16, the woman clothed with the sun. This wild reading was a message of hope to the early church in a time of fear.

Our meals will be coordinated. You will be assigned one meal to help prepare. If you have preferences, let Cizzarie Schomberg know. Snack food is also welcome!

We will be creating prayer shawls—bring yarn and crochet hooks or knitting needles if you have them. Also, Brenda Butterfield will be helping us create our own bath salts, a way of taking care of ourselves so we can listen more deeply.

Consider joining us for this great time away to meet other women from Peace Church.

ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

PALS — Thursday April 26 *An Evening of Magic*

PALS (Peace Adults Learning and Socializing) will meet THURSDAY, APRIL 26th, for an evening of magic with John Bushey. We will meet at **Blackwoods** on London Road. A room has been reserved for us at no charge but with the understanding that we will be ordering off the menu. The evening will begin at 6:00 PM. John will thrill us with his magic powers from 7:00-7:45 PM. Many thanks to Pat Devlin for all the arrangements. Please let Linda Goese know if you are planning to attend (525-3412 or goese@chartermi.net)

Brown Bag Bible Study

Weds., April 25 at noon

The Brown Bag Bible Study Group will meet on the second floor of the Benedictine Health Center. Bring your lunch—coffee and dessert provided. Cheryl Walsh will lead the study.

Questions on the Way

Every Tuesday at 12 noon

Bring a lunch, bring a quote, bring your questions, bring your stories!

Parents of Children with

Special Needs Support Group

Wednesday April 4 at 6pm

Connect with other families here at Peace. It's a time to share, connect or vent as needed. Come for dinner at 5:30—kid's programming & childcare provided at 6.



2007 Conference

OPENING OUR DOORS
OPENING OUR HEARTS

*"Love One
Another"*

APRIL 27 & 28

*Helping congregations become more
open and affirming to GLBT people*

Peace Church will be co-sponsoring this 7th Annual Conference this year, along with Gloria Dei Lutheran.

Friday evening's opening worship is at 7pm, followed at 8pm by a concert by the musical group "Bread for the Journey" at Gloria Dei.

The keynote speaker is Kelly Fryer, author of four books on church growth. She was a Lutheran pastor, but lost her credentials after coming out. Saturday's sessions start at 9am with an opening worship and music by "Clear". The day's events include speakers, a film "Coming Out, Coming In", break-out groups and closing worship.

We need bars & cookies for Friday —sign up now!

Fresh look for the Fellowship Hall

As we look towards temporarily moving our Worship during our next building project, the property committee is planning to re-paint the Fellowship Hall. We will be painting on **April 20 and 21**. If you are interested in helping out, contact Doug Bowen-Bailey at 722.7166 or dbb@digiterp.com.

CARING FOR OUR KITCHEN!

Calling all persons interested in maintaining a clean kitchen! The deep cleaning has basically been done, but it would help to have persons willing to meet periodically and keep it up. **Saturday April 21st at 9 am** has been set aside for that purpose. The more the merrier, and the faster the work can be completed. Please let Mary Martin (720-5894) know if you plan to attend.

Thanks to everyone for all you do to clean the kitchen after church events! It is appreciated!

CHURCH SCHOOL

WHAT A TEAM!

By Cynthia Coffin, Children's Ministry

Greetings everyone. Pastor Tony Clark is finally here, which means we all can take a deep breath. Ah. Even more good news is that I get to stay on staff at Peace and continue to work with our children. I will continue to coordinate Sunday School, Faith Weavers, Kid's Choir and the nursery, but I will pass the torch to Pastor Tony, who will coordinate Youth Group and minister to our youth ages 6th grade and up.

This year has been quite a ride. Somehow, Pastor Kathy and the church staff were able to maintain our programs without a fulltime Youth Pastor. This was possible because of the great volunteers we have at Peace. Julie Flotten continues to come Wednesday nights and help plan fun youth activities. The youth have found a place in her heart and she can't stop coming! Nick and Essie's commitment to our youth is inspiring as well. They too come on Wednesdays, chaperone events, and even help out in Faith Weavers. Jonie Langdon-Larson is another long-time faithful youth minister that keeps showing up! How many years has it been? Ten? Amazing! Together, we have prayerfully planned Wednesday nights this year and had your youth on our hearts. Thank you all of you!

The number of children continues to grow here at Peace. It is a blessing, but it also means we need more support from loving adults. If you are interested in getting involved and ministering to our children, please give me a call. We need you!

~ Blessings, Cynthia

Church School

We're on the road to Easter...this month we travel with Jesus as he journeys to Jerusalem. And on 2 Sundays this month, join us for special activities:

April 1st Making Easter Real

9:30am in the Fellowship Hall

How do we welcome the return of the light and the promise of life of Easter? We will plant seeds, fill Jelly Bean Eggs, make cards, butterflies, and more!



This activity is for all ages. Join in the fun and help prepare for Easter!

April 16—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 French Toast, Fruit, and Juice for a free will donation. Proceeds go to the youth for work camp. 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.



Special Notes

to our fabulous CS teachers

Church School Supplies are in the double door closet across from the Music Room in the new downstairs section. If you don't see what you need, leave a note for Cynthia she'll get it for you.

THE GABRIEL PROJECT

The **Gabriel Project** is a collaboration between **CHUM and several Hillside congregations**. Our collective goal is to help support families in our collective neighborhoods of worship and to strive for economic and social justice throughout Duluth. Here are some upcoming events!

Are you looking for a way to get involved with the excitement of Grandma's Marathon?

If so, we have opportunities for you!! Whether you are a runner, or someone wanting to donate money or time, we could use your help! The Gabriel Project is holding their 7th annual marathon fundraiser **"Running to help keep people on their feet"**, and we're looking for all who want to get involved. If you are planning on running or would like to volunteer at the water station, please let your pastor know or call Veronica at 310-0063. Last year we had 30 runners, 50 volunteers and raised over \$3000...let's see if we can't beat those numbers so that we can continue serving families in need in our community!



RECYCLING PEACE

Anyone getting rid of baby things? Call Katie Augusta (especially needed—changing table, Baby Bjorn type carrier.)

New to town, new to church—looking to network for employment opportunities (prefer working with people, possibly in retail) Flexible. Call Lynette 525-0525

Is Climate Change a Moral Issue?

We think it is, and we believe our faith calls us to action to protect creation. At this time, most major faith traditions also recognize the importance of this issue. Folks from several Duluth churches have been meeting to discuss how faith communities in our area can work together on the issue of climate change. Are you interested? We're looking for others who want to help us develop an interfaith climate change program in the Duluth area, in partnership with the Arrowhead Interfaith Council. We're starting; join us soon! Please contact Jesse Schomberg at jschombe@umn.edu or 525-0325 for more information and our next meeting date.

**Bienvenido de Nicaragua!
Greetings from Nicaragua!**

Mis Amigo/as, For the past two weeks I have had the good fortune to be in San Juan del Sur located on the Pacific coast of southern Nicaragua. The beaches are reputed to be among the best throughout Central America for surfing; however, my purpose was to attend Spanish language school.

Besides immersing myself into the arduous task of speaking and understanding Spanish, I have been traveling on Isla de Ometepe situated on Lago Nicaragua, a large freshwater lake south of Managua. Every day I learn more about a people, culture, and country that I admire and love so much!

For those who would like to hear and see more (I have photos!), I propose we gather in the Fellowship Hall on April 4th, Wednesday evening, at 6:30 pm. We also could discuss the possibility of a Witness for Peace delegation to Nicaragua during the summer of 2008. I envision an intergenerational delegation focusing on three crucial issues facing the people today - healthcare, education, and subsistence farming.

Hasta luego. See you soon on April 4th!
Lyn Clark Pegg

Pastor Kathy's Sabbatical

June 4 - September 6, 2007
"What Makes Our Hearts Sing"

Plans are underway for Pastor Kathy's upcoming sabbatical, which will begin on June 4th and continue for 3 months. The Human Resources Committee has created a job description for an Interim Lead Pastor and will soon be interviewing for the position. The Lily Foundation Grant will cover the costs of the Interim Pastor, congregational training and Pastor Kathy's plans for her time away.

Kathy will be traveling to be part of the Iona Community in Scotland where she will live in intentional community and study what it means to be a Just Peace Church. After her time of study her family will join her for time to travel together. Upon returning home she hopes to work on a book that she and Rabbi Amy Bernstein are collaborating on. Kathy will also take time for a watercolor class.

In August she will walk the Breast Cancer 3 day walk with her mom and sister. If you'd like to sponsor her in this 60 mile walk there are cards in the office. At the end of her sabbatical time, Kathy and Tim will take a week to be alone together.

There is also money built into the grant for the congregation and Kathy to do some training and reflecting on being a growing congregation. The sabbatical committee continues to work on these plans. If you have ideas contact: Tom Hystead, Patty Beech, Doug Bowen-Bailey, Mary Neinauer or Jerry Cleveland (the Sabbatical Committee.) Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this Sabbatical and the Lily Grant a reality!

The March Coordinating Council meeting included these highlights:

The Council welcomed Associate Pastor, Tony Clark. We are excited to have Tony join our congregation and share in the work and life of the church.

February Financial statements – We are slightly behind in pledged [\$5,317] and non-pledged giving [\$3,731] due to the weekend snow storms. Expenses are below budget as well [\$7,665.] If you are not able to bring your pledge to church consider mailing it to the office. This will help keep us on track.

The coming months will be filled with preparations for a busy summer. An ad hoc committee is working to coordinate Pastor Kathy's Sabbatical period, mid-June through early September. We are at work to assure that worship, the youth work camp and VBS will all proceed as usual, even while Kathy is away.

The Building Peace Committee reported on the building designs and specifications changes made to reflect the congregation's comments during the January meetings. Please take a moment to review the plans that are posted in the Narthex. We hope to have some 3-dimensional drawings in the near future.

The Annual Meeting in which we elect the 2007-2008 Coordinating Council and appoint Boards and Committees will be Sunday, May 20. If you have interest in a particular part of our church life and want to participate let Pastor Kathy, Pastor Tony or me know.

I wish you all a Joyous Easter!

~ Tom Hystead, Moderator

Tom Liddle Trip to the Philippines

Tom Liddle from our congregation will be leaving for the Philippines April 23rd and staying for two weeks. He will be representing the Partner Churches as an election observer while he is there, and also spending time with each of our three partner congregations. Please hold Tom in your prayers at all times, but we especially ask you to pray for Tom each day with your evening table grace, as Tom will be beginning his day about that time.

Looking for Scrapbook Items

Pastor Kathy and Mary Martin are compiling scrapbooks to send with Tom Liddle to our partner churches. Do you have any informal pictures of Peace Church people or activities? Or do you have a message you would like to pass onto our partner churches? Call Mary M. at 720-5894, or drop them off at the office.

One in the Body of Christ: Statement in Response to Killings in Philippines

The United Church of Christ (in North America) (UCC) and the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), through our predecessor denominations, have been in partnership for over 100 years.

We celebrate the enduring relationship of the UCC and Global Ministries with the UCCP, as our Executive Minister of the UCC's Wider Church Ministries, Reverend Cally Rogers-Witte, had the joyous occasion to participate in the installation service of Bishop Eleazer Pascua as the current General Secretary of the UCCP in 2006. However, even as we celebrate the fullness of our relationship over the years with joy, we also recognize that we have shared tears over the years in our partnership. The body of Christ in the Philippines, in all its expressions, has been broken by the reality of violence, intimidation, and extra-judicial killings, committed under the increasingly repressive presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, under the cynical pretense of counter-insurgency. We mourn for the tremendous loss of life and leadership in communities across the Philippines that has occurred since 2001, for the murder of journalists and advocates, of labor leaders and community organizers, and including especially the targeted killings as "enemies of the state" of church clergy and lay leaders. We remember these honored victims and count them among the saints and prophets martyred through the ages. Out of our deep and abiding relationship with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, we suffer with our ecumenical partner in particular for the tragic assassinations of dozens of faithful among their flock-innocents as it were slaughtered for speaking the truth and standing with the people in the midst of their need.

We are approaching the celebration of Easter, which marks the resurrection of hope in the wake of despair at Christ's crucifixion. As the body of Christ was broken that the mission of the Church to minister to the suffering of the world would be born, may the brokenness experienced by our church family today, suffering together with the United Church of Christ and all our ecumenical brothers and sisters in the Philippines as one in the body of Christ, one day soon experience the wholeness of resurrection, enlivened by that vision expressed by the UCCP of a transformed society that is truly "pro-people" and truly free.

In Christ,

Derek Duncan, Program Associate for Global Advocacy and Education

Our call, our Prayer and our Hope for Peace

As a church, we deplore the recent attack to our church members by the "thief that kills and destroys" (John 10:10). This is an affront to human dignity and Christians should not condone such.

We denounce/condemn the evil design to harass and attack law-abiding citizen and violations of fundamental rule of law. The perpetrators must be apprehended and put into trial so that justice and peace will prevail.

We call on all government authorities to investigate this recent assassination attack on legitimate peace advocates of the church and bring to court all those who brazenly and arrogantly violate the human rights provisions.

We are also encouraging UCCP local churches and individual members to offer a prayer for the bereaved family of the late Renato Pacaide, a worker with the fisherfolks and a member of a UCCP Local church in Davao del Sur who was brutally killed by unknown assailants last March 2, 2007 in Digos City and let us also pray for Mr. Priel Booc, a community development worker of UCCP-SMDC who receives death threat after faithful services and with his down to earth integration and commitment with the poor peasants and lumads, that peace and justice in our land will be restored and all perpetrators of injustice be apprehended and tried in the court. May there be a speedy investigation and trial of this recent attack on peace-justice advocates of the Church. Let us be vigilant in going against any form of abuse of power, and violations of our fundamental rights as people, church and individuals.

We enjoin all the Filipino people to participate in the forthcoming National Electoral Exercise by actively working in all efforts towards electoral reforms, exercising their right to suffrage, and by upholding/ensuring a peaceful, clean and honest election.

The Storm Will Pass — Exodus 5:1-14, 22-23

"I am afraid that things are going to get worse before they get better."

Moses had appealed to Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go into the desert to worship God, but the king accused them of loafing on the job (v. 5:1,17) so he multiplies their work, their suffering and the situation went from bad to horrible.v.18.

Even when we are obedient to the Lord, the skies of adversity may not always clear immediately circumstances may get worse before they improve. But thanks be to God, His grace will sustain us, and the storm will pass. *Mart. De Haan*

Have faith in God, the sun will shine though dark your path may be today, His love has planned your way and mine, Have faith in God, Have faith always. *Anon*

"It's always darkest before the dawn."

For the UCCP,

BISHOP CONSTANTE D. CLARO UCCP-SEMJur

United Church of Christ in the Philippines — Southeast Mindanao Jurisdiction