



PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST


Peace Bell

DULUTH MN ~ REV. KATHRYN NELSON , PASTOR ~ DECEMBER 2008

4th Annual Peace Church Artist's Cabaret and Silent Auction
Saturday, December 6th: 6:30 PM-9:00 PM

We welcome everyone to attend the 4th Annual Silent Auction & Cabaret.
Please tell your friends and family about the great night of entertainment, socializing & shopping!
Admission is \$10 (adults). Refreshments served ~ Free babysitting!! Make a night of it!

Some of the Featured Cabaret Artists



The Peace Puppets, Aiden and Dan
Fitzpatrick, Sam and Ron Deters,
the Rupel/Wilkowske family, Sharon
Kirtley, Leon Rohrbaugh, Scott Mead,
Sarah Engebretson, Claire Smith, Mary
Nienaber, Anita Nelson, Nettie Bothwell,
Sally Larson, Tim Robinson,
Beth Bartlett and Dave Winchester,
Jim Johnson and Barb Hanka,
Jane and Peter Aas, Rick Dallum, and Clear!

Silent Auction: Get a start on your holiday shopping!

We have the usual Peace Church variety of items to bid on!
Everything from pickled beets to Navajo pottery,
Knitting kits to a night at a Lutsen resort,
Fine jewelry to a woolen vest and canvas mittens,
Truck hauling to a gourmet dinner for 8,
Beach chairs to chocolate suckers,
Composting worms to a session of Reiki,
An Elsie Cook original pastel and a Dave Cave wooden bowl!
There's truly something for everyone!

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO COME!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP Wednesday, December 24th Two evening services at 4 pm and 10 pm.

The earlier service will have a hymn sing half an hour before worship begins. This service includes anthems by our children's choir, children's time by our Peace Puppeteers, a chancel drama, and will end in candle light and "Silent Night" played by Barb, Sergei and Diana Hanka.

The 10 pm service will have anthems by our senior choir, brass accompaniment, a homily by Pastor Kathy and will also end in candlelight and Silent Night played by Cathy Ameal on the harp.

Join us this holy evening as we worship our God with Us!

**Christmas Eve Supper - 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall
All are Welcome!**



There will be a Christmas Eve supper of soup and salad following the 4 pm service. Join us in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great time to gather with others who may be alone or whose families are far away. Please RSVP to Pastor Kathy or the office, so we know how much soup to make. Special thanks to Eve Stein and Cindy and Jim McLean for the decorating and preparing for this dinner.

FROM PASTOR KATHY NELSON

We come to worship to shake off the cold and catch our breath in the midst of our lives. We pause and breathe, trusting the one who gave us our first gasp and will catch our souls in with our final sigh. Taking time to pause, breathe and pray is especially important in this season of Advent, as we move toward Christmas.

Mary and Joseph must have had to pause in their journey. Walking 90 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem — short of breath perhaps, at times over the dusty roads and up and down the hills. Breathe . . . through the fear of what might happen. They make it to Bethlehem and there is no room . . . She labors, breathe, a room is found, breathe, labor, breathe. Breathing is so important in birthing — focus on the air in and out. Breathing is so important for all of us in times of unknown, endings and new beginnings. A deep breath and birth. Jesus takes his first breath, life anew.

She wraps him in swaddling cloths, bands of material, binds him tight, to keep him safe . . . Luke mentions these bands of cloth — three times in this story. He makes a point, swaddling was normal and good care of a new born, but these swaddling clothes are also a reminder of another wrapping in cloth, a linen shroud—when there is no more breath in him.

But that first night he breathes softly. Wrapped in this linen Mary lays her baby in a manger. She sings him to sleep as he lays in the place where donkey and cattle feed. As she sings him to sleep, does she have any idea how many people he will feed – 5,000 by the sea of Galilee, 12 in an upper room, and the bread continues to be broken and the wine poured out.

We come to worship on Christmas eve to catch our breath. In Hebrew and Greek, breath and spirit are the same word. We come to be renewed for our journeys. We come trusting the one born in a stable, who taught on a mountain, the one who was laid wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger and wrapped in linen in a tomb.

Last Advent we wrote our prayers for our Philippine partners on linen strips – mindful of the cradle and the cross. We wrote prayers to them as they cared for the indigenous people, the lumads who were being evacuated from their homelands by the military. Our partners were caring for some of the thousands of refugees in the local schools. We collected over \$1700. And 200 prayers . . . prayers like these:

May your heart always be full, your spirit optimistic, and your love reaching beyond your own power.

The Lord is our shepherd.

We pray for justice and hope for peace.

In a time of struggle, know that we love and pray for you.

I pray "...that the lion may lie down with the lamb..."

God bless all and alleviate your suffering.

May God grant you strength, courage, wisdom, guidance, and protection.

Trust in God. We remember and pray for you.

This is my prayer for you – may God strengthen and preserve you and give you hope. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God is with you, and we are with you. God loves you! Do not fear! Hope. Peace.

I emailed the prayers to our partners and soon received a reply from the PEER partnership committee. . . "We thank you for your prayers, and support. This is another miracle that we received: the Miracle of Solidarity. It is indeed a wonder to see people from different walks of life, culture and even nationalities to congregate and work for one concern. The evacuation has again strengthened our faith in the goodness of man, in spite of the wicked few who wrought havoc to the peaceful lives of our lumad brothers and sisters, there are a lot more who bonded together to respond to their pleas for help. This is a miracle, and we shared it with you."

Our partners are again caring for refugees. We again offer our prayers. We will soon be exchanging sermons and writings about our shared hopes.

Join us in worship this advent and Christmas season as together we trust the one laying in the manger, laid in a tomb, the resurrected one who appeared to his disciples and breathed on them . . . Christ. gave them and us the gift of the Holy Spirit, and after breathing on them said, "remember I am with you always, even to the end of the age . . ."

Peace friends ~ Pastor Kathy

(See a recent letter from our Philippine Partners on page 11)



SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

We are back worshipping upstairs in our newly remodeled sanctuary! We continue to have two services each Sunday morning. At 8:30 we have a Contemplative Communion Service and at 10:30 we have our regular service with children's time and senior choir. The sermon at both services is the same.

Special Music is always needed for our 8:30 service. If you would like to sing or play an instrument for any of these Sundays call the church office or pastor Kathy.

Sunday, December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1 - 11

Sermon: "Messengers of Hope"

Sunday, December 14 – Third Sunday of Advent

Choir Cantata "The Promise of a King" at 10:30

Scripture: Psalm 126 and Isaiah 61: 1 – 11

Sermon at the 8:30 service: "Shouts of Joy"

Join the Choir!

Singers are welcome to join the choir on a short-term basis to sing in the Christmas Cantata on December 14. Rehearsals are held at 6:15 every Wednesday. If you are interested, talk to Jim Pospisil, or show up at practice.

Christmas Caroling to Some of our Homebound Members

Join us for a light lunch on Dec. 14, right after church, then we'll go caroling to some of our members living in local nursing homes or assisted living residences. It is a great way to get out and sing with our members !

Art Exhibit " I'm Still Here" opening at Peace Church on December 7, 3-5pm

It is a collaboration by two Twin Cities artists with portraits of Alzheimer's patients in many moods as well as images of loyal and loving caregivers. Its purpose is to allay some of the fears of dementia, even while acknowledging the reality. Photographs by Laura Crosby, portrait and documentary photographer, are paired with poems by Anne Simpson, former Duluth resident. The artists' reception will be Sunday afternoon from 3-5:00. The public is welcome.

Sunday, December 28 First Sunday after Christmas

Scripture: Luke 2: 22 – 40

Sermon: Cindy McLean will be our preacher today.

Potluck Breakfast

On Sunday, December 28th, we will have our annual potluck breakfast at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring something to share and join us for great food and conversation

Sunday, December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Children's Pageant "The Gifts of Christmas" written by Mike Goodlet, at the 10:30 service. We will receive our UCC Christmas Fund offering today.

Scripture: Luke 1: 26 - 38

Sermon at the 8:30 service: "Birthing a Promise"



Solstice Celebration — 5-7 pm

Join us for a bon fire in the back yard of the church, roasting hot dogs, special dessert and a time to be together on the longest night of the year. We will do some singing and then watch the Solstice episode from "Northern Exposure" in the Fireside Room.

Important Winter Camp Meeting

Sunday, December 21st at 11:45 in the Music Room. Meal and Cabin Assignments! Payments Due (scholarships available)

Calling all pageant elves!!

Always wanted to be a part of the theatre?...now is your chance. Come help out with a particular grade or pitch in as needed as we practice for the pageant. Contact Cynthia if you can help on these dates or in some other way: December 20th and 21st.

OFFERING ON DECEMBER 21

The Christmas Fund Offering (formerly the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross), one of four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ (UCC), is an important way of sharing our joy at God's renewing and life-giving grace. The money raised through the Christmas Fund Offering provides the primary revenue stream for the UCC's Ministerial Assistance programs, administered by the Pension Boards. Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees and Christmas Gift Checks to others. Emergency Grants are available to both active and retired clergy and lay employees in need.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. Please participate in God's promise of renewal by contributing to this ministry of compassion and care.

(See more about UCC offerings on page 11)

ADULT ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Forums in December

Join us at 9:30 in the Fireside Room

December Topic: *"Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Wait"*

Join us whenever you can! Pastor Kathy and Jerry Cleveland will be the primary leaders, but discussion is a large part of our learning together.

Sunday, December 7th – The Prophet Isaiah, the most read book of Hebrew Scriptures during Advent, provides a Hebrew understanding of the Messiah. While Isaiah does not identify Jesus as the Messiah, the prophet points the way toward faithful waiting with God.

Sunday, December 14th – John the Baptist, who is this one crying in the wilderness? He prepares the way through repentance and baptism and leads us further in our journey.

Sunday, December 21st – Mary, who is this young Palestinian girl and what about this amazing song she sings?

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Led by Pastor Kathy and Paul Van Antwerp using the Lecto Divina method of reading the Hebrew scripture and Gospel lesson for the coming Sunday.

Lectio divina is listening to scripture. We are listening for the still, small voice of God that will speak to us. We read slowly, attentively, gently listening to hear a word or phrase that is God's word for us this day. Once we have found a word or a passage in the Scriptures that speaks to us in a personal way, we must take it in and "ruminate" on it. The image of the ruminant animal quietly chewing its cud was used in antiquity as a symbol of the Christian pondering the Word of God. And then we find what God might have us change or do. We close with prayer, each praying for the person on his or her right. Join us on Wednesdays at 6 pm as we practice this ancient and yet very relevant method of Bible study.

Questions Along the Way every Tuesday at noon

Join us as we lift up the questions that arise in each of us on the journey through life together. All are welcome! facilitated by Paul VanAntwerp.

Women's Spiritual Life Group

December 27th at 9:30 am

Fireside Room

Join us for reflection on Luke 2: 22 – 40 using the Lecto Divina method of bible study

Men's Bible Study

Mondays, December 8 & 22 at 6:30pm

Please join us in the Fireside Room as we focus on the upcoming week's lectionary passages. Paul VanAntwerp will be facilitating this group. If you'd like to receive the lectionary passages early for review, please send a note to Paul to be put on his mailing list. paulvanantwerp@gmail.com

Reading, Writing, Reflection Group

Thursday Dec. 11 at 5pm Fireside Room

Please join us as we read a short passage, exercise our writer's minds, and share in great discussion. (Our fourth Thursday meeting is cancelled for Christmas). Marilyn Mayry will be facilitating this group.

Women's Brown Bag Bible Study

Wednesday December 17th at noon

Benedictine Health Center

Third Floor Lounge

Facilitated by Cheryl Walsh

Bring a lunch; coffee and dessert provided.

*There will be no book night or movie night
in December*

Book Night - January 15

My Stroke of Insight:

A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey

by Jill Bolte Taylor

Jill Bolte Taylor, a thirty-seven-year-old Harvard-trained brain scientist, experienced a massive stroke when a blood vessel exploded in the left side of her brain. A neuroanatomist by profession, she observed her own mind completely deteriorate to the point that she could not walk, talk, read, write, or recall any of her life. Taylor shares her unique perspective on the brain and its capacity for recovery. She writes that by shifting to the right side of our brains, we can all uncover the feelings of well-being and peace that are so often sidelined by our own brain chatter.

ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Winter Camp January 30 - February 1 "Snow Days . . . God's Ways"

Do you like winter? Do you like skiing? Do you like playing in the snow? Do you like to sauna? Do you like sledding? Do you like sitting on your hind-end reading a good book by a fire?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then consider yourself invited to join us at CAMP DU NORD, outside of Ely, MN.

We have reserved a number of cabins for our church community to get away for the weekend of January 30 – February 1. We will have access to BWCA ski trails, time for ice fishing on Burnt- side Lake, the revival of Peace Church Winter Olympics, hills to sled on, and time to relax, reflect and worship. This is a great opportunity for new folks to meet new people and old time members to reconnect. The cost will be \$60 for everyone 5 and up.

Scholarships are available, and the weekend is open to everyone, but we do have a limit of 90 beds. Money will be due by December 21st as we need to pay in full by then. Contact Pastor Kathy or Cizzarie Schomberg for more info.

PALS

(Peace Adults Learning and Socializing)

Thursday December 18th

Progressive Dinner

organized by Lisa and Bill Pomroy

More info to come!

All adults welcome—contact Dick & Linda Goese at goese@chartermi.net or 525-3214 if you'd like to be on the mailing list. If you're not on the mailing list, you can call Pomroys for more information about the December meeting—525-1091.

Looking for Different Versions of the Lord's Prayer

The Open and Affirming Committee is looking for different versions of the Lord's Prayer. If you know of one, please email it to Sally Larson, jslarson33@hotmail.com, or put it in the ONA box in the hallway by the office.

December 19th: Youth Group Babysitting Night

Back by popular demand (from happy parents)! Our Youth Group Babysitting event was such a success that we're offering again this month. From 6 - 10 on December 19th, we'll provide babysitting for your family. The cost is \$20 for one child, \$5 more for each additional child. PLEASE feed your children before you drop them off, or bring them with a supper packed. We'll have movies, arts and crafts, and a light snack available. The Youth will also be brainstorming on fun activities to share with the kids. Plan an evening out! You deserve it. Contact Paul Van Antwerp for more information.

Game Night

Monday December 15th, in the Music Room, 7 pm

Join us for Cribbage and Scrabble and any other game you'd like to share with your friends at Peace! Please bring a snack to share. Childcare available upon request. Contact Paul Van Antwerp or Sharon Kirtley with questions.

Help Pastor Kathy Make Pancakes!



December 3, 17, 31

Pastor Kathy can be found every other Wednesday at 9 am at the Chum Drop-In Center flipping pancakes for the guests. Join her any time you can. It is a great way to meet new folks and help out! Bible Study follows at 10 am.

Peace Church Women's Basketball

Tuesdays at 7pm in the Grant School Gym

All skill levels welcome. No small children please, for safety reasons. Call Karie S. with questions, 341-5528.

Men's Breakfast—Dec. 11 at Embers

Join us at Embers Grill in West Duluth (27th Ave. W.) for breakfast and casual conversation. (Our fourth Thursday gathering is cancelled for Christmas).

Looking ahead...mark your calendar!

Men's Retreat – March 6 – 8 If you are interested in helping with the planning let Dick Goese or Paul Van Antwerp know.

Friday, April 24 - 25 Women's Retreat at Caribou Highlands in Lutsen. We will begin with supper on Friday night and end after lunch. There will be a Saturday night option for those wishing to stay an extra night. Let Pastor Kathy or Cindy McLean know if you would like to help with the planning or have ideas for themes or focus. Cost is \$45 per night with scholarships available.

June 6 – June 14th Summer Work Camp to Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi. Sign up in the Entry Way. This is an intergenerational trip—youth 13 and up are welcome to join us!
See more on page 7.

August 3-7—Vacation Bible School!

The United Church of Christ put out an Advent calendar this year which had devotions and other ideas to do during advent for the whole family. We tried to order the calendars, but they were sold out! We do apologize, and Pilgrim Press promises to print double the amount next year. Below, I offer you some devotions and ideas for your family to do during advent this year. All devotions taken from the children's magazine Pockets. Blessings, Cynthia

December 1-6. Read Isaiah 9:2-7; 40:1-11, 52:7-10; 61:1-3, 8-11; 62:1-3; 64:1-9.

We often read Isaiah during advent because the scripture helps us picture a world where all people are taken care of and there is peace; where everyone knows God's love. Draw a picture of the world you imagine or write about it. What kind of world do you hope for?

December 7-13. Read Psalm 80:1-3, 17-19; 85:8-13; 98; 126; 148.

Some psalms were written about feeling lonely or sad or hopeless. At Christmas we often think everyone is happy, but that is not always true. For some the holidays are a very lonely and sad time. This week try to notice people who may be sad or lonely. Say a prayer for them, send a card, invite them for dinner, or bring them a small gift just to say you care.

December 14-20. Read 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; 2 Peter 3:8-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; Romans 16:25-27; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 1:1-4; Galatians 4:4-7.

Cards and letters at Christmas time help us remember that our friends care about us. In the Bible, some books were actually letters written to friends encouraging them to be faithful and strong. This week send emails or cards to friends telling about your joys and sorrows this year. Tell them about things you have learned and how God has been present with you.

December 21-31. Read Luke 1:26-38; 46-55; 2:1-20; 2:22-24; Mark 1:1-8; 13:24-37; John 1:1-14; 19-28; Matthew 2:1-12.

The gospels tell us about the good news of Jesus. Each one is a little different, but equally true. The authors tell us about what they thought was most important about Jesus and that he was a sign of God's presence and love for us. Where do you see signs of God's presence and love today?

NO CHURCH SCHOOL DEC 21st (Pageant @10:30 service), DEC 28 and Jan 4.

We will resume regular church school classes Jan 11th @ 9:30am in the newly remodeled Sanctuary.



The Pageant is December 21st!
Christmas Gifts

This year's pageant promises to be fun, entertaining, and a good reminder of what is really at the heart of Christmas. This pageant was written by our very own Mike Goodlet.

The pageant will be performed on **December 21st** during the 10:30 service (all children be here at 10:00 and meet in the Fellowship Hall) and as usual we'll have a **SATURDAY practice on Dec. 20th** from 10am-12pm followed by a lunch and birthday cake for Jesus. Everyone with a speaking part must be here at 9:00am.

If you are able and willing to help with any part of the pageant, (decorating, shepherding kids, making lunch) please email Cynthia at coffin@peaceucc.org or call the office. And if you signed up to help, on your child's registration form, you will probably get a call from a member of the CE Committee. Thanks!

Children's Choir will sing during the Christmas Eve service at 4:00pm on December 24th. We will be singing *The Friendly Beasts* with the Peace Puppets and also *Joy to the World*.

December Acolyte Schedule

December 7: Sannah Arvidson-Hicks, Frost Bowen-Bailey

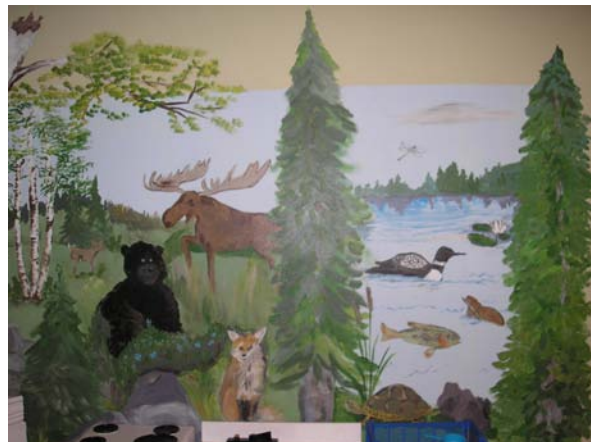
December 14: Autumn Finch, Sophie Fink

December 21: NO ACOLYTES

December 28: NO ACOLYTES

We need a nursery volunteer for December 28th 8:30 and 10:30 service.

Call the office if you can help!



One of the murals in the nursery painted by Steve Coll and Phyllis Mead



Jr/Sr High YOUTH GROUP
6th-12th graders

Wednesdays — 7-8:30pm — Youth Room
From Paul VanAntwerp...

Hey Youth Group!

There's a lot of reasons that I like being in the ministry at Peace, but one of the top is the pride I feel when youth of our church ask hard questions about our faith and world that many adults never even have the curiosity or courage to ask! The questions on faith that we shared at Jonie's party last month were awesome! And even though I've been with the Youth Group for a short time, I'm impressed with the level of curiosity and courage I see and hear there.

December is an exciting month for the Youth Group. There's a lot of special activities coming up: some to celebrate the season, some to help me get to know you better, and some to help out our church and our community. (See the list in the other column.) Important! Come to Youth Group on December 3rd for our Youth Group Brainstorming Session! There are somany exciting things to do, and so many interesting things to explore--but this is your group, so help decide! Your interest and energy and curiosity and courage make all the difference!

Pageant Elves...

You may be too old to have an official "part" in the pageant all you Jr and Sr High youth... BUT, we could still use your help. If you can help "shepherd" some of the younger kids during the pageant—that would be great! You get to dress up as an Angel, Shepherd, Wise Guy, or Animal. We practice December 20th from 9-12pm. Let Cynthia know if you can help! (It can count as SERVICE hours)



Jr and Sr High Pageant Choir

We need a good group of singers to sing some special songs in the pageant this year! Talk to Cynthia if you are interested. We will rehearse Sunday mornings at 9:30am.

Pageant Prelude: Dec 21st

Do you play an instrument or have musical talent? Want to play for the prelude on Dec. 21st before the Children's Pageant? Sign up on the bulletin board by the office or talk to Jim or Cynthia if interested.

Special December Events!
Jr. High/Sr. High

December 3rd: New Year Brainstorming Session!

December 10th: Mission and Grace.

December 14th: After church—Youth Group Caroling (and lunch). Come roam around Duluth, sing your hearts out, and spread a little cheer to members of our church.

December 17th: Youth Group Christmas Party (Confirmands and YG together.)

December 19th: Youth Group Babysitting Night

December 24th: Christmas Eve. No Youth Group.

December 31st: SPECIAL TIME: 9:00AM
Flippin' Pancakes at CHUM!

Attention High School Students!

Join us Sundays at 9:30 in the conference room as we take a look at issues relevant to our faith, church, and community. Doughnuts and drinks provided!

This month: Mia Vaydich and Paul Van Antwerp will be co-facilitating a discussion on race and racial language. We'll also take a look at what the UCC and our local church are up to on the subject. See you then!

Work Camp—Intergenerational!

Summer Work Camp to Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, Mississippi

June 6 - June 14 — Sign up in the Entry Way

Cost is \$200 per person with lots of fund raising to make up the rest of the cost.

We have reserved 40 spots. This is an intergenerational trip . . youth 13 and up are welcome to join us!

Confirmands are especially encouraged to attend!

Workcamps are one of the Mission's trademarks within the United Church of Christ. Back Bay Mission has developed a style of workcamping based on experiential learning that has proved highly successful. While the "work" in workcamping has become more intense and the term "disaster recovery" more appropriate since Katrina, BBM's model of workcamping is more in demand than ever. This program seeks to equally emphasize productivity (home rehabilitation) and learning, using an action-reflection model. This is a powerful method for helping persons internalize their learning and build cohesive caring groups.

Any questions, talk to Scott and Phyllis Mead, who had a great experience at Back Bay last year, so they can tell you all about it!

Moderator's Report and other Peace Church Updates

We give thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

The finance committee continues to hope for the year end miracle in which a lot of money is given to the church in November and December and our \$26,000 deficit is made whole. We give thanks to Holly Bowen-Bailey (and her many helpers), Tom Hystead, Dick Goese and Justin Olson for the very successful 2009 Stewardship Drive. We have received more pledges and more pledged income than we had received by this time last year. Thank you to each of you.

Christian Education is busy with many children.

December 6th will be the Artist's Cabaret and Silent Auction. A class for new members will begin in January.

We will be doing the Giving Tree again. Dave Cave's Bowl sale raised \$1200 for the Philippine Project. Thank you, Dave, for the beautiful work that will be enjoyed by many.

The sprinkling system needs to be tested and completed throughout the entire building.

The Building Committee has done a wonderful job and we are now in our almost completed sanctuary.

Next Council meeting will be December 16th and will be our Budget meeting. Please complete all requests and pledges as soon as possible.

~ Submitted by Tom Curran

The Amazing (G)race Update

Thank you to everyone who has submitted pledges for 2009! We have received 178 pledges for a total of \$253,000. Last year we had a total of 178 pledges for \$288,000.

If you haven't sent in your pledge yet, please do so as soon as possible, as our Coordinating Council will be putting together the 2009 budget, and will need to have all pledges in. Please consider the option of automatic withdrawal from your bank account. A form was sent with your pledge card. If you already use this option and are changing the amount of your pledge, you will need to fill out a new form.

2008 Pledges All checks received in the church office by December 31, 2008 will be directed to your 2008 statement. All checks dated 2009 and received after January 1, 2009 will be directed to your 2009 statement. All checks from the last week of December will be deposited on Sunday, January 4th 2009.



BUILDING UPDATE

As you all know, we are now worshipping in our new sanctuary! There were 350 people at our dedication service on November 23rd, and 300 at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on the 25th. Thanks to all who helped clean and ready the space for worship, those who helped to hand rub our beautiful communion table (especially to Gail Blum and John Erickson), and to all who have helped move and set up chairs (numerous times!)

The carpeting on the platform should be finished this week, and pew installation will begin. It will take several days, but we will soon be back sitting in our old familiar pews, in our wonderful new space. We hope to have our new chairs, which will supplement our pew seating, by Christmas.

What a treat it was to listen to the choirs at the Thanksgiving service in our new space!

"When a Tree Falls in the Prairie..."

~ by Doug Bowen-Bailey



As part of the re-working of the memorial prairie garden due to construction, a small group working on the design made the decision to cut down the Mountain Ash tree that stood on the hillside for so many years. It is a tree that had significance members of our congregation and community and I want to acknowledge that here in the Peace Bell.

But I also want to let you know that if you are interested in more information about what transformations are going to be happening with the Memorial Prairie Garden, I will be writing something up for the web site (peaceucc.org) that will have a design of what we are planning as well as a reflection on the changes. Or you can simply give me a call (722.7166) or talk to me at church.

Peace Bell Articles due the 20th!

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

5pm: Children's Choir 5:30: Dinner for all 6pm: Faith Weavers/Puppets
6pm: Bible Study in the Fireside Room; Parenting Group in the Conference Room (12/3 & 12/17)
6:15pm: Senior Choir 7-8:30pm: Youth Group
7-8:30pm: Confirmation (Confirmation 1st & 3rd Weds. 12/3 & 12/17)
Committee and Team Meetings on December 10th at 6pm

NO Wednesday Activities on December 24th and 31st — Resume January 7th

Faith Weavers

Kindergarten—3rd Grade

Wednesdays 6-7pm

December is a short month in the world of Faith Weavers...We only have three classes...so make sure you come!

December 3: The Star

December 10: Jesus Birthday

December 17: PARTY...come and play some fun games we have learned this year.

December 24: NO FAITH WEAVERS – Merry Christmas

December 31: NO FAITH WEAVERS – Happy New Year!

Attention all Loving Adults. . .

We need someone (or a couple of folks) to lead Faith Weavers the second Wednesdays of the month. This is Boards and Committee night and Cynthia has to be 2 places at once. There are often teens to help, but an adult is needed to ensure the safety of all the children! We do have a curriculum, so you do not need to think of a lesson. Lots of games and crafts, so it's way fun! Please talk to Cynthia if you are willing to be part of this special ministry with our children.

Parenting Group

December 3rd and 17th, 6-7pm

The parenting Group will meet in the Conference Room Dec. 3rd and 17th at 6:00 (the nursery and Faith Weavers is available during that time). All parents welcome. Contact Jonie for more information! Jonie@peaceucc.org

PEACE WORKS BULLETIN BOARD

PEACE WORKS is a bulletin board in the fellowship hall (on the wall over by where the hymnals have been kept). Remember to check -- you never know how you might be able to help with a referral or information! If you are looking for work, please post your resume there. If you are offering a product or service, post your business cards. Members and friends of Peace Church, if you need to hire someone, buy a certain product or know someone who does, please take a card or resume and network! This is one more way we can support each other.

Peace Puppets — Wednesday 6-7pm

4th, 5th and 6th Graders

Peace Puppets to perform at Peace Church Cabaret and at the early Christmas Eve Service

The Peace Puppets will perform at the Peace Church Cabaret and Auction on December 6 at 6:30. Practice for this performance will begin at 5:00 on the Friday of the performance. I know this cuts into the family dinner hour and am sorry for the inconvenience. Even if your child must come later, it would help immensely.



After the cabaret, the Peace Puppets will begin practice for the Christmas Eve 4pm service. It was so much fun last year, we're going to do it again!

**Children's Choir every Wednesday
5 - 5:30pm in the Music Room.**

Children's Choir will sing during the Christmas Eve service at 4:00pm on December 24th. We will be singing *The Friendly Beasts* with the Peace Puppets and also *Joy to the World*.

CONFIRMATION

for all 9th, 10th and 11th Graders

Our confirmands meet the first and third Wednesdays of every month from 7 – 8:30 pm. We begin in the youth room for opening worship and then move to the fellowship hall for class.

Wednesday, Dec.3 – Jesus' Miracles and Healings

Sunday, Dec. 7th at 11:45

Make Up Class for November 19th class

Wednesday, Dec. 17 – Jesus, Human and Divine



Check out the following new books
in the Peace Church Library!

Check out the library book displays in the Narthex and Fireside Room; they feature Advent and Christmas books in addition to the following new books:

Adult: *Tracks in the Straw – Tales Spun from the Manger* by Ted Loder; *Answered Prayers*, a Guidepost Book; *Harvest – Collected Poems and Prayers* by Ruth F. Brin; *Something More – Excavating your Authentic Self* by Sarah Ban Breathnach; *Grandloving – Making Memories with Your Grandchildren* by Sue Johnson and Julie Carlson.

Children's: *What Child is This?* By Caroline B. Cooney; *The Christmas Spurs* by Bill Wallace; *The Muppet Christmas Carol* Adapted by Louise Gikow; *Take Time for Christmas* by Peg Augustine (English text) and Emmanuel Vargas (Spanish text); *One Wintry Night* by Ruth Bell Graham.

THE LABYRINTH



Thank you to Julie Dieters for the Granite Finger Labyrinth that she made and donated to Peace Church. It can be found on the coffee table in the narthex.

Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. At its most basic level the labyrinth is a metaphor for the journey to the center of your deepest self and back out into the world with a broadened understanding of who you are.

A labyrinth has only one path. It is unicursal. The way in is the way out. There are no blind alleys. The path leads you on a circuitous path to the center and out again.

This is the classical or seventh circuit labyrinth. Seven circuits refers the seven paths that lead to the center or goal. This is an ancient design and is found in most cultures, dating back more than 4000 years.

Traditional labyrinths are walking paths. The labyrinth on the coffee table is a "finger labyrinth". Feel free to trace the path with your finger, enjoying the prayerful calm along the way.

Granite Finger Labyrinth donated to Peace Church by Julie Deters.

November was a busy month here at Peace, with transitions in our location of worship and our ministry team—not to mention the ongoing joys and concerns that present themselves in an active and vibrant church. In busy times, it helps to keep my own ministry in perspective by recalling the concept of "cheap grace" in words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from his book *The Cost of Discipleship*:

Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Ministry, be it personal, as our own calls to serve, or the collective calling of an institution such as Peace, requires discipleship. That's the easy concept—most of us understand what it means to "show up" and make ourselves ready to receive the grace of God. More challenging is the idea that discipleship requires sacrifice, and that the ministry of Jesus, and therefore the demands he placed upon his disciples, is still alive and breathing in our world. Indeed, it is the very reason of being for this sharp and snappy sanctuary, and the wonderful people that worship there. Friends, it ain't always easy to be a disciple.

On Dedication Sunday, I had the opportunity to sit in the very back row of our sanctuary (and special thanks to Vi and Peter for the company). What a full house! 355 people, the ushers shared. From my vantage point, right along a major thoroughfare for musicians and choir and parents and children, I had a chance to see so many of you pass beside me during our service of worship. What struck me was how distinctively each of you, from my experience, lives out your individual faith. People embrace the costs of discipleship in very different ways, in response to very different need for their faith. Some focus on service to our community, and some on care and construction for our house of worship and meeting space, some engage in intellectual inquiry on the relevant issues of our time, and some focus inward on their own lives with introspection and self-reflection. We share a common goal however: to be better disciples for Jesus.

These days, as I spend much more time with our Youth Group, I am reminded that people have different learning styles. In the same way, we all process our faith and spiritual inquiry in unique ways. With the onset of Advent and our new Christian year, perhaps the best resolution any of us can make is to tune our senses to see the presence of the living Christ in the wide variety of ministries we disciples (all) feel called to do, to listen carefully to the stirring of the Holy Spirit within each of us, and then use our hands to jump in and help where we can. Indeed, we prepare the way for the birth of Jesus by creating a world where the grace of Jesus Christ, living and incarnate, may flourish.

God Bless us in the work that we do.

Paul

paulvanantwerp@gmail.com 218-728-2188

Dear Tom and Partners,

The Surigao District Conference PEER Committee is currently pursuing a more active course in the realization of our Concordat with the Philippine Independent Church (IFI). We will be having a series of dialogues with the local Diocese here in Surigao and possibly Agusan, on how to effectively promote and practice a more pro-active ecumenism.

The PEER Office is already functional, however, we still have no internet connection. So e-mails will have to be made elsewhere, but we had maintained communications with the partner churches. This November 13, 2008 we will meet with the ministers assigned to these churches for more discussion on how our agreements / joint programs could be integrated into their Annual Integrated Program Plan.

We will be sending you soon, a sermon from one of our partner ministers assigned in the Local Church in Union, Dapa. It was written in Visayan, and is still being translated. We hope that you can share it with your congregation. Also, we will be sending you some highlights of the SUDISCON two-year Integrated Program Plan, with special focus on the PEER.

If possible, do share with us some reflections and sermons which we might share also with the partner churches. The PEER Committee is planning to propose to your congregation a sort of a joint Christmas Celebration, albeit long-distance, in which we can substantiate our celebration with each other's gifts of experience, wisdom and faith. We are thinking of doing something special for the children and old people. I cannot yet determine the whole concept, but will soon send it to you for your consideration and improvements. Let's make this year's Christmas something to remember with a deeper meaning and significance to our partnership.

Thank you for your concerns and prayers...

In Christ,
Greggo

Alphabet Soup, Anyone? by Dick Goese

At a recent church council meeting, there was some confusion expressed about denomination-sponsored offerings and their relationship to other organizations. Tom Curran, our moderator, asked me to write this piece in an effort to clear the air.

The UCC endorses five special offerings each year. The first is OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission). About two-thirds of the dollars raised remain in Minnesota to support activities of our conference, such as Pilgrim Point Camp, staff salaries, and the conference newsletter (The Voyager). The remaining one-third supports similar activities on a national level.

Peace does not take an offering, per se, for OCWM support, but it is a significant part of our annual budget. This year, \$20,600 will be sent to support OCWM.

The second offering is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), taken on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Of these dollars, two-thirds support UCC activities throughout the world—our missionary activities, if you will. Some are planned in support of individuals working in the field, and some are in response to emergencies such as typhoon and earthquake. The other one-third of what is donated is given to Church World Service (CWS)—more about that later.

The third offering is Strengthen the Church, taken on Pentecost Sunday. Fifty percent remains in the Minnesota Conference for church and leadership development. The remaining fifty percent supports similar efforts on a national level.

Fourth is the Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering, received on the first Sunday in October. This is used to support ministries of justice and compassion in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. One-third supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), and two-thirds supports the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM).

The fifth offering is the Christmas Fund, received the Sunday before Christmas. These dollars provide pension and health premium supplements to low income retirees from the ministry.

The conference recognizes congregations that contribute to all five of these offering with a "5 for 5" certificate—see the ones on the Fireside Room door.

There is actually a sixth conference-sponsored offering, the Justice and Witness offering, received on a Sunday near Martin Luther King's birthday. A portion of these dollars remain in Duluth to help meet local needs. Since we participate in all, we are actually "6 for 6".

Beyond the denomination level is Church World Service (CWS). This is a cooperative effort of 35 denominations whose goal is to provide self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in some 80 countries including our own. As mentioned, some OGHS dollars are distributed through CWS. The CROP (Christians Rural Overseas Project) Walk is a CWS fund-raising effort. CWS has a web site that allows direct donation by individuals and also allows the donor to specify which of the many projects funded by CWS to receive the funds donated.

Peace Church's last contributions to these offering were

OGHS	\$4,139
NIN	\$2,406
Christmas	\$525
Strengthen the Church	\$306
Justice and Witness	\$766

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS / POINSETTIAS

- 1 John Erickson
Nettie Bothwell
Gary Soule
Charles Wessberg
Ellie Hoffman
Viola Brown
- 2 Maleeah Langdon– Larson
- 4 Tim Crosby
- 5 Sydney Benton
Megan Thompson
- 6 Amanda Hawley
Marsha Hystead
- 7 Holly Bowen-Bailey
Virginia Nelson
- 8 Jason Browska
Jen Murphy
- 9 Katrina Lindgren
Savannah Holden
- 10 Liam Colclough
- 12 Katie Adams
Tim Carpenter
Marianne Peterson
Nathalia Hawley Williams
Grant Montgomery
- 13 Barbara Chapman
Dave Winchester
Celine Provost



- 14 Jody Wergeland
Jan Nugent
Maren Friday
- 15 Jordan Sandal
Ahnali Lindgren
- 16 Hannah Carpenter
Kaydi Staubs
- 17 Diane Swanoski
- 18 Abigail Etterson
- 18 Beth Chelseth
Sheryl Filby-Williams
- 20 Betty Blass
Talia Bech-Brown
Gilah Messerer
Heather Morgan
Pam Jakubiak
Lyle Staubs
Maria Rennquist
- 21 Kai Larsen
Gabriel Ehlers-Nelson
- 22 Laurie Berner
- 22 Joseph Hardesty
Billy Pearson
Barbara Pestalozzi
- 23 Jennifer Langdon-Larson
Linda Lundberg
Stephanie Lanier



- 24 Jenny Tomhave
- 25 Kim Squillace
Jean Thoennes
- 26 Connie Lindquist
Tanya Jackson
- 27 Darren Walsh
Cadence Bambenek
Connor Bambenek
- 28 Dylan Finch-Newkirk
Peter Barnett
Jennifer Boyle
- 29 Mark White
Kaisa Robinson
Victoria Nugent
- 30 Alisha Blazevic
Elena Davidson
- 31 Myrna Johnson



The Lake Superior mural in the nursery painted by Steve Coll and Phyllis Mead

Each year at Christmas time we decorate the altar with poinsettias. Would you like to order one in honor or in memory of a loved one? You may then take it home with you if you'd like, after the last Christmas Eve service.

POINSETTIA ORDER

Please fill out and place in the offering plate or send to the office



Name _____

I wish to order _____ poinsettias at a cost of \$15.00 each,
 _____ in memory of / _____ in honor of the following person(s):

(Please make checks payable to Peace Church)

A portion of your donations will go to the Peace Church Transportation Fund

CHRISTMAS 2008



Holiday Opportunities for Giving!

The Giving Tree is in the Narthex – Take a tag and bring back a gift for Life House or Loaves and Fishes. Please have all the gifts here by December 10th! Thank you.

Sign up for Cookies for the jail Christmas party. Can you bring 2 dozen or more cookies to the church by the 10th of December? We also could use someone to drive the cookies to the jail before 3pm on Dec. 10th.

Donate to the Grandmothers for Peace “Peaceful Toy Drive” Please drop off nonviolent toys for the holiday season in the box in the Narthex. Toys will be distributed to Loaves and Fishes, Safe Haven Shelter, and other places. Thank you for your generosity!

Support the mission of **Koinonia Farms** by purchasing their pecan, peanut, chocolate, fruit and nutcake products for the holiday season. Catalogs are available on the table in the Narthex and on the counter outside the Fellowship Hall. This year we are sending in our orders individually. Call Lyn Clark Pegg (727-3770) for more information.

Bars are needed for the Life House fundraiser on December 5th. Bring your bars to the Life House at 102 W 1st St. sometime during that day.

HOLIDAYS AT PEACE

*Here's a listing of Holiday Happenings
More details elsewhere in the Peace Bell*

Wednesday Dec. 10—Gifts from the Giving Tree are due at the church

Sunday Dec. 14—Choir Cantata at 10:30
Christmas Caroling to Homebound after the 10:30 service and a light lunch

Saturday Dec. 20—Pageant Rehearsal 9am-12noon

Sunday Dec. 21—Children's Christmas Pageant at 10:30
Solstice Celebration at 5pm

Wednesday Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4pm and 10pm
Christmas Eve Supper at 5pm

Sunday Dec. 28—Annual potluck Breakfast at 9:30am

Wednesday Dec. 31—New Year's Eve Service of Inclusivity at 4pm



Christmas Greetings to all my friends at Peace Church! ~ from Trudy Schwerdt

At 94, Trudy Schwerdt believes that one of her greatest gifts is her memory. Memories of past Christmases, surrounded by family and friends, are especially meaningful. Singing and playing music have always been an integral part of Trudy's life. She shares these special moments as a Christmas gift to her Peace church family:

“My first memory is from Christmas morning in 1918. I was waiting at 5:30 a.m. with my family on the corner of 38th Ave. West and 3^d St. for the streetcar to take us to the Julotta service at Bethany Lutheran Church. I was in the Christmas children's program with my cousin Alvina. We sang children's Christmas hymns. Three years later my brother started playing violin solo each Christmas. On one occasion, after he had finished playing, he tripped coming down the dark narrow stairway from the church balcony, creating quite a commotion.

After I was confirmed, I started singing in the choir at Bethany Lutheran. Later when I married Bob, we attended St. Paul's Evangelical Church. The pastor asked me to direct the choir. It was 1939 and the congregation was small because many of the boys were in the service. We had a predominately women's choir. The choir expanded when the men returned from the war.

After joining Peace Church, in 1949 I was the choir director and organist for the Christmas cantata. Years later I was asked by Pastor Kathy to play Christmas hymns in the afternoon before the Christmas Eve service. Then Kathy and Tim would bring a meal of soup to my apartment. After a few years this became a tradition and was opened to the entire congregation.

These days I'm no longer able to read music but I'm still playing Christmas music from memory on the keyboard at “sing alongs” at the Benedictine Health Center.”

What do you remember about your own past Christmases? Will you share these with family and friends? Sharing is an important part of showing you care.

Thanks to Denise Perry for recording these thoughts for Trudy.

CONGRATULATIONS LYN CLARK PEGG

Lyn Clark Pegg of our congregation was recently honored as a Woman of Distinction by the YWCA. She shared these wonderful comments at the award luncheon:

The Women of Distinction award is especially meaningful for me because it was given by the YWCA whose mission statement is to eliminate racism and to empower women and girls. Those two goals have been so predominant on my own life journey.

I'm not a shy person, but I do feel awkward about receiving such an award – I think of myself mostly as a community organizer and therefore I prefer to work in the background, getting others do the up front work.

However, I have this moment, and I appreciate the opportunity to reflect a bit and share what might have led me to this place and time. I know that whatever I have accomplished has been in the midst of, and because of, the efforts of so many others. My life journey has been deeply influenced and guided by the justice and peace movements – civil rights, women's rights, ending the war in Viet Nam and Iraq, nuclear disarmament, reproductive justice, dismantling racism and white privilege, and human rights in Latin America.

Along the way I have been inspired by and have learned so much from amazing community leaders and resisters to the status quo – civil rights activists in the 60s in Hartford, CT, South African ANC expatriates living in the Boston area, defenders of human rights in the US and Colombia, migrants who leave their homes and culture to support their families, labor organizers, innovative teachers, and prophetic rabbis, priest, shamans, and pastors.

Perhaps I was propelled into activism by my growing up years, post WW II and into the 50s. I was raised inside a bubble of WASP privilege (that is, White, Anglo-Saxon, Straight and Protestant) – and I have been in recovery and rehabilitation from that monocultural, white supremest environment ever since! I've had much to learn and feel a huge responsibility to give back. In fact, my family and friends might say my commitment borders on compulsion!

My immediate family also keeps me looking forward and globally. Our family often says that our history is Scottish, English, Irish and German, but our future is in Colombia. In fact, the demographics of our family is now 50/50, US and Colombian. Our Witness for Peace delegations to Latin American and our three grandchildren, living in Minneapolis and Bogotá, motivate me to ensure that "otro mundo es posible," "a better world is possible."

The Duluth community has provided me with an incredible mix of challenge, inspiration, encouragement and support – the faith community at Peace church, the YWCA, the rich network of human service providers, courageous peacemakers, and the growing coalition of community groups that are involved in working to eliminate white privilege and make racial justice a reality.

We all have a part to play in this work for justice, both as individuals and within these grassroots movements. Our work is interconnected, as individuals and across movements. The Zulu word ubuntu expresses this best - "I am because we are, and we are because I am."

Please share this wise African message with all – "I am because we are, and we are because I am." We are the ones we have been waiting for!

27th General Synod of the United Church of Christ June 26-30, 2009 in Grand Rapids Michigan

The theme of the coming Synod is "Immerse Yourself". In addition to the business of the Synod, there will be celebration: preaching, worship, workshops, presentations, drama, dance and fun! Consider attending as a time to immerse yourself in the breadth, depth, diversity, compassion and joy of our UCC family.

CHUM News and Needs

Christmas Eve Day Vigil

Mark your calendar for the annual, Christmas Eve Day Vigil to be held at 12 Noon at the Duluth Civic Center.

Foods Most Needed: Canned meals (stews, chili, hash & spaghetti's) macaroni & cheese, canned peaches, peas, pears, corn, vegetables, chicken noodle & cream soup, canned chicken, Spam and Tuna, ramen noodles, juice.

Family Shelter: Could use dish soap, size 4 & 5 diapers, hair brushes, all purpose household cleaners, wash cloths, hand and bath towels, twin sheets, baby hygiene products, 4 twin bed box springs, 1 double bed, kitchen chairs, 1 crib with sheets, laundry supplies, pots and pan sets and kitchen supplies.

PEACE PEOPLE

THANK YOU

- To our stewardship drive committee for a great “Amazing (G)Race”. Special thanks to Holly Hollywood (Holly Bowen Bailey), Buddy Broadway (Evan Poirier), Julie Flotten and Kirby Wood for the Mission moments. And to Doug Bowen Bailey for a great video. The video can be seen on our peaceucc.org website
- To our building committee for their on going work on our sanctuary remodeling project. We are so grateful to each of them — Dan Green, chair, Dick Goese, Treasurer, John Erickson, Tim Carpenter, Jim McLean, Dennis Crumb and Betty Greene. We are in the new space and it is beautiful, even if it not complete.
- To our Food and Fellowship Committee for a wonderful dinner on dedication Sunday, Cathy and John Ameal, Carrie Plamann and Rolf Hagberg, Bev and Dave Cave, Guy and Nadine Hubert! It was delicious. Thanks to all who helped!
- To Dave Cave for his turning sale. Dave raised over \$1,200 for our Philippine Partnership Project through the sale of his wood turnings.
- To Jonie Langdon Larson for all her work with our youth the past 6 months. Jonie has resigned her position as of November 16th. Paul Van Antwerp will be taking over the leading our our Wednesday night youth group and Sunday morning Senior High Class at 9:30.
- “Thank you Peace Church for allowing me to serve as the Interim Youth Minister for the past six months! It has been my absolute honor to do so! Rest assured youth that I will be back as a volunteer in February!! Romans 8:37-39! God's got your back!!! Peace! Jonie”
- A tremendous thank you to all who helped set up, prepare food, bring bars, serve, clean-up, and lend support for the dedication lunch. What an amazing group of people at Peace (and we will love to enlist you for future events,too!!!!) The Food and Fellowship committee
- From Loaves and Fishes: “Thank you again for your continued support of Loaves and Fishes. We greatly appreciate the delicious meals your parishioners cook for us every Monday. Your regular financial donations help keep us afloat. May you continue in your great work.”
- A gracious thank you from Dave Cave for the wonderful support for the Philippine Partnership. Over \$1200 was raised during his wood turning sale. Thank you Dave, for your talent and generosity!
- From Mary Martin: “Thank you for your many prayers and expressions of support during the time of my knee replacement surgery and rehabilitation. I believe that my recovery has sped along because of you.”

CONGRATULATIONS

- To Vicky Johnson and Todd Baker who were married in our church on Saturday, November 22nd
- To Cailin Hoff and Donald Smith who were married in our church on Saturday, November 29th
- To Quillan Samuel Zeitler, son of Essie Geiger and Nick Zeitler, who was baptized on Sunday, November 23rd
- To Brandon and Leah Kohlts on the birth of their daughter Samantha on November 19th
- To Mariah and Laurie Berner who were interviewed on Fox news after Mariah received the Junior Journey Award from the Miller-Dwan Rehabilitation Center.
- To John Ameal on his retirement from NRRI
- To Emily Punyko who finished 7th with her best time ever in the 100 yard breast stroke at the Minnesota High School State Meet
- To Matt and Carrie Ryan on the birth of their twin girls, Grace Claire and Josephine Mae, on November 29th.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Grace Springsteele, Buehler Bongey and Kathy Tate of our congregation, all undergoing radiation therapy
- Hummingbird of our congregation who was recently diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor
- Amanda Cran who will be undergoing surgery again on January 9th to replace her medication pump that is not functioning
- Tim Walsh recovering at home from surgery

SYMPATHY TO

Gary Anderson, whose older brother was killed in a car accident.

THANK YOU for the following
MEMORIALS to Peace Church

In memory of Leigh McMullen
from Bev and Dave Cave, Cathy Ameal, Joel and Daina Rosen, John Hoivik and Leanne Ventrella, Denise Perry, Carrie Plamann and Janell and Gary Kohls.



STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY

SUPPORT LIFE HOUSE

You are invited to an open house featuring a lion dance to bring good luck to donors and Life House Youth Center. Life House Youth Center is a unique agency dedicated to the mission of providing a safe harbor for enhancing the lives of homeless and at-risk youth.

Friday, December 5, 2008—4:30-6:30 PM

Life House Youth Center

102 W. First St., Duluth

Event Highlights

Open house and tour of Life House

Performance of a "Lion Dance", a colorful traditional Chinese ceremony that brought good luck in the year to donors who contributed help for homeless children and orphans

Chinese, Indian, and Middle Eastern appetizers

Bars are needed—if you can donate, please take bars to Life House on Dec. 5.

Sponsored by Life House and Cross Cultural Dialogues, a group of culturally diverse women who meet regularly to learn from each other and support one another in their work to create a just and inclusive community for all people in Duluth .

Reflections of the Season...

Interfaith Service Sunday Dec. 21 at 4pm at Interfaith Church, 1414 E. 9th

All people wanting to celebrate a wonderful blend of interfaith holidays (Diwali, Eid Al-Adha, Solstice, Hanukkah, Christmas and more?) are welcome to the Interfaith Service for "Reflections of the Season". If you are interested in participating as a musician or poet/reader (adult or youth), please call Salima Swenson (879-4939) or Cyndi Gritzmacher (728-9774).

Sponsored by Arrowhead Interfaith Council

AIC Looking for Representative

Interested in interfaith dialogue? Learning about Christianity by dialoguing with people from a variety of faiths. The Arrowhead Interfaith Council is looking for someone to represent Peace Church on their board. This is a great opportunity to help Peace connect with other faith traditions. This board meets the first Tuesday of the month at 4:30 pm at the Copper Top Church. The AIC promotes interfaith understanding and social justice. If you are interested, please contact Doug Bowen-Bailey at 722-7166 or dbb@digiterp.com.

Puzzle Peace Interfaith Kid's Choir

Be a part of the puzzle...Puzzle PEACE!



Puzzle PEACE Northland Interfaith Youth Choir will rehearse just one time in December: Sun. Dec. 14 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. at Peace United Church of Christ, 1111 N. 11th Street. We plan to sing for "Reflections of the Season" Interfaith Service and potluck on Dec. 21. ALL interested youth, ages preschool to middle school who want to sing for PEACE are encouraged to attend. Friends are always welcome! Call Peace UCC (724-3637) or director Cyndi Gritzmacher (728-9774) for any further information.

Putting the world together, piece by PEACE!

Saturday December 6 - Get it Local Gift Fair 10am-3pm at Peace Church Fellowship Hall

Support area artists, writers, crafters and non-profits!

CHUM Holiday Concert on Sat. Dec. 6 at 7pm at Marshall School Auditorium. Featuring Bill

Bastian, tenor, the Three Altos and Lon Weaver, piano. Free will offering for CHUM.



A REMARKABLE CONVERGENCE

In 2004 35 religious leaders in Minnesota signed "A Common Foundation: Shared Principles for Work on Overcoming Poverty."

In 2006 the Minnesota State Legislature, with bi-partisan support, passed and funded legislation to create a Legislative Commission to End Poverty in Minnesota by 2020.

This remarkable convergence of the faith community and our elected leadership makes two points very clear:

When it comes to a desire and a commitment to end poverty in Minnesota, everything we need to end poverty is already at hand.

It is time for every person of faith who shares this commitment to A Minnesota Without Poverty to participate in moving toward that goal.

Look for a petition in the Narthex called "A Common Foundation: Shared Principles for Work on Overcoming Poverty".

The Common Foundation statement has been widely circulated throughout the Minnesota faith community and most of our denominational bodies have signed it. An effort is being made to get hundreds of congregations and thousands of congregational members to sign the statement between now and April. This initiative may be decisive in getting the legislature to implement recommendations from the Legislative Commission to End Poverty.

DECEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

**Can you be greeters or ushers for either of our Christmas Eve Services?
Please call the office if you can help out.**

Nursery

- 7 Sophie Wilkowske, Erin DeWitt, Hannah Carpenter
- 14 Kristina Green, Christa Knudsen, Melanie Lundell
- 21 Emily Youngstrand, Christina Mulozzi,
Volunteer needed
- 28 Patty Beech, Jen Hudyma, Mariah Berner

Greeters

- 7 Cindy Macaulay, Barb Forrest
- 14 Bill and Lisa Pomroy
- 21 Jen Stenerson, Viola Brown
- 28 Brian Eklund, Melissa Kadlec

Lay Readers

- 7 Sarah Jessico
- 14 No lay reader needed
- 21 No lay reader needed
- 28 Sharon Kirtley

8:30 Communion Bread



- 7 Janell Kohls
- 14 Robin Davidson
- 21 Arvolds
- 28 Julie Flotten

Damiano Soup Kitchen

Sunday December 14

- 1:30 pm: Dave and Bev Cave, Mark White, Laura Zahn
- 4:30 pm: Steve Coll, Nadine Hubert, Sarah Jessico, Pat O'Connell

Monday Meal

at Loaves and Fishes

- 8 Kay Stevens
- 15 Cathy Dziuk
- 22 Meal Angel Respite
- 29 Meal Angel Respite

Ushers

- 7 Robin Davidson, Marsha Hystead, Sandra Moore, Jayme Hennen
- 14 Bob and Rene Montgomery, Jen Pearson, Craig Peterson
- 21 Lyn and John Pegg, Cindy Macaulay, Cheryl Walsh
- 28 Susan Ranfranz, Steve Coll, Julie MacKenzie, Nettie Bothwell

COFFEE HOUR COMMITTEES

THANKS SO MUCH to everyone who has taken a turn helping out with our Sunday coffee hour this past year. It has gone very well.



OPEN ENROLLMENT TIME! We plan to leave everyone in their same monthly group for next year, unless you would like to switch to a different month. Please let us know soon if you would like to change months.

MONTHLY COORDINATORS: You did a terrific job, thanks so much! We are hoping you will all be willing to serve again in 2009. We'll be contacting you all in January.

Any questions? Call Janell in the office, 724-3637, or Cizzarie, 525-0325.

December Coffee Hour

Coordinators:
Mike & Linda Lundberg, 525-6804
Susan Kehtel/Amy Galarowicz, 624-1800

December 7

Communion Set up-Susan Kehtel, Linda Lundberg

Set up: Lynette Boyko, Carl Etter
Serve/Clean up: Karie Simpson,
Volunteer needed

December 14

Set up: Patty Beech & Jeff Brown
Serve/Clean up: Bill & Barb Kehtel, Linda Lundberg

December 21

Set up: Tom and Linda Curran
Serve/Clean up: Jim and Sally Larson, Mary Nienaber

December 28

Set up: Lowell Oseland & Delores Thompson
Serve/Clean up: Ed & Max Proetz, Bob & Rene Montgomery

Be sure to check with your coordinators as to how many cookies to supply.

Coming up — January

Coordinators:
Claire Smith, 260-9020
Georgette Sarkela & Bill Hardesty, 525-1450

- Mary & Jeff Adams, 726-0749
- Barbara Allen, 727-9097
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- Judy & Bill Seliga-Punyko, 525-4688
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- Laura Zahn, 728-5555

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

PEACE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Kathy Nelson
Children's Ministries: Cynthia Coffin
Music Director: Jim Pospisil
Youth and Small Group Ministries: Paul Van Antwerp
Bookkeeper: Beth Chelseth



Office Coordinator: Janell Kohls
Receptionist: Nancy Nelson
Custodians: Brad Larson and Dan Shepard
Gabriel Project: Veronica Gaidelis
Parish Nurse: Cizzarie Schomberg
Pianist: Eric Bigalke

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

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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!