



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago

Newsletter for December, 2012

“A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience”

CALENDAR

Upcoming Sundays

- **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service, Rev. Jean Darling preaching.
- **Sun, Dec 3:** Rev. Jacki Belile, “Advent: Peace”
- **Sun, Dec 23: Christmas Sunday** celebration, with readings and carols.
- **Sun, Dec 30:** Kwanzaa / New Year’s, with burning bowl celebrat’n.

Other Events

- **Weds, Dec 12, 6pm:** Treasures of Uptown interfaith steering committee.
- **Thurs, Dec 13, 1:30pm:** 2 Li'l Fishes development committee.
- **Fri, Dec 14, 6pm:** Second Friday: Singer-songwriter Lin Boyle.
- **Sat, Dec 15, 10am:** PBC Board.
- **Tues, Dec 25:** Community Christmas Dinner; 10am: music, stories, readings. Noon: dinner downstairs.
- **Sat, Dec 29, 7pm:** Joseph Bures plays waltzes, a prelude to the New Year’s celebration in Vienna.
- **Sat, Jan 5, 4pm:** Spiritual Beans, at Inspiration Kitchens. We’ve talked about politics & money – now sex!

Minister’s Notes:

‘Twas the Night Before...

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

A beautiful time of year, broken by violence – violence toward our most vulnerable, the children. We grieve, we vow not to let it happen again. May our anger and grief be translated into compassionate action. In the meantime, please enjoy this light-hearted offering for the season:

‘Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the city,
The hustle and bustle went on without pity.
Mom in her down coat and Dad, stocking cap,
Hurried, all loaded down with more presents to wrap.

The snow it did sparkle, in Christmas lights glaring,
Cheerful reindeer tunes rang out, over loudspeakers blaring.
Tempers were rising, and patience wore thin,
As crowds pushed and shoved in a last minute din.

When all of a sudden, in the cold winter night,
Down went the music and out blinked the lights,
With the swiftness of lightning, with the shock of a spark,
And everyone stood, in the silence and dark.

When a single bright light shone down from afar
On a small rotund figure dressed for Christmas bazaar.
He stood high on a soapbox, and started to shout,
“Is this your idea what the season’s about?”

“Do you like what you’re doing? Do you feel full of cheer?
Well, I’ll tell you a story that will fill you with fear.
Of fat Christmas elves, carefree, full of mirth,
Now downtrodden, enslaved, to the loss of their girth.

“We’ve been outsourced, and down sized, our union was busted,
St. Nick was our hero, our leader we trusted.
But something has changed – is our Santa defeated?
Our health care – now nothing! Vacation? Deleted!

“We wonder what’s happened. Is Santa maligned?
Is someone else running Christmas, or has St. Nick resigned?
We’re angry, we’re upset, we’re sad and perplexed.
And we want answers, right now, not Fed Ex’ed!”

Then a horrible racket commenced from the gutter,
And all watched a huge pothole erupt with a shudder:
A sled made of leg-bones pulled by monstrous rats eight,
Drew up by us – we shuddered – our breath did abate.

2 Li'l Fishes

2 Li'l Fishes serves a free hot lunch Tuesday, and Thursday through Sunday, downstairs in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

To help out, contact Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, twolilfishes@yahoo.com.

cont'd...

Minister's Notes, cont'd

A towering figure rose up in the sled
And under his cowl, eyes like charcoal glowed red
Lightning flashed, thunder rolled, and over the pall
A bombastic voice rolled out: "Did you call?"

"Don't look so surprised. You've long been asking
for someone to take over this work, begin tasking
the elves with more work and less frolic, less play.
Toys too expensive? We've cut the elves' pay.

"Toys made at the North Pole? Unfair trade restraint!
Let cheap elves in China paint toys with lead paint.
You want Christmas for cheaper, did I hear you say?
I came to the rescue, Old Nick saved the day."

The gaunt cloaked figure picked up his long whip,
And shouting "On rodents!" they rose at a clip,
Then we heard as he cried to the crowd with a sneer,
"Dreary Christmas to all! Have a wretched New Year!"

But the elf on the soapbox rose up then to croak,
And gradually gained back his voice as he spoke,
"Christmas ain't about toys, it's not about hating;
It's all about PEACE, it's anticipating

"HOPE for a time that brings all people respect,
With an Earth that we care for, little kids we protect.
Christmas is knowing that LOVE will prevail,
In spite of Old Nick who goes shaking his tail.

"Santa is somewhere! He's just gone to ground
And JOY it will triumph, St. Nick will be found!
Please don't let this happen! We know that you care!
We know you are with us, so speak up, if you dare!

"Shout 'Santa!' Shout 'Christmas!' Shout 'Peace on
Earth!'
Shout loud, and shout out now, for all you are worth!"
And the crowd began slowly, at first they just tested,
Trying out those few words the brave elf had suggested.

At first just a few, then more and more people
Shouted out from the sidewalk, to the streets, to the
steeple,
Till a thunderous roar rang through cold winter air
And the sound seemed to rise to the sky as a prayer.

And faded to silence – and then, coming nearer,
The people heard sounds that had never felt dearer
Of jingles and clashes, of sleighbells and laughter,
And came eight tiny reindeer, St. Nick tailing after.

Old Santa then reined in his deer with a "Ho!"
And looked over the suffering crowd in the snow.
His eyes they did twinkle, his smile so warm;
He cried out, "I thank you! You've saved me from harm.

"We'll always have Christmas, if this you believe,
That love's stronger than fear, and not just Christmas Eve.

And so as a gift to the elves and to you,
We're changing the way Christmas business we do.

"No longer will whips crack and jobs be outsourced.
Nor from overworked elves will more work be forced.
From now on the making of toys at the workshop
Will hearken to every elf's voice in the co-op.

"Alone we are weak, together we're stronger;
So together let's help create peace that lasts longer
Than any that's made with a gun or a lash.
In ourselves, families, friends, even those we would
trash.

"The spirit of Christmas only asks us to love,
That we open our hearts to the gifts from above.
So tonight let's rejoice, as we sing a new song.
Merry Christmas to all! Let us all sing along!"

The lights they came up now, the speakers resounded,
And St. Nick took the reins and his chargers rebounded.
And we heard his sweet voice as he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all! Silent Night, Holy Night!"

peace, Jean



"Spiritual Beans"

Treasures of Uptown interfaith
discussion group meets on
Saturday, January 5, 4-5pm at
Inspiration Kitchens, 4715 N.

Sheridan, for another lively conversation. For more
information, see www.TreasuresofUptown.org.

Classical Piano Recital, Saturday, Dec 29, 7pm:

Joseph Bures plays waltzes, a
prelude to the traditional Vienna's
celebration of New Year's Eve.



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Calendar – December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7pm Joseph Bures plays études
2 10am Service Rev Jackie Belile	3	4	5	6 4pm-10pm CREATEFEST Renee Baker	7 4pm-10pm CREATEFEST Renee Baker	8 4pm-10pm CREATEFEST Renee Baker
9 10am Service 11:30 Potluck Hanukkah	10	11	12 6:30 Treasures steering comm., foyer	13 1:30 2 Li'l Fishes	14 6pm Taizé Coffeehouse w Linda Boyle, in Molly's Café	15 10 JustEmbrace Sole Care foot clinic 10-noon PBC board meeting
16 10am Service	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10am Service CHRISTMAS PAGEANT	24 Office closed	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! 10am-2pm Community celebration & Dinner	26	27	28	29 7 Joseph Bures plays waltzes to anticipate New Year's Eve in Vienna
30 10am Service KWANZAA/ NEW YEAR'S	31 Office closed	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 JANUARY	3	4	5 4 Spiritual Beans @Inspir Kitchens