

# Calendar – December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10am Service 11:30 Trustees mtg	5	6  6:30pm Treasures	7	8	9  6pm Taizé svc, Coffeehouse with Mark Dvorak	10  7pm Joseph Bures piano recital
11 10am Service	12	13	14  6:30pm Worship committee	15  1:30pm 2 Li'l Fishes	16  6pm Movie Night "Joyeux Noel"	17  10-12 PBC committee meeting  7pm Dartmouth Gospel Choir
18 10am Service Christmas potluck	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 CHRISTMAS 10am Service  11:30 Christmas Dinner celebration	26	27	28	29	30	31

### **Minister's Notes, cont'd**

Advent is not just about the arrival of the Christ child on Christmas morning. Historically, it has been about anticipating the Second Coming, as well. But I think that in our 21<sup>st</sup> century world, we need to be thinking about it as the coming of the spirit that Jesus brought to the people of his time – that big love, that compassion, that he showed to everyone he touched.

And even more so, we need to think of it in terms of the third meaning of advent – that this love and compassion are already here, if we pay attention.

We are seeing positive changes here, as the new shelter organization settles in – they have been cleaning and painting Anderson Hall, and repairing the restrooms (which we admit were in rather awful shape), and even putting a new floor in the kitchen.

We are looking forward to new tenants on the fourth floor, as we revision our building as a community arts center. The people we are talking with seem to see things much the way we do, and are interested in how they can interact with the shelter guests, and bring a new richness of experience and opportunity to their day.

Love is already here.

May we not get discouraged, when we face obstacles, or are reminded of realities we'd rather were different. Let us continue to turn our anger into action for good; let us continue to look for those stories where people have helped one another. Let us make this season be one of love and abundance, and create an atmosphere where Love's presence is felt by everyone.

peace, Jean

### **Mark Dvorak at the Coffeehouse**

Join us on December 9 for our Second Friday in Molly's Café (floor 3 1/2). Begin with a respite from your hectic week, the meditative **Taizé service** with chant, candles, poetry, and silence. The Peoples Church **Coffeehouse** follows at 7:15pm, welcoming live acoustic music from **Mark Dvorak**, a modern day troubadour, a folk singer's folk singer. His songwriting has been called "wondrous" and "profound."

Besides the live music, the Coffeehouse features cheap eats: fresh-brewed coffee and Ludie's fabulous desserts.

### **Dartmouth Gospel Choir in concert**

The knock-your-socks-off gospel choir of Dartmouth College will grace our stage on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, along with the musical group InVox.

This is a benefit performance to help the Preston Bradley Center, our wonderful building. The Chicago Dartmouth Alumni club has adopted the Center, and plans to help us raise funds to keep going into a beautiful future.

### **Thanks, for Thanksgiving!**

In past years Roger Aurelio and his friends have brought a sumptuous feast on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, but this year they were unable to do it.

So this was the first Thanksgiving Day special dinner we've served ourselves. Many people called out of the blue and volunteered to help serve the meal; the food was delicious, the mood was mellow, and everything went smoothly. Thanks to all of you who helped!

### **Spiritual Beans**

We are all "spiritual beans" – I mean, beings! We continue to have lively interfaith conversations around the table at Starbucks on Wilson at Magnolia – the last one on food – which covered fasting, feasting, and the meaning of communion.

The next gathering will address "faith and law" – on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 4pm. Does your faith "comply" with the civil law? When does your faith demand that you break the law? Aisling will have a lot more provocative questions to ask us. See you there!



### **The Peoples Church of Chicago**

**941 W. Lawrence Avenue**

**P.O. Box 408319**

**Chicago, IL 60640-8319**

**[www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org](http://www.PeoplesChurchChicago.org)**

**773.784.6633**



# ON THE STREET

## The Peoples Church of Chicago

### Newsletter for December, 2011

**“A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience”**

#### CALENDAR

##### Movie/Film Night

- **Fri, Dec 16, 6pm:** “Joyeux Noel” –in this moving Oscar-nominated true story, WWII enemy troops ca a ceasefire for Christmas Eve.

##### Upcoming Sundays

- **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service with Rev. Jean Darling preaching.
- **Sun, Dec 18, 11:30:** Christmas potluck after service.
- **Sun, Dec 25, Christmas Day:** We celebrate Christmas with our annual pageant, followed by the Christmas community dinner.

##### Other Events

- **Second Friday, Dec. 9:** 6pm Taizé service, Coffeehouse at 7 with troubadour **Mark Dvorak**.
- **Sat, Dec 10, 7pm:** **Joseph Bures** plays Massenet, Fauré, Chabrier, Chaminade, Liszt.
- **Sat, Dec 17, 7pm:** **InVox**, and the **Dartmouth College Gospel Choir**, perform in a benefit for the Preston Bradley Center. Donator received at the door.

#### Minister’s Notes:

##### Waiting for Love to Be Born

*Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling*

Christmas – even in its most commercial aspect – still contains that magical element of waiting, the essence of Advent. Our intern Seth Fisher gave a beautiful Advent sermon last week, in which he introduced the “parable of the pizza.”

“Advent” comes from the Latin *adventus*, from the Greek *parousia*, which actually carries several meanings – not just “coming at some future time” which is how most of us have looked at the idea – but also means “arrival,” and even “presence.”

But, says Seth, imagine you phone for a pizza – then you turn to your roomies and say, “It’s coming!” The pizza is in process – it will be here presently. *Adventus*. Some impatient soul asks, “When is it coming?” It’s coming at 8pm (or whenever it gets here). *Adventus*. A different meaning for “It’s coming.”

We sing one of my favorite Advent hymns, “People, Look East”:  
People, look east, the time is near  
Of the crowning of the year...  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest (the Rose, the Star), is on the way.

Love is on the way. *Adventus*.

During Advent, we say together,  
**We are waiting for love to be born. We are waiting with hope for peace to arrive. We are waiting for a rebirth of justice and joy in the human heart.**

When will Love be born in the human spirit?

Sometimes it seems like it will never happen – we read about suicide bombings in Kabul, we see people on talk shows spew vitriol about those they disagree with, we hear about shootings right in our own neighborhood. When will the violence stop?

Sometimes it’s easy to forget the third meaning of *parousia* – presence. Love is on the way, Love is arriving, Love is here – already present!

*cont’d...*

#### 2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tues, Thurs, Sat and Sunday, a free hot lunch is served downstairs in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

To help out, contact Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, [twolilfishes@yahoo.com](mailto:twolilfishes@yahoo.com).