



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for February, 2008

"Uptown's Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"

CALENDAR

Film/Movie Night –

- ? Fourth Friday, Feb 22, 6-8p.m.
"Hotel Rwanda," with Don
Cheadle – followed by discussion.

Song and Hymn Sing –

- ? Every Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30p.m.

Upcoming Services

- ? Sunday, February 17: 10a.m.
"Original Blessing" – a new look
at the Creation story.
- ? Sunday, February 24: 10a.m.
Clare Butterfield preaching on
"The Woman at the Well." Bring
a friend Sunday – service followed
by **potluck dinner**.
- ? Sunday, March 2: 10a.m. Service
followed by **Board meeting**.
- ? Sunday, March 9, 10a.m. We
celebrate **International Women's
Day** (March 8).

*All services followed by coffee and
light refreshments.*

Other Gatherings

- ? Sunday, March 9: 11:15 am.
Service followed by **Potluck** and
the **P.C. Annual Meeting**.

2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday and
Saturday, a free lunch is served in
the lower floor Anderson Hall of the
church. All are welcome.

If you would like to volunteer,
come by after 10:00am, and Isaac
will put you to work.

Minister's Notes:

This Amazing Race

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

Though the Presidential race has been going on for over a year, and we've become accustomed to the people in it, if you stop to think about it, what we are witnessing is nothing short of amazing. To have the front runners in the Democratic Party representing not one, but **two** of the groups of people who have found a measure of relief in the past 30 years from eons of discrimination – an African American and a woman – is almost beyond belief.

The Republicans seem to be in flux almost as much as the Democrats, though their differences are not physically obvious (since they are all white men). But leaving their issues aside for now, I'd like to muse on the effects of these other developments on the rest of us.

As a woman, I was brought up during a time of great change and new opportunities for women. There were few role models for me of women in professional positions, and there was still a lot of pressure to hide your strengths and your power. I was told by a speech professor to "smile more – you have such a pretty smile." Can you imagine a man being given that advice? A friend of mine who wanted to become a professional cellist was steered instead into music education.

So here – whatever you think of Hillary's platform or style – we have a woman in an incredible position, who has been tough, who has been willing to fight, who has a strong competitive spirit that has formerly only been allowed to men. She has not allowed the press to pigeonhole her as soft and weak, or as strident and bitchy, either.

Instead she has managed to be charming, matter-of-fact, or take the offensive, depending on what seemed to be needed. She is a role model for women in this country that we have not really had before. This can't help but affect us – men and women – in many ways, conscious and unconscious. Whether she wins or loses, her effort and her strong persona will have made a great deal of difference in the long run.

And – even more astounding – a black man is running for President and actually has a chance of winning, only a generation from a time of mass marches for civil rights, of police dogs and water hoses, of riots and inner city neighborhoods burning. *cont'd*

Minister's Notes – cont'd

The symbolic power of this event can't be overstated – especially as Barack's vision of unity, both within the United States and in the world, reminds people of Lincoln, another lanky lawyer from Illinois.

I am hopeful that the very fact of his participation and success so far will do much to heal the old wounds of this country's beginnings in a foundation of slavery and oppression.

I've heard that there is still a closet vote of 5% who would say they voted for an African American when they actually did not. That would mean Barack needs a substantially larger margin in the opinion polls to succeed at the ballot box. Whether he wins or not, his strong showing and message of unity give us hope for the eventual end of race hatred and discrimination in this country.

The fact that no one is astounded by these developments – we are taking them in stride – is in itself a harbinger of a future time when people will truly not notice or care whether a candidate is a man or woman, black, white or brown. I toast that future!

In the meantime, I urge you to vote your conscience, of course, and work to elect a candidate who strives toward a peaceful world and an economic system that nourishes all people.

peace, *Jean*

Coming Up: Future Events

“Hotel Rwanda”

We continue our new “Movie Night,” the fourth Friday of the month, with the powerful and moving **“Hotel Rwanda.”** It tells how hotelier Paul Rusesabagina used all the skill and nerve of this “ordinary man” to protect those – both Hutu and Tutsi – who ended up in his hotel during the massacre of Tutsis in his country. Starring Don Cheadle.

Join us for popcorn and the movie at **6pm, Feb 22**, followed by discussion.

Peoples Church Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 9, stay after the service for a potluck dinner and the **Peoples Church Annual Meeting.** We'll elect three people to Board positions and review and vote on the inspiring and ambitious 2008 budget proposal.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

At 7pm on Good Friday, March 21, you are invited to participate in this meditative candlelit service in the sanctuary, with readings and music. It is a time to mourn instances of our inhumanity to our fellow beings.

Workshop: “Spirit and Money”

On Saturday, April 5th, from 10am to noon, Rev. Jean Darling, Ed Feldmanis, and Mary Donoghue from the credit union join forces to lead a discussion on **money and meaning**, and to help you get a handle on budgeting.

This free workshop is meant to help you clarify your values and your attitudes toward money, and give you some concrete tools toward planning your spending so that you are in control of it, instead of it controlling you!



Call the church to reserve your place, 773-784-6633.

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