



# ON THE STREET

## The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for July-August, 2008

*"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"*

### CALENDAR - July

#### Film/Movie Night –

- ? Fourth Friday, July 25, 6-8pm.  
"The Shawshank Redemption"  
– followed by discussion.

#### Song and Hymn Sing –

- ? Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30pm.

#### Summer Stroll in Uptown

- ? Thursday, 6:30pm, after singing.

#### Upcoming Services

- ? Sun, July 27, 10am: **Ed Feldmanis: "The Power of Yes."**
- ? Sun, Aug 3, 10am: **Rev. Sam Manansala** preaching.
- ? Sun, Aug 10, 10am: **Rev. Bob Ford**, a poetry service.
- ? Sun, Aug 17, 10am: **Sara Ross** preaching.
- ? Sun, Aug 24, 10am: **Grace Itter**, preaching.
- ? Sun, Aug 31, 10am: **Labor in the Pulpit.**

*All services followed by fellowship, with coffee and light refreshments.*

#### Other Events

- ? **NO FILM IN AUGUST**

#### 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:

#### Three Worldviews

*Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling*

One of the exciting things about our era – in spite of all the insecurities it arouses, as well – is that some of the old ways, that have become as stiff and uncomfortable as an old pair of work gloves, are starting to crack open – more like a seed in a thick husk – and something new is growing out of the casing of the old.

Theologian Marcus Borg, one of the voices for this "something new," describes three worldviews – ways of thinking about our faith – that result in widely varying internal psychological states. In the first, a person sees the Universe as an essentially dangerous place.

In the second, perhaps a Deistic view, a person sees the Universe as a cold and indifferent place, like a machine that simply follows the laws of physics.

In the third, a person sees the Universe as suffused with benevolent spirit, with a welcoming, loving presence.

The first two, Borg says – believing in a dangerous or indifferent Universe – by their nature do nothing to dispel the existential anxiety that comes with being human (from, among other things, our prehistoric fear of being eaten). But the third – believing in a loving Universe – engenders a sense of trust, of safety in the midst of whatever comes our way.

Borg is saying – to oversimplify a bit – that what we think affects how we feel. If we continue to think theological ideas that make us feel insecure, we are doing ourselves and God a disservice. We harm ourselves, and are selling God short.

Religion needs to be living and breathing, supporting vibrant life, and not engendering fear and anxiety. We need religious practices and ideas that help us live today, that help us confront, with hope and determination, the constant pressures and problems facing us in our lives and in this world.

People have been staying away from traditional churches in droves. And in Borg's view, it's because the churches have clung to old worldviews that only added to people's anxieties.

*cont'd...*

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

Thirty, forty years ago many people still shared those old views. Now more people want to see the world as a place where all people are connected, where women have a valued place alongside men, where race and class and sexual orientation are not something God would care about, where people should be free to explore the depth and breadth of their spiritual life with curiosity and passion.

I'm seeing less tolerance for handed-down truths, more interest in learning spiritual practices, more willingness to accept others' traditions as legitimate.

I cherish my naïveté, if that's what it is – I believe we are moving toward greater consciousness, little by little. And I believe that is the goal of all the world's religions, at their heart.

peace, *Jean*

### **2 Li'l Fishes Expanding:**

#### ***New opportunities to serve***

Beginning in September, we plan on serving meals to 40 to 60 people in our **new lunch space** in 3 ½ West, a pleasant sunny room a half flight up from the third floor. We're putting in plumbing, bumping the electrical to 220V, adding some kitchen equipment, and are buffing the room up a bit. Besides the cost of improvements, we are expanding the staffing needed, employing some of those formerly homeless folk. A generous grant from Divine Word Mission is getting us partway to our goal, but your donation is also much needed to make this dream a reality.

Our new lunchroom will provide four new opportunities a week for teams of people to help with the meal. In the past, Isaac has managed the downstairs with some regular volunteers from among the guests, but now we'll need twice as many people to work upstairs, serving meals and putting things back in order at the end.

**Can you help?** Call Angie at the church office and get on the schedule, 773-784-6633.

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### **Labor Day Picnic**

Plans for the annual Labor Day picnic are underway. Each year Peoples Church serves a free barbeque to 4-500 people in the park along the lakefront. It's an extravaganza, with food, softball, games and enjoying the park.

Phone if you'd like to help, 773-784-6633, and leave us your name and a good way to reach you.

### **A Walk in the Neighborhood**

Join us for a regular evening stroll this summer around the Uptown neighborhood. Meet here at the church on Thursday evenings after choir practice, at 6:30pm.

### **The Sacred Conversation on Race**

We'll resume the Sacred Conversation on Race at our September fourth Sunday potluck with a video of the amazing **Van Jones** speaking at the UUA General Assembly in Florida in June. He talks about building the "Green Economy" – where we can conserve energy **and** put people to work.

### **The Guest House**

*This being human is a guest house.  
Every morning a new arrival.*

*A joy, a depression, a meanness,  
some momentary awareness comes  
as an unexpected visitor.*

*Welcome and entertain them all!  
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,  
who violently sweep your house  
empty of its furniture,  
still, treat each guest honorably.  
He may be clearing you out  
for some new delight.*

*The dark thought, the shame, the malice,  
meet them at the door laughing,  
and invite them in.*

*Be grateful for whoever comes,  
because each has been sent  
as a guide from beyond.*

*- Jelaluddin Rumi*

# Calendar – August 2008

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		***** <i>Rev. Jean is on vacation during the month of August</i> *****		1	2  7pm Joseph Bures classical piano concert	3  10am Sam Manansala 11:30 PC Trustees
4	5	6	7	8	9	10  10am Bob Ford
11	12	13	14	15	16	17  10am Sara Ross
18	19  Workshop on	20  “Here I Stand” in	21  Wheaton	22  NO FILM IN AUGUST	23	24  10am Grace Itter
25	26	27	28	29	30	31  10am Labor in the Pulpit speaker
1  Annual Labor Day In the park						