

# Calendar – June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 communion 10am Service 11:30 PC Trustees	7	8  6:30 Worship Comm.	9	10  7pm Treasures - Interfaith Steering Committee	11  6pm Taizé svc, 7pm Coffeehouse <i>Molly's Café</i>	12
13 10am Service	14	15  1:30pm 2 Li'l Fishes Fundraising Comm.	16  Noon-2pm PBC Board meeting	17	18	19  7pm Joseph Bures classical piano <i>P.C. auditorium</i>
20 10am Service	21	22	23	24	25  6pm – Film Night – ON HOLD <i>P.C. auditorium</i>	26 <b>HUNGER WALK</b> =====
27 10am Service 11:30 Potluck	28	29	30			7pm Joseph Bures ** organ recital ** <i>P.C. auditorium</i>

## Minister's Notes, cont'd

But those in that five percent are often the prophets of a new age – in five years or ten years they will be 20 percent, or 50 percent.

I'd much rather see our leaders – if only quietly at first – listen to those prophets and test in their own minds if there is merit to their outcry. Do they speak a grain of truth? I would like to see them begin to address these issues right away, in many small, experimental ways, to open a door to what must come, sooner or later.

I was present the other morning – and amazed – at the Mayor's first interfaith leaders' breakfast where the "One Chicago, One Nation" program was unveiled. It was a gathering of liberal Christians, Jews, Muslims, white, African American, native and foreign born – people who have a stake, and a belief in, a positive outcome of the diverse faiths and communities of this city interacting and acting together.

The mayor's office and its other partners unveiled a program already underway, of training and funding interfaith ambassadors for neighborhood work. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, winners of a film contest about Chicago will be shown and the ambassadors introduced; next fall 20 grants of ten thousand dollars each will be awarded to congregations or groups working with others of a different faith to do service projects in their communities.

All of our despair evaporates in the face of this positive work. Suddenly, an outlet for our energies, our hope! to do something that helps bring people together, that begins to heal some of the wounds so old, so freshly inflicted, so continually reinjured.

Mayor Daley exhorted us gathered there about gun violence – "America loves guns, loves killing – but we're killing our own! Where is the outrage? I want to see you religious leaders get behind this. I don't want to see people shut away in their little communities."

We believe that interfaith work, contact, conversation, can help to heal divisions across religion, across race, across ethnicities. We are looking forward to meeting the ambassadors to our area, and including them in our already on-going efforts here.

This project reflects a growing excitement about interfaith work, in all kinds of arenas. At Peoples Church we have been trying various ways of reaching out into the community, and the interfaith project is one that has especially sparked a nerve and generated involvement.

This particular path of interest and excitement reminds me of a Zen story about the King's butcher, who was famous for his skill. The King watched one day, as his employee cut up an entire ox without breaking a sweat.

His knife just slid between the bones, and the pieces of the carcass seemed to fall apart of themselves. The King marveled at this and asked him how he did it.

"When I was young, I sharpened my cleaver, and struggled to cut through the tough tendons. As I learned the shape of the muscles and the joints, eventually my knife learned to find its own way. Now I don't think about it at all – if I encounter resistance, I slow down, and the knife finds the best way through the joint."

When we struggle to make things happen, sometimes we get in our own way. When the Universe affirms what we are trying to do, things become easy – doors open, people appear who have the skills and enthusiasm we need. A wise approach, in any case – that when obstacles appear, we should not muscle our way through, but take some time to feel our way.

peace, *Jean*

## Hunger Walk

Hidden within the diversity of Uptown is a segment of the population too frequently misunderstood, ignored, and sometimes vilified: the At-Risk. Over 25% of the population lives at or below the poverty level. What unites almost all of the At-Risk is malnourishment. Poor diet can amplify problems to a life-threatening level.

The 2 Li'l Fishes lunch program fights hunger among our neighbors in need – we serve about 2000 meals a month, four days a week, year-round; half the people are homeless, the others are simply people whose food budgets don't stretch far enough.

You can help by taking part in the Greater Chicago Food Depository's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunger Walk this June, raising money for food for this important program. It takes place **Sat, June 26, 8am** at Soldier Field – register on-line at <http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/>, to help the 2 Li'l Fishes program. Look for "Preston Bradley Center" our 501(c)(3) agency.



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# ON THE STREET

## The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for June, 2010

*"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"*

### CALENDAR

#### Film/Movie Night –

**Our projector is getting repaired – we'll start again in September, with a lineup of great films.**

#### Upcoming Services

- ? **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service, **Rev. Jean Darling** preaching, with stories and poetry and music.
- ? **Sun, June 27, 10am:** **Dave Karcher** shares his **spiritual journey**, including a sacred meal (our monthly **Potluck**).

#### Other Events

- ? **"Second Fri," June 11, 6pm:** **Taizé service**, followed by special guest **Andrew Calhoun** at the **7pm Coffeehouse**.
- ? **Sat, June 19, 7pm, Piano Recital:** Joseph Bures plays classical music from the greats.
- ? **Sat, June 26, 8am, Hunger Walk** at Soldier Field – register on-line at <http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/>, to help the 2 Li'l Fishes program.
- ? **Sat, June 26, 7pm, Organ Recital:** Joseph Bures shows us what our new organ can do, with Bach and other works.

#### 2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, a free lunch is served in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

If you would like to help, phone Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, 773-754-6102.

#### **Minister's Notes: "Prophets of a New Age"**

*Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling*

We've got so much on our minds lately, so many problems, and so few people with any sense addressing them – so it seems.

There is oil hemorrhaging into the gulf and no end in sight. "Plug the hole with BP executives!" one wag said. If carbon emissions weren't already a problem, this huge release of ancient carbon would certainly ensure it.

And home foreclosures, job losses, continuing to lurk in the background, with no decisive jobs program, no decent health care program, no way to really help people feel secure about their future.

And youths running amok down the streets in unruly bunches, making neighbors anxious; worse - kids dealing drugs on the corners, tagging where it never used to be, shootings in our neighborhoods.

And peace, already down on the mat in the Middle East, dealt a new body blow with the Israeli Defense Forces attack on the flotilla of defiant activists bent on breaking the Israeli blockade of Gaza.

I may sound flip – an unfortunate habit of mine – but these are all issues that concern me deeply, and others in this congregation as well – not a Sunday goes by without someone mentioning the oil in the Gulf as part of joys and concerns.

Talking with an old friend, we remarked on how helpless people seem to be feeling these days. Why? I'm afraid we have been well-trained over the past 30 or 40 years – we've allowed our protests to be diverted to special zones, we've lined our ducks up docilely applying for grants, we've given up on pet neighborhood projects when the obstacles seemed insurmountable.

A therapist I saw some years ago remarked that "you just have to ignore the five percent who object to something." I thought it rather insensitive of her to say to me, one who almost invariably finds herself among that 5%. I don't know where this bit of "wisdom" comes from, but it seems to have pervaded the halls of power. If a protest comes from too small a group, ignore it.

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