



# ON THE STREET

## The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for March, 2008

*"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"*

### CALENDAR

#### Film/Movie Night –

- ? Fourth Friday, March 28, 6-8pm.  
"Crash" – followed by discussion.

#### Song and Hymn Sing –

- ? Every Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30pm.

#### Upcoming Services

- ? Sunday, March 9, 10am. We celebrate **International Women's Day** (March 8), followed by potluck and **Annual Meeting**.
- ? Sunday, March 16, 10am. **Palm Sunday** service.
- ? Sunday, March 23, 9am. Special breakfast, followed by **Easter** service at 10am.
- ? Sunday, March 30, 10am. Guest speaker **Alex Wiesendanger**, Community Renewal Society.

*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.

This Sunday, March 9, we'll have special music from the **Lakeside Pride Saxophone Ensemble** during the service: "Chanson du Matin" by Elgar and Holst's Suite in E flat.



#### Minister's Notes:

##### ReCreating Ourselves

*Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling*

When my sister lived in Hawaii, she noticed quite a number of people – haois (anglos), all – who had invented new names for themselves, and even new histories. Something about the atmosphere of the islands seemed to invite people to become someone other than who they started out as.

I also heard recently about a long-time minister who had served his congregation well, but was discovered to have invented his degree and ordination. He had certainly invented a new past for himself, one I thought astounding. "Well," said one of my colleagues, "he must have felt called to ministry, but just didn't want to jump through all the hoops."

This season of Easter, of the Spring Equinox, invites us to think about rebirth and renewal. It's hard to imagine now, but soon green shoots will sprout from the now frozen ground, and crocuses bloom. After the Equinox, which happens to closely coincide with Easter this year, the sun will shine more hours of the day than night looms. With Easter, Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, that powerful symbol of rebirth and renewal.

So, musing on these examples, I wondered: Is it possible to remake ourselves, without being "phony"?

It is hard not to see someone that way who shucks the name she was born with to become "Orchid Ocean," who no longer was born in Iowa, whose parents and grandparents are transported from tenders of farmland into more glamorous fields. It is far worse to think of a colleague who has only pretended to have the same experiences in training for the ministry as I have. (Actually, it makes me smile – but for his congregation it was no laughing matter!)

These are extreme examples. Who hasn't heard the expression, "Fake it till you make it"? It is advice most of us have **cont'd...**

### **Minister's Notes** – cont'd

needed, to get to a point where our new job, or some other new role, feels natural.

But we may start out life in a family that has expectations that don't fit who we are, and it may take a lifetime of exploring, of trying out new personas, before we finally know our real selves.

It can be extremely difficult to change some of these patterns we learned so early. The roles we were given may seem "right" just because we've had them so long. Or we may feel it is somehow disloyal to our parents or to someone else we admired when young, to decide to change ourselves.

And some of what we may be feeling we experience not as something we choose, but that has a kind of life of its own. We are not deciding to change ourselves, but allowing ourselves to change, or to be changed.

The idea of "dying to be reborn" is one that recurs in many of the mystic traditions. It carries with it the implication of the magnitude of the change – there is no more profound change than this. What is it we are "dying to be reborn" as? What will we become? Will we still know ourselves?

It takes trust – lots of trust – to go through our own personal resurrection – to die to the old me, and be born as the one we were meant to be. But it isn't impossible. And now is the season to think it over.

peace, *Jean*

## **Coming Up: Future Events**

### **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 Trustee positions and review and vote on the inspiring and ambitious 2008 budget proposal.

### **"Crash"**

We continue our new "Movie Night," the fourth Friday of the month. Roger Ebert writes:

*"Crash" tells interlocking stories of whites, blacks, Latinos, Koreans, Iranians, cops and criminals, the rich and the poor, the powerful and powerless, all defined in one way or another by racism. All are victims of it, and all are guilty it... Their negative impulses may be instinctive, their positive impulses may be dangerous, and who knows what the other person is thinking?*

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

### **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, longtime counselor and author 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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