



Dubuque Area Congregations United

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 29, No. 4

PO Box 811, Dubuque IA 52004-0811

April 2008

We, the members of DACU, people of diverse faiths and beliefs, are united by our belief in God, our concerns for justice and our call to serve others. Through prayerful dependence on God and respectful cooperation with each other, we will make a difference in our world by fostering an awareness and understanding of human need. We will be a supportive presence in this community and beyond through the generous sharing of our time, talents, and resources. Mission Statement adopted 10/22/96.

www.DACUonline.org/

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DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT
April 3-May 30	Sinsinawa Mound	Gallery Exhibit "Women Who Make Our Clothes" by artist Janet Essley
April 11	Sinsinawa Mound	Choer Opus 39, Queen of the Rosary Chapel, 7:00 PM
April 11-13	Sinsinawa Mound	"Choose Life" Retreat for women surviving cancer. Registration (608) 748-4411
April 14	Resurrection Church	Celebration of Creation 6:15-8:45 PM
April 14	Sinsinawa Mound	17 th Annual Youth Choir Festival, Queen of the Rosary Chapel, 7:00 PM
April 17	Shalom Center	Nurturing the Feminine Spirit 6:30 – 9:00 PM
April 19		Passover begins at sundown.
April 20	St. Luke's United Methodist Church	African Children's Choir performing during 8:30 AM and 10:45 AM worship services.
April 21	Shalom Center	Centering Prayer 7:00 – 8:00 PM
April 22	St. Raphael Cathedral	Celebration of Creation 6:15-8:45 PM
April 22	Shalom Center	The Power of Forgiveness (Film) 7:00 – 9:00 PM
April 23	Shalom Center	Administrative Professionals Luncheon 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
April 24	St. John's Episcopal Church	DACU Delegates' Meeting, 7:00 PM
April 29	Shalom Center	Evening of German Culture 6:30 – 8:30 PM
May 2	Church Women United	May Friendship Day Brunch, Sisters of the Presentation (2360 Carter Rd.) 9:30 AM (cost: \$4.00) "God's Wisdom Inspires Hospitality"
May 4	St. Luke's United Methodist Church	Vivaldi's "Gloria" presented by combined choirs of St. Luke's UMC, Holy Trinity Lutheran, and Grand View UMC honoring the 175 th Anniversary of St. Luke's UMC
May 6	Shalom Center	Mother/Daughter Evening 6:30-8:30 PM
May 22	St. Luke's United Methodist Church	DACU Delegates' Spring Worship Service, 7:00 PM
		*** You could list your event here! ***

Next DACU Delegates Meeting

DATE & TIME: Thursday, April 24, 2008 (7:00 pm)

LOCATION: St. John's Episcopal Church
1410 Main St.

PROGRAM: Tom Stovall: What's New at Operation New View

Plan to Attend and Bring a Friend!

President's Letter

DACU is a unique organization. It attempts to do something that faith communities have a difficult time accomplishing in their own traditions, let alone across belief structures. Our mission statement reads: "We, the members of DACU, people of diverse faiths and beliefs,

are united by our belief in God, our concerns for justice, and our call to serve others. Through prayerful dependence on God and respectful cooperation with each other, we will make a difference in our world ..."
Let me state what I think is powerful about this statement.

First, it identifies us as a faith-based organization. Faith in a supreme deity is important to our individual members and that belief system compels us to make a difference in the world. Right now the leadership of DACU is trying to assess if we are making a difference in our world.

Second, it identifies us as people of diverse faiths and beliefs. This is important. We recognize up front that we don't all see faith the same way. We don't all see God the same way. We should celebrate our differences! Our differences are what make DACU so unique and special. DACU stands for individual traditions holding firmly to their beliefs. Perhaps this suggests that DACU should be more engaged in educating people about the deeper

differences in our traditions rather than our surface commonalities. The elephant in the room is what divides us. Let's celebrate what divides us. They are probably the most meaningful and formative aspects of our faith anyway. If we can do this with great integrity then the third point becomes relevant.

Third, it makes "respectful cooperation" an amazing accomplishment. Respectful cooperation is sadly lacking in the world in which we live. To build a coalition targeting the human need in Dubuque while at the same time recognizing and respecting our theological differences is a task that proclaims that faith is important. Coalitions are extremely fragile and need to be constantly worked at. That's what the DACU board is giving thought and prayer to over the coming months.

DACU is a gift to this community. My hope, as president, is to see DACU's influence grow in Dubuque because Dubuque needs it. Pray for its leadership and for your faith community's participation.

---Rev. Timothy Bees, 2008 DACU President

Treasury Report

According to the DACU Bylaws, "Dubuque Area Congregations United will be supported financially by the voluntary contributions of its member congregations and institutions, keeping in mind the purposes and needs of the organization." Checks should be made payable to "Dubuque Area Congregations United" and sent to: Jenny Manders, DACU Treasurer, P.O. Box 811, Dubuque IA 52004

	March	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET 08
Income	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,636.04	\$ 5000.00
Expense	\$ -0-	\$ 752.94	\$ 5000.00
Net	\$ 500.00	\$ 883.10	-0-

As of March 31, 6 Member Congregations have made contributions to DACU for the 2008 Fiscal Year. On behalf of all the DACU projects that will benefit from your generosity, **Thank You!**

March Delegates Meeting

Thirty attended the March Delegates Meeting at Grandview United Methodist Church. Jim Ott and Chuck Eisenhart of Common Good Services presented information on the project "New Realities: Breaking Employment Barriers and Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World". The goal of this program is to support people in poverty who are making changes in their lives. The program needs churches and individuals who will sponsor participants at \$150 each. For more information contact Jim Ott at jott@aea9.K12.ia.us.

...We're looking for "angels" to mail about twenty Newsletters per month to those without email. If you'd like to volunteer for a month please let the Editor know (pgarfiel@dbq.edu, 589-0028). Thank You!

Reports/Updates/Events

D.I.N. is Moving!

After 14 years at Summit Congregational UCC, People In Need is moving their office to Westminster Presbyterian Church. The PIN phone number will remain the same. PIN thanks both Summit and Westminster for their generous support of this important work.

Dubuque Community Food Pantry

The Food Pantry Board of Directors is seeking another clergy member. If you have nominations please contact Sr. Lynn Wagner at 583-1165.

Thank you, Sister Lynn Wagner, Manager

Dubuque Rescue Mission

Don't forget to visit the new, improved Thrift Shop! Gently used items are always welcome. Hours for the Thrift Shop are 9 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Saturday.

Events at Sinsinawa Mound

The Sinsinawa Mound Art Gallery will exhibit "**Women Who Make Our Clothes**" by artist Janet Essley from April 3 through May 30. This collection of oil paintings is created on clothing fabric and portrays women throughout the world who make our clothing, often working in deplorable conditions for inhumane wages. The opening reception is April 6, 1-3 p.m. Visitors may view the show in the gallery from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. More art can be found in the adjacent Bookshop, open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Sunday. For more information on the gallery and Bookshop, contact Michelle Till at (608) 748-4411, ext. 849.

Choeur Opus 39, a touring French choir, will perform in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at 7 p.m. Friday, April 11. Under the direction of Christian Cacheley, the choir is comprised of 30 women and 15 men. A freewill offering will be taken.

The **Choose Life retreat** runs from 5 p.m. Friday, April 11, through 1 p.m. Sunday, April 13. This retreat is a time of reflection and conversation for women who have experienced or are experiencing cancer. Sister Mary Ellen O'Grady, OP, a cancer survivor, will lead the group in prayer, reflection, and ritual focusing on the gift of life. Each retreatant will receive a prayer shawl, made the Sinsinawa Dominicans. You may add a day of personal reflection before or after the retreat. You may also invite others who are journeying with you, such as a friend, spouse, or caregiver. They will be invited to join you in various parts of the retreat and also have

time for their own quiet space to reflect, walk the labyrinth, and visit the Bookshop. Fees vary. Contact Guest Services at (608) 748-4411 to register.

The 17th annual **Youth Choir Music Festival** will be held April 14. Youth choirs from the tri-state area clinic in the afternoon and perform a concert in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at 7 p.m. Pamela Crawford, retired music teacher from Maquoketa, Iowa, will direct the festival participants. The Platteville Chorale directed by Greg Dennis, UW-Platteville vocal music instructor, will also perform. The cost of the concert, which is open to the public, is \$4 for adults, children free. Contact Sr. Marie Juan Maney, OP, at (608) 748-4411, ext. 807, for more information.

For more information on these and other activities at the Mound, contact Guest Services at (608) 748-4411 or visit our Web site at www.sinsinawa.org/moundcenter

Shalom Events for April

(All Events take place at the Shalom Retreat Center, 1001 Davis St., Dubuque. For more information or to register, call 563-582-3592)

April 17: Nurturing the Feminine Spirit 6:30 - 9:00pm --Wine/cheese social w/musical program by Cathedral Women's Music Group/Sr. Ruth Jackson, Director Reg and fee by April 16

April 21: Centering Prayer 7:00 - 8:00pm Reg not required.

April 22: The Power of Forgiveness - A Documentary Film 7:00 - 9:00pm Reg and fee by April 21

April 23: Administrative Professionals Luncheon: "All-Time VIPs!" 11:30am - 1:00pm Speaker: Donna Bauerly PhD Reg and fee by April 18

April 29: Evening of German Culture 6:30 - 8:30pm German cuisine & music w/presentation on German pioneers by Professor Al Wittine Reg and fee by April 25

May 6: Mother/Daughter Evening: A Time to Enjoy!...A Pre-Mother's Day Celebration 6:30 - 8:30pm Delicious dinner w/music by "The Lemon Sisters" Reg and fee by May 2.

Celebration of Creation

The Catholic parish Social Concerns Committees will sponsor a "Celebration of Creation" at Resurrection Church, 4300 Asbury, 6:30 - 8:45 PM Monday April 14 (Repeated at St. Raphael Cathedral, 231 Bluff St., same time, Tuesday April 22). The evening will include prayer, music and discussion of practical ways to live a more sustainable life. Displays will open at 6:30, prayer service at 7:15. Giveaways, door prizes, and refreshments will be part of the event. For more information contact Barbara Gatch (St. Raphael's), 582-7646 or Judy Giesen (Resurrection), 557-9299.

Dubuque Community Days of Caring

Dubuque Community Days of Caring is an event where volunteers from around the Dubuque area will join local non-profit organizations to work on one-time service projects. Participating non-profit organizations are matched with volunteers from the community and local business who choose to give their time, talents, and services to impact our community's needs.

For 2008 the Days of Caring are Friday and Saturday April 25 & 26. Volunteers, both individual and groups, are welcome. This is a great opportunity for church and/or youth groups to come together to make a difference for our community.

To volunteer your group, please contact Beth Stephenson at Beth.Stephenson@diamondjo.com, 563.599.6654. To volunteer as an individual, family, or small group, log on to www.dbqdaysofcaring.org to see the list of projects and sign up.

Church Women United

Women from all faith congregations are cordially invited to the annual nationwide **May Friendship Day Celebration** sponsored by Church Women United on May 2, 2008 at the Sisters of the Presentation at 22360 Carter Road. Brunch will begin at 9:30 AM followed by the program, "God's Wisdom Inspires Hospitality". Plant a seed of hospitality, reap a bouquet of friendships. Fellowship of the Least Coin and the presentation of the Valiant Woman Award will also be celebrated. Call reservations for brunch (\$4.00) to 588-2088. (Disability accessible)

We're # 11!

Crop Walk organizer Maryann LoGuidice announced that the 2007 Dubuque Crop Walk ranked #11 in Iowa for funds raised. The 2008 Crop Walk will be October 7.

Spring is nearly here! And with it, our annual update of our DACU Worship Brochure which we distribute to local hotels and hospitals. Please send updates to the DACU Worship Committee, c/o Phyllis Garfield at pgarfiel@dbq.edu.

...Don't Forget!

- **Deadline** for Updates/Reports/Events is the first of the month...Utilize this opportunity to update us and promote events!
- **Don't forget to let us know if your email-address changes or if you know other folks who should receive the Newsletter (all are welcome).**
- **And....you can now view the monthly Newsletter on our DACU Website at www.DACUonline.org**



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DACU Board and Project Contacts

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