



# Dubuque Area Congregations United Monthly Newsletter

Volume 33, No. 11

PO Box 811, Dubuque IA 52004-0811

December 2011

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/](http://www.DACUonline.org/)

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DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT
These are just a few of the events sponsored by our DACU congregations and associates. Turn the page to learn more!		
Nov. 24-Jan. 1	Hillcrest	Reflections in the Park (Murphy Park)
December 20		First Night of Chankkah
December 25		Christmas Day
January 16	Voices/Values	Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast, 7:00 AM, Grand River Ctr.
January 24	DACU	Annual DACU Meeting and Banquet, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
February 28	DACU	DACU Delegates' Meeting
April 20, 2012	Temple Beth El	Annual Visitors' Service 6:30 lecture, 7:30 Service



**There is no DACU Delegates' Meeting  
in December.....**

***But our Dubuque community offers  
many worthwhile programs, services,  
events, and opportunities to worship  
with our neighbors or reach out to  
those in need.***

***At this, the darkest time of the  
calendar year, our faith reminds us  
that there is hope, and we are  
expected to share God's light and  
God's love with those around us.  
Blessings to each of you.***

***....your friends in DACU***

## DACU Annual Meeting/Banquet

**Date:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
1755 Delhi St. – Dubuque

**Dinner:** \$7.50 – Checks Payable to DACU

Mail to DACU,  
P.O. Box 811  
Dubuque, IA 52004-0811

RSVP by January 17 to Bob Krayner,  
563/582-5117 or [bdkrayer@aol.com](mailto:bdkrayer@aol.com)



## DACU Board Report

To date, a total of 18 Congregations and Associates have contributed to the work of DACU during 2011.

<b>FY 2011 Monthly Balance Sheet Report 11/30/2011</b>			
	<b>October</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>	<b>BUDGET 2011</b>
Income	\$250.00	\$3491.02	\$6,450.00
Expense	\$210.81	\$4,192.23	\$6,450.00
<b>Ending Balance as of 11/30/2011: \$1022.86</b>			

Please help us to support our DACU projects!  
Checks should be made payable to "Dubuque Area  
Congregations United" and sent to:  
DACU Treasurer,  
P.O. Box 811, Dubuque IA 52004

## DACU Projects

### **People In Need (P.I.N.)**

#### **Good News for People In Need!**

The offering for PIN at the DACU Thanksgiving Eve Service totaled to \$ 2,250.00. This is an increase of \$902.00 or 67% over last year's amount (\$1,348.00) and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest collection in the last 7 years. What a tremendous response from Dubuque's faith community!

P.I.N. Treasurer Tom Stovall reported that he received a PIN donation check from the Sisters of the Presentation for \$5,000! Tom reports that is the largest donation that PIN has ever received. A couple days later, he got another check from them for \$250 which was the result of a collection from employees at Sisters of the Presentation. Then, a couple days after that, he got another check for \$155 which was from a collection among the staff of the administration department at Sisters of the Presentation. WOW! That is a total of \$5,405 from our good friends there. What a blessing for PIN and an outpouring of caring.

*Alan Garfield, P.I.N. President*

**Please send donations to: Tom Stovall, PIN Treasurer,  
3345 Tibey Court, Dubuque, IA 52002-2849**

## Dubuque Rescue Mission

The Rescue Mission is in need of good used furniture....you can contact the Rescue Mission at 583-1394.

Rev. Rick Mihm, Director ([mihmr@mchsi.com](mailto:mihmr@mchsi.com))



## Dubuque Food Pantry

Thank you to all who brought food to the Thanksgiving service. We greatly appreciate your support. As I write this we are getting ready to hand out 500 baskets for the holidays. A big thank you to churches/congregations for providing hams and other food items for these baskets. It seems like everyday someone is stopping by with a trunk full of goodies to share with those in need. We couldn't do these baskets without the help churches, schools, businesses, organizations, and individuals who just want to share. ***Blessings to all of you.***

**Looking ahead to the New Year.** We would once again encourage churches/congregations to participate in "**Souper Bowl Sunday**". Would each person in your church/congregation be willing to donate one can of soup or a box of crackers? Just think how many people we could feed!!

God bless you and thank you for your continued support.

*Sister Lynn Wagner, Manager*

## **DACU Community**

### **Ministerium**

**Ministerium - Leaders:** Rev. Diane Christopher (St. John's Episcopal Church) and Father Mark Ressler (St. Joseph the Worker). Ministerium meets the second Tuesday of each month from 12 Noon to 1:30 PM:

January 10 – First Congregational UCC  
February 14 – Dubuque Rescue Mission  
March 13 – St. John's Episcopal Church  
April 10 – Westminster Presbyterian Church  
May 8 – Mt. St. Francis

For more information contact Diane Christopher at [revdianne@hotmail.com](mailto:revdianne@hotmail.com) or Mark Ressler at [dbq062@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us](mailto:dbq062@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us)

*Maryann Caudill-LoGuidice, DACU  
Representative*



### **Shalom Retreat Center**

*OUR MISSION: Founded in the Franciscan tradition, Shalom Retreat Center is a sacred space in a peaceful environment, calling people to God and fullness of life.*  
Phone: 563/582-3592.

E-mail: [info@shalomretreats.org](mailto:info@shalomretreats.org)

Web: [www.shalomretreats.org](http://www.shalomretreats.org)

TO REGISTER, call Shalom at 563/582-3592 or send check payable to Shalom Retreat Center with your contact information to: 1001 Davis St., Dubuque, IA 52001.

#### **Taize Prayer: We Continue...to the Ends of the Earth**

Thursday, Jan. 5, 7:30 – 8:30pm  
Registration not required. Free will offering.

#### **Reading and Telling the Stories in Scripture**

Saturday, Jan. 14, 9:30am – 3:30pm  
Presenter: Nancy Schreck OSF, D. Min. in Scripture, President, Sisters of St. Francis  
This first retreat day of the series will explore some of the stories Jesus used to teach and challenge his followers to understand something of the Reign of God. These stories in parable form are a window into the mind of Jesus and a mirror into our lives. The process of

Lectio Divina will be used to enable participants to make a connection between the stories Jesus told and the story of our lives of faith. Offering: \$40, includes lunch/morning snacks. Register by Jan. 9. **Note:** This retreat is one of a series of Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Days being offered monthly from Jan. – May. Participants can pick and choose to attend individual retreats, but those planning to attend all five retreats receive a \$40 discount by paying \$160 by Jan. 9.

#### **Centering Prayer**

Mondays, Jan. 16, 7:00 – 8:00pm Facilitator: Marilyn Dansart Join others in quiet, meditative prayer, discussion and support. Registration not required. Free will offering.

#### **Living Like St. Francis & St. Clare of Assisi**

Thursday, Jan. 19, 7:00 – 8:30pm  
Presenters: Franciscan Charism Team  
Learn about the spirit and values of Francis and Clare, saints for our time, and how to live a Franciscan way of life. No charge. Registration not required.

#### **Reading That Matters Book Discussion: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks***

by Rebecca Skloot  
Tuesday, Jan. 31, 7:00 – 8:30pm Facilitator: Eileen Miller OSF. This is a provocative book about cancer, racism, scientific ethics and crippling poverty – an enlightening must-read. Offering: \$6/session. Register by Jan. 30.

#### **Embracing Life After Separation or Divorce**

Saturday, Feb. 4, 9:00 – 4:00pm Presenters: Kim Kali-Schultes, Affinity Center; Bev Rech, plus a panel of three  
If you have experienced the pain of separation or divorce, here is a chance to gather with others who have experienced a similar loss. Topics to be addressed include feelings of pain/loss, com-compassion and resilience, and rebuilding a new and fruitful life. Offering: \$35. Includes continental breakfast & lunch. Register by Jan. 31.

#### **Days of Quiet & Prayer**

Book – *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, by Fr. Richard Rohr Wednesdays, Feb. 15, Mar. 14, Apr. 18, May 16, 9:30am – 2:30pm (9:15am c. bkfst.)  
Facilitator: Eileen Miller OSF Offering: \$75/series of four – includes book, program, materials, meal & private room. Register by Feb. 1.

#### **Putting Faith into Action**

Saturday, Feb. 11, 9:30am – 3:30pm,  
Presenter: Fr. Mark Ressler, Pastor, St. Joseph the Worker; former professor of morality, Loras College  
What goes into making moral decisions? We will explore conscience in terms of superego, formation, character, and choice as well as investigate what is necessary for moral objectivity as well as the three contexts of moral discernment: social, situational and personal. All of this will be applied to current moral issues facing American society today.  
Offering: \$40. Register by Feb. 6.

Note: This retreat is one of a series of Spiritual Enrichment Retreats being offered monthly from Jan. – May.

**Revolution of the Heart: The Spirituality of Dorothy Day** Monday, Feb. 6, 7:00 – 9:00pm

Presenter: Amanda Osheim, Asst. Prof. of Practical Theology, Loras College

Join us for an evening exploring the life and spirituality of Dorothy Day. Dorothy's care of the poor and commitment to social justice were fueled by prayer and expressed her love of God. Though she broke all the rules for women of her time, Dorothy provides us with a timeless example of Christian discipleship. Guided by her life and writings we will consider the "revolution of the heart" that leads to deeper union with God and others.

Offering: \$10. Register/prepay by Friday, Feb. 3.

**Lenten Retreat: Transformation – The Music of God**

Sun., Feb. 26, 5:30pm – Fri., March 2, 9:30am

Director: Tom Hartle OFM, Franciscan friar of Holy Name Province & itinerant retreat director, Pilgrimages leader to Rome and Assisi, Ministerial roles: parish ministry, retreat house staff member, presenter of parish missions

Using the Lenten Scriptures, and drawing upon Francis and Clare, we will come to understand Metanoia as the Music of God, Prayer as the Music of God, and Penance as the Music of God. Daily Eucharist.

Offering: \$365. Early Bird: \$340, if registered by Feb. 1, 2012. (\$75 deposit secures your reservation and is credited to the offering for the retreat.)

**HEALING HURTS & REGRETS - Forgiving & Healthy Alternatives to Forgiving** Fri., Feb. 24, 7:00pm – Sun., Feb. 26, 1:00pm

Director: Gary Egeberg, author of: The Pocket Guide to Inner Peace, The Pocket Guide to Prayer, From Self-Care to Prayer, and The Forgiveness Myth; Background in addiction studies, 26 years in recovery, and a passion for interfaith spirituality  
Though our brains are "wired" to remember our hurts for survival purposes, they are also wired for healing. If you are unable to forgive someone, or if you can't seem to forgive yourself, learn how to honor your own unique way of healing. Discover a variety of spiritual and psychological tools. You will learn:

- When forgiving is likely to work well and when a healthy alternative might be more effective
- How to keep the focus on your needs rather than on your offender, so that you can heal
- Ways to manage disturbing thoughts and upsetting emotions so that you can enjoy more peace of mind and heart
- How to reinterpret your life through a gentle and compassionate lens

Offering: \$165. Commuter: \$145. Register by Feb. 17. A \$50 deposit secures your registration and is credited to the offering for the retreat.

## Opening Doors

### Bed of Hope

Opening Doors has been a vital resource in the Dubuque community for over 11 years. Over 1,700 women have been provided a home with support services through Opening Doors' two programs, Maria House and Teresa Shelter. A year-round community fundraiser called "**Bed of Hope**" is offering a new opportunity for congregations, civic groups, colleges, and businesses to support women and children in the Dubuque area.

The idea is simple: Every year Opening Doors offers 16,790 beds for homeless women and children. (Currently the two facilities have a total of 46 beds.) Donors may support as many beds as they wish at \$10 per bed. The annual goal is to get all 46 beds covered for each night of the year.

To learn more about "**Bed of Hope**", or get a "start-up" kit containing posters and donor cards, or to schedule a speaker for your organization, just contact Ann Lorenz at 563-582-7480 ([alorenz@openingdoorsdbq.org](mailto:alorenz@openingdoorsdbq.org)).



## Dubuque Community

### **A Letter from Carroll Clark, Bridges Initiative**

**Hello DACU members!**

I pray that each of you has had a blessed 2011. It is hard to believe a new year is creeping up on us already. Since so many of you have been involved in our Bridges Initiative work, I wanted to take a moment to give you a few updates.

**Getting Ahead:** Getting Ahead graduation ceremony was December 16 at the Holiday Inn Downtown in the Blue Moon Room. For so many of these 32 individuals, completing something is a concept they have not grasped-until now. The event was free and open to the public. Thanks to those who attended to show support of those folks who are moving forward in their lives.

**Circles:** We are making another Circles match tonight! This means we now have 5 dedicated Getting Ahead

grads who have decided to keep the momentum going and to reach their goals. Each of these Circle Leaders has 3-4 Community members who have agreed to stand beside them and support them as they move forward. So far, one matched Circle has helped their Circle Leader (Getting Ahead grad) write a business plan to start her own bakery, another has supported their Circle Leader through some tough emotional times and encouraged them to not give up. And yet another has helped a Circle Leader get her drivers licence. Good Stuff! Please feel free to join us any Tuesday night (except Jan 3rd, 2012) to see what is going on. You do not have to make any commitment at that time-just check us out. We eat a community meal at 5:45 and meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Prescott School.

**Bridges Out of Poverty:** We will be hosting another full day event at Loras College in Mid March. As soon as the date is secured I will pass on the information.

I tell you-we have a lot going on...and we love every minute of it. When we hear the comments our participants (both those in poverty and those in middle class) make, we know we are on the right track and blessed to be doing the work.

I also wanted to issue a challenge. As I stated above, we have a community meal every Tuesday. We serve between 70-150 people each week depending on if a Getting Ahead class is currently in session. GracePoint Church has thrown down the gauntlet and committed to providing a meal every quarter for 2012 and has already booked their dates. **Are there any other congregations who can say-Yes we can do 4 meals in 2012?** Don't worry about date availability right now-we can put you in a date for the future and with enough advance notice can switch it if needed. What do you think-is your congregation up for the challenge?

Yours in service,  
Carroll

**Carroll E. Clark**  
Self Sufficiency Coordinator  
Bridges Initiative Co-Advisor  
Housing and CD Dept  
350 West 6th STE 312  
Dubuque IA 52001

563.589.4230 phone  
563.690.6696 fax  
[www.cityofdubuque.org/FSS](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/FSS)  
[www.cityofdubuque.org/Bridges](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/Bridges)

## **Children of Abraham**

...a series of conversations about faith from personal perspectives.

This series of five interfaith discussions led by representatives of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim congregations is aimed at enhancing understanding of religious traditions in a non-threatening, non-competitive environment. These conversations will not be debates but rather dialogues grounded in civility, a willingness to listen to others, and to learn and reflect. All sessions are on Thursdays, 8:00 PM. All are welcome; there is no charge.

### Remaining Sessions:

**February 23, 2012: Joseph/Yusuf. University of Dubuque, Dunlap Technology Building (Hadley Auditorium)**

**March 22, 2012: Scripture. Temple Beth El, 475 West Locust**

**April 19, 2012. Peace. Loras College ACC Ballroom**

### Questions?

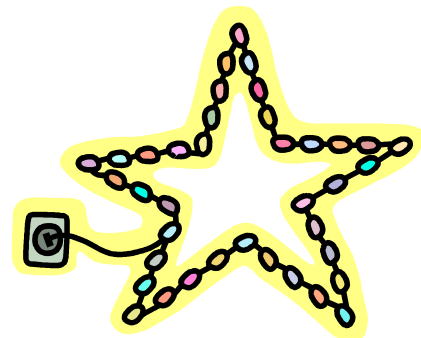
John Eby at [john.eby@loras.edu](mailto:john.eby@loras.edu)

Alan Garfield at [agarfield@dbq.edu](mailto:agarfield@dbq.edu)

Adib Kassas at [VicePresident@thetic.org](mailto:VicePresident@thetic.org)

**Don't Forget! Reflections in the Park,  
5 PM-10 PM through Sunday, January 1,  
Murphy Park. \$8.00 per car, all proceeds  
support Hillcrest Family Services!**

[www.hillcrestfs.org/specialevents/reflections](http://www.hillcrestfs.org/specialevents/reflections)



## DACU Board and Project Contacts

### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

President:

Rev. Dr. Thomas Young  
583-1729, [westminster@mchsi.com](mailto:westminster@mchsi.com)

Administrator:

Bob Krayer  
582-5117, [bdkrayer@aol.com](mailto:bdkrayer@aol.com)

Secretary:

Sr. Sara McAlpin  
[Sara.mcalpin@clarke.edu](mailto:Sara.mcalpin@clarke.edu)

Treasurer:

Sr. Dolores Zieser  
[doloresz@dubuquerepresentations.org](mailto:doloresz@dubuquerepresentations.org)

Worship:

Rev. Dr. Thomas Young  
583-1729, [westminster@mchsi.com](mailto:westminster@mchsi.com)

Newsletter Editor:

Phyllis Garfield  
599-4898, [pgarfie@dbq.edu](mailto:pgarfie@dbq.edu)

People in Need (PIN):

Alan Garfield  
599-5205, [agarfield@dbq.edu](mailto:agarfield@dbq.edu)

Dbq. Food Pantry:

Sr. Lynn Wagner, 583-1165,  
[lwagner@dubuquerepresentations.org](mailto:lwagner@dubuquerepresentations.org)

Dbq. Rescue Mission:

Rev. Rick Milhn, 583-1394  
[mihmr@mchsi.com](mailto:mihmr@mchsi.com)

### **OTHER CONTACTS:**

Archives:

Rev Robert Wiederaenders  
583-0537 [dub1255@gmail.com](mailto:dub1255@gmail.com)

NAACP:

Adam Moore  
[rocksteady1906@gmail.com](mailto:rocksteady1906@gmail.com)

Crop Walk:

Maryann Caudill-LoGuidice  
608-348-2305, [maryannuu@fastmail.fm](mailto:maryannuu@fastmail.fm)

Church Women United:

Sue Hattel  
[shattel220@aol.com](mailto:shattel220@aol.com).

Habitat for Humanity:

Elaine Mitchell, ph. 581-5919  
[dieltou@gmail.com](mailto:dieltou@gmail.com)

Opening Doors:

Michelle Brown, ph 563-582-7480  
[mbrown@openingdoorsdbq.org](mailto:mbrown@openingdoorsdbq.org)

Operation New View:

Tom Stovall  
556-5130 Ext 32

St. Mark Comm. Center:

tstovall@operationnewview.org  
S. Inez Turmeyer [smccdbq@yahoo.com](mailto:smccdbq@yahoo.com)

Shalom Retreat Center:

582-6211 [www.smccdbq.org](http://www.smccdbq.org)  
582-3592, [info@shalomretreats.org](mailto:info@shalomretreats.org)

Ministerium Association:

Maryann Caudill-LoGuidice  
608-348-2305, [maryannuu@fastmail.fm](mailto:maryannuu@fastmail.fm)

DACU

PO Box 811

Dubuque IA 52004-0811

