



Dubuque Area Congregations United Monthly Newsletter

Volume 29, No. 9

PO Box 811, Dubuque IA 52004-0811

December 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/

**W
I
N
T
E
R**

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT
August 24- December 31	Alexander Levi Heritage Project	Exhibit: "From Distant Places to Dubuque's Shores: 175 Years of Jewish Presence " at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium
November 27 – January 1	Hillcrest Family Services	"Reflections in the Park", Murphy Park, \$8 per car, 5 PM to 10 PM (Many DACU congregations are helping on various evenings; stop and say hello!) Proceeds fund the projects of Hillcrest Family Services.
January 27	DACU	DACU Annual Meeting, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 6:00 P.M.
April 3, 2009	Temple Beth El	Annual Temple Beth El Visitors' Service

Seasons Greetings

Don't Forget! DACU Annual Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, January 27, 2009

LOCATION: Westminster Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall
(2155 University Ave., Dubuque)

TIME: 6:00 PM

DINNER: \$7.50; checks to DACU

RSVP by January 20 to Bob Kraye, 582-5117,
bdkramer@aol.com



REMINDER: Don't forget to bring a donation of canned food for the Food Pantry!

Reports/Updates/Events

Treasurer's 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:

DACU Treasurer,
P.O. Box 811, Dubuque IA 52004

We are grateful for all the donations given to the projects of DACU this month. Due to the Treasurer's health issues, there is no report this month but we intend to have a report in the January newsletter.

DACU Board Notes

The DACU Board continues the process of nominations for the 2009 DACU Board. Nominations are still open for Treasurer and Secretary. If you have suggestions or wish to volunteer, please contact Bob Kraye.

THANK YOU to all who planned, participated in, attended, and contributed to the 26th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Resurrection Catholic Church on November 26. Attendance exceeded previous years and donations to People In Need and the Food Pantry were generous. This shows that when times are tough, God's people are tougher! Special thanks to Rick Mihm, Speaker, and Dr. Charles Barland, Organist. Blessings to all of you as we keep the needs of our neighbors in our hearts this holiday season.
--DACU Worship Committee, Rev. Tom Young, Chair

Dubuque Food Pantry

We will be handing out 500 Christmas Baskets on December 16 & 17th. Thank you to all the parishes/congregations that are supporting this project with monetary donations, conducting food drives and/or purchasing hams for the baskets. We could not do this project without your help. *God bless you.*

The Dress Barn on NW Arterial is collecting non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry.. Any food items brought into the Dress Barn will earn you a percentage off coupon to be used in their store. This will run through the end of December 2008. *Please pass the word along to congregations and friends.*

At the Food Pantry we are always in need of something, so as we look forward to 2009 we are looking towards **Super Bowl Sunday**. Many churches have started the practice of having a "**Souper Bowl**" collection on that weekend. What if every member of your congregation brought just one can of soup or a box of crackers? Think how many people could be enjoying a hot bowl soup on some cold winter day. What a great way to begin a "**Super Weekend**". *Thank you for remembering the Food Pantry.*

Sister Lynn Wagner, Manager

People In Need (P.I.N.)

A note from PIN Treasurer Tom Stovall:
On behalf of the People In Need (PIN) Board of Directors, we would like to offer our sincere thanks for the warm generosity of the DACU members and participants who attended the community-wide Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 26th. The special offering collected that evening for the work of PIN totaled \$2,744.25. This was over twice as much as last year's offering! These funds will be used by PIN to assist local families facing emergency needs with nowhere else to turn. So far this year, PIN has helped 65 households with assistance of \$16,025.64. Thanks to all contributors on behalf of the families that will be helped. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

Congregations are reminded that all contributions to the work of People In Need (PIN) should be directed to Tom Stovall, PIN Treasurer, as follows:

**People In Need (PIN)
c/o Tom Stovall, Treasurer
3345 Tibey Court
Dubuque, IA 52002-2849**

The PIN Board consists of: Alan Garfield, Barb Featherston, Fr. Jack Paisley, Sr. Sara McAlpin, Tom Stovall, Nea Huggins and Michelle Watters.

Alan Garfield, Chair, PIN Board

Dubuque Rescue Mission

Please remember the Dubuque Rescue Mission during this Holiday Season. If you have food items left over from holiday office, family, church celebrations; please bring the leftover items to the Dubuque Rescue Mission.

In addition, if you are out grocery shopping, please grab an extra gallon of milk and/or an extra pound of ground meat for the Mission meals.

Thank you!

Rick Mihm, Director, Dubuque Rescue Mission

Crop Walk 2008

On November 16 Maryann made short thank-you presentations at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (\$1,513.00) and St. John's Lutheran Church (\$858.00 and 40 jars of peanut butter). She also presented an on-air thank you through Cumulus Broadcasting.

Totals for participating Lutheran churches also included matching funds from Thrivent Financial, an ELCA organization. To date we are approaching \$15,000 for the 2008 Crop Walk with a final total which will appear in the DACUC Annual Report in January 2009.

Interestingly enough, the congregations that have their pastor/priest/rabbi participating bring in the largest donations!

Maryann Caudill-LoGuiduce, Coordinator



Community Announcements

Shalom Retreat Center

**Consider Shalom Retreat Center . . .
A Sacred Space ... Calling People to God and to Fullness of Life!** Shalom Retreat Center offers a wide range of spiritual and educational programs/retreats year-round for people of all faith traditions.

- Dec. 4: **Advent Taize Prayer: As Darkness Falls** 7:30 - 8:30pm, Reg not required. People of all faiths welcome.
- Dec. 4: **Celebrating Holidays in a New Way: Dinner, Sharing & Prayer for Those Who Have Lost a Spouse** 5:00 - 8:30pm Reg & fee by Dec. 2
- Dec. 5-7: **Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton Advent Retreat Weekend: The People in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light.** Commuter & Overnight options available.
- Dec. 10: **Winter Breakfast: Winter...Nature's Period of Rest** 7-8:00am, 8:15 Mass (optional) Reg & fee by Dec. 8
- Dec. 11: **Back from Exile: An Advent Evening of**

Reflection with Fr. Bob Beck. 6:30 - 9:00pm Reg & fee by Dec. 9

- Dec. 14: Jacob's Gift: A Christmas Program for Families with Young Children. 1:30 - 2:45pm. Presenter: Julie Casey. Reg & fee by Dec. 12.

- Dec. 15: Holy Darkness, Splendid Light: An Evening of Advent & Christmas Music, 6 - 9:00pm Reg & fee by Dec. 11.

- Dec. 31: Pondering the Things of the Heart: 3rd Annual Alternative New Year's Eve Celebration & Reflection. 6:30 - Midnight. Presenter: Fr. Bob Gross, Holy Spirit Pastorate Reg & fee by Dec. 26.

For more information regarding these programs/retreats, call Karen Knepper at Shalom at 563/582-3592, send e-mail to: kknepper@shalomretreats.org or visit our new web site at: <http://www.shalomretreats.org>.

Shalom's facilities are also available for conferences, workshops, staff/board retreats, spiritual gatherings, funeral dinners and more - for a few hours, a day, an overnight or longer. To learn more, call Sister Margaret Jungers at Shalom at 563/582-3592.

KEEP OUR NEIGHBORS WARM FUND **OPERATION: NEW VIEW COMMUNITY** **ACTION AGENCY**

The 2008-2009 winter heating season is now upon us and many low-income families will be struggling to pay their heating bills and keep their utilities on. The U.S. Department of Energy winter heating forecast predicts that staying warm will cost more this winter. Natural gas prices are expected to be 18% higher than last year and will be at the highest all time level. Propane is expected to increase 11%, heating oil 23%, and electric 10%.

Many low-income families must spend as much as 25% of their total household income on energy (electric, natural gas, heating oil, or propane). This is particularly the case in households with elderly and disabled people on fixed incomes and families with small children. The crisis is compounded by the fact that numerous low-income households enter this winter owing huge energy bills from last year and already shut off from utility service. Put simply, energy is becoming less and less affordable for low-income families.

Operation: New View Community Action Agency expects to assist over 5,000 low-income households this winter through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Dubuque, Delaware and Jackson counties. Although Congress has provided more funding for this program, the huge increases in the cost of home energy, as well as everything else in our current economy, puts a large burden on low-income families.

The purpose of the Keep Our Neighbors Warm Fund is to supplement this funding gap and provide help to low-income families to better meet their winter energy burden. This special need-based fund was created in 2005 by the Board of Directors of Operation: New View Community Action

Agency and enters its fourth year of helping people and changing lives.

Donations to the Keep Our Neighbors Warm Fund are truly needed and deeply appreciated. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to Operation: New View Community Action Agency, 1473 Central Avenue, Dubuque, IA 52001. Be sure to write "Keep Our Neighbors Warm" in the memo portion of checks.

For more information contact Operation: New View Community Action Agency:

Tom Stovall, Executive Director,
563-556-5130 X32 tstovall@operationnewview.org

Jim O'Toole, Energy Assistance Program Manager
563-556-5130 X11 jotoole@operationnewview.org

Dubuque Co. Mary Billmeyer 563-556-5130 X12
mbillmeyer@operationnewview.org

Delaware Co. Sheila Freiburger 563-927-4629
sfreiburger@operationnewview.org

Jackson Co. Emilie Daniels 563-652-5197
edaniels@operationnewview.org



Angels Needed!!!

"Angels" are still needed to mail about 30 newsletters each month to those folks who don't have email. Would you consider taking a month? The Editor will send you the labels and the newsletter via email....we'll even print them if you wish. Many thanks to Sr. Mary Lauranne Lifka and Sr. Anita Therese Hayes for being out latest Angels!

...Contact Phyllis at phyllisgarfield@hotmail.com if you can help.

Remember...you can view all DACU Newsletters on our Website at www.DACUonline.org



DACU
PO Box 811
Dubuque IA 52004-0811

DACU Board and Project Contacts

BOARD MEMBERS:

President:

Rev. Tim Bees

583-6289, tevbees@yahoo.com

President-Elect:

Tom Stovall, tstovall@operationnewview.org

556-5130 X32. (w), 557-9227 (h)

Administrator:

Bob Krayer

582-5117, bdkrayer@aol.com

Secretary:

Volunteer Needed!

Treasurer:

Jenny Manders,

jmanders@projectconcern.org

Worship:

Rev. Dr. Thomas Young

583-1729, westminstertom@mchsl.com

Newsletter Editor:

Phyllis Garfield

589-0028, pgarfie@dbq.edu

People in Need (PIN):

Alan Garfield

589-0028, agarfield@dbq.edu

Dbq. Food Pantry:

Sr. Lynn Wagner

583-1165, lwagner50@yahoo.com

Dbq. Rescue Mission:

Rev. Rick Milhm milhm@mchsl.com

Rev Robert Wiederaenders

583-0537 dub1255@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS:

Archives:

Rev Robert Wiederaenders

583-0537 dub1255@gmail.com

NAACP:

Cammie Dean

Cammie.Dean@clarke.edu

Crop Walk:

Maryann Caudill-LoGuidice

608-348-2305, maryannuuu@fastmail.fm

UNICEF:

Alice Martin

Ramartin7@msn.com

Church Women United:

Sue Hattel

shattel220@aol.com

Habitat for Humanity:

Corey Roeder

588-9655, coreyroeder@msn.com

Operation New View:

S Anita Therese Hayes

archives@bvmcong.org

St. Mark Comm. Center:

S. Inez Turmeyer

582-6211 www.smcdbq.org

Shalom Retreat Center:

582-3592, members.aol.com/DBQShalom

Ministerium Association:

Maryann Caudill-LoGuidice

608-348-2305, maryannuuu@fastmail.fm