

Keeping Alive the Passion for Peace and Justice

Disciples Peace Fellowship

NEWSNOTES

Re-Newed Web
site dpfweb.org

July & August 2012

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”
MLK Jr. shared by Rodney Allen Reeves on Facebook

What are DPF’ers Up to This Summer ?

This is our theme for this issue — but it is also an invitation. Send your photos, clippings, first hand accounts to jlacey2632@aol.com.

From a Facebook posting to Disciples Peace Fellowship by longtime member and friend **Ken Kennon** (a sample of what you might be missing by not signing on and checking regularly with DPF presence on the Web—thank you Ken.)

It was great to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Samaritans in Tucson yesterday! On Saturday about 50 people went out to "flood in desert" with life-saving jugs of water. In the process they found six people. Prior to their sojourn Rev. Alison Harrington, pastor of Southside Presbyterian Church, shared the following blessing:

As the people journeyed through the desert, they found they were without water. The Lord said to Moses, "strike the Rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." (Exodus 17:6)

Blessed are the hands that strike the rock
flooding the desert with water

Blessed are the feet the hike the trail
walking in the holy footsteps of migrants

Blessed are the voices that call out like choirs of angels:
¡Somos Amigos! ¡Somos de la iglesia! ¡Tenemos agua y comida!

Blessed are the hands that heal
washing feet and bandaging blisters

Blessed are the cars and trucks making tracks through the dirt
paving a way out of no way

Blessed are the maps and logs and the GPS devices
sacred guides to saving lives



To Do List:

- [Renew your DPF 2012 membership!!](#)
New Option: Pay Pal. See Web pg.
- [Pray for Peace and the Reign of Justice](#)
- [Tell a friend about the Disciples Peace Fellowship](#)
- [Join one of our online forums:](#) Disciples Peace Fellowship on Facebook; former DPF Intern Forum link from Re-newed DPF Web page.
- Pray for ALL returning from or remaining in conflict areas
- [Respond to the Matching Gift Challenge honoring Don and Ervin.](#)

Plan now to
attend Gen-
eral Assembly
and DPF
Events in Or-
lando-2013

Blessed are the gallons of water placed on dusty trails
that make the desert bloom with life

Blessed are the make-shift shrines to those who did not make it
ilos desconocidos estan presente!

Blessed are the hands that strike the rock
the hardened hearts of border patrol agents
the seemingly insurmountable wall of hatred and fear
the formidable boulder of death as a deterrent
Blessed are the hands that strike these rocks!

Blessed are the Samaritans
the hands that strike the rock
flooding the desert with life
until no brother becomes lost never to be found
until no mother stumbles and falls never to rise
until no father is left behind with a jug of water to wait for help that may never come

Blessed are the Samaritans
the hands that strike the rock
and flood the desert with life.



Former Moderator of DPF **Linda McKiernan Allen** at Grandparents camp in Indiana.

Grandparent and Me camp! 50 campers (ages 5-9 and 49-79) came for 48 hours of Frontier Faith, Learning, sharing, offering our gifts for the Mbandaka (Democratic Republic of Congo) partners' Nutrition Center. Can you show off your Five Finger Exercise? Do you know our Disciple fore-mothers and fore-fathers?

Former Executive Committee Member and Moderator Dr. **Tim Longman** authored an Op-Ed piece in the New York Times: "After Genocide, Stilled Dissent." Tim is Director of African Studies, Boston University. Tim served twice as a Disciples Peace Fellow-ship sum-



mer intern.



Got to march in the SF Pride Parade again with my 84 year old mother in a wheelchair and my brother David pushing her. Wonderful to connect with thousands of people along the route and spread the word that there are people of faith who support LGBTQ folks! many cheers and big grins. I'm the one on the right.
— with [Patricia Severson](#) and [Adelle Lemon](#).

Adelle and Robert Lemon were recipients at a Disciples Peace Fellowship breakfast of the Will Wittkamper Award for lifetime witness as peacemakers. Robert and Adelle established a DPF endowment fund before his death.

**The Greatest Generation
Their Legacy of Peacemaking Continues
By Bruce D. Ervin
Co-Moderator, Disciples Peace Fellowship**

Tom Brokaw called them The Greatest Generation. They came of age during the worst depression in history, fought in the most horrible war in history, marched with Dr. King, protested the Vietnam War, and taught us – their children – to become justice seekers and peacemakers. As they are now gathered up with the ancestors, we are humbled by their example and inspired to continue their quest.

Among the members of Disciples Peace Fellowship whom we have lost recent years are my parents, Don and Jean Ervin. Mentored by Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Pickerill (Disciples campus ministers at the University of Michigan), my folks demonstrated against school segregation, worked to create affordable cooperative housing, devoted time and treasure to experiments in intercultural living, welcomed strangers into University Church in Chicago, and were very generous supporters of DPF. Well I remember the 1969 Seattle General Assembly, when DPFers stood in the balcony overlooking the assembly floor and read every single name of the 50,000 U.S. troops who had been killed in Vietnam up to the point. Throughout the hall you could hear the quiet but steady drone of the names – hour after hour, day after day – for the duration of that gathering. My folks were among the many who took their turn honoring those who had fallen and reminding the assembly of the horror and injustice of that war.

The good news is that my parents and many others of their generation continue to support the work of DPF through their financial legacies. A recent gift honoring Don and Jean Ervin will enable DPF to send one of our 2012 summer peace interns, Cambria Findley-Grubb, to serve at the CYF Conference in Nova Scotia. And the promise of a larger gift from their estate, along with your help, will enable DPF and the Council on Christian Unity to send resource people into regional assemblies to facilitate Faithful Conversations on war, peace and unity.

Faithful Conversations is the ongoing initiative of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which seeks to develop ways by which Disciples can speak with each other about the potentially divisive issues of war and peace while celebrating our unity in Christ. These conversations were an important part of the Nashville General Assembly in 2011. They will now be carried on in our regions and congregations as we journey toward the Orlando General Assembly in 2013. Our resource people who will be going to regional assemblies in 2012 will facilitate conversations around both the three traditional Christian positions regarding war and peace (holy war, just war and pacifism) and historic Disciples positions regarding war and peace.

Here's how you can help: Every donation to DPF to cover the travel costs of these resource people will be matched by the estate of Don and Jean Ervin dollar for dollar, up to a maximum gift from their estate of \$5,000. Thus there is a possibility of \$10,000 being raised. Any funds remaining at the end of 2012 will go toward travel and other expenses related to Faithful Conversations in 2013. Donations can be made online at the DPF website (dpf.org) or mailed to DPF at P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Please designate your gift for Faithful Conversations.

My Dad always lived in hope. He often said (with George Bernard Shaw), "Some see things as they are and ask why, I dream things that never were and ask why not." As we continue to offer our time and treasure to the quest for peace, we can transform dreams of a just and peaceful world into reality. It is the least that we can do to honor the hard work and the legacy of Don and Jean Ervin and all the members of The Greatest Generation.



Rob Crawford, former DPF Intern and Co-Moderator. From Facebook post.



Former intern **Michael Karunas**, new pastor at 1st CC Decatur, IL. Check his blog "Umatters" or friend on Facebook.

Rita Nakashima Brock writes in her book, *Journeys By Heart*: "Sin is a sign of our broken-heartedness, of how damaged we are, not of how evil, willfully disobedient, and culpable we are... Sin is not something to be punished, but something to be healed." Rita is a former Moderator of Disciples Peace Fellowship.

The planet does not need more 'successful' people. But it does desperately need more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every shape and form. It needs people who live well in their places. It needs people of moral courage willing to join the fight to make the world habitable and humane. And these needs have little to do with success as our culture has defined it.

- David Orr -



Quote posted by Rev. Linda Farley of Adrian, Michigan. Linda served as a DPF intern. She frequently posts to Facebook.

Follow Blaine Kuss and the other Peace Interns by clicking the link on the DPF web-page—look at the postings from the event in Los Angeles especially — Jon Lacey



A camper took this photo of me during my first week experience at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya. Our keynoter for the week had recently announced that an awesome sunset was taking place down by the lake, and I raced down the hill from the all-camp dance to experience it. Out on the dock that evening, I felt as though I was one with God's beautiful creation. Earlier in the week, I had led a walk designed to heighten awareness of the beauty and magnificence of our earth. The idea was to learn some about how we as humans are abusing the earth and it's resources, and to discuss ways that we can instead conserve resources and save our home, as God's charge to humanity is that we take care of our planet.

Very few places exist that are better to take in God's creation in the Midwest than on the water. Witnessing the sun as it played off of the watery world all around me brought tears to my eyes as I tried my best to conceive God's splendor. The scripture for the day before this picture was taken told the story of Pentecost, and about how the "glory of the Lord showed around" the disciples before they were called to continue God's work. Amen.

Peace for the journey,
Blaine

My Gift to Disciples Peace Fellowship

Name(s) _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address _____

My total gifts \$ _____ Check Credit Card (Visa/Master Card/Discover (*Complete information below*))

Please designate my total gift to the following areas:

- \$ _____ Current Intern Program
- \$ _____ Membership (Minimum \$35)
- \$ _____ DPF Support Gift
- \$ _____ Kirby Page Endowment to support Future Interns

I am instead/also including a contribution of \$ _____ for the work of Disciples Peace Fellowship

Send dues and contributions to: (or use PayPal: Go to www.dpfweb.org for details.)

Disciples Peace Fellowship; P.O Box 1986; Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986

Credit Card # _____ Expiration ____/____

One Time Pay Name on card _____ Signature _____

Have news/views to share? Join DPF voices electronically through the website, forums, and Facebook.