



Volume I, Issue IX

Bethlehem Greetings

Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL

August 2006

From the Bethlehem Greetings' elves:

You'll notice that this edition of the Greetings is much simpler in format than our previous issues. It's hard to put together pictures and graphics when you're riding the rides at Disney World, so we hope you'll be content with a summary of the important happenings at Diversey & Magnolia. See you in September!

The Merry Elves of 2746 N. Magnolia

SCAFFOLD GONE!

Three years after the initial visit of the Chicago City Inspector and after three years of fences and scaffolds, we gladly report that, with the installation of the new louvers in the bell tower, the renovation was complete and the scaffolds were removed. It's a beautiful sight to see! Come by for worship or just for a visit and enjoy the beauty of our building. It's the newest "face" at Diversey and Magnolia!

NINETY YEARS YOUNG!

Thirty-three years after Bethlehem was founded, Mildred Ruth Gierke was born. On Sunday, August 20th, we invite you to join Mildred Gierke Groth and her family as we celebrate Mildred's 90th birthday. Church is, of course, at 10:00 a.m. and we will have a luncheon, prepared by First Slice, at 11:30 a.m. Please join us for both church and lunch. Mildred has requested two things: (1) No gifts! If you wish to give a donation in Mildred's honor, a donation to either Bethlehem UCC or First Slice is appreciated. (2) If you plan to attend the luncheon, please RSVP to Mildred at 773-935-4544. We want to make sure there is enough for everyone.

THE BEST OF CHICAGO

Mary Ellen Diaz, founder and master chef of First Slice, was recognized as "the best repurposed chef" by Chicago Magazine in their August 2006 "Best of Chicago" edition. The article talked about her four-year-old nonprofit venture, which provides over 400 restaurant-caliber meals a week to the city's homeless population. Monies raised at her First Slice Pie Café (4401 N. Ravenswood) help her fund these 400+ meals weekly out of our kitchen. Mary Ellen is quoted in the article: "*This week, we served fennel-crusted pork chops, and salmon cakes with mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus....They are so in need of good food.*" Bethlehem is proud to support Mary Ellen's efforts by offering our wonderful kitchen for her use. We're also proud that Chicago Magazine has recognized Mary Ellen's vision.

WHEW!

July was a busy month at Bethlehem, both within and outside our walls. We baptized Campbell Woolard in our July 30th worship service. In addition to our regular worship services, many people found support at the growing number of twelve-step groups meeting within our facilities. The About Face Youth Theatre Company (*which had been rehearsing their current production,*

a powerful piece on the problems of homeless lgbt youth, in Fellowship Hall) sponsored a reception after one of their performances. The Lakeview Action Coalition sponsored a gathering of community members and members of the Chicago Police Department to discuss the issue of police interactions with the homeless youth population. Outside our walls, Pastor MacPherson participated in a panel discussion at the Amnesty International event held at Roosevelt University in conjunction with the Gay Games. Bethlehem offered food and drink during the break at the "Faith and Fairness" Forum sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign at the Cultural Center in downtown Chicago. (Thanks to First Slice for providing the delicious snacks on that day.)

On the last Sunday of the month, the sounds of jazz were heard in our courtyard as we celebrated our new scaffold-free look with the sounds of Brendan Henry on keyboards and Muzette Morgan, vocalist. The Spirit was alive and well (*and swinging*) within our walls and beyond.

AUGUST WORSHIP

August 6-Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: II Samuel 11:26-12:13a; John 6:24-35

Preacher: *Rev. Wayne MacPherson*

August 13-Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: II Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; John 6:35, 41-51

Preacher: *Mary Beth Cross, M.Div.*

August 20-Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Text: It's a birthday surprise!

Preacher: *Rev. Wayne MacPherson*

August 27-Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: I Kings 8:22-30, 41-43; John 6:56-69

Preacher: *Rev. Wayne MacPherson*

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
2746 N. Magnolia Ave. (*office=ft fl.*)
Chicago, IL 60614
773.281.6480
www.bucc-chicago.org

An Open & Affirming Congregation welcoming everyone equally.

Home to First Slice cooking operations, "InterPlay", "OneTheatre Company" and "About Face Youth Theatre" rehearsals.