



Dubuque Area Congregations United

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 29, No. 3

PO Box 811, Dubuque IA 52004-0811

March 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.

<http://DACUonline.org/>

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DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT
March 12	Sinsinawa Mound	Women of the Bible with Anita Gutschick, 1:30 and 7 PM (\$15)
March 14-16	Sinsinawa Mound	Lenten Cup Retreat (Sr. Theresa Byrne, OP, retreat leader)
March 15	Sinsinawa Mound	Living Last Supper, Queen of the Rosary Chapel, 7 PM
March 17	Shalom Retreat Center	Centering Prayer 7-8 PM No registration required
March 18	Shalom Retreat Center	Session 2 of "Passages: An Introduction to Story" 7-8:30 PM
March 20-22	Sinsinawa Mound	Holy Week with "Piers Plowman" led by Sr. Clemente Davlin, OP (register by March 13)
March 21	St. Luke's United Methodist Church	Community Good Friday Service, 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM, including many area pastors, lay leaders, and musicians
March 27	Grandview Methodist Church	DACU Delegates' Meeting, 7:00 PM
April 2	Shalom Retreat Center	Spring Breakfast: Spring Greening Mass at 8:15 AM Register by March 31
April 3-May 30	Sinsinawa Mound	Gallery Exhibit "Women Who Make Our Clothes" by artist Janet Essley
April 20	St. Luke's United Methodist Church	African Children's Choir performing during 8:30 AM and 10:45 AM worship services.
April 24	St. John's Episcopal Church	DACU Delegates' Meeting, 7:00 PM
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 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, March 27, 2008 (7:00 pm)

LOCATION: Grandview Methodist Church
3342 John Wesley Dr. (off JFK past the soccer complex)

PROGRAM: "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World" presented by Jim Ott

President's Letter

At our last DACU Board meeting we discussed the issue of membership and what that entails for member organizations. We haven't come to any consensus on these questions but the discussion was a good start.

You might be questioning why we should have this discussion in the first place. Well, my answer would be

that DACU is becoming more and more marginalized within the greater Dubuque area with each passing year. Perhaps that is because the local church is also experiencing that same fate. Local churches represent most of our membership. We're in trouble.

But I think the future is bright. My hope would be that we could strengthen our membership. The future lies, I believe, in a successful linking of arms to accomplish what our mission statement says "to make a difference in our world." It means we are going to have to get our feet wet in the "war on poverty." Churches serve on the front line of this war. Most of them have limited resources to really "make a difference." Wouldn't it be wonderful if through the umbrella of DACU we could witness in our time the retreat of poverty in our community? I think it would be absolutely marvelous. Not only that, I think its possible.

It will take all of us to accomplish this. It will take a wider, more active membership than we at this time have. But it can be done. Are you willing to come along for the ride? I hope and pray you are. The next step can be taken at the March Delegates meeting. See you there!

---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

	February	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET 08
Income	\$ 1,136.04	\$ 1,136.04	\$ 5000.00
Expense	\$ 752.94	\$ 752.94	\$ 5000.00
Net	\$ 383.10	\$ 383.10	-0-

As of February 29, 4 Member Congregations have made contributions to DACU for the 2008 Fiscal Year.

February Delegates Meeting

Twenty attended the February Delegates Meeting at First Baptist Church. Shirley Hoefer, volunteer coordinator for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and the Foster Care Review Board, spoke about the need for volunteers in both programs. New DACU Delegates Bill and Elaine Mitchell (St. Peter Lutheran), Bob Dohen (Summit Congregational), and Rob Gomoll (St. John Lutheran) were welcomed.

DACU: Annual Contributions from Member Congregations

From its inception, DACU has functioned as an organization dedicated to the common goal of acting as people of faith in our community. We have not mandated membership dues, but have counted on voluntary contributions from member congregations. The funds collected in this way are dispersed, except for a minimal administrative budget, at the end of each fiscal year. The recipients are DACU Projects, DACU affiliates, and other community needs as presented to the Board. DACU lists thirty-seven member congregations on its current membership list. Donor congregations are listed monthly in the attached treasurer's report. If your congregation is not yet listed, please encourage your leadership to consider donating! The needs are real.

YOUR CHANCE TO SERVE DACU IS HERE!

DACU is still looking for a Secretary ! If you have any suggestions please email Bob Kraye bdkramer@aol.com or telephone 582-5117. Thank you!

Reports/Updates/Events

Dubuque Community Food Pantry

The Food Pantry would like to thank all the congregations who participated in "Souper Bowl" Sunday. What a success it was! We received close to 900 cans of soup. We are most grateful to those who participated. These cold snowy days a bowl of soup makes a great supper.

Mark your calendar -- March 29, 2008. Once again this year the **Scouting for Food Drive** will be held the last Saturday in March. Watch your newspapers for the grocery bag that will be arriving the last week of March. Or you may drop your food items at any HyVee store where they will be collected and transported to the Pantry.

Thank you, Sister Lynn Wagner, Manager

Dubuque Rescue Mission

Director Rick Mihm wants you to know that the Thrift Shop has been reorganized and greatly improved. He encourages you to visit and also to donate your gently-used items. Hours for the Thrift Shop are 9 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Saturday.

Events at Sinsinawa Mound

Sinsinawa Mound announces several upcoming events for the Lenten Season:

- March 12: "Women of the Bible". Actress Anita Gutschick of Baltimore MD brings women of the Old and New Testaments to life in a dramatic presentation through a series of monologues. Shows at 1:30 and 7:00 PM. \$15 Tickets at the door.
- March 14-16: "Lenten Cup Retreat" led by Sr. Theresa Byrne, OP.
- March 15: Living Last Supper in the Queen of the Rosary Chapel, 7 PM.
- March 20-22: Holy Week with "Piers Plowman", led by Sr. Clemente Devlin, OP.
- April 3-May 30: Gallery Exhibit "Women Who Make Our Clothes" by artist Janet Essley. Opening reception on April 6, 1-3 PM.

For more information about any of these events, contact Sheila Heim at Sinsinawa Mound, sheim@sinsinawa.org.

Life Stages Series Slated at Shalom

Donna Bauerly, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Loras College, will lead a six-session series titled "PASSAGES: An Introduction to Story" from 7:00 to 8:30 PM on Tuesdays, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8 and 15 at Shalom Retreat Center, 1001 Davis St., Dubuque. PASSAGES is an invitation to story and to exploring "turning points" at critical life stages. Recall a few "old" stories and discover "new" authors and stories that touch your heart and challenge your mind and spirit. Session topics include: March 11: Introduction to **PASSAGES** (Gail Sheehy's divisions of crisis points) and the first stage of **Pulling up Roots**.

March 18--**More of Pulling Up Roots**

March 25--**Trying Twenties**

April 1--**Turbulent Thirties and Flourishing Forties**

April 8--**Flaming Fifties and Serene Sixties**

April 15--**Sage Seventies, Uninhibited Eighties, Nobility of the Nineties, and Celebratory Centenarians**

To register, call Shalom at 563/582-3592 at least one day prior to each session. Attendance at the full series is recommended, but not required. Free will offerings are welcome.

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.

...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!**
- **And....you can now view the monthly Newsletter on our DACU Website at www.DACUonline.org**

Spring will come....we promise! 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, Sr. Elizabeth Presseller, smep21723@aol.com.



DACU
PO Box 811
Dubuque IA 52004-0811

DACU Board and Project Contacts

BOARD MEMBERS:

President:

Tim Bees

583-6289, revbees@yahoo.com

President-Elect:

Tom Stovall, tstovall@operationnewview.org

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

Administrator:

Bob Krayner

582-5117, bdkrayner@aol.com

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Jenny Manders,

jmanders@project-concern.org

Worship:

Sr. Elizabeth Presseller

583-9516, smep21723@aol.com

Newsletter Editor:

Phyllis Garfield

589-0028, pgarfiel@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 mihmr@mchs.com

Rev Robert Wiederanders

583-0537 dub1255@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS:

Archives:

Rev Robert Wiederanders

583-0537 dub1255@gmail.com

NAAAP:

Cammie Dean

Cammie.Dean@clarke.edu

Crop Walk:

Maryann Caudill-LoGuidice

608-348-3497, maryannuu@fastmail.fm

UNICEF:

Alice Martin

Ramartin7@msn.com

Church Women United:

Sue Hattel

shattel220@aol.com

Operation New View:

S Anita Therese Hayes

archives@bvmcong.org

St. Mark Comm. Center:

S. Inez Turmeyer

582-6211

Shalom Retreat Center

582-3592, members.aol.com/DBQShalom

Ministerium Association

Maryann Caudill-LoGuidice

608-348-3497, maryannuu@fastmail.fm