



# Dubuque Area Congregations United Monthly Newsletter

Volume 32, No. 1

PO Box 811, Dubuque IA 52004-0811

January 2010

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/)

EVENTS

DATE	SPONSOR	EVENT
These are just a few of the events sponsored by our DACU congregations and associates. Turn the page to learn more!		
January 18	Voices and Values	Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Breakfast
January 26	DACU	DACU Annual Meeting and Banquet, 6:00 PM, First Baptist Church
January 29	Operation New View	EITC Awareness Day, Multicultural Family Center 10 AM – 2 PM
February 23	DACU	DACU Delegates Meeting, TBA
March 23	DACU	DACU Delegates Meeting, TBA
April 9	Temple Beth El	Annual Visitors' Service, 6:30 PM

## Don't Forget! DACU Annual Meeting

DATE: **Tuesday, January 26, 2010**

LOCATION: First Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
(2143 Judson Drive, Dubuque)

TIME: 6:00 PM

DINNER: \$7.50; checks to DACU  
(mail to P.O. Box 811, Dubuque, IA 52004-0811)

RSVP by January 19 to Bob Krayner, 582-5117,  
[bdkramer@aol.com](mailto:bdkramer@aol.com)



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

### **MAKE ME A SERVANT**

By Kelly Willard

Make me a servant, humble and meek,  
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.  
And may the prayer of my heart always be:  
Make me a servant, make me a servant,  
Make me a servant today

## **President's Message**

As I end my year as DACU President, I continue to be honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve. It has been a joy to serve and work with the wonderful people that make DACU what it is. I have come to truly appreciate our member congregations, their delegates and the dedicated and caring people that serve on our DACU Board. Thank you!

Our theme for 2009 was "DACU, A Community of Servants." We tried to build on the power and caring spirit of Dubuque's faith community to address the issues of human need in our community. Our monthly delegate meetings and activities, as well as our worship opportunities, connected our energies to this theme. Our goals were to create an awareness of human-need issues in our community, to highlight the work of local missions addressing those needs, and to inform congregations and individuals how they can become involved in these important efforts. I think we can truly say that it was a year of accomplishment.

DACU is a community of servants and a very unique organization. Even though we all come from diverse faiths and beliefs, we are all united in our efforts to make a difference by fostering an awareness and understanding of human need. Together, we are advocates for those who need our help. In the words of Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Thanks to all for your service in 2009. Blessings to you for a great year ahead in 2010. Please join us for the DACU Annual Meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!

*Tom Stovall, 2009 DACU President*

## DACU Board of Directors

The DACU Board of Directors is pleased to submit the following proposed slate of officers for 2010:

Rev. Tim Bees, President  
Rev. Dr. Tom Young, President-Elect  
Sr. Sara McAlpin, Secretary  
Jenny Manders, Treasurer

DACU delegates will vote on this proposed slate at the DACU Annual Meeting on January 26th at First Baptist Church. Thanks to those who have graciously agreed to serve if elected.

*Bob Krayner, DACU Administrator*

## 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."*

As of December 31, 25 member congregations and two associate members have contributed a total of \$5,869.84 to DACU.

	December	YEAR TO DATE	BUDGET 09
Income	\$ 900.00	\$ 6,342.34	\$ 4,700.00
Expense	\$ 74.80	\$ 5379.82	\$ 4,700.00
Net	\$	\$ 962.52	-0-

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

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

During the 2009 year, People In Need (PIN) assisted 102 Dubuque Area households to meet emergency needs. This was a 28% increase in assists over last year. The total amount of assistance given was \$20,796.34, an average of \$203.89 per assist.

PIN was blessed with generous contributions from congregations, organizations and individuals to meet the increased needs of people in our community. During 2009, PIN received donations totaling **\$28,443.55** which was an increase of \$11,338.32 (66%) over last year. What a testament to the caring and giving nature of our community!

We are now entering the time of the year when requests for assistance increase dramatically and donations are needed to provide emergency assists. About 75% of PIN's emergency assists occur from January through April.

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, and Tom Stovall.

## Dubuque Food Pantry

We would like to thank everyone who contributed in anyway to make our 2009 Christmas Baskets a success. We received many hams or money to purchase hams from churches/congregations, not to mention all the food that came in from Food Drives. We were able to give out 500 baskets. **Thank you for your help.**

The need is great. So on to the next project. Super Bowl Sunday is less than a month away. Has your church/congregation considered doing **"Souper Bowl"** Sunday? (Feb. 7, 2010) It's very simple, ask each member of your congregation to bring a can of soup or box of crackers to church with them on Super Bowl Sunday and have someone deliver it to the Food Pantry the following week.

**Thank you for considering this project.**

*Sister Lynn Wagner, Manager*

**The Dubuque Rescue Mission is in need of 5 lb. cans of ground coffee, ground beef, and Tide Laundry detergent. (Rick Mihm, Director).**

## DACU Associates

### Operation New View

On Friday, January 29, 2010 Operation: New View Community Action Agency in collaboration with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Task Force will be hosting the 2010 EITC Awareness Day at the Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Avenue, in Dubuque from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event will inform individuals in the community about EITC along with other tax credits and the free filing tax clinics offered in the area. Different local financial institutions have agreed to attend the event to explain the different services they offer.

We are inviting individuals to attend to find out what EITC is, and the qualifications for it. As much as \$5,657 could be waiting for individuals who qualify if they have EARNED INCOME! Come and find out if you qualify and where you can get your taxes prepared for FREE! Even if an individual did not qualify in years past, if you have been laid off, or if your work hours were reduced, you may qualify this year.

Utilizing the EITC is one of the best ways to begin a savings account, purchase needed appliances or other large ticket items, or catch up on utilities, unpaid medical bills, or other expenses.

Questions, please contact Becky Jenkins at [bjenkins@operationnewview.org](mailto:bjenkins@operationnewview.org) or 563.556.5130 extension 14.

### **Shalom Retreat Center**

*A sacred space, calling people to God and to fullness of life.*

1001 Davis St., Dubuque, IA 52001

#### **Taize Prayer: From Darkness to Light Thursday, Jan. 7, 7:30 - 8:30pm**

People of all faith traditions are invited to experience prayer in the style of Taize. No registration required, but free will offerings are welcome.

#### **Lunch n' a Movie: *Frozen River* Monday, Jan. 11, 12:00 – 3:30pm**

A complex portrait of women from different walks of life struggling to find their ethical bearing in harsh and unforgiving circumstances, this film takes place in the days before Christmas in a little-known border crossing between New York State and Quebec. Two women – one white, one Mohawk, both single mothers faced with desperate circumstances – are drawn into the world of border smuggling across the frozen water of the St. Lawrence River. **Offering: \$12. Includes lunch & movie.** Register/prepay by Jan. 8.

#### **Poetry Daze: "It's in the Bag" . . . A Series of Six Tuesday Evenings Jan. 12, 19, 26; Feb. 9, 16, 23; 7:00 – 8:30pm Presenter: Donna Bauerly, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Loras College**

Everything you always wanted to know and experience about poetry in an easy and fun exchange.

Offering: \$6/session. Registration required at least one day prior to each session. Attendance at full series of classes is recommended.

#### **Book Discussion: *The Faith Club*\* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver & Priscilla Warner Monday, Jan. 18, 7:00 – 8:00pm Facilitator: Harriet Holles BVM**

The Faith Club weaves the story of three women, their three religions (Christianity, Islam, Judaism), and their urgent quest to understand one another. As the authors reveal their deepest beliefs, the reader watches the blossoming of a profound interfaith friendship and the birth of a new way of relating to others. **Offering: \$6.**

**Register by Jan. 15. \* 15% book discount available at Riverlights 2nd Edition.**

#### **Centering Prayer Monday, Jan. 18, 7:00 – 8:00pm Facilitator: Marilyn Dansart**

Registration not required. Free will offering.

#### **Days of Quiet & Prayer Book: *At Sea with God: A Spiritual Guidebook to the Heart and Soul* by Margaret Silf Wednesdays, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 7, May 12 9:15am cont. breakfast, 9:30 am – 2:30pm (noon lunch) Facilitator: Margaret Jungers OSF**

Embark on a spiritual voyage of self-discovery and learn how the sea stands as a metaphor for the chances and changes that everyone encounters in life. Offering: \$75/series of four – includes book, program, materials, meal & private room. Register/prepay by Feb. 1.

#### **Ordinary Lent, Ordinary Signs & the Ordinary Life of Jesus Retreat Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, 5:30pm – Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010, 9:30am Director: Matt Walsh OP**

An "Ordinary" Lent: God uses the ordinary – bread, water, wine – to come to us. We will reflect on some of the other ordinary things God uses to get our attention – sunsets and coffee – flowers and friends – and most especially the "ordinary" life of Jesus. Each day we will celebrate Eucharist and gather for two conferences. During the retreat we will also have a Communal Celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing. **Offering: \$360. (\$50 deposit) Early Bird: \$320, if registered by Jan. 19. A \$50 nonrefundable deposit secures your reservation and is credited to the offering for the retreat.**

For more information or to register, call Karen Knepper at 563/582-3592, send e-mail to:

[kknepper@shalomretreats.org](mailto:kknepper@shalomretreats.org) or visit our web site at: [www.shalomretreats.org](http://www.shalomretreats.org) Shalom Retreat Center, 1001 Davis St., Dubuque, IA 52001.

**NOTE:** Shalom's facilities (including food service) are available for meetings, staff/board retreats, spiritual gatherings, and more - for a few hours, a day, an overnight or longer. Groups of 10 to 150 people can be accommodated.

### **Sisters of Charity**

#### **Grief Support Group**

If you are experiencing deep sadness through the loss of a person through death or divorce, a grief group facilitated by Sr. Jane Rogers, BVM may be helpful for you. The adult group is held at Mt. Carmel Roberta Kuhn Center on South Grandview on Thursdays, starting February 4<sup>th</sup> through March 11<sup>th</sup>. Sessions are from 1:30 – 3:30 PM or 7:00-9:00 PM. A short interview is required before placement in the group. The suggested time to participate in a group is two months after the loss; however, it could be years since the loss. Registration closes on January 26<sup>th</sup> and is limited to 20. The fee for the six sessions is \$15.00 Sr. Jane's phone number is 583-1889.



DACU  
PO Box 811  
Dubuque IA 52004-0811



Remember...you can view all DACU Newsletters on our Website at [www.DACUonline.org](http://www.DACUonline.org)

## DACU Board and Project Contacts

### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

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Sr. Sara McAlpin

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Treasurer:

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