

Simple Gifts

December 2009
Vol. VII, Issue IV

The All Souls Journal

Playgrounds for Peace

-by Rev. Marlin Lavanhar, Senior Minister



Here we go again! Almost one-third of the world will celebrate the birth of Jesus this month and will sing songs and read Bible verses that could not seem further from reality. Like Isaiah

9, "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given... and he will be called... the Prince of Peace." And from the nativity in Luke 2, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward men." Yet some 2,000 years later we find ourselves still crying the psalmist's lament, "How long, O Lord, until Abel's blood stops crying, until justice rolls down like waters, until the lion can lay down with the lamb in a restored creation?"

According to a poem by Lao Tse, the Chinese philosopher who lived 600 years before Jesus, peace

begins in the heart and in the home. From there it moves into the neighborhoods, cities, nations and world. This issue of *Simple Gifts* uses his poem as a framework to look at peace from different angles.

Also in December, throughout All Souls, we will explore peace and its varied manifestations. It will culminate as always with three stunning candlelight services on Christmas Eve when we will join in the worldwide celebration and read the nativity stories from the Bible and sing the songs of the season.

Here is a true and touching story that lifts up the relationship between finding peace in the heart and peace in the neighborhoods and how it may someday bring peace in the nations and in the world. It comes from the very place where Jesus, the Jewish prophets, and the psalmists lived, and where peace has become so elusive.



Peace:

Peace in the Nations



Peace in the Neighborhood



Meditation for a Peaceful Heart



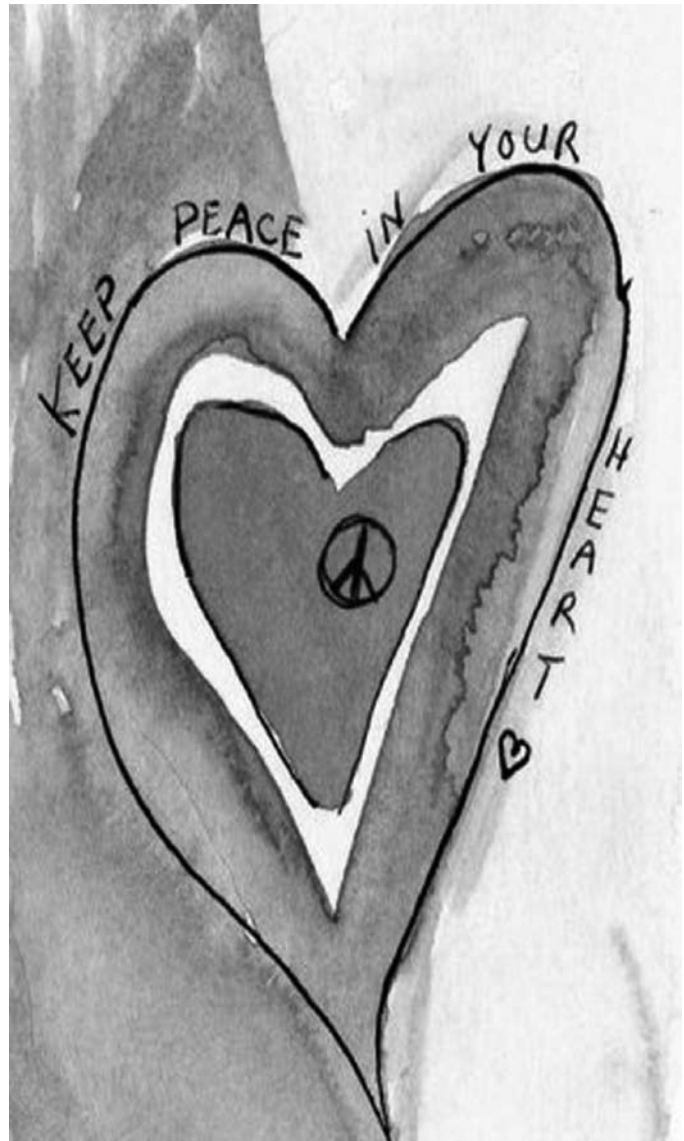
Common Ground For Common Good

Valerie E. Dixon wrote about Bassam Aramin, a Palestinian fighter who served seven years in jail for planning an attack on Israeli soldiers. When Aramin was released, he decided to dedicate himself to nonviolent solutions to the Israel/Palestine conflict. On January 16, 2007, his 10-year-old daughter, Abir, was walking home from school with her friends in Anata near a border crossing. When an Israeli Border Patrol opened fire, a bullet found the back of Abir's head. Three days later she was dead.

Yaniv Rashef was an Israeli soldier in a sabotage unit. He lives within range of missiles fired from Gaza. He has joined with Bassam Aramin in a group of about 600 former Israeli soldiers and Palestinian fighters – Combatants for Peace (C4P) – to work together for peace in Israel/Palestine. They are working together to build playgrounds.

Jesus, Lao-Tse, and others have given us the keys to unlock the entrance to peace and goodwill. However, it is up to us to use those keys and walk through the door. Are you ready to take the steps necessary to attune your life to the melody and meaning of the songs of this season?

Keep in mind: Peace begins in your heart! †



Our church program-year (September-May) is fashioned around nine theological themes. Each theme plays a part in the development of a well-grounded religious and spiritual life. The church's offerings each month are by no means limited to the themes. However, these topics provide an axis around which many elements of church life gain more meaning and depth. They provide us with a set of common stories and ideas that become elements of an ongoing community conversation. Be warned: Seriously engaging these themes could transform your life!

September - Vocation & Calling

October - Unity

November - Gratitude

December - Peace

January - Grace

February - Prayer & Spiritual Practice

March - Letting Go

April - Salvation

May - Truth

Peace in the Neighborhood

-by Kathy Keith, Executive Director



*If there is to be peace
between neighbors...*

Peace in the neighborhood is a two-way street. Especially if you are one of All Souls' Maple Ridge neighbors on a Sunday morning.

For decades our need for parking has exceeded the number of spaces in our lot, and the neighborhood side streets have become congested when we park on both sides of the streets. The shuttle bus from the Bank of Oklahoma parking lot has helped tremendously, but neighbors still register concerns about access for emergency vehicles as well as safe transit for neighborhood traffic and pedestrians.

At a recent meeting with the Maple Ridge Neighborhood Association, congregation leaders John Greene and Jim Rusher endorsed a plan to request that the city restrict Sunday morning parking to one side of the surrounding streets on Sunday mornings to ease the situation.

When you park on neighborhood streets to attend worship or another All Souls event, please be considerate of our neighbors and leave ample space from driveways and corners for safety.

And, if you see a neighbor out surveying the congestion – invite them to come to church with you! †



Finding Common Ground for Common Good

-by Kate Starr, Youth Director



If there is to be peace in the cities...

It's hard to live the values of your theology if you're arguing about the superiority of your theology. It's far more effective to

find the common ground through shared values – compassion, justice, hospitality – and then work together toward them for the common good.

That was the big take-away lesson from an Interfaith Youth Core training event attended by 25 of our All Souls youth group, and youth

YMCA's 100th anniversary celebration. The Interfaith Youth Core is an international organization that builds mutual respect and religious pluralism among young people from different religious and moral traditions by empower-



ing them to work together in service to others. Its mission is to establish religious pluralism as a social norm. They define religious pluralism as “engaged diversity.” They explain that diversity alone can be divisive, but that if we engage the unique strengths and resources that come from a diverse population, our effectiveness is increased.

The result of this training was that the participants want to continue our relationship, to pair community service with an interfaith dialogue of our own. We want to find common ground and unite in common action for the common good. †

from Boston Avenue Methodist Church, Christ the King Catholic Church, B'nai Emunah Jewish Synagogue, and the YMCA.

The training – an interfaith event to teach us how to host our own interfaith event – was offered to us by the Interfaith Youth Core as part of the

Dude! Give Peace a Chance!

-by Debra Garfinkel, Pastoral Care Minister



Everyone knows the story of *The Tortoise and the Hare*. But if you don't know it, that's even better. You see, I'm here to tell you that there's always more to a story than what you read in books and on the Internet. Really. Tortoise and Hare are friends of mine. And, just like

with you and me, there is so much more to them than one thing that happened, a long, long time ago. Tortoise and Hare are sick of that tired old story. So, they gave me permission to tell you about them. (Permission which, by the way, Aesop did not have – I'm just saying.)

First of all, Tortoise prefers to be addressed as Mr. T and Hare wants to be called Juliette. Oh, that's another thing – everyone always thinks that Hare is a guy. It's so frustrating and disrespectful. Then, there's the thing about Tortoise being slow – as if he's dumb and lazy. Mr. T wants to go on record as being a thoughtful person who happens to have the physical characteristic of a very heavy shell. Think about it. Clearly, hares and rabbits have physical characteristics that enable most of them to move very quickly but that does not mean that all hares have no brains and just run around constantly – or that they are highly competitive, for heaven's sake. Juliette enjoys running and jumping and dancing and she also likes long walks on moonlit beaches. (She told me to say that.)

So, here's the story according to Mr. T and Juliette:

Mr. T hung out with a lot of cool guys by Lyrical Pond. It was the place to go to see and be seen, if you know what I mean. Mr. T and his buds soaked in the sun, kept cool in the pond, ate fast food – flies and whatnot – and kept an eye out for cute girls. In other words, they were normal teens.

One particularly beautiful, sunny day, when the wind skimmed across the pond and made the tall grasses bend and sway gently, some totally cute fuzzy bunnies hopped over to check things out. Mr. T got one look at Juliette and he was smitten. His friends soon noticed that Mr. T was not paying attention to them at all. "T! Dude! Hey!!" they yelled at him. They could not get his attention. "Whoa," he said softly. "She's got such beautiful eyes. And those, long, long lashes..."

Of course, his friends all teased him but Mr. T didn't care. Slowly, he made his way over to the group of girl friends. They were both kind of shy and it took awhile, but in time, Juliette and Mr. T started hanging out together. They found out they both liked a lot of the same things: the taste of new, sweet, green grass first thing in the morning when it was still touched with dew drops; watching dragon flies zoom around the pond; and other great stuff like that.

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They liked each other's sense of humor. They also appreciated each other's concern about the planet and how important it is to live peacefully.

Still, they were definitely normal teenagers and sometimes got into big, dramatic arguments. As usual, they fought over what they were passionate about: peace.

"T, you are so stubborn! If you just sit around and think about peace, it won't happen! You've got to do something!" Juliette was exasperated.

"I am doing something," Mr. T responded. "I am being peaceful. That's the point."

"You just don't get it!" Juliette fumed. "People won't pay attention to you. You've got to do something that will get people's attention."

"What do you propose?" asked Mr. T. "If it's peaceful, I might do it."

So, my friends, that's exactly what happened. Both Mr. T and Juliette understood that their love for each other was attracting attention. In unkind moments, T and Juliette were each told by well-meaning friends that they should date someone within his or her own species. Mr. T and Juliette decided to capitalize on their ability to care for each other in spite of, and because of, their differences. They decided to have a Race for the Cure of Violence against Nature and the Planet (RCVANAP) - I told you they are very thoughtful creatures. Can you believe that Aesop and others only saw

the race and didn't get the whole story? Because it worked out just as Mr. T and Juliette planned. They publicized the race and got their friends and lots of others to pledge to be peaceful: stop to think before yelling; ask for things politely; give the other person the benefit of the doubt, etc. It was very creative. Yet, even a long, long time ago there were reporters who went for high drama and gave the story a negative spin. Some say that it was Fox's News Agency, but that would be stereotyping again.

Mr. T and Juliette actually did make an impression on all those who participated. They got folks to think about making choices differently. They got them to consider unlikely friendships. They got them to lighten up. And when reporters kept trying to get Mr. T and Juliette to be angry or get into a fight with each other, Mr. T turned to one of them and said, "Dude! Enough already! Give peace a chance!"

So, that's the story the way they want you to know it. Peace takes practice. It takes paying attention. And when it gets right down to it, peace starts with you. Now that you know their story, maybe you'll want to have your own race and get peace pledges. If you want a celebrity spokesperson, I'll be happy to have my people call their people. It could happen.

Peace. †



DAILY THOUGHTS

DECEMBER 1

If I have been of service, if I have glimpsed more of the nature and essence of ultimate good, if I am inspired to reach wider horizons of thought and action, if I am at peace with myself, it has been a successful day. ~ Alex Noble

DECEMBER 2

We make war that we may live in peace. ~ Aristotle

DECEMBER 3

Choose: The single clenched fist lifted and ready, or the open hand held out and waiting. Choose: For we meet by one or the other. ~ Carl Sandburg

DECEMBER 4

The peace and welfare of this and coming generations of Americans will be secure only as we cling to the watchword of true patriotism: our country – when right to be kept right; when wrong to be put right. ~ Carl Schurz

DECEMBER 5

Everyone's a pacifist between wars. It's like being a vegetarian between meals. ~ Colman McCarthy

DECEMBER 6

Peace is the marriage of the people and the planet, with all attendant vows. ~ Anonymous

DECEMBER 7

Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone. But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are. ~ Hafsat Abiola

DECEMBER 8

In some ways, the challenges are even more daunting than they were at the peak of the cold war. Not only do we continue to face grave nuclear threats, but those threats are being compounded by new weapons developments, new violence within States and new challenges to the rule of law. ~ Kofi Annan

DECEMBER 9

Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal. ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

DECEMBER 10

The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us. ~ Black Elk

DECEMBER 11

Better than a thousand hollow words is one word that brings peace. ~ Buddha

DECEMBER 12

Do you know what astonished me most in the world? The inability of force to create anything. In the long run the sword is always beaten by the spirit. Soldiers usually win battles and generals get the credit for them. You must not fight too often with one enemy, or you will teach him all your art of war. If they want peace, nations should avoid the pin-pricks that precede cannon shots. ~ Napoleon Bonaparte

DECEMBER 13

Peace is the only battle worth waging. ~ Albert Camus

DECEMBER 14

If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies. ~ Moshe Dayan

ON PEACE

DECEMBER 15

Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.

~ Albert Einstein

DECEMBER 16

If we are peaceful, if we are happy, we can smile and blossom like a flower, and everyone in our family, our entire society, will benefit from our peace.

~ Thich Nhat Hanh

DECEMBER 17

Peace-making is a healing process and it begins with me, but it does not end there.

~ Gene Knudsen Hoffman

DECEMBER 18

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

~ Isaiah II:4

DECEMBER 19

If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there'd be peace.

~ John Lennon

DECEMBER 20

Peace may sound simple – one beautiful word – but it requires everything we have, every quality, every strength, every dream, every high ideal.

~ Yehudi Menuhin

DECEMBER 21

There is no way to peace; peace is the way.

~ A.J. Muste

DECEMBER 22

Poetry is an act of peace. Peace goes into the making of a poet as flour goes into the making of bread.

~ Pablo Neruda

DECEMBER 23

Five enemies of peace inhabit us – avarice, ambition, envy, anger, and pride; if these were to be banished, we should infallibly enjoy perpetual peace.

~ Francesco Petrarch

DECEMBER 24

To reach peace, teach peace.

~ Pope John Paul II

DECEMBER 25

If you want peace, work for justice.

~ Pope Paul VI

DECEMBER 26

It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it.

~ Eleanor Roosevelt

DECEMBER 27

Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice.

~ Baruch Spinoza

DECEMBER 28

I was once asked why I don't participate in anti-war demonstrations. I said that I will never do that, but as soon as you have a pro-peace rally, I'll be there.

~ Mother Theresa

DECEMBER 29

If you wish to experience peace, provide peace for another.

~ The Dalai Lama

DECEMBER 30

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

~ Romans 12:18

DECEMBER 31

Let us be silent that we may hear the whispers of the gods.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

UU Recipe for Peace

-by Phil Haney



Judging from the principles of the UUA, one would think Unitarians have given peace some thought. The sixth principle says “We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.” The seventh principle – added 24 years later, when the modern form was adopted in 1984 – makes “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part” a covenant undertaking.

Other religions and religious groups have adopted similar positions about peace and interdependence. The mission of The World Council of Religious Leaders includes “...to inspire women and men of all faiths in the pursuit of peace, justice and mutual understanding...” (Charter, World Council of Religious Leaders, June, 2002 – Chapter 2, MISSION). The WCRL mission statement complements the UUA value system.

Although most religions acknowledge peace as a desirable goal, religion based in democratic covenant has unique advantages at the peace table. It’s hard to imagine covenant religions circumscribing beliefs on the basis of ideology. The Unitarian belief system renounces the uniformity of most organized religions. We don’t want uniformity; instead, we covenant to accept and include things, persons different. Our covenant begins with respect and love for the individual; it encourages individuality. Without behavior, standards, and expectations, there can be no proscription, no deviation; if tolerance is unlimited there can be no intolerance. Without creed, what is to be violated? Are Unitarians onto something here?

Ancient religions emphasized the intrinsic interdependence of sentient beings. Hinduism and Buddhism are examples of this. But religions of peace, throughout history, nevertheless have run up against their own external structures of ideology or practices that compel expected behaviors and consequences, leading inexorably to division, intolerance, and conflict. The cycle hasn’t changed, in spite of some good intentions.

Efforts to create a single, true religion invariably neglect the unity and diversity essential to free religion. A single religion is not religion, as it is the essence of uniformity. Gandhi sensed this when he said “In nature there is fundamental unity running through all the diversity we see about us. Religions are given to mankind so as to accelerate the process of realization of fundamental unity.” (*Mahatma Gandhi, An Apostle of Applied Human Ecology* by T. N. Khoshoo, Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi, 1995.) In Gandhi’s teachings, religion without tolerance, unity, diversity, and loving-kindness/compassion is otiose, likely self-destructive. Worse, religion that promotes uniformity threatens religious freedom, Gandhi believed. Instead of one religion, if all religions are seen as one, unity is achieved and we can build peace. Interestingly, Gandhi saw very little distinction among religions, recognizing (as Unitarians do) that religions begin at a common source and end at a common destination. Sound familiar? Could this be the original *Gospel of Inclusion*?

We are encouraged to think that there is a religion for each of us, and to have it requires neither uniformity nor sacrifice. It’s not handed to us; we’re not born into it. We *discover* our spirit. That’s the religion of the Unitarian. If there are gods, the gods are a common source – they are one, with many paths leading to them. But, regardless of the god or the path, we also see a common destiny that arises from the

interdependence of sentient beings. Unitarians seeking peace are baffled by the thought of a single god whose religion discriminates or permits discrimination on the basis of dogma. Dogma is the stuff of conflict and struggle, not peace.

This is the essence of Gandhi's religion: unity is inclusive and diverse; religious freedom gives rise to many forms of belief, including scripture, prayer, worship, and association. Unity and uniformity are unrelated: uniformity breeds intolerance; unity prevents uniformity.

The spiritual path of a Unitarian Universalist is noble indeed. The UU covenant acknowledges the many paths of unity. Unitarians know that

the truth lies in the individual path chosen. It is this richness of free religious thought and spirit that returns the human ego to a level where peace is accepted, desired. Our bottom-up democratic covenant enables us to self-prescribe religion. We are not told what to do, or how to do it. We bless ourselves, and we bless others, as individuals. Freed from the base passions stirred by uniformity, humans in unity-spirit are equipped to build peace among a worldwide family.

Unitarians should share the news: religions are fine – the more the better; unity leads to peace. We *can* experience religion *and* achieve peace. †

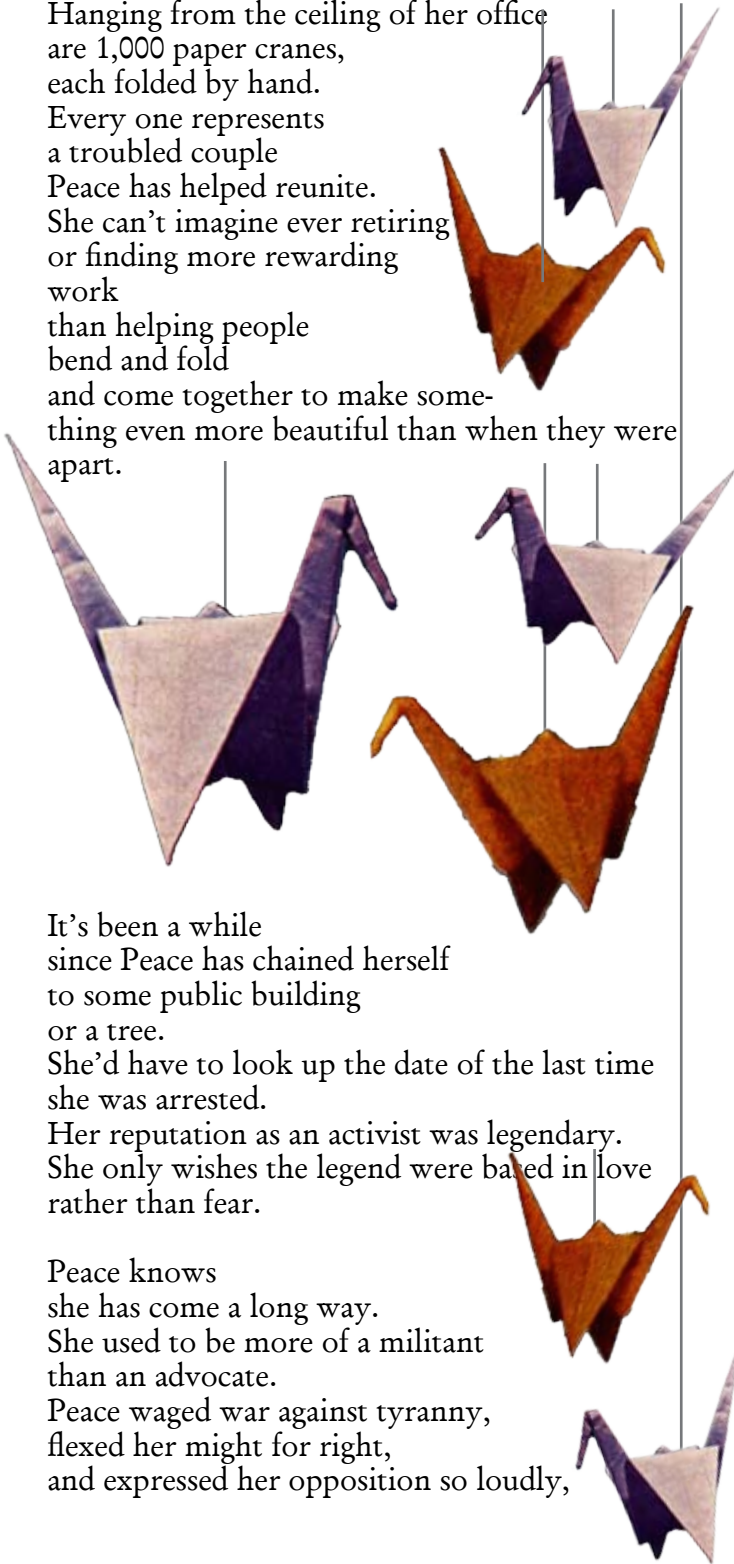


Peace – Personified

-by Rev. Tamara Lebak, Associate Minister & Kate Starr, Youth Director

If there is to be peace in the home...

Hanging from the ceiling of her office
are 1,000 paper cranes,
each folded by hand.
Every one represents
a troubled couple
Peace has helped reunite.
She can't imagine ever retiring
or finding more rewarding
work
than helping people
bend and fold
and come together to make some-
thing even more beautiful than when they were
apart.



It's been a while
since Peace has chained herself
to some public building
or a tree.
She'd have to look up the date of the last time
she was arrested.
Her reputation as an activist was legendary.
She only wishes the legend were based in love
rather than fear.

Peace knows
she has come a long way.
She used to be more of a militant
than an advocate.
Peace waged war against tyranny,
flexed her might for right,
and expressed her opposition so loudly,

even she got a headache.
Her activism these days is about
being fully present,
listening,
finding the good.
Peace sometimes wonders if it was the cancer
that made her stronger –
and softer.
Where her left breast used to be
is a scar
over her heart
that helps her remember all she's learned.
Something changed in her when she realized
she wasn't invincible
and that everyone,
even those on the other side,
would someday find themselves frail and weak.

And her daily practice reminds her:
"All shall be well and All shall be well and
all manner of things shall be well."

Every August, Peace shaves her head
and spends the month on retreat at a monastery.
She does hard physical labor
and meditates for hours at a time.
She spends September back home
donning a wig, once again,
to cover her bare head.
Not because she's embarrassed,
but because she doesn't want to elicit
misunderstanding or pity.

On days when Peace needs quiet inspiration
she clears her calendar and goes to the funeral of
someone she doesn't know.
Every person's life is such a miracle!
These ancient rituals remind her
to celebrate each moment,
reconnect her with the mystical,
and calm her pounding heart. †

Spiritual Practice: Meditation for a Peaceful Heart

-by Rev. Debra Garfinkel, Pastoral Care Minister



*There must be peace
in the heart...*

At the beginning of the Day:

I am breath.

I am still.

I am grateful for a new day –
a new opportunity

to be a peaceful person.

I may even be a peace pilgrim...

I awake.

I arise.

I care for my body deliberately –
because this is my body and no one else's.

I cleanse it and clothe it and feed it;

I allow myself to receive this care.

This is my body that allows me
to be part of this world.

I am grateful for this body –
this opportunity to move and breathe
and be a peaceful person.

During the Day:

I have much work to do.

May I be a peaceful person as I work.

When I move, I travel peacefully:

I practice looking upon each person
with kindness.

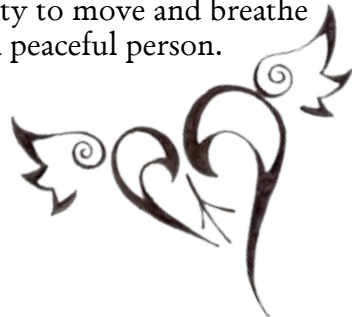
I practice breathing in the other person's anxiety and
breathing out peace.

I practice looking at the ground
upon which I walk

and walk with care and attention.

I forgive myself for lapses of attention.

I am grateful for this work of being human –
this opportunity to move and breathe
and be a peaceful person.



At the End of the Day:

I think of the times and the ways
that I practiced being a peaceful person.

I remember when I responded
to a situation calmly and thoughtfully.

I remember when I was joyful, grateful, serene.

I remember when I noticed my breath
and chose to act with care.

I think of times when I forgot my self;
times when I reacted;

times when I tried to force things to happen.

I remember when I was frustrated,
angry, disappointed, upset.

I remember when I forgot to breathe
and chose to act impulsively or automatically.

I am grateful for this day – this opportunity to
move and breathe and be a peaceful person.

Before Sleep:

I am breath.

I am still.

I am grateful for this day –
this opportunity to be a peaceful person.

I forgive myself for lapses of attention
and for forgetting to care for my self.

I forgive myself for the times

I hurt or offended another person –
whether by acts of omission or commission,
whether with malice aforethought
or with no thought at all.

I rejoice and celebrate the times and the ways
that I stayed in the present –

when I calmed myself;

when I noticed my breath;

when I paid attention and gave myself fully
to the person and situation at hand.

I am grateful for this one precious life.

I am grateful for work and play and rest.

I am grateful for this opportunity to move
and breathe and be a peaceful person.

I am breath.

I am still.

I am at rest.

I am peace.



Amazing Peace

by Maya Angelou

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes.
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Floodwaters await in our avenues.
Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche
Over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and gray and threatening.
We question ourselves.
What have we done to so affront nature?
We interrogate and worry God.
Are you there? Are you there, really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?

Into this climate of fear and apprehension,
Christmas enters
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness
high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged
to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.
It is the Glad Season.



Thunder ebbs to silence
and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Floodwaters recede into memory,
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us.
As we make our way to higher ground.
Hope is born again in the faces of children.
It rides on the shoulders of our aged
as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth,
brightening all things,
even hate,
which crouches breeding in dark corridors.



In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft.
Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness. The word is Peace.
It is loud now.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.
We tremble at the sound.
We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war, but true Peace.



A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.



We clap hands and welcome the Peace
of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait awhile with us.
We,
Baptist and Buddhist,
Methodist and Muslim,
say come.



Peace.
Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We,
the Jew and the Jainist,
the Catholic and the Confucian,
Implore you to stay awhile with us
So we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion
and see community.



It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.
On this platform of peace, we can create a language
To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.
At this Holy Instant,
we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ
Into the great religions of the world.
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.
We shout with glorious tongues the coming of hope.
All earth's tribes loosen their voices
To celebrate the promise of Peace.



We,
Angels and Mortals,
Believers and Nonbelievers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
Peace.
We look at our world and speak the word aloud.
Peace.
We look at each other, then into ourselves,
And say without shyness or apology or hesitation:
Peace, My Brother.
Peace, My Sister.
Peace, My Soul.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING SERVICES

4:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:30 PM



All services include the traditional readings and carols, with Cherub Choir at 4:30, Children's Choir at 6:00, and Youth Choir at 7:30. Alumni Choir members may sing *Lo, How a Rose*. (Meet in choir room at 7:00 pm to warm up.) Wassail and cookies will be served in Emerson Hall after the 4:30 and 6:00 services.

Resources for Further Reading

The Genesis Meditations: A Shared Practice of Peace for Christians, Jews, and Muslims by Neil Douglas-Klotz

World-known religion scholar and translator Neil Douglas-Klotz unites Judaism, Christianity, and Islam finding that all three faiths share an emphasis on sacred beginnings. This book teaches how early mystics - including Jesus - may have meditated in all three great religions springing from the Middle East.

Waking Up in Time: Finding Inner Peace in Times of Accelerating Change by Peter Russell

This beautiful and wise book powerfully demonstrates the need for a spiritual renaissance in the face of change. It reveals a vision integrating the evolving nature of civilization with humanity's timeless quest for harmony and peace.

Cultures of Peace: The Hidden Side of History by Elise Boulding

While most academic attention focuses on the violence in today's world, Boulding notes an equally significant presence of cultures and societies of peace. The collection of essays examines communication among family, community and government, offering enriching perspectives and advice on how to fuel the process of peace in our daily lives.

Is there No Other Way? The Search for a Non-Violent Future by Micheal N. Nagler

This author poses the question that rises in all our hearts with every newscast and headline, and his book pushes us for real answers. He argues convincingly that Gandhi's science of non-violence is the real and practical alternative we are looking for.

Simple Gifts is published monthly by All Souls Unitarian Church, 2952 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114 (918) 743-2363 info@AllSoulsChurch.org

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- 1) Submit your text electronically via email. Plain text is best.
- 2) Include your name and daytime number.
- 3) Not all submissions will be published. Submissions may be edited.

Questions? Call Laurel Williamson at 743-2805, ext 305.

December Highlights

Dec. 4	Soulful Sundown: "The Missing Peace"
Dec. 6	Arts & Crafts Fair
Dec. 7	Hanging of Greens /Tree Trimming
Dec. 10	Day Alliance
Dec. 10-23	DIRECTORY PHOTOS
Dec. 12	Coffeehouse: <i>Terri Hendrix & Slaid Cleave</i>
Dec. 13	All Choir Christmas Concert
Dec. 15	Evening Alliance
Dec. 16	Holiday Memorial Chapel
Dec. 18	Parents' Night Out An Evening of Praise
Dec. 20	BGLT Potluck
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Dec. 25	Merry Christmas



December 4, 7:00 pm
All Souls Alternative Worship

The Missing
PEACE

**With 60s Protest Songs
from Travis Fite!**

Also featuring
Rev. Tamara Lebak,
Rev. Marlin Lavanhar,
Rick Fortner & More



Childcare available by reservation. Call 743-2805 ext 308