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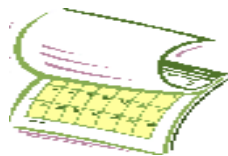
International Day of Prayer for Peace



Plans are being made for the Annual International Day of Prayer for Peace Observance on **Tuesday, September 21st, 2010** at the County City Building in downtown South Bend. The observance will be over the lunch hour from approximately 11:45 am to 12:45 pm.

The theme this year will be *“Putting Pieces Together to Find Peace.”* Representatives from different faith traditions will read prayers and each will attach a piece of a puzzle to create a large poster.

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER



August 10th, 1:00 pm
Widowed Women & Men’s Social Support Group at St. Peter’s Church

August 22nd, 2:00 pm
Military Appreciation Day at Coveleski

August 23, 8:30 am
Women in Ministry Breakfast at Cira’s

August 23rd, 5:30 pm
URC Board at St. Peter’s UCC

September 20th, 5:30 pm
Community Forum with the Red Cross on Disaster Preparedness (Location to be determined)

September 21st, 11:45 am
Peace Observance at County-City Building

United Religious Community of St. Joseph County

URC TORCH

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AUGUST 2010



Silver Hawks to host Military Appreciation Day!

The South Bend Silver Hawks will host a special day for military families at Coveleski Stadium on **Sunday, August 22, 2010** to honor those serving our country.

Discounted tickets of \$4 for Box Seats and \$3 for Bleacher Seats will be offered to any member of the military.

The Silver Hawks take on the Bowling Green Hot Rods at 2:00 pm. From 12:30 pm through the sixth inning, a vendor’s area will be open outside the stadium where various organizations will have tables set up to provide information about the services they provide to military families. Fans must have a ticket for that afternoon’s game to enter the vendor area.

Various ties to the military will be present throughout the game. The children of deployed military will be introduced with the players before the game and the Clay JROTC Color Guard will be present. After I give the invocation, Rep. Joe Donnelly will share his greetings. Joe Kernan will be there to sign his new book and raffle tickets will be sold for an opportunity to be a guest announcer for an inning as well! The game is also a “Canines at the Cove” day, so fans are encouraged to bring their service dogs.



The event is sponsored in conjunction with the MMSN (Michiana Military Support Network) whose mission is “to build community awareness and understanding of the issues affecting veterans, service members and military families in our local communities.” The URC is a founding member of that support group. For more information or to purchase tickets on-line visit www.silverhawks.com or call 574-235-9988.

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ADVOCACY NEWS

The Advocacy Centers of the United Religious Community continue to provide vital assistance to the less fortunate members of our community.

In the first six months of 2010 we provided a total of \$25,697.97 in assistance to 1,632 individuals representing 773 households in South Bend and Mishawaka.

On behalf of those we serve, the URC and the Advocacy Centers would like to thank all the individuals, organizations and congregations who support our mission and services! In these uncertain times, your donations are vital to those less fortunate.

Marchell Wesaw

Want to receive TORCH by e-mail?

If you are receiving a printed copy of this newsletter and would like it sent by e-mail please call the URC office at 574-282-2397 and give us your current e-mail address.

Refugee Program no longer affiliated with URC

The URC has received a letter from Carol McDonnell informing us that Refugee Program has decided to end its affiliation with the United Religious Community. She stated that they are grateful to the URC for providing a channel for establishing a fruitful and continuing network of assistance to the foreign-born. The decision to dis-affiliate from the URC is a practical matter and the Refugee Program will continue their work—now primarily through the Red Cross—recently designated as the area coordinator by Church World Service.

We wish them well and appreciate their willingness to realign as we are re-examining our own mission priorities.

**Next Community
Forum to be held
September 20th.**

The URC, in cooperation with the American Red Cross of St. Joseph County will be hosting the next Community Forum on Monday, September 20th.

The subject of this forum will be Disaster Preparedness and how churches in our area can help the Red Cross be ready in case of a major disaster.



RECENT GIFTS RECEIVED

Christ the King Lutheran Church
Karen Dwyer
Evangelical Covenant Church, So. Bend
Hilltop Lutheran Church
Memorial Presbyterian Church
National City Bank/Anonymous
Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren
Sacred Heart Parish
St. Andrew's United Church of Christ
St. Bavo Catholic Church
St. Joseph Church, South Bend
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Second Presbyterian Church/
Indianapolis
South Bend Christian Reformed Church
Southside Christian Church
Temple Beth-El

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**Community Forum on
Education held at Madison
Center**



The URC held its second Community Forum on June 14th. This time the topic was Education. James Kapsa,

Superintendent of South Bend Community Schools and Dan Towner, Acting Superintendent of School City of Mishawaka, arrived armed with handouts and filled us in on the status of their schools. Of particular interest were the graduation rates and how both school systems had improved. In South Bend, the increase was from 61.3% in 2008 to 71.3% in 2009 and in Mishawaka from 61.7% in 2008 to 74% in 2009. While both Kapsa and Towner were pleased with the increase they are not satisfied and discussed ways to improve the graduation rates even further.

Questions from the audience focused on how the public can help the schools in these tough times of shrinking budgets. The Mishawaka schools could use donations of books for the school libraries. Also congregations can contact the schools in their area to see what particular help is needed at those schools.

Dear Friends,

Your gift from the 2009 CROP Walk will enable us to provide up to seven meals for every dollar donated to those in need of emergency food assistance. This food and the meals they represent mean fuller bellies and hope for a better tomorrow. We thank you for your continued support.

- Lisa A. Jaworski, Food Bank of Northern Indiana



NOTE: The 2010 CROP Walk will be in October. Please stay tuned for more information.