



PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK

August 6, 2017  
Vol. 1, Issue 8

Pax Christi  
LITTLE ROCK

# Peace Offerings

## Glen Hooks, Director of AR Sierra Club, To Speak on Environmental Concerns

### PCLR Board Members

- Sherry Simon (President)
- Betty Jo King (V. President)
- Marian Paquette (Secretary)
- Sherry Martin (Treasurer)
- Sandee Haslauer
- Mary Hunt
- Becky Mullican
- Jerome Ngundue
- Sarah Ngundue
- George Simon

### Contact Information

- **Website:**  
[www.paxchristilittlerock.wordpress.com](http://www.paxchristilittlerock.wordpress.com)
- **Facebook:**  
Pax Christi Little Rock
- **Address:**  
415 N. McKinley, Ste. 1040  
Little Rock, AR 72205
- **Phone:** (501) 663-5075
- **Email:**  
[paxchristilr@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristilr@gmail.com)

**Blessed are the Peacemakers,  
for they shall be called  
the children of God.**

Glen Hooks will be the featured speaker at the August 10 Pax Christi Little Rock meeting. Glen will be speaking on factors contributing to climate change as well as the ways that we, as global citizens, can be more effective stewards of our planet.

Glen Hooks is the director of the [Arkansas Sierra Club](#), and a lifelong Arkansan. Prior to joining the national Sierra Club staff in 2003, Glen worked as an attorney in private and public practice, as Director of the Democratic Party of Arkansas, and as a political Campaign manager for various candidates and causes. Glen is a graduate of Hendrix College and the UALR School of Law. He also wants it to be known that

he is the father of the two greatest sons in the history of sons!

The [Sierra Club](#) is an environmental organization centered in the United States. It was founded on May 28, 1892, in San Francisco, CA by the preservationist, John Muir. It was one of the first large-scale environmental preservation organizations in the world. The club focuses on promoting sustainable energy, mitigating global warming and opposing use of coal as an energy source. In addition to political advocacy, the Sierra Club organizes outdoor recreational activities and has historically been a notable organization for mountaineering and rock climbing in the United States.



Glen Hooks

The Arkansas Chapter of Sierra Club, which has about 2750 members, was established in 1982 to help protect the wilderness areas of Arkansas. More recently, the chapter's focus has been on Clean Energy (including the Beyond Coal Campaign) and Clean Water (Lake Maumelle Watershed and Pegasus Pipeline rupture in Mayflower, AR).

Our presentation will begin at **7:30 Thurs, Aug. 10 in Fitzgerald Hall (2500 N Tyler)**. All are welcome to attend.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

PCLR will conduct a book study on Fr. James Martin's newest work, **Building a Bridge**, beginning at **7:30 on Thursday, September 14**. We'll explore the importance of initiating a dialogue between the Catholic Church and the LGBT community. Order the book-Read-Come prepared to discuss.

## Peace Offerings

## Active Peacemaking Initiative

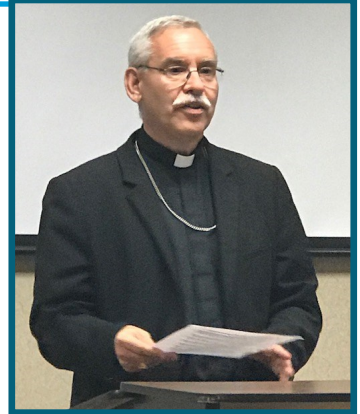
As part of our ongoing endeavor to put study and prayer into action, here is our highlighted August project that demonstrates our goal of active peacemaking.

## SAVE A CORK, HELP A CHILD

There is a worldwide shortage of cork, so ecologically conscious winemakers are increasingly turning to other ways of sealing their bottles. But, there is still a lot of cork in use and unfortunately most of it just gets thrown away. And, it could be put to good use. It just so happens that cork is one of the best materials you can use to make shoes. That's particularly important in developing countries where many lack the money to buy commercially made leather or synthetic material shoes. Its interesting to note that those expensive shoes wear out quickly whereas shoes fashioned from cork can last nearly a lifetime. That's what led one Canadian shoe manufacturer to come up with a brilliant eco-friendly and socially conscientious idea: make shoes from recycled cork! This will help save the cork trees. Additionally, a fair number of cork shoes get donated to the underprivileged! The project is called [Recork](#). This group takes recycled wine bottle cork and, in partnership with the non-profit organization [Soles 4 Souls](#), distributes cork shoes to the needy. Folks wanting to help can take their discarded corks to Recork recycling stations. Unfortunately, as of this date there are none of these recycling centers in Arkansas. This is the function of a new PCLR initiative. We will partner with as many individuals, wine clubs, restaurants, etc as possible to collect cork, and then send them off periodically to the folks at Recork to help with this much needed humanitarian project. Currently, Recork has 3,000 partners and they have recycled over 70 million corks.

## PCLR Members Turn Out for Workshop on Catholic Social Teaching

On Friday, July 21, ten Pax Christi members attended a two-hour workshop conducted by Bishop Anthony Taylor and Kristen King (community organizer with the Industrial Areas Foundation and VOICE). Bishop Taylor summarized Chapters 1 and 2 of [Evangelii Gaudium](#)—an apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis on the proclamation of the gospel by both the clergy and lay faithful. Bishop Taylor emphasized the process of institutional and attitudinal conver-



Bishop Anthony Taylor

sion, and there was a discussion regarding ways that the institutional church and lay persons might more effectively provide information and feedback to one another (see p 4)

## Pax Christi's Monthly Mission



Our custom is to contribute to a different peace and social justice cause at each of our monthly meetings. Over the past year, we have donated

funds and services to organizations such as El Zocalo, Rockefeller Elementary School, Jericho Way and St. Joseph's Center. At our August meeting, we will be supporting the **Arkansas Sierra Club** as we work towards a more just and sustainable world. Please be generous in your contributions.

## Peace Offerings

## PEACE PARTNERS

Peace Partners is a new feature highlighting various peace and social justice organizations that share our vision: active promotion of peace in our neighborhood, state, country and world. The goal is to increase awareness of the many organizations in our area that work for peace through social justice and invite joint ventures between these groups to increase the effectiveness of our mission.

### ARKANSAS COALITION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE



Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice (ACPJ) is an association of individuals and organizations who are committed to a culture of peace, building a country where domestic policies are sound and just, and where the world at large is treated with respect and dignity. These aims are achieved through education, dialogue and action. Focus is on three areas:

1. **Peace and nonviolence:** peacemaking, peaceful conflict resolution and finding alternatives to war
2. **Social Justice:** Social, racial and economic justice, human solidarity and human rights
3. **Ecology:** Sustainability, stewardship, and protection of our environment

## ARKANSAS PEACE WEEK

**SEPTEMBER 17-24, 2017**

### Make Peace our Natural State

Pax Christi Little Rock (PCLR) will be discussing how we will become involved in the observance of the UN International Day of Peace on September 21. During the week around that date, many activities to educate and promote peacemaking in our society will be planned by peace and justice organizations across the nation in coordination with the Campaign Non-Violence Week of Actions. Peacemaking is celebrated as a means to instill justice, build stronger communities, alleviate poverty, promote ecological stewardship, end war, eliminate violence in our society, while seeking respect, inclusion and fair treatment of all people. PCLR intends to work in partnership with other local groups to promote our mission of peace.

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 7 - 6 P.M. - ALL ARE WELCOME**

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 1000 N. MISSISSIPPI - LITTLE ROCK**

**An Interfaith Celebration of Peace**

**through music, prayer and wisdom, followed by**

**The Interfaith Food Festival**

Arkansas House of Prayer

JULY 27 AT 2:19 PM



Sponsored by: Arkansas House of Prayer and The Interfaith Center

For more information visit: [lovethyneighborlr.eventbrite.com](http://lovethyneighborlr.eventbrite.com)

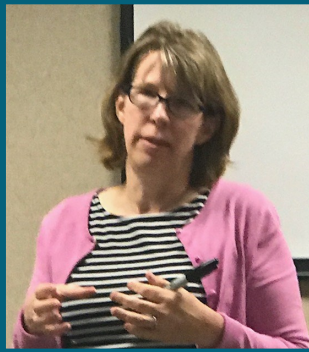
Pax Christi members are invited to attend An Interfaith Celebration of Peace and The Interfaith Food Festival beginning at 6 pm on Thursday, September 7. Love Thy Neighbor is a community interfaith peace gathering featuring musical performances, speakers from different world religions and food from different faith traditions. This year's theme is "Building Bridges." It will explore how, in a time of such division, we can build bridges between individuals and communities. Free and open to public.



## Peace Offerings

**(Workshop-cont)** in our mission to grow our Church. Bishop Taylor emphasized that standing for justice is the primary message of Christ.

Kristen King shared information regarding her community organization work in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Baton Rouge. She stated that the basic foundation of Industrial Area Foundation has to do with getting people to tell their stories to one another in order to break through stereotypes and find common ground. She develops core teams in neighborhoods that listen to the problems people are experiencing and help set the "mission agenda." Ms. King stated that when people have conversations with one another, they find points of similar experience and so can then work out conflicts and determine the main problems to be addressed. Through these authentic encounters, individuals develop a plan to take an action that will hopefully resolve their stated concerns. Ms. King emphasized that this is quite different from social justice work. This work often involves organizing people to address problems in their community directly, taking an action that alleviates the concern. She gave an example of Resurrection Catholic Church in Tulsa. It had an aging white congregation who decided that they wanted to take the social justice initiative to go out and register the people in the neighborhood to vote. They got 30 people to go door to door. They found that there was significant sex and drug trafficking and even murders taking place. They had no idea this was happening around them. Then, their work became how to build relationships with others in the neighborhood and how they could partner with other institutions to help achieve that goal.



Kristen King

## Sgt. Prater Speaks Out on Crime

Sergeant Jonathan Prater, an officer in the Public Affairs division of the Little Rock Police Department, spoke to PCLR at their July 13 meeting on the reasons behind recent significant increases in crime in LR. Sgt. Prater cited several factors that he felt contributed to problems on the streets. First of all, he stated that the department is authorized to hire 593 police officers and they currently have 76 vacancies due to deficit of new recruits. This is a significant problem as the police dept. has logged 90,000 calls in 2017 to date. Sgt. Prater also said that he feels disintegration of the family is a major problem. He stated that he often has single parents ask him to just take their children because they can't handle them anymore. He stated that the drug problem, particularly in the area of opioid abuse, accounts for much of the street crime and increase in homicide rates. Specifically, he discussed increased sales and use of the narcotic Fentanyl which, when mixed with heroin, can kill if it touches the skin. Sgt. Prater said that many of the recent homicides are drug related drive-by shootings that are targeted, but that innocent people often get hit and killed. He also gave mental illness as a factor in increased crime, as there are very few resources for this population. They get put in jail, but get right back out on the streets and often remain homeless. Prater discussed importance of "community policing" - improving relationships between individuals and police, as a major thrust of the department in battling crime.



Sgt Jonathan Prater

## Peace Offerings

## Backpacks Filled with School Supplies Project Complete!



PCLR raised almost \$2000 to successfully provide all 328 school children at Rockefeller Elementary with backpacks filled with required school supplies. The backpacks were packed on Aug. 3 by enthusiastic PCLR members and delivered to Rockefeller the next morning. Many, many thanks to the hard working folks who made this possible!!



### Staples Awards \$500 Grant to PCLR

We just received news that PCLR was awarded a \$500 grant from the Staples Foundation. Sherry Martin applied for this grant from Staples' #2Millionand Change fund that gives to non-profit organizations to fund educational projects in the community. Many thanks to Allen Thomas and Alexander Lupafya of Staples for this generous gift. With this type of assistance, PCLR can continue it's work to provide support for our school children.

### MIRACLE OF THE MONTH

The most recent PCLR miracle happened on the morning of Friday, August 4. Sherry Martin and I went to the diocese around 8:15 am to load and deliver the 18 trash bags filled with backpacks to Rockefeller Elem. The bags were quite heavy, We weren't sure how we were going to lift or transport them in our small cars. When we got to the diocese, we were shocked to see the bags already loaded on a trailer. Fr. Harvey had been walking around St. John's early that morning saying his rosary, wondering how we were going to deliver those heavy bags. And along came Deacon Tim in a truck. Although he had planned to use the truck to carry some equipment, it wouldn't fit, so the truck wasn't needed. Fr. Harvey told him what we were doing and he immediately volunteered to help. What was probably going to take hours took about 30 minutes. And then those three angels drove to the school with us and helped carry the bags in. God is good, all the time!