



Peace Offerings

Stephanie Byers To Share Vision of Settled Souls: Helping to House the Homeless In Little Rock

PCLR Board Members

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

Stephanie Byers, President of Settled Souls, will be the featured speaker at the next Pax Christi Little Rock gathering scheduled for Thursday, April 12, at 7:30 pm. She will be providing information on this non-profit ministry that she helped start in February, 2016. Settled Souls furnishes donated furniture, home necessities and welcome baskets for homeless individuals who have been working with Jericho Way, a homeless day center in Little Rock, to obtain housing.

Over these past two years, they have coordinated 64 moves, supplying major items such as beds, couches, dressers, televisions, dining tables, kitchen and bathroom supplies, pictures and rugs.

According to Stephanie, the need for furnishings was identified when Jericho Way realized that clients were choosing between paying their rent and buying furnishings. And, they often had no means of transportation to haul large items such as beds or other furniture, so



they needed assistance in moving. Members of Holy Souls, Stephanie Byers and Lindsay Taggart (treasurer) have coordinated donations and volunteers, growing Settled Souls and giving all the credit to God. Stephanie says that she is constantly amazed at the miracles that occur as she works this ministry. She gave the example of the many different times when she has needed a certain article of furniture only to have someone call and offer to donate that very item. For more information on Settled Souls, email settledsouls@gmail.com.

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Puerto Rico: Mission Update



Plans for our mission to Puerto Rico continue to move forward. We are in active discussions with the Chief Medical Officer of Global Health Initiative, Dr. David Watson. He and his team are in the process of assessing needs in Puerto Rico and establishing a base of operations in Buen Samaritino Hospital in Aguadilla Pueblo, Aguadilla. As you can see from the marker, this is located in the northwest corner of the island. Global Health Initiative is the mission component of Centura Health. They began planning a mission for long-term assistance to Puerto Rico approximately 9 months ago, prior to the disaster incurred by Hurricane Maria. GHI has all paperwork completed and has been given permission by the Ministry of Health to locate their mission in Buen Samaritino. Dr. Watson indicated that they look for collaborators to provide various services such as medical, mental health, translators, construction, clean-up, and numerous other skilled labor.

Pax Christi Little Rock will provide GHI with a detailed report of what we can provide to the mission and the various skills of the individuals who will be involved.

According to Dr. Watson, he and his advance team will visit Buen Samaritino in October, 2018. At this point, their first full mission trip is scheduled for Spring, 2019. Dr. Watson stated that it takes such a long period of time to set up the mission as there are four "Must Have's" that need to be in place:

1. Full assessment of need
2. Engaged partner agreements
3. Collaboration with Ministry of Health
4. Assurance of Safe Environment

Pax Christi continues to dialog with individuals on the GHI team. Additionally, we are exploring possible connections with VOAD and a Methodist group already on the ground in PR.

Pax Christi's Monthly Mission

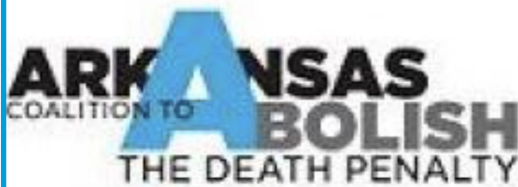


Our custom is to contribute to a different peace and social justice cause at each of our monthly meetings. At our April meeting, we will be supporting **Settled Souls**. These funds will be used to provide furnishings and general home supplies to homeless individuals who are being transitioned into new housing in association with Jericho Way. Settled Souls depends on donations such as these to provide needed items for each of their new clients. You may mail donations to **415 N. McKinley, Little Rock, AR 72205** or make a **donation at our next meeting**. Please be generous with your contributions. Thank you.

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PEACE PARTNERS

Peace Partners highlights 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.



The Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (ACADP) works to assemble a broad-based coalition of individuals and organizations committed to ending the death penalty in Arkansas. ACADP believes that:

1. Innocent People Have Been Convicted and Executed
2. The Death Penalty Is Unfair and Arbitrary
3. The Death Penalty Is More Expensive Than Life Without Parole
4. Capital Punishment Doesn't Deter Crime

ACADP's desire to abolish the death penalty is in accordance with PCLR's beliefs regarding nonviolence and the need to protect the sanctity of life.

PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK

IS SPONSORING

**WELCOME HOME:
AN INVITATION FROM THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH TO ITS LGBT
BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

THIS IS AN ONGOING SUPPORT GROUP FOR LGBT CATHOLICS AND ALLIES WHO MAY HAVE LEFT THE CHURCH AND WISH TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF RE-CONNECTION WITH THEIR FAITH THROUGH PRAYER, CONVERSATION AND SUPPORTIVE INTERACTION. OUR CHURCH FAMILY IS DIMINISHED BY YOUR ABSENCE. WE INVITE YOU TO COME HOME AND JOIN US IN GROWING OUR FAITH TOGETHER.

WHEN: THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018 7 PM

WHERE: DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK-FITZGERALD HALL

CONTACT: SHERRY WITH PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK AT paxchristilr@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Penelope Poppers, Executive Director of **Lucie's Place**, will be the featured presenter at the PCLR meeting on Thursday, May 10 at 7:30. She will share her vision of this organization that provides LGBTQ young adults experiencing homelessness in Central Arkansas with safe living environments, job training and counseling services in order to ensure lifelong stability and success. Lucie's Place also works to promote equality and acceptance for LGBTQ adults. Please make plans to attend. Admission is free.

Peace Offerings

A Pilgrimage in Pictures

Pilgrimage for Peace, 2018, organized by a coalition of ecumenical faith and community organizations, was held on **Sunday, April 8 at 2:00 PM**. Walkers gathered in the circle outside of **Heifer International Village**, 1 World Avenue, Little Rock. They walked past the Clinton Presidential Library and the River Market, crossed the Junction Bridge and over to the **Beacon of Peace and Hope** at 120 Riverfront Drive, NLR. Pax Christi members were among the pilgrims.

A Remembrance Service to “mourn the violence committed in our community, nation, and world, and to walk together as active peacemakers” was held, consisting of groups of young people saying prayers, providing reflections from literature and scripture, and singing songs related to peace. Finally, the names of all the victims of homicide in Pulaski County over the past year were read. Emily VanEcko, a student at Mt. St. Mary’s, read the Prayer of St. Francis as a representative of the Catholic Faith.



Peace Offerings

Pax Christi LR Attends March for Our Lives

Pax Christi Little Rock members walked in solidarity with youth across the country at the "March for Our Lives" rally at the Arkansas State Capitol in Little Rock. Hundreds gathered on Saturday, March 24 to demand new gun control laws following the shooting in Parkland, Florida that killed 17 high school students and staff. The march in Little Rock was one of more than 800 held worldwide. Several young people along with



PCLR Attends March for Our Lives

other activists spoke at the rally, calling for safer schools. There were demands that lawmakers act in the interest of the children rather than the gun lobby. A group of gun rights supporters also attended. Although words were exchanged, there were no altercations.

More Corks Shipped to Soles4Souls



PCLR shipped 2,090 more corks to their peace partner, Soles4Souls, this week. When added to previous shipments, the total came to 3,452. PC continues to work towards making an impact on poverty, one person at a time.

THE 13TH ANNUAL



GERARD A. VANDERHAAR SYMPOSIUM AT CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY



Stephanie Teatro is the co-director of the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, the state's preeminent organization working on immigration policy. A national leader in efforts to defend America's proud history of welcoming refugees, Stephanie is the co-author of the report *Countering the Backlash: Strategies for Responding to Anti-Refugee and Xenophobic Activity from the New South*. She is an executive committee member of the Fair Immigration Reform Movement and a board member of the National Partnership for New Americans. A Canadian by birth, Stephanie has called Nashville home since 2011.

WHO GETS TO BE AMERICAN: IMMIGRATION POLICY AND OUR MULTICULTURAL DEMOCRACY

STEPHANIE TEATRO

Co-Director of the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS



MAURICIO CALVO
Latino Memphis



KAREN SPENCER
World Relief Memphis



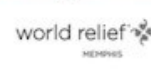
DR. MASIL BATAKL
LeMoyne-Owen College



MARIA HERRERA
DACA Student, CBU

APRIL 12, 2018 | 7:00 P.M. | UNIVERSITY THEATER

free & open to the public | www.gvanderhaar.org | www.cbu.edu/vanderhaar



CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY • 650 EAST PARKWAY SOUTH • MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38104

Pax Christi LR Awarded Partner In Education from LR Schools

The Little Rock School District made Pax Christi Little Rock a Partner in Education due to its work with Rockefeller Elementary on the backpacks filled with school supplies program as well as sponsorship of Peace Week activities.



Rockefeller Elementary

with

Pax Christi USA – Little Rock, Inc.

are working together

in a mutually enriching partnership

for the benefit of students in the

Little Rock School District.

March 2018

Recognition Date

Donna N. Alford
VIPS, PIE Coordinator

Welcome Home Ministry Brings Increased Understanding To Group Members

Pax Christi Little Rock held its first publicly announced LGBTQ support group meeting entitled **Welcome Home: An Invitation from the Catholic Church to Its LGBT Brothers and Sisters** on Thursday, March 22. Twenty people were in attendance and the discussion of issues relevant to individuals who identify as LGBT, family members, and parishioners was edifying. Each person had an opportunity to introduce themselves and talk about what motivated them to come to the group. Discussion of issues around perceptions of the Church as well as perceptions of the LGBT community was conducted with sincerity, compassion and respect across the board. All members indicated that they wanted to continue the group discussion on a monthly basis, and it was determined that we would meet the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm in Fitzgerald Hall. Each member was encouraged to invite other interested parties. If you have questions, call Sherry at 663-5075.

LRSD to Consider Implementing Nonviolence Activities in Schools

A group of peace activists from Arkansas Coalition of Peace and Justice will be meeting with administration from the LR School District to discuss inclusion of nonviolence activities in all schools during Peace Week, 2018 (September 17-23). A committee will meet with Tamara Blaylock on Wednesday, May 23 to develop a peace curriculum. Rockefeller Elementary School served as a model for Peace Week activities in 2017. It was reported to be a valuable addition to the learning environment.

Remembrance Vigil

Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty is holding a Remembrance Vigil in front of the governor's mansion (1800 Center Street, Little Rock, AR) from 6-7 pm on Tuesday, April 17, 2018. This gathering will commemorate the 2017 vigil for the eight men who were scheduled to be executed in a ten day period around Easter of 2017. Please join Pax Christi Little Rock and many other peace and justice organizations as we mourn the tragedy of state decreed executions in our country.

CALENDAR OF PEACE

MARCH/APRIL EVENTS

- April 12 - PCLR Board Meeting (6 pm) and Speaker Stephanie Byers from Settled Souls (7 pm)**
- April 17 - Remembrance Vigil-Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (6 pm) in front of the Governor's Mansion**
- April 19 - Welcome Home: An Invitation from the Catholic Church to Its LGBT Brothers and Sisters (7 pm) Fitzgerald Hall**
- May 1 - Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice Peace Week Planning Meeting (5:30) Hillary Rodham Clinton Library**
- May 10 - PCLR Board meeting-Penelope Poppers-Executive Director of Lucie's Place (Board meeting at 6 and Speaker at 7:30)**

