



## PCLR Board Members

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- Sarah Ngundue
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**Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9**

## Contact Information

- **Website:**  
[www.paxchristilittlerock.wordpress.com](http://www.paxchristilittlerock.wordpress.com)
- **Facebook:**  
Pax Christi Little Rock
- **Address:**  
415 N. McKinley St., #1040  
Little Rock, AR 72205
- **Phone:**  
(501) 258-8653
- **Email:**  
[paxchristilr@gmail.com](mailto:paxchristilr@gmail.com)

## Pilgrimage for Peace Connects Peace Groups Throughout Arkansas

It has been said that our lives are a pilgrimage and that the actions we take while we are on this journey define who we are, both as individuals and as a culture. With that in mind, it was heartening to see the sixth annual Pilgrimage for Peace attract so many diverse groups of people congregating for one united purpose: to stand in solidarity for peace. Almost one hundred people walked the path from Heifer International across the bridge to the Beacon for Peace and Hope on Sunday, April 28. Others met them when they arrived at the Beacon and participated in a

Remembrance of those who lived and died at the hand of violence, committed violence, those who live in fear, work for peace. faith groups (Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, as different social justice



**Pilgrimage for Peace 2019**

across the state: Arkansas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice, Arkansas Community Organizations, Arkansas Network for Justice, Faith Voices of Arkansas, Interfaith Power and Light, Little Rock Organizing Committee, Women's Action for New Directions, The Episcopal Peace Movement, Moms Demand Action, Compassion Works for All, Clinton School on Philanthropy, Arkansas Network for Justice, Pax Christi Little Rock, DecARcerate, and Peace Bene/Campaign Nonviolence. The strong organizational support for this event indicates that the value for bringing peace through social justice is indeed growing and developing a strong network here in Arkansas.

Service to me-who died at the violence and their those who have violence, those and those who Many different were represent-Muslim, Jew-Baha'i) as well peace and so-organizations

## Peace Offerings

**PAX CHRISTI SPEAKER SERIES****Lee Bass: Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas**

Lee Bass, a member of the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas, will be presenting information on the history and mission of the local Habitat chapter on **Thursday, May 9 at 7 pm in Fitzgerald Hall**

**Lee Bass**

(Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, LR). Lee has been volunteering with Habitat for the past seven years, with the majority of his time spent working on the construction team. Lee indicated that he has helped in the building of approximately 70 houses in Arkansas. In addition, he served for about a year as interim executive director of Habitat, completing his term this past March.

Lee Bass is a member of Our Lady of the Holy Souls Church in Little Rock where he has been a parishioner for the past 44 years. In addition to his work with Habitat for Humanity, Lee is very active in other social justice groups such as Settled Souls and Jericho Way. He works tirelessly helping set up stable homes for folks who have been living on the streets. Lee also attends Pax Christi Little Rock events on a regular basis and is always there to lend a helping hand. Prior to retirement, Lee worked for over 39 years as a project engineer, construction manager and chief of Supervision and Inspection for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas.

Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas is a part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seek to put God's love

into action by "building homes, communities and hope." This organization has built and rehabbed over 160 homes in Central Arkansas and over 30 homes overseas. Habitat believes that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all. All who believe that everyone needs a decent, affordable place to live are welcome to help with the work, regardless of race, religion, age, gender political views or any other distinctions that too often divide people. Habitat for Humanity works to bring people together to create a more unified world.

**Pax Christi's Monthly Mission**

Our custom is to contribute to a different peace and social justice cause at each of our monthly meetings. In May, we will be collecting donations for Habitat for Humanity of Central Arkansas. This

organization was founded in 1989 and to date has built and rehabbed over 160 homes in Central Arkansas. An additional 30+ homes have been built and financed overseas. Contact 501-376-4434 if you would like more information on this ecumenical construction mission.

**Be assured, then, that faith without works is as dead as a body without breath. James 2:26**



## Peace Offerings

## 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.



## PILGRIMAGE FOR PEACE 2019

Pax Christi Little Rock worked with Caroline Stevenson and Devin Hancock this year to publicize this event throughout the Catholic community. The pilgrimage is an ecumenical endeavor that highlights the importance of peace in our society and remembers all those who have died at the hand of violence this past year in our community. More than almost any other social justice gathering in Arkansas, the Pilgrimage brings together all of the different groups that work more independently throughout the year into one unified voice of peace.

**The harvest of justice is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace. James 3:18**

## IMAGES OF PEACE



## SOLES FOR SOULS

**Over the past month, 235 corks have been donated. Added to the total number (10,863) sent out to Soles4Souls previously, our total is now 11,098. Please save the corks from those wine bottles and remember to bring them to our next PCLR meeting, drop them off at 415 N. McKinley St., #1040, LR or call 663-5075 and we will pick them up. Thank you!**

## Peace Offerings

### New Schools Added To Backpack Project

Pax Christi Little Rock is adding two new schools in it's ongoing mission to provide backpacks filled with school sup-



Just Arrived-1128

plies to elementary school children in both public and Catholic schools in Arkansas. Unfortunately, St. Edward's School will be closing next year and we will not be able to partner with them as we have this past year. However, PCLR decided to continue working with at least two Catholic schools, so **North Little Rock Catholic Academy** was invited to join in this effort (**200 students**). Pax Christi will continue to work with **St. Theresa's Catholic School (232 students)**. In addition to our ongoing relationship with **Rockefeller Elementary (328 students)** in the Little Rock School District, Pax Christi Little Rock has added **Osceola Elementary School** in Osceola, Arkansas (**1-4 grades, app 350 students**). So, in the 2019-2020 school year we will fill **1,110 backpacks** with school supplies compared to 654 backpacks this past school year. Our goal is to grow the mission each year so that our school children have basic tools they need to get a good start in life.

**There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children. Nelson Mandela**

## CALENDAR OF PEACE

### MAY/JUNE EVENTS

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>May 9</b>   | <b>PCLR Board Meeting-6 pm Fitzgerald Hall</b><br><b>Speakers Series-Lee Bass</b><br><b>Habitat for Humanity-7 pm</b><br><b>Fitzgerald Hall at St. John's Center</b>   |
| <b>May 10</b>  | <b>17th Annual Empty Bowls</b><br><b>7 pm-10 pm, Robinson Center</b><br><b>Local chefs provide fare from local Restaurants. Event benefits the Arkansas Foodbank</b>   |
| <b>May 15</b>  | <b>Fast for Peace, 6 am-6 pm</b><br><b>A project that promotes Gandhi's message Of nonviolence, tolerance, and voluntary Temperance. #fastforpeace</b><br><b><a href="http://fastforpeace.org/peace/">http://fastforpeace.org/peace/</a></b>           |
| <b>May 16</b>  | <b>Mother's Day Luncheon for Peace</b><br><b>11:30 am-1:00 pm</b><br><b>Arkansas Governor's Mansion</b><br><b>Honoring Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America-</b><br><b>Nancy Parrish, Executive Director of WAND</b><br><b>Featured speaker</b> |
| <b>June 13</b> | <b>PCLR Board Meeting-6 pm Fitzgerald Hall</b><br><b>Speakers Series-Joseph Friend-seminarian</b><br><b>From DOLR-History of the Black Church in Arkansas-7 pm</b><br><b>Fitzgerald Hall at St. John's Center</b>                                      |

Let the children come to me. Do not hinder them. The kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Matthew 19:14



## Peace Offerings

## REXFEST



Pax Christi LR volunteers serve drinks at Rexfest 2019

Rexfest 2019 is a celebration of community at Christ the King Catholic Church in Little Rock. It was held on Sunday, May 5 this year between 11:30-3:30 and was well attended by hundreds of CTK parishioners given the spring-like weather. Ten Pax Christi LR volunteers spent their time at the festival selling water and soft drinks to thirsty folks who needed something to drink with their famously delicious Rexfest food. In the process, these volunteers gave out "peace treasures" like pencils, erasers, bracelets, stamps, and buttons with peace logos to all the kids who were there with their parents. Several of the attendees asked about Pax Christi and the different projects they have going on. As a result, a few people indicated that they would check out the Pax Christi meeting this next Thursday night at 7 pm featuring Lee Bass with Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers had lots of fun and made some new friends as well.



## PILGRIMAGE



With the dawn of a new day, the first steps of the journey are undertaken.

Deep excitement presages unknown adventures.

Each step on the path is freely chosen, yet strangely predestined by earlier footfalls, both personal and collective.

In every moment, there is opportunity for new awareness of the previously unknown.

A chance for new life amidst the certainty of death.

In the distance, the way is cloaked by a luminous, misty veil-

Creation in process of creation.

So, why ask, "What lies at journey's end?"

It matters not, as life is found within the pilgrimage itself.

Living every moment, taking every step, in the Presence of the Creator.

Sherry Simon

This poem was written the morning of my first mission trip to Honduras in 2008. It was a morning filled with unknown potential.

## Peace Offerings

**LUCIE'S CORNER**


**We need  
your  
help!**

Our Lucie's Place members are in need of women's summer clothing in sizes 1x - 3x. Any donation, big or small, is appreciated!

Lucie's Place is a non-profit organization that provides LGBTQ young adults experiencing homelessness in Central Arkansas with safe living environments, job training and counseling services. They are Peace Partners with PCLR and we will continue to make you aware of their needs as they arise. Currently, they need women's summer clothes in sizes 1x-3x. Call 258-8653 for pick-up or bring to Pax Christi meeting on May 9 at 7 pm in Fitzgerald Hall (St. John's Center-2500 N. Tyler St.).

**Our Daily Pilgrimage**

God of our daily pilgrimage,  
You have given us a desire  
to take the questing way  
and set out on our sacred journey.  
May we travel unhindered by worldly possessions  
Always trusting in you to meet our every need.  
May we open our eyes to new horizons,  
May we open our ears to hear your voice  
And may we open our hearts to your love.  
Please guide our steps so that we may  
always walk in your light.  
Grant that in every action we may reflect  
an aspect of your holy Presence.  
For it is in this pilgrimage that we  
strive to become the person  
You have designed us to be. Amen

**SAVE THE DATE****PAX CHRISTI LR SPEAKER SERIES**

Presents

**Joseph Friend**  
**Seminarian, Diocese of Little Rock**

**HISTORY OF THE BLACK CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ARKANSAS****THURSDAY, JUNE 13 at 7 PM**

**FITZGERALD HALL, ST. JOHN'S CENTER**  
**2500 N. TYLER STREET, LITTLE ROCK**

## Peace Offerings

# PAX CHRISTI'S MISSION: TRANSFORMATION OF VIOLENCE INTO COMMUNITY

**"Pax Christi is a Catholic peace and social justice movement that rejects war, preparation for war, every form of violence and domination as well as personal and systematic racism. This movement seeks to model the Peace of Christ in its witness to the mandate of the nonviolence of the Cross."**  
**Vision of Pax Christi USA**

Pax Christi Little Rock was formed as a chapter of Pax Christi USA about 2 1/2 years ago. During these formative days of our organization, I have believed fervently in the mission statement written above, but I have



also been frequently overwhelmed by what I perceive to be the monumental task in front of our small group of passionate members. How could we possibly move this mountain of ever-present human conflict? What could we do to even begin to impact the presence of violence in our world? The news is always filled with wars, deaths, division and the ongoing threat of destruction across the globe. Overcoming these conflicts seemed impossible, and there was no shortage of people reminding me of that fact.

When we were in our early days, I had visions of anti-war demonstrations, long hours on the phone with our state representatives and endless conferences focusing on learning more about how we might "fight" the violence all around us. And certainly, we have been involved to some degree in all of these activities. But, as we have walked this path over the past couple of years, this vision of how to work towards peace

in our world has shifted significantly. I have watched us move from the realm of ideals and abstract dreams of a peaceful "heaven on earth" to practical engagement in specific projects and actions. Our physical investment in these interactions has served to make small differences in our community and, perhaps more importantly, helped us on our own path towards inner growth and connection. What then has followed is an increasing drive to grow our relationships with one another. These relationships, both within Pax Christi Little Rock and between Pax Christi LR and our Peace Partners, have led to a growing sense of community that is the very antithesis of war and conflict. We have experienced that when people work together towards common cause, there is little room for division. Of course, we sometimes experience disagreements on the fringes of our work, but when the focus remains on the work itself, the conflict has been minimal. I think this is also a factor of the focus being on others rather than on ourselves.

Over the course of these years, projects such as hurricane recovery in Puerto Rico, filling backpacks with school supplies, welcoming members of the LGBTQ community back to the Catholic Church, establishing a peace curriculum in our Little Rock schools, collecting corks to make shoes for underprivileged children, and the sharing community that has developed around our Speaker Series have taught us about the positive effect of group effort in overcoming all kinds of difficulty and division. There were so many times when we did not think it would be possible to complete the tasks placed in front of



## Peace Offerings

us. Examples include building a gravel path up a small mountain to a newly built community center, “hoeing” up jungle vines on a Puer- to Rican hillside in the rain to make a garden,



Building a Path to Community

finding the funds to grow our “backpacks filled with school supplies” partner schools from one to four, collecting over 10,000 corks for shoes, and scheduling 30 different speakers to help educate us on issues in our community.

Throughout this period of time, we have taken very seriously the format that Pax Christi lays out for us in doing our work: prayer, study, action. We believe that action can best flow from a constant relationship with the Holy Spirit and that we will see more clearly the road in front of us if we prepare ourselves for the task through education and connection with others. The most interesting thing we have experienced is that, without exception, we have been led towards community. This is what grows us and this is what has sustained us as an organization.

One of the symbols that has held my attention and kept my focus on our path is the rose on a stem of barbed wire that Pax Christi USA adopted as its logo. I have thought a great deal about

that rose and what its deeper meanings reveal about our mission in Pax Christi. Of course, the barbed wire is a symbol of the divisions inherent in war and conflict. It reveals how



Community of Peacemakers

we as humans tend to divide ourselves, one from the other, in our constant drive for power and domination in the world. Yet, Christ tells us and shows us that it is possible to transform this human state of division into a whole different way of being. The rose, I think, symbolizes the love and heart connection, both within ourselves and with others, that is necessary in order for this transformation to take place. If we love in the way Christ showed us to love, we will make it a point to know others, try to understand where they are coming from, and find a way to relate to them. Rather than trying to compete or separate ourselves from them, we will strive to make their lives better within our relationship with them.



Packing School Supplies

In Jungian psychology, the rose also signifies *conunctio*, the marriage of the opposites. This represents the regeneration of things that have been separated but that are now resurrected on a new level. Transformed. In order for us to transform war into peace, violence into nonviolence, the rose instructs us that we cannot remain divided. Anytime we take a side and refuse to give in for the sake of power or ego, we cannot find peace. There is not one side that owns the path to peace. Rather, we must seek community, one with the other, in very practical terms if we are to overcome our insecure tendency to isolate ourselves in our pride and self-focus. The answers lie in the small interactive connections potentially available in each present moment.

**My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors. Matthew 5:44**