



Pax Christi

LITTLE ROCK

Peace Offerings

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

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Shepherd's Hope Panel to Share Vision Of Community Medical Service

Shepherd's Hope is a Christian medical, dental and health education ministry serving the South Midtown area of Little Rock. Representatives from this organization will be speaking at the Pax Christi Little Rock meeting at 7:30 on Thursday, October 11 in Fitzgerald Hall (Diocese of Little Rock-2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207). Shepherd's Hope has three main priorities through which they serve their community. First, they provide affordable routine healthcare, acute dental care and vision care to uninsured neighborhood residents who may not otherwise have access to quality care. Second, they work to learn about the life needs of those in their neighborhoods and, along with their partners, provide education or coaching to better equip individuals and families. And finally, they share the love and hope of Jesus Christ without bias to faith preference or affiliation.

Shepherd's Hope is a non-profit ministry located directly behind Oak Forest United Methodist



Church (2415 Fair Park Boulevard) in the South Midtown area. Patients are accepted by appointment only and families are asked to contribute a \$5.00 registration fee for each visit if able although medical services are free. Clinic hours are from 5:30-9 pm on most Thursdays. Shepherd's Hope offers gynecology visits for women on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. The dental clinic is open on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-8:30 pm, with patients seen by appointment. The clinic is open to children and adults of all ages. Spanish translators are present during all regular clinic hours.

Mission of Shepherd's Hope

"We are a Christian ministry serving the Kingdom of God by meeting the routine medical, health education and spiritual needs of Little Rock neighborhoods by partnering with volunteer medical, business, community, clergy and teaching professionals."

Peace Offerings

ARKANSAS PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER CONTINUES JOURNEY “OUT OF ASHES”

The Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center (APRC) began a rebuilding campaign called “Out of Ashes” after their building at 3 Office Park Drive was destroyed by fire on May 20, 2018. At its inception, the purpose of the campaign was to support the ministry in a temporary location (quickly provided by Christ the King Catholic Church), support the mobile ultrasound vehicle at locations throughout Central Arkansas, and raise the revenue necessary to rebuild a permanent location for the APRC.

In the last few months, it has been amazing to watch the progress that had already been initiated prior to the fire. APRC has found new office space on the same street as its old offices, across from the city’s only abortion clinic. They will continue to provide services including ultrasound, pregnancy conformation and options consultation for women. Nicole Lashbrook, director of APRC, said that the new building is large enough to accommodate future growth of the organization. Additionally, there are plans to move into a second location near Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. Classes to teach life skills and strengthen families will be taught in the second facility. APRC also has plans for a third ministry to provide education in schools to prevent teen pregnancies by teaching sexual risk avoidance and healthy relationships. According to Lashbrook, “if we really want to avert a crisis, let’s educate, let’s equip young people to avoid a situation altogether.”

APRC has initiated a capital campaign to help pay for the expanded services. They are working

to raise \$600,000. This campaign was already underway prior to the fire, but has been renamed “Out of Ashes” since then and will be



Pentecost Fire at APRC site

officially launched at the annual Legacy of Life Banquet being held on October 18, 2018. APRC is also participating in special fundraising events including an art show by “Adorned By Kax” on Nov. 9 at the Noah Center and the annual Baby Bottle campaign held in churches throughout central Arkansas.

Pax Christi Little Rock is supporting APRC by purchasing a table at the Legacy of Life Banquet. Pax Christi members are urged to attend and support this wonderful cause with a generous donation. All life is sacred, from conception until natural death, and APRC carries this message to women and families so that they have the option to raise their child with the ongoing support of a faith based, hands-on community.

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 October meeting, we will be supporting **Shepherd's Hope Health Center**. These funds will go to support this non-profit medical and dental ministry located in the south midtown area of Little Rock. They provide medical and dental services to the uninsured who would otherwise be unable to afford quality healthcare. 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.

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.



Volunteers *in* Public Schools

Volunteers in Public Schools (ViPS)

Tammy Blaylock, the coordinator of ViPS, worked closely with Pax Christi LR and AR Peace Week to insure that every elementary school and several high schools in the Little Rock School District had access to the different activities that made up the Peace Curriculum proposed for Peace Week, 2018. During that week, schools promoted classroom activities including peace walks, non-violence communication lessons, peace gardens, charity drives, peace assemblies, student formation of peace imagery, peace art, peace journaling, lessons in sharing/bullying/MLK principles. Pax Christi LR is proud to partner with ViPS as we work to provide our young people with alternatives to the violence currently found in our schools.

PAX CHRISTI LITTLE ROCK

IS SPONSORING

WELCOME HOME:

A GROUP FOR CATHOLICS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT AND THEIR FAMILIES/FRIENDS WHO WISH TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THIS IS AN ONGOING DISCUSSION GROUP FOR CATHOLICS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT 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. THE CHURCH FAMILY IS DIMINISHED BY YOUR ABSENCE. WE INVITE YOU INTO A DYNAMIC CONVERSATION THAT CAN BUILD A BRIDGE. WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US IN LEARNING ABOUT ONE ANOTHER AND GROWING OUR FAITH TOGETHER.

WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018 7 PM

WHERE: DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK-FITZGERALD HALL

CONTACT: SHERRY WITH PCLR AT paxchristilr@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Pax Christi Little Rock will hold a panel discussion on the philosophy and vision of our ongoing monthly Welcome Home meetings. This discussion will take place following our PCLR board meeting on November 8 at 7:30 pm in Fitzgerald Hall (DOLR-2500 N. Tyler St). There has been an opening of hearts as the conversation between the Catholic Church and the LGBT community/allies continues. Please join us. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Peace Offerings

Arkansas Peace Fest and Youth Summit Energize High School and College Students

Arkansas Peace Week (September 16-23) culminated this year with the "Rise Up" Youth Summit and Peace Fest held at the Central High School gym on Saturday, September 22 from 2-5 pm. Primarily organized by Tristan Norman,



YOUTH SUMMIT

Hendrix University student, this summit was the first for student leaders in Arkansas. It was aimed at networking innovative student leaders, sharing ideas, and creating a community of individuals from around the state to have discussions on different social issues. The main focus was on **"Reimagining Communities: Immigrants, Migrants and Refugees in Arkansas"**. Students were asked to involve themselves in three different topic discussions that were designed to meet a diversity of interests ranging from interfaith dialogue and social entrepreneurship to community development and navigating challenging conversations. The topic discussions were facilitated by Clinton School of Public Service students and other community leaders. Students ranged from juniors in high school to seniors in college.

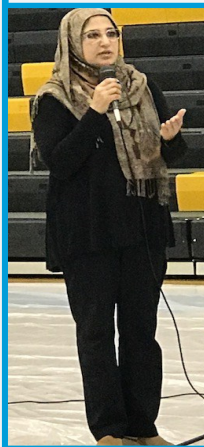
In addition to student dialogue, several speakers shared their vision of community including Officer Tommy Norman, Madina Institute founder Sophia Said, and Mouaz Moustafa, executive director of the Syrian Emergency Task Force. Approximately 60-70 students were involved in the Youth Summit, sharing their views on many social issues.



Meadowcliff Choir Sings Peace

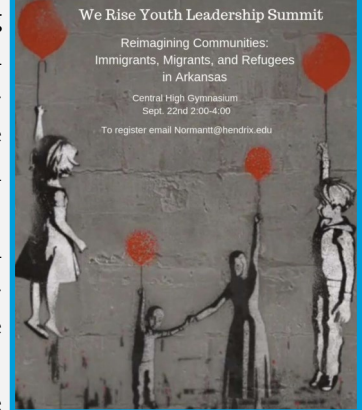
Many social justice organizations were

involved in volunteering their services at the youth summit and Peace Fest including Pax Christi Little Rock, Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice, Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Women's Federation for World Peace, the Episcopal Peace Movement, the Madina Institute, the Clinton School of Public Service, and Mount St. Mary students.



SOPHIA SAID

During the Summit, the documentary **Woodruff: A Lesson of Nonviolence**, was shown, followed by a robust discussion on nonviolence techniques in the classroom. The Peace Art winners at Rockefeller Elementary were displayed in the Central High Visitor's Center. At the end of the day, the Central High gym was opened up to all ages. Music, food and fun activities were provided and students from several elementary schools enjoyed the fun. Plans are underway to build on the summit during Peace Week 2019.



RISE UP

SOLES4SOULS CORK DONATIONS

Over the past month, 183 corks have been donated. Added to the corks (6871) sent out to Soles4Souls in September, our total is now 7054. Please save the corks from those wine bottles and remember to bring them to our next PC 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

PEACE CURRICULUM UTILIZED ACROSS LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

According to Tammy Blaylock, coordinator of the LRSD Volunteers in Public Schools, the peace curriculum proposed by Pax Christi Little Rock and the Arkansas Peace Week committee was instituted throughout the elementary schools and several high schools in Little Rock during the course of Peace Week (September 16-23). Rockefeller Elementary School, under the direction of their counselor, Mildred Calhoun, piloted the "Peace Curriculum" program last year and then improved upon it this year (see related article p. 6). Teachers were able to access different activities from the Peace Week/ViPs websites to address issues of nonviolent conflict resolution, bullying, and inclusion. Many of the principles of nonviolence authored by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were also included on the website. Additionally, several schools got really creative and planted peace gardens, held peace walks, formed peace imagery with student body, held charity drives, sang, drew peace-related art, and held assemblies on peace. KARK (Channel 4) did a story on the [peace](#)

[curriculum](#) that can be found by following the above link.

Amy Frye, a 4th grade teacher at Meadowcliff Elementary School, read books to her students about peace and worked with them to act out real life scenarios about resolving conflict. Ms. Frye said, "By promoting peace and teaching students strategies, hopefully they're going to go out and do these good things, and I know they are, and its going to spread through our community in Little Rock and even spread farther than that."

Pax Christi will continue to work with the Arkansas Peace Week committee to improve the Peace Curriculum and share it with other school districts in the state. Next year, it is our goal that every elementary school in the state will have access to a curriculum for peace during Peace Week 2019. The lessons learned during Peace Week can be used by students for a life time, making our world a more unified, peaceful place to live.



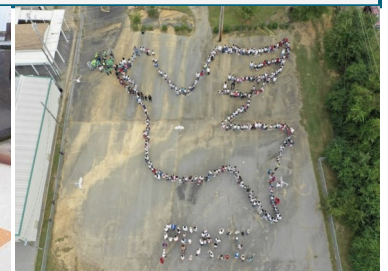
Williams Magnet Elementary



Pulaski Heights Elementary



Carver Elementary



McDermott Elementary



Gibbs Magnet Elementary



Rockefeller



Declare Victory over Violence

Rockefeller Elementary Chants, Sings and Walks for Peace

Students and teachers at Rockefeller Elementary School along with several Pax Christi Little Rock members ended Peace Week with a flourish on Friday, September 21 as they walked around the outside of the school chanting peace slogans like “give peace a chance” and “walk for peace, give peace.” Several of the children carried large red banners they had worked on with their art teacher. The banners had peace spelled out in different languages along with different peace slogans written in English. One student carried a sign in the shape of a dove. There was some dance music playing in the background and the children were walking, skipping and some even singing as they made their way around the large track. The children were all wearing peace necklaces and seemed very happy to be outside of the classroom on such a beautiful day.

Friday, September 21 was the final day that Rockefeller implemented its peace curriculum during Peace Week. Each day, every grade (K-5)

was engaged in a different activity. The children wrote stories and poems about what peace meant to them. They donated their gently used uniforms for students in need of uniform clothing. The students drew beautiful pictures illustrating what peace meant to them. The winning pictures in each class were displayed at the Central High Visitor Center Historic Site during the Youth Summit and Peace Fest on September 22. All of the students attended a Step Up, Stop Bullying Assembly for Peace and Love. All students and staff were invited to come to Peacefest in the Central High gym on Saturday September 22 from 4-5 pm. And finally, the class that raised the most uniforms was given a “Peace-A Party” sponsored by Pax Christi LR.



Rockefeller Peace Walk

About Arkansas Peace Week
Arkansas Peace Week 2018: Make Peace our “Natural” State!
September 17-22, 2018
Arkansas Peace Week is a program of events planned in observance of the United Nation’s International Day of Peace on September 22.
Arkansas Peace Week celebrates Peacemaking as a means to instill justice, build stronger communities, alleviate poverty, promote ecological stewardship, end war, eliminate the scourge of violence in our society, while seeking respect, inclusion and fair treatment of all people.
Arkansas Peace Week is planned in coordination with the nationwide Campaign Non-Violence Week of Actions.

9/17 Monday- Write for Peace & Love (classrooms)
Students will write on the topic for journal. Writing prompts will be provided.
9/18 Tuesday – Draw on Peace & Love (Art Contest Winners Announced)
Every student will draw a picture that depicts peace and love.
9/19 Wednesday- Donate for Peace & Love School Uniform Drive Competition ends (service project)
Each grade will compete in a school uniform donation drive to help replenish the Wrangler clothing closet and help those in need of uniform clothing.
9/20 Thursday- Step up, Stop Bullying Assembly for Peace & Love
The assembly will be for grades 4 & 5 at 1:30pm in cafeteria.
9/21 Friday - Walk in Peace & Love (8:30 a.m.)
All School Peace Walk (around the school perimeter and meeting on the track). Parents are invited to join.
9/22 Saturday- Arkansas Peace Fest at Central High School 4:30-5:30
A celebration of peace: A great program for all ages! Join us for Music, Food, Art and FUN!
The winner pictures from our Peace Week art contest will be on display at Pax Christi, LR booth.
• Special Thanks to our sponsors Pax Christi USA- Little Rock, Inc.!!!

Rockefeller Peace Week Schedule



Ms. Calvin Makes Peace



Peace Offerings

PCLR Collaborates With St. Joseph's on Sidewalk Talks

Sandy DeCoursey has requested that Pax Christi Little Rock work with St. Joseph's Center on bringing **Sidewalk Talks** (may rename Garden Talks) to the beautiful setting near their gardens. Several members of PCLR will be present next **Saturday, September 13 from 9 am-noon**, available to listen to the lives and stories of whoever want to just sit down and talk. We will have some chairs pulled up under some trees and give folks a chance to sit down and talk about whatever is on their minds. Listeners would not be there to weigh in on things or provide counsel. They just want others to walk away knowing that their story matters. It's about delivering the message that whatever is happening in a person's life, there is someone present who is interested in hearing it. Conversations might range from the weather to the farmer's market to loneliness to relationship issues. As long as each person shows respect to the person listening to them, all topics would be welcome. Studies show that 46% of Americans report feeling lonely and only half of Americans have meaningful human interactions on a daily basis. . Listening to others can be a powerful tool for creating community and bringing peace to our world.



Dates Set for Next Mission to Puerto Rico

The Pax Christi Board of Directors has set the dates for our next mission trip to Puerto Rico. At this point, there are seven people planning to make the trip to Miraflores from **November 12-19, 2018**. The volunteers at Casa Solidaria in Puerto Rico are working with community members to determine the scope of our project. They will choose the home most in need of repair and Pax Christi will donate between \$2500-3000 for supplies as well as hiring a local contractor to oversee our efforts. Casa Solidaria volunteers and family members will work side by side with Pax Christi volunteers as in July. The difference in this mission trip as opposed to the first one is that PC will spend the entire week in Miraflores and be able to focus on and complete one house project. Additionally, we hope to be able to aid in planting some of the seeds we have collected with the help of St. Joseph's Gardens. We are exploring the possibility of staying in a Catholic retreat center nearby, saving on trip cost for missionaries.



Peace Offerings

CALENDAR OF PEACE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EVENTS

**October 11 - PCLR Board Meeting (6 pm) and Speaker
Shepherd's Hope (7:30) Fitzgerald Hall**

**October 13 - Sidewalk Talks at St. Joseph's Gardens
from 9-noon**

**October 18 - Legacy of Life Banquet-Embassy Suites
Arkansas Pregnancy Resource Center
fundraiser**

**October 19 - Welcome Home: An Invitation from the
Catholic Church to Its LGBT Brothers and
Sisters (7 pm) Fitzgerald Hall**

**October 23 - Peace Week Recap Meeting (5:30) at Hil-
lary Clinton Children's Library**

**November 8 - PCLR Board Meeting (6 pm) and Speak-
er Welcome Home panel addressing top-
ics pertaining to LGBT/Church issues
Note: Regularly scheduled Welcome
Home meeting cancelled due to mission
trip but will be rescheduled for December
20.**

Nov. 12-19 - Puerto Rico Mission trip

Legacy of Life Fundraising Banquet October 18, 2018

The Legacy of Life fundraising banquet is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2018 from 6-9 pm at the Embassy Suites in West Little Rock. The scheduled guest speaker, Deacon Harold Burkes-Sivers, will share insights on the relationship between the sacredness of family life and the brokenness of today's culture, tying in how the pregnancy resource ministry is so necessary today. Pax Christi LR is hosting a table at this fundraiser. Please contact us at 501-663-5075 if you are interested in sharing a table with PCLR and supporting the AR Pregnancy Resource Center.

Did I offer peace today? Did I bring
a smile to someone's face? Did I say
words of healing? Did I let go of my
anger and resentment? Did I for-
give? Did I love? These are the real
questions. I must trust that the little
bit of love that I sow now will bear
many fruits, here in this world and
the life to come.

Henri Nouwen



Peace Offerings

BUILDING A BRIDGE: THOUGHTS ON OUR DIVIDED WORLD

Let's meet in the middle of this great divide.

I'll start here, you start there.

We'll cross to the middle, won't claim our side

In talking, find a truth we can share.

Sherry Simon

Everywhere I look, I see division. People casting judgments on anyone or anything that is different from who they are or what they believe. In recent times, these differences have become concretized. It seems there is no longer any room for discussion, creative problem-solving or even a desire to understand the facts of a situation before each side rushes to push through their own agenda. There is just anger and raised voices when Red encounters Blue, liberal runs into conservative, straight meets gay, black sees white. (If you'll notice, we have developed these labels for people as if they were things in a category). So, we could spend a lot of time evaluating all of the factors that have contributed to this growing worldwide dilemma. The socioeconomic divide, the racial divide, the political divide, the gender divide, the power differential, not to mention all of the many ways all of us differ from the other just because we are all unique.

The truth is, we all have a universe inside of us. Some of our known universe is similar to that of others, but some is very different. We have navigated some small part of our universe, but actually most of it remains in the dark, unknown. And we have this voice inside of us, this egoic voice, that is always trying to protect us by separating us from those things that seem threatening because they are unfamiliar. We steer away from those people or ideas that are different because we either heard there was something wrong with them (by someone else fearful of the unknown) or we really just don't know what we would say or how we would handle a conversation with someone not of our "tribe." Those different uni-

verses are scary! We don't have a map!

I wonder about something though. I wonder if we don't actually all share a huge universe. That goes along with the idea that we are all God's children. If that's true, then it means that

the more we learn about others, the more we learn about ourselves. It means that every person's thoughts, ideas, feelings also live somewhere, perhaps unconsciously, within us. That makes them a mirror to us. It may actually be the easiest way to see aspects of ourselves to which we are otherwise blind. So, it would seem that gathering experiences with others who are different from us would be the best way to grow in knowledge of ourselves. Remember that egoic voice? The one in our head that keeps us safe by judging others as different, wrong, bad, etc.? Well, I wonder if it limits our spiritual growth? Keeps us safe, but smaller than we are meant to be. And I wonder what would happen if we stopped listening to that voice all the time. Sure, sometimes it is helpful when it tells us to take out the trash or flush the toilet, but not so much when it tells us to judge others, strive for dominance, and stay separate. Christ's teaching to not judge others is actually a map for inclusiveness and can help us find our way. Let's try it and see what happens. There are universes to explore both in there and out here, and we can find our way with faith in the words of Christ.



Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged. . . Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? Matthew 7:1-5