



Peace Offerings

PCLR Speaker Series-July:

Violence on the Streets of Little Rock

PCLR Board Members

- Sherry Simon (President)
- Betty Jo King (V. President)
- Marian Paquette (Secretary)
- Sherry Martin (Treasurer)
- Sandee Haslauer
- Mary Hunt
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Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Lt. Stephen McClanahan, commander of the Public Affairs section of the Little Rock Police Dept., was originally scheduled to speak to Pax Christi members on Thursday, July 13 at 7:00 regarding violence on Little Rock streets. Unfortunately, Lt. McClanahan had a last minute conflict and has assigned a member of his staff to take his place and provide information on what the police department is doing to address a recent surge in violent crime in our city. This officer works in the Office of Public Affairs and, in addition to providing details pertaining to crime statistics, types of criminal activity and factors contributing to increased violence, he will lead a discussion on ways the public

can better prepare themselves and defend against victimization. The crime rate in Little Rock continues to increase at the same time as the Little Rock police force has seen a shortage of officers (currently 57 vacancies). Neighborhood Scout, a website that analyzes FBI data, revealed that Little Rock has a crime rate of 81 per 1000 residents. The chances of becoming a victim of violent or property crime is 1 in 12. This is 178% higher than the national average. After researching dangerous places



Little Rock Police Department to live, Neighborhood Scout found LR to be one of the top 100 most dangerous cities in the US, with one of the highest violent crime rates in the nation. In 2017, there have been 29 homicides in Little Rock to date. There were 42 homicides in LR in 2016. According to Scout's analysis of FBI crime data, the chance of becoming a victim of rape, murder, manslaughter, armed robbery or assault in LR is 1 in 67 whereas it is 1 in 192 in the state of Arkansas. Crime in LR continues to escalate and we must not ignore this trend.



SAVE THE DATE

Glen Hooks, director of the Arkansas chapter of the Sierra Club, will speak at the Pax Christi Little Rock meeting scheduled for August 10. He will be providing information regarding climate change and care of our environment.

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Active Peacemaking Initiative

As part of our ongoing endeavor to put study and prayer into action, PCLR will highlight a project each month that demonstrates our goal of active peacemaking.

BACKPACKS FILLED WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Last week, at the instigation of one our board members, Pax Christi Little Rock started a campaign to raise money to fill 328 backpacks with recommended school supplies for all of the children (grades K-5) at Rockefeller Elementary School (700 E. 17th Street, Little Rock, AR 72206). Pax Christi has until the beginning of the LRISD school year, August 14, 2017, to raise the money (app. \$3500-\$4000), buy materials, fill the backpacks and deliver them to students. Rockefeller was identified as the elementary school in the district most in need of our assistance. There are numerous children at the school who live in shelters and the majority live at or below the poverty level. We understand that these families cannot afford to buy school supplies and these children often have no materials to work with through the year. Having these supplies will allow them to start off the year on a positive note and free the teachers to teach instead of dealing with supplying basic learning materials.

Please consider donating either your time or financial resources to this project. Any donation would be appreciated. If you want to help, you can reach us at paxchristilr@gmail.com or call at 501-663-5075. Your donations are tax deductible.

Pax Christi Little Rock Members Join 2017 Honduras Mission

This past June, six Pax Christi members joined the 2017 Christ the King Honduras mission that serves Trujillo and surrounding villages. Almost 100 missionaries joined together from June 9-18 to provide medical care including in the hospital and surrounding clinics, dental and vision care, construction and renovation of churches, medical facilities and schools, instruction in local schools and evangelization. Betty Jo King, Sandee Haslauer, Becky Mullican, Sherry Simon, Mary Hunt and Janie Kelley, all members of Pax Christi Little Rock, served as missionaries and learned a great deal about peacemaking in the process. One of the many lessons learned on the mission is that in giving, missionaries receive more than they could have ever imagined from the people they serve. If you are interested in learning more about this mission, go to ctkhondurasmision.org.



Pax Christi's Monthly Mission



Our custom is to contribute to a different cause at each of our monthly meetings. We have donated funds and services to organizations such as

El Zocalo, Jericho Way and St. Joseph's Center. At our July meeting, we will be supporting **Backpacks Filled with School Supplies**, a project initiated by Pax Christi Little Rock and focused on serving the educational needs of students at Rockefeller Elementary. Please be generous in your contributions.

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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.



Just Communities of Arkansas builds communities—through education, celebration and advocacy—where every person is valued, every voice is heard and everyone has a chance to succeed. One of the primary goals has always been to educate people on diversity. JCA provides the groundwork for transformative shifts in thought; enhancing the work of government agencies, academia, media, businesses, community advocates, philanthropists, and congregations. They train youth and adults to include and understand one another in order to encourage positive change on individual, organizational, and ultimately systemic levels.

To learn more, email Don Wood at: dwood@justcommunities.org or go to their website: www.arkansasjustcommunities.org.

ST. JOSEPH CENTER OF ARKANSAS, INC.

At our June meeting, we collected donations for St. Joseph's Center of Arkansas. The total amount donated was \$330.

Sandy Decoursey, director of SJCA, when told about the donation, said that it was an answer to prayers. They have been trying to build another fenced in area

around their Hunger Relief Garden to expand their gardens and hold chickens. They were not sure how they were going to find enough money to build the gate, which is exactly like the one in the picture. It was going to cost around \$350. Thank all of you for your generous donations. This is how the Spirit works!



Bishop Taylor and Kristen King: Training in Catholic Social Teachings

Bishop Anthony Taylor and Kristen King, a community organizer with VOICE from Oklahoma City, will be providing a training session on Catholic social teachings on Friday, July 21 from 9-11 am at Holy Souls Catholic Church. They have extended an invitation to all Pax Christi members and would appreciate their attendance at this event. In addition to sharing a general framework for how the church stands on pressing social issues, Bishop Taylor and Ms. King will relate these teachings to current events such as the recent executions that took place in Little Rock. Pax Christi was closely involved with other peace and social justice organizations in trying to halt those executions. Furthering our understanding of specific church doctrine would be helpful as we continue to speak out against all forms of violence.

Ms. King will also be sharing her 17 years of experience in community organizing. She will discuss ways to effectively organize our community to take action around social justice issues that are of most concern. Ms. King will also provide information about LROC (Little Rock Organizing Committee) and the ways this organization is already working to address social problems in the Little Rock area.