

## **JONAH JOURNAL / 29 April 2009 / Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope**

*submissions and questions welcome – to editor Sara Bryan - [sarasimona@hotmail.com](mailto:sarasimona@hotmail.com)*

**Covenanting Event! May 17, 4:00 – 5:30pm at Christ Church Cathedral in Eau Claire. Temple Shalom, Immanuel Lutheran, and Peace Lutheran will be joining JONAH. A couple other congregations are close to making their decision. Bishop Duane Pederson of the local synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be the keynote speaker at this celebration. Plan to attend!**

**>ACTION OPP:** Invite three of your justice-minded friends to become **sustaining members** of JONAH. Treasurer Alta Bragg ([altabra71@yahoo.com](mailto:altabra71@yahoo.com)) would be delighted to provide the necessary forms! (If you come up with a particularly alluringly-worded invitation, send it to me at the above email address, and I'll print it in a future JJ. –SB)

### **WHO ARE WE?**

JONAH is a congregation-based organization that works for social justice. Our goals are embedded in our name – Joining our Neighbors (building community that crosses economic, religious, social, and geographic boundaries), Advancing Hope (developing new leaders and addressing issues that can make tangible difference in our community – especially for the most needy and marginalized.) (words of David Liners, as gathered by Paul Oppedahl. Who is “JONAH” to you? Send me your answer, and I may print it in a future newsletter. –the editor)

The **Executive Board** meets the second Wed of the month at **10:00am**. Next meeting: **May 13**. The **Board of Directors** meets the third Monday of the month at **6:30pm (May 18)**. In May, these meetings will be held at First Baptist Church, hosted by the Quakers.

At its April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Directors voted to **permanently table the JONAH Logo change** due to lack of broad support. Our whale embodying scales of justice is here to stay.

**CORRECTION:** The Gamaliel **week-long leadership training session** will be held **August 9-15, 2009** in Techny (Northbrook), Illinois (the July 12 training is in New York).

### **TIP: Treatment Instead of Prison TASK FORCE**

Next meeting: **May 12 – 7:00pm – First Congregational UCC**. At this meeting we will have a conversation with Judge Lisa Stark about how we can be effective in creating additional treatment opportunities and discussing what works and what doesn't work.

Also, members who plan to attend the **Alcohol Abuse Forum at UWEC**, Davies Center, on May 14, 8:30-4:30, should note that they must register by May 1 to get the discounted fee of \$49. Registration can be done online [UWEC.edu](http://UWEC.edu). Scholarship money is available to people who would like assistance with the fee.

Questions? Email Roberta Wegner at [dutchgirl4@charter.net](mailto:dutchgirl4@charter.net) or call 855-7974

### **Environmental TASK FORCE (ETF)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 6:30pm at Unity Christ Center (1808 Folsom St in Eau Claire). Next mtg: **May 13**

At its April meeting, the team reviewed the list of dates for **special events recycling support** submitted by the County in addition to those requested by DECI (Downtown Eau Claire Inc). The group is committed to the following events:

“Sounds Like: Summer” Concerts (Every Thursday evening June-Aug in Phoenix Park), Taste of Eau Claire (June 7), Open Air Festival of the Arts (June 13), Gus Macker Tournament (July 9-11), Summer Fest (Aug 8), International Fall Fest (Sept 19). Volunteers are needed.

Contact: Greg Raleigh – [Raleighs@centurytel.net](mailto:Raleighs@centurytel.net)

### **Economic Justice TASK FORCE (EJTF)**

Our next meeting is **Monday, May 11, from 4:00 to 5:30pm, at First Congregational Church**. We expect to be moving back to our regular first Monday meeting dates in June; watch this newsletter to find out.

Our current project involves partnering with Eau Claire County, local unions and contractors, Workforce Development, CVTC, Western Dairyland, and others to create good jobs and job training connected with the building of the new Eau Claire County correctional facility. We are developing an issue paper to describe what we would like to see happen in the county so that low-income families would have opportunities to get training for jobs that pay family sustainable wages. We hope to have our issue paper completed in time to share at the JONAH Covenanting event on May 17.

Contact: Paul Savides – [psavides@wwt.net](mailto:psavides@wwt.net)

### **Eau Claire County Poverty Simulation offered by the UWEC Center for Service-Learning**

If it's still April, it's not too late to sign up! (they will accept a few last-minute just-show-up folks, too) To raise awareness about poverty in your community by participating in a hands-on learning experience.

**Thursday, April 30 from 6:00 to 9:00pm** at Unitarian Universalist (421 S. Farwell St.)

Bus Tokens and Grocery Cards available if requested (Specify if needed when reserving your spot)

Participants will have the chance to take on the role of a single parent, an ex-offender released from prison, a breadwinner with a sudden terminal illness, or a college student – all living in poverty. During each 15 minute “week” the participant will have requirements to fulfill: child care, health concerns, shopping for food, finding employment, transportation, securing housing, and paying rent and utilities.

To RSVP: Matt Maloney, UWEC AmeriCorps VISTA, 836-4649

### **Health Care Reform TASK FORCE (HCTF)**

All JONAH members are encouraged to participate in writing postcards to your Congressional representatives (Ron Kind, Russ Feingold, Herb Kohl, and David Obey) to let them know what you want future health care in America to look like. Use your freedom of speech to tell them what changes you think need to be made.

Contact your JONAH core team members for details or Martha Nieman, JONAH Health Care Task Force chair, [marlia@charter.net](mailto:marlia@charter.net) or 835-8342.

### **Words of Inspiration**

“Ordinary people accomplish extraordinary things when we are grateful for the gifts, abilities and opportunities we have been given. We accomplish nothing when we waste time lamenting our shortcomings and flaws.” (David Liners)