



THE IDF PRAXIS

a newsletter of the Illinois Disciples Foundation

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ILLINOIS
DISCIPLES
FOUNDATION

A

Peace
with
Justice
Campus
Ministry

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The IDF is a
Campus Ministry of
the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)



From the Editor

Welcome to *The IDF Praxis*, a new newsletter of the IDF. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our readers updated on IDF happenings in between issues of *The Voice*, the IDF's main newsletter. *The IDF Praxis* provides regular updates on the exciting events and changes taking place at the IDF and in its programs, as well as updates on the administrative side of the IDF -- such as fundraising efforts, projects our staff members are working on, or policy changes.

Praxis was a term used by early Judeo-Christian social justice activists which means translating theory into practice. The IDF has always carried out its peace with justice campus ministry through action. We know that just social change does not take place unless our ideologies are combined with solid organizing to make that change happen.

This newsletter is our way of keeping you abreast of just how we carry out our praxis. We hope that you will enjoy this new addition to the IDF.

Notes From the Executive Director, Rev. A.W. Farnsworth IV

With four months behind me at the IDF, the last of which was following Jim Holiman's retirement, I would judge the time fruitful and productive. I have attended many meetings of IDF committees and IDF program units; such as the Progressive Resource/Action Cooperative. I have become involved with the Fair Share Coalition and have even managed to have my mug on the television.

The IDF search for a resident director is getting into full swing and during this interim period there is still much work to be done in preparing for his or her arrival. I have just finished the first of two weeks intensive training in how "interim ministries" differ from "resident ministries" and already realize how I might have done some things differently. But we are on a solid road toward that time when a new Executive Director will be in place.

In the next months, I will be directing much attention to visiting pastors and key lay people in our Disciple churches in Illinois and Wisconsin. I invite you to drop by my office and discuss with me your thoughts on anything.

Dave Dellinger and Elizabeth Peterson to Speak at IDF Activist Forum on March 4, 2000

On Saturday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m., the IDF will hold its second event in the Activist Forum series. The purpose of the Activist Forum is to invite long-time social justice activists to share stories and reflections on their work with the IDF community. Speakers for this semester's Activist Forum are Dave Dellinger and Elizabeth Peterson.

Dellinger was a prominent leader in the anti-war and civil rights movements of the 1960s. He is well-known for having been the chair of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam and a defendant in the Chicago Seven Trial. In addition, Dave has been a long-time activist for prison reform and against nuclear weapons testing. He is the author of *From Yale to Jail: The Life Story of a Moral Dissenter*.

Elizabeth Peterson was a pioneer of the intentional communities movement in the 1940s. From the 1960s to the 1980s she worked as a teacher, guidance counselor, and writer with a special focus on the needs of children with disabilities and foster children.

Join us at the IDF for this great event.



Dave Dellinger and Elizabeth Peterson

IDF Now Hiring Campus Ministry Associates

Part-time positions are now available at the IDF in exchange for third floor housing and utilities. We are looking for people who have been active in social justice work. Positions involve assistance with fundraising activities and work within IDF programs. Women, people of color, people with disabilities and lesbian/gay/bisexual people are especially encouraged to apply. Positions begin August 15, 2000 and last for at least one year. Call (217) 352-8721 for an application.

**IDF Program Events
Winter/Spring 2000**

**Progressive Resource/Action
Cooperative**

People's Board of Conscience: The People's Board of Conscience will show the U of I Board of Trustees how to be accountable to their students, staff and community. Date TBA.

Take Back The Night: A woman-only march protesting male violence against women. April 14.

Barry Romo: A National Coordinator of Vietnam Veterans Against the War will speak on his experiences as a Veteran and a social justice activist. April 23.

Bill Davis and Bernadine Dohrn: Davis, a member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and Dohrn, Director of the Children and Family Justice Center, will speak about the lessons of the Kent state shootings of 1970. Date TBA.

The PRC will also be holding numerous multi-issue rallies and educational events over the course of the semester.

Get involved! See www.prairienet.org/prc or call (217) 352-9782 for details.

Common Ground Food Co-op

Store Hours:

Weekdays 3-8 p.m.

Saturdays 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sundays 11 a.m.-7p.m.

Childcare available at CGFC on Sundays from 1:30-4:30 p.m. and on Mondays from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Cooking Classes:

Saturdays from 3-5 p.m.

February 19 Vegan Cuisine

February 26 Gigantic Cookie

Making & Death by Chocolate

Co-op Board Meeting: Wednesday,

February 23, 6:30 p.m. Co-op Office

Co-op Budget Meeting: Sunday,

February 20, 6:00 p.m. Wisegarver

For details, call (217) 352-3347 or see

www.prairienet.org/co-op.

Uprising

A look at the parabolic themes of the stained glass windows in the Stephen Fisher Memorial Chapel of the IDF through a peasant Palestinian perspective.

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. beginning March 2, 2000. Call (217) 352-8721 for details.

January Work Day

As the IDF continues through this period of transition and renewal, board and staff have resolved not only to increase their financial support of the Foundation, but also to pitch in on cleaning, maintenance and repair of our building. On January 15, the first bi-monthly IDF work day of 2000 was held. Much was accomplished. Board members scrubbed the steps between the first and second floor and painted the Director's office. Some even got more paint on the walls than themselves. The Campus Ministry Associates and the Administrative Assistant pitched in by cleaning out and straightening the main IDF office. Then we ordered pizza. Thanks to the Property Committee for all its work.

The next work day is set for March 18. All are encouraged to come and help. Call Tara at (217) 352-8721 for details.



IDF Board Member Debbie Shelden and Sandy Carter at the IDF Work Day

Building Renewal Campaign

Our Property Committee has identified a number of looming needs to maintain and improve the IDF building. Some, such as new curtains for Wisegarver Hall, will involve moderate to substantial expense. The Fundraising Committee and Property Committee of the IDF board will be working together in a campaign to raise the funds to cover these projects. We will be asking the IDF community for help, and we hope that you will help us prepare the building to continue serving as home to those working toward peace with justice.

**Community Benefits Forum
To Be Held at the IDF**

The Fair Share Coalition is organizing the Champaign-Urbana community around some exciting concepts that hold great promise for grassroots power, corporate accountability, and access to health care. Two national experts will be at the IDF's Wisegarver Hall to teach us more about "community benefits" on Wednesday, February 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. It's free. For more information, call Bill Mueller at (217) 352-6533.

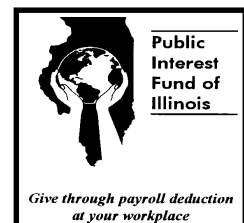
**Interim Director Visits
Disciple Churches**

He may not be Jack Kerouac, but he is On the Road. A.W. Farnsworth is making an attempt to visit as many Disciple pastors and key lay people in the Illinois/Wisconsin region as time and finances allow. His goal is to let people know about the many positive things that are going on at the IDF and address questions they might have. He has also been invited to preach at several churches in the area; including University Place in Champaign, Prairie Avenue in Decatur and First Christian in Watseka.

Each time A.W. speaks in a church it is an opportunity to make visible the campus ministry of IDF.

**IDF Rooms and
Parking Available**

The IDF building is open for use by organizations or individuals who support the IDF mission for a donation of \$7.50 to \$9.00 an hour per room. In addition, we have spaces in our parking lot available to rent for \$35.00 to \$40.00 per month. To reserve a room or a parking space, contact the IDF office at (217) 352-8721.



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