

Peace Lutheran Church
2017 Deacon of Education Report

Forums -

This past year Peace has presented the congregation with many wonderful forum opportunities, starting with a chance to learn about **Global Partnerships** last February. Fr. Innocent Rugaragu, S. J., Ron Synder of PICO International and Dr. Karl Smith of the Rwanda Project shared stories and pictures of faith communities doing amazing things to better the lives of their people - hospitals, clean water, schools and economic development.

Several forums were also held throughout the year concerning **Peace as a Sanctuary Church**. Laura Magnani of AFSC spoke of the Quaker core values that have shaped our historical commitment to justice, and on another Sunday Jeanne Locklear lead a forum during which immigrant friends spoke of their stories. Drafts of our stand on being a sanctuary church have been drawn up from these discussions, but this continues to be an ongoing exploration.

We have also been blessed with forums by Crystal Larsen who lead us through sessions entitled **Weaving our Stories**. Crystal explained the process of story weaving which deepens our appreciation for and friendship with each other. Look for the cloth weaving done as an expression of the project!

Children's Education -

The **Sunday school Program** and **Children's Time** have been running smoothly. Our team of ladies are always ready to challenge the imaginations of whatever little ones appear on Sunday. The **monthly family services** are very appreciated and have improved in attendance. Child care has been available and the services have presented us with fun challenges, even building with Legos! There was also an opportunity to do drumming for the family service, led by Bruce Silverman. A special thanks to the ladies who keep our Sunday school Program rolling along!

Pastor Steve's Special Projects -

Throughout the year many other interfaith growth and learning opportunities have been made available to us. Pastor Steve has emphasized the work and faith of Martin Luther as a way to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation culminating in the beautiful celebration in October at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Art in the sanctuary, book recommendations and music, especially Jazz at Peace, also have provided great learning opportunities and a chance to deepen our faith through our culture.

Thank you, Pastor Steve, for all you do to educate us!

Please feel free to share your ideas for upcoming forums with Linda Benatar, Deacon of Education.

Linda Benatar
Deacon of Education