



Fertile Ground

Journal of Peace House, the Kalamazoo Quaker/Catholic Worker

Issue 12

November 2014

Peace House News

by Mike DeWaele

It's always fun to write the House Notes in the fall, because there are always so many great things to report from the summer. We've been on a streak of each summer program running better than the last and I dare say that we've topped ourselves again. So let me tell you all about it—I'll try to contain my exuberance to about two pages or so.

We knew going in that this summer was going to be a good one. We had a great group of kids by the end of the school year, and we knew that we would have strong staffing and volunteer support. First of all, for the first time ever, all four of us Peace Housers were home pretty much all summer long, with much easier work commitments outside of the home. Moreover, we had two great Kalamazoo College students—Lexie Martin-Browne and Jane Packer—as full-time interns and our beloved Barb Elliott was with us every day as well. We had a deep pool of dedicated, talented and creative volunteers, including several phenomenal young people from Jeter's Leaders, a leadership development program for youth sponsored by hometown hero Derek Jeter. With all of this energy at Peace House every day, we had a lot of confidence to reach out and try new things.

Of course, we kept doing all the old stuff we liked. Open Roads came by every week to teach us how to fix our bikes. The reading porch was full of budding bibliophiles, about fifteen of whom put in enough time to earn a trip to Bookbug for a free book of their choosing and to Treat Street, who rewarded them with ice cream. Sports were still popular—basketball in the driveway; flag football, soccer, kickball, and volleyball in the field. Arts and crafts, games and building toys had reign of the back porch. The sandbox was home to incredible earthworks and inedible culinary

masterpieces. Real edibles, meanwhile, were being prepared in the kitchen and on the back porch and being shared with all. All of these things we've been having so much fun with for years, and they didn't get any less fun.

But a lot of the fun was NEW. The biggest—and maybe wildest—new venture that we took on was a series of day camps. Last year, when we really started getting into doing field trips, we were struck by how much the kids enjoyed getting out. They loved it. So, we were determined to give them more. With the help and leadership of many of our friends, we put together five week-long day camps, each on a theme: Nature Camp, Bike Camp, Salon Camp, Art Camp and Building Camp. For each of these camps, 8-10 kids would take part in a series of special excursions and activities based

on the theme of the camp. It was a tremendous logistical undertaking and a good deal of hair-pulling was involved, but—thanks in no small part to our great partners—the kids had some great experiences and a really good time.

That was plenty of travelling, but we added two more trips. One: Our teens visited the Fire Cultural and Historical Arts Collective to work with lyricist Samara and producer Pharlon to produce their own hip hop track: "Make

a Difference." From concept to finished track it was done in just about two hours. It was amazing to see our talented teens at work—as writers and performers, they've got the goods.

The second trip was to the Hundred Mile Market at the People's Food Coop, which specializes in offering locally produced foods and other products. For much of the summer, the kids worked with our friend Jill Terwilliger to produce an extensive line of pickles and preserves. Our neighbor Jess taught them how to make lotion bars. We took all this to market near the end of the summer, sold a whole bunch, and made enough money to buy a few treats as well as a special end-of-summer surprise: the biggest inflatable bounce house we'd ever seen. Super fun! (By the way, there are a few



Taking turns at driveway double-dutch.

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of the four of us, our five children, and the dozens of kids from the Eastside Neighborhood of Kalamazoo who make up the Peace House community, thank you for helping us through another year of fun, learning, struggle and growth. We are filled with gratitude for all of you who have huddled up with us. For the last seven years and more, you have been our herd of emperor penguins, sharing your warmth, protecting us from the wind, doing your part to keep this fragile, beautiful little thing- Peace House- alive and growing. (Sorry for that silly metaphor, but it's the kind of winter day that you can't help but feel like a penguin.)

Thank you for all that you give of your time, of your prayers and of your resources to Peace House. Thank you for your faith in this experiment and for all the ways you spread the word about the good things that happen here. Thank you for believing in our Eastside kids, for giving them this home away from home that they love.

Thank you for all the laughter and singing and running and splashing and climbing and jumping. Thank you for the reading and math and art and music and science and building and fixing. Thanks for the snacks. And the back packs. And the books. Thank you for the feeling of belonging, and of safety, and of peace.



Thank you, above all, for helping us keep the promise that we've made to our young friends: We are staying. We are not going away. We will be here to support you and we will never stop working to give you a more peaceful community and a more peaceful world.

Peace House will keep that commitment to them, because you keep your commitment to Peace House. Your donations make our work possible. Please give as generously as you are able.

We wish you all the best for the holidays and the New Year. Blessings on all the wonderful things to come.

Peace,
Mike DeWaele, on behalf of Peace House

Peace House, like many communities in the Catholic Worker movement, is not a 501(c)3 organization. Gifts to Peace House are not tax deductible. If you are interested in making a donation and require a tax deduction, please contact us.

Justice and Mike Brown: Karen House Statement

Karen House is a Catholic Worker community in St. Louis, MO. They offer hospitality to homeless women and children and work to fight oppression and injustice of all kinds. The community has been involved in the nonviolent protests that have been taking place in Ferguson since Michael Brown was killed by police officer Darren Wilson Aug. 9. We share the following statement as we await the Grand Jury ruling this coming week.

To our fellow white friends and supporters and to our fellow Catholic Workers,

It is time. 18 year-old Michael Brown is dead (as is Eric Garner, John Crawford, Trayvon Martin, and too many others...), another victim of an out-of control system that systematically targets people of color. At Karen House, we don't have a guest or neighbor who doesn't have their own story of police humiliation, harassment or violence – including Anna Brown, a former guest who died in a St. Louis jail in 2012.

We realize that as an all-white community, it is our responsibility to speak to other white folks about race, racism, and what is happening in Ferguson. Our community has been learning more and more about how racism operates to separate and limit all of us. We are encouraging ourselves, and other white folks we love, to look at our fear and conditioning about race, to listen better, and to act as allies to people of color. **It is time for us white people to step back, and to step forward.**



It is time for us white people to step back and listen.

Listen to the African American mothers who rightfully fear sending their sons to the store, to school, and to grandma's house. (Don't walk too fast. Don't walk too slow. Keep your hands out. Pull your pants up. Don't look guilty.)

Listen to the rage of the black man, who has been vilified, stereotyped, targeted and jailed by a white-controlled establishment since before America was even a country. (Slavery, Jim Crow, and now Mass Incarceration are a litany of terror and control, leaving deep and open wounds. Listen.)

Listen to more than the riot porn on the network news. Connect with those most affected by violence, and learn about their stories. (Check out ColorLines, St. Louis-based Organization for Black Struggle, and Black Girl Dangerous; each has insightful analysis on Mike Brown and Ferguson)

It's time for us to get better educated.

"We white people don't understand the anger re: Ferguson because our kids aren't murdered with impunity by the state." (@Auragasmic) It is time to step forward, to learn about and take responsibility for our white privilege.

It is time for us to talk with other white people who also feel fear and confusion: "Why can't they be peaceful? Why are they so angry? Why so conspiratorial?" A few responses from some people of color to start us off:

"What is an appropriate expression of anger when the cops keep on killing our kids?!" (@ProfessorCrunk)

"We can't deride the actions of those who are expected to respect property when their very lives are devalued. We can't expect them to maintain civility when their very existence has been the target of incivility from others." (Christi Griffin)

"If Black folks are 'civil' & polite in petitioning authorities, THEY ARE IGNORED. If they lash out, they are demonized. Typical." (@lkscollective)

It is time for us to talk to other white people about race, and about our experience of being white:

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Campaign to Ground the Drones

by Jerry Berrigan

*The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral,
begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy.
Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it.
Through violence you may murder the liar,
but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth.
Through violence you may murder the hater,
but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate.
Returning violence for violence multiplies violence,
adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars.
Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.*

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Peace House came together in 2006 with the aim of creating a culture of peace in our neighborhood, city, nation, and world. With the help and support of many friends and fellow travelers, we have been able to pursue this ideal; our main work involves regular programming for children in our neighborhood. Though many days are exhausting and hard, we are filled with joy and hope in this work. On a daily basis we encounter an enormous potential for good, embodied in the children we welcome into our homes.

When a conflict arises between children at Peace House, we expect it to be solved with words, not violence. We hold our nation to the same standard. Dr. King's insight into the self-perpetuating nature of hatred was borne out again this summer, tragically, in renewed fighting in the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, the shockingly violent, so-called Islamic State claimed hundreds of thousands of square miles of territory in what was once Iraq and Syria, appropriating as well billions of dollars of US weapons (to be used against us and our allies) and enough oil production infrastructure to fund its theocratic campaign indefinitely.

"Mission Accomplished," announced President Bush in May 2003, but he might have saved his comment for October 2014, when the Islamic State seized territory adjacent to Turkey. Now a NATO member state shares a border with an Islamic theocracy- so much for success. We will continue to witness the consequences of our disastrous war in the coming months and years. Increased US airstrikes and drone strikes in the area this fall have not kept IS at bay nor appeared to delay its progress in any

November 8 vigil at the front gate of the Battle Creek Air National Guard.



way. We can be assured, however, of the deaths of many innocent people due to our misguided reaction.

It is the responsibility of every American to assess, as objectively as possible, the aims, means, and effects of US foreign policy. Since the announcement in March 2013 of a new drone command center at the Michigan Air National Guard base in Battle Creek, we have begun working with other groups to voice our concern over the new mission which will be carried out by our neighbors who work at the base.

Public Witness to Ground the Drones

All vigils happen at the gates of the Michigan Air National Guard Base, 3357 Dickman Ave., Battle Creek.

Friday, Dec. 12, 6–7 pm:

Advent vigil of hope for a world at peace. Supper at a restaurant to follow.

Monthly vigils for peace will happen in 2015 the first Saturday of each month from 12–1 pm, followed by lunch. The dates are:

Jan. 3

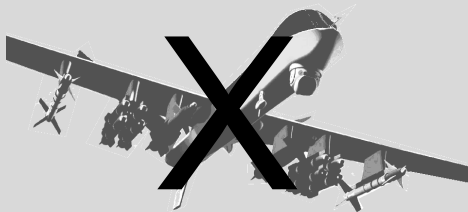
Feb. 7

March 7

April 4

May 2

June 6



*Drones are not necessary and do not make us safe!
Please join us in standing for peace.*

In June, we joined with Voices for Creative Nonviolence, a Chicago peace group, to plan “On the Road to Ground the Drones,” a 12-day, 163-mile walk from Boeing corporate headquarters in Chicago to the Air Guard base in Battle Creek. The 14 walkers gave talks to church groups along the way, and finished June 14th at the gates of the base, where a total of 99 people gathered to express opposition to remote-controlled war.

On November 8th, we were at it again, when 76 hearty souls braved the wind and the rain (the Battle Creek paper gave us credit for 100) and followed it up with a movement planning meeting and supper provided by Voices for Peace in Battle Creek. Photos from November and June, and a schedule of upcoming public witness for peace, adorn

these pages.

Public reaction to our effort has been mixed. While many people are grateful for this work and understand the need for it, some do not see the connection between Eastside Kalamazoo and war in the Middle East. Others, who share our hope for racial and economic justice, are not yet ready to speak out against militarism.

Finally there are those who approve of drone use, assuming that it keeps American soldiers safe. It is always a priority for us to maintain open channels for dialogue with people who disagree. One point of commonality is concern for the soldier, who is more likely to suffer moral trauma after killing a person with a drone than on the battlefield.

As imperfect as our words and actions, indeed our lives, may be, we are unable to remain silent. Here again we are indebted to Dr. King:

*Cowardice asks the question - is it safe?
Expediency asks the question - is it politic?
Vanity asks the question - is it popular?
But conscience asks the question - is it right?
And there comes a time when one must take a position
that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular;
but one must take it because it is right.*



Peace House Summer: A Photo Journal

We added a new component to our summer program to expand the depth and variety of activities we offer. Below is a photo journal of these “camps,” as well as some other special outings.



June 30–July 3
Our first camp of the summer was **Nature Camp**. Our friend Steve Barber provided the inspiration and a lot of help with outings to a variety of local nature spots. Kids hiked, explored, journaled and spent some peaceful time away from the neighborhood.



July 7–10

The following week was **Bike Camp**, organized and run by Open ROADS bike program. Participants learned how to fix and maintain bikes in addition to practicing their social skills. The week ended with a righteous 10 mile bike ride and a visit from the Red Tricycle Ice Cream Company.



July 14–17
Next up we had a lot of fun with **Beauty Salon Camp**. We visited salons, toured the beauty school, learned how to do nails and practiced braiding and weaves. Many of the girls have expressed interest in doing hair and nails professionally. The last day was “spa day,” which included facials, hair braiding, nails, homemade lip gloss and other forms of relaxation and self indulgence.





July 21–24
Art Camp came next. We experimented with various materials and had amazing results! Projects included making beaded jewelry, a stained glass art workshop run by West Michigan Glass Art Center and homemade puppets.



August 4–7
 Our final camp of the summer was **Building Camp**. Participants visited a Habitat House under construction and worked on homemade toys, including wooden trucks. Each participant ended up with a unique and beautiful creation.



August 4
 We also did some one-day outings. One very special opportunity was a recording session for our high school students at Fire Historical and Arts Collaborative in Kalamazoo. Eight Peace House teenagers wrote and recorded a song entitled, “You Can Make a Difference.” Lyrics are on page 8; check out the recording at peacehousekzoo.org.



July 30: We are fortunate to have a chapter of “Jeter’s Leaders” here in town. We brought twenty Peace House kids to participate in a health fair organized and run by Jeter’s Leaders from Kalamazoo and New York City.



August 6
 Over the course of the summer we made two types of jam, pickled green beans and lotion bars to sell at the 100 Mile Market at the People’s Food Coop in Kalamazoo. Here we are hard at work selling our products!



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what it has cost us, what it has excused us from, and where it can lead us. It is time to temporarily set aside our defensiveness and guilt (“I didn’t own slaves! I have a black friend! I’m colorblind!”). It is time to share our shame, regret, and sorrow that whiteness, in this country, has meant slave-ownership, exploitation, genocide and oppression; it is time to move forward, committed to ending this reality.

It is time for all of us white folks to step forward.

It is time for us to start showing up, following the lead of people of color – beyond the safety of Facebook. To challenge the violent systems that create the conditions of poverty, police brutality and oppression. It is time for us white folks to acknowledge the hypocrisy of opposing war abroad while we’ve shrugged off the war on people of color in our own cities and neighborhoods; right now, the U.S. incarcerates a larger percentage of its black population than South Africa did at the height of Apartheid. (The New Jim Crow, 6)

Fellow white folks, it is time to step back, and to step forward. All we can do is our best: learning, leaving our comfort zones, acting, asking forgiveness from each other, failing, and starting again. “Indeed, a ‘riot is the language of the unheard,’ (MLK) but we collectively must work to provide microphones for the dispossessed.” (@Negrointellect)

Please join us! It’s time. It’s about time.

In hope and solidarity,

The Karen House Community
<newsite.karenhousecw.org>



“You Can Make a Difference”

Written and recorded by Tonjia, Pereshianna, Antoinette, Dominic, Daquarion, McKayla, Amaya and Dontavia



Make a difference

The smile on your face because you feel pretty

Make a difference

Being yourself—don’t let nobody change you
Speak your mind— don’t ever have to be afraid

Make a difference

Inspired to turn the world

Make a difference

No matter what they’ve been through, they
need a chance at happiness, too

So we need to

Make a Difference

We got to make a difference

We’re going to make a difference

I was created to be different
In this world to make a difference

If it takes a while to achieve it

Then so be it

I got a low self esteem

No motivation

But I’ve got to stay alive if I’m going to make it

I can braid it I can sew it

I can weave it

Just to see the smiles on people faces

To make a difference

Yeah we got to make a difference

Clarification of Thought/Upcoming Events

Regularly over the past six years, Peace House has hosted monthly presentations on critical issues. These lectures and discussions have helped us build a strong extended community that has come together to explore various topics to “clarify our thought.” We recently made the decision to broaden the scope of our events with the goal of benefiting the young people in our neighborhood. Some months we will still host our traditional presentation and discussion; other months we will bring young people from the neighborhood out to events in the Kalamazoo area that will inform them and help them to grow.

Please check out the list of events below and join us! We welcome your involvement, discussion and support.

Dec. 18, Thursday, 5—7 pm, Bennett Building, St. Joseph Parish, 936 Lake St.

Peace House Holiday Party

We are hosting our 6th annual holiday party for families of children who participate in our afterschool program. The evening includes games, crafts, music, gifts and a fine home-cooked meal. We need your help! Please contact us soon if you are available to assist us with this event.

Jan. 21, Thursday, 7:30 pm, 313 Phelps Ave.

Chris Knestrick, “Witness Against Torture”

This event is rescheduled from November, which was cancelled due to bad weather. Chris, of the Cleveland Catholic Worker, has been active for many years with the group Witness Against Torture. He will be join us after participating in Witness Against Torture’s Jan. 11 public presence in Washington DC marking 13 years of indefinite detention at Guantanamo Prison. <www.witness torture.org>

Feb. 5, Thursday, 7 pm, Bookbug, 3019 Oakland Dr.

Frida Berrigan, reading and book signing, *It Runs in the Family: On Being Raised by Radicals and Growing Into Rebellious Motherhood*

Jerry’s sister Frida will join us from New London, CT where she and her husband Patrick are raising three kids while working for peace. Frida’s first book combines memoir from her childhood with honest reflections on the difficulties of raising children to be socially conscious and compassionate in today’s American culture. Jerry is very proud of his big sis — come on out!

March (date TBD)

Peace House Stomp: Third Annual Square Dance Fundraiser

Yes, we’re doing it again! Come dance with us.

May 16, Saturday, 9 am—3 pm, 313 & 321 Phelps Ave.

Spring Work Party

We always need help getting our property in shape for our summer program. Please join us for the day or a few hours. We’ll provide lunch. Everyone present will provide companionship.

May 23, Saturday, time TBD, Bronson Park, downtown Kalamazoo

Peace Pizzazz

Peace House will participate in Peace Pizzazz 2015 in Bronson Park, downtown Kalamazoo. Peace Pizzazz is a festival for K-5 students to celebrate their art, music, verbal/written, dance, and other expressions of positive behavior learned through peace education. If you have ideas for an art project kids could make here to display at the event please contact us!

Youth Peace Day: Coming this Spring/Summer to Kalamazoo

Our middle and high school youth have decided to take on a social justice project this spring/summer.

In an effort to reduce youth violence in Kalamazoo, they are currently brainstorming ideas and applying for a grant to organize a “Youth Peace Day,” with speakers, music, workshops and more! Watch your email for more details about this exciting event.

(Continued from page 1)

tasty jars left if you'd like to try some.)

Also new this year was the Math Porch. Of course, we have been promoting reading enrichment for years in the summer program, but never really pushed the math very hard. Our friends Mary Jo Reilly and Delores Strom changed all that. Every week both of them would come to Peace House with a treasure chest of toys, games and ideas to stimulate the mathematical mind. We were impressed, maybe even a little



Demetrus has a great time fixing a bike.

stunned, to see how popular math became at Peace House, and were delighted by kids' creativity and tenacity in solving sticky problems.

Not new—but on a whole new level—was the Peace House Talent Show. Last year's original installment was a festival of flips and fun, largely impromptu and full of giddy energy. This year's show was ANTICIPATED, and preparations began in earnest at the beginning of the summer. Peace House alumna and volunteer Antoinette Walker choreographed and directed two complete dance numbers that involved over a dozen kids, complete with costumes. The performers rehearsed extensively, and their effort really paid off—they were fantastic! Combine them with several high flying gymnastics routines, a literacy rap, the obligatory Frozen sing-along, some jokes, a couple more dances and more and you've got yourself a show. To make things even better, we combined the talent show with our summer barbecue, so the kids' families got to eat and enjoy their children's talents at the same time.

Of course we ended the summer the way we usually do, with a back-to-school party and the giving away of many, many backpacks. Our final circle was a big one this year and we gave away over seventy

backpacks.

It's a good feeling to watch the circle widen—both in kids and in caring adults who make Peace House run. It feels good to be able to offer more all the time, which we've been able to do. The best feeling is watching Peace House deepen, though. This year, we made an extra commitment to supporting positive behavior and nonviolent problem-solving. We've trained ourselves and keep training ourselves to demonstrate the good social skills that kids need and rewarding kids quickly when they use those skills.

Our friend Ethan of Open Roads is a prophet of positive behavior support. His mantra is, "Five to one." Kids are most open to learning and change when they hear five positive things for every one correction. It's a hard habit to establish, but he's right, and we saw it. The more we managed to praise the positive, the more kids craved it and the more they did to keep the good vibe coming. We had some days this summer- boy, did we ever have some days- but we did see a lot of growth in a bunch of kids (and adults) over the course of eight weeks. And that's what it's all about, right?

Now we're well into fall. School has started and the afterschool program is well underway. As before, we invite kids in to work on their homework or reading with caring volunteers, earning prizes for their good work along the way. We've expanded things a little bit: middle and high schoolers still have their own dedicated day (Wednesday), but many of them are taking the option to come in early on the other days of the week to get their schoolwork done before younger kids arrive. Wednesdays themselves are becoming something new and truly special. The aforementioned Jeter's Leaders and *their* leaders Beth Washington and Jen Heymoss are helping us make Wednesday into a time for homework, but also powerful discussion on important issues (race, identity, justice, etc.), leading to social action, led by the teens themselves. Last week, the group traveled to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum to learn about local justice leaders and to start



The reading porch is a huge focus of our summer program. Here, Miyonnah reads with Peace House volunteer Marcia Schrader.

a conversation about the leaders *they want to be*. They are beginning plans for a city-wide youth peace summit, and we're excited to follow them in where that takes them.

All this youth work is very exciting, and will continue to deepen. We have also had new opportunities



We can always count on help from the older girls in the neighborhood when we fill and organize 70 backpacks!

to engage in other parts of our work. At Peace House, we work to teach young people about the tools of nonviolence, as well as the desire to seek understanding and justice. We do this knowing that the adult world, in many ways, does not function according to those principles. On behalf of these kids and all kids and all people, we feel called to confront the violent forces in our society with a nonviolent response.

Last year, we learned that a facility for remote-piloting armed drone aircraft was being built at an air national guard base in nearby Battle Creek. Our friends at Voices for Creative Nonviolence, who work extensively in Afghanistan, Pakistan and other places where these weapons are being used to wage war—and kill civilians—invited us to join them on a walk of protest from Boeing HQ in Chicago to the gates of that base. That walk took place in June and friends from across the country took part. We did a lot of local organizing, along with good folks from Kalamazoo Peace Center, Battle Creek Voices of Peace, Kalamazoo Nonviolent Opponents of War, the Jeanie Wylie Community in Detroit and Deacon Jim Rauner. Kalamazoo Friends Meeting, the Social Action Committee of St. Thomas More and Martha Faketty provided incredible local hospitality. The walk was a great success in raising awareness and

building community and it culminated in a vigil at the base that was peaceful, reverent, disciplined and ended with the promise: “We will be back—and we will continue coming back until drone war is ended”

And we have been back. Smaller vigils, led by Kalamazoo Peace Center, continued through Ramadan, and in early November, about 75 people from across Michigan gathered back at the gates. Afterwards, those who could stay held a meeting to talk about next steps for building an ongoing movement to bring an end to drone warfare in specific and all war in general.

Meanwhile, the core community of Peace House is doing well. Amos is in fifth grade, with middle school awaiting next year. Jonah and Clara are enjoying second grade, while Alice and Leah get one more sweet year at Bread and Roses preschool before leaping to Kindergarten. Jen is continuing to do good work with Communities in Schools, connecting kids at Woodward with counseling, tutoring, clothing, food and other needed supports. Jerry and Molly, meanwhile, are preparing to leave their position running youth programs for St. Tom's and St. Joe's. Molly has already begun new work with Gryphon Place, teaching peer mediation and conflict resolution in schools (We're all hoping to get plenty of good tips from her). Jerry will be diving into carpentry, beginning with the houses on Phelps Ave. (he has already spent most of the fall season repairing the exterior of the blue house in an attempt to discourage the presence of bats in the walls). As for me, for now I'm enjoying doing more of the behind-the-scenes stuff around here. I've also been working to rehab a bad shoulder, which isn't as much fun (thanks, though, to an amazing support team that helped pick up my slack and get me to where I need to go).

As always, friends. Thank you for sharing this adventure with us, for keeping Peace House going, and for making it ever better. We are all building it.

Beginning in January, Jerry will be available as a home repair specialist for hire at a sliding scale pay rate. Please contact him if your house needs work!
492-1206 or
jerry.berrigan@gmail.com





Peace House

321 Phelps Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Fertile Ground is sent twice a year to friends and supporters of Peace House. If you would rather not receive this newsletter, please return this page with a note to that effect. If you would like to receive periodic electronic updates from us (no more than twice a month), please visit peacehousekzoo.org and click on "Stay in Touch."

"The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us." —Dorothy Day

Who we are

Peace House, a community in the Catholic Worker movement, is dedicated to fostering peace, justice and relationship in the Eastside neighborhood of Kalamazoo. We believe that the good of each person is bound to the well-being of society as a whole; therefore we advocate taking personal responsibility for creating, in the words of Catholic Worker cofounder Peter Maurin, "a new society within the shell of the old...a place where it is easier for people to be good." We are here to be a resource for our neighbors. We rely on the involvement of a loving, dedicated extended community to do this work. **Please feel free to visit, call or send an e-mail.**

Jen and Mike DeWaele

Clara and Alice

321 Phelps Ave.

Jerry and Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan

Amos, Jonah and Leah

313 Phelps Ave.

Kalamazoo, MI 49048

(269) 492-1206

peacehouse@peacehousekzoo.org

How you can be a part

We welcome and celebrate ALL people, regardless of race, religion, political affiliation, nationality, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or ability.

- ◆ Donate a healthy snack for the tutoring program Monday–Thursday afternoon. Ideas include fresh fruit and vegetables, muffins, crackers and cheese, yogurts.
- ◆ Donate a dessert to our holiday party — pies, cakes, cookies. Our party is scheduled for Dec. 18. Please call if interested.
- ◆ We always need prizes for our "prize box." These are small rewards and toys that kids select after they have spent a certain amount of time on homework.
- ◆ Put your name on our list of "substitute" tutors. We will call you when our regular volunteers are out of town or sick.
- ◆ Come to our events and vigils.
- ◆ Join our email list to get regular updates and discover other ways to participate. To do this, go to our website peacehousekzoo.org and click on the "Stay in Touch" and then "Join our mailing list."