



CPNV supporters gather

What peace activities benefit Michiana?

In early February, CPNV supporters gathered at the Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren to eat brunch and discuss the future of the organization.

They talked about the center's past, what has worked well and what peace activities might benefit our Michiana community in the future.

In the right top photo, CPNV Coordinator Matthew Insley led the discussion, and Christine Brooks attended as a new representative of Little Flower Catholic Church. Also attending were (above, from left to right) Lois Clark, Liz Kurtz, Rick Becker, Phil Badger as well as (in the background) Aimee Shelide and Dale Gibson.

Contact CPNV at the email address below to join our mailing list to hear about upcoming CPNV gatherings!

Celebrating Martin Luther King

At the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration in South Bend this year CPNV gave away MLK bookmarks and asked people who visited our booth what they think would have happened if King would have used violent tactics in the Civil Rights Movement. Read their answers in CPNV President Bert Harrison's article on our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/cpnvsjc>.



Blessed are the Peacemakers

Program leads to lower crime, less violence among kids

A program in Flint, Michigan, built around the concept that kids can and want to reduce violence and improve their neighborhoods has indeed led to lower crime rates, better upkeep on homes and more students who said they learned to resolve conflicts without violence, according to a case study of the program.

The afterschool and summer program, called Youth Empowerment Solutions for Peaceful Communities (YES), is a program of Prevention Research Center based at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

To learn more about the program or download the YES program curriculum, visit the Prevention Research Center's website, www.sph.umich.edu/prc.

The Center for Peace and Nonviolence

A coalition of individuals and churches in Michiana that seeks to explore, practice and promote Jesus' nonviolent way of righting wrong and establishing peace and justice.

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Profile of a peacemaker

First to enter new peace and theology program

Probably one of her worst times in Colombia was when Janna Hunter-Bowman was pregnant with her first child – while receiving suspicious phone calls.

Janna spent eight years in Colombia, working with various peace groups that were trying to address the political violence there. Now, she is one of the first two doctoral students in the new theology and peace Ph.D. program at the University of Notre Dame.

Writing reports to document violence and peace-building efforts was a primary responsibility for Janna as senior program officer for Justapaz, a church-affiliated organization in Bogota, Colombia. She listened to many people tell experiences of how they had suffered under state-sanctioned violence – experiences often of deep grief they kept secret out of fear.

At one point, all her work was taken when a computer was stolen. The theft appeared to be political, Janna said, and so she feared for the well-being of the interviewees who had trusted the program with their stories. That was when suspicious phone calls started, but there were thankfully no reprisals against those she interviewed.

Over and over again Janna felt brokenness and fear – and saw it around her. Staying in Colombia, she found the brokenness ultimately led to deeper conversion. The theft and other experiences in Colombia are “part of my salvation story,” she said.

Now living in South Bend and attending Kern Road Mennonite Church with her family, Janna sees this time as a period of reflection. Her doctoral work will focus on theology and her electives in peace studies. After her work in Colombia, she will have a lot to reflect on.

Below, Janna and her daughters at Kern Road Mennonite Church.



Nobel Peace Prize winner to speak



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Rigoberta Menchu Tum, 1992 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, will give a public address during the PeaceJam Conference at the Bernhard Center, Western Michigan University, 1903 West Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, Mich., on Fri, April 20, 7:30 – 10:00 p.m.

A native of Guatemala, Rigoberta became a nonviolent advocate for poor Mayan Indians when her home region was attacked by the military forces and she lost most of her family.

PeaceJam partners with Nobel Peace Prize recipients to inspire young people to work for peace and social justice. Based in Kalamazoo, Great Lakes PeaceJam is a regional affiliate of the international organization.

“What I treasure most in life is being able to dream. During my most difficult moments and complex situations I have been able to dream of a more beautiful future.” - Rigoberta Menchu Tum