

January 6, 2012



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back to NewsPEACE in this new year of 2012! NewsPEACE continues to be where staff can connect with the IHQ community. We're always looking for good news, helpful tips to be more efficient in our jobs, new products and resources, event news, and more. As your team is working this year, consider NewsPEACE as one place to share your news and ideas.



STONE SOUP LUNCH RETURNS

Last year's Stone Soup Lunch was so much fun and a big success that the Bridge Building Team is kicking off 2012 with a Stone Soup Lunch. If you're not familiar with the story of Stone Soup, below is just one version.

There are many different tellings of this fable, and it is said that the original story goes back even hundreds of years.

Once upon a time, somewhere in post-war Eastern Europe, there was a great famine in which people jealously hoarded whatever food they could find, hiding it even from their friends and neighbours.

Three soldiers trudged down a road in a strange country. They were on their way home from the wars. Besides being tired, they were hungry. In fact, they had eaten nothing for two days.

"How I would like a good dinner tonight," said the first. "And a bed to sleep in," added the second. "But that is impossible," said the third. On they marched, until suddenly, ahead of them, they saw the lights of a village. "Maybe we'll find a bite to eat and a bed to sleep in," they thought.

Now the peasants of the place feared strangers. When they heard that three soldiers were coming down the road, they talked among themselves. "Here come three soldiers," they said. "Soldiers are always hungry. But we have so little for ourselves." And they hurried to hide their food. They hid the barley in haylofts, carrots under quilts, and buckets of milk down the wells. They hid all they had to eat. Then they waited.

The soldiers stopped at the first house. "Good evening to you," they said. "Could you spare a bit of food for three hungry soldiers?" "We have no food for ourselves," the residents lied. "It has been a poor harvest."

The soldiers went to the next house. "Could you spare a bit of food?" they asked. "And do you have a corner where we could sleep for the night?" "Oh, no," the man said. "We gave all we could spare to the soldiers who came before you." "And our beds are full," lied the woman.

At each house, the response was the same -- no one had food or a place for the soldiers to stay. The peasants had very good reasons, like feeding the sick and children. The villagers stood in the street and sighed. They looked as hungry as they could.

The soldiers talked together. The first soldier called out, "Good people! We are three hungry soldiers in a strange land. We have asked you for food and you have no food. Well, we will have to make stone soup." The peasants stared.

The soldiers asked for a big iron pot, water to fill it, and a fire to heat it. "And now, if you please, three round smooth stones." The soldiers dropped the stones into the pot.

"Any soup needs salt and pepper," the first soldier said, so children ran to fetch salt and pepper.

"Stones make good soup, but carrots would make it so much better," the second soldier added. One woman said, "Why, I think I have a carrot or two!" She ran to get the carrots.

"A good stone soup should have some cabbage, but no use asking for what we don't have!" said the third soldier. Another woman said, "I think I can probably find some cabbage," and off she scurried.

"If only we had a bit of beef and some potatoes, this soup would be fit for a rich man's table." The peasants thought it over, then ran to fetch what they had hidden in their cellars. A rich man's soup, and all from a few stones! It seemed like magic!

The soldiers said, "If only we had a bit of barley and some milk, this soup would be fit for a king!" And so the peasants managed to retrieve some barley and milk.

"The soup is ready," said the cooks, "and all will taste it, but first we need to set the tables." Tables and torches were set up in the square, and all sat down to eat. Some of the peasants said, "Such a great soup would be better with bread and cider," so they brought forth the last two items and the banquet was enjoyed by all.

Never had there been such a feast. Never had the peasants tasted such delicious soup, and all made from stones! They ate and drank and danced well into the night.

The soldiers asked again if there was a loft where they might sleep for the night. "Oh, no!" said the town folk. "You wise men must have the best beds in the village!" So one soldier spent the night in the priest's house, one in the baker's house, and one in the mayor's house.

In the morning, the villagers gathered to say goodbye. "Many thanks to you," the people said, "for we shall never go hungry now that you have taught us how to make soup from stones!"

The moral of the story is that by working together and everyone contributing just a little, a greater good is achieved.

And so, on Thursday, January 19, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm join friends and colleagues for lunch in the Auditorium West Dining Room. This is a come and go lunch. Opportunity to sample all soups can be your option. Or, decide on one bowl and come back for seconds. You won't want to miss this lunch!

What is needed? We need 8 to 10 volunteers to sign up to bring your favorite soup; we can also use donations of suggestions from the list below. Please send your sign up choices to Kathleen Morton at kmorton@cofchrist.org or call her at ext. 2258, by Tuesday, January 17.

Soup (Please Bring In Crock Pot – Or Let Us Know If You Need to Borrow)

Bread

Cornbread

Crackers

Sliced Cheese

Raw Veggies

We will also collect cans of soup for the Community Services League. Bring a can to share, and come share warm soup and table fellowship!



IDEAS?

The Bridge Building Team has started planning activities and community service for this coming year. The Team has recently received a couple of suggestions, but would like to invite anyone to submit their ideas of activities, events or services. We realize that often we have more ideas than we have time, but we're always looking to change things around and also keep some favorite traditions. So, if you have a new idea, or want to share what your favorite has been, be sure to send your ideas to [Susan Naylor](#), ext. 3045.



THANK YOU!

Thank you, thank you, thank you – simple, but heartfelt words to express gratitude for the generosity you, the IHQ staff, shared with Community Services League this holiday season. Our in-kind donations reached more than \$1300 in gifts and food items for those in need. Your kindness and generosity is love with hands and hearts and minds. Thank you for being a blessing during this holiday season and into the New Year.



IT MAY NOT BE SNOWING...

However, there is always the possibility that the winter season with snow and ice will arrive here in the Midwest. As you come and go around International Headquarters, here are a few reminders and some helpful information:

- Use the cleared paths coming and going to either building.
- Park in the parking lots instead of on the city streets. It's difficult for city street crews to clear curb to curb when vehicles have parked on the snow packed streets.
- At the Auditorium the Facilities Team plows the west entrance, the sidewalks, and J-parking lot first.
- At the Temple they plow the east circle drive, the employee entrance, sidewalks and A-parking lot first.
- After these areas have been plowed and treated they expand their clearing efforts as needed.

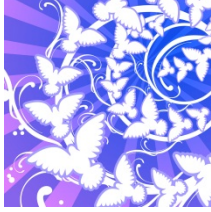


MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

Remember that Monday, January 16 is the Martin Luther King holiday and International Headquarters offices will be closed. Everyone is invited to the Independence Community Martin Luther King Day Celebration that Monday evening, January 16, at 7:00 p.m. at the Truman Memorial Building, 416 W. Maple, Independence. It is a wonderful opportunity to share our Community of Christ witness with the Independence community.

INDEPENDENCE MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

The Independence Ministerial Alliance will have their monthly meeting at the Temple next Thursday, January 12, at 11:00 a.m. They will hear good news from ministries occurring in Stone Church regarding efforts to bring those on the margins of society to Christ's table. Following their lunch meeting, the Ministerial Alliance members will join the Prayer for Peace at 1:00 p.m. in the Temple sanctuary. Please share your warm welcome as you encounter these members in our buildings.



SHALOM ENCOUNTERS 2012

Come to the Shalom Place each month during 2012 to engage in worship, formation, and praxis experiences. Save the fourth Wednesday of each month and the 40 days of Lent from 12:00 to 12:50 p.m. Details for each event will be shared closer to the individual dates.

January 25	Racial Justice
February 22-April 5	A Journey through Lent
May 23	Wind and Fire
June 27	Laugh, Play, Sing
July 25	Living Spiritual Lives Together
August 22	Grief: The Place Where Peace Begins
September 26	2012 Peace Colloquy Preview: Why you should be there!
October 24	Pieces of Peace
November 28	I am Woman: Women in Native American cultures

*It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life
that no one can sincerely try to help another
without helping themselves.*

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Next NewsPEACE edition publishes January 20, 2012.

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NewsPEACE is also available online at www.CofChrist.org/newspeace.