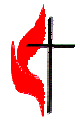


Peace Church News



Newsletter of the English Speaking United Methodist Congregation in Munich: April/May 2010

Spring has sprung...



Our first winter in Munich has been long and cold and I have been searching for the past month or so for the first sign of spring to lift my spirits. In Scotland, where I come from, spring is quite a long season. The snowdrops come out at the end of January, or the beginning of February if the winter is bad, and they are followed by the crocuses, then the daffodils and then the tulips. Spring lasts from the beginning of February right through until May and I love it!

Two days ago I was feeling quite low and could see no sign of spring and then yesterday morning, as I walked to the U-Bahn, there was a garden completely covered in snowdrops. It is quite glorious and where there had been no growth in sight the day before, there was the most beautiful carpet of white; not snow but snowdrops. On the way back from church today, I stopped to have a better look and saw, to my delight, that there were also some crocuses, some tiny little blue flowers which I did not recognise and also some little yellow flowers valiantly holding their own under a tree. It was such a joy for me to see that winter was, hopefully, now behind us.

As we move towards Easter these flowers always remind me of the resurrection and the new life and hope that Jesus brings to us. What appeared to be dead is alive and this resurrection brought our salvation.

I imagine that Mary and the disciples at the empty tomb, must have felt enormous joy and wonder at the realisation that Jesus, their friend and teacher was not dead as they had thought when they arrived at the tomb to anoint and mourn him. The promise of new life was there for them in the risen Christ, just as it is for us today.

Jesus then appeared to the disciples in the locked room where they were huddled together in fear and trepidation about what was going to happen to them next. Jesus came to them and offered them his peace.

This lifted their spirits to the point where they were able to go out from that locked room and preach the gospel of Christ whatever danger they faced.

Thomas was not in the room when Jesus appeared to the other disciples and, being cynical like so many of us, he refused to believe that they had seen the risen Christ unless he could see Christ for himself and, more over, put his finger in the holes of his hands where the nails had been, and his hand in his side. A week later Thomas was there with the others when Jesus returned and stood among them again offering them peace.

Thomas was able to see with his own eyes that indeed this was the risen Christ. Doubter that he was, he experienced a personal meeting with the resurrected Christ which transformed his life and the lives of many others who have heard his story over the last two thousand years.

Christ gives us the opportunity to meet him as the disciples and Mary met him; a personal experience.

Through his resurrection he makes himself available to us and we, with the disciples, have a commission from Christ:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

As spring comes to Munich I pray that we all will meet with our risen Lord and move forward with hope in our hearts into the future. As we watch the spring flowers emerge and the buds on the trees, may our hearts be lightened in the knowledge of the resurrection of our Lord and may his peace be with us as it was with the disciples.

With love
Jenny

News from Peace Church Life

A Visit to a Prison

by Alistair McPherson

Preparing to assist in a service at Landsberg prison this month brought back some memories for me. Many years ago, while I was in the army, I was responsible for two soldiers who had got themselves into trouble in Muenster and ended up in German Prison. I remember how they spoke of the isolation, the difficulty in communicating with others with the authorities and the issues they had with German food and culture.

In some ways I was not surprised to hear the grumbles, as they were difficult soldiers who had broken the law. It was, though, clear that they were struggling with life in prison and we, the military, could only do a certain amount to lighten their load. It was therefore interesting to hear of the English Speaking Prisoner Support Group and experience how they try to support prisoners, often a long way from home and with no local support.

The reason I was involved was that it was Peace Church's turn to lead a service for the English Speaking Prisoners in Landsberg Prison. Christine invited me to preach. I must admit that I found it a bit of a challenge, so I contacted an acquaintance in Edinburgh who is the prison chaplain there. He gave me some advice. I asked myself the question, 'What do I preach to prisoners?' and the answer came back, 'Exactly what you would preach to anyone else'. We are all God's people, we just find ourselves in different situations.

At the service it was clear to me that the chaplain was doing a great job and had a good and supportive relationship with the prisoners. After the service, when we had an opportunity to chat with the men, I soon realised that they were certainly not all British, and some even had difficulty with English. I suspect that some saw the service as a change, a time to break with the routine of prison and do something different.

Whatever the reason, they did come and they did participate in the service. They knew a couple of the hymns, and joined in with the singing. We did our best to bring them a message from the reading, which was the story of the Prodigal Son.

What was my reaction? I think that I found it strange trying to imagine the life of a prisoner, a life living behind bars; living a very restricted life. Looking out of the room to a bright day I could not miss the bars on the windows. I was quietly impressed with the men when we spoke to them. Most had confidence, but this was balanced by an obvious realisation that they knew where they were. Some talked of plans and ambitions, but they also realised that their immediate future was not entirely within their control.

In the story of the Prodigal Son, we are told that when he was at his lowest, in the pig sty feeding the pigs, he

had a glimmer of hope - that his father treated people better than he was being treated. He reacted to that hope by going home, in embarrassment, to be met by his loving father. The message to the prisoners and everyone else is that wherever we are, when we are in trouble or in a situation we do not wish to be in, or cannot control, there is always hope; Christ is always there with arms wide open.

If we accept this, then we are all prisoners, but prisoners of Christ.

It was certainly worth the visit and I would encourage others to attend one of the services and support the work of the ESPSG both in their evangelical and social roles.

Unseen Prison Walls Must Fall in Cameroon...

...excerpt from Emily Zumpe's sermon on the Women's World Day of Prayer 2010



Today, many of us women here enjoy a fairly emancipated life – we grow up with a good education, are free to study, marry or work as we choose, have our own jobs, earn our own money, make our own choices about where and how we will live. How often do we think back to the millions of women who have gone before us, fighting for these rights for us? We will never know them, but we owe so much to their struggle. And the best way to honor their work, is to pick it up their legacy and continue where they left off – until all girls in the entire world have a chance to grow up with a good education, until all young women are free to study, marry and work in whatever fields they choose, until the freedom of choice extends to every corner and every country of the globe.

And so we come today to lift up one special country where women are still struggling for freedom and equality. Although the Constitution of Cameroon was amended in 1994 with anti-discrimination laws, many women in Cameroon, especially women in rural areas, have noticed no difference in their daily lives. Constitu-

tionally, they are equal to men, but they remain enslaved by traditions and institutions which are designed to hold them captive in places of poverty, exploitation, violence, unemployment, poor health, and poorer education. I read a UN report that women in the countryside of Cameroon work 1½ to 3 times longer than men, since they supply 90% of the food needed to sustain life in the country, as well as managing the entire household, collecting fuel wood and clean water, raising livestock and poultry, processing the milk and fish which the men catch, and helping the men with the preparation of the land for farming and the harvest. The situation in the urban areas of Cameroon is somewhat better, but even today, many educated and modern women in the Cameroonian cities are expected to perform sexual acts if they want to be hired, to be promoted, or to get ahead in the male-dominated society and professional world. We cannot shut our eyes any longer. We cannot stand by and think, “the correct laws have been passed, change will come about in its time.” Change has never occurred without struggle. And choosing not to join the struggle is choosing to accept the current status quo.

We have joined here together this evening to raise our prayers to God and our voices to one another that we do not accept the state of affairs in Cameroon or many other countries around this world. Like Paul and Silas, we must travel around the world spreading the good news of the love and peace and equality offered in Jesus Christ. We must strive for a higher standard, and inspire others to join us in the struggle for freedom, choice and dignity.

As we turn to Acts 16, we find a woman, a slave, being exploited by her masters. She was not harming Paul and Silas – in some way her daily calling out reminds me of John the Baptist. Every day for many days, she shouted, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She was telling the truth, but not because she made a choice to do so; there was a spirit possessing her which caused her to shout in this way. The same spirit allowed her to predict the future, which earned her owners money in the marketplace. The Bible says that “finally Paul became troubled” which some people interpret as, Paul was getting sick and tired of the girl. But when I meditated on this text, I began to see another interpretation. Perhaps it was the same one that the women of Cameroon understood – Paul was troubled because he was face-to-face every day with a woman who had no dignity, no choice in life, no opportunities, no strength to stand up for herself. She was used and exploited by men who owned her, and one day Paul decided to make a stand, to put a stop to the situation, to restore her humanity by commanding the spirit to leave her.

And for this Paul and Silas were dragged into the marketplace to face the authorities, and eventually imprisoned. Around midnight, when the apostles were praying and singing hymns to God, a violent earthquake rocked the region, and the prison doors flew open...

The women of Cameroon may be compared to Paul and Silas. They are imprisoned in a system of male dominance, of exploitation and seeming hopelessness. But when faced with the struggles of their daily lives, these Cameroonian women, just like Paul and Silas, decide not to give up, moan and groan or feel sorry for themselves. No, they choose to sing and pray, tell stories and hope for a brighter future. Even in the midst of pain and suffering, they sought out the motto, “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” The women of Cameroon are an example to each and every one of us. No matter what prisons may entrap us in our everyday lives – fear, physical or emotional pain, depression, unemployment, broken marriages, lost children, homesickness for families far away, poverty, homelessness, hopelessness, faithlessness – whatever our current shackles may be, we have the choice about how to react to them. We may not be able to change our situations at the moment, just like the traditions and institutions in Cameroon will not change overnight. But we should spend our days praying, singing, praising God, and hoping and working towards a future in which every man, woman and child may be accepted as an equal and valuable member in the family of God...

“No Child Left Behind” – The Helm Fund For School Children in Namibia and Nigeria

by Titilayo Adedokun-Helm

In December 2008, Rüdiger and I, together with our 5-month old daughter, traveled to Namibia on a 2-week vacation. It was Rüdiger’s seventh visit to the country but my first, and he was looking forward to showing me what he termed “one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world”.

However, after only a couple of days in Namibia, in spite of the beautiful, tropical weather in December, I wanted to return home. All I felt the weight of racial division and social inequality around us and it made me angry, helpless and uncomfortable.

I did realize that, as a person of color, I was perhaps more sensitive to the situation in this former Apartheid country. But my husband, who also believes very much in social equality and justice, understood and supported my decision. However, we thought that since we were already there, perhaps there was something we could do to help one of the public schools...but we didn’t really know how to go about helping, who and where to ask.

Our answer came in the form of a chance meeting during the second week of our vacation. Far away from Uis (the small town where we were staying at a friend's holiday home), in a restaurant in Vingerclip, we struck up a nice conversation with our young, friendly waiter. During the conversation, we found out quite by coincidence that he was from Uis and that the Vice-Principal of the local Secondary School was his uncle. We asked him right away for his uncle's telephone number.

So, the next day, we traveled back to Uis and to Uppertown to find Mr. Zebo Gaseb. (Uppertown is the black section of Uis and Downtown is the more affluent predominantly white section. The two sections are about 5km apart and many black folks walk Downtown everyday in the heat to work or look for work. The average person in Uppertown – and sometimes means the entire family - makes about 400 Namibian dollars a month - about 40 Euro as per our visit). Even though it was the Christmas holidays, we found Mr. Gaseb, who was surprised to see us but very gracious and kind, and invited him to dinner that evening. Over dinner, we asked him if we could do anything to help the schools in Uis. Without hesitation, he replied "If you really want to help, start a fund". He explained that many parents couldn't afford the school fees, uniforms and books, and the children end up dropping out of school. With every drop-out, another chance for a future dies. Here we were, thinking more along the lines of sending school supplies or a few old computers. This was certainly not the reply we were expecting especially since I wasn't planning to ever return to Namibia!

But this meeting had already changed something for me. Rüdiger and I were both very excited about the prospect of being able to help in some way but I also felt truly happy for the first time since our arrival in Namibia. We had a big decision to make and we had a very long discussion into the night. We were convinced that establishing a fund was the right thing to do and, since the costs of sponsoring a child was relatively little – an average of €60 and €100 a year for a primary and secondary school student respectively – we hoped that we could find some more sponsors without much difficulty. And so that night, the **"No Child Left Behind" Helm Fund for School Children** was born.

There was a lot to do in the three days we had left and we moved quickly! We spent the next couple of days planning and trying to figure how the fund should be operated in order to avoid any abuse and to help as many children as possible. The day before we left, we had our first meeting with the seven newly appointed members of the fund's board which included teachers and heads of school from the Brandberg Primary School and Petrus Ganeb! Secondary School in Uis, as well as the local Pastor who also doubled as the local Police Chief. At this meeting, the operational guideli-

nes for the Helm Fund were decided upon. The most important being:

- that there would be an active board for the fund consisting of seven members.
- that a new bank account would be opened under the fund's name and every transaction will require the signatures of three members of the board.
- that each applicant must submit an application form every year which must be approved and signed by each member of the board.
- that our goal was that, in 5 years' time, no deserving student in Uis would be "left behind" due to poverty.

In addition to Uis, Rüdiger and I also thought about my father's schools in Iganna, Nigeria. Rev Dr. Jacob Adedokun, is a retired Baptist Minister and a life-long scholar who, after his "official" retirement as a minister about 15 years ago, started two Christian schools in Iganna, Nigeria, the small town where he was born. He has struggled financially from the very beginning in his effort to provide the children of Iganna and the neighboring towns and villages with a good education. The people in these parts are mostly poor farmers, many of the children have only one parent or none at all and it is often left to my father to find a way to keep the children in school, which means taking the money out of his own pocket. Since we had already been helping the schools financially over the past several years, we decided to officially include these two schools, Oshinkeye Primary School and Adeayo College, in the Helm Fund as well. These schools are subject to the same guidelines as the schools in Uis.

Back in Germany, we spent the whole of 2009 planning, trying to make everything work and operate smoothly in the long run. There were many obstacles and we almost shelved the whole idea a few times. But we stayed determined and started talking about our experiences in Namibia to friends and family. Just from telling the story of how the fund was established, several people decided to become sponsors as well and our collective dream became a reality.

In the very first year of the Helm Fund, fifteen students received financial aid. Fifteen more children now have the possibility of staying in school without having to worry about how to pay for it and we are very excited to be a small part of it. Unfortunately, there were more applicants than sponsors and we hope to increase the number of sponsors this year. So if you are interested in becoming a sponsor, we would be very happy to have you on board.

I must not neglect to mention the very important role of Peace Church in all of this. One major problem we faced in planning the fund was how to make sponsor donations legal and tax-deductible. We couldn't find a solution until we approached Pastor Christine. Her

immediate interest and decision to help became the most important key in getting the fund running. All the transactions go through Peace Church which makes life much easier for all sponsors.

For someone who never wanted to visit Namibia again, I'm looking forward to my second visit this May. Rüdiger, always in love with the African landscape, was already back in December and had several meetings with the board members. I'm looking forward to my next visit not only because I would like to see how the funds are being administered, but it is also as if I can finally allow myself to see the positive sides of Namibia, to appreciate the beautiful landscape and enjoy the wonderful diversity of all its people.

Did You Know That...

The Women's Bible study group meets again? After a break the restart was on the first Sunday in February. However the women decided to move the meetings from Tuesday to Thursday. Any women interested are more than welcome to come and join the group on Thursday mornings at 10.00 am. Currently they are working together to produce their own meditation cloth with paintings and pictures of their favourite Bible stories expressing what it is that connects women from all over the world in the Christian faith.

Peach Church tax receipts for donations to the church were sent out in the first week in February. If you have any queries contact Pastor Christine. A big thank you to all who help and support the church with their gifts, their time and their talents!

The home Group is meeting again? The group meets in different homes from February till July and from September to December on every first Thursday per month. Hosts this year are the Lawsons, the Gills, the McPhersons, Chris and Joe, Caro Voss, Emily Zumpe, and Pastor Christine. If you are interested in coming, feel free to take a flyer from the shelf in church or/and talk to one of the hosts (names above).

While Pastor Reiner Kanzleiter took the confirmation class teenagers to a retreat centre in the mountains on the first weekend in February, Pastor Christine and the Kids' Club team threw a colourful Fasching Party at church for the younger children? More events for children and youth can be seen on the website. Check there, or take a programme flyer when you are in church again.

In summer an American theology student will come to us for an internship? Last year we had Dawn Carn from Wesley College in Bristol, England. This summer Katy Wheat from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. will come to us. Katy will work at Peace Church, and also get work experience in the in-

ternational Methodist churches in Milan, Berlin, Hamburg, and she will visit Dawn Carn in Alresford, England. Katy will be in Europe from June till August. Jenny and Alistair McPherson have offered their guest room to accommodate Katy. A team of Peace Church people will be mentoring her.

In August Peace Church will have a guest pastor? Sam Greening, Pastor at Congregational Church of La Jolla, United Church of Christ in the Greater San Diego Area, USA, will come to Munich for 4 weeks in August. Sam is a former Methodist who worked in Germany before, and a friend of the Kanzleiters. He will work at Peace Church and Friedenskirche while Pastors Reiner and Christine will be away on holiday.

The International Women's Club of Munich supports Peace Church with the Baby Welcomings? The gifts presented to moms and newborn babies are donated by the women of the IWC. We are more than grateful for this faithful and substantial support!

The Women's Network of the United Methodist Church in Germany is helping us again? The women of the "Frauenwerk" chose Peace Church and its work with the asylum seekers to be their offering project again. This means whenever a "Frauenwerk" event takes place, and an offering is taken, a significant part of the offering is dedicated to Peace Church and lands in our bank account. The "Frauenwerk" had us already on their list two years ago; and we are grateful that they have chosen once more to support our biggest opportunity for outreach. A big thank you goes to those women who never lose interest in the work of Peace Church, who read our publications, spread the news about us, and help us faithfully!

There is a Kids' Club retreat again this year? In the week after Easter Pastors Reiner and Christine and 10 young people of the Kids' Club team are taking 38 children to "our" farm in Kundl in Austria for a holiday. Katie Gill and Reiner Kanzleiter are taking all the children there by bus on Tuesday 6 April, whereas Christine and the team will already be there from Easter Monday on and prepare for the group to arrive.

A Peace Church Weekend away is planned again? Invitations with sign-up slips are displayed in church. Please take one if you are interested and consider coming along. The Weekend Away is a great opportunity to spend extra time with church friends and get to know each other better in the beautiful setting of the Paulinghof in Tirol.

There was a Valentine's Dinner for asylum seekers on Saturday 13 February? Over 50 asylum seekers accepted the church's invitation to come to a party and have a meal made for them at Peace Church. The team

of cooks was a perfect example of how Peace Church works: 9 women from 7 different countries cooked and served a delicious three-course-meal, carried babies around while the mothers were dancing, played with the children, read books to them, talked to the guests, made them feel at home... For the members of Peace Church there was just as much receiving as giving. Thank you to all who helped! We hope to offer a similar event again soon!

The rights and regulations for asylum seekers in Bavaria are going to change? Soon nobody will need permission to travel any more when he or she wants to leave the district in which they are supposed to live. Coming to church on Sundays from other regions of Bavaria will from then on be much easier. Pastor Christine will no longer have to send letters and faxes to foreign offices all over Bavaria to ask permission for asylum seekers to travel to Munich. Let's hope this decision by the government of Bavaria is realised soon.

Alone in the year 2010 we already had 5 baptisms at Peace Church? The next one will be on Easter Sunday: Kiara Eduwa Osahon will be baptised on her first birthday. We are looking forward to celebrating this special day with the family!

The Women's World Day of Prayer was held at Peace Church again in 2010? The liturgy for this beautiful ecumenical event came from Cameroon, and Caro Voss, Nicole Biyee and Jenny McPherson helped a lot to make the evening worthwhile and very special. Nicole who comes from Cameroon, had colourful head scarves for the women to wear which her mother had sent especially for that day. Thanks to the scarves and traditional Cameroonian food the whole evening felt very authentic and real. Let us look forward to 2011 when the liturgy will come from Chile.

We saw two guest preachers in our pulpit in the last two months? It was very much worthwhile to have Asa Nausner and Linda Wagner as preachers! Asa, a Swedish Methodist who lives in Reutlingen, Germany and currently works on her PHD in theology, and Linda, a student from the Theological Seminary of the Methodist Church in Germany who will finish her training this summer, preached great sermons and contributed to the remarkable standard of preaching at Peace Church. A thank you goes to them as well as to our lay preachers Alistair, Caro and Emily!

Two new singing groups were started at Peace Church? Jenny and Katie are offering an adults' singing group on some Sundays before church. And Titilayo and Katie are working with the children on a choir project on Sunday after the church services. Thanks to the three of them, and may all – the leaders and the singers - get a lot out of it!

Asylum seekers at Peace Church always receive free tickets on Sundays to travel home safely from church? On average we need ten to fifteen tickets per Sunday. If you would like to support this ministry, talk to Pastor Christine.

The Give & Take Day on 13 March was really good again? It was not only a welcome event to exchange things but also a community-building experience for all who were part of it. At times the whole event felt like a party, with Pizzas and rice, and drinks and cups of coffee. Again we welcomed new people who came for the Give & Take and who then returned for church on the following Sunday. The next Give & Take Day is on Saturday 26 June. Flyers with all the dates throughout 2010 are available in church.

Kids' Club does a Kids Help Kids project every year? The children work a whole day to produce things with which they can raise money for underprivileged children in other parts of the world. This year they supported gipsy children in Hungary. The work in



the workshops on Saturday was great fun, and the proceeds of the products sold, together with the offering on Sunday, enabled us to send over 1100.-€ to the General Board of Global ministries in Wuppertal. The money will be passed on to the Methodist church in

Alsoszolca. The stories of the children in Hungary were part of Sunday worship and were beautifully played and read by the church children. The whole service was created by the Kids' Club team and Pastor Christine. Some of our youth already make very capable worship leaders. Peace Church and Friedenskirche are happy and privileged to have so many committed and interested children and young people coming to church regularly!

There are Holy Week Meditations at Peace Church? Friedenskirche and Peace Church are offering joint, bilingual Holy Week meditations on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in the week following Palm Sunday. Come at 7:00 pm for half an hour of devotions "At the Foot of the Cross".

The Council on Ministries is dreaming some small dreams? We would love to offer more Bible study, a luncheon club, a coffee afternoon for moms with children, homework support, a meeting place for all children, parenting courses, help with education – to mention only some. We don't yet know who could do some of the work that would arise, but we would

simply like to share the vision publicly, to pray about the ideas, to ask other people to pray about them, to put them all in God's hands, and then to see what happens.

The Council on Ministries unanimously elected Hillary Schubert and Andy Lawson to be the new lay leaders of our church community. Before he returned to Ghana for good, Ben Yebuah had held this position for many years. Our thanks goes to Ben who we still miss a lot, and of course to Hillary and Andy who are willing to work together with Pastor Christine as the leaders of our congregation.

We would like to introduce...



Name/family

Andrew, Ravo,
Kenneth, Oliver &
Fiona Cochran

Where do you come from / where do you live here?

Andrew is from the UK. His parents are from Edinburgh but

moved to England and moved around a great deal at first. He was born in Poole but after grew up mainly in Birmingham, where his parents still live. Ravo is from Madagascar. She was born in the capital, Antananarivo. Ken was born near Milan. Ollie & Fiona were born in Ebersberg. We live in Ottersberg - a small village in the *Gemeinde* Pliening - near Poing

How long have you been in Germany?

Apart from a two and a half year stint in Italy from the end of 1999 to 2002. Andrew has lived in Germany since 1986. Ravo moved to Italy in 2000 and after marrying in 2001 we moved to Munich.

Why did you come to Germany?

Andrew was fed up with his first job and wrote off to various agencies, ticking off the box "Are you prepared to work abroad?" without really expecting to get any overseas offers. Out of the blue he was phoned from Germany and offered a job and, being fed up, decided to give it a try. He has worked for the same company ever since. We moved back because he preferred Munich to Milan, a statement that is greeted with disbelief by many people. However, Milan is an industrial city, not holiday country. Munich is cleaner, safer and generally a much better environment for living in and bringing up a family.

Are you here for ever or temporarily?

Nothing is certain, but it is looking pretty permanent

What is your profession/job?

Andrew is a computer programmer. He works for a company that makes computer system for the clothing industry. Ravo has a master's degree in business accounting, a qualification that is unfortunately not recognised in Germany. After working as a household helper for two different families she now works in the call-centre of an international car-hire company.

Hobbies?

Andrew cycles and reads a lot. The skiing career has lapsed. Watching the boys play football occupies a fair amount of time at the weekends. Ravo when not busy at work or in the house helps organise the Malagasy church in Dachau. This is why we rush off so quickly on the first Sunday of each month. Ken plays football and the electric organ. A piano would be nice but cost and space are a bit of a problem. Ollie also plays football and plays the trumpet. He would like to learn the tuba but his current size is a bit of a problem. Fiona will be learning the recorder soon and has done some dancing. She has yet to find her real interests.

Which are your favourite meals?

Andrew: Roast lamb with mint sauce / Ravo: Chicken in coconut milk / Kenneth: *Schnitzel* with chips and tomato sauce / Oliver: Lasagne - not from Netto but from Penny-Markt / Fiona: Pizza

How did you find Peace Church?

We had been here before in joint services with the Episcopal Church.

What do you like best at Peace Church?

Andrew: the enthusiastic singing of the congregation.
Ravo: the children stories in the first part of the service.
Ken & Oliver: The table football! / Fiona: Drawing

What are you responsible for at Peace Church?

We are not really responsible for anything. Andrew sometimes does a reading.

What does the Christian faith mean to you?

Andrew was baptised into the Church of Scotland but did not have a religious upbringing and starting going to church after meeting Ravo, mainly out of curiosity. He fairly quickly felt God's Spirit and wanted to be a Christian. Christian faith to him means doing God's will by loving him and one's neighbour (see below). Ravo was brought up in the Malagasy Protestant Church. She was part of the group of young Christians in the Church. Christian faith to her means being in touch of God at any time of the day by prayer, doing God's commandments starting in her own family, and "being still and letting God fight for her" (Exodus 14:14) throughout her life. She tries to live according to Paul's words: "and now these three remain: faith, hope and love."

Favourite stories of the Bible?

Andrew's favourite passage isn't a story but the bit where Jesus describes the greatest commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbour as yourself. *All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*" This tells us what the Bible is for, and what we should bear in mind when we read it.

Ravo's favourite story is about Jesus at the Pharisee's House (Luke 14), when Jesus said to his host "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your

friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbours, if you do, they may invite you back and so you will repay. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled the lame, the blind and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Wishes for the common mission of Peace Church and Friedenskirche?

Teaching the word of God and acting on it. The work that Peace Church does for the asylum seekers is a good example of that.

Peace Church Calendar

April

No Home Group & Bible Sharing in April
Good Friday communion service
Easter Sunday Worship
Kids' Club Retreat in Kundl
Sunday Worship
Confirmation Class
Sunday Worship
Sunday Worship

Friday 2 April
Sunday 4 April
5 - 10 April
Sunday 11 April
Saturday 17 April
Sunday 18 April
Sunday 25 April

May

Communion Service
Home Group & Bible Sharing
Kids' Club
Weekend Away in Kundl, Austria
Sunday Worship
Council on Ministries
Deutscher Ökumenischer Kirchentag in Munich
Sunday Worship
Pentecost Sunday Worship
Sunday Worship

Sunday 2 May
Thursday 6 May
Saturday 8 May
7-9 May
Sunday 9 May
Tuesday 11 May
12 - 16 May
Sunday 16 May
Sunday 23 May
Sunday 30 May

Impressum

Your suggestions, comments and contributions are welcome. Deadline for June/July issue is Sun 23 May. Please include a photo if possible. (Reports may be edited.)

If you would like to receive future issues by e-mail, please send a message to christine@peacechurch.de, simply typing "PCN by mail" and we will add your address to the list.

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For US readers

You can support the work of Peace Church through a mission "Advance Special" account. 3020450 designated for Peace Church, Munich, Germany, to support the congregation's local program.