



Newsletter of the English Speaking United Methodist Congregation in Munich: July / August 2019

How Many Hopes Want to Break Open (Acts of the Apostles 3)



He was lame from birth. Never in his life had he taken one step alone. Because of this, he used to be very sad. He had often dreamed that he could run, he could move freely, he could take the steps he wanted to take, and above all, he could do all this by himself. So he dreamed of the highest mountains that he

wanted to climb and the most distant lands which were waiting for him to discover them. Sometime he awakened then from his dream and realised that he was lying in his old smelly bed. Nothing had happened. Nothing had changed; everything was still the same. And the lame man wept and cursed his diseased legs.

I have two healthy legs. Nevertheless, I often feel the same as he did. I dream. I have hopes. I have wishes, and imagine all the things that could be, all the things I could do. When I awaken from my dreams and wishes I see: Everything has stayed the same. Nothing has really changed. Nothing has become new and different. Then I feel lame, incapable of making any new movement, condemned to stay right here where I have always been. Then there often comes a great feeling of anger because of everything that hinders me from fulfilling my yearnings.

Earlier the lame man had suffered. After some years, some dreams and awakenings, after many tears, slowly he began to feel better. He had simply given up his dreams. He had gotten used to not

dreaming. In this way, he could bear life quite well with his lame legs. He had realised that someone who doesn't dream has fewer reasons to weep!

Today we call this becoming an adult or learning to think realistically. We say: "First get your feet back on the ground" or "That's life! There's no room for dreamers."

The lame man earned his living by begging. The people he lived with forced him to do it. "If you want to eat," they said, "you must work for it!" So they took him every morning and carried him to the place where he lay and begged. In the evening they fetched him again and counted the few coins he had collected - if they hadn't forgotten him and left him lying there all night.

That's the way it is until this day. Whoever is lame will be moved only by others. Whoever is not active himself must put up with what others do with him. Whoever cannot or does not want to defend himself will be used by the others wherever they need him.

The lame man's begging place was at the door of the temple, on the outer side, of course. There he huddled under an old blanket and held out his open hand to people who were going into the temple, and asked for alms. Some gave him something; others didn't. His "business" was best on Sundays and holidays, when more people than usual came to the temple. On a normal day the beggar sees two men coming up the street. The two are called John and Peter. The lame man sees how they climb quietly and regularly up the road with sure, firm steps, backs straight and erect, and as he looks at them, his old dream awakes again in him. Then he feels this strong wish, this yearning desire to be able to stand on his own feet, and as the two men go past him, he raises his hand, as always, begs and

stammers his little phrases. However, inside him he is fighting back the tears and trying to chase away his reawakening dream.

The two men stand still. They turn to the lame man. Peter says, "Look at us!" The lame man looks at them and raises his hand a little bit higher. He hopes that the two whose fault it is that after so long a time he again feels so miserable will give him something and then continue their way.

Peter looks at his hand and says: "We have no gold and silver. But we know that you have a dream. We want to help you to that your dream is not in vain. We want to help you get up on your feet. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth - get up and walk!" And at the same time he stretches out both his hands to the beggar kneeling before him, both of them, with undivided attention.

Do we know that too? Old dreams awake - Old hopes break loose - Old seed begins to germinate! That can be a painful process. That can go to the limits of what we can bear. The reason is because we feel: This dream, this hope wants to and is able to change me, wants to make me new. The whole of life, all the habits and relationships and presumed virtues are put in question through such a dream. All that we had earlier crossed off and given up on, and we had resigned ourselves to accept, all that suddenly reappears and begins to probe and to beat. That hurts, that pains!

In this story the lame man is healed. He is not only reminded of his dream. He is shown a way to make this dream come true. This way has a name. Peter helps the man to rise up in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This name "Jesus" is no magic spell. It is the name of a particular person. Whoever speaks in this name, the name of Jesus, must also act in his name. He lends not only his voice. He lends his whole being, just as Jesus lent his whole being and sacrificed himself for us.

Peter stretched out both his hands to the lame man, both of them, with undivided attention. The lame man was confused. He hardly knew if that which he was now experiencing, if that was a part of his agonizing question, or a chance, the chance. But without hesitating for long - what did he have to lose - he lay his right hand in Peter's hand. The latter raised him up and stood him on his own feet. The erect lame man feels how a warm current flows through his feet, his ankles, his calves, his knees and his thighs. He feels how his legs gain strength, how his backbone becomes strong. He takes one first

careful step, another, he makes a little hop, and then he rejoices and laughs for joy and praises the Lord. And all the people who see him are astonished and full of wonder.

I would like to wish THAT especially for us: People who meet us with complete commitment. People who in the spirit and the name of Christ help us to overcome our lameness, who raise us up on our feet. People who with undivided attention help us to find our own way again and who give us courage to be content with our way. I wish for us that we have the courage ourselves to reach out both hands to others in the name of Jesus, to help others to strengthen their backbones, to raise them up again in Christ's name.

How much lameness is waiting to be healed?
How many hopes want to break open?
How much old seed is ready to germinate.?

Pastor Reiner Kanzleiter

News from Peace Church Life

Ascension Day

by Rainer Fuchs

If 1+1 equals more than 2... it is when Peace Church and Philippuskirche hold a joint service in celebration of life. The theme of our bilingual Ascension Day service was "Du bist Leben"/"You are life". The German and English liturgies, hymns sung in both languages, African choir and joint celebration of communion made for a wonderfully rousing service in honour of our one Lord. This is how ecumenism can and should be. That is how Christian fellowship can and should be. After the service we gathered in the fellowship area and atrium. The charcoal glowed on the barbecue and the buffet was amply stocked with the salads and cakes that people had contributed. The children played in the courtyard and everyone enjoyed the lively scene, sunshine and delicious food until late in the afternoon. A true celebration of life. Thanks be to God!

Kids' Club – Day in the Park

by Nicolas Kanzleiter

Saturday 1st June, Kids Club took place again. Since good weather was to be expected, the team decided to make use of the park right next to church and took the whole group of kids there to play, relax and have picnic.

The group packed all kinds of things, toys, balls, jumping ropes, crayons, face paint, books, water pistols, food and lots of drinks of course. Pretty much everything a day in the park needs. Once in the park, the kids were free to do whatever they want, encouraged by the team of young adults to be brave and try out new things and shouldn't they succeed the first time, try again and again. If the children had tried and played enough to be tired they could lie down, relax, sleep a bit or read some books that the group had brought along as well. All in all it was a fantastic fun day for everyone. But that wasn't the most impressive thing that day. This Kids Club Saturday was actually one of the days that proved Peace Church's successful outreach to community in which Philippskirche is located. Two parents who usually come to Coffee & More on Mondays joined the group that day with their kids and spent the whole day with us, playing, helping and what else one might do in a park on such a beautiful day. They immediately fitted in and felt obviously comfortable. They attracted other parents who spent time with their kids in the park and came up to us asking if they might use our toys, or if their kids might read our books. And we, of course, invited them to have a bite of our delicious picnic and feel free to join in as much and as long as they wanted to. In the end they even thanked us for sharing with them and being so welcoming. They told us how much that day had meant to them. Surely, they will join again. Them being so open and happy with the options Peace Church is offering is a great encouragement to us to continue this kind of work. It shows us that we have come to the right place and can make a difference there.

Butterflies Under Our Hats

by Katie Gill

It was Pentecost Sunday and we were celebrating 35 years of Peace Church. As we came into Church that morning, there was an atmosphere of quiet expectation. A few coloured paper butterflies were visible on the walls, near the altar and on lengths of string hung across the front of the Church. The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was the principal theme and we began with a prayer, remembering the ways God speaks to us, asking that God might disturb, inspire and amaze us. Greta read to us a beautifully illustrated story written by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. She is a female rabbi and that is unusual enough in itself. The story told of a towns-people who had lost heart. In their despair, they had allowed everything around them

to crumble. A mysterious visitor came and told them to catch butterflies of hope under their hats. Thrilled by the appearance of the butterflies and the ability to catch them, they were only to be disappointed as the butterflies disappeared when it rained and the people needed their hats to protect them from the rain. However, on closer inspection, the people discovered a faint dusting of the powder of hope inside their hats. This was just enough for them to take courage and begin to rebuild; to plant gardens and to repair the leaking roofs and the wobbly pavements.



After the story we were invited to create our own butterflies and pin them to the lengths of string at the front of the Church. A feeling of peace and togetherness surrounded us as we stood alongside others, quietly drawing.

In her address Pastor Christine drew out the similarities between this story and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The disciples were still afraid, hiding away, unable to know the way ahead or how Jesus might fulfil his promise to be with them. They were without the hope or strength to begin anything.

As the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them in glorious plenty they found both their voices and their purpose, boldly telling everyone of the wonderful works of God.

The butterfly is a symbol of transformation. How different from the earth-bound caterpillar is the butterfly taking flight on richly coloured wings. How different were the disciples from those



frightened men and women after the Holy Spirit of God had fallen upon them. In all our struggles for justice and peace, for forgiveness, healing and community, the Spirit of God is the wind, lifting us on wings of hope to enable and transform us. After praying together, the service closed with a blessing asking the breath of God to enliven, renew and strengthen us. We were invited then to choose and take a butterfly home and pray for the person whose name was written there. It was a visual reminder of how we can always be in prayer for each other in the Family of God.

Peace Church Baptism Celebration - The Start of a Journey

by Sue Lawson



On 23rd June, Peace Church celebrated the baptism of Davis Nosakhare and Maria Osasere Igiebor. A moving occasion, it also provided a feast for the senses: beautiful African costumes, rousing music, the baptism ceremony performed by Pastor Christine supported by the Sunday school children, and the congregation's undertaking to help Davis and Maria on their journey of faith. The Sunday school children took up the journey theme with a pageant, narrated by the pastor, representing Abraham, Sarah and followers setting out on their journey to the Promised Land. This was followed by the presentation of wishes and presents for Davis and Maria, and prayers read by the Peace Church teens. The ceremony concluded fittingly with the hymn "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah", and blessings for one Peace Church family about to set off on a journey: Megan, Jonas and Amos, who will be travelling in Africa for six months. After the service, there was an opportunity to chat with Peace Church regulars and visitors over a delicious lunch. A truly memorable occasion for the Igiebor family and all those present.

MAKUNGU

by Pastor Christine

In Kenya, the situation of orphans is of grave concern.

Currently, it is estimated that there are over three million orphans in the country, 47% orphaned as a result of HIV and AIDS. The statistics documenting the rising population and the immense suffering of these children are, in some cases, overwhelming. Over 25% of the population live on less than \$1 per day and 12-15% of households in Kenya are headed by an orphaned sibling. 700 children are orphaned every day (that is, one child every two minutes) and one-third of them are orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. This means that the number of orphans is set to rise. Traumatized by the death of their parents, some orphans become antisocial, fall ill or are emotionally impaired. Kenyan society is failing to attend to these children and their needs. The government has no system to support them. The children are homeless and have no protection. The fact that they do not have parents predisposes the children to exploitation. Orphans, especially, are a soft target for child traffickers.

Last autumn the Kids' Club team heard about MAKUNGU. MAKUNGU is an orphanage in Nakuru, in north-west Kenya. Orphans in Kenya do not receive support from the local authority or the government. They live with relatives, alone, or on the streets. There may be neighbours who keep an eye on them, or church or other friends. Few orphaned children in Kenya are fortunate enough to find a place in a home providing care.

Marina, a young German social worker, spent six months helping at such a home in Nakuru. She wanted to gain experience outside Germany and had volunteered to work with children in Kenya. While she was there, she and Liz, a young Kenyan social worker, became close friends. Following Marina's six months at the orphanage, the young women stayed in touch. Marina went back to Germany to finish her studies. In 2016, she learned through Liz that the care home in which she had worked was to be closed. No other place would be available for the children. They would have to leave the home and live on the streets.

Liz was extremely unhappy and desperate. She was willing to help the children, but how?

Back in Germany, Marina was shocked. She just could not believe it.

She decided to help.

Together with friends she founded a charity: MAKUNGU. They began raising money for the children in Nakuru whom Marina knew so well. Marina suggested to Liz that she finds a house or an apartment to rent. Marina promised to fund the cost of rent, food, clothing and school fees for the children. Liz was willing to lead the project in Nakuru, continue caring for the children and assume the role of substitute mother.

MAKUNGU means sunrise.

There is a lot of sunshine in Kenya but far too many children know only life's dark side. So MAKUNGU represents a spiritual and physical new beginning for some Kenyan orphans. It stands for new life, new beginnings, hope for tomorrow and the love of life. A beautiful word, MAKUNGU represents a better future, a future providing hope, clothes to wear, books to read, a roof over the children's heads.

Last autumn a group of young women from Munich went to Nakuru to help MAKUNGU with organisational issues and the setting-up of a proper administrative system.

Nadia, a good friend of some of us, was a member of the group. When she came back after a four-week stay, Nadia reported on the happy lives the children now lead. But she also informed us of the many uncertainties MAKUNGU was facing at the start of its young life. The organisers still require a lot of financial support.

To take care of a child MAKUNGU needs 10 euros per week for food, 75 euros per month and per child for schooling, and additional funding to pay rent, of course, and provide clothes for the children, beds, tables, etc.

For how long Liz would be able to continue doing the work was far from certain.

The volunteers realised that it was about not only helping the children MAKUNGU was already caring for but also a pressing need within Kenyan society to establish a permanent home that would care for more children.

Six of the children have now moved to boarding schools, for which MAKUNGU is paying the fees. Eight live with Liz, and another 12 are living in the immediate neighbourhood in very difficult conditions, and urgently in need of a place where they will be given the care they require.

The good news is that Liz has confirmed that she will continue to work for and live with the children. Help from Germany is increasing. Support within the city of Nakuru is also rising.

Consequently, Marina and Liz, the two young women leading the project, have decided to try to buy or build a house to meet the children's needs. MAKUNGU will be a place where 25 children will always find a home and care. As the older children leave, so younger ones will be taken in. They will be kept off the streets and provided with education and a loving substitute parent.

We want to help MAKUNGU realise this plan. MAKUNGU could be a place and a project which Peace Church Kids' Club would support not just once but in the longer term. By doing so, we would be helping to guarantee a safe future for at least some of the many orphaned children in Kenya. Our start date is right now: Kids Help Kids on 6th and 7th July 2019. We very much hope you will support Kids' Club's efforts. And we will, of course, keep you posted on developments.

Refugee Fund Appeal

by Pastor Christine

We are currently supporting a number of refugees by helping them to obtain permission to stay in Germany. One of the things we can do is to help them pay for a lawyer and clarify their legal status.

In the last 5 months, we have spent a substantial amount of money on this, depleting our refugee aid fund, which decreased from €7,800 to €2,300. We now need to stock up the fund with more donations if we are to continue to support beloved church members who are at risk of being deported back to their home country without a fair hearing in Germany.

We would therefore like to ask church members who would like to help us to prayerfully consider making a donation to the refugee aid account. Simply do a transfer to the church account marked "Refugee Aid Fund".

Any amount will help. Thank you so much!

Did You Know That...

There was a beautiful article about the work of Peace Church in Giesing in the newsletter of the Emmauskirche in Harlaching? Pfarrer Andreas Lay came on a Monday afternoon, just after the "Tafel" and coffee&more, and interviewed Pastor Christine and Pfarrer Klaus Pfaller. He wanted to know more

about Methodism, how the Peace Church came about, how and when we had moved to Philippuskirche, and what made us decide to try to serve the community in which our new meeting place lies. The article can be read on the notice board in the fellowship hall.

We need more people to help on Mondays? With the growing Monday community at coffee&more, where increasing numbers of people are coming and wanting to eat cakes and pizzas, and more and more kids of all ages need to be looked after, we need additional helpers for the team we have so far. We have “employed” a young student who earns a bit of money on Mondays by helping in the kitchen, but we could still do with more hands to help out – maybe not for the whole 3 ½ hours but for an hour or so.

There may be a confirmation class beginning in the New Year? The confirmation class team is considering offering a class beginning in February 2020. Invited will be church kids born in the years 2006 and 2007 or before. The confirmation service would be in spring 2021. We ask the families to reflect if they have children interested and to get in touch with Pastor Christine if they would like to take part.

The seminar house where we used to go for the confirmation class weekends away will be closed? We are looking for a new place where we can go and spend time away.

A charge conference took place at the end of April? This is the annual meeting with the district superintendent of the Methodist Church in the Nuernberg district. All groups and leaders of Peace Church report to him orally or in written form. And he takes the information back to the cabinet and the Bishop of the Methodist Church. All went fine, and we will have a similar meeting again in 2020.

Kids' Club is considering a summer project again? We may try out a slightly shorter but more intensive form of the project, offering the church kids fun days during the 6 weeks of Bavarian school holidays. Look forward to information flyers and sign-up sheets.

New Sunday School materials are coming out before the summer break? Cathy and Christine have produced a third volume of Sunday School lessons running from September through to December. Plans for a similar project in 2020 are being discussed at the moment.

You can become a member of Peace Church? Whether you are here for a few months, a few years or "forever", you can become an official member of Peace Church. If you wish to retain membership at your “home church”, you can become an “Affiliate Member” (if a Methodist) or an “Associate Member” (if from another denomination). Full Membership is available for everyone else. All types of membership make it clear that you really do belong here. New Members are asked to support Peace Church with their “prayers, presence, gifts and service.”

Contact the Pastor Christine for more details.

There is a Prayer Chain at Peace Church? There are yellow Prayer Slips in the weekly bulletin to fill in with your prayer request. Completed slips are collected as part of the offertory. If you are happy to share your prayer, members of our Prayer Chain will be praying for you through the week. Please be assured that, having been offered to God, private requests are kept in the hearts of the members of the prayer chain and not shared with others.

There is a coffee rota on the notice board in the fellowship hall? We constantly need people willing to set up and prepare for church coffee and lunch. In addition, we need people to tidy up afterwards. We thank everyone who is already supporting church coffee and ask new people to consider joining in. One could start maybe by helping a long term “coffee person” – Linda, Grace or Isata and observe how they prepare the refreshments.

We had to say Goodbye? Ben and Danielle Pearson left us for good. Together with their lovely boys Linus and Owen they moved back to the USA. Jonas and Megan Bedford-Strohm are leaving us for 6 months which they will spend on the African continent. They are back for Christmas. We thank them for their presence at Peace Church, and we will pray for them as they are far away.

Glory and Blessing had their traditional Nigerian wedding? On 1 June they celebrated with friends in the place near Rosenheim where they live. We wish them and their little son showers of blessings and a life full of happiness, peace and joy.

Diakon Rainer Fuchs of Philippuskirche is leaving? Rainer Fuchs will work at the academy for deacons in Rummelsberg from September on. We are so glad that our paths crossed and wish him and his family a happy future full of good experiences and adventures.

The Peace Church Band had a concert? On Thursday 20 June while thunderstorms were raging over Munich, a group of about 40 church people made it to the church to listen to what the band had prepared. Many were soaked when they arrived, bringing food for the potluck with them, but unfortunately some did not make it because of the terrible weather. We hope the band will play for us again – maybe in the autumn. We thank them for their concert and we are very happy to have them! The Peace Church Band meets regularly on Fridays.

Pastor Christine and other church people who have time, make home visits? If you would like someone from church or the pastor to come and see you in your house, or if you need help supporting your kids with their homework or assistance with any other issue of daily life, let Christine know. She is happy to organize help for you.

We have new musicians? Jenny Na is playing the piano in church on a regular basis, and Martin Bernhard, the organist of Philippuskirche, gladly helps out when we need it. A big thank you to both of them and all other musicians!

There will be a new face in the pulpit? Pastor Friedhelm Klingenberg, the husband of Pastor Heidemarie Klingenberg, will preach at Peace Church in September when Pastor Christine will be away on holiday in Scotland.

Pastor Christine will be on holiday in summer? From 20 August to 10 September she and her family will be in Scotland. If you need a contact person from church in those weeks, Greta Buck, and Andrew and Sue Lawson are available - the Lawsons from 10 to 28 August, Greta from 29 August to 10 September.

We would like to introduce...



Name: **John LaMaster**

Where do you come from/where do you live here?
I am from St. Louis, USA. Here in Munich, I live in Moosach.

How long have you been in Germany?
8 months.

Why did you come to Germany?
I came to Germany to pursue my PhD.

Are you here for ever or temporarily?
I will be here as long as God wants me to be.

What is your profession/job?
I am a doctoral candidate at TU München.

Hobbies?
I enjoy traveling, cooking, and going to the Isar and beer gardens with friends.

Which are your favourite meals?
Growing up my grandma would always make me lasagna and carrot cake for my birthday. That's a very special meal for me.

How did you find Peace Church?
I found Peace Church online while looking for English-speaking churches in Munich.

What do you like best at Peace Church?
I love the sense of family at Peace Church. It helps with me living so far away from my family back home. I also really enjoy how international the church is.

What are you responsible for at Peace Church?
I help with the cooking and baking events with the Kids' Club.

What does the Christian faith mean to you?
The most fundamental aspect of the Christian faith is love. As a Christian, I feel an obligation to use my gifts to spread and inspire God's love in others.

Favourite stories of the Bible?
Gospel of Thomas 77: Jesus said, "I am the light that covers all things. I am everything: all comes from me and in me everything returns. Split a piece of wood: I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find me."

Peace Church Calendar

July

Sunday 7 July	Communion Worship: Kids Help Kids
Sunday 14 July	Sunday Worship, Sunday School & BBQ
Sunday 21 July	Sunday Worship, Sunday School & Potluck Lunch with Philippuskirche
Sunday 28 July	Sunday Worship, Sunday School & Church Coffee

August

Tue 28 July-Thu 1 August	Kids' Club Summer Holiday Project
Sunday 4 August	All-age Communion & Church Coffee
Sunday 11 August	All-age Worship & Church Coffee
Sunday 18 August	All-age Worship & Church Coffee
20 Aug to 10 Sept	Holiday Pastor Christine
Sunday 25 August	All-age Worship & Church Coffee

September

Sunday 1 September	Sunday Worship, Sunday School & Church Coffee
Sunday 8 September	Sunday Worship, Sunday School & Church Coffee
Sunday 15 September	Communion Worship, Sunday School & Church Coffee
Sunday 22 September	Sunday Worship, Sunday School & Church Coffee
Sunday 29 September	Sunday Worship, Sunday School & Church Coffee

October

Wednesday 2 October	Council on Ministries
Sunday 6 October	Communion Worship, Sunday School & Church Coffee
Sunday 13 October	Sunday Worship, Sunday School & Church Coffee
Sunday 20 October	African-style Harvest Festival
Sunday 27 October	Sunday Worship, Sunday School & Church Coffee
Sun 27 to Mon 28 Oct	Reading Night with Sleepover for Teens
Wed 30 to Thu 31 Oct	Reading Night with Sleepover for Kids



Impressum

Your suggestions, comments and contributions are welcome. Deadline for the next issue is 10 August. 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 type "PCN by mail" and we will add your address to the list.

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