

THE SEAFARERS CENTER

- WELCOME, SERVICE AND FRIENDSHIP -

in the twin ports of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin

THE HARBOR LIGHT

November 2011

The Seafarers Center



Since 1974 this Benedictine Rectory, of the former St. Clemens Catholic Parish, has served as a home away from home for visiting seafarers. These days, the guest rooms are occupied by visiting students and working men.

Center for Validation and Change, a counseling agency, makes use of the front offices. Our Seafarers Clubroom is just inside the lower entrance on the alley side of this building. Ample parking is available next to our two vans.

The MV Heloise and her crews have been regular visitors to our Twin Ports over the last few years.



September 2011



Services brought to vessels:

- Ship visits upon docking at a terminal
- Phones and WiFi routers for crew use while in port
- Phone cards
- Visits with officers and crew
- Free transport in our 12 passenger van (Destinations include shopping centers, downtown businesses, the seafarers center, health clinics, worship centers, etc.)
- Gifts at Christmas
- Assistance with special requests

At our center we offer:

- Soft drinks, snacks, and souvenirs
- Wireless internet and telephones
- Free donated clothing, books, and magazines
- Conversation, prayer requests, chapel
- Pool table, ping pong, darts, cable TV

Everywhere:

- We see signs of God's goodness and hospitality.

Ship Visitors and Volunteer Drivers



Jerry Sime



Mike Jaros



Rev. Tom Anderson



John McDonald



Houcine Chraibi



Fr. Bob Sipe



Ed Hall

Contact information

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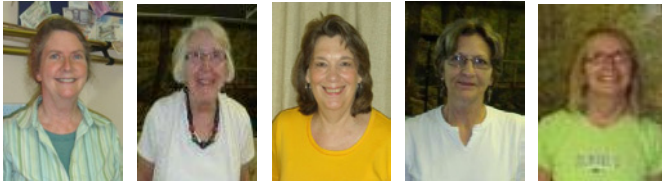
Goodbye to our old van, hello to our new

Thank you to our many donors who have given toward our purchase of a new van. Because of your generous contributions and a gracious grant from the ITF, International Transportation Workers Federation, a union to which many of our visiting seafarers belong, we are soon going to be purchasing two vans. One will be nearly new and the other an older model in good condition. Our rusty white and high mileage gray vans have served us well, but they will be replaced with vans that will serve seafarers for many years to come. Thank you, seafarers, for suggesting the ITF to us and thank you, friends, for raising what have become the necessary local matching dollars. The amount we received was exactly right to fulfill our grant applications's requirements.



God is good and so are God's people!!

Center Volunteers and Occasional Ship Visitors



Andrea Sather Joanne Blyler Toni Young Teri Burgoon Linda Dean

The Seafarers Center has been blessed with new volunteers over the past year. Teri and Joanne volunteer each week to organize our donations, Christmas gift items and free store inventory such as clothing and miscellaneous. They often take on a variety of tasks. Linda has begun ship visiting and launched our souvenir Seafarer Center magnets. Toni has been involved with our prayer ministry and keeping the clubroom ready for company.

Houcine (pictured with ship visitors) was born in Morocco and enjoys his new role visiting ships and conversing in the several languages he knows. The rest of us appreciate his tech ability with computers. As a person of Muslim faith he enriches the hospitality we offer and receive.

In her sixth year of volunteering, Andrea has collaborated with a Duluth company to produce a souvenir cap with our logo which matches the nice jackets created by Chris Kerkes a year ago.

Guests living at the seafarers center



In August we bid farewell and Godspeed to James Kunz who had been living with us more than two years. A UMD graduate he now is a Fellowship of Christian Athletes staffer in southern Minnesota.

ChongMyung and SangHee from South Korea have been with us for more than a year. ChongMyung is doing doctoral work in computer engineering at UMD. Newly married before her husband left Korea for Duluth, SangHee was eventually able to join him in the states and now is working on her English and piano. They plan to return to Korea in mid-January.



Volunteers and Residents at a Monthly Get-together



We're getting ready for the 2011 Give to the Max Day. This online giving opportunity was launched in Minnesota two years ago. We were happy at the first year's results and the outcome was nearly double for us last year in 2010.

If you would like to help us with our regular ministry needs, please consider going online on November 16th to www.giveMN.org and type in "Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers." Your online gifts and any regular gifts are crucial in meeting our ministry goals for the year.

We will be contacting our friends before Christmas as we again will be bringing handmade and thoughtfully gathered gifts for seafarers so that they are remembered at Christmas.

New look to our website

Thanks to our board president, David Warner, our website has new capabilities such as picture and news sharing. Seafarers and friends, if you would like to join in on the networking, please check out our updated website at www.theseafarerscenter.org

Getting Ready for Christmas



Women from Faith United Methodist Church in Superior were the first group to arrive this year and begin packing Christmas gift boxes for distribution to the vessels in November and December. Jessie Westman (left of center) has been wrapping gifts almost every year since the Seafarers Ministry operated out of a trailer house on Garfield Avenue.

In each 9"x9"x4" gift box they packed a ditty bag filled with

- bar soap and wash cloth
- toothpaste and toothbrush
- note pad/book and pen
- sturdy comb
- small bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and lotion
- two disposable razors

A hand knitted watchcap and seafarers scarf complete the package. Patterns for these and the 12"x16" ditty bags are available on our website, www.theseafarerscenter.org, or by calling 218-727-2842 or emailing seafarersduluth@yahoo.com.

On top of each box is a handmade Christmas card created by youth of the church, Sunday School children, and this year even some from a women's prison. Each card is "priceless". For more information please contact the Seafarers Center.

Two Weeks before Christmas, 2010



Guests from the American Steamship Company

Leon Sulerud, from A.S.C., contacted us about needing a room in Duluth-Superior to offer fire and first aid safety instruction for crew members of American Steamship vessels. From October 25-28, our club-room turned classroom was used mornings for a comprehensive safety course. Sulerud often teaches on a floating classroom as he boards A.S.C vessels and instructs as they sail to their next port a Great Lake or two away.

Teaching each subject twice, so, off-duty, all crew can participate, he spreads out his resusci-Anne and other props in mess or rec rooms or hallways as needed.

When the teaching is done he leaves the vessel at its next dock, Lake Michigan or Lake Erie, only to travel to his next assignment hopefully bound for

Duluth where he and his wife, Robyn, have their home.

The Seafarers Center is very active with the foreign flagged vessels, "salties", and as volunteers and time permit, we will to be able to provide more service to the U.S. and Canadian "lakers."



Leon Sulerud, safety educator, on the right is conferring with A.S.C. vice president, Tom Anderson from Chicago. Both Anderson and Sulerud offered ideas about security access requirements for visiting their "lakers". If captains or crew members desire any of our services in port, they may place our name/s on their visitors list.



Pictured are Thomas S. Anderson (left) with our director Thomas K Anderson. (what are the odds?)

Jerry Sime and crew members of the M.V. Heloise. It was a fine fall day.



Crew members with gifts for loved ones at Christmas

Seafarers add to our economy while they remind us that in every land we are alike.

We give gifts as a sign that our relationships are the biggest gifts of all.



Caps

These baseball style caps come in our trademark royal blue. Selling for \$10, they make a great souvenir and a way to promote our center.



Director's Notes

As we are nearing the completion of our 2011 season, I am thinking of some of the markers of the past year. We are very grateful for a number of new volunteers who have made it possible for us to coordinate our support from congregations with the needs of the seafarers we meet each week.

Also, I want to thank all of the congregations, groups, and individuals who donate and share in this ministry with seafarers. This is a successful ministry because of God's varying call to many. We have been provided with the essentials for being a home away from home for seafarers and a friendship ministry which helps connect mariners with their families and communities.

We thank the many captains and crews who have welcomed us aboard their vessels and who are the "ministers" who every day of the year are able to encourage and support one another amidst their life and duties aboard ship.

May God guide and guard you on your voyages.
Rev. Tom Anderson

Board Members hosted an Open House

On August 4, 2011, at the Seafarers Center, we recognized volunteers, board members, and the many congregations, organizations, and individuals who contribute to the operation of our Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers. We are grateful to our board members for hosting a wonderful event on a warm summer afternoon. Everyone who attended had a good time and enjoyed some tasty refreshments. Thanks to Dianne Hilden for taking pictures and our many friends for attending.



Board members: back row, l to r : Ron Johnson, David Warner, Jack Schilling, Rev. Robyn Weaver, Ed Hall, Rev. Sarah Kerkes, Carol Kelley, and Mike Jaros. Seated, l to r: Rev. Tom Anderson, Bob Davis, Rev. Doug Paulson, Jim Banks, and Fr. Robert Sipe. (not pictured - Carol Wolosz)

Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers
"THE SEAFARERS CENTER"
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Duluth, MN 55806

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A Seafarer's Prayer

O God, I ask you to take me into your care and protection along with all those who sail in ships. Make me alert and wise in my duties. Make me faithful in the time of routine and prompt to decide and courageous to act in any time of crisis. Protect me in the dangers and the perils of the sea; and even in the storm grant that there may be peace and calm within my heart. When I am far from home and far from loved ones and far from the country which I know, help me to be quite sure that, wherever I am, I can never drift beyond your love and care. Take care of my loved ones in the days and weeks and months when I am separated from them, sometimes with half the world between them and me. Keep me true to them and keep them true to me, and every time that we have to part, bring us together in safety and in loyalty again. This I ask for your love's sake. Amen

Mariner's Prayer

Dear Lord, be good to me, the sea is so wide and my boat is so small. Amen

A Waking Prayer

Gracious God, I thank you that you have kept us this watch from danger and harm, and I pray that today you would protect and keep us in your care. I offer myself to your service and the wellbeing of my shipmates and family. Amen

Prayer before Sleeping

Gracious God, I thank you that you have kept us today; and I pray that you would forgive my sins and wrong that I have done. I give my cares to you. I ask that you grant me a good rest and renewal of my body, soul, and mind. Amen