

The 2011 North Carolina State Fair Peace Booth

July 31, 2011

Dear Peacemakers -

Our work is never ending because the wars of our world are never ending. Our initial optimism following Barack Obama's election has waned. Not only did Obama not end the wars started by his predecessor, he has added another war with Libya. Sadly, we humans have convinced ourselves war is a necessary evil. Vast amounts of the world's precious resources are squandered on war and its consequences. That's why it's so important to continue to support The Peace Booth at the N.C. State Fair.

The American people need to be engaged, and that's what the Peace Booth is all about. The key contribution of the Peace Booth is educational. Every year since 1951, thousands of people have encountered the Peace Booth, stopping to sign petitions, take stickers and religious statements or just to talk. Thousands of children have visited the Peace Booth to enjoy our peace coloring sheets—perhaps their first encounter with the concept of nonviolence. The Peace Booth message is: "Peace is possible." We have promoted the hope of nonviolence as the true alternative to war. Our petitions give fairgoers the opportunity to actually do something for peace and justice—signing a petition can be someone's first step toward working for change. Our petitions in recent years—against torture, for abolition of the death penalty, and for nonviolent alternatives to war—have also served to educate people about important issues they may have never thought about.

It is our job as peacemakers to abolish war and to convince people there are nonviolent ways to resolve conflict. "**War is Horrific—Peace is Heroic**," is the theme for the 2011 Peace Booth. Let us embrace that hope of a world without war. The Peace Booth is an excellent tool to help bring about the peace our world needs. Help the Peace Booth continue to play an important role in this great work.

The Peace Booth opens at 3 p.m. on Thursday Oct. 13 and 9 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. Oct. 14-23. We need a coordinator for each day and 126 volunteers working in pairs for two-hour shifts to staff the Peace Booth for the 130-plus hours of the Fair. The Peace Booth is a big and expensive undertaking—booth rental, design, materials and insurance will cost more than \$2,700—but it's worth it. Here's what you can do to help:

Please send a generous personal donation, and ask your church or group to contribute so we can keep this crucial effort going. Please ask your pastor to consider making an annual gift to the Peace Booth.

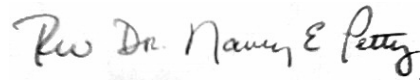
Join the Peace Booth steering committee and share your creativity and ideas to make the Peace Booth even better.

If you can help, please return the form below right away. On Oct. 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. we will offer orientation meetings (you need only attend one orientation) for all Peace Booth volunteers at Raleigh Community United Church of Christ (814 Dixie Trail). As a bonus, all volunteers receive a free fair admission ticket—a \$7 value.

Shalom,

Betsy Crites

Rev. Dr. Nancy E Petty



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- Yes, I would like to help continue this great work. Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____. Please list my/my group's name on the donor list as follows: _____
- My church/peace group would like to staff the Peace Booth for a day. Please contact me, _____ to make arrangements. Phone number(s): _____.
- I, _____, can personally volunteer to staff the Peace Booth for two hours on the following date(s) in October 2011: 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23. I understand a free pass to the fair will be available. Phone number(s): _____.
- I, _____, can be available for: Set up on Wednesday, October 12 (evening)
 Take down on Sunday, October 23 (10 PM). Phone number(s): _____.

Please return to: **The Peace Booth**, 3325 Bentwillow Dr. Fuquay-Varina NC 27526
To learn more about the Peace Booth go to www.ncpeacebooth.org