



Prince of Peace Episcopal Church Newsletter August 2021

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Mission Statement: To worship God, grow in Christ, and share the gifts God has given us with the world.

Clergy and Staff:

Interim Priest: Father Steven Ellis

Office Manager: Carol Laizure

Musician: Asya Gulua

Vicar's View

Sigh. Masks again, but at least we are in church. I wish the reporters asking why the CDC has “reversed themselves again” would rephrase their questions to something like “What new information made it necessary to ask that we mask up again?” It appears that the delta variant is much more contagious and causing terrible spikes all over the world, and that it is a much more serious form, likely to kill a higher percentage of those who get it, and that it can even be caught and spread by vaccinated people who aren’t likely to be sick/symptomatic but could unconsciously spread it nonetheless.

Hybrid worship has begun. Cameras are easy and great. Glitches with sound at first, and of course all of us are new to running this. Many thanks to Rachel and Massimo who are not only being operators but training others! Thanks to Jeanne and Colin, who are up to speed and operators themselves now. If you are inclined to give it a try

we can set up a large rota so that no one does it too often, and that would be lovely. It really isn't hard and you are making worship lovely for the Zoomers.

BAC is meeting Sat the 31st to do the annual Mutual Ministry Review and we have a facilitator for that, Susan Ladue from St. Mark's in Medford. Please pray for us Saturday morning!

In worship we are trying some things new to POP. This is what is supposed to happen in an interim period. You are used to variety in worship so I don't expect this to be a big challenge, but I do want to acknowledge that it's happening and is intentional, and to invite comment.

Speaking of inviting comments: please speak to me about whatever is on your mind or heart. I will be much more useful to POP if you do. People mention dynamics, ideas, hopes and, of course, their own struggles, and I appreciate them all. Having an overview is important, and there is so much I won't know if you don't tell me. So, something like what Frazier used to say on his radio show, "Hello, Prince of Peace, I'm listening."

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve" followed by a small cross symbol.

Beyond our Walls:

We frequently get communications from faith-based organizations and agencies doing good work and want to share their efforts. We look forward to sharing lots of ways people are working to bring Jesus's message of hope and love to all of us. While Prince of Peace may not be directly involved, we can be informed and inspired by the work in the broader world.

We received a message recently from Intersections International, an international organization whose mission is to bring bridges of justice, reconciliation, and peace.

Sample activities: Hosting Keep the Faith symposium in December 2020 which brought together faith leaders and community activists to discuss avenues for hope and healing in times of crisis. And then puts that to work: provided emergency relief in the Hato

Mayor province of the Dominican Republic where extreme hurricane flooding amid the COVID-19 pandemic compounded existing issues of economic strain and social marginalization.

While the organization, Intersectional International, is being forced to cease operations due to financial issues, it will transition **Believe Out Loud** to a new home.

Believe Out Loud [we know about this at Prince of Peace!] their signature social justice program, launched its digital worship service series in the spring of 2020 and has since created worship experiences that center and celebrate a global community of LGBTQIA people of faith. **Believe Out Loud** has a strong presence in Oregon. This work will continue!



From the Profile Committee

The Profile Committee continues to meet weekly and we are making steady progress. As I reported last month, we are in the drafting stage. At this time, it looks like our profile will have 14 sections. Six of them are pretty well completed and another three are almost finished. Of the remaining five, two are the required financial information and Mary Macy is working on those. That means the committee is working on the final three.

We've met with Char regarding the photos we would like to include in the profile. However, we've also learned that under new model policies adopted by The Episcopal Church, we likely are going to need written permission from each of you to use your photo. We currently are in conversation with the BAC to work out that process. I expect you will be hearing more soon.

As we have shared before, the transition process in The Episcopal Church is purposely designed to take time. When done well, it is a time for serious reflection and openness to the working of the Holy Spirit. It is a time for us as a congregation to explore new ways of being, new ways of worshipping, new dreams to dream, and new ways of working together to accomplish those dreams. It seems to me that Prince of Peace is doing all of that hard work right now and I give thanks for that.

Last week, when I was rereading your written responses to the survey, I came across a quote that I felt expressed this very well. I don't know who wrote it, but it was one of you. I give thanks to whomever it was for beautifully expressing where we are in the process.

"Building a vision is a process that takes time. We should not hurry to create a vision based of fear but on hope and faith. Careful focus on the needs of the church as an institution can support the goals of outreach, future stability financially, and growth as a member of the local and Christian community. We know where we have been. The goal is to see where we can go and how we can go forward."

Blessings to you all,
Barb Ross, Chair

What else is happening at Prince of Peace??

BAC summary:

From the BAC meeting July 21, 2021:

The BAC will start using Drop Box to store documents that are needed for meetings. Rachel and Fr. Steven demonstrated.

Interim Vicar's report: Pastor Joe has informed us that there will be a delay in starting the Meals on Wheels staging use at the church. The BAC will have a Mutual Ministry Review on Saturday, July 31 at the church from 9 till noon.

Steven reminded people that all events taking place in the parish hall need to be on the parish hall calendar. Carol and Ellen (Peace Lutheran) are the only two who put items on the calendar so everything needs to go through Carol for Prince of Peace.

Rachel reported that Prince of Peace does not feel like current terms of our lease need to change so Rachel and Mary K. have sent a draft to Bruce at Peace Lutheran. They will talk about it at their next board meeting which is in September.

Jr. Warden: the Garden committee had a work time this past Saturday morning. Cindy's memorial bench will be put together by Massimo and Ray and anchored with concrete. The committee is developing a Garden Coordinator job description to bring to the BAC for approval and nominees for Coordinator position. Currently, Massimo and Gina are acting as coordinators.

Profile committee: see report in the newsletter!

Financials: We are down a bit but have fund-raising money yet to transfer.

Old business: Rachel presented a letter of clarification for the Memo of Understanding for the Meals on Wheels project. Mary K will sign and send to Peace Lutheran (the Memo of Understanding has already been signed.)

Diana asked where we were on having a service to acknowledge the grief we have experienced. Father Steven said he would work with her to organize one.

Credit card: leave as is.

New business: Discussion about whether we needed to continue having two meetings a month. It was decided to use the first meeting for BAC development (held to one hour) and the second one for business.

Action Items:

Father Steven and Diana will meet to plan a service to address our grief.

A Communication committee (Fr. Steven, Susan, Barb, Char, Rachel) will meet to address staying in compliance with Diocese privacy guidelines for Zoom and Hybrid services.

And check the web page for a copy of the full minutes.



Bulletin Board

As our CHURCH members are able to return to actual physical presence within the physical walls of our place of worship & gathering I want you to know about a place of communication that is waiting for notice.

Questions or concerns about any of this visual Communication Opportunity, Call me: Sue Rembert, (906)-450-0544

Book Groups Opportunities!!!

St. Paul's, Prince of Peace, and St. Timothy's just finished a three week book group using the book, Church Cracked Open. We think it was the first time all three parishes got together for such an event and it was fabulous! The topic, itself, led to great conversation. We met in person. We talked about the historic role the Episcopal church has played in our country's struggle with racism, about current efforts, and where we go from here (no resolutions!) . In addition to the rich conversation, we had an opportunity to visit each other's buildings, and to get to know each other better. We do not want this to stop! We are not sure what lies ahead, but we agreed that we want to keep the momentum going. So stay tuned for the next opportunity! And if anyone wants the history timeline we put up on the big sticky notes, just email Susan McNaught.

Summer Book Group for Peace Lutheran and Prince of Peace Episcopal

Peace Lutheran has invited us to join a book group this summer meeting 3 Wednesday evenings (June 30, July 28, and August 25) at 7:00 on Zoom. The book is Caste: the Origins of our Discontent by Isabel Wilkerson. Amazon provides a summary: "In this brilliant book, Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores through an immersive, deeply-researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history, has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

You do not have to have attended the first two sessions to attend the last one.

If you want to participate, let Rachel or the office know and she will pass along your information to Pastor Joe who will send out the Zoom link.

Prince of Peace Book Group:

Hi to all Prince of Peace & friends from the Book Group.

We are taking a break until the Thurs. after Labor Day but want all to know they are welcome to join us at our next or any gathering.

The next book we are delving into is *The World is About to Turn*, by Rick Rouse & Paul O. Ingram. Described at the top of cover as "Mending a Nation's Broken Faith." A cursory scan indicates it seems to continue the conversation of Searching for Sunday, our most recent read, & The Church Cracked Open also recent, but for the 3 Salem Episcopal Congregations. We are interested in discovering some sort of direction to following Jesus/the light as we move on from pandemic, learning more details of our history, etc. We are in hopes this may have some thoughtful ideas.

Again, I would remind you, **We** are unique in that we don't read before we meet, we read together. Share what is in our hearts as we feel called to or comment on passages that speak to us. Our discussions sometimes take unusual turns, but we love learning from each other. As I said at the top, **all that read this are invited to join us.** Sept. 9, 2021, at Prince of Peace Parrish Hall at noon. If you would like a book it's on Amazon for \$13.72 or contact me & I will obtain one for you.

Sue Rembert, suerembert@q.com. Or 906-450-0544



Prayer Shawl Group: We meet every two weeks usually the first and third Fridays of the month from 7-8:15. Currently in formation so looking for those who would benefit from this ministry.

Currently considering the Linus Project and Rahab's Sisters. To get the Zoom link, contact the office. Also accepting donations of yarn. **And if anybody knows what happened to the yarn in the basket in the narthex, let Carol or Susan know, please.**

Part of the strength of this congregation is our care for each other. Please help us continue to do this by letting the church office know when you are ill, hospitalized, or otherwise in need of prayer or visitation. Call the office at 503-585-1479.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

all those on the prayer list, especially the families of Cindy Nielsen and Gin Sawin.





RUMMAGE SALE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 10-4 PM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 10-2 PM

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

1525 Glen Creek Road

West Salem

For more information call:

503-585-1479

So...

We need your items! Please look around your house (and ask your friends) for gently used clothes or household goods or jewelry. We can't take ANY FURNITURE, but we'd love your objects d'art, your clothes you don't want (or fit) anymore, your Christmas gifts from Aunt Bessie that you never found a place for...books, puzzles, (working) electrical appliances.