



Prince of Peace Episcopal Church Newsletter

November 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

Many days I feel that the goodness of community is tested so much that trust is eroded, tested to the point of being damaged. This article is about the kind of work that feels like a blessing, a strengthening of community and our common humanity. When you see something like this happening and you know the love involved is remarkable, and holy, you want to be part of it.

Church at the Park has been working with unhoused people in a steady way for some time, and has a track record. The City of Salem has come together in partnership with them, in matters of zoning and regulations as well as budgeting. Generous

landowners are making suitable, unused parcels available. The result is pallet home villages for those who need a stable, safe place to sleep while they make use of the other services available on their way to having their own places to live again and returning to more normal lives.

Living in a car or on the streets is exhausting. Can you imagine the insecurity of sleeping outside or in a tent for months or years on end? Of having to pick up and move every day or week or month? The worry of having no place to store your few worldly goods? Bearing the scorn of folks who see you as simply a blight on the landscape? Being resented for needing a place to sleep?

There is a lot of evidence to suggest that housing should not be the last but the first element in stabilizing lives. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues.

from <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/housing-first/>

Nothing else can really take hold until food and secure shelter are in place. They don't need to be fancy.

The pallet home program in Salem creates villages of ~30 tiny shelters, 2 people per shelter at 64^{sq ft} each. Two beds. A door that locks. Most of them have heat and electricity. They are in communities that have a simple covenant and a couple of staff people are available 24/7. There are communal rest rooms. Showers are available when the shower truck arrives, laundry in like manner. Independently or with the help of the staff programs can be accessed.

Will this pallet-village program blight neighborhoods? These are not

encampments of hundreds with no facilities and no services. There are already two running in town, staffed by Church at the Park. One of them is for women over 50. Look into it. The City has designated a third by Park and Ride on Wallace (near our property) which will also be for women over 50. The City plans to build eight of them in all, one in each ward.

The City has funds for staffing and site preparation. What is needed now is funding for the temporary shelters. Temporary means that the residents stay until they get on their own feet, and I'm not sure about the time-frame, though I know this approach has worked very well in Santa Cruz. The cost of the shelters is \$5000 each, and each houses two people at a time.

It feels to me like a very welcome opportunity to do something useful about what is usually viewed as an intractable problem. That we find it intractable speaks to me of impatience – how can we bear to tolerate homelessness as a growing segment of our society? And do we think we can become or remain a healthy society if we allow it to keep growing? But this is an opportunity to do something significant, something that will provide traction.

We've been approached by Peace, our partner church, to go together with them and pool money for some homes. We've also been invited to partner with the other Episcopal Churches in Salem as we did for book study last summer. The BAC has decided to partner with both communities. Our objective is to contribute little homes to the next village as it develops. Ann Emry has suggested that we aim to complete our offering by Christmas Eve, since Jesus and his family had at least a temporary shelter problem at his birth. That sounds good to me.

Pastor Joe and I have been talking about a continuing effort in West Salem as well. More on that as things develop. Meanwhile, listen, read the paper, check out Church at the Park and the City Council, and let's talk together while we get ready for this.

Faithfully, Steven



Notes from the Office:

- GoCamping.org Camp and Retreat Ministries of the Oregon-Idaho Conference of the Methodist Church and the Diocese of Oregon in joint partnership. Check it out!
- All Saint's Day is Sunday, Nov. 7. Please send the office any names of those you wish to remember in our list of prayers for the Saints who have gone before us by Wednesday, Nov. 3. We will read them during our Zoom service on Nov. 7.
- New *Forward Day by Day* booklets are in the Narthex.
- Episcopal Relief and Development received \$660 from Prince of Peace for donations made for hurricane relief and accumulated in-gathering donations.
- Books from the summer reading groups and other donated books are in a basket in the Narthex. Borrow one or make a donation and keep the book for later reading. Or bring a book you wish to share with others.
- Looking for ways to give Christmas gifts without burdening people with more stuff? Check out the Episcopal Relief and Development Gifts for Life Catalog <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/gifts>



From the Profile Committee

The Profile Committee is in final innings!

Since it is World Series time, a baseball analogy seems an appropriate way to describe where we are in the profile process. We are in the final innings. The profile itself is pretty well drafted. We are now beginning the final editing before we turn it over to Char McCreight for formatting. We also are working on getting the last of the photo releases we need. Char has been perfecting her photo shop skills so our photos can be as sharp and clean as possible. Once formatted, the completed profile will be submitted to the BAC and the Bishop's Office for approval and then it will be shared with the congregation before it is made public.

While you are waiting, we thought you might be interested in a preview of what will be in the profile. Here are the topics although they are not necessarily in their final order:

- Cover page – includes a photo of Prince of Peace, our logo, and the beautiful transition prayer written by Ann McBride
- Introduction – includes a welcoming statement, our mission statement, a brief description of who we are and what makes us unique, and an invitation to journey with us
- History of Prince of Peace – Marcia Kelley, our parish historian, has done a great job of capturing our first 35 years.
- Liturgical style – a description of Prince of Peace's style of worship
- Mission, outreach, and advocacy - includes the many ways Prince of Peace reaches out to share the love of Jesus in our community and beyond
- Current programs and organizations - includes a brief description of each
- Present staff and their duties (both paid and volunteer)
- Current financial status - Mary Macy is working on this section. It will include our operating budget, a treasurer's report, descriptions of our endowments and memorial funds, a stewardship report (# of pledges, total amount pledged, description of stewardship program and five-year pledge history), details of any outstanding debt, and our five-year DPA history.
- Parish demographics – This is mostly information from the parish survey. It includes things like the number of parishioners, our average Sunday attendance, and our congregational breakdown according to age, ethnic orientation, education, residential patterns, average length of time in the parish and the Episcopal Church, etc.
- Description of the Salem community including the history, demographics, education, school systems, business opportunities, local government, and recreational opportunities. – Marcia also has done yeoman's work on this section.
- Description and pictures of our building and property
- Results of parish survey including a description of the survey process and analyzed data. - We're very grateful to Nick Fortey for designing the survey and helping us analyze the results.
- Areas of ministry and focus – including current emphasis to be continued and built upon as well as new ventures and opportunities for ministry
- Gifts we are seeking in our new vicar – as indicated in the parish survey and the focus groups
- Compensation – a description of the compensation package we can offer including the SHU range (Stipend, Housing, Utilities) as well as additional benefits.

- Addendum (This part hasn't been written yet but we may want to add a bit more about how we weathered the pandemic, how we've changed as a congregation during the transition time, and how re-opening is going).

Feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns. As always, we appreciate your continued patience and prayers!

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Barb Ross at rossfour@comcast.net or 503-370-9856. Thank you for your cooperation!

What else is happening at Prince of Peace??

BAC summary:

From the BAC meeting Oct. 20, 2021:

Present: Steve Ellis, Interim Vicar; Massimo Broferrio, Jr. Warden; Rachel Bertoni; Diana Rainey; Nick Fortey; Steve Buresh; Joan Palmateer; Mary Macy, Treasurer; Susan McNaught, Clerk

Bishop Diana will visit us on Feb. 23, 2022. Sounds like a long way off, but it really is not! Be thinking what you want to know about the Diocese and what you want her to know about us! The visit will likely be by Zoom so plan to attend virtually.

Financials: Mary noted that while expenses have been less than expected, income is also down. Quarterly statements have just gone out so check yours!

Old Business:

Standing Communication Committee : proposal was brought to the BAC (and approved) to turn the Communications Committee from ad hoc to Standing. Susan will chair and members will include Rachel, Ray, Char, Ann McBride. Carol will serve as ex officio.

Personnel Committee formed: Father Steve, as Vicar and Mary Knutsen, as Sr. Warden will serve. In addition, Rachel and Mary Macy were elected.

BAC Meeting Minutes

And, as usual, for the full minutes, see the web page!



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR, AGAIN

Time to think about giving. No, not Thanksgiving. **Care** giving of each other, & our Congregational Family and **It's Mission**. Our MISSION STATEMENT includes the phrase, "**TO SHARE THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN US WITH THE WORLD.**"

Our Stewardship Kick Off for this year will be Nov. 7 at the Morning Service. That will also be the "All Saints" Service", (how apropos) since we have all of them to Thank for preparing us to move on each day. We are continuing with the theme from last year,

"Christ, be our light, Shine in our hearts, shine in the darkness. Christ be the light shine in our church, gathered today."

Another part of our MISSION STATEMENT, is **FOLLOW CHRIST**. So as we follow Christ, "The Light", we use the Gifts God Has Given Us, **so generously**, to enable us to give from our Abundance, **where He shows us, for the world.**

More about the plans for this year's program will come by e-mail, as they are finalized, but we are hoping to accommodate some small group chats about all of this. The Profile Committee is about to conclude their work, & thoughts of a new Vicar are at the top of our concerns.

*Submitted by Sue Rembert,
Stewardship Chair*

Report from Project Resource and the Stewardship Committee

Diocesan finances are not the only topic that is “undiscussable” in the Episcopal Church. We also don’t like to discuss anything that suggests that the Church, as we know it, will cease to exist in the not-too-distant future. Yes, there are some pockets of growth and vitality and some

Over the last 5 weeks, the Treasurer and the Stewardship Committee have been attending a training program offered by the College of Bishops for the Episcopal Church. The trainings were designed to build knowledge

about stewardship, share the experiences and challenges we have across the church and build teams of supportive and skilled financial stewards in each Diocese.

Your team has begun to build a stewardship program that speaks to the whys and how’s of continuing our ministry to each other and to the world through our financial gifts and resources.

You will hear more from us in the next few months. And we will be listening to you as we enter this conversation.

Mary Macy, Treasurer
Sue Rembert Stewardship Chair
Diana Rainey, BAC liason
Carol Laizure, Parish Administrator

United Thank Offering

Many of you may remember the little Blue Box. The, I just said “Thank you God”, and dropped in a coin box.

UTO, United Thank Offering, is an ongoing way the Women of the Episcopal Church fund hundreds of grants to congregations in

need of things they cannot otherwise afford.

A quick story, My home Congregation of St. Alban’s, Manistique, Mi. is shrinking, with the average age about 70. About 10 years ago most members had a hard time walking up the 8 steps from the street level to attend church, & the 14 steps down to enjoy coffee & each other. Their solution, they thought, was a lift that would carry 2-3 up or down, as needed. United Thank Offering was contacted via a grant request, & they have been using the Lift for the past 8 years.

IN THE NARTHAX YOU WILL FIND NEW **UTO BOXES**, & OTHER MATERIALS FOR YOUR PERUSAL.

JOIN ME, PLEASE, IN DROPPING IN A COIN WHEN YOU SAY, “THANK YOU GOD”, & NEXT THANKSGIVING SEASON WE WILL BRING OUR BOXES TO AN INGATHERING. THE THANKS OFFERING WILL BE SENT TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN, & WE CAN READ ABOUT THE GRANTS THAT ARE GIVEN, BY POOLING OUR COINS WITH THOSE AROUND THE WORLD.

Sue Rembert, UTO enthusiast

You can check out the work of United Thank Offering at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/united-thank0ffering/>

Prince of Peace Book Group:

Reminder: We are reading 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.” All are invited to join us Thursdays at Prince of Peace Parrish Hall at noon.



Prayer Shawl Group:

We meet every two weeks usually the first and third Fridays of the month from 7-8:15. All needlework folk are invited to join. To get the Zoom link, contact the office. Also accepting donations of yarn. We currently have a cart full in the Narthex but more is always nice. Patterns are available too.

The Prince of Peace Prayer Shawl Ministry donated items to the Baskets of Plenty Auction netted nearly \$200 in donations for the Diocesan Commission on Poverty and Homelessness.

Pastoral Care and Prayers

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.

If you have people for whom you would like to ask for regular intercessory prayers, please email Charlene McCreight at char@jeff.net



Bible Study

Tuesdays—come join us!

joanpalmateer68@comcast.net

May Gods Blessings be upon you, The Seeker
The Seekers

And Next Door:

Coming in November 2021...
GROUP EXHIBIT "ART FOR A SPIRITUAL SEASON"
An Advent & Christmas show based on scriptural texts from liturgical series C (Gospel of Luke)
NOVEMBER 22, 2021—JANUARY 4, 2022
New artwork from past Balcony Gallery artists plus members of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, West Salem

Room 1, lower level of main building—open Sunday mornings and church office hours, Monday through Thursday, 10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

Make a tax-deductible gift! Checks payable to "Peace Lutheran Church," memo: "visual & liturgical art," mail or deliver to Peace Lutheran Church, 1525 Glen Creek Road N.W., Salem, OR 97304. Thank you!