



# Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

## Newsletter

### June 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*

***How we got our Logo***  
***By Marcia Kelley***

After Bishop Ladehoff named Prince of Peace we were having monthly meetings which focused on a mission and decided we wanted a logo. The mission came first and then we worked with a young woman starting out in graphic design.

She came up with 2 or three ideas and we picked the logo we use today.

The basis is the Episcopal shield. However the cross is extended outside of the body of the shield to remind us that "sharing the gifts God has given us with the world in need of His peace" is important. Outreach is important.

The crosses in the original shield are replaced by doves one of the symbols of peace.

Throughout the years Prince of Peace has supported outreach both in monetary ways as well as giving of our time.



## **Bishop's Reflection: I am DONE with..**

*I am DONE.* I've been hearing this phrase, or a version of it a lot lately. It has not been expressed as a form of giving up or going away, rather I hear it in conversations about how one is tired of trying so hard and still not feeling that things are going very well.

*I am DONE.* As in: done with trying to feel physically connected through an electronic screen.

*I am DONE.* As in: done with over-functioning as a way to feel one is handling the pandemic.

*I am DONE.* As in: working on days off even though one is exhausted.

It doesn't escape my attention that we are beginning to feel "done" with pandemic related coping just as more and more people are being vaccinated. As someone recently shared with me, "I had no idea I was feeling so weighted down by this pandemic. After my vaccine shot, I went home and burst into tears of relief and hope."

And now we are reading news about the variants of the virus as they spread and create new waves of infection just as we were beginning to believe we could see light at the end of the tunnel.

*I am DONE* speaks not only of fatigue and a yearning to be free. The phrase also gives voice to our human need to be with each other in hugs, in song, and breaking bread together shoulder to shoulder.

These days weigh on us in other ways as well. The heightened awareness that we do not all enjoy equality - that some are more equal than others - cause some to fear, others to learn more and still others to change what isn't working.

*I am DONE.* As in: fearing for one's safety - or that of a child's - because of racial bias.

*I am DONE.* As in: reading yet another news report of an innocent person of color being shot by a police officer

**To read the rest of this article, go to the Diocesan webpage at: [diocese-oregon.org](http://diocese-oregon.org)**

Yours in Christ,

+Diana



## *Vicar's View*

I was delighted to be approached recently by some of you regarding a service of lamentation, and it pleased me very much. I hope that this month we can plan that service and hold it this Summer, because big changes involve loss and need lamenting. The pandemic has not only been a cause of grief, but it has kept us from grieving normally. We are creatures of relationship, emotion, hope, love and faith. We cannot move on into new life if we can't grieve the things that change. So a service where we acknowledge these things together, and in which those who wish to can speak their experience, will be a very good thing. I've have found it very helpful in the past.

This brings me to a similar question. There are a lot of things that need to be worked out during an interim. Margaret, your Vicar, led you ably for twenty-seven years! With her retirement comes an ache; and questions on everybody's part. "How do I fit in without her? What is my role, now? Do I still belong?" and the like. When everyone goes through such at once, the anxiety level goes up, and perhaps we are harder on one another than we need to be. We have to take another look at ourselves and ask, "Who are we now, and what will we become?", and even "what will God want of us in the years ahead?"

All this is uncertainty. Most of us find that uncomfortable. But it is also a time of great promise for most congregations. Your profile committee is ably listening your thoughts and feelings out of you. If you can take stock of gifts and persons and faith and where exactly you are at present, you'll have good chance to decide "where" you are meant to go. It can be difficult to be frank about the past, about our foibles and troubles, and we talk too seldom of our joys. This should be a time of embracing the moment, wobbly though it may feel, and a time to ask one another and our Lord what we could become.

I want to encourage you muddle through all this. It can't be done neatly, or seamlessly. The courage to stick with it and muddle through is what we need now. I'd love to gather with groups that want to do this together. If you feel stuck in the midst I'd love to be of service. This is the first part of our work in the interim.

When I was twenty the congregation I grew up in went through an eighteen month interim. I thought it was going to be so dreary. What I found was people who had held back before stepping into roles and responsibilities; and leaders moving to different parts of parish life, and all of us thinking, wondering, praying, individually and together, for what the parish might become. And in the months before the new pastor was called, who would be very important in my life, it was the way lay leaders taught, did pastoral work, led groups, and did the work of transition that impressed me most of all. In retrospect, I saw that my fears were unfounded. God had indeed led us. The parish grew wonderfully in responsible, joyful faith. Pray with me that this transition will not just take us somewhere, but allow us to grow into our life and ministry, each of us, and all of us together.

Faithfully,

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

## He Sees Our Tears

We don't cry very often.  
But every now and then the tears find a way.  
It's cool to be brave  
And stand above  
Our emotions  
But sometimes they  
Are  
Too much  
To be denied.  
We don't want to show  
Too much happiness  
Lest we get carried away  
We don't want to show  
Too much sadness  
Lest we lose control.  
Keep it in.  
Be the master.  
Show just how  
Stoic and Placid  
We can be.  
We don't cry very often.  
But every now and then  
The tears find a way.  
We are glad to know  
That God stands close by.  
He may not speak.  
He may not act.  
But it is enough to know  
That God stands close by.  
He sees us cry  
And just His presence  
Makes us feel better.  
We are not alone.  
We are never abandoned.  
Like a strong friend,  
God stands near.  
He listens, He understands,  
And sometimes God weeps with us.

( A Measured Pace by William Coleman)

(Inspired by 2 Kings 20:5: "I have heard your prayer and seen your tears.")

## Grieve Out Loud

Prince of Peace has suffered a tremendous number of losses in the last few years. The death of friends, the deaths of family members, the loss of safety in our community, our country and our world, the death of normalcy. The loss of normal things: touch, being in church together, sharing communion, sharing food, sharing the peace, sharing our lives, the loss of our leader, Vicar Margaret, the certainty of a secure future. The pandemic brought home to us that we are all fragile and that what is important to us as a community of the followers of Jesus is precious. That awareness has focused many on grasping at shoring up the walls, codifying the structures, circling the wagons. Keeping the enemy at bay while we struggle to survive. What we need to do instead is slow down and face our losses and experience together the grief that weighs us down and blinds us to our strengths and our future as a community. Rushing to move into the future without reflection makes us more uncertain and hurrying to make changes for the sake of change leaves us feeling scattered and stressed.

We have many losses to grieve and it has become clear to some of us that we need to actively grieve with each other. We need to slow down.

We can each grieve in private individually but as a group and as a church community, in order to heal and move forward together we need to work through our grief together. Out loud.

The love we have for each other and for our church has been the glue that holds us together. To keep that glue from shattering, we need to stop and take stock. All of us. Not just the leadership but the whole body. Christ told us as his followers to go forth two by two, that we are never alone. Christ is always with us but he also had a community to share his life and troubles as he lived his ministry. Pentecost is the birthday of the church He founded. The forty days between Easter and Pentecost was and is a time of preparation and of grief shared and hope renewed. Jesus showed the Disciples how to become Apostles. He walked among them, ate with them, confronted their doubts, and showed them the way. On Pentecost the Spirit was given to the Apostles as the fire of hope and Faith in action in the world. The map of how we move forward has been there all along. It is in the words of Scripture and in the poetry of his followers old and new.

Pentecost has passed but the message is clear. In sharing our grief, giving each other permission to doubt and to be afraid, confronting our fears with shared faith in Jesus and each other- that is the way.

We have a proposal for a process about how to do that as the community known as Prince of Peace.

We propose a gathering, in person, outside, or in church as we may, to meet together and share our griefs, our hopes, our fears. How that will come about and what it looks like will be up to the community as a whole with guidance from Fr Steven.

We are open to suggestions about what it would look like but we think a grief ritual that would provide a safe, contained place for us to meet, grieve and then look to the future would be healing and important for us as we search for our way forward.

We will be having a planning meeting ( date to be chosen yet) and we would like your feedback and suggestions prior to that. If you want to be part of the planning, please let us know. We will be asking for assistance from many of you as we come up with the process and the event.

Yours in love and Faith and Hope,  
Carol Laizure and Diana Rainey



## ***What else is happening at Prince of Peace??***

**BAC summary:** May 19<sup>th</sup> (most recent before the newsletter goes out)

The BAC is planning a Mutual Ministry Review for a Saturday to be set in July. Father Steven will contact a facilitator for this.

Peace Lutheran and Prince of Peace have another opportunity to collaborate! The churches have been contacted by Meals on Wheels with a request to use the parish hall as a staging area (M-F from 10-11) for West Salem deliveries (currently, there is no such site in West Salem). This is still in the planning stage.

The Garden committee (and friends!) continues to do its fine work. The new little fruit trees are getting regular water, seeds and seedlings have been distributed, and the contracts have been translated into Spanish (Thank you, Gina!!)

Re-Opening: we have a committee working on this. Everyone is eager to get back as soon as we can do it safely. Stay tuned!

Fiduciary matters: we are close to being on budget. Mary Macy is continuing to do the financial sessions. Check the web page calendar for future sessions.

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



**Bible Study:** We continue our journey of discovery each Tuesday. We learn much about the group as we do the Bible, focusing on how God's word touches our lives.

We had a day retreat at Willamette Mission Park on Monday, May 24. The covered area in Lake B site was great. The rain was determined and so were we! We focused our time discussing, sharing, and seeking direction in our life journey and spiritual journey.

There is a realization we remembered fairly quickly: if our spiritual life is not part of us every day, and we feel it throughout the day, the rest of life does not bring us joy, comfort, contentment, or discernment.

So, what is the answer to why we feel less spiritually inspired, less focused, and how do we get that strength and faith renewed, enriched? There are, of course, many answers, but the one we should always remember is that if we have faith in the Lord and friends to share his word, we can always gain fresh insight and not walk alone.

Bible study group is taking a hiatus for the summer and will begin again on August 3, 2021.

Have a blessed and wonderful summer everyone!

## **Book Groups Opportunities!!!**

### **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.

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:** Searching for Sunday is the book currently being read It is by Rachel Evans as she describes her experience leaving the evangelical church she grew up in. All are welcome to join us. We meet on Thursdays 12-1:30. We meet at the church but can accommodate those who want to meet virtually. Let Sue Rembert know and she can get a copy of the book for you.



**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.

*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.*

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**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

*all those on the prayer list, especially Gin Sawin and the family of Cindy Nielsen*