



## Prince of Peace Episcopal Church Newsletter

January 2022

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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***

December 27, 2021 - With four days left in 2021 we are suffering still another dimension in the pandemic. The so called omicron variant has brought us the need to be very cautious again, though this time we hope, more briefly, as the disease appears to be becoming more prevalent and perhaps a bit less virulent.

I'd like to reflect a bit on what we've learned in this time. The articles I read say that those who become isolated from their communities do not fare well, especially emotionally. We are social creatures, we need one another, we need to make and maintain contact. Our church says that the penultimate goal of humankind (in the purpose of the Creator) is beloved community. When we come into such relationship of respect for one another's God given dignity, when we practice justice, when we look for Christ in everyone we meet and imagine how God might be at work in their hearts, when we allow love to move us beyond the positions we've staked out and hear one another, that is when we are living the in Presence of the Almighty. Beloved Community.

Being in community is challenged just now, largely by the public-health protocols we observe for the public good and to keep ourselves safe. It is also challenged by the entrenched positions that so many in our society have embraced about how wrong the other people are.

And of course we must be wary, and constantly letting God bring up to us those temptations to mis-imagine and to demonize others when in a conflict.

**All of that said, I begin this year encouraged, and I hope you will also.** After all, we have learned a lot about ourselves. We have reached out to others, especially the vulnerable, and we have taken opportunities to meet together when and how we safely can. Hebrews 10:25 says "Do not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another." And I think of the many and varied ways that members of Prince of Peace have lived that out. Some are frequently taking care of the garden and supporting its ministry. Some are meeting together for book and Bible study, both in-person with all precautions and virtually, often hybrid and keeping one another's spirits up and minds engaged. I haven't had a complaint about the need to have the exhaust fan running and the windows open so that we can be together in worship. I know it is cold, and I admire your restraint; but more your enthusiasm about being together. We all did most of a year with services only on Zoom, and thank God for it, but I was more than touched that you hung in, cherishing one another.

I was quite excited by the way so many participated in the "drive by" events and sometimes distribution of communion. Prince of Peace has its own characteristic way to doing these. I said they'd be "drive by" events, but you all showed up and got out of your cars and stood about with elbow bumps and masks and distancing, being respectful of one another, but loving the conversations. Most of you have participated at one time or another by Zoom since we've gone "hybrid", and I know it has been trying because of sound problems, but you hang in. I admire you.

With the Profile Committee wrapping up their work we turn a corner to the next stage, and toward how to be the best community we can be for Jesus' sake in West Salem. As we look at ways to evolve, at what we want to cherish and what we want to nuance this way or that, I'm touched by your spirit of inquiry, of re-engagement with Peace, with the diocese, with the reaching out to so many children and families with goodwill and school supplies done through Trunk or Treat, and I have a sense of excitement to see what you decide, together, to become. [Counting, as always, on God's guidance and help.]

With love,

Steven



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

### BAC summary:

**Present:** Mary Knutsen, Sr. Warden; Massimo Brofferio, Jr. Warden; Nick Fortey; Steve Buresh; Joan Palmateer; Diana Rainey; Rachel Bertoni; Mary Macy, Treasurer; Susan McNaught, clerk, Father Steven Ellis  
**Profile Committee:** Barb Ross, Ann McBride, Marcia Kelley,

**Bible Study:** Nick led the study on Jeremiah 31

### **Reports:**

1. **Interim Vicar:**  
Report deferred
2. **Sr. Warden:**
  - a. She has been super busy. She has talked with Linda Potter and Barb Ross. She is preparing for Christmas. Nancy Mortensen is making beautiful banners.
3. **Jr. Warden:**
  - a. Two reports submitted. We will consider them next meeting
  - b. Date for church cleaning set for Jan. 29 from 10 till about 2—he will get a schedule so nobody has to work the full time.
  - c. **Committees: Stewardship:** We have received 25 pledges so far for a total amount of 57,088. Last year, at this time, we had received 25 pledges for a total of \$74,090

### **Fiduciary:**

- a. Mary M. reports that we are down about 18% from budget, but that December is usually a good month. We had the payroll protection funds last year which we do not this year.
- b. Budget report: not all income is in yet for October, but we are about 14% behind where we should be in pledged income. Total payroll expenses are down somewhat. The General Fund deficit is mainly due to DPA expenses a few years back.  
Treasurer's report accepted. M/S/P

### **New Business:**

- a. Annual meeting: will be Feb. 13 after church. There will be elections of BAC members
- b. Outreach Committee: The BAC considered the proposal for a standing Outreach Committee. Steven and Mary K will meet with the fundraising committee

### **Report from the Profile Committee**

The profile sent the report to BAC members yesterday and presented it tonight. There was considerable appreciation for the work that the committee had put in. It is a beautiful report. There were a few suggestions about wordsmithing, but the BAC will further consider it at the Jan 5<sup>th</sup> meeting after people have read the whole thing.

### **Action Items**

1. Notice will be posted about Annual Meeting.
2. Mary K and Steven will meet to talk about Outreach Committee
3. BAC members will read the Profile Committee report

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

### **Stewardship Committee Report**

The response to our "Following the Light of Christ" as a congregation has been mixed. The campaign of Stewardship for Prince of Peace for the coming year was purposely several small group opportunities to ask questions, gather information, & continue to have very open communication. Thank you, we had many of you participate in the group sessions. Several questions were asked & answered & much information on the possibilities & probabilities for the future of Prince of Peace was discussed.

Most of our regular pledges & at least one new pledge has been signed & submitted as commitment for the coming year. Thank you to each of you.

The current number of pledges & the expected income from them is below previous years.

As I said, the response is mixed. I remain hopeful that Prince of Peace will continue on its Mission to Share the Gifts we've been given with those that Jesus shows us and that we do that together



**We now have TWO Bible Study group options!!!**



**Bible Study Organizational Meeting  
On Zoom**

On Sunday, January 9th, at 7:00 pm all are invited to an organizational meeting for an adult Bible Study group. The group wants to start a Sunday evening study of the books of the Bible. We will discuss many things in future meetings, but our first meeting will be limited to group housekeeping expectations. Please bring your questions, expectations, interest, and fellowship. This group will be a place to explore, think, and rethink in a mutual learning experience. If you have questions, please join us.

For the Zoom link let Elaine Laizure know ([elaine.laizure@pacificwest.com](mailto:elaine.laizure@pacificwest.com)).

And there is also the Tuesday noon Bible Study. Come join us! May God's Blessings be upon you,

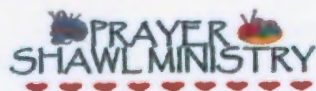
The Seekers

[joanpalmateer68@comcast.net](mailto:joanpalmateer68@comcast.net)



**Prince of Peace Book Group:**

Reminder: We are up to chapter 4 of Joshua by Jos. Girzone. The next book we are considering is Girzone's non-fiction, The End of Suffering. All are invited to join us Thursdays at Prince of Peace Parrish Hall at noon. We have been off for the holiday but resuming Jan. 6.



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. Just took several afghans, scarves and hats to Rahab Sisters.

### **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.*

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### **KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

All those on the prayer list

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

