



Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

Newsletter

May 2021

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

Greetings from your editor: Prince of Peace Episcopal Church is re-starting a monthly newsletter! We are a strong parish and this will give us yet one more way for us to stay in touch about what is happening in our community. I am looking forward to sharing what we are doing within our congregation and beyond. And if anyone wants to help—coeditor?, contributor?—that would be lovely.

Susan McNaught

Clergy and Staff:

Interim Priest: Father Steven Ellis

Office Manager: Carol Laizure

Musician: Asya Gulua



Thoughts from Father Steven:

Working at being one in Christ

Sometime this summer we anticipate being able to worship in-person outside, and when the Covid-19 numbers come down, we look forward to being able to meet in the sanctuary. And yet, we don't want to be divided by returning. Hybrid worship is the new buzz among the clergy. How to combine the technology that has kept us together this past year with in-person worship, classes, and other activities. We have a plan. The vestry has asked me to explain it and to encourage you to be involved in it in one of several ways, and that is the reason for this article.

To be together as best we can when we can't, we plan to have a 55-60" TV on a tall rolling TV stand. The stand includes shelves for electronics. During worship the screen will show the gallery of members you are used to seeing on a Zoom screen. It will be placed on the right side, at the border of the transept. We will be able to see the Zoomers if they have their cameras on. They will be able to see the pulpit during readings, the altar as we celebrate, the chancel steps during a sermon. They will be lectors and intercessors when it is their turn.

The BAC asked me to point out that we will need someone each week who is willing to push a couple of buttons to change the view as needed. More on that when we get it all set up, just know we'll need a camera chooser each week to make this work. Maybe this is the modern acolyte? Also, from among those who attend on Zoom we will need a host each week as well, but it will be simple, there won't be slide shows, as we'll use bulletins instead in the church and emailed or mailed to each home.

The equipment is not inexpensive, but with what we've learned we aren't going to stop doing Zoom and leave out the folks who because of age or illness or other vagaries are not present in the nave. The vestry has authorized the expenditures from memorial funds. They have also suggested that I ask who among you might like to contribute to the project and allow us to conserve some portion of those memorial funds. I know at least one of them has already written a generous check. Someone else explored offering a recently replaced laptop with good specs. It was a great idea, but didn't pan out. I haven't bought the TV yet, thinking that one of you might have a 55"-60" flatscreen and feel the sudden urge to update to the latest in TVs and give Prince of Peace your old one. These are just ideas, but checks and in-kind items are welcome.

I speak with other clergy regularly, and the technology upgrades are going on everywhere. The future of our worship and our welcome and evangelism are caught up in this to greater or lesser extent. Some congregations are spending \$30,000 to put in systems. Ours will cost a sixth of that. It will be portable. In church it will work as described, but roll it into the parish hall for Annual Meeting, Vestry, Knitting Group, Bible Study, Book Group, and folks on Zoom will appear as present as they would in chairs around the table. Of course, we've been doing this already with laptops, but the pictures are tiny and the sound is bad. God be praised that it is possible to include in this way folks who are traveling, or find it convenient, or are ill.

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On another topic, I serve on the [diocesan] Commission on Ministry for the Ministry of the Baptized (COM-B). Its purpose is to assist and encourage lay members of the church to take their own ministries seriously, to help with discernment when there is need to clarify what new venture the Spirit might be forming in you. Perhaps you have a calling to make a community garden into a cross-cultural project. Sounds familiar, right?

If your calling needs to be clearer, or bolder, or you need to explore what your spiritual gifts are in order to seek new ways to offer them, the Commission has a conference that might be for you. It will be offered regularly in the diocese. It is called, "Naming and Claiming Our Ministries." Some of us on the commission (including me) have not yet participated in it. So, it is partly a session to break ourselves in on doing it as a Zoom conference. To make it more manageable we will keep this first one small. I'm invited to take one person with me. I invite you (I don't know which one of you) to let me know if you feel a familiar tug urging you to take part.

With love,
Steven+



Bishop Akiyama gave a wonderful sermon on April 11. If you want to listen again or did not have a chance to see it the first time, here is a link: [Http://vimeo.com/534222156](http://vimeo.com/534222156)

And now more from the Bishop:



Dear Friends in Christ,

We have just come through our second Easter in this pandemic. Surely, this is not what any of us expected a year ago... or even 6 months ago. Some of you may have received the vaccine to protect you from the serious illness of COVID-19, and I know many of you are eagerly awaiting to know when you can get vaccinated. Still, others are wondering if you should get the vaccine at all.

I urge you, as members of the Body of Christ, to seriously consider receiving the vaccine. We are not through this pandemic yet. There continue to be daily reports of individuals who are testing positive for the virus, and we continue to lose members of our Oregon community to death from this virus. The best chance we have of protecting each ourselves and each other is to get vaccinated. My second dose will be administered later this month and I look forward to being fully vaccinated.

There are unfounded rumors circulating in some of our communities that the vaccine is dangerous or ineffective. Neither is true. The CDC and our state health authorities have continually assured us of the medical safety of the vaccine. As I write this letter, the state of Michigan is reporting an alarming increase in Covid infections and deaths. Health authorities there are concerned that two things are working against prevention: 1) not enough people are being vaccinated, and 2) people are beginning to relax their practices of physical-distancing and mask wearing.

We must do everything we can to prevent COVID-19 from spreading and causing more illness and deaths. Please talk to your physician about receiving a vaccine, and talk to your priests, many of whom are now vaccinated, about the importance of the vaccine for our community.

The sooner we are all vaccinated, the sooner we can all come together in worship to sing together and to receive Holy Eucharist in both elements.

Finally, please join me in prayers of thanksgiving for the scientists, laboratories, and medical workers who continue to work tirelessly to rid us of this virus.

Yours in Christ,
+Diana

What else is happening at Prince of Peace??

BAC summary: April 14th (most recent before the newsletter goes out)

Father Steven will work with the congregation on a Collaboration Practice which will invite a wider participation among the Baptized. He will also work with the Sr. Warden to study the current policy with the Diocese of "in-person" church. Profile committee are compiling the information they gained from the surveys and focus groups. The treasurer reported that we are strong this month with our expenses and income. Mary will continue to offer Zoom sessions on finances. She presented a proposal to use Elizabeth's bequest to fund services accessibility in all forms. A second proposal was to use Howard Worley's bequest for funds for the search committee. Both proposals were passed. M/S/P. New business: Joan wants to do a retreat for the Bible study group and open it to the entire congregation for a pot luck. More information to come. Father Steven brought forth a proposal to buy equipment for hybrid church. Total expenses will be \$5,250 and monies will come from Elizabeth's bequest. Next BAC meeting will be May 7.

Profile Committee making good progress

The Profile Committee has completed the parish survey portion of our work. We are very grateful for the time, thought and prayer that went into the 47 surveys we received. We also appreciate the people who participated in one of the three focus groups that were held. You've given much valuable information for us to think through and work with.

For the next few weeks, the committee will study your input, continue our work on other sections of the profile, and begin writing the actual profile itself. You likely won't hear much from us for a while, but please keep us in your prayers. We will be in touch when we have something to share!

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.

The Worship Committee exists to help plan meaningful worship experiences for our Prince of Peace community. With their liturgical, technological, and musical expertise, the committee works with Fr. Steven

Ellis to plan all church services, following the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, introducing some new additions approved by the Standing Committee of the National Episcopal Church. Music is selected from the Hymnal, Episcopal Musician's Handbook, and other sources; readers are chosen; our pianist Asya Gulua provides the music which is chosen; Zoom links are coordinated with Carol Laizure in the office; and logistics worked out with Rachel Bertoni and Char McCreight who are responsible for making sure we meet together on Sunday mornings to worship. Soon the hope is to have more people trained to share in this last responsibility.

Lenten, Holy Week and Easter services put together by Fr. Steven and Elaine Laizure required a lot of time, and added such depth of meaning in assisting everyone on their individual spiritual journeys. Thanks to all who made this happen.

Reminder: Pentecost Sunday is May 23. Find those red, or yellow, or orange outfits for the day!



KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

all those on the prayer list, especially the family of Cindy Nielsen