



**The Episcopal Church of the
PRINCE OF PEACE**

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

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year 2021

The Business Report of the Church

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Interim Vicar Annual Meeting Report 02-13-2022

Since early February when I began to serve at Prince of Peace, there are some things I've enjoyed. I am touched that when the pandemic began you immediately implemented Zoom worship, even though it has limitations, and continued to come together to worship and follow Jesus. And beyond Sunday you continued in various ways the book group and Bible group and much of your mutual pastoral care. The warmth of worship in so many ways, not least the extensive sharing of thanksgivings, prayer needs, birthdays and other anniversaries for which we pray together, is such a gift. Char's quick-turn-around update on our prayer list has been a further gift.

We've had some respite, being together last summer for a while, the excellent Grief and Hope service; and continued activities we could do outside, for example the Yard Sale and the Trunk or Treat event to distribute school supplies and fun come to mind, the knitting group and now Elaine's Sunday night Bible study. As my mother-in-law used to say, "Good on ya!"

I particularly want to thank Sr. Warden Mary Knutsen for meeting with me every week and providing that orientation and sounding board that an interim needs. I want to give her special acknowledgment and appreciation - I understand that she has labored on as Sr. Warden since 2015. I am grateful!

In the same way I want to thank Carol who has provided both orientation and sounding board to me. Her welcome in the office and good spirit have been a blessing to so many, and continuity over twenty, count 'em, twenty years. As the position is no longer in our reach, and as Carol transitions back from administrator

to parishioner, I propose that we make the first available in-person coffee hour a grand thank-you celebration.

I want to thank Massimo, our retiring Jr. Warden, for his earnest and hard-working identification of issues we need to address, especially on the property. I'm always grateful when a member of a vestry or BAC is willing to work through a need, explore options and come with concrete proposals for the board to consider.

Mary Macy has given an amazing gift of herself this past year, seeking to reconcile the parish books back to 2013 so that we can be ready for our first audit in a very long time. I know that Steve Buresh in his quiet way did a lot of record-searching for this project, and thanks to you, Steve. With Mary I have to say I am overwhelmed by the sheer amount of work she has done to accomplish this and the requisite procedures for the future, and we all owe her huge thanks. And then, she's done the monthly and annual reports.

The altar guild has done good work with alacrity whenever we've been able to gather, and also when the seasons change. I want to say to Pat Barnes and all the members that their quiet work is much appreciated by all and especially me.

To Barb Ross and the Profile Committee, what can we say but thank you for this labor of love. You have brought us a good bit of the way on our journey.

To the BAC I want to say that I admire their hanging in for the extra year, and for continuing to have two, not one but two meetings a month so we could have some time to discuss the ministry of the baptized. I don't just admire, I appreciate.

And now to the topic on many people's lips. Mary Macy will present the 2022 operating budget today. We will discuss it. I would like to give a little context that many haven't had a chance to "live into." First, we are a congregation in transition. We are in a search for a new Vicar. We are in the "taking stock" process as we discuss the good work of our profile committee, and thinking about what we have been, what we are at present, and what we hope to be within God's call to be the Episcopal Church in West Salem, Oregon.

Some things have been apparent for some time. We have about half as many in attendance on an average Sunday as we did ten years ago.¹ This has led of course to not paying our Diocesan Program Assessment - our share of the costs and larger world mission of the Episcopal Church. It has led over the years to reductions in the Vicar's salary; and to difficult negotiations about our rent. It has led to making our fund-raisers contribute to the operating budget instead of using the money for community outreach. None of this is surprising when a congregation is in our situation; though it can be when seen all at once. Various methods of coping with the lack of funds have been employed, usually "robbing Peter to pay Paul", as you would do if you were in a one-time bind. As a long-term strategy that is not viable, and becomes a form of denial.

Forgive me for belaboring this and being so straightforward. Interim clergy are placed to help a congregation see itself through new eyes. What my eyes have seen here as Robin and I have visited since 2015, and especially in this past year, is a family of kind and intelligent Christians who love one another, who are grieved when they cannot see one another, who care for each other in times of

¹[Parochial Report 2011 ASA 65, 2012 ASA 62, this year will probably be ASA 25]

trouble, and who desire to follow their Lord Jesus, especially by being useful to the local community. I admire you.

As the BAC considered the 2022 budget they saw that our budget problem is not short-term. This congregation pledges, and that is a very good sign. The financials over the years show that you also pay those pledges fully. That is a sign of good discipline and good morale. The budget problem is not located there, and no sprint is going to solve it for 2023 and following. As we grow in the future, it will grow again, of course; but in the next five years we have to look at the benefits that a new vicar will need, the pension contribution, our restoration plan for the Diocesan Program Assessment, and the fact that we had to ask for “Faith Giving” on top of pledges to make this budget work *even after giving up the Admin position..*

The BAC considered several options, there being only a few items of any size in the budget.

- 1) We could eliminate the Interim position and continue the rest of the year with clergy who visited on Sundays. Much less expensive.
- 2) We could eliminate the Admin position and ask clergy and volunteers to take specific tasks.
- 3) We could stop paying rent and meet at a hall on Sunday and do without offices, kitchen or fellowship space.

I see that many thought this decision was unthinkable. I think that the new BAC and I should begin a congregational process as soon as we can be mostly together in one room, which I think is very soon. I have a proposal for a way of listening to

one another that makes full hearing of one another and our diversity of views much easier to do. It also focuses us on thinking deeply about our congregation's mission. It is prayerful and it leads frequently to much better mutual understanding and much more clarity that Jesus can lead his church in a palpable way. Right now, the Commission on Ministry for the Baptized is studying as one of the tools we want to teach throughout the diocese.

Prince of Peace has a fine future if we will grasp it in the here and now and let God walk with us.

Now, to the budget discussion.



Steven MacDonald Ellis

Profile Committee – 2021 Annual Report

In early December 2020, the BAC appointed the following people to the Profile Committee: Barbara Ross (chair), Marcia Kelley, Ann McBride, and Nick Fortey (technical assistance and liaison to the BAC). We were commissioned on December 13 and met with The Rev. Canon Linda Potter, our diocesan consultant, on December 14. We spent the rest of the month reviewing profiles from other congregations and making contact with people who had served on profile committees in the area.

The committee began holding weekly Zoom meetings in January. We wrote a prayer and began communicating with the congregation through announcements, emails, newsletter articles and a report to the Annual Meeting. We started researching and formulating possible survey questions and working with the church office to finalize the list of people who would be invited to participate in the survey.

The survey questions were finalized and shared with Linda Potter on February 1. Because the survey was long, the committee decided to send the questions out to the congregation immediately so people could reflect and pray about them before they actually completed the online survey. Due to the ice storm and some technical difficulties, there was a delay in getting the online portal set up. The online portal was opened on March 16, and members of the congregation were requested to complete their surveys by March 30. We were very pleased to receive 47 thoughtful responses from the congregation.

In the meantime, committee members began researching Prince of Peace history by reading through old minutes. We also started reviewing photos. Char McCreight graciously agreed to assist the committee with photos and formatting. She recommended a friend who is a semi-professional photographer to take exterior and interior photos of the church. After receiving permission from the BAC, the photo shoot was scheduled for the Tuesday after Easter. We also held focus groups on April 8, 16 and 18.

We continued our research by reviewing past annual reports, the strategic plan, and the current bylaws. We developed an outline of the profile and contacted the BAC and various groups within the congregation for further information and clarification of their ministries. We also requested and began receiving preliminary financial information from the treasurer. Throughout the summer, we wrote various sections of the profile and reviewed and edited each other's work.

The decision was made to comply with the new policies of The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Oregon which require written permission from people to use their photograph. A photo release was created and approved by the BAC. While definitely important, this turned out to be a very time-consuming part of the profile process. We are very grateful to the members of the congregation who filled out their photo releases and to those who helped us get permission to use photos of former members of the congregation. This involved many person-to-person contacts and we were still collecting permissions into the month of December.

During the fall, we were busy reviewing the results of the survey, creating and choosing the charts and graphs we wanted to include in the profile, finalizing the photos we had permission to use, communicating with the treasurer about the financial information, and formatting the profile. A draft of the profile was submitted to Linda Potter on November 15 after which we incorporated her suggestions. The profile was submitted to the BAC on December 15. They, too, had some suggestions which we did our best to incorporate. The final draft was submitted to the BAC on January 5, 2022 and it was approved unanimously. From there, it was sent to the Bishop's Office. Once the profile is approved by the Bishop's Office, we will be able to share it with the congregation.

Senior Warden Report

New Year's Day many of us joined in a walk together, well ok, I might have been very behind the group, but never felt alone. Prince of Peace is very much alive and together and still trying to move forward. Change is not easy, reflecting on the past and looking to the future. I really do not believe; God has set us up to fail. I have faith we will come through these changes so much closer to what God wants us to do and we will do just that. But there is so much more we must pray on, one thing we are learning is each of us, together makes the church. It is our commitment to each other that keeps us united in God's work.

Our great Profile Committee, shifted through many hours of surveys, input and history, graphs, and pictures with the guidance of the Diocese and chairperson Barbara Ross. Ann McBride, Marica Kelley. Char McCreight and Nick Forty for their expertise Thank you

As we go forward let us be still and let the Holy Spirit speak to us and guide us on this journey. Bless us All.

Mary Knutsen,

Senior warden

ALTAR GUILD REPORT 2021

This has been another year of never knowing from one day to the next what is happening Pandemic wise, which is very unsettling for the majority of us, including altar guild. But we have made it through.

We still had a job to do and did our utmost to make sure we kept the church in its appropriate colors and festive looks including flowers for the altar, whether we were hybrid or on Zoom. Drive by communion was a blessing as was being able to hold a small funeral in January.

One of our altar guild members had hand surgery and is slowly getting stronger, Kathy we wish continued healing and blessings. I want to thank all of the members for their continued hard work. We look forward to a better more relaxed year going forward.

Thank you,

Pat Barnes.

Chairperson

Members: Kathy Rodin, Lynnette Martino, Mary Knutsen, Katrine Smith

2021 Bible Study

The year has been an exciting time of discovering ourselves, supporting each other, and learning the meaning of the scriptures.

We have been able to meet in person, and on zoom; sometimes difficult on zoom; however, always a rewarding experience.

We lost our beloved bible study friend (Cindy) this year, and we miss her and the valuable input she provided. She was a shining light.

There are many reasons to study the bible:

- 1. To grow spiritually**
- 2. To allow the scripture to transform us**
- 3. Give God Glory**
- 4. To be a part of something great**
- 5. To be in a supportive environment**
- 6. To develop more theological insight or biblical understanding**
- 7. To grow as a Christian**

Many other reasons exist, and the list can be long; indeed, however, it remains a tribute to the Glory of God.

The advantage of bible study is interaction, the motivation given each other through discussion and bring realization that the word when written really tells us how-to live-in today's world. It is about giving glory to God, reminding us that for eternal life we must live our lives according to God's word.

We have had honest open discussions regarding each person's interpretation of the verses. We all had our favorite scriptures, and the Old Testament meant a deepen discussion about the true meaning of God's word.

We are truly thankful for the opportunity to be reminded of the reason we exist, the reason we must live according to Gods word, and that the only way to eternal life is through the Lord.

Godly Play

Prince of Peace has used Godly Play for more than twenty years and has been blessed with a faithful team of trained storytellers. We began using homemade materials but over the years were fortunate to acquire a large collection of Godly Play core and enrichment resources that were purchased through a combination of special gifts and memorial funds. Five years ago, we enhanced our Godly Play program by celebrating a St. Nicholas Festival in Advent. We also added a special summer program called Brick by Brick which invited children to use Lego-like bricks to respond to stories from the Bible. As our children grew up, the number of youth in the congregation declined. The

Godly Play program was put on hold in late 2019. Currently, three shelves of Godly Play resources are available in the vicar's office and the remainder are in storage. We pray that when the pandemic is over, we will once again be able to welcome children to Prince of Peace.

Outreach Project/ Blessing Bags

(This is in lieu of a report from the Outreach Committee. The group is being reorganized and due to the pandemic and member losses no one was available to write a report. This article below is from their last project in gathering of items and work goals.)

This year's annual winter giving will be Blessing bags to Arches, and bulk items to UGM (Union Gospel Mission)

Arches is asking for blessing bags as homeless were so appreciative last year, and UGM has 150 more new beds this year so need many things. Here are the items requested and needed:

1. Because Food Bank has not been able to receive, we are going to use the Food Bank table, for bulk items for UGM. They need kitchen food staples, flour sugar etc. and have a need for large detergents. Please bring these items for distribution anytime.
2. Arches: 40 bags for men, 40 bags for women, and 20 bags for children:
 - Each bag will contain:
 - Soap
 - Shampoo
 - Toothpaste
 - Toothbrush
 - Bottled water
 - Granola bars
 - Dried fruit
 - Candy (we have much left from trunk or treat)
 - Socks
 - Hat
 - Scarf
3. UGM; items for shelters:
 - Twin sheets
 - Twin pillowcases
 - Men's and women's socks



- Women's pajama bottoms
- Tampons
- Men's new underwear
- Wash cloths
- Towels

Bring your items to church and leave in Narthex anytime, last date for collection of items is 12/5 after church.

There will be packaging work sessions after church November 28, and December 5. There are sign up sheets in narthex for help.

Bible Study Group will deliver to Arches and UGM on Tuesday 12/7.

Joan Palmateer Coordinator

(Items were delivered to both places with many thanks from the recipients.)

2021 Report Thursday Prince of Peace Book Group

The Prince of Peace Book Group meets most Thursdays during the "school year".

Our read last spring was **Between Heaven & Mirth**, written by **James Martin, SJ**. If you haven't read it, we learned a bit about some of the humor included in the Bible, if you pay attention.

During the summer most of joined one or both of the shared reading activities to which we were invited. Peace Lutheran was reading **CASTE, The Origins of Our Discontent by Isabel Wilkerson** with meetings once each summer month on zoom. The three local Episcopal churches met 3 Saturday's in July (once at each facility) to share thoughts about **The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline and New Hope for Beloved Community by Stephanie Spellers**. Both dealing with social justice within the church.

This past fall our group continued the social justice theme with our group read of **The World is About to Turn by Rouse & Ingram**. All three of these are pretty factual about the church in America as it was since before we were the United States.

That being said, our group felt a need for a "lighter read", & chose **Joshua by Joseph Girzone**. It is one of our previous reads, but with new members & a feeling of wanting to focus on Jesus we are embracing Girzone again. Enjoying / though fiction/ the way he illustrates so clearly Jesus in our world today. It is not only refreshing, the word pictures drawn give us hope for ourselves to follow Him more closely.

You all are welcome to join us. As we read together because we have found sharing our perspectives is enlightening & educational.

We meet from 12 noon till 1:30 for lunch together (brown bag) & discuss a chapter or two of our chosen reading materials. The meeting place is the Parish Hall. We usually use very interesting discussion material about finding/meeting/greeting/or building our relationship with our Lord.

Our present members include: Pat Barnes, Steve Buresh, Diana Rainy, Lynette Martino, Jeanne Dalton, Anne Miller, Susan McNaught, Katrine Smith, Sue & Charlie Rembert.

Please ask any of them for more information. Submitted by Sue Rembert

Garden Advisory Committee – 2021 Annual Report

The Prince of Peace Community Garden was established on a small portion of our two-acre property on Brush College Road in 2016. Members of all ages worked together to clear the land, install a water source and fencing, and build the plots. The first nine plots were used by parishioners and members of the Iraqi family we were assisting. We became a Marion Polk Food Share Core Community Garden in 2017. With their support, we welcomed several local neighbors to become gardeners. At the gardeners' request, six additional plots were added and all 15 plots are now being used by Latino families who live in nearby apartments.

Prince of Peace holds several workdays a year at the garden. We clear weeds and blackberries and we've planted fruit trees and milkweed around the garden. A small advisory committee assists the garden coordinator in making decisions and with seeking outside help. Marion Polk Food Share provides expertise, seeds, seedlings, and other supplies. We currently receive an annual grant from Salem Electric that pays for the electricity to provide water to the gardeners.

Unfortunately, all of Prince of Peace experienced a major loss when Cindy Nielsen, our garden coordinator and one of the garden founders, died suddenly last spring after a brief and unexpected illness. Junior Warden Massimo Brofferio, members of the garden advisory committee, and the wider parish pulled together to support the garden through the past growing season. Garden advisory committee member Harriet Neely stepped up and was appointed by the BAC to chair the garden committee. Gina Brofferio graciously agreed to serve as our garden coordinator. We also expanded the committee to include a liaison to the gardeners. This position is currently held by Pedro Govea, an impressive high school senior whose mother is one of faithful gardeners.

The Garden Advisory Committee is currently working on a new Five-Year Development Plan where we are looking at expanding the garden again and adding more fruit trees to the area.

We meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month.

Prayer Shawl and Knitting and Needlework Ministry

After a long hiatus, the Prince of Peace Prayer Shawl Ministry Group again began to meet and work together on Zoom. The pandemic has forced us all to change how we think about gathering together and this group has benefitted from those changes in unique ways.

We began with the idea of praying and working together, using our hands and craft work to fulfill a need that this type of ministry has done so much in the past and all over the world to make possible. What we found was that it has helped us through the trials and grief of the last year as we share our time in prayer, in fellowship and in caring for others. For us these evenings are a chance to rest, share a quiet time of prayer and poetry in fellowship, and to learn to focus on each moment of the creative act of working with our hands.

We chose Rahab's Sisters in Portland as our first group to donate items to. This ministry provides radical hospitality to women and those whose gender identity makes them vulnerable. This ministry has been operating since 2003 at the church of Sts Peter and Paul on 82nd Ave. We partnered with them in our first gatherings in 2004 providing hats, scarves and shawls for their clients. As we began to meet again, we gathered many of the same items and delivered them for distribution.

We meet twice a month on the first and third Friday evenings for prayer, sharing and craft. We invite anyone who might be interested to join us. We have quilters, knitters, and crocheters. There are many ways to share the work of our hands and all skill levels and craft types are welcome.

Submitted by:
Carol Laizure
Group leader