

NARRATIVE BUDGET
Connecting to God and One Another
2010 PRINCE OF PEACE MISSION

Jesus gave his first disciples the gift of a renewed relationship with God and he called them into community with one another. Through their community, they praised God, supported one another in faith, and served others in Jesus' name. Through our church we seek to do the same. In 2010, Prince of Peace's mission as a church community is to **grow as modern disciples of Jesus by deepening our connections to God and to one another.**

In the coming year, we will focus on:

- Hope-filled worship
- Faith formation
- Strengthening our congregational community
- Opportunities to volunteer and serve others
- Intentionally inviting others to connect with God and with us

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Worship and Music

\$163,653/ 36.4% of budget

Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Psalm 100:2

Worship is the heart of our life together, connecting us to God and one another in song, scripture and sacrament.

We are blessed with a blend of worship styles, talented musicians, and volunteers such as the ushers, greeters, prayer writers, lectors, altar guild, and acolytes who work together to create a diversity of hope-filled worship experiences where we praise God.

In the upcoming year, our choir, newly reformed under Claire Cho's leadership, will continue to increase in size and quality. Danielle Drobny will continue to accompany our Sunday morning services with piano and organ and Grace Notes on the keyboard. In addition, she will work behind the scenes to incorporate more musicians in worship; grow the children's choir; and creatively enhance the entire musical life of our congregation.

To keep our worship services fresh and inviting, we will look for new worship resources, music, and training for our worship leaders. We will also invite occasional musical guests such as the brass ensemble and *Joyful Noise*.

Our pastors work together on worship preparation and leadership. They each spend approximately 30% of their time on worship, including leading worship, sermon and liturgy preparation and development, and special services. Our musical staff spends nearly 100% of their time on worship; and our administrative staff supports worship through bulletin prep and space use.

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Social ministry and congregational concerns

\$83,538 / 18.6% of budget

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. John 13:34

We connect with our neighbors through service and financial support. 10% of the church's budget provides ongoing assistance to organizations that we know and that help meet immediate needs and further sustainable solutions for injustices in our world. This year, we will give to at least 21 local, national and international organizations such as Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran World Relief, and to the work of the larger church.

In addition to our formal giving, PoP members give through extra offerings like ELCA World Hunger Appeal, gifts in kind, and a tithe from the Yard Sale. The church also encourages members to develop relationships with the community and many of our members give generously of their time and money to organizations like Gaithersburg Help.

In the upcoming year, we will build our relationship with Gaithersburg Help by hosting their board meetings and encouraging more volunteer connections. We will also encourage direct service through a mini-walk for the homeless and a Habitat for Humanity building weekend.

Within the congregation, we care for one another through prayer and response to those in need of meals or other support. Our pastors prioritize congregational care, visiting the sick and homebound members of our congregation.

Caring for our neighbors means all our neighbors. Care for Creation is a unique aspect of our social ministry. We are planning another Creation Care Carnival; more energy upgrades such as added insulation; and increased garden space for community gardening and donation.

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Fellowship and community building

\$38,866 / 8.6% of budget

We may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. Romans 1:12

We are excited looking forward to 2010 and the activities that will bring us closer together. Our focus is to increase the Fellowship time our members enjoy with each other in order to connect with one another and especially to get to know the new members.

The Fellowship team has planned the coming year around a "something for everyone" philosophy. Our activities will include sporting events such as kayaking and hiking; arts and travel presentations; hospitality with our pot luck and soup supper events at the church; and of course food fellowship events such as the Gourmet nights and Tables for All. In the summer, we will continue to hold Saturday Night Alive to bring people together. We will also encourage fellowship through the Yard Sale and the Church Picnic.

We support groups like our young adults group, PoP Rocks, and our women's book group. In 2010 we will add at least one fellowship group. We will enhance our Sunday morning fellowship time to make it even more welcoming. Plans are also underway for a congregational retreat.

While fellowship doesn't cost much money, it takes much planning and oversight. Most of this is done by volunteers. Paid resources include administrative costs, use of the church building, and the time both Pastors spend cultivating relationships and connections within the congregation.

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Education and Faith Formation

\$51,459/ 11.4% of budget

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. John 14:26

Education and faith formation are critical to keeping us all connected with God and each other. All of our staff, musicians, pastors and administrators work in some part on education ministries, but we rely mostly on the dedication of volunteer teachers, superintendents and helpers.

In our children's Sunday School, we are blessed with a cadre of faithful, caring teachers. Last fall, many classes switched to the SPARK Bible curriculum; we'll assess our curriculum again to ensure we're using the best material out there. Our Vacation Bible School program continues to be the highlight of the summer for many kids and we're planning for bigger numbers this summer for *High Seas Expedition: Exploring the Mighty Love of God*. Our strong confirmation program, Faith Inkubators, will continue to be lead primarily by our dedicated parents

with pastoral support.

Look for a new emphasis on adult faith formation. Last year, the adult education team designed a new mission which included “through headwork in scripture and community heart-work, we grow in knowledge and spirit, inspired and empowered to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.” We plan to focus on this mission in creative ways. We will develop more on-line resources, increase Bible Studies, and start new classes such as an adult confirmation program and the Lenten series “Your Money or your Life”. Pastoral time in this area will increase with Pastor Sarah spending 25% of her time on adult faith formation.

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Youth and Family

\$ 44,081/ 9.8% of budget

Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ Matthew 19:14

The youth ministry team aims to nurture faith in children and their parents from the day of their birth through graduation from High School. We believe that parents are the first teachers of faith, so many of our programs focus on parents as well as children. From birth – age 3, we send monthly mailings to parents to help them experience God with their children in age-appropriate ways. They also get tips on parenting.

Faith-full families, a seasonal program for 3 yrs – 5th grade, and other occasional events help families create religious traditions together. We also nurture the youth by giving parents a break through parents night out. Our middle school youth find the bulk of their growth in confirmation (see education).

At a time when many youth check out of church, our high school youth stay connected to God and each other through weekly youth group, facilitated by volunteer youth mentors, and events like lock-ins, the 30-hr famine, Workcamp and community service activities. We also incorporate youth into all aspects of our worship life through the puppet and drama ministries, youth choir, and our High School youth band.

Our youth ministries are primarily volunteer-run, with people providing crafts, refreshments, organization and countless hours to support our youth. Pastor Sarah spends 15% of her time on Youth and Pastor Steve 10%. Though some of the money to support the youth comes from the church’s budget, many programs (Workcamp, Faith-full families) are funded nearly entirely out-of budget.

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Witness and Communication

\$ 68,345/ 15.2% of budget

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith. Romans 1:16

Our witness team invites people outside of our congregation to connect more fully with God and one another through the ministries of Prince of Peace. We are excited to have a new website to help connect the ministries of Prince of Peace with members of our congregation and the wider community.

In the coming year, we’re going to be significantly increasing our use of the web to make it more interactive. Look to the web for practical, spiritual and informational resources.

We’re going to continue to improve upon our already strong New Member classes to invite and integrate new people into our congregation through a stronger sponsor program.

We’re going to develop new print and electronic resources for our cookie brigade and broader publication. We’re going to be working with Property to ensure our facilities are appealing and inviting. And we’re going to continue to explore ways in which we can use community events like Poolesville Day and our Yard Sale to invite others to grow with us in our relationship with God.

Our internal communications include weekly email updates, Glad Tidings and member contacts. With so

many ways to communicate, we will make sure we're being the most effective and efficient as possible.

We keep our witness costs to a minimum by relying on the members of the church to spread the word. Most of our new members come through word of mouth. Our website was built and is managed mostly by volunteers. Pastor Steve spends about 30% of his time on witness and communication and almost 45% of Pat Salvas' work goes to weekly emails and other communication.