



# GLAD TIDINGS



Volume 28, Issue 5

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

June 2009

## Mark Your Calendars!

Summer's coming faster than ever, so here's an early announcement about the summer worship schedule at PoP, which begins on the weekend of June 6-7 and continues through September 5-6.

### Summer Worship @ Prince of Peace (June 6 – Sept 6)

Saturday Evening	5 pm
Sunday Morning	8:30 & 10 am

## It's Time to Register for Vacation Bible School!

VBS is for all children from age 3 (toilet trained, please!) to those finishing 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Pick up registration forms in the narthex to join us at Crocodile Dock: Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light, July 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9 to 12. Registration fee is \$35 per child (max. fee \$105/family) and includes 1 CD per family. Come join and discover Jesus' miraculous power!



## Help is Needed!

VBS needs lots of volunteers, so join us at *Crocodile Dock: Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light July 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>*. Be a crew leader if you are between the ages of 11 and 100. You will lead and assist a group of 5-6 children at different stations throughout the morning. Be a station leader or asst. station leader, for either the elementary group or the pre-school group, if you are in high school or an adult. We need help with crafts, games, snacks, Chadder's video, Bible time, and opening. Have fun and earn SSL hours, if you need them. If you can't help every day, we also need people to do registration and organize the pot-luck dinner on Thursday

night (July 16). Nursery care is provided for young children of volunteers. Sign up in the narthex.

## Saturday Night Alive

Mark your calendars for Saturday Night Alive. Beginning on June 20 and running every Saturday through the end of July, we will have a cookout and special presentation beginning at 6:00. Presentations include "The Millennial Generation" by assistant to the Bishop Amy Thomson Sevimli and "Energy Efficiency in your Home" by Jim McKenna. The topics aren't yet finalized, so if you have something you want to see, please let the office know.

## Always Wanted to Act?

Please let us know! If you would like to have the occasional role in a puppet skit or drama for Children's Sermon, we want to update our list of members in PoP Players. Contact: Jon or Lisa Canary at 301-528-9737; [lcanary@prodigy.net](mailto:lcanary@prodigy.net).



## June Highlights

### Every Sunday

8:30 am Contemporary Worship

10:00 am Traditional Worship

Baby-sitter available during Services

### Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters

5:30 pm High School Youth Group

### Every Wednesday

8:45 am Prayer Time in the Sanctuary

### Every Thursday

7:30 pm Grace Notes

### Every Saturday

7:45 am Men's Group

5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship



## From Pastor Sarah...

Pastor Sarah Scherschligt  
([pastor@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@poplutheran.org);  
301-869-3666)

### Cha cha cha changes....

When we celebrated our graduates in church a few weeks ago, Mark Ludder wrote a prayer that he had the entire congregation read along with those graduating:

*“From here I will step into your world. I pray you will take me where I am needed. I pray you will guide me there to do your will. I pray you will speak through me to others. I pray you will guide me home when I need to be here. I pray you will give others patience and acceptance as I make my way in the world. I know I will be challenged, but please God, keep me safe through my trials. My life is in your hands.”*

This prayer was primarily for the graduates, but as I was praying it, I started thinking about my own transitions and my own journeys. When students go into the world in a new way, the transition is big and apparent. But for the rest of us, life transitions can catch us by surprise or happen so subtly that we don't even notice them.

May and June are times of obvious transition. Graduation, weddings, springtime growth. But transitions bring with them times of uncertainty and loads of conflicting emotions. Sadness and joy, gratitude and restlessness, relief and fear.

In a time of transition it is especially important to remain focused on what is unchanging and steady. God is the rock beneath our feet and the home to which we can always return.

But that's not all God is. God is at once a perfectly solid being; *and* a completely changing and growing human, who lived from birth to death and beyond; *and* a presence as surprising and shifting as the wind.

God is not only the rock beneath our feet, God is the friend on the road and the breeze that blows us in ways we can't predict. God is changing *and* unchanging. That means that God moves *with us as we move*. God understands the pain and joy of transitions because God lived them, too. God keeps on inspiring us to do new things because God is also a being that makes things new.

This is, of course, the trinity. A most mysterious and difficult topic, but also one that expands our vision of God. In this transition time, we shift from Easter - the celebration of God made real in human form as Jesus, to Pentecost - the blessing of the Holy Spirit in our lives. I encourage you to think about the variety of ways God is with us.

A book that many people are reading is *The Shack* by William P. Young. This book is an easy read novel that opens up ideas of the trinity and expands the way you might think of God. It will be the subject of our June 11<sup>th</sup> **Saturday Night Alive** event. I encourage you to read it before then.

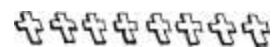
Other topics (dates subject to change):

- June 20 Energy efficiency in your home (Jim McKenna)
- June 27 Art in worship
- July 25 Generation Y Not - how to minister with young adults.

The schedule is still being formed, but plan to come to church at 6:00 (or stay after the Saturday service) for a meal and presentation, Saturday evenings from June 20 - July 25<sup>th</sup>.

In the midst of all the changes in our lives, what a blessing to know that God and our community of faith can work with it all.

Peace and joy,  
Pastor Sarah Scherschligt



## You Made a Difference in April at PoP

- Average Weekend Worship Attendance: 297
- Our Cookie Brigade “cooked” 12 first-time visitor households!

### Financial Snapshot

#### Giving & Spending Update:

April 2009:		Year to Date:	
Actual		Actual	
Income	\$38,079.05	Income	\$133,479.64
Actual		Actual	
Expenses	\$37,672.75	Expenses	\$141,044.53
Budgeted		Budgeted	
Expenses	\$37,751.33	Expenses	\$151,005.32
Actual		Actual	
Difference	\$406.30	Difference	\$- 7,564.89

(Note: This reflects actual income and expenses towards our approved budget. It does not include income and expenses for special funds, such as Workcamp and Building Fund.)

In April we had our highest average worship attendance EVER (or at least since we started keeping monthly attendance records in 1994)! Our income was also good, and we made a slight dent in our annual deficit. We’re clearly moving in the right direction, so let’s keep up the good work and see what God will do with our efforts!

### Prince of Peace Wish List

The Prince of Peace Wish List, located on the bulletin board in the narthex, is a compilation of items identified by the Council and Committees of the church which cannot be accommodated in the church budget but are vital to our worship and ministry. Currently the

list includes trees for the parking area, an office computer upgrade and 2 wireless microphones. You may choose to donate a portion or all of the cost of any item. To make a contribution, please complete a Wish List envelope and include the item description and your name. Drop the envelope in the offering plate or mail to the office. Any and all contributions are welcomed and appreciated!



## Council Corner

The PoP Church Council met on April 14 and May 12. In between these meetings Church Council members went on a retreat at Mar-Lu-Ridge on April 24-25. This article describes highlights of the meetings and the retreat. For more details see the meeting minutes posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex near the front door.

**April Council Meeting** - Pastor Steve described the excellent attendance we had enjoyed at both Lenten services and particularly on Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday saw 170 at the early service and a fantastic 258 people at the late service. The total of 428 was a record for Prince of Peace. Hallelujah!

Pastor Steve announced that his term as Dean of the Montgomery county conference of ELCA congregations is up in May and that the only remaining synod level responsibility he will have is as a member of the Synod Worship Committee.

Bertha Carreras has agreed to serve as Treasurer as we have reorganized the various roles in our financial matters to make each role more suitable to the volunteers we have. In addition, Pat Salvias, our office administrator, will take on additional responsibility for keeping some financial records and reporting. The Treasurer’s job description will be revised by our Finance Team.

Pastor Steve announced his sabbatical trip to the Holy Lands. He will be gone 3 months from August 5 until October 30, 2009. Confirmation Sunday, usually celebrated in conjunction with Reformation Sunday, will be rescheduled this year to either November 8 or 15, when Pastor Steve is back.

Pastor Sarah noted that we had a tremendous response for the Death & Dying class held following midweek Lenten services. She also noted that Bridget Pavlak has agreed to be the new Sunday School superintendent taking over from Pam Masterman who has served faithfully for three years. In addition, Pastor Sarah noted that our Creation Care team has created a wonderful garden named “Fruitful Fields” (and God said that it was good) which was dedicated the Sunday after Easter. Pastor Sarah also made a motion to spend up to \$2000 for eight 2” caliper trees to be planted in the parking lot islands. This motion was approved. During the discussion we learned that we can apply for a grant from Montgomery County in the amount of \$600 to help defray the cost. The remaining cost, up to

\$1400, will come from donations (to be solicited) or money remaining from ceiling fan donations received in the past, or a combination of the two.

The Treasurer's Report showed that we were +\$6200 for the month of March, thus reducing our year-to-date deficit to \$7900. Jim Bostrom and the Web Team are working on upgrading the PoP web site and have solicited input from all ministry teams.

**May Council Meeting** - Pastor Sarah reported on the Creation Care team efforts with Fruitful Fields, mentioned earlier, and that the trees had been planted in the parking lot islands. Bob Pavlak has agreed to be our Adult Education coordinator. We are still looking for a person to lead our Education ministry Team.

Pastor Steve related that he now is free from his former synod duties to spend more time on ministries at PoP. He discussed how in the 1950s church vitality was measured by how many members were on the rolls. (We have about 700 right now.) In the 1990s the metric became Average Weekly Worship Attendance. Our current AWWA is 209 through May 10, 2009. Today people come and go in our mobile society. For example, from January 1 through May 10, 2009, 360 different members of PoP signed our ministry of friendship books. In addition we have 46 regular visitors. Thus, 406 people were recorded to have participated in the worship life at Prince of Peace. In April 2009 our average weekly worship attendance was 297, besting our former monthly high of 253, recorded in 1999. We have 14 people in our New Member Class. Pastor Steve also announced that the Wish List is up and running. People who want to make a personal contribution or gift to PoP can see some of the items we are "wishing" for.

Tim Foust related that the Audit Team is ready to audit our books. The last audit was in 2005, so it is a good thing that we are getting on with an audit again!

Bertha Carreras, our Treasurer, reported that our YTD deficit shrank another \$431 during April to its current value of \$7540. So we are going in the right direction. Note that this deficit is carried from year to year since it represents money that we are borrowing from ourselves to pay operating expenses. The good news is that after reconciling all of the financial books for 2008, our 2008 deficit

was only \$277, not the \$4000 reported at the annual meeting. Currently we have a total of \$153,940 in our General Fund, Building Fund, and Restricted Funds. This is how we are able to borrow from ourselves.

The Council approved a proposal from David Yaney that we accept a proposal from Clean Currents to get our electricity from wind generating sources. This will save us an estimated \$782 per year.

Leaders for the 2009 Yard Sale are Lesa Sullivan, Scott Gowing, Mark Ludder, Peter Carr, and David Yaney. This year preparations for the Yard Sale will be more like a giant week-long party with food grilled nightly and live music on Thursday night as Grace Notes rehearses outside.

**Council Retreat** - Church Council went on an overnight retreat at the Mar-Lu-Ridge Conference Center on April 24-25. The Scriptural Theme of the retreat was Ephesians Chapter 4. There were 3 goals for the retreat, all of which were accomplished: Develop a plan for sustainable leadership for PoP ministry teams, develop a plan to make sure ministry keeps moving forward while Pastor Steve is on sabbatical and build relationships among PoP Church Council members.

Following dinner together, members of the Council each shared their stories of how they came to Prince of Peace and how each of us sees our call in the congregation. We discussed the roles of pastors and lay leaders. Tom Kettler related "The Story of the Trees" which described the process by which we worked together to decide which tree variety to plant in the parking lot. The point of Tom's story highlighted the joys and frustrations of working together in a Christian community like Prince of Peace.

Pastors Steve and Sarah each gave their perspective and concerns about ministries at PoP. Council members on the retreat developed plans to (1) recruit a new leader for our Confirmation ministry, (2) discern a new leader for our Witness ministry, (3) develop a path forward for our Stewardship ministry, (4) find a leader for our Education ministry and (5) find a young male adult leader for the Senior High Youth group. This will help us resolve immediate leadership problems, but does not deal with the underlying situation: lack of sustainable leadership.

We discussed why ministry teams work and why

some don't work. We discussed how we currently identify leaders and why this does not work very well. Sustainable leadership for our ministry teams is a chronic problem which inhibits our growth. After much discussion we came up with an initiative we are calling "The Church Is The People Initiative." This is a different approach to discerning and nurturing leaders which will involve a lot of 1:1 conversations among PoP members over the next several months, and may include restructuring our Stewardship ministry and Nominating Committee toward a more sustainable leadership focus. Details have not been finalized, but this initiative will begin in June following completion of the Yard Sale. Stay tuned for more on this. If you have comments or ideas, please see any member of Council.

If you would like to join in and see firsthand what goes on at a PoP Church Council meeting, please come! We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 7:30-9:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month. -

These notes were written by Neil Howard, [nhoward@comcast.net](mailto:nhoward@comcast.net).

## Recent Events

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

To all our PoP family who sponsored us for the eight mile Walk MS and who gave so generously in support of MS research, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Together we raised close to **\$850.00!** It was a lovely day for a walk that began at the main entrance for Great Falls and ended at Glen Echo Park. We had a wonderful time with Carol, her son, and her significant other. You were with us every step of the way!

With love and gratitude,  
Mike and Remi

## Stewardship

### Creation Care

#### Freecycle.org

Being responsible stewards of God's gift of the planet earth is about more than recycling. It is also about reducing the need for new stuff and reusing items. The website [www.freecycle.com](http://www.freecycle.com) is based on the idea that people can reduce the impact we have on the planet by giving and getting stuff for free in their own towns. Check

out the website of this not-for-profit group for more information.

### Creation Care Meetings

The Creation Care Team has now set the first Saturday of each month from 9 - 10:30 am as a regular meeting time. Our next meeting is Saturday, June 6. Please feel free to join us if you are interested in helping out or even just want to see what is going on.

### Mission Statement

Our mission statement is "As we are called by God to be stewards of creation, the Creation Care Team shall promote appreciation, conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources in all aspects of congregational life and in the outside community through:

- a. Contemplation, prayer, and worship;
- b. Designing and implementing environmental education programs and activities;
- c. Regularly assessing and promoting practices that reduce the environmental footprint of our church;
- d. Advocating for environmental stewardship in the wider community."

Contact Pastor Sarah for more information at [pastorsarah@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorsarah@poplutheran.org).

## Education

Pam Malmgren ([pamelar123@yahoo.com](mailto:pamelar123@yahoo.com); 301-972-4726)

### High School Youth Ministry Workcamp 2009

Commissioning services will be held at the Saturday and Sunday services on June 13-14 for Workcamp. Please join us as we commission the youth and adult campers, and Pastor Sarah, who will be attending Workcamp this summer in Elmira, New York from June 20-27. We thank the congregation for its support of this year's youth mission trip, and we ask that you keep all of the campers in your prayers.

**Workcamp Update:** We are collecting spare change until we leave on June 20th to purchase canned food that will be distributed to needy families in Elmira, New York. This is just one way we will



reveal God's love as we serve that community this summer. Please leave your spare change in the marked can in the Narthex. Thanks!

### Vacation Bible School

It's time to register for VBS! VBS is for all children from age 3 (toilet trained, please!) to those finishing 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Pick up registration forms in the narthex to join us at Crocodile Dock: Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light, July 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9 to 12. Registration fee is \$35 per child (max. fee \$105/family) and includes 1 CD per family. Come join and discover Jesus' miraculous power!

### Social Ministries

Benjamin Shuman ([benoneofseven@yahoo.com](mailto:benoneofseven@yahoo.com);  
240-683-9005 )

### Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers from Prince of Peace recently helped Habitat for Humanity rehabilitate a home. Twelve people came including one person from Christ the Crusader Lutheran Church. They divided into teams and hung insulation board and set up stud walls on top of the insulation board. They were told by the Habitat coordinator that they had to make sure to take a break (as Lutheran groups tend to work too hard). We're told they enjoyed fellowship over pizza and all had a very productive day.

### Not by Bread Alone

Gaithersburg HELP gives food to those in need. Recently, both their budgets and staff have been stretched thin. We are thankful that PoP has helped Gaithersburg HELP (and people in need) in the past. Throughout May, please bring cereal to the church if you can and place it in the basket labeled "non-perishable food" by the back door. Diapers are also in great need. Of course, any nonperishable food item is also welcome.



### National Lutheran Home Auxiliary

Thanks go out to all those who recently joined the National Lutheran Auxiliary. The Auxiliary provides the "extras" that make life at the Home an enjoyable experience: birthday parties and gifts, bus trips, Christmas gifts, hearing aid batteries, etc. The National Lutheran Home

Auxiliary Membership Drive is over, but memberships are accepted year-round; if you would like to support this project, please leave your membership application and check in the office or the Social Ministry box. Memberships begin at \$5 for Contributing members; \$10 for Sustaining members; and \$25 or more for Patron members. Contact Donna Von Wald for more information.

The Home is also a wonderful place to volunteer. It is conveniently located near Darnestown and Glen Mill Roads. There are also many opportunities for students to earn SSL hours. For details, contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Adele Warnke, at 301-424-9560x221.

### ELCA World Hunger Appeal

2009 PoP Total  
\$1,126.38

Almost 50% more than 2008 and enough to construct a community water catchment system. Thank you for all your coins and caring!

### Refuge in Times of Trouble

If you know someone who is sick, in the hospital, or in need that is a member of the congregation, please let us know! The Social Ministries Committee can offer services such as food, cards, or other specific needs. We can't help if we don't know. Contact Pastor Sarah Scherschligt at 301-869-3666 or at [pastorsarah@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorsarah@poplutheran.org) if you need help or know of someone who does.

### Join the Team!

Want to become a part of the Social Ministries Team? Consider coming to the meetings! We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Our next meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, June 2, 2009.



## For Women Only

### Women's Luncheon

June 1: Please join us at Cosi in Kentlands at 11:30 am on Monday June 1. No lunch in July.

### Women's Book Group

Kathy Kolan will host book group on Thursday, June 11, at her home at 12108 Bayswater Road, Gaithersburg. The gathering begins at 7:30 pm and all PoP women and friends are welcome to attend. The group will discuss *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, A Novel* by David Wroblewski. Stephen King commented on the book, "Wonderful, mysterious, long and satisfying: readers who pick up this novel are going to enter a richer world. I envy them the trip. I don't re-read many books, because life is too short. I will be re-reading this one." For more information about book group, contact Jennifer Maloney at 301-602-6358 or [jennifermaloney@comcast.net](mailto:jennifermaloney@comcast.net).



### Future Book Group Dates

- Thursday, July 9: *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, hosted by Jamie Pflasterer at Prince of Peace.
- Thursday, August 13: *The Guernsey Literacy and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, hosted by Susan Victor.

## Upcoming Events

### Vacation Bible School – July 13-17!

Our Vacation Bible School is a couple of weeks earlier than it usually is, so mark your calendars now! Through Bible stories, skits, music and fun, kids learn together about God's love. Come and join us!

## Special Dates

- Flag Day, June 14
- Father's Day, June 21
- 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Summer, June 21

## A Little Extra Something

- I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren't trying to teach us.  
[http://www.quoteland.com/tellafriend/index.asp?QUOTE\\_ID=5420](http://www.quoteland.com/tellafriend/index.asp?QUOTE_ID=5420)  
—Umberto Eco
- Never let a win get to your head, nor a loss to your heart.  
—Chuck D
- Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom.  
—General George Patton
- What if you slept?  
And what if, in your sleep, you dreamed?  
And what if, in your dream, you went to heaven  
and there plucked a strange and beautiful flower?  
And what if, when you awoke, you had the flower in your hand?  
Ah, what then?  
—Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- If you judge people, you have no time to love them.  
—Mother Teresa

## Time

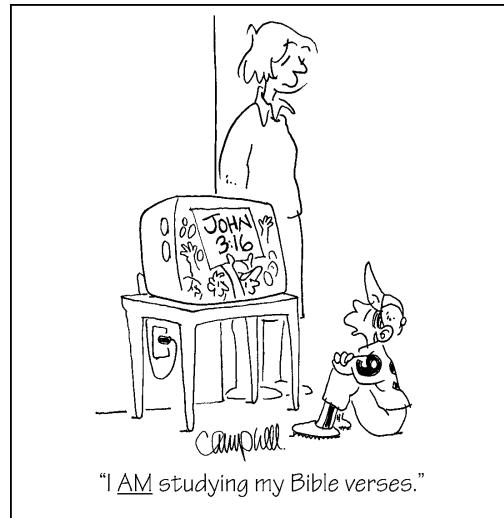
I knelt to pray but not for long.  
I had too much to do.  
I had to hurry and get to work,  
for bills would soon be due.  
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer  
and jumped up off my knees.  
My Christian duty was now done.  
My soul could rest at ease.  
All day long I had no time  
to spread a word of cheer.  
No time to speak of Christ to friends;  
they'd laugh at me I'd fear.  
No time, no time, too much to do!  
was my constant cry.  
No time to give to souls in need,  
but, at last, the time, the time to die.  
I went before the Lord.  
I came, I stood with downcast eyes,  
for in His hands God held a book.  
It was the *Book of Life*.  
God looked into His book and said,  
"Your name I cannot find.  
I once was going to write it down,  
but I never found the time."

## Twenty Truths to Ponder

1. Faith is the ability to not panic
2. If you worry, you didn't pray. And if you pray, don't worry.
3. As a child of God, pray is kind of like calling home every day.
4. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
5. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.
6. Do the math: Count your blessings.
7. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
8. Dear God, I have a problem. It's me.
9. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
10. Laugh every day; it's like inner running.
11. The most important things in your home are the people.
12. Growing old is inevitable; growing up is optional.
13. There is no key to happiness because the door is always open.
14. A grudge is a heavy burden to carry.
15. He who dies with the most toys is still dead.
16. We do not remember days, but moments. Life moves too fast, so enjoy your precious moments.
17. Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the number of times your breath is taken away.
18. It's all right to sit on your pity pot every now and then. Just be sure to flush when you're done.
19. Be more concerned with your character than your reputation because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.
20. Feed your faith, and your doubts will starve to death.

## Say What?

The sermon this particular mom will never forget: "Dear Lord," the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. "Without you, we are but dust..." He would have continued but at that moment her very obedient daughter who was listening leaned over and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four-year-old girl voice, "Mom, what is butt dust?"



## Contact the Pastors

Pastor Steve and Pastor Sarah are working together to make sure that pastoral care needs are met. To be certain that one of them is always "on," Pastor Steve takes Fridays off while Pastor Sarah takes Mondays off. You can reach both of them at the church office, or contact them by cell phone or email: Pastor Steve: 301-980-0160; [pastor@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@poplutheran.org); Pastor Sarah: 202-870-8363; [pastorsarah@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorsarah@poplutheran.org).

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