



# GLAD TIDINGS



Volume 28, Issue 6 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD July/August 2009

## Thanks in Advance...

We are grateful that Pastor Dave Pearcy has offered to give pastoral support to Prince of Peace while Pastor Steve is on sabbatical. Pastor Pearcy is a retired Lutheran pastor who served twenty years as a U.S. Navy chaplain. In the DC area he has preached in many of the Metro churches, first representing Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, and then following 9/11, for Lutheran Disaster Response as the coordinator for the DC area. He and his wife JoAnn regularly worship at Prince of Peace and he has preached and given support to us in the past. He will preach regularly and will also give pastoral support to Pastor Sarah and back-up if any crisis should occur. Many thanks to Pastor Dave for his generosity in serving our church!

## Help is Needed for VBS!

Vacation Bible School - July 13-17 from 9:00 am-12:00 noon. Help is needed! VBS still needs volunteers. Be a crew

leader or a station leader. We need help with games and Chadder's video. 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<sup>th</sup>). Nursery care is provided for young children of volunteers. Sign up in the narthex.

## Always Wanted to Act?

Please let us know! If you would like to have the occasional role in a drama or a puppet skit for Children's Sermon, we want to update our list of members in PoP Players.

Contact: Jon or Lisa Conary at 301-528-9737; [lconary@prodigy.net](mailto:lconary@prodigy.net).



## Saturday Night Alive!

Continuing through July 25<sup>th</sup>, plan to come to church at 6:00 (or stay after the Saturday service) for a meal and presentation.

### Topics include:

- July 4 Bar-b-que & go to fireworks together
- July 11 Book discussion of *The Shack*\* by William P. Young
- July 18 Art in worship (with Mary Delaney)
- July 25 Softball night

\**The Shack* is an easy read novel that opens up ideas of the trinity and expands the way you might think of God. You are encouraged to read it before the 11<sup>th</sup>!

## July & August 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 Steve...

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

Beginning on August 5, I'll be taking my first ever Sabbatical. The word "sabbatical" comes from the root word "Sabbath", that Hebrew word from the Old Testament which is used in the third commandment to call the people to rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. The third commandment is found in two places, Exodus 20:11 and Deuteronomy 5:15. Those verses give two different reasons for honoring the Sabbath, but both lift up the importance of rest.

God actually commands people to rest. But especially in our society, rest is usually undervalued. After all, there's a lot of work to do, and the work is important. Much of the work we're engaged in is on behalf of those in need, our neighbors and our kids. And most of us have had the occasional experience of bad things happening when work didn't get done.

Yet the command to rest isn't because our work is unimportant or unnecessary. On the contrary, in the third commandment, God commands rest precisely because the work of the people *is* important and *is* necessary. Yet God knows that without rest, the people will wear out. The people won't be able to work effectively. And the people will lose their focus on why their work is so important in the first place.

Yet many of us are resistant to rest. I know that I am often the chief of sinners when it comes to this! (And many of you know this about me, too!) And part of the reason is that I sometimes think of "rest" in ways that aren't - well - restful to me! But actually, rest can come in many forms. Based often on personality type, it may be that one person "rests" most effectively by being able to be quiet and spend time alone. Another might

"rest" most effectively by actively doing something with others. For others, "rest" can simply come in the form of a change in routine that gets one out of the rut of the daily grind.

Part of all Pastors' sabbaticals is "rest." If in September and October you follow along on my blog and look at the pictures of what I'm doing on my sabbatical, it may very well seem to some that what I'm up to doesn't seem like "rest." (Just telling people about my travel schedule is enough to exhaust some folks!) But for me, getting out of my daily routine, going to someplace different and actively traveling around is refreshing, renewing and restful.

What is restful for you? It's important to note that in the third commandment, God doesn't command any particular form of rest - only that people make time to rest. What is it that helps refresh you? What renews your energy? What "rests" you, so that when you're finished "resting" you can better do the important work God gives you to do on behalf of your neighbors, your children, and those in special need?

These summer months are, for most of us, never as "restful" as we'd like. But as I begin my sabbatical this summer, I invite you to join me in considering again God's call to rest. I invite you to join me in reflecting on the ways that you can best rest and be renewed for the life God calls you to. And even if you don't have a lot of time to do that "rest" this summer, I invite you to make some time (even if it means you can't participate in a couple of church activities!) to take the rest that God wants all of us to have.

I look forward to being back on November 1, being rested, refreshed and renewed for the important work God has given all of us to do here at Prince of Peace!

Yours in Christ,



## You Made a Difference in May at PoP

- Average Weekend Worship Attendance: 170
- Our Cookie Brigade “cookied” 2 first-time visitor households!

### Financial Snapshot

#### Giving & Spending Update:

May 2009:		Year to Date:	
Actual		Actual	
Income	\$34,212.83	Income	\$167,769.01
Actual		Actual	
Expenses	\$38,513.23	Expenses	\$179,557.76
Budgeted		Budgeted	
Expenses	\$37,709.66	Expenses	\$188,548.33
Actual		Actual	
Difference	\$-4,300.40	Difference	\$-11,788.75

(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.)

Although we still ran a small deficit for May, our giving for regular expenses was the best May on record (\$7k better than last year!). Especially as summer vacations begin, it’s important for all of us not to get behind in giving so that our deficit doesn’t keep growing. Even though we still have a deficit, we’re doing better than last year, so let’s keep up the good work!

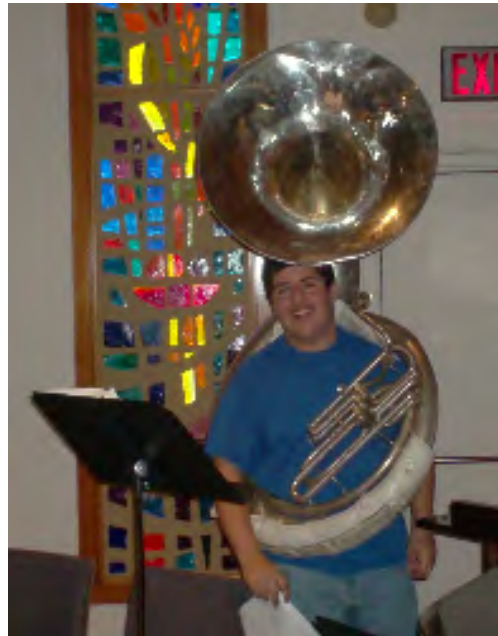
### Prince of Peace Wish List

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. You may choose to donate a portion or all of the cost of any Wish List 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!



**AJ  
Plays  
Tuba,  
Alleluia!**

### Pentecost



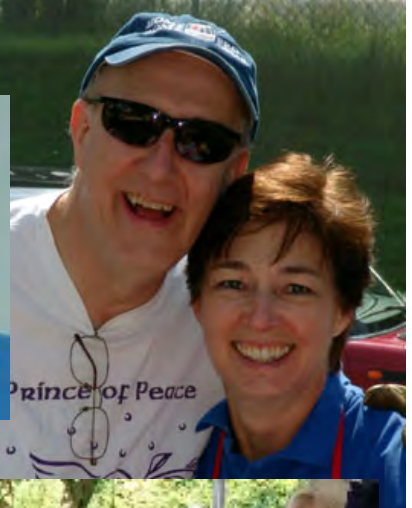
**Grace Happens...**



**May 24 Worship: Got Tent?**



**Yard Sale 2009**





## 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, July 4. 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

A huge thank you to everyone who so generously emptied their pockets of spare change all spring. We raised **\$366** to buy canned food for the needy of Elmira, NY thanks to



the Prince of Peace congregation. You made a difference!!

## Social Ministries

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

### 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 Membership Drive

Many thanks to the 43 caring individuals who joined the National Lutheran Home Auxiliary; you are making a difference! We raised \$865 for the Auxiliary projects. We appreciate everyone who joined or donated. 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. If you didn’t get a chance to sign up, it’s not too late; memberships are accepted throughout the year. The pink flier is available in the foyer and can be mailed to the Home or left in the Social Ministry box. Please make checks to “The Auxiliary, NLH”.

The Home is also in need of volunteers to spread joy to the residents. It is conveniently located near Darnestown Rd and Glen Mill Rd.

Consider volunteering at the Home:

**The Pal Program**, sponsored by the NLH Auxiliary, is a wonderful opportunity to share your time with a lonely person. The Pal Program is a one-to-one visitation program where you are matched with an elderly resident. Visits are made at any mutually convenient time at least once a month. Bringing your children for a visit makes it even more special. You will find that the happiness you give others brightens your day as well! For more info, call 301-424-9560 x250.

NLH Visitor Programs for those who can’t make an ongoing commitment: The **Small Fry Visitor Program** is an opportunity to take your small children to the National Lutheran Home to brighten the days of the residents. The **Special Visitor Program** is for you if you can’t make an ongoing commitment, but are willing to make visits at the National Lutheran Home. If you have a friendly, calm pet, consider participating in the **Pet Visitor Program**. For more details on these programs, contact the NLH Director of Volunteer Services, Adele Warnke (301-424-9560 x221). The **E-Pal Program** at the Home is looking for folks to communicate with Residents via Email. If you would like to participate or get more info, send a note to [resident@nlha.com](mailto:resident@nlha.com).

There are many other volunteer needs such as reading to residents and wheeling-around wheel-chair-bound residents. Pick up a purple brochure at PoP or contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Adele Warnke, at 301-424-9560 x221. There are also opportunities for students to earn SSL hours.

### 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). They enjoyed fellowship over pizza and all had a very



## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Midas Automotive Golf Classic Fundraiser for Interfaith Works

Interfaith Works is a coalition of 140 Montgomery County congregations of many faiths representing about 75,000 families. The mission of Interfaith Works is to pursue social justice with an emphasis on identifying and meeting the needs of the poor by leading and engaging Montgomery County's faith communities in service, education, and advocacy. They manage or work closely with a number of ministries including the Montgomery County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity and the Manna Food Center. They are holding a fundraising event on September 25 at the Blue Mash Golf Course in Laytonsville, MD. Sign up to play with a foursome or sponsor a hole for your congregation, team, or business. For more information go to [www.iworksmc.org](http://www.iworksmc.org) or contact Barbara Garlock at [bgarlock@iworksmc.org](mailto:bgarlock@iworksmc.org) or call 301-315-1096.

### Salsa Night!

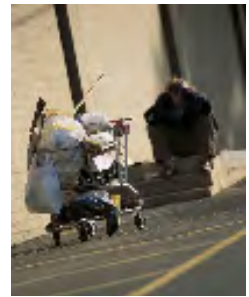
There will be a Salsa Night from 6 - 9 pm on Saturday, August 8. There will be dancing, a dance performance, and demonstration, a taco bar, and fellowship. The event will benefit the Hogar de Cristo (House of Christ) in Lima, Peru. The Hogar de Cristo is based on a movement begun by a 20<sup>th</sup> century Chilean Priest, Father Hogar, who questioned whether enough was being done to fight homelessness. He is quoted as once saying in a mass, "What has the Catholic Church in Chile done so that its sons in Christ are not sleeping under bridges at night?" Hogar de Cristo in Lima is a home for children, elderly people, and mentally handicapped people who would otherwise be on the streets. It's a home that provides shelter and food for its residents, and pays for the children to attend school. Please join us for an evening of fun to benefit the Hogar de Cristo! For questions please contact Clara Koenig at [koenig.clara@gmail.com](mailto:koenig.clara@gmail.com).

### 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! Contact Jennifer Maloney at [maloney.jenn@gmail.com](mailto:maloney.jenn@gmail.com) for information on when the next meeting will take place.



## For Women Only

### Women's Luncheon

**August 3:** Please join us at Cosi in Kentlands at 11:30 am on Monday August 3 for a lovely lunch. Unfortunately, no lunch in July or September due to Monday holidays.

### Women's Book Group

**July 9:** Please join the PoP Women's Book Group for fellowship and discussions over the summer. Book Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall for the July meeting. Jamie Pflasterer will host the meeting on **Thursday, July 9**, starting at 7:30 pm. The group will discuss *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. One booklover wrote this on Amazon.com: "This is an engrossing, poignant, and skillfully constructed novel. It is a marvel of storytelling at its best." Please RSVP to Jamie at [jlplast@hotmail.com](mailto:jlplast@hotmail.com) or 301-926-5251.



**August 13:** Cool off with the group on Thursday, **August 13** for a pool party/book discussion of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. This book is on the bestseller list; a reviewer on Amazon.com summed up the book: "This is absolutely one of the most delightful books I've read all year. The characters are real, the relationships are unique, and Juliet is hysterically funny, as well as warm hearted and genuine." Susan Victor hosts the gathering starting at 7:30 pm at 14717 Pebble Hill Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878. Please RSVP to Susan at [susan.victor@worldnet.att.net](mailto:susan.victor@worldnet.att.net) or 301-294-6883 - and bring your bathing suit and towel.

For more information about book group, contact Jennifer Maloney at 301-602-6358; [maloney.jenn@gmail.com](mailto:maloney.jenn@gmail.com).

## 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!

### Salsa Night – August 8

Come join us for a salsa performance, a lesson, dancing, games, a taco bar, and great fellowship on Saturday August 8 from 6 until 9pm. All proceeds will benefit Hogar de Cristo, a home for children, elderly, and mentally handicapped people in Lima, Peru.

For more information, please contact Clara Koenig at 301-467-1262.



## Special Dates

- Independence Day, July 4



## A Little Extra Something

- Who you are speaks louder to me than anything you can say.  
–Deepak Chopra
- Content makes poor people rich; discontent makes rich people poor.  
–Benjamin Franklin
- Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.  
–Victor Hugo
- Take rest. A field that has rested yields a beautiful crop.  
–Ovid
- In summer, the song sings itself.  
–William Carlos Williams
- The summer night is like a perfection of thought.  
–Wallace Stevens

### The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



When Uncle Sam ran into Joe Christian the result was much like the Reese's Peanutbutter Cup discovery, but unfortunately left a BITTER taste.

## Fifteen Things God Won't Ask

1. God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but will ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
2. God won't ask the square footage of your house, but will ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
3. God won't ask about the fancy clothes you had in your closet, but will ask how many of those clothes helped the needy.
4. God won't ask about your social status, but will ask what kind of class you displayed.
5. God won't ask how many material possessions you had, but will ask if they dictated your life.
6. God won't ask what your highest salary was, but will ask if you compromised your character to obtain that salary.
7. God won't ask how much overtime you worked, but will ask if you worked overtime for your family and loved ones.
8. God won't ask how many promotions you received, but will ask how you promoted others.
9. God won't ask what your job title was, but will ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
10. God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but will ask what you did to help others.
11. God won't ask how many friends you had, but will ask how many people to whom you were a true friend.
12. God won't ask what you did to protect your rights, but will ask what you did to protect the rights of others.
13. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but will ask how you treated your neighbors.
14. God won't ask about the color of your skin, but will ask about the content of your character.
15. God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words, but will ask how many times they didn't.

## The House of 1000 Mirrors

Long ago in a small, far away village, there was place known as the House of 1000 Mirrors. A small, happy little dog learned of this place and decided to visit. When she arrived, she bounced happily up the stairs to the doorway of the house. She looked through the doorway with ears lifted high and her tail wagging as fast as it could. To her great surprise, she found herself staring at 1000 other

happy little dogs with their tails wagging just as fast as hers. She smiled a great smile, and was answered with 1000 great smiles just as warm and friendly. As she left the House, she thought to herself, "This is a wonderful place. I will come back and visit it often."

In this same village, another little dog, who was not quite as happy as the first one, decided to visit the house. He slowly climbed the stairs and hung his head low as he looked into the door. When he saw 1000 unfriendly looking dogs staring back at him, he growled and was horrified to see 1000 little dogs growling back at him. As he left, he thought to himself, "That is a horrible place, and I will never go back there again."

All the faces in the world are mirrors. What kind of reflections do you see in the faces of the people you meet?

## 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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