



# GLAD TIDINGS



Volume 29, Issue 5 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD June 2010

## Yard Sale Opportunities!

Saturday, June 5

7:00 am - 2:00 pm

The annual PoP Yard Sale is quickly approaching on Saturday, June 5 and we'd like everybody in the congregation to be involved in some way. We're asking all members to serve during the week of the sale with the sorting and pricing process and at least one hour the day of the sale. To volunteer to help, please add your name to the signup sheet in the narthex. Please give your treasures and your time to help the people of the community. Let's make a difference!

### \*FOOD BOOTH DONATIONS NEEDED\*

Don't have any really good stuff to donate to the Yard Sale? Don't despair- you can help tremendously by donating food for the Food Booth. Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex. Questions? Call Cherie - 301-520-3504.

## Summer Worship Schedule



Don't forget: The late service on Sunday will move to 10:00 am for the summer months on Sunday, June 6. We will move back to 11:00 am on Sunday, September 12.

## PoP Financial Secretary

We need to replace our Financial Secretary. Paul Marmillion is retiring from this duty soon after many years of faithful and conscientious service. The Financial Secretary is responsible for tracking offerings, organizing counters, and preparing quarterly statements for members. Contact Neil Howard at 301-977-2955; [nhoward@comcast.net](mailto:nhoward@comcast.net) if you would like to discuss this opportunity to serve our congregation.

## Digging Deeper...

An informal adult discussion led by one of the pastors every Sunday from 11:00-12:00, June - August.

You know the conversations you have in the car on the way home or over the dinner table on

Sunday night: How did the pastor choose that particular theme out of the readings for the sermon? Why did your mind grasp onto that one phrase in the hymn? What in the world did that 2nd reading mean? Together, we'll dig deeper into the scriptures and the overall worship services and ask these types of questions together. Pastors will be there to lead the conversation. Everyone is welcome. Come when you can. Childcare available.

## VBS Help Needed...

All hands on deck! VBS will be held July 19 - 23 and we need adults and college, high school, and middle school students to help out. Be a station leader or assistant leader for crafts, games, Chadder's video, or Bible story. Be a crew leader or assistant crew leader for groups of preschool or elementary students. Sign-up sheets are on the back windows of the narthex. This is a great opportunity to earn SSL hours!



## June Highlights

### Every Sunday

8:30 am Contemporary Worship

10:00 am Traditional Worship

11:00 am Digging Deeper

Baby-sitter available during Services

### Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters

### Every Wednesday

12:00 pm Bible Study

5:30 pm High School Youth Group

8:00 pm College Youth

### 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  
([pastorsarah@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorsarah@poplutheran.org); 301-869-3666)

Summer of Scripture.

Over 10 yrs ago, journalist Bill Moyers put together a series called Genesis: A Living Conversation. He invited a handful of people from across disciplines: english, religion, history, science, to read some of the major stories in Genesis and discuss them together.

I listened to the tapes while driving across North Dakota and Montana on my way to Glacier National Park. I was captivated. Each person brought a unique perspective and as the readers compared notes and reactions, my curiosity was sparked. My heart swelled and I grew palpably excited. These people didn't just listen to the words, they asked questions of the text, and as they shared, the stories' meaning grew. A new world was opening up to me.

I specifically remember the Cain and Abel story. Recap: Cain and Abel were Adam and Eve's sons. They each brought an offering to God, but God didn't give Cain's offering much attention and so Cain got angry and killed Abel, showing that sibling rivalry is a fairly ancient concept! God was angry at Cain, but still protected him. (Genesis 3)

The voices on that tape asked questions like this: What would it feel like to be Cain? Was this situation unfair? Have you ever been so mad you could kill? Why does it seem like God shows favor on some people and not others? What does it teach us about justice? Mercy? Why are people and nations who are brothers and sisters end up such bitter enemies? Cain asks the question, "Am I my brother's keeper" and God doesn't answer directly - what can we take away from that?

I thought of my own Cain and Abel experiences, reflected on my sibling relationships; asked "am I my brother's keeper, and if so, who is my brother"; why is the world unfair; why does it seem like God favors some people and not others. And I saw the deep mercy that God gave to Cain as good news to myself.

Through the miracle of a cassette tape, and a late night drive, God's word cracked open my life and fell right in. I still remember it.

Scripture is God's living word. It is not just some collection of words on a page. It invites response, growth, commitment. It has the power to change your life, your relationships, and your heart. It can stir up in you your deepest calling and bring hope into the darkest moment.

Of course, you have to actually read it or hear it for it to work. And because Scripture is, at first glance, often inaccessible, it helps to spend some time with it in reflection. Scripture comes alive when we engage it like it's a relationship we want to cultivate, and that means bringing in natural curiosity, patience and diligence.

This summer you are invited to take part in the Prince of Peace Summer of Scripture. We've put together 50 of the most important Bible Stories. Starting June 14th, every weekday you'll be challenged to read a different scripture passage. The whole program will be available in booklets at the church and online through our website.

This could be an essentially solitary experience, and if you find yourself checking in on the scriptures from your beach vacation or the train ride to Glacier National park and reflecting on them alone with God, that will certainly be a blessed time.

But if there's a way for your scripture reading to become an event you share with others, even better. If you would like to do the Summer of Scripture, why not invite your kids or best friend to do it with you? Taking time each day to read together out loud and consider what God is saying to you. We'll also have a blog going along with the Scripture readings. You'll find brief commentary and will be invited to reflect and respond.

A kids' challenge is part of the Summer of Scripture. Watch email notices and bulletin announcements for more information.

Join in and see what God's word can speak into your life this summer.

Peace and Joy,  
Pastor Sarah Scherschligt

## You Made a Difference in April at PoP

- Average Weekend Worship Attendance: **267**
- **Our Cookie Brigade** “cooked” 4 first-time visitor households!
- **Transitions:**  
 Congratulations to the Thompson family on the birth of their second son, Finn.  
 Congratulations to the Acheson family on the birth of their second daughter, Lilianne.

### Financial Snapshot

#### Giving & Spending Update:

April 2010:		Year to Date:	
Actual Income	\$40,197.90	Actual Income	\$130,784.15
Actual Expenses	\$37,118.36	Actual Expenses	\$141,995.70
Budgeted Expenses	\$37,499.25	Budgeted Expenses	\$149,997.00
Actual Difference	\$3,079.54	Actual Difference	\$(11,211.55)

(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, our attendance was fantastic, and so was giving! We made a \$3K reduction in our overall deficit, helped a lot by participation in the \$20.10 Campaign. Together, we are making a difference!

### Council Corner

The PoP Church Council met on 11 May. This article describes highlights of the meeting. For more details see the official, approved meeting minutes posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex near the front door.

Pastor Steve opened the meeting with a devotion based on the road to Emmaus story from Luke 24:13-35. Pastor Steve took from this story that we are oriented toward our destinations and goals in life, but we are oblivious to the experiences along the road - the journey. The journey is an important part of our life together.

Council then reviewed happenings over the last

month in our five mission focus areas. Hope Filled Worship was represented in the adult choir, Joyful Noise, and our Easter services. Faith Formation was evident in the 10 kids for First Communion, the 9-12 adults in The Lutheran class, and Confirmation. Community Building was evident in our property cleanup day and the Creation Care Carnival. Volunteering to Serve was exemplified by our recent Habitat for Humanity project. Invitation to Others was seen in our Kentlands Day booth and neighbors of PoP members who had come to PoP worship services for the first time.

Pastor Sarah’s report focused on our Social Ministry and Education ministries. Our Social Ministry team has been brainstorming a way to do a One Big Event or finding one main theme to get involved with. The team does not want to be known simply as the team that gives away money for PoP. The upcoming ESOL event next September through December at PoP may be such an opportunity for productive collaboration in the community. Pastor Sarah and our education chairperson, Susan Junghans, have been discussing a Walk Through the Bible event at PoP. This would be a 6-hour, one-day event on Saturday, September 11 just before Rally Sunday. Participants would get a comprehensive overview of the breadth and scope of the books of the Bible.

Pastor Steve reported that he attended the Bishop’s Convocation and found that PoP was viewed as one of the fastest growing congregations in the synod. He met with a pastor who is expert in church growth who told him that PoP was “doing all the right things.”

One item of financial good news this month is that a \$3520 stock donation allowed PoP to have an operating surplus of \$3079.54 for the month of April. This reduced our annual deficit YTD to \$11,211.55 through April. May has 5 Sundays and contributions to \$20.10 for 2010 are picking up and were \$1274.80 in April (about 59% of what we had budgeted per month). YTD contributions to \$20.10 for 2010 are about 26% of what we have expected. Council took action to work with Stewardship to find a way to get the \$20.10 for 2010 campaign more consistently in front of the congregation.

Kurt Nelson, Pastor Steve, and Chet Wolejsza met with a representative of the Boy Scouts. The outcome of that meeting was that PoP would not be sponsoring a Cub Scout pack due to the leadership liabilities contained in the sponsorship agreement.

Council reviewed an initial plan for Summer Programming at PoP. Since Saturday Night Alive events had encountered dwindling attendance, a new strategy of events around the 5 mission themes is being planned. These plans are in the development phase and include, but are not limited to, special music via pickup choirs, a Tent Service on May 30, 50 days of reading the Bible (web-based), VBS, July 19-23, informal adult discussion groups on Sundays after the 10am service, Sunday afternoon softball games, Pastor Steve's Sabbatical slides, a late August property beautification day, Workcamp July 11-17, a Habitat for Humanity project on August 21, and Bring a Friend Sunday on July 25, among others. Additional suggestions are welcomed.

Neil Howard and Bertha Carreras presented a Finance Committee study on surpluses and deficits with recommendations. This study had been requested by Council in the April meeting. The study found that between January 2006 and April 2010 that PoP has run a monthly deficit 58% of the time and a monthly surplus 42% of the time. In this same time period PoP has seen a large surge in giving during December that averages \$17,400 more than a typical month. This December effect has been instrumental in reducing our cumulative deficit and in one case (2009) reversing the deficit to an annual surplus. The underlying cause of our frequent monthly and annual deficits over the last several years is that we are only part-way through the process of absorbing the budgetary cost increase of an associate pastor which we took on in 2007. We expected this to be a 3-year process but estimates now suggest that this may take more like 5 to 7 years given our current growth rate and budget methodology. The Finance Committee made 4 recommendations for the Council to adopt. The Council chose to adopt recommendations that the Finance Committee would monitor and advise Council on Annual Deficit/surplus projections and Council would restrict spending as much as possible, given the current deficit situation. Through an amendment of the last two recommendations by Pastor Sarah, Council agreed to take unspecified actions to reduce the deficit when the YTD deficit got greater than \$20,000. The final Finance Committee recommendation, based on ELCA guidelines, was to build an appropriate operating reserve using Yard Sale income for the next few years. This recommendation was completely eliminated by Pastor Sarah's amendment. Council wanted more time to think about it and thought that there may

be other ways besides the use of Yard Sale income to build the operating reserve that the ELCA recommends.

Council president David Yaney ended the meeting with a brief discussion of recent Synod Assembly events. He suggested that we take some time to look at the ELCA's Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) initiative at [www.LIFTELCA.org](http://www.LIFTELCA.org). This is basically an effort to redefine how the ELCA, synods and congregations operate together. He said that we should think of it as a corporate reorganization. There is an online survey (<http://liftelca.org/get-involved/>) which every member can participate in. The survey takes about 20 minutes.

If you would like to join in and see firsthand what goes on at a PoP Church Council meeting, please come! We typically 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).

## Finance Committee Chair

PoP is currently operating without a leader for our Finance Committee. The Finance Committee leader is responsible for convening monthly meetings of our Finance Committee, responding to Church Council requests, and preparing and presenting the proposed budget. Contact Neil Howard at 301-977-2955; [nhoward@comcast.net](mailto:nhoward@comcast.net) if you would like to discuss this opportunity to serve our congregation.

## Recent Events

### May 9: Youth Choir



## Combined Youth and Adult Choir



## Lawn Care

Do you like a nice lawn? Do you like a nice lawn at church? The Property team is working to develop a crew that can make it happen. At this point we have a dedicated group who are trained and scheduled to operate the large mower. **We could also benefit from a second crew of teens and/or adults** that would use trimmers and push mowers to put the finishing touch on the periodic lawn maintenance. The goal is to have enough volunteers to make your commitment once every month or two. If you are able to serve in this capacity please email [property@poplutheran.org](mailto:property@poplutheran.org) or leave a message with the church office.

## Stewardship

### Creation Care

#### The Gulf Oil Spill and You

Do you wish you could do something to help aid the cleanup of the Gulf oil spill?

There's something that all of us can do. You may have heard of the effectiveness of using human hair in booms to absorb the oil in the water. This technique has been used since 1989 during the Exxon Valdez spill near Alaska.

The volume of hair cut from humans and fur cut from animals is enormous, estimated at 185 tons cut each day. If you think your hair salon or pet



groomer would be willing to send, at their expense, what they normally throw away, encourage them to go online at [www.MatterofTrust.org](http://www.MatterofTrust.org) and get more information. Individuals can also contribute.

### 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:

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

The Creation Care Team meets the first Saturday of each month from 9 - 10:30am. Our next meeting is Saturday, July 3. For June come help at the Yard Sale—reduce, reuse, recycle! Contact Pastor Sarah for more information at [pastorsarah@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastorsarah@poplutheran.org).

## Fellowship

*Lesa Sullivan* ([lesasullivan@comcast.net](mailto:lesasullivan@comcast.net); 301-330-3686)

### Interested in Fellowship?

Everyone is welcome to attend the monthly Fellowship meetings which are held at the church the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30. For more information, please call Lesa Sullivan at 301-330-3686.

## Education

*Susan Junghans* ([KSjunghans@verizon.net](mailto:KSjunghans@verizon.net))

### Coming Soon:

#### Summer Bible Reading Challenge

Reading God's Word regularly is a lifelong endeavor, but sometimes it helps to have some motivation. This summer we, as a congregation, will be challenged to complete a Bible reading plan: The Bible's Top 50! These fifty reading selections will take us through the main themes of the whole Bible. This overview will help us gain/regain an appreciation for Scripture as a

whole and hopefully inspire us to dig deeper. Look for more details in June. (Note: Children will be included in this challenge, and, similar to the public library reading program, there will be incentives for them to read.)

## High School Youth Ministry Workcamp 2010 Update

**June 13** - 12:30-2:30 - Skills and Safety/Devotion #4, "My Faith"; note that this meeting will last two hours

**June 26/27** - Commissioning Services (all services) - All workcampers will be recognized and commissioned at each service this weekend to do God's work, and the congregation will be asked to pray for all campers, so please plan to attend one of this weekend's services.

**July 10-17** - Workcamp!

### SPARE CHANGE FOR CANNED FOOD DONATIONS



Due to the success of last year's effort, Group Workcamps will again hold one of the largest canned food drives ever! They hope to top the 156,000 items collected last year. This is one more tangible way for the Workcampers to reveal God's love to the people they serve!

All food will be donated to a local food pantry at the end of camp week. At PoP, we're again asking the congregation to help us in this food drive by leaving your spare change in the can in the Narthex each week until we leave for camp on July 10. We will use the money to purchase canned food once we get to Mifflinburg.

## Social Ministries

Jennifer Maloney ([maloney.jenn@gmail.com](mailto:maloney.jenn@gmail.com); 301-602-6358)

### NLH Auxiliary Membership Drive

Many thanks to the 47 caring individuals who joined the National Lutheran Home Auxiliary; you are making a difference! We raised over \$900 for the Auxiliary projects. If you didn't get a chance to sign up, it's not too late; memberships are accepted throughout the year. The Auxiliary 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."

## How You Can Help the NLH

One of the most popular programs that the Auxiliary runs is the Pal Program, 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. For more info, call 301-424-9560 x250. You will find that the happiness you give others brightens your day as well! There are also 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**.

They especially need volunteers for: reading to residents and wheeling-around wheel-chair-bound residents. There are many more opportunities as well. Pick up a purple brochure at PoP or contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Felicia Brown, at 301-424-9560 x221. There are also many opportunities for students to earn SSL hours.

## Housing Unlimited

For the last 15 years Housing Unlimited has been providing affordable, supportive, and independent housing for adults with psychiatric disabilities in Montgomery County. Members from Prince of Peace attended HUI's 15-year anniversary celebration on April 28 at the Bethesda Hyatt. It was heartwarming to hear not only from founders but also to hear tenants speak about how HUI had changed their lives. This is a wonderful example of another local charity that Prince of Peace supports to provide valuable outreach to our community.

## Gaithersburg HELP

Many thanks to Donna Von Wald, Ken Prather, Peg Welborn, and Mariela Butler for sharing the story of Gaithersburg HELP in a program at church Sunday, May 9. Their efforts, along with Cherie DeGeorge, Lesa Sullivan, Steve Von Wald, Tracy

Solomon, Susan Blair and other PoP members, have helped sustain this ministry to families in crisis for over 40 years. Your food donations are critical; also think about volunteering - opportunities exist for a few hours per month or more. For more information about Gaithersburg HELP, feel free to talk with Donna, Ken, Peg, Mariela, or any of the other PoP members involved or visit the website at [www.gaithersburghelp.org](http://www.gaithersburghelp.org).

### 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? Contact Jennifer Maloney at 301-602-6358; [Maloney.jenn@gmail.com](mailto:Maloney.jenn@gmail.com) with questions or for more information.

### Women's Book Group

Join the group to discuss *The Space Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar at the home of Linda Marmillion, 13504 Straw Bale Lane, Darnestown, on Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm. RSVP to Linda at [pmarmillion@comcast.net](mailto:pmarmillion@comcast.net) or 301-977-0533.

#### Future Dates and Reading Selections:

**Thursday, July 8:** *Shanghai Girls: A Novel* by Lisa See, hosted by June Herron at Prince of Peace



**Thursday, August 12:**  
*Where the Girls Are:*  
*Growing Up Female with the*

*Mass Media* by Susan J. Douglas, hosted by Susan Victor

**Thursday, September 9:** *The Shadow Divers: The True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II* by Robert Kurson, host TBA

**Thursday, October 14:** *The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ* by Philip Pullman, host TBA

**Thursday, November 11:** *A Thread of Grace* by Mary Doria Russell, host TBA

**Thursday, December 9:** *The Noticer: Sometimes, all a person needs is a little perspective* by Andy Andrews, host TBA

Books are selected by the group and all women of PoP and friends are welcome to attend the gatherings. To be added to the book group list, please contact Jennifer Maloney at [Maloney.jenn@gmail.com](mailto:Maloney.jenn@gmail.com) or 301-602-6358.

### Women's Luncheon

Please join us for fun and good fellowship at the PoP Women's Luncheon held the first Monday of each month at Karen Kimmel-Miltzer's home across from Cosi in Kentlands at 11:30 am.



Join us on **June 7!** For more information please contact Karen Kimmel-Miltzer at 240-477-4137.

### Special Dates

- Flag Day, June 14
- Father's Day, June 20
- First Day of Summer, June 21



### A Little Extra Something

- My father's guiding hand on my shoulder will remain with me forever. —anonymous
- What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfillment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade. —Gertrude Jekyll
- A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in. —anonymous

### When God Made Fathers

When the good Lord was creating fathers, he started with a tall frame. A female angel nearby said, "What kind of a Father is that? If you're going to make children so close to the ground, why have you put the Father up so high? He won't be able to

shoot marbles without kneeling, tuck a child in bed without bending, or even kiss a child without stooping.” God smiled and said, “Yes, but if I make him child-size, whom would children have to look up to?”

And when God made a Father’s hands, they were large. The angel shook her head and said, “Large hands can’t manage diaper pins, small buttons, rubber bands on pony tails, or even remove splinters caused from baseball bats.” Again God smiled and said, “I know, but they’re large enough to hold everything a small boy empties from his pockets, yet small enough to cup a child’s face in them.”

Then God molded long slim legs and broad shoulders. “Do you realize you just made a Father without a lap?” The angel chuckled. God said, “A Mother needs a lap. A Father needs strong shoulders to pull a sled, to balance a boy on a bicycle, or to hold a sleepy head on the way home from the circus.”

When God was in the middle of creating the biggest feet any one had ever seen, the angel could not contain herself any longer. “That’s not fair. Do you honestly think those feet are going to get out of bed early in the morning when the baby cries, or walk through a birthday party without crushing one or two of the guests?” God again smiled and said, “They will work. You’ll see. They will support a small child who wants to ride to Branbury Cross or scare mice away from a summer cabin, or display shoes that will be a challenge to fill.”

God worked throughout the night, giving the Father few words, but a firm authoritative voice; eyes that see everything, but remain calm and tolerant. Finally, almost as an afterthought, He added tears. Then he turned to the angel and said, “Now are you satisfied he can love as much as a Mother can?”

The angel said nothing more.

Happy Father’s Day!

—Erma Bombeck

## Revelation

Sooner or later, you start taking yourself seriously. You know when you need a break. You know when you need a rest. You know what to get worked up about and what to get rid of.

And you know when it’s time to take care of yourself, for yourself.

To do something that makes you stronger, faster, more complete.

Because you know it’s never too late to have a life.

And never too late to change one.

Just Do It!

—from a NIKE magazine ad



## 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). Visit Pastor Sarah’s blog at [www.thebarefootpastor.blogspot.com](http://www.thebarefootpastor.blogspot.com).

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*Glad Tidings* is online at [www.poplutheran.org](http://www.poplutheran.org).

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