October 28, 2012

Capital Campaign: Ready to Launch!

You’ve heard a lot about Prince of Peace’s plan to embark on an exciting campaign to raise funds for our new building addition. Based on the four pillars of worship, learning, fellowship and service, this campaign will help our church grow into an even more vibrant spiritual center for our members and the surrounding community. Next week, we hit the launch button on this inspiring project!

Here’s what to expect over the next few days:

Early this week you will receive in the mail a color brochure about the campaign. Please read it carefully and jot down any questions you want to ask next week on Kick-Off Sunday. (If you just can't wait for your paper copy to arrive, you can review it online at poplutheran.org.

Make sure to be here next Sunday, Nov. 4, for the grand kick-off of the capital campaign. After both the early and late services we’ll host a festival with lots of information, entertainment and food. Information stations will be set up throughout the church, focusing on topics such as the Building Project, Creative Ways to Give and POP History. Each station will be serving a different type of food, so as you tour the exhibits, you can also participate in a progressive brunch.

At the November 4 service we will bless and distribute the pledge cards. Or, for those not attending that day, you’ll receive by mail your pledge cards for both the capital campaign and annual stewardship. Please study the options for giving outlined on the cards and pray about how you might best be able to participate in this exciting journey.

We hope everyone can be here on Nov. 4 for the big celebration! Two weeks later, Nov. 18, is Commitment Sunday, when we will bring both our annual stewardship and capital campaign pledge cards to church and offer our commitments to God as an act of worship.

Meanwhile, for more information on the project, check out the building plans page on the POP website.
October 21, 2012
Capital Campaign: Being In the Know

This is an exciting time for our church and it holds great promise for our future ministry. The building project upon which we’re embarking will make a difference in the lives of the people in our community every day. There are lots of sources of information about our building project and capital campaign:

Small Groups: It’s not too late to attend a small group session to view building renderings, talk about the use of the new space, learn creative ways to pledge support to the campaign and have all your questions answered. Sessions continue this weekend and on Tuesday.

Our Brochure: Next week you should receive a brochure that outlines all aspects of the project. If you just can’t wait for your paper copy to arrive, you can review it online at poplutheran.org.

Kick-Off Sunday: Between services on Sunday, November 4 we’ll have a celebration to provide more information about what can be achieved by our ministries with this important new step. Please plan to stay and join in the festivities.

Commitment Sunday: Sunday, November 18 will be our culmination. On Commitment Sunday, we ask everyone to bring both their annual stewardship and capital campaign pledge cards to church, where we will offer our commitments to God as an act of worship.

October 14, 2012
Capital Campaign Small Group Meetings Start This Week

Our building plans and future opportunities are really exciting. Prince of Peace is undertaking an important project that will help our congregation deepen our connection with God and with others.

In order to fund the project, there will be a capital campaign to raise designated funds beyond our regular stewardship commitments. Not many of us have been through a capital campaign and we anticipate many questions – and chief among them is probably how to make a gift without touching savings, stretching the household budget or affecting what is already committed to the church for annual stewardship.

To answer these questions and others, we’re holding a series of short small group meetings. We've scheduled them at a variety of times and places because of everyone's busy schedules. They start this week! We ask everyone to participate. RSVP to capcampaign@poplutheran.org or 301-869-3666 or use the sign-up sheets in the narthex.

- **Monday, 10/17 at 7 pm** at the Griffith home in Gaithersburg
- **Thursday, 10/18 at 7 pm** at the Carr home in Poolesville
- **Saturday, 10/20 at 6:30 pm** in the Sanctuary
- **Sunday, 10/21 at 9:45 am** in the Sanctuary
- **Sunday, 10/21 at 12:15 pm** in the Sanctuary
- **Tuesday, 10/23 at 7 pm** at the Farrar home in Montgomery Village
Our consultant, Jeff Knauer, who has helped raise millions of dollars in hundreds of campaigns, will share some success stories about creative ways to give that we can use to help participate in the campaign and keep our regular household budgets intact.

The small group meetings will be just one hour long, but the work we are undertaking together to augment our building and strengthen all areas of the mission of Prince of Peace will have a positive impact for many years to come.

October 7, 2012
Why Attend a Capital Campaign Small Group Meeting?

How can some forgotten baseball cards or a coin collection or switching cable TV options help Prince of Peace? These are all creative ways to give generously but not sacrificially to Prince of Peace’s capital campaign.

Please join us at one of the six small group meetings that will be held this month to answer questions about the new building project and how we will fund it. Jeffrey Knauer, an expert on capital campaigns who has been advising us on our effort, will be at each of the one hour gatherings to share his wisdom about making giving as simple and straight-forward as possible without negatively impacting Prince of Peace’s annual stewardship or anyone’s family finances. Jeff will share some surprising success stories from other capital campaigns where members of the congregation found resourceful new ways to help support their church’s effort.

Details about dates and times of the small group meetings were mailed this week. There is also information in your weekly bulletin and at poplutheran.org/building. RSVP information is in all of those places as well – or use the sign-up sheet at the back of the narthex. Please join us for this time of fellowship and of planning the exciting new future of Prince of Peace!

September 30, 2012
Launching Our Capital Campaign

We’ll soon be launching our capital campaign to support the expansion of our facilities. The capital campaign is an appeal to everyone in the congregation to take part in this exciting new phase in the life of Prince of Peace. Through donating funds, finding creative ways to give, participating in the process, and praying for our congregation, our hope is that everyone in the congregation can join in this important phase, a phase that will impact everyone in our congregation for years to come.

In the next few weeks, you’ll be invited to a small group meeting at the home of a member of the congregation. At that casual, intimate and focused meeting, we’ll explain the Master Plan in detail, particularly Phase 1, which is what we’re trying to fund now. We’ll go into more detail about the four pillars of POP: worship, learning, fellowship and service – and explain how this expansion will help grow all four of those activities. This gives everyone a chance to ask questions, offer comments and really think about how they’d like to participate. If you would prefer, members of the campaign committee can meet with you separately at a time that suits your schedule. On Kick-off Sunday, November 4, after both services there will be a celebration with information stations (coupled with irresistible brunch items) to offer even greater insights. On Commitment Sunday, November 18, we’ll be asking everyone in the congregation to make a pledge.
Each week, please check out poplutheran.org/building to learn more about the building project and the future plans for Prince of Peace!

**September 23, 2012**

**Prince of Peace: Now and In the Future**

We’ve been talking a lot about enhancing the future of Prince of Peace through new construction, but what we are doing together right now, every day, is absolutely fundamental to our mission. As we talk about the pillars of our work here together – worship, learning, fellowship and service – we talk about growing, expanding and literally building upon our current priorities and strengths as a congregation.

That’s why we’re combining our two key fundraising efforts – the special capital campaign for the building and the annual stewardship campaign for sustaining our vital day-to-day ministry. We believe this is prudent and helps streamline everyone’s financial planning. Our annual stewardship gifts support the leadership of our pastor and staff, an uplifting music program, ministries to serve our community, materials for youth and education and the upkeep of our facilities. Our congregation made a thoughtful and studied decision last year to increase annual giving in 2012 and we’re fulfilling that pledge – giving is up significantly so far this year. Thank you! We ask everyone to sustain that annual level in 2013 and also to make an additional gift to the capital campaign to help us in our plans to better connect with God and others to grow in faith, strengthen community and serve. Our work together has attracted and served many people. We work together now to sustain, enhance and deepen our welcoming and inspiring church community today and in the future.

This is an exciting time! Each week, please check out our web page (www.poplutheran.org/building) to learn more about the building project and the future plans for Prince of Peace!

**September 16, 2012**

**Building for the Future!**

Last Sunday we unveiled an exciting master building plan for Prince of Peace. If you were not able to attend, we encourage you to check out the plan and drawings on the POP website.

Our goals are much more than just constructing a building, however. Although we certainly need more and better space, the real purpose is to further our mission of Connecting People, Growing Community, and Building Faith. It’s all about deepening our connections with God and others. We envision a Prince of Peace that will serve as a vibrant faith center of the 21st century, designed to meet the spiritual needs of our community.

Throughout the planning and the building process, we are striving to strengthen and grow the four pillars of Prince of Peace: worship, learning, fellowship and service. Our new space will enable us to do so much more in each area, and do it in ways that complement and support people’s busy, sometimes overwhelming, schedules.

In the coming days you will be receiving a letter from Pastor Steve, launching the next phase of our journey, a capital campaign designed to raise funds for the first phase of the Master Plan. It will be
followed by more detailed information in a few weeks. Read the information, discuss it with your
family and prayerfully consider how you can participate in making Prince of Peace an even stronger
faith community and a vibrant expression of God’s love in the world.

September 9, 2012
A Time for Learning More!

With back-to-school, this is the season for learning new things. This weekend we mark Rally
Sunday, the traditional beginning of new faith learning opportunities at Prince of Peace. In addition
to the range of classroom learning our church offers, this Sunday we have a chance to join together
to learn more about new possibilities for our church and how we can enhance worship, learning,
fellowship and service in the future. Please join us for lunch after the late service Sunday and an
unveiling of the master design plans for our proposed building addition and see how Prince of Peace
can provide a more welcoming and inspiring environment for people to connect with God and
others through our church.

September 2, 2012
Prayer for the Journey Ahead

Prince of Peace is tremendously blessed. We have a fast-growing congregation of enthusiastic people who
give their time, talents and resources to help enrich our spiritual community. We are expanding our building
in order to continue to support our mission of Connecting People, Growing Community, and Building Faith.
We ask the entire congregation to pray as Prince of Peace prepares to step into that future.

Over the summer, the dedication of our congregation has been evident in the work they’ve done to help make
sure our new building will support our needs and goals for the next two decades. In particular, four groups -
the Council, the Building Committee, the Finance Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee - have
worked together with our architect to refine a master plan that we’ll unveil on Rally Sunday, Sept. 9, after the
late service. This process took longer than we’d hoped, but we now have a design that will help POP become
an even stronger faith community. The planning of a major building project like this requires a lot time,
careful consideration and frank discussion. It also requires a lot of prayer – because embarking on an
expansion like this requires us to make a big leap of faith.

Prince of Peace is a special place with a bright and exciting future. We ask for God’s guidance as we take the
next step in our journey as a community of faith. Please keep POP leadership and the entire congregation in
your prayers as we seek to expand our facilities to support worship, learning, fellowship and service.

To read more about our guiding principles for planning and building, see the POP website or the bulletin
board in the narthex.

August 26, 2012
Imagine the Possibilities: Fellowship and Service

Why are we building? We need a more functional, welcoming and inspiring environment that will
help us in Connecting People, Growing Community, and Building Faith. The vision of Prince of
Peace rests on four pillars: worship, learning, fellowship and service. Let’s consider how a new
building will support two of them: fellowship and service.
Fellowship: Last week, we had a picnic to bid farewell to Pastor Sarah. We all enjoyed the event, despite inadequate space, a small and limited kitchen, and an illogical layout for the flow of people. The food was grilled outside, then served up from tables in our Fellowship Hall. Drinks were set up at a makeshift table under a temporary tent outside the kitchen door. There were traffic jams as people came and went from the Fellowship Hall. Most of us sat outside, but there were not enough seats at the picnic tables. Imagine what that same picnic would be like in an expanded, multi-purpose hall that opened onto a large outdoor patio or deck. The new hall could have a full commercial kitchen with industrial-sized appliances, plenty of counter space, and a large service window. The hall is designed to be further expanded into the narthex for even more space. Last week there was a mad dash of people and equipment into the church when it started to rain in the middle of the speeches. It took a while to re-congregate and find a working microphone in the sanctuary. Imagine a new hall with enough space to set up a mini-stage for musicians and speakers.

Service: Our building is used by many community groups, but our size limits what we can offer. The weekly NA meeting, for example, regularly draws a large crowd. With our new space, we’ll have both a large, expandable multi-use hall and several smaller rooms for more intimate groups or classes. We could host ESOL classes for the community. The new hall could serve as a polling place for elections. We could have more organized “shops” at our yard sale, and be able to better display all the merchandise, rather than selling some items in the hallways.

The current design can do all of the above, and more. The possibilities of what we could do with the new building may be limited only by our imaginations. Plan to stay after the late service on Sept. 9 for the unveiling of the master plan - a building that will open a bright and exciting future for Prince of Peace!

To read more about our guiding principles for building, see the POP website or the bulletin board in the narthex.

August 19, 2012
Imagine The Possibilities for Worship and Learning

The impetus for thinking of a building addition was realizing the limitations and needs of our present situation. But now that we are finalizing the new building design, now is the time to look forward and imagine the possibilities of a more functioning, welcoming and inspiring environment for people to connect with God and others. The vision for the future of Prince of Peace rests on four pillars: worship, learning, fellowship and service. Let’s consider how the positive changes will impact two of them:

What more can be accomplished with an appropriate space for worship? Imagine walking into Prince of Peace and being greeted with the same sense of light and welcome at the front door as we have in our beautiful sanctuary. Imagine a flexible space that will allow us to accommodate larger crowds for holidays or will enable us to worship in a different configuration during the different liturgical seasons. Envision what it will be like to have a well designed space to connect – a place to talk, sit and share with one another comfortably and personally before and after services. Consider how the capacity for video, improved audio or other multimedia support in the sanctuary will augment our worship – from better sound for our musicians to being able to readily incorporate videos or pictures. Last week, we heard several firsthand reports about what it was like to be among 35,000 at the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans – perhaps when our youth come back from
the next Gathering in three years they can also share pictures and video in the sanctuary to help us more fully comprehend the full scope of this important mission.

**We’re just a few weeks away from Rally Sunday, and in this “back to school” season think about what the improvements can mean to our lifelong religious learning.** Imagine a building that has different usable spaces that inspire and foster learning for students of all ages from young children to teens to adults. Picture a space that allows people to get up from a cramped desk or table and enjoy more interactive, hands on learning. Consider how technological upgrades can augment our extraordinary teachers and strong curricula to help us learn and grow spiritually. Think of how expanded space and improved flow will help big, interactive community events like VBS or Walk Through the Bible – and does it open up new possibilities for us?

As a congregation we can look forward to our future and a more welcoming and inspiring environment will help us in **Connecting People, Growing Community, and Building Faith.**

**August 12, 2012**  
**A “Third Place”**

How is Prince of Peace like Starbucks or the library or even the corner barber shop? At their best, they all function as what community planners call a **“Third Place.”**

Our communities need places other than one’s home (the “First Place”) and business (“Second Place”). These Third Places are vital to foster connections, knit people together, encourage conversation and serve as an anchor in the community.

At Prince of Peace we are hampered now in this role. Over time our space – both the size and the configuration – has limited our ability to engage people who are already part of our congregation, and hindered our ability to welcome and include new people.

Our architects listened to the many voices and ideas of our congregation. They studied the varied programs we have now – from the Fat Tuesday pancake supper, to the quilting circle to the youth choir. They anticipate, as we do, there are likely to be future opportunities for Prince of Peace that we cannot now envision or articulate. Above all, they heard our congregation when we asked for a space that is welcoming, functioning, and inspiring.

And while there are a few tweaks before the building plan is final, the architects have given us a very innovative design that meets our collective vision for Prince of Peace. It will indeed be an effective Third Place, a space for **“Connecting People, Growing Community, Building Faith.”**

You can read more about [guiding principles of planning and building process here](#) on the Council bulletin board in the narthex.

**August 5, 2012**

Last week you learned about how expanding our building will help us improve worship and fellowship. There are two other key reasons we are building: to improve education and to enhance service.
There is no better time to talk about education than this week when every nook and cranny of Prince of Peace has been filled with 80 Vacation Bible School attendees plus a crew of teens and adults to keep things running smoothly. Many of the young participants and crew members are visitors to our congregation. What is especially great about the VBS curriculum is that it is very hands-on – kids did science experiments in the parking lot, games on the grass, crafts in the Fellowship Hall, transformed the Beseecker Youth Center for drama, and danced and sang in the sanctuary. We would like to offer this type of engaging learning for youth Sunday school but there’s no space now for a class even to move and play a gentle game without disturbing others. And although kids in VBS learned that “Everything is possible with God,” had there been rain or heat this week, we would surely be looking for inspiration from God because we would have been sorely challenged to find a home for all the activities.

Service was also on display at VBS from a school supply collection to fundraising for mosquito nets to combat malaria. Our congregation is passionate about using our hands, hearts and talents to do God’s work. But there are needs out there going unmet – we would like to help our community by providing a space for ESOL classes, 12 step programs, or even serving as a polling place.

An expanded building will help improve education and service as well as worship and fellowship. It will allow us at Prince of Peace to connect with God and others to grow in faith, strengthen community, and serve! You can [read more about guiding principles of planning and building process here](#) or on the Council bulletin board in the narthex.

**July 29, 2012**

The Building Committee met again this week, and has given our architects feedback, which they are using to further develop a very innovative design that will fulfill our vision for Prince of Peace. Council has a vision statement for the church, which rests on the four pillars of worship, learning, fellowship and service. These serve as our guiding principles throughout the planning and building process. You can find the [one page vision statement on our website](#) and on the Council bulletin board in the narthex. Phase One of the design supports all four pillars, but particularly meets our most pressing need for fellowship space. It adds a large, expandable fellowship hall/community room designed to serve many needs: for fellowship and social events (no more blowing circuits if we plug in too many crockpots!), learning and classrooms, and community events (we could even serve as a polling station!). It will open into an expanded narthex that connects with the sanctuary and gives us plenty of room for gathering before and after services, with comfortable sitting areas and a new nursery closer to the sanctuary.

We’ll share more next week, but in the meantime if you have questions, please contact Tom Kettler (building committee chair), Kurt Nelson, or Pastor Steve.

**July 22, 2012**

The Building Committee, Church Council, Capital Campaign Committee, and Finance Committee have been working for several months to move the building effort forward. We realize that there hasn't been much news on the building and here's why. We wanted to make sure the design really reflects our vision for POP and will help us fulfill that vision over the next 20 years and beyond. That vision has four components: worship, learning, fellowship and service. It's a lot to ask, so it took several back and forth discussions with the architect, several different designs, and lots of frank discussions among Council, the Building Committee, the Finance Committee, the Capital
Campaign Committee and the architects. Frankly, it took longer than we thought but we wanted to get it right.

Now for the good news; on Monday evening, the Building Committee and many of the Council members got to see an exciting new concept from the architects for a three phase building effort. This new design addresses the vision for ministry we’ve been developing for some time. We are very pleased with this latest progress and really excited about the future! Next week, and in future weeks, we’ll talk in more detail about that vision and how this project will support worship, learning, fellowship and service.

If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Tom Kettler (Building Committee chair), Kurt Nelson, or Pastor Steve.