

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School

PARISH PRINTS

January 2009

From the Pastor...

It was our first Christmas together as husband and wife. Karina and I were beginning to establish traditions, sometimes without even knowing it. We decorated the tree - this year it was mostly decorations that she has collected over the years - the one's I had are still packed up at what we lovingly call "the summer house". But there were a couple ornaments that had special significance for us. One was a present - an "Our First Christmas" ornament - and we even set up the camera on 'timer' and caught the moment of hanging of the ornament together! After the summer house is sold and we are able to combine even the Christmas decorations of two households, I'm sure even more decorating rituals will be forthcoming.

Yet our tradition-establishment didn't stop there. We had invited family and friends to share Christmas dinner with us. By preparing both prime rib and salmon we may have initiated another tradition for the meal itself. But there was a much more significant tradition that I feel will go on forever. Before we left the table, we tried an idea that had been offered at the "Passing On Faith" conference in September.

Marilyn Sharpe had offered her establishing a "tradition" using a Blessing Bowl and Mat. The bowl contains ceramic "stones" representing significant moments that make up people's lives. There are stones for "Mountain highs" and "Valley lows". There are stones representing "Gratitude" and "Care". Stones to represent "Beginnings" and "Completions".



As we went around the table, each person chose a stone - either randomly or by choice, and shared a story - something significant that was brought to mind by the topic so chosen. We heard about losses, both the sorrow of losing a friend or relative; and the loss of current employment. We heard about mountain highs in celebration days, as well as conclusions and new beginnings, as relationships were affirmed and re-affirmed. With humor and tears, some thirteen people had stories to tell, and it proved to be a most heart-warming and memorable occasion.

What a joy it was to celebrate, not only the time and meal together, but to hear the stories - stories that make our relationships so solid and unforgettable.

I think I can safely say this Christmas provided some wonderful opportunities for Karina and me to share our love, joy, hope, and peace ... and along the way it granted us time to establish rituals and traditions.

Peace.
Pastor Dan

Prince of Peace Lutheran
Church and School
503-645-1211
www.princeofpeaceclc.org

Pastor Dan Wehrspann

Phyllis Bockelmann
Family Life Educator

Church Council

Don Kaster
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Andy Westlund
Discipleship

Anne Seim
Ministry

Deborah Hurley, Vanessa
Warren & Kim Goudy
Fellowship

John Warren
Evangelism

Karina Wehrspann
Worship

Jackie Fishkin
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Darlene Thauland
School Director

Carolyn Sellke
School Board President

George Thurston
Administration

Valorie Westlund
Financial Secretary

Bill Mayer
Treasurer

Church Elders
Dick Nicoll
Jerry Miller
Brian Thauland

Council Conversations



Our spiritual study, “Frogs Without Legs Can’t Hear” covered the chapter on service. We shared our existing involvements with community services and discussed other ways in which to “love thy neighbor” through volunteer service and cooperation in our communities, schools, and within our own families.

Phyllis announced the “One Night in Bethlehem” program for children and families scheduled for Monday night, December 15, from 5-6:30pm. Unfortunately, due to weather conditions this had to be canceled.

A grant has been procured for the hospitality improvements in the CLC. The project is planned for completion by year end or at best by mid January. Those of us who felt we had some time and talent to lend to the project gave Phyllis our contact info to be called upon to assist as needed.

January 25 was selected as the next Voters Meeting date to be held between services.

Submitted by
Jackie Fishkin, Recording Secretary

*The answers to my questions
were as near as my cell phone!*



Dear friends,

I’d begun to wonder what was wrong with me. For a couple of weeks I’d had a knotted stomach, dulled senses and saddened heart. Over Thanksgiving weekend I tried several days of rest and relaxation as an antidote.

The time away didn’t remedy the condition, but at least I returned home with a diagnosis: doubt. The ‘dis-ease’ was caused by decreased levels of faith and elevated skepticism. At a time when there’s a recession in the country and millions of people are unemployed, I had quit my job! I questioned, doubted and even regretted making my announcement to retire. How would God provide for my daily needs? Where would I find a job? What about health insurance in the coming years?

Well, in the words of the famous philosopher, Gomer Pyle: “Surprise, surprise, surprise!” The answers to my questions were as near as my cell phone!

Merely hours after verbalizing my lament, I received a phone call from the pastors of Zion Lutheran Church in Denison, Iowa. They learned I will be returning to the area in February and called to offer me a job as church secretary! My full-time duties are to begin immediately after leaving Prince of Peace and benefits will include health insurance! Wow! While phone conversation wasn’t person-to-person with God, I’m confident that He was part of a three-way call.

So, how am I feeling now? After receiving generous doses of forgiveness to treat my doubt, shame, and embarrassment, I am on the road to recovery. Peace and joy fill my heart after yet again experiencing our Savior’s grace, mercy and love.

In service to Jesus, **Phyllis**



Heartfelt thank -yous to so many people involved in our church coming alive with the Christmas spirit this year. To Dorothy Poehler for donating the beautiful sanctuary tree. To Bert Cathcart, Dick Zchoesche, Dick Selke and Jake Schmidt for cutting it down, putting it up, and putting on the lights - our first "left handed" tree. This was quite a task. Then after all of that, they agreed to reverse it all and take it down. **Thank you.** To the decorators and un-decorators - Sandy Anderson, Jody Thurston, George Thurston, Paul and Kim Goudy, Darlene Thauland, Patty Camplair, Jeff Oltman, the Fenning Family, Blanche and Herb Van Dorn, and Pastor Dan, and to everyone else that I may have forgotten, **I thank you.**

Thank you also to the pre-school children for the lovely advent tree that adorned our narthex this year and was decorated with the symbols of the Peace, Hope, Love and Joy. What a wonderful gift for all of us to enjoy along with the kids.

Thank you to Sharon Kravitz and all the Sunday School Staff and other "special assistance", the children and the parents, for the wonderful Children's Christmas program. A lot of work was put into this program and it was great!

Thank you to our Bell Choir, Voice Choir and Praise Team for their contributions to our services throughout the year and also at Christmas. A huge **Thank you** to Bev Peloquin for her time, talent and dedication for directing these two choirs and playing at 8:00 Christmas Eve service. **Thank you** to Min Kong for her talents and time for musical contributions at Praise Team 10:30 services.

A final **thank you** to all the people who pitched in and made our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services a very special time to worship, despite the bad weather. There were many visitors who worshiped with us at those services because their own churches were closed. Our attendance was much higher than we had anticipated. What a wonderful Christmas Gift to everyone who was able to participate. I Believe it was the strength and faith of this church family led by the Holy Spirit and the persistence of our pastor that made this all happen.

Other news - You may have noticed that some of the communion ware was gone for a while. Well, it is back after being repaired of dings, scratches and dents and re-silvered. It looks lovely. The last time a repair took place was more than 15 years ago, and it was about time. The cost was \$2200. and was budgeted for 2008. Thanks for your patience.

Peace, **Karina Wehrspann**



We served 56 persons food for the months of October thru December.
Many thanks for all the food donations to make this possible.

THANKS to our Pre-School for their Christmas offerings. Due to the bad weather, there were less groceries for our pantry, but we encourage you to continue giving what you can this new year. You are a true blessing to our ministry to the needy people around us.

We thank:

Marlene Knechtel and Kay Wright for signing up to sort and distribute the food and gifts to three Christmas families the Hillsboro Resource Center sent to us.

Carla Fenning for making the tags for our trees

Steve Bailey for delivering to the Aloha families

Bert Cathcart for picking up some of the donations

We also did make the late delivery of a few gifts. This year was a challenge to get it done, but we did get it done December 22!

Again, thank you to our new helpers!

Bev Cathcart, Human Care

“Come Lord Jesus be our guest...”



Before every family meal as a child one of us would say “Come Lord Jesus be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed”, followed by a collective “Amen”. Now, one of our two children, or both, say this same blessing. My wife, Malissa introduced a new twist to dinner over the past few years. Malissa began to ask at mealtime what we were thankful for during the day. This brought Thanksgiving to the table more than once a year.

After a caring conversation with Phyllis, I introduced a lighted candle to the dinner table. I explained to Sarah and Sydney the lighted candle reminds us of the presence of the Holy Spirit. At first, they did not seem too impressed with the introduction of the candle but I knew to give it a couple of weeks for them to adapt to this sudden change in their routine. Before too long, they began to remind us every night to light the candle.

It is easy to see that we started these simple traditions intentionally, although I will admit that only recently I began to really reflect on their vital role in the practice and sharing of faith with one another. Sometimes traditions are born without intent. While my family enjoyed the snow, it resulted in missing a ritual and tradition we look forward to every year. We were unable to attend Christmas Eve service due to the weather this year. We missed sharing this special service with extended family and the restaurant prepared dinner to preserve the orderly house ready for Christmas day that usually follows.

We knew the sadness of staying home Christmas Eve would pass. As the arctic air dwindled into the night the girls asked me to read Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol. As we read conversation would interrupt the script with questions about spirits, Scrooge’s behavior, the poor, money and how Scrooge changed. Nothing unusual about discussing how Scrooge forged his chains in life but what was truly astonishing is how our children took the words from this book and connected it with the life of Jesus Christ from his birth to his resurrection. It was a reflection on how we are to lead our life, to be good stewards of the earth and humankind, how we are saved from the burdens of life and forgiven for our sins. A missed tradition turned into a caring conversation and perhaps a new yearly tradition of reading a simple story and reflecting on how it applies to our faith.

As the New Year approaches my family will begin a new Sunday tradition going out to eat after the service to discuss and reflect on the Sunday School lesson, the Children’s Message and the Sermon. Is there a new ritual or tradition you would like to introduce in the coming year? Let the New Year serve as a reminder to not only continue rituals and traditions but an opportunity to establish new ones to help pass on your faith.

John Warren



Adult Ed

January 4 & 11: Pastor Philip Brandt from Concordia continues his Gospel of Mark class--Overcoming Fear

January 18: Mieke Appel of Lutheran Community Services will be our guest leader during the Adult Education hour

January 25: No Adult Education class--we will be holding our Voter’s Meeting during the 9:15 hour. Please attend!

Announcements



Voice Choir
Voice Choir will be on hiatus for the month of January. The next rehearsal will be February 4th at 8:00 in the sanctuary. New voices welcome!

Bell Choir
Bell Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays at 7:00 in the choir loft. This is an opportunity for new ringers/ringer wannabees to come give it a try. Contact Sharon Kravitz for more information.
503-645-6136
shlkravitz@comcast.net



VOTE
Please attend voters meeting January 25th between services.

Amazing Grays



White Elephant Gift exchanges & Social
January 15, 2009 at 11:00am
A light lunch will be provided
\$5.00 is requested to cover the cost of lunch.



Quilting News



Quilting for Kids Feb. 1st, 12:30 Feb. 2nd, 10:00 Contact Mary Raetz 503-629-2025	Knot Tiers Jan. 12th, 1:00 Feb. 9th, 1:00 Contact Anne Seim 503-646-7700
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No experience required!

Mark Your Calendar!



A women's retreat is scheduled for the last weekend in April. It will be at Cannon Beach Retreat Center. Watch for more info as time gets closer
Debbie Hurley is contact person

Food Closet



Jams/Jellies
Cereal
Peanut Butter
Personal Hygiene Items
Laundry Detergent

Women's Study Group

Meets on Tuesdays
11:45 am – 1:00 PM
CLC Room 111



Come as you are and bring your lunch!



School News

Prince of Peace School
Building Now...For Eternity

New Year Resolutions

Adults often approach the beginning of a new year talking about wiping the slate clean, beginning anew, forgetting past sins, starting over again and making new year's resolutions. But the new year is full of uncertainty, about health, about employment, etc. Children also have worries and fears. Some children wonder...Will we have food at home? Will grandma get better? Will mom and dad be angry today?

Worry is a human characteristic, but it is not one of God's characteristics. The beginning of a new year is a good time to remember and resolve to put worry aside. When the worried disciples woke Jesus in the boat on a stormy sea, His response was "Peace, be still!"

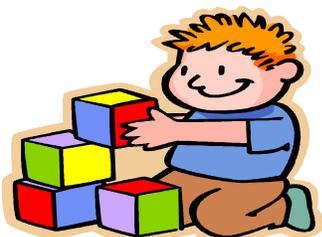
Jesus' reassuring words convey a message to anxious adults and children in our world today. Jesus says to us, "My Peace I give to you." John 14:27. Let us make a resolution to turn our worries over to Jesus in 2009.

At Prince of Peace School the gospel message is communicated daily to young minds and hearts. Because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, God can and will exchange our worries for His peace. Have a Happy and Worry-free New Year!

"Let the Peace of God rule in your heart...let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly..."

Colossians 3:15-16

Forever His,
Darlene Thauland



Enrollment for 2009-10

By the grace of God, we will be accepting enrollment for 2009-10, beginning January 12, 2009.

Prince of Peace school families and congregation families
Enroll through January

General Community
Enrollment opens in February

For more information visit our website:
www.princeofpeacecl.org

Classes offered in 2009-10 include:
10 classes for 3 year olds
10 classes for 4 year olds
2 pre-kindergarten classes
3 full day kindergarten classes (1/2 day option available)
1 first grade class

Student Teacher Ratio:
10/1 for preschool
16/1 for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten
18/1 for first grade



Jenny Bernick

When you listen to Jenny, you will soon realize she speaks with a lovely 'English accent'. She grew up in London with a brother and sister and moved to the USA when she was 16 and her father was transferred with Tektronix. Oregon State University is her alma mater. Music is her passion and talent which she shares with POP and at her church, Cedar Mill Bible Church. Ted (her husband), daughters (Cecily and Hayley), son (Josh), and puppy (Max), complete her family. Cooking all foods, eating Indian and Thai cuisine, working crossword puzzles and sudoku, entertaining friends at home, having special time with her children, and reading her favorite book, the Bible, fill her time when not teaching at POP or working part time at Cedar Mill Bible Church. "I feel privileged to be able to share Jesus with these young children and try to share the love of Christ to their families." If you would like to see a quick smile from her, bring a mocha from Starbucks!



Carol Leonetti

Carol is another of our new faces this year. She grew up in Vancouver, WA, and shared her parents with an older sister and 2 older brothers. Her heritage is Polish and Norwegian. Both her son and daughter are college graduates. Carol, does that mean you and husband have an empty nest? One of her new interests is learning sign language. She is also involved in activities at her church, Southlake. Gardening, scrapbooking, cardmaking, baking, crafts, skiing (both water and snow), hiking, biking, traveling and snorkeling fill her 'spare' time. Cats are a special love and she takes hers for walks. "Teaching the Bible verses, praying, teaching kindness and love, even decorating is focused on Jesus" and are special joys of teaching children at POP. Welcome to POP, Carol.



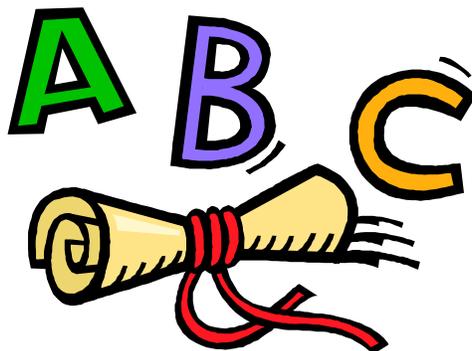
Vicki Bjorklund

Growing up in the Cedar Mill area with a brother, and attending Sunset High School and Portland State University makes Vicki a true native Oregonian. Steve and Vicki have been married for 28 years and their children are Tara (25), Jeff (22), and Jon (15). Reggie (a Lab X), Bailey (Shih Tsu pup) and Darkness (cat) round out the family. Vicki loves attending her childrens sports, especially baseball, although she loves all sports. The beach (Hawaii), gardening, traveling around and then returning to the home she loves to decorate are special interests. In her spare time she enjoys sewing, gardening, helping, family fun, learning the Bible, attending POP church, being around children, eating a great salad and Mexican food. Having a wonderful family and great friends are special blessings. Her best friend, since they were 15, and Vicki will celebrate their 50th birthday together in the Carribean in February. Any spare room in your luggage? "It is a privilege to be one of the first people in the lives of the children to tell the story of Jesus and watch their faces light up when they sing about Jesus". This her special joy of teaching at POP.



Ann White

Ann is another native Oregonian, growing up in Portland. She is the daughter of a teacher, has 2 brothers and 1 sister, and her mother was the organist at their church. Monte, her husband, is a financial advisor. Their family includes children, Nathan, Tyler and Lindsay, 2 dogs (Murphy and Sissy) and 2 cats. Tyler recently became engaged so the family is eagerly waiting to hear the the date of the wedding. Ann, you will then become (and enjoy being) a mother-in-law. Outside of the classroom Ann enjoys exercising, walking her dogs, helping her family and visiting her father. Reading, cooking, shopping with her daughter and spending time with family also fill her days. Her passion is teaching school. "I want my students to learn to love school from the beginning. Everything I give to the children, parents and staff of POP is returned 10 fold. I love it here".



PoP is Under Construction



We are in the process of getting bids to reconstruct the playground and fence.



AND

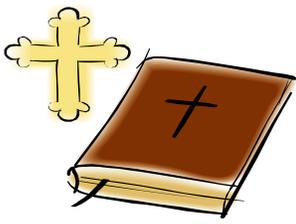
We are still working on scheduling the replacement of the sign.

Preliminary Operating Results for 2008 Compared to Budget and 2007

	2008 Actual	2008 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	2007 Actual
Offerings	\$ 326,850	\$ 335,000	\$ (8,150)	\$ 338,463
Blessing Box Offerings	1,115	1,000	115	227
Preschool Contributions to Expenses	25,200	25,200	-	25,200
Preschool Mortgage Contribution	23,008	23,000	8	22,000
Other Fees, Reimbursements, Interest	16,773	18,300	(1,527)	19,013
CLC Use Fees	<u>16,308</u>	<u>21,000</u>	<u>(4,692)</u>	<u>24,760</u>
Total Offerings and Receipts	409,254	423,500	(14,246)	429,663
Operating Expenses				
Administrative Services	85,124	97,000	(11,876)	86,710
Discipleship	1,559	3,500	(1,941)	2,392
Evangelism	2,895	5,000	(2,105)	4,478
Missions (Synod, District, Forest Hills)	35,194	36,000	(806)	35,220
Family Life Educator Programs	5,564	10,050	(4,486)	7,522
Fellowship	(23)	1,200	(1,223)	731
Ministry (Human Care, Parish Nurses)	2,725	4,800	(2,075)	3,417
Staff Payroll, Benefits & Taxes	189,597	191,573	1) (1,976)	183,136
Worship	<u>11,970</u>	<u>11,870</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>8,733</u>
Total Operating Expenses	334,605	360,993	(26,388)	332,339
Scheduled Mortgage Payments	71,028	71,028	-	71,028
Extra Mortgage Payment - 1/20/08 Voters	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,000</u>
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ <u>3,622</u>	\$ (8,521)	\$ 12,143	\$ 297
Operating Fund Reserves - Beginning	\$ 66,493	\$ 66,493		\$ 66,196
" " " - Ending	70,115	57,972		66,493

Notes:

1) Budget increased \$1,848 mid-year per Voters to reflect comp adjustment for call to Family Life Educator.



Devotional Guide for November

Scripture helps to prepare yourself for Sunday Worship

January 4: 2nd week of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

January 6: Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 11: Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 18: 2nd week of Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 25: 3rd week of Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20



Birthdays

3	Sydney Warren	18	Les Fishkin
4	Maureen Collin	20	Vicki Fitzgerald
7	Bernie Constable	25	Dick Nicoll
	Amanda Hosler	27	Hannah Kaye
	Armon McDowell		Melissa Seim
9	Clyde Sloan	28	Gina Fitzgerald
14	Tim Lydon	30	Twila Kaye
16	Andy Westlund		Nathan Pond
	Tracey (Gesko) Strawbridge	31	Andrew Dorn

Anniversaries



27, 1996 Rodney & Beverly Peloquin

*God's Blessings on
your special day!*