

Weekly Ministries Resuming This Fall:

PoP Praise Team	Thurs, Sept 6	7:00pm
Sunday School	Sun, Sept 9	9:15am
Adult Education	Sun, Sept 9	9:15am
Home Bible Study	Mon, Sept 10	7:00pm
Adult Handbells	Wed, Sept 12	7:00pm
Adult Choir	Wed, Sept 12	8:00pm
GodSong Kids Choir	Mon, Sept 17	3:30pm
Confirmation	Mon, Oct 1	6:00pm

Upcoming Events for your Calendar:

“Powerful Tools” Class	Start Sept 6	6:30pm	CLC 125
Rally Sunday	Sept 9	8 & 10:30am	Sanctuary
PoP’s Diner Cruze-In	Sept 23	2:00pm	CLC
“From Me to We” Class	Start Sept 26	6:30pm	CLC 125
Walk to Bethlehem	Start Oct 14	10:30am	Sanctuary
“Good Food” Seminar	Oct 16	6:30pm	CLC
Quilt Blessing	Oct 21	8 & 10:30am	Sanctuary
Super Sunday Oktobefest	Oct 28	10:00am	CLC
Thanksgiving Eve Service	Nov 21	7:00pm	Sanctuary

See details on our website, then JOIN US!!

Mission Statement

To Know Him and to Make Him Known

Vision Statement

Prince of Peace is a vibrant cross + generational Christian family. Lifelong Christian education defines and drives our ministry - we learn, love and teach about life with Jesus. The more we learn, the better we love each other, making our community of faith grow stronger. This bond empowers us to boldly serve our neighbors in ways that show them Jesus, and bring them to faith in Him.

Prince of Peace
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church & School
14175 NW Cornell Road
Portland OR 97229

PARISH PRINTS

Quarter 3 - Fall 2012

JOURNAL

September - October - November

“Maturing in Faith” Pastor Dan

The LeaderTeam at Prince of Peace is privileged to share this third volume of our Parish Journal with you. The quarterly format focuses on topics in our walk with God. We began last spring with a “repentance/renewal - Easter” theme; then as summer came upon us a “growth – Pentecost” theme was unveiled. Though we are still in the Pentecost season of the church year, our quarterly theme leads us to the next step in our faith walk – “maturing” in faith.

We thank our guest writers, and pray their thoughts will help you feel an even greater impact of the ministry that this Journal provides. With George Thurston we celebrate our stewardship – our response to God’s grace that only comes with maturation. Erika Cook shares her faith from a high school student’s perspective. Sally Bailey’s “service” article is driven by a mature faith. Jeff Kranich’s walk with God becomes more assertive every day, as God’s grace surrounds him. And Lenetta Colbert takes us along with her in her faith journey. Marvelous stories all!

Maturation of faith is a wonderful process. But it never ends – not this side of eternity. Our faith is celebrated and tested each and every day. With the challenges come the opportunities to grow. And the best news is, we have a Creator, Redeemer, and Faith-Enabler to guide us. Ephesians 4 (8-15) reminds us that this same God “...gave us gifts...to equip the saints...for building up the body of Christ...into maturity...to grow up...into Christ”. God grant it.



“Becoming Confident Caretakers” George Thurston

Given the approach of my 70th birthday in December, I am unable to deny that, at least by the calendar, I am now considered “mature”. Nevertheless, I was humbled by the PoP leader team’s asking me to write my perspective as to what it means to be a maturing disciple of Christ.

The foundation of my faith is the declaration that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior who has redeemed me and claimed me into God’s eternal Kingdom. God’s Word



calls me to witness this gospel to others by trusting in His promises and serving others. Christ also calls His disci-

ples to put God first in our priorities. Easy to say, but so difficult to live.

I find the perspective of a steward helps me with balancing my priorities so that God comes first, at least some of the time. As a disciple I know that God has provided all the blessings in my life and I am called to be a steward (“caretaker”) of these blessings. As God’s stewards, we are called to sow these blessings so that others may receive them. God promises “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” (2 Cor. 9:11)

As stewards, we are to have confidence in God to continue to provide for our needs as we give back to His kingdom and its work on earth. “Give, and it will be given to

For the Journey

you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38)



As a mature steward of God’s blessings, I have grown to realize that our generosity is about more than just our financial blessings. Our time, talents and compassion are all blessings that God seeks for the sake of His kingdom. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones so that you too may share your blessings so your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Relationships

In the early years of faith, as in the early years of life, it is significant to note the tendency to focus on self



and what I can accomplish for Jesus as I discover and put to use the gifts with which He has blessed me to serve and share His love. Just You and me, Lord, from here to eternity! Together we can take on any temptation or trial and successfully navigate the admittedly narrow road that leads to the Kingdom!

As time goes on it becomes painfully clear that despite all of my best efforts, there are some situa-

tions that I simply cannot handle on my own - some mountains that are so vast and challenging, some valleys that are so oppressive and deep, some storms that are so overwhelmingly fierce, that I begin to wonder about the reality of it all, and if the journey is really worth the cost.

At that moment I learn what only experiencing those trials and doubts could teach me: that it was never about me, and that I never had the strength to make it on my own to begin with. And as I come to terms with this new thought, the product of a maturing faith, I feel the sure hand of a brother or sister in Christ who has been on this road much longer than I, reaching out to offer me comfort, support, and encouragement to take the next step and keep trusting the promises that have gotten us both this far, and to-

“I Am Not Alone” Jeff Kranich

gether we journey on.

The longer I am on the road, the more I realize that I am not alone - that I am not here only for myself, but just as much for the companions that share the road with me, and especially for the young ones who follow behind. More than once



I have had opportunity to be that firm hand of encouragement to another who struggled on the road. God put us together for a reason. We need each other. And as we follow him - together - our fellowship, with Him, and with each other, makes us strong enough for the journey.

“Serving is Ministry” Sally Bailey

Webster’s dictionary defines ministry as “serving others”. As I reflect on that simple definition I think of God’s Word to us in regards to service. Galatians 5:13-14...“but through love serve one another. ... You shall love your neighbor as yourself”. These are two verses of many in Scripture that encourage us to reach out with love and care for one another.

It is God’s desire for us to love and serve others. Honestly, I do not always find it easy to serve and love others. Often I am too “busy” with my own cares, thoughts, and work. But it is in the times that I step outside my own comfort zone to love and care for others that I feel God’s presence the most.

One way to serve God is to “listen” to people. Again I am often too busy to listen! Loneliness is everywhere. I see lonely people in the grocery store, at the gas station, people collecting medical equipment, and even



Service



in my own family. I believe that true listening signifies caring. I want to be a better listener!

Prince of Peace ministers in many ways to our church and to our community. We provide food to individuals and families in our community. The R.O.S.E. ministry provides meals, support, and transportation for people in need within our church and school. The medical equipment ministry provides life-enhancing equipment for people within our church and community. We have an active prayer chain, adults and children making quilts, Sunday school teachers committed to teaching our children about God and His love. The list goes on and on.



I am thankful for our church body. Let’s all strive to continue following God’s encouragement to love and serve each other, as well as those in need in our surrounding community.

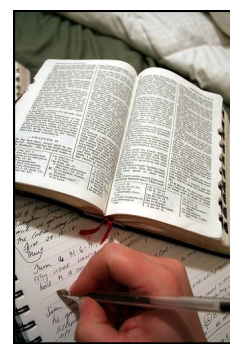
Youth

According to the Apostle Paul, “We are not meant to remain as children but to grow up in every way into Christ.” (Ephesians 4:14-15) My journey, compared to many people in the church around me, is still young. Yet already, I have struggled in faith, and as a byproduct, matured in my love for Jesus Christ.

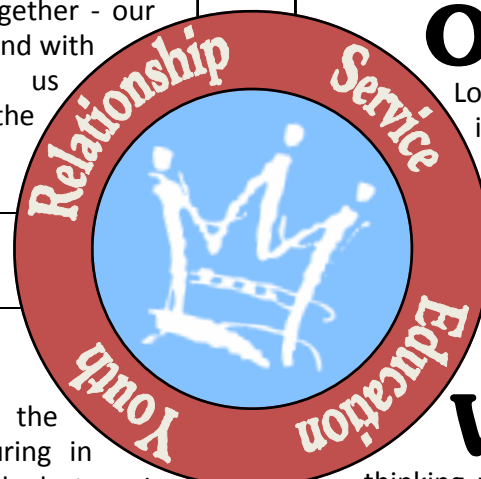
Every day, I am hindered by the overwhelming fact that I live in one of the most un-churched regions in the United States. Yet I have found – especially through my recent trips to the NW District Convention and Kaleidoscope – that Godly people exist everywhere, even where you would least expect them. Over the past few months, my faith community has expanded drastically. By being open about who I am, I have come embrace others on a deeper level, and I have become more responsive to love. Faith communities help solidify your faith by affirming you in ways you often do not see yourself.



“Growing Together in Faith” Erika Cook



While others help the process of maturing in Christ, there are individual steps I choose to take. During Kaleidoscope, one of my friends taught me a quick and simple way to do daily devotions: S.O.A.P., which stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. I have since used a journal nightly to delve deeper into God’s word. Another common activity of mine is volunteering. Through serving others, and loving those around me despite our differences, I have come to see God differently, because “God is Love”. Finally, I try to keep my life in perspective, as I remember that 1 Timothy 4:12 states: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.” No matter my age – or anyone’s for that matter – I am still a child of God and I strive to be a humble example for all.



“When I Grow Up!” Lenetta Colbert

When I was a young adult I remember thinking what life might be like when I matured or “grew up”. Would I be like my Mom or maybe my Grandma? Would I be sure of who I was and where I was going? Would I be wise, and able to pass down this wisdom to the children in my classroom as well as my own children? Would I be able to discern the difference between God’s will and my own desires?

As I grew older it seemed in many situations that I was less in control. It often seemed that I was backsliding in my faith life and in my desire to be mature. There



seemed to be more bumps in the road, or maybe I was just more aware of them.

Then there came a point in my life when I suddenly realized that maturing in my faith walk had to do with realizing my TOTAL dependence on a loving, gracious, and forgiving Father. He didn’t need for me to “get mature”. He knew, as my Creator, that I was unable to ever be good enough, or perfect enough, to “earn” His love. All He wanted was for me to come to Him first. He asked to be the first contact I made when I had a concern. He



Education

didn’t want to be the last resort - when everything else I tried had failed.

Our dependence on Christ comes when we finally realize the futility of our own efforts and planning. It comes when, after trying by our own strength and wisdom to deal with the brokenness of our lives, we collapse in our Savior’s waiting arms and allow Him pick up the pieces. He is, after all, the author of forgiveness, grace, and maturity.

Psalms 90:12 “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”

