



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 33, Iss. 1

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

Feb 2014

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 2nd.



More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple Prayer from a youth group:

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$98 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. Nearly 18,000 groups have donated over \$9.5 million in cash and food items to local charities nationwide. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the largest celebration of giving and serving. Join us as we participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring, a national movement to fight hunger and poverty. **Bring a donation of canned beef stew (preferred), soup or contribute \$1.** Contributions will be given to Gaithersburg HELP, our local food pantry assisting our neighbors in need. Boxes to place your donations will be in the narthex.

Each year, Gaithersburg HELP provides emergency assistance, including food, infant items, prescriptions, and transportation, to more than 3,000 families in the Gaithersburg area. Visit www.gaithersburghelp.org for more information.



During the winter months, if inclement weather requires us to cancel services, a notice will appear on the website homepage (poplutheran.org).



Pastor Christine will be installed as our Associate Pastor at the 5:00 pm Saturday service on February 22! Come join us as we officially celebrate the beginning of Pastor Christine's ministry with us!

Welcome Pastor Christine! As part of the welcoming activities in the new year, POP will be holding a few dinners both in members' homes and at the church. Watch for more info. Interested in hosting a dinner? Contact Deborah Dixon (deborahdixon1108@gmail.com).

Congratulations!

Congratulations to new Council Members and the new Nominating Committee!
(See page 4)

Thank you!

Thank you to retiring Council Members and Committee Chairs!
(See page 4)

February Highlights

Every Sunday

8:30 am Worship with piano and guitar
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship with organ and piano
A Supervised nursery is available during all Services

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters
12:30 pm Women's Bible Study
6:00 pm High School Youth Group

Every Wednesday

5:00 pm Handbell Ensemble
7:30 pm Adult Choir

Every Thursday

7:30 pm Grace Notes

Every Saturday

7:45 am Men's Group
5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship



From Pastor Christine...

(pastorchristine@poplutheran.org;
301-869-3666)

The Pastor's article this month may be one of the most 'un-pastory' articles written in a long while...

Many of you may have participated in these types of '20 question' activities via email or Facebook, or even in an icebreaker. So, here's the 'unofficial' bio that you WEREN'T given when you called me to be Associate Pastor.

1. If you could have an endless supply of any food, what would you get?

This is a 'toss' up between a few things. What I want to say is: Diet Mountain Dew. I'm a total addict; however I've been cutting way back for a few months now. After Dew, I'll take dark chocolate or pineapple any day.

2. If you were an animal, what would you be and why?

This is an easy one for me. I'd be a poison dart frog. I used to struggle a bit with my tininess and seeing my worth. At some point along that journey I latched onto the poison dart frog, which is a beautiful, colorful, tiny and strong creature. I like that about it!

3. What is one goal you'd like to accomplish during your lifetime?

I've always wanted to live abroad but was too afraid to when I was younger (and I didn't have the resources). I'd love to work with a pastor in an indigenous community in Africa or Central America.

4. When you were little, who was your favorite super hero and why?

I always wanted to be Super Woman because of Lynda Carter. I thought she was beautiful.

5. Who is your hero? (a parent, a celebrity, an influential person in one's life).

This is a hard question because there are quite a few.

-Mr. James Adkins - my high school music director who taught me the power of a positive attitude and believed in me even when I didn't.

-My dad - who broke the rules just enough to teach me that living life well is sometimes more important than following them.

-BVFD (which is a place, not a person) - but gave me a home, friends, and an extended family when I most needed one.

-And a myriad of other people for whom I am amazingly thankful.

6. What's your favorite thing to do in the summer?

Hands down - sit on the beach and make sand castles.

7. If you could visit any place in the world, where would you choose to go and why?

I've always dreamed of going to India. The culture, religion, and topography entice me. Plus, as a vegetarian, I love the food.

8. What was your first car?

My parents bought me my first car as a 16th birthday present. It was a yellow 1972 Volkswagen Bug, which I named "Fred". A friend painted a bumblebee buzzing around a red rose on the driver's side door for me.

9. Are you a morning or night person?

I'm a total morning person, but turn into a pumpkin by 10:30pm. I hardly ever sleep later than 6am, usually rising at 5am for my morning run or to get a jump on chores for the day.

10. What are your favorite hobbies?

I'm an avid runner, logging quite a few miles a week. I have run 9 marathons and will be doing my 10th in April (Big Sur marathon). I also like to write (I maintain a blog called the Tiny Dart Frog) and I am a very amateur painter (wish I painted more, but have no formal training and time always slips away).

11. What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?

Styrofoam. On purpose. When I was a kid we had styrofoam lunch trays and whenever we had chili for lunch (which I hated), I would eat the saltine crackers, carton of milk, and parts of the styrofoam tray.

12. Name one of your favorite things about someone in your family.

I have three boys (Carter, Jackson, and Cooper) and one of my favorite things about all three of my boys is they still let me lie down with them as I tuck them in at night and say prayers with them.

13. Do you have any pets?

I have a cockapoo (dog) named Rose and a rescue cat named Mumford. Rose got her name through process of elimination. Everyone could agree on it and her fur is slightly reddish. Mumford got his name after the band "Mumford and Sons" - since I have 'sons' we needed a Mumford.

14. Beer or wine?

Wine. Good red wine. I've only ever had one beer to drink in my whole life... A Rolling Rock beer, dyed green on St. Patty's Day in college. Beer's never been my thing (and yet Pastor Steve wants to work with me).

15. Do you have any tattoos?

I have three. A poison dart frog - to remind me that I'm tiny but strong. A cross with the words 'light of the world' written below it in Greek. And the word 'ruah' on my ankle, which means wind, spirit, or breath in Hebrew. All of my tattoos have a story behind them. Fair warning - if you ever get a tattoo it won't be your last. They are addicting and I'm always planning my next one.

16. Do you untie your shoes when you take them off?

Almost always because the only shoes I wear that tie are my running shoes and they are typically pretty tight. I also always tie my laces in a square knot because my mother always insisted that bows of any sort lie flat.

17. What is your favorite thing about your outward appearance?

My smile. My mother has the same smile and I welcome any chance to laugh and smile and in general have a good time.

18. Favorite sports to watch?

I'm a huge baseball fan. I love watching major league, minor league, or Cooper's baseball team. My favorite team is the Nationals and I typically make it to 5 or 6 games a summer. My whole family also loves Ohio State football, except my youngest son who likes their arch rival Michigan just to be obstinate.

19. What is one of your favorite quotations?

"A person's a person, no matter how small." Dr. Seuss

20. What song is your favorite on your iPod right now?

It's a toss up between "Girl in the War" by Josh Ritter - I LOVE the theological inferences - AND "Distance" by Christina Perri - my boyfriend and I danced our first 'slow' dance to this. (Yes - now I sound like a teenage girl.)

Those are just a few of the things that didn't make it into the 'call' papers I turned in.... I'm really looking forward to getting to know all of you as the body of Christ called Prince of Peace and as individual children of God.

Can't wait! It's going to be a great adventure.
Pastor Christine

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will be held Tuesday, March 4th in the Fellowship Hall from 5-7 pm.

Come for a delicious dinner of pancakes and sausages, cooked and served by our youth. Gluten free pancakes are also on the menu. After dinner, Pastor Steve will lead us in one of his favorite rituals - burning palms for this year's Ash Wednesday service. A free-will donation will be taken to benefit this summer's Work Camp. For more information, contact Jean Bernstein at bernsteinjmb@yahoo.com or 301-922-0969.



RECENT NEWS

Building Project Update

With approval of a line of credit from the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund (MIF) for up to \$2 million dollars, our work is now focused on the next phase of the capital campaign while also looking for ways to reduce the construction cost of the project without sacrificing the features that are critical to ministry and long-term use. Based on the cost estimates provided by the architects and the contractor, there is a gap of approximately \$600,000 between funds available (from the building fund, the capital campaign, and MIF) and the projected costs of the current design. While we remain confident in our vision for the future of ministry and service at Prince of Peace, we have work to do if we want the type of building needed for this mission!

The Building Committee is doing its part to close the gap and has met with our building team (architect, contractor and civil engineers) to discuss how we might reduce costs without sacrificing essential functions of our building plan. But our primary challenge now is to find enough financial support to resume the design work by the architect and move the project forward. We continue to explore funding strategies, including reducing the size of our current mortgage through special gifts and expanding participation in the capital campaign. While we have a very committed group of households supporting this project, we do not yet have enough supporters. If we are to build towards the vision we have developed, we need more support.

Over the next few months, Council will decide how to proceed with the building program. We will build! The question is, will we build what has been proposed? Or, will we build something else? Now is the time to tell Council members where you stand. If you have not pledged to support the building program, will you? If you do support the program, please make your pledge now so that we can move forward and build the space that this church needs to become an even better spiritual home and to increase God's work in our community. Also, please share your reasons for support with others in the congregation. This is a joint endeavor. If you do not support the project, please tell a Council member why you cannot support it! And if you have suggestions for alternative plans to expand our space, we'd love to hear them. Your voice is important.

For everyone who is currently giving to our Capital Campaign, Many Thanks! Your donations are helping us to continue to move forward and these pledges were essential to receive support from the MIF! Your support also puts this church on the path towards being a vital part of our area for years to come!

If you have been thinking about supporting the building effort or would like to increase your support, please prayerfully consider [making your pledge now](#). Every contribution makes a difference!

Please watch for future updates as we work to close the funding gap. If you have questions, contact Jim Bostrom (jimbostrom.md@gmail.com) or Tom Kettler (tek@kettlerforlineshomes.com).

Prince of Peace is Now on YouTube

As some of you may have noticed Prince of Peace is now posting sermons and children's messages on YouTube. We have started to do this for a few reasons.

In today's day and age, we all have hectic schedules. We offer a few different worship times and days to help make worship more accessible to people. Posting our sermons is another way if you're unable to worship with us in 'real' life that you can find out what happened in church.

Also, because of social media, we are able to spread the good news of Jesus more broadly. YouTube allows us to link to Facebook, to share the sermon via email, and to 'tweet' it out into cyberspace. In this regard we never know who might happen upon Prince of Peace. We encourage you to share sermons on your own Facebook pages and through your own twitter accounts. It's an easy and non-threatening way to give friends and acquaintances a taste of PoP.

It's easy to find our channel on YouTube - just search for Prince of Peace Gaithersburg and we will 'pop' up.

RECENT EVENTS

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, January 26 at 1:00 pm. Two items of interest are the outgoing/incoming Council Members and the new Nominating Committee. Congratulations to new Council Members **Tracy Barr, Ric Kienzle, Joan Kowalik, and Denny Tritinger**. Thank you to outgoing Council Members Kurt Nelson, Tom Kettler, David Malmgren, Rebecca Claycamp, and Ethan Crookshank. Thank you to outgoing Chairs Pam Masterman (finance), Susan Junghans (education), Lesa Sullivan (witness). Congratulations to Kurt Nelson, Tom Kettler, Judy Bruening, Richard Farrar, Jon Conary, and Peter Carr as the new Nominating Committee. Congratulations and Thank You!

STEWARDSHIP

POP Maintenance By.....US

Just like any house, God's house...Prince of Peace...has upkeep and maintenance needs, and just like our own homes, the more we can do ourselves, the less money we have to give to outside sources and the more pride we can take in our own hard work. To ensure we that we can have expertise and input, we are asking congregation members to look at the sign-up sheet in the narthex and think about how they might help, and sign up for one or more tasks. For more information, contact Gordon Gipe (gordon.gipe@gmail.com).

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School

It's all action, all the time in PreK/K Sunday School! Some parents may wonder how the new rotational Sunday School format (moving through multiple activity stations, like in VBS) works with preK and kindergarten-age children. We



are blessed with a large classroom in the Besecker Youth Center, so all of our rotations happen within one classroom with the same teachers for each activity.



After the weekly opening in the sanctuary all the children grab onto our jump rope "train" and walk with teachers Jamie Pflasterer and Stephanie Mills (as well as any parents who choose to stay - thanks to all of you who have lent a hand!) down to



the classroom. Class starts with our story rotation. We read the Bible story for the week and have a short activity. After standing for a circle prayer, we walk to the back of the classroom



for our craft rotation, and close with a snack. Parents walk down to the center and pick their children up from the classroom.



With the rotation model, we spend three weeks on each story - which gives the children a chance to really learn all the names and key points. In January we talked about Joseph and his 11 brothers. The first Sunday we talked about his colorful coat, decorated colorful bags for Souper Bowl Sunday, and made a colorful coat to eat out of graham

crackers and jelly beans. The second Sunday, we talked about Joseph's dreams and how he interpreted the dreams of the pharaoh of Egypt.

We drew our dreams on a paper cloud decorated with cotton balls, and had a dreamy snack of apple slices dipped in whipped cream. The third Sunday we talked about how God had a plan for Joseph in Egypt - and how he was able to save his family and others from famine. We made our own colorful coats out of grocery bags and had a snack of puffed corn, to remind us of the food stored up in Egypt.

Starting on February 2nd, we'll begin the story of Ruth. Ruth chooses to stay with Naomi and worship God, far away from everything familiar to her. This beautiful story of friendship will carry us all the way through Valentine's Day weekend on February 16th.

Handbell Ensemble

Children in 1st-6th grade rehearse on Wednesdays, 5-5:45 pm. It is still not too late to join! Contact Danielle Drobny (danielledrobny@gmail.com, 240-498-5874).

HS Youth

The next youth event is on February 8 (the previously scheduled date of Feb. 7 did not have any evening times scheduled). We'll be heading down to DC for lunch and then try our hands at espionage and uncovering secrets at the Spy Museum. All the details can be found at <http://spymuseum.org/exhibition-experiences/interactive-spy-experiences/operation-spy/>

Workcamp

The Workcamp tradition continues!! Our annual summer service trip is back, and it's shaping up to be an incredibly awesome experience. A PoP group of high school youth and adults will be headed to Buffalo, NY from **July 5-12** to help rebuild and refurbish homes for families in need of some help. If you are interested in attending or just want to learn a little more about what the experience entails, we will have an informational meeting on **Sunday, Feb. 9 around 12:30**, or you can contact Chris Schaefer (christophe.schaefer@gmail.com/302-245-5363).

Student Corner

This column is dedicated to the extra activities our youth participate in outside of Prince of Peace. Please remember to submit any and all information by the deadline for Glad Tidings to Martha Rogers at GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com - thanks!

James Rogers is performing in "High School Musical" with the Midnight Players at Poolesville High School. The performances will be **Thursday, April 24 at 7:00 pm; Friday, April 25 at 7:30 pm; and Saturday, April 26 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm**. Come on out for a fun and interesting evening (or afternoon)!

Please keep all our youth in your prayers and support their endeavors outside of PoP!

Upcoming Youth Events

Please refer to the website calendar or the Youth Ministry bulletin board for details about events throughout the year. Also, don't forget that the High School youth meet weekly on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer, please contact Kim Drissel (Drissels@comcast.net, 301-349-2848)

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Bible Class

Beginning in Lent we will be offering a Sunday morning class on the resurrection and its implications for the mission of the church today. The class will be based on the book, Surprised by Hope by N.T. Wright, however reading the book is not necessary. Our class will include a video segment which is about 15 minutes long followed by discussion questions and conversation. Lent is a great time to really delve into the resurrection

and begin to think more broadly about what hope in Jesus Christ really means. The class will meet for 6 sessions and be facilitated by Pastor Christine. She promises to challenge you to think more broadly. **The first session will be Sunday, March 9 at 9:45 am**. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Christine (pastorchristine@poplutheran.org). For more information, please check out this link: Surprised by Hope Group Bible Study by N.T. Wright - YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRnXmn8X48M).

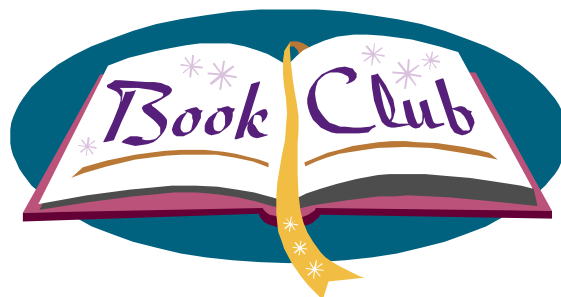
Pop Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study continues their discussion of the book Insurrection by Peter Rollins. It's not too late to join us on **Tuesdays at 12:30 pm**. Questions? Contact Pastor Christine (pastorchristine@poplutheran.org).

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Book Club

In February the POP Men's Book Club will discuss William Landay's *Defending Jacob*. The book is described as "A fast, compelling, and compulsively readable courtroom drama, *Defending Jacob* tells the story of a district attorney's son who is accused of killing a classmate. As the father attempts to prove his son's innocence, Landay explores uncomfortable territory: can a tendency toward violence be inherited? Is the capacity for murder a genetic disposition?" The meeting will be held **Thursday, February 20 at 7:30 pm** at Steve Von Wald's home. Please RSVP to Steve (stevevonwald@starpower.net). All men of POP and their male guests are invited. For more details about the Book Club or to get on our email list, please contact Charles Sullivan (Charles@HomesFlash.com, 301-526-7894).



Women's Book Group

POP Women's Book Group will meet Thursday, February 13 at 7:30 pm at the home of Jennifer Maloney. The group will discuss *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking* by Susan Cain. All women are welcome. RSVP to Jennifer (maloney.jenn@gmail.com)

Future Dates, Book Selections, and Hosts:

March 13th - The Astronaut Wives Club: A True Story by Lily Koppel, hosted by Gina Linton
April 10th - The Language of Flowers: A Novel by Vanessa Diffenbaugh, hosted by Nancy Wolejsza

May 8th - The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty, hosted by Lisa Woodard

June 12th - The Scapegoat by Daphne du Maurier, pool party hosted by Susan Victor and Joan Kowalik

PoP Playgroup

Dads enjoy the PoP playgroup too!



On the Saturday before Thanksgiving we had a large turnout at the Quince Orchard library discovery room. The children enjoyed the musical instruments and puzzles - as well as the play market and wide variety of play food. A few even picked up a new book or two to take home.

In January, we continued to meet indoors in the church nursery.



Then, on Saturday, 2/22 the playgroup will meet at 11am at the Meadowside Nature Center at 5100 Meadowside Lane in Rockville, MD. The nature center has an indoor play area with snakes, insects, and fish to view - and multiple hands-on activities to explore.

PoP Playgroup is a great way for families and their babies/toddlers/preschoolers to connect with each other. Please contact Jamie (jlpflast@hotmail.com) or Lauren (laurenkategibson@gmail.com) for more info!

NCC TO HOLD BENEFIT CONCERT FOR GAITHERSBURG HELP

The National Christian Choir



A benefit concert by the National Christian Choir is being held on Saturday, March 8th, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the First Baptist Church in Gaithersburg, Md. All proceeds will go to Gaithersburg Help to assist local families in need with food, infant needs, transportation, and prescription assistance. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased online at www.GaithersburgHELP.org, the PoP church office (exact cash or check only), or by contacting Paul Marmillion (pmarmillion@comcast.net). The National Christian Choir is an interdenominational choir, based in the Washington DC metropolitan area which ministers through concerts, recordings, tours, and radio. Each participant signs a statement of faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord and belief that the Bible is God's inspired Word to us. The Choir was founded in 1984 by Harry Causey and continues now under the leadership of Kathy Bowman. Don't miss the opportunity to witness this spectacular performance.

BULLYING

Bullying has become almost a constant in today's life. It is not uncommon to open a paper or check the news online and find at least one article about someone being bullied. Recently, even the superintendent of MCPS was a victim of cyber bullying by students concerning the closing of schools due to weather conditions.

In response to this growing problem, Montgomery United Methodist Church is holding an anti-bullying event, REACHING HEARTS WITH RESPECT: A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO BULLYING, on Saturday, March 1 at 6:30 pm. The program includes:
->viewing the film "Bully" [rated PG13]
->"School Climate: A proactive approach to addressing the bullying behaviors" presented by Janet Shipman - Coordinator, School Counseling and Student Support, Frederick County Schools
->"Cyber Bullying" presented by Cathie Deadrick - Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, Mental Health Association of Frederick County
->Question and Answer Session hosted by Beth Santa Maria - Director of Family Support Services, Mental Health Association of Frederick County
->Signing of the Anti Bully Pledge {The Bully Project}

For more information, contact Montgomery United Methodist Church (www.montumc.org, 301-253-4460). They are located at 28325 Kemptown Road, Damascus, MD.

Think About It

Anyone can love the ideal church. The challenge is to love the real church.

Bishop Joseph McKinney

We love those who know the worst of us and don't turn their faces away.

Walker Percy

During World War II when housing was in short supply, a lady in our church told a five-year-old girl, "It's too bad you folks don't have a home."

The child quickly replied, "We have a home. We just don't have a house to put it in!"

Margaret T. Hiscox

COMING UP...

February

- 2 - Souper Bowl Sunday
- 8 - HS Youth Spy Museum Trip
- 9 - Workcamp Informational Meeting
- 13 - Women's Book Group
- 20 - Men's Book Group
- 21 - POP Family Game Night
- 22 - Pastor Christine's Installation
- 22 - POP Playgroup

March

- 4 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 5 - Ash Wednesday
- 7 & 8 - 30 Hour Famine
- 9 - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 12 - Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 19 - Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 20 - Faith-Full Families
- 26 - Soup Supper/Evening Prayer

April

- 2 - Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 9 - Soup Supper/Evening Prayer
- 13 - Palm Sunday
- 17 - Maundy Thursday Service
- 18 - Good Friday Service
- 19 - Easter Vigil
- 20 - Easter Services/Easter Egg Hunt

Glad Tidings is published monthly (July/August and December/January issues combined) by:

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

11900 Darnestown Road

Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878-2210

E-mail: office@poplutheran.org

Web: www.poplutheran.org

Senior Pastor Steven Buechler

Associate Pastor..... Christine Stephan

Youth & Family Minister..... Chris Schaefer

Council President Jim Bostrom

Glad Tidings Editor..... Martha Rogers

Production Martha Rogers

Photography Gordon Gipe

Articles for the March issue of *Glad Tidings* are due

February 16. Please e-mail articles to Martha Rogers at GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com. Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org.

© 2014 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church