



Glad Tidings



Vol. 33, Iss. 8

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

October 2014

Blessing of Animals



Our Annual Blessing of Animals will take place at our 5 pm Saturday service October 4! Come and bring your pets!



New Member Orientation Dinner

A New Member Orientation Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 12 at 4:00 pm for anyone interested in joining the church or just wanting to learn more about our church community. Contact [Pastor Steve \(pastor@poplutheran.org\)](mailto:pastor@poplutheran.org) or [Pastor Christine \(pastorchristine@poplutheran.org\)](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org) if you are interested in attending.

Exploring Faith

Join us for our next 'Exploring Faith' class on Thursday, October 16th. Our subject will be prayer and requires NO advance reading or materials. We will have a sandwich bar beginning at 6:30 pm with discussion starting at 7:00 pm. Discussion will include: what is prayer and its purpose, types of prayer, and some tactile experiences. We will wrap up by 8:30 pm. Questions? Contact [Pastor Christine \(pastorchristine@poplutheran.org\)](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org).

What's Inside

In "From Pastor Steve" on page 2, find out about our 3 Minute Rule - a fun way to get to know each other. We also have new ways to give which are discussed on pages 3 and 4. Find out on page 3 about the repair work and repainting in our parking lot. Continue reading to find out how to get involved here at PoP and in our community during October. Finally, mark your calendars with dates from Coming Up... Enjoy!

The Great Pumpkin is coming, Prince of Peace!



The PoP Halloween Party will welcome the Peanuts gang next month on Friday, Oct. 24 at 6:00 pm. We will also have Trunk-or-Treating at 7:00 pm in the parking lot right after. The event is open to all ages and stages - costumes are encouraged for all, but completely optional. If you like decorating for parties, making cookies, playing games, or handing out candy, we need your help! You can sign up to do any of these things, or even just donate food for the event. Sign up online through VolunteerSpot

<http://www.volunteerspot.com/group/1156764620105#!/show>) or on the sign up clipboard in the narthex. Hope to see you there!



October 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 Monday

6:00 pm High School Youth Group

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters
12:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Every Wednesday

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 Steve...

Pastor Steve Buechler
(pastor@poplutheran.org;
301-869-3666)

By now, most of us are fully back into our “regular” schedules. Summer vacation seems like a distant memory,

and many of us are now frantically running around trying to juggle work, school, volunteer and personal schedules. In one sense, it’s great that we have so many opportunities, and that so many of us care so deeply about what we’re involved in.

But, it can also make us crazy. We feel like we’re spread too thin. And sometimes, we feel like we run from one thing to the next without feeling like we’ve really been able to pause and enjoy the event or community we’re participating in.

This is also true when we come to church. We care about being part of this community of faith. We want to grow spiritually, and we want to deepen our connections with God and with one another. But because of our busy schedules, many of us aren’t at church every week, we often attend different worship services and because of the area in which we live, people are coming and going all the time.

Over the past several months, Pr. Christine and I have been realizing that both “new” and “old” folks have been telling us that, while it’s great to see so many people at church, they often feel that they don’t know who the others are. And even if we see people we recognize, we sometimes don’t have the time or space to connect with one another.

So, lately we’ve been doing a new thing to help us connect and build community with one another. We call it the “3 Minute Rule”. We’re asking everyone after the worship service to spend the first 3 minutes speaking to someone you don’t know or whom you don’t know well. It may be that one of you is new and one of you has been here for a long time. It may be that both of you are new to the congregation. And it may be

that both of you have been here for a long time, but usually go to different services. It may even be that you’ve seen each other in church for years, but never really had a chance to talk to each other. We’re hoping that this activity helps us all to recognize and know more of the people with whom we worship, serve, learn and grow. So far, the results of doing this have been really encouraging!

Oh, and it REALLY helps if you wear your nametag! This further empowers us to learn and remember each other’s names. If you don’t have a nametag, or lose yours, there will always be blank nametags for you to use. And, if you write your name down on the list when you walk into church, we’ll have one ready for you the next week!

These things don’t take very long, or require homework. But they can make a huge difference in helping us to grow as a community of faith in the midst of busy and hectic lives.

Yours in Christ,

SPECIAL PRAYERS

. . .My need was met because someone came and communicated . . . in words I could not express. . . .
Pastor John B. McGarvey

Sympathy

Family of Margaret Burton (mother of Trish Evans)
Family of Grant Hahm (father-in-law of Claire Cho)
Family of Anna Kozusko (niece of June & Jim Herron)

Thanksgiving

Our Sunday School Volunteers
Wedding of Rachel Carr & Chris Zirpoli
Wedding of Valerie Corbin & Brett Parris
Baptism of Kenneth McKnight



RECENT NEWS

Send Council Your Thoughts, Wishes, and Opinions Via E-mail!

The Council has setup an E-mail address to provide another way to communicate with Council. All you need to do is E-mail council@poplutheran.org! Please feel free to tell us what is going well or what you like about Prince of Peace and also share thoughts and wishes about what we could do or could change.

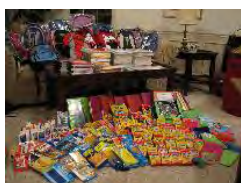
RECENT EVENTS

Parking Lot Maintenance

After receiving Council approval, two days last month were spent performing maintenance on our parking lot. A French drain was installed at the general location where rainwater has been surfacing. While the exact location of the source is hard to pinpoint, the path of the French drain was designed to give a high level of confidence that we are catching the flow and sending it to the catch basin near the BYC. More normal maintenance of filling cracks and re-stripping the parking spaces was also completed.



THANK YOU!



Thank you to everyone who participated in the school supply drive. 44 backpacks, 103 2-pocket folders, 32 pencil pouches, 347 color pencils, 291 pens,

8000 pieces of note book paper were just some of the items collected.

Thank you to Ken & Sherry Prather for organizing the school supply drive!

Many thanks to Nancy Wolejsza for her work as coordinator, and sometimes host, of the many events on the calendar this fall for the Empty Nester's Group.



Thank you, Gordon Gipe, for overseeing the parking lot project. They did a great job!

STEWARDSHIP

Giving Update & Opportunities

As the final third of the year begins, we want to thank everyone for your contributions so far this year to Prince of Peace! **The good news is that our giving is trending up**, and in fact may be our 2nd best year ever. About 30% of our active households have "Stepped-Up" their giving and this has been a big help!

However, as you may have noticed from our **Step-Up graphics**, our giving is still behind where we were in 2012 - the giving level upon which we based our 2014 budget. As a result, we've had to delay much of our discretionary spending in order to avoid deficit spending. This has unfortunately included delaying things like benevolence (which supports the mission of the wider church and community missions such as Gaithersburg HELP).

But, the year isn't over yet, and we still hope giving will increase enough to fund many things we haven't been able to do so far. In fact, **we realize that many people intend to give, but don't have checkbooks or cash when they're at church.**

So, to make giving easier and more convenient, this fall we're offering **two new ways to give quickly, easily and securely:**

1) **Scan an E-Card** with your phone or tablet - in the Ministry of Friendship books there are now E-Giving cards, which contain a QR Scan Code which you can use to [sign up for online giving](#) or make a one-time donation from your bank account, credit or debit card.

2) **Giving Kiosk** - soon a Giving Kiosk will be available in the narthex, equipped with a card reader, which will allow you to use your credit or debit card to make one time or recurring donations.

Both of these options use [the same secure, online service](#) we've been using for years, and will allow us to record your giving directly on your giving statement.

Of course, you can still give by check, cash, automatic deduction from your bank account, bill pay through your bank's online bill pay system, or through the online giving links you'll find on our website and emails.

We hope that making all of these options available will make it easier and more convenient for everyone to support the important ministries we're doing here at Prince of Peace!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School

We have kicked off our new season of [Sunday School](#)! For younger students we'll continue using a rotational model which provides an experiential approach similar to VBS. For Middle and High School students, we use cool and quirky workbooks and short films to explore relevant topics. Online readers, click [here](#) for more details about our Sunday School programs. Printed and online readers, find details in the September 2014 issue of Glad Tidings.



Youth Group

High School weekly meet-ups are back on a regular schedule this fall! **Please note, though, that we had to change them to every Monday night instead of Tuesdays. We will still meet at the same time 6-7:30pm** for fellowship, pizza, and discussions on life and faith and where they intersect. All high school aged youth are welcome to attend.

In addition to the weekly meet-ups, the high school group will also have one weekend event each month. On **October 11**, the group will head out to the Six Flags Halloween Fright Fest. We will wrap up the month with a Halloween Party here at PoP for ALL AGES on **Friday, October 24**. For more opportunities for youth of all ages to get involved, please check the Children & Youth page on the PoP website for calendars of events.

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!

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 **Mondays from 6:00-7:30 pm**. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer, please contact Kim Drissel (Drissels@comcast.net).

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Bible Class

Pastor Christine is leading "In Another Light", a class focusing on familiar scripture verses which are commonly misinterpreted or misunderstood. The hope is that by discussing historical context, language nuance, and religious meaning we will understand better the original intent of the scripture. We will apply these understandings to today and what these scriptures mean now.

This class started in September and will continue for the first two weeks of October. Keep watch in the Weekly Email and church bulletin inserts for the next class.

Pop Women's Bible Study

Join the Tuesday Women's Bible Study on **Tuesdays at 12:30 pm** as we explore the Gospel of John through selected chapters and verses. (Currently scheduled sections are: 10/7: John 9: 1-12 & John 10: 1-17; 10/14: John 11: 1-44; 10/21: John 11:45-57 & John 12: 9-23; 10/28: John 12:1-12 & John 14:1-14.) It is not necessary that you attend every week. This is an open and fluid group. We base our meetings around the joy of coming together over the word of God. Bring your lunch or a snack, if you would like. If you have questions or want to be included on our email distribution list, please contact [Pastor Christine](mailto:pastorchristine@poplutheran.org) (pastorchristine@poplutheran.org).

MUSIC

Handbell Ensemble

POP Handbell Ensemble for Children 1st-6th grade still forming! Sign up in the narthex or contact [Danielle Drobny](mailto:danielledrony@gmail.com) (danielledrony@gmail.com). Rehearsals are held **Wednesdays, 5-5:45pm**. We need a minimum of 8 participants so please join us!

Adult Choir

Please join the PoP Adult Choir for the Fall 2014 season! The PoP Adult Choir is for people who want to praise God with great music. We rehearse **Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00 pm**. We are preparing a Christmas Cantata again this year, please join and be part of this big celebration with us. For more info, please contact the Choir Director [Claire Cho](mailto:claire.cho@gmail.com) (claire.cho@gmail.com).

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

The Auxiliary at the Village at Rockville

The Village At Rockville's Fall Festival is coming up on **Saturday, November 8, 9:30am-2pm**. Come enjoy shopping for wonderful treasures, handmade crafts, baked goods and fudge, and much more. Enjoy a delicious lunch 11am-1:30pm and a Home Chorus performance at 2pm in the Chapel. Independent Living Cottage tours at 10:30am and 1:00pm. Donations of baked goods and used household items, books, and jewelry are needed. Call 301-354-8460 if you want to make a donation. This event is organized by the Auxiliary and Thrivent will be assisting with matching funds. All proceeds benefit the residents of The Village at Rockville (formerly the National Lutheran Home) which is located at 9701 Veirs Drive, near Wootton Parkway in Rockville. For more details and a map, pick up a flier from the Social Ministry table in the foyer.

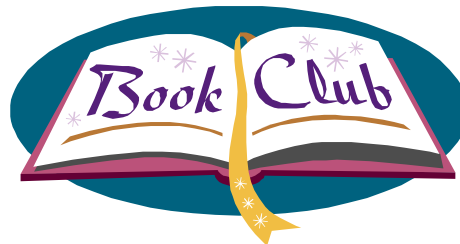
UMD Campus Ministry

On **Sunday, November 16**, PoP has been asked to provide dinner for UMD campus ministry (housed in Hope Lutheran of College Park). We need 5-6 people to make and serve dinner for approximately 25 students. We will also have good conversation and a brief time of worship with them. Dinner is served at 5pm and we will be done by 7pm. If you are interested in helping, please see Pastor Christine or sign up in the narthex.

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Book Club

On **Thursday, October 23 at 7:30 pm**, the Men's Book Club will discuss The Black Swan by Nassim Nicholas Taleb. "A black swan is an event, positive or negative, that is deemed improbable yet causes massive consequences." All men of Prince of Peace and their male friends are cordially invited. Please RSVP to host [Steve Von Wald](mailto:stevevonwald@starpower.net) (stevevonwald@starpower.net).



Women's Book Group

"What's the difference between an African-American and an American-African? From such a distinction springs a deep-seated discussion of race in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's third novel, 'Americanah.'" Adichie's novel was named one of the ten best books of 2013 by the New York Times Book Review. The women's Book Group will discuss it at their meeting on **Thursday, October 9th**, at the home of Jennifer Maloney. The fellowship starts at **7:30 pm**. All POP women are welcome to attend. RSVP to [Jennifer \(Maloney.jenn@gmail.com\)](mailto:Jennifer.Maloney@gmail.com).

The Women's Book Group meets monthly, usually on the second Thursday of the month. If you would like to receive email reminders, please send an email to Jennifer Maloney.

Future Dates, Book Selections, and Hosts:

November 13 - Sara's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay, hosted by Sharon Wahl

December 11 - Tolstoy and the Purple Chair, My Year of Magical Reading by Nina Sankovitch, hosted by Deborah Dixon

January 8 - Want Not by Jonathan Miles, host TBD

PoP Playgroup

On **Saturday, 10/18 at 11am**, the playgroup will pick pumpkins and apples at Homestead Farms located at 15604 Sugarland Rd, Poolesville, MD. We'll meet at the chicken pen (just across from the general store) and then leave for the pumpkin patch at 11:15am once everyone has gathered.

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

IT'S TIME FOR THE UNITED WAY

United Way, CFC, and other workplace giving contributions account for a large percentage of non-profit organizations' income. Please consider designating your employer-sponsored drive (United Way, CFC, America's Charities, etc) contribution to the following charities. Our congregation is a supporter of these organizations.

Gaithersburg HELP

Assists local residents with food, diapers, prescriptions, and transportation

Upper Montgomery Assistance Network

Provides emergency funds for local families facing eviction or loss of utility service

Lutheran Social Services

Provides assistance in the areas of foster care, refugees, immigrants, AIDS, abused women and children, and the disabled

Lutheran Volunteer Corps

A year-long volunteer service program which provides volunteers for shelters, medical clinics, tutoring programs, and advocacy work on housing, hunger, etc.

The Village at Rockville

Provides a continuum of care for the aged of the Lutheran community regardless of their ability to pay

N Street Village

Provides meals, emergency shelter, support groups, medical care, counseling, and treatment programs for homeless women and low-income families in DC



GIFTS OF HOPE BENEFIT CONCERT

Come and enjoy the music of George and Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington and more. On **Sunday, October 12, 2014, at 3:00 pm**, Gifts of Hope will have its second annual Benefit Concert. This year's concert will be at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA, and will feature the music from the Great American Songbook performed by Lizabeth Flood, a professional singer, composer, and pianist. In lieu of admission there will be a free-will offering. The Fairfax Chapter of Thrivent Financial will match donations (\$1 for each \$3 donated). All proceeds will support Gifts of Hope agencies. More information at <http://giftsofhopemetrod.org/>

INTERFAITH WORKS

Join the Interfaith Works community for a fun dinner gathering on **October 23, 2014**. Empty Bowls is an annual Interfaith Works event - part of an international grassroots movement to fight hunger. Each year, Empty Bowls brings the Interfaith Works community together through art, a bowl of soup, and the desire to help the most vulnerable in Montgomery County. We will share a modest meal and, at the end of the evening, each attendee will take home a hand-crafted bowl as a reminder that hunger and homelessness challenge thousands of our vulnerable neighbors every day.



Tickets are just \$15. Get yours soon - they are selling fast and we expect this event to sell out! Proceeds will contribute to Interfaith Works' programs and services. For more information, contact Interfaith Works at [301.315.1096](tel:301.315.1096) or by email: events@iworksmc.org

Interfaith Works is a non-profit organization that helps our low-income & homeless neighbors move from crisis to stability through prevention, support, and empowerment.

COMING UP...

October

- 4 - Blessing of Animals
- 9 - Women's Book Group
- 11 - HS Youth Trip to Six Flags
- 12 - Laser Tag (4th - 6th grade)
- 12 - New Member Orientation Dinner
- 16 - Exploring Faith
- 18 - PoP Playgroup Trip to Homestead Farms
- 23 - Men's Book Club
- 24 - Halloween Party & Trunk-or-Treating
- 26 - Confirmation & Reformation
- 31 - Halloween

November

- 2 - All Saints Day
- 2 - Turn Back Clocks for Standard Time
- 8 - Fall Festival (Village at Rockville)
- 11 - Veteran's Day
- 13 - Women's Book Group
- 15 - Big Church Clean
- 15 - PoP Playgroup at the Gaithersburg library
- 15 - DC ThanksGIVINGback (High School)
- 20 - Faith-Full Families
- 20 - Men's Book Club
- 27 - Thanksgiving Day

December

- 4 - Faith-Full Families
- 6 - PoP Playgroup Trip to Nature Center
- 7 - Christmas Pageant
- 11 - Women's Book Group
- 12 - DC Xmas Funfest (High School)
- 13 - Parents' Night Out
- 14 - Christmas Cantata
- 21 - First Day of Winter
- 24 - Christmas Eve
- 25 - Christmas Day



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Articles for the November issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **October 19**. 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.

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