

PeacePrints

The monthly newsletter for Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

November 2010

FROM THE RECTOR

Stewardship of Money

(Please Don't Stop Reading!)

I have a fear that the people who need to hear messages about financial giving absent themselves from church when these messages are being shared. I'm sure their argument goes something like this; "I've been going to church for years and there is nothing new that I can learn about financial giving, so I've made up my mind and will be giving (fill in the amount) this year.

While I honor the commitment to give, I think another more subtle message that plays in all our heads as money is asked for is "this is an emotional topic for me. This can't

be more personal." There is often a little push back because this topic is so personal.

Perhaps that's why Jesus talked about money so often. He knew that money is the easiest thing for us to worship.....much easier than worshipping God, and he challenged us in stories and parables to honestly come to grips with our attitudes about and fears over money.

In doing so...in being open to what God might be saying to us, transformation and freedom from materialism, greed, hoarding, and selfishness can begin. Jesus is always about transformation.

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Now a confession: I am the most materialistic person I know. I have never met an Apple product that I didn't covet (literally). How do we (the Reasoner family) fight that gotta have it urge, live within our means, and begin the life of generosity instead of greed? We give money away. Over 10% of our gross income we give away each year to the church and other institutions that help promote the Kingdom of God.

It might be an interesting exercise to see how much you gave away last year. If you are the average American you probably gave about 1.5% average. Perhaps you need to develop a plan to give away more; to prime the pump of generosity.

Generosity is a heart thing. How do I know that? Because there is so much resistance to

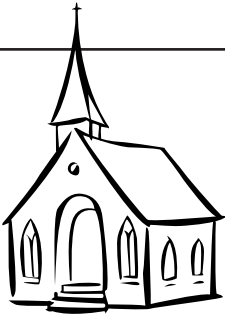
it in our lives. Our hearts are being pulled in different direction and places: houses, cars, vacations, clothes...

Percentage giving is the key to freedom for your heart. Grow your giving by one or two percent this year. Kathryn and I are going to. You see, 10%, or the tithe, is not the goal. Generosity is and I still have a long way to go.

I've got to tell you that looking back I have really, really missed money from a bad investment, or money I've wasted on buying something stupid, but I've never missed money I have given away for God's work. Does that make sense to you?

Fr. Rand †





Worship Schedule

November 2010

Wednesdays:

6:30am – Holy Communion in the Chapel
This service is 1/2 hour long followed by a continental breakfast. A great service for commuters who want spiritual refreshment in the middle of the week.

Wednesday, November 24:

Thanksgiving Eve

7pm – Holy Communion at Prince of Peace followed by Pie Social

Sundays:

November 7 – Pentecost 24

8 and 10am – Holy Communion
5pm – Evening Communion (*Water to Wine leads worship*)

***** Daylight Savings – Turn your clocks
back 1 hour Saturday night *****

November 14 – Pentecost 25

8 and 10am – Holy Communion

November 21– Christ the King Sunday - Wear white to church

8 and 10am – Holy Communion
10am – High Mass (Smells and Bells)
5pm – Evening Communion (*Water to Wine leads worship*)

November 28 – Advent 1

8 and 10am – Holy Communion

PeacePrints Editorial Info

Submissions for December 2010

The submission deadline for the December issue of *PeacePrints* is November 14. Please e-mail items to Katherine Geeslin at office@popwh.org or put articles on a disk and leave them in the “Office Administrator’s” box in the Church office. Make sure to include a printed copy of your article. Please call Katherine at (818) 346-6968 with questions. *PeacePrints* welcomes expressions of all views. Articles should be brief and are subject to editing. **The author must be identified.** Thanks!

Editor: Katherine Geeslin • Layout: Mike Adams

Community Garden at Prince of Peace

Joshua Michael is starting his Eagle Project right here at Prince of Peace Church! He will be building a community garden in the field behind the labyrinth. Members of the community will be encouraged to learn how to grow produce and the food will be given to the West Valley Food Pantry. Joshua needs your help! If you would like to participate in this worthy cause, please call Joshua at (818)223-9239 or email Divercat51@yahoo.com

Fr. Rand †

Study on the Gospel of Matthew

Laura Armstrong will be sharing an introduction to the Gospel of Matthew on two Sunday mornings, November 7 and 14 at 9am in the Hamill Chapel. Week one will cover the historical background of first century Palestine, when Matthew was written. and week two will be a general overview of the Gospel of Matthew. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Gospel we will be reading in worship for the next church year beginning in Advent. For more information, please contact Laura at 818-591-1287 or Innarmstrong@charter.net.

Alternative Christmas Faire is Back!

On **Sunday, November 28** the Alternative Christmas Faire will return to Prince of Peace. This year it will last three weeks, through December 12. This is your chance to provide meaningful support for worthy causes in the name of people on your gift list.

Among the available opportunities will be donations to the Heifer Project for rabbits, llamas, sheep or honey bees, to Habitat for Humanity for windows and tools, and to Alternative Gifts International for mobile clinics in Haiti, “Hugging Grannies” for babies in China, or sun power for tribal families in the USA. Whatever you choose to support, you will receive a card to send to the person in whose name you make the donation. It’s perfect for teachers (how many apple decorations can fit on a tree), for those hard-to-buy-for people on your list, or for children, to awaken them to the possibilities for involvement.

The shopping list is posted on the church website, so you can do some planning ahead.

We’ll see you after both the 8am and the 10am services, on the patio!

Oh, and yes, we will also have hand arts from Africa once again available to purchase, on Sunday, December 5.

Carol Barker †

Holiday Basket Time

It is time again to make the holidays special for families in need.

This year, we will begin collecting canned goods and monetary donations on **Sunday, November 7** and continue collecting every Sunday until the sorting for the Christmas Baskets on Sunday, December 12. A shopping list will be available in the narthex and online at www.popwh.org. Donation collection boxes will be in the Narthex.

Thanksgiving Baskets will be delivered on Sunday, November 21. Drivers are needed. If you are able to help with deliveries, please contact Jo Laslo at 818-705-4271 or Jfaith3844@aol.com.

Thank you for participating and contributing to this very special ministry.

Blessings,
Jo Laslo †



Stewardship

The best sermon I ever heard about tithing money was at children's time during a stewardship campaign.

"Oh, no, stewardship," I sighed.

But we were in for a concrete demonstration.

The minister showed the children pennies. "Suppose I give you some pennies," he said. He counted out ten into Emily's waiting hands. "But I need to get something back to help me do my work. How much should I ask for?"

"Three!" shouted a boy.

"No, that's not enough. He should get nine!" said Emily.

The children finally decided that five would be fair, since it was half the amount given.

"Here's how much God asks of us," the pastor said. He took one penny from Emily and showed it to the congregation. "God gives us everything and He only wants one-tenth of what He gives to us for his work."

"Wow!" said Emily, "That's a pretty good deal."

I'm still not convinced that Emily and the pastor didn't have a conversation beforehand, but she did have a point. If we truly believe that God gives us everything, then giving back one-tenth of what we are given is a pretty good deal.

Sue Ferron †

Children & Families MINISTRY

family@popwh.org (818) 346-6968 ext. 25

Tree of Thanks

While many trees are losing their leaves this time of year, there is a tree that can be found in Taylor Hall that seems to keep gaining leaves. This is our “**Tree of Thanks.**” The Champions Sunday School children write what they are thankful for, or answered prayers on the leaves, and then add them to our tree.

We'd like to invite you to come up to Taylor Hall and add your “thank you and answered prayers” as well. We all have so much to be thankful for and we are thankful for YOU!

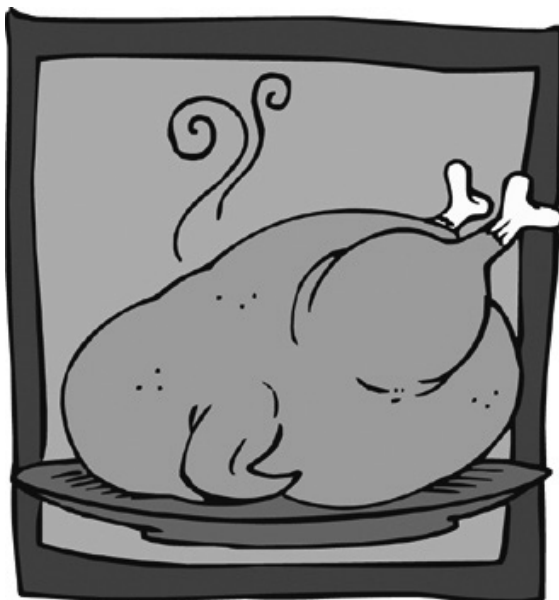
God bless you,
Monica Warrick
and the Champions Team †

November Calendar

- 07 – Stewart’s Ship?, 10am (daylight savings ends)
- 08 – MOM’s Group gathering, 10am - noon
- 14 – Sailing the “C” of Commitment, 10am
- 21 – Sailing the “C” of Celebration, 10am
- 28 – No classes, Happy Thanksgiving weekend

Fun Fall Festival Thank You

The Champions children and their friends had a fun time at our recent Fall Festival. A big ***Thank You*** to the Champions Team, our chefs Dauna & George Packer and Roman Melnyk and all the wonderful POP youth group members who made the day special.



Youth Ministry

Sunday Meeting Schedule

Sunday, November 7:

Middle School meets from 4pm – 5pm in the Youth Center, Contemporary Service at 5pm followed by dinner. Please bring \$5 for dinner. Parents, please pickup at 6:30pm.

High School meets at Contemporary Service at 5pm. Please bring \$5 for dinner that follows service. High School Meeting will be from 6:30-8:30pm in the Youth Center.

Sunday, November 14:

Middle School Group meets from 4-5:30pm

High School Group meets from 6:30-8:30pm

Sunday, November 21:

Middle School meets from 4pm – 5pm in the Youth Center, Contemporary Service at 5pm followed by dinner. Please bring \$5 for dinner. Parents, please pickup at 6:30.

High School meets at Contemporary Service at 5pm. Please bring \$5 for dinner that follows service. High School Meeting will be from 6:30-8:30pm in the Youth Center.

Sunday, November 28: No Sunday meetings – Happy Thanksgiving! If you are in town, please attend services at 10am as it is the First Day of Advent.

Upcoming Events:

Weekly Homework Club – on Wednesdays, November 3, 10, and 17 from 6:30- 8:30pm.

Need a little extra help with math or English or just a place to do your homework? Bring your books and \$5 for pizza.

Acquire the Fire – November 12-13 in Anaheim, California is open to all 8th grade through 12th grade students and parents who would like to participate. Join us as 100's of students from all over the southland join together to learn about Christ, worship, and spend time finding out they are not alone. Please RSVP to Lisa Michael ASAP if you or your student would like to attend.

Gratitude Corner

Thank you to Lori Solon and Ann Marie Michael for helping to chaperone our movie event this summer. We also had a wonderful addition, Matt Villalobos, who helped teach several Sundays in September.

Thank you to Ann Marie Michael for her continuing help in organizing the dinners following Contemporary Service. Thank you to this year's victims, oops, drivers for the annual Car Rally: Marty Zarasua, Tim Horita, Dan Nelson, and Andrea Horita and for the errand running help of Annie Roe. And a special thank you to Marty Zarasua

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for sleeping over with the kids as the male adult chaperone for the Car Rally/Sleepover in October.

Thank you to Stephanie Kren who continues to tutor students in Math on Wednesday evenings.

Thank you to Boude Moore and the Choir for the use of the Choir Room for the Car Rally!

Thanks!

You are all appreciated!

Lisa Michael †
youth@popwh.org

Stained Glass Sale

Pastor Kathie Clark's Stained Glass will be on sale on **Sunday, November 14**. Stop by the display on the patio after the 8am and 10am services. There will be new designs along with favorites. Special orders can be taken as well.

Pastor Kathie †

National Church Development

What's Our Temperature?

As anyone who's ever undergone a medical examination knows, part of the process involves a physician taking the patient's temperature. This simple act is the first best indication of a patient's overall well-being. Occasionally, a church concerned with its own bodily health can do the same.

Back in August, a sampling of 30 parishioners took a brief survey administered through the National Church Development organization as a means of assessing our church's overall health. The NCD survey looks at eight measurable characteristics that, when in balance with each other, best illustrate a healthy and growing church. Those eight characteristic areas include: Empowering Leadership, Gift-Oriented Ministry, Passionate Spirituality, Functional Structures, Inspiring Worship Services, Holistic Small Groups, Need-Oriented Evangelism, and Loving Relationships.

The overall goal of the NCD process in helping a church find its balance, is to identify the minimum factor or "growth area" and provide a means by which the church can address that characteristic and bring it into balance with the others. If this can be accomplished, the body is made more healthy and a healthy body is more inclined to grow.

What's critical is that a healthier church is inclined to more greatly glorify God!

Well, the survey's been taken and the results are in! Now we have to figure out what we're going to do about it. That's where you come in. Are you intrigued?

*What's critical
is that a
healthier
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glorify God!*

Before I go on, let me reassure you, we don't need to be hospitalized! We have a good temperature – but it's not exactly 98.6... yet.

Since receiving the results, a small NCD Health Team has been formed. Over the course of the next five weeks, members of the Health Team will be meeting with the

majority of active ministry groups – and hopefully every parishoner who may not be in an active ministry group – to ask one simple question: “Why do you think this is our particular growth area?”

Once we've gotten everybody's input, we're going to bring all the information together and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, come up with and implement three ideas over the next year. Hopefully, this will help us address our minimum factor and grow it into an area of greater strength.

As a member of the Body of Christ, our spiritual health as individuals directly affects our corporate spiritual health – and our corporate spiritual health directly affects our spiritual health as individuals. In other words, for the sake of our church and ourselves, we each need to participate in this very vital work! If you're not directly associated with a ministry that will meet with a member of our Health Team, we'll be offering an opportunity for you to meet on two Sundays at 9AM during the next several weeks. I promise you it won't be painful – and no thermometers will be involved. As a matter of fact, our Physician has guaranteed that He is gentle and humble in heart!

Greg Michael †

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Advent Morning Prayer

**Monday, November 29 –
Thursday, December 23**

The Four Sundays before Christmas focus on three advents (comings) of Jesus. The first is our present preparation for celebrating a faith-filled Christmas. The second is our anticipation of Jesus' second coming to rule as everlasting King and the third is Jesus coming daily into our lives through his word (scripture and presence) and sacrament (particularly Holy Communion).

Advent is a time set aside by the church to help us counteract the frenzied commercialism of the season and to focus on the real "reason for the season."

Once again, as a part of our Advent disciplines (getting ready for Christmas), Morning Prayer will be shared every morning

(except Sunday) at 7:30am in the Chapel beginning Monday, November 29. *Please note that Wednesday mornings will be at 6:30am.* If you are interested in leading a prayer service, please let Fr. Rand know and he can show you how to lead this service from our Prayer Book. There are many who cannot attend worship at that hour due to family, school, commute, work, distance, etc. Why not pray morning prayer anyway? You can always go online and begin your day during the Advent season with Morning Prayer. www.missionstclare.com/english/ or www.dailyoffice.wordpress.com . One way to make sure the Holy Season of Christmas doesn't become just a holiday is to make sure we are deliberately focusing on God. Morning Prayer is a wonderful way to do just that.

Fr. Rand †



Parish Family Notes

It takes a community, village, and lots of folk to run Alpha. Alpha #29 will finish just before Thanksgiving. Thanks go out to:

- **Stuart Rugg, Paula Roe, Julie Fanton,** and **Nancy Porter** who served as small group leaders.
- **Simon Frost** who led our worship music.
- **Donald Svoboda** who always set up the rooms for us.
- **Beccah Svoboda** who provided child care.
- Our cooks **Barbara Partridge, Bill Rockwood, Jo Laslo, Elizabeth Hart, Jerry** and **RaeAnne Whiteford, Sharon** and **Jorge Hoover** and Domino's pizza.
- The **Wonderful Wednesday Group** for providing the meals for the Alpha Weekend.
- Plus all who helped with supplies, set up and clean up which included many of the above and.....**Debbie Wittwer, Kathy Carlson, Sylvia Kubeisy, Marsha Hunt, Audrey Corkery, Chuck** and **Inez Wathen, Bruce Roe, Annelie Rugg, Kerry Schlosser** and **Diana Hayden.** Amazing grace!

Big thank you to **Sandi Totter** and **Ann Finke** who have coordinated the brunches after Sunday Worship in September and October! Put on your calendar the next brunch which will be November 14.

Thanks to **John Arnold** who has been meeting with our insurance company to make sure that our fire insurance needs are properly addressed.

The **Vestry Nominating Committee** is looking for a few good men and women to serve the Lord as leaders in the parish. If you have a Vestry nominee for the committee to consider, please contact **Dennis Bartz, Carol Barker, Stu Finke, Sue Ferron, Greg Michael, Roman Melnyk** or **Rand Reasoner.**

Photo Directory

It's time for a new photo directory and it won't be complete without you! There is no cost to you or to the church to have your photographs taken, and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating. You will be able to view your images electronically immediately after you are photographed. At that time you will also have the opportunity to purchase portraits to share with family and friends. The whole process only takes one hour. Photos will be delivered before Christmas.

There are still some appointments available in the afternoons on Tuesday, November 9 and Wednesday, November 10. Sign up by calling the church office at 818-346-6968. We look forward to "seeing you in pictures!"

Katherine Geeslin †

Thanksgiving Eve Celebration at Prince of Peace

The Annual Thanksgiving Eve celebration will be on Wednesday, November 24 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. We will join together to give thanks for the blessings we have received. After the service, the Altar Guild will host a Pie Social in the Guild Room. Please come over for a cup of coffee and a slice of pumpkin pie!

Fr. Rand †



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