

PRINCE OF PEACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

- 9:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 9:00am Sunday School

MONDAY—
FRIDAY

- 8:00 am Morning Prayer (Chapel)

THURSDAY

- 1:00 pm Holy Eucharist with Healing

UPCOMING
EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Vestry Mtg | Nov 8 |
| Vestry Retreat | Nov 10 |
| Budget Meeting | Nov 12 |
| ECW | Nov 15 |
| DOK | Nov 21 |
| Select & Cut Christmas Tree | Nov 26 |
| Gingerbread Workshop | Dec 2 |
| Blessing of the Crèches & Potluck | Dec 13 |
| Christmas Eve | Dec 24 |

The Visitor

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2006

Martha Stewart is No Mother Theresa! (But What if She Were?)

Upon his return from Massachusetts in August, John Sheehan brought me a parcel stuffed with service bulletins, newsletters and other items from Christ Church, Andover, where he worshiped during his time there with FEMA. I was especially impressed by a line at the end of the order of worship in the service bulletin from Christ Church which reads: "The worship is over. Now the service begins." If you have been alert and read our service bulletin closely the last few Sundays, you may have noticed that I have adopted a slightly altered version of this statement which reads: "Our worship is over. Now our service begins." I changed the word "the" to "our" because I think it more accurately expresses whose worship and whose service is involved: *ours*.

Throughout the history of the church, there has been ongoing tension between the two poles of the Christian life—worship and service, or contemplation and action. The biblical story of Jesus' sister

friends Martha and Mary most aptly illustrates these two poles. When Jesus came to their house as a dinner guest, sister Martha, ever the "Martha Stewart" of the Bible, worked away in the kitchen preparing the meal, setting the table, and making sure everything was just right for the intimate little dinner party they were about to share with Jesus, their honored guest. Sister Mary, on the other hand, sat at Jesus' feet in the parlor mesmerized by him and hanging on his every word, totally oblivious to the activity in the kitchen. As the heat in the kitchen rose, pots boiled over, and the roast thermometer read "done", Martha in frustration rushed into the parlor and scolded Mary for her indolence. Jesus, in turn, responded to Martha's anger with those famous words: "Martha, you are troubled by many things....Mary has chosen the better part."

It would seem that Jesus has come down on the side

of worship over service, or contemplation over action. This, I submit, is a misreading of the text. To suggest that Jesus favors contemplation over action strikes me as a false dichotomy. I submit that what Jesus really means is: "Mary has chosen the better part *for her at this place and time*." Thus, Jesus rightly indicates that both

Our Worship
is Over.
Now our
service begins

worship and service, or contemplation and action are necessary for the Christian life. Worship and service complement each other; they are not exclusive of each other. The most important illustration of this is Jesus himself who spent much time alone in prayer, and then engaged in his ministry of teaching, preaching and healing. It was these dual practices of worship *and* service that he passed on to his

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HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR PLEDGE
CARD YET? IF NOT PLEASE GIVE
PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION TO DOING
SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



PLEASE,
remember to
inform the
church office
when
someone is
ill or
hospitalized.
We are no
longer
notified by
the hospitals
or Council of
Churches!

Martha Stewart is No Mother Theresa! (But What if She Were?)

church to live out.

In the last issue of *The Visitor* I stated my vision that Prince of Peace Church be a place where our members receive the tools and empowerment we need to live out our baptismal covenant. The baptismal covenant includes our promise to worship *and* to serve. Specifically, we promise in the baptismal covenant “to continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers” [See Acts 2:42] and “to seek and serve Christ in all persons,

loving [our] neighbor as [ourselves].” BCP 417.

The first of these two promises refers to *worship*; the second refers to *service*.

Accordingly, my vision for Prince of Peace Church also includes that we be a place where worship and prayer are combined with service and action. As a small church on the Back Mountain we cannot remedy all the world’s problems. But we can and should do our part. I hope you will join me in this vision. Our growth and vitality as a parish depend

on it.

One of the greatest modern examples of a person who combined worship and service was Mother Theresa of Calcutta. A person of prayer, she was also a person who served. Imagine what a woman with the gifts and abilities of Martha Stewart could accomplish if she too were a woman of prayer. Clearly, Martha Stewart is no Mother Theresa. But imagine what good she could do if she were? Imagine what good we can do as parish devoted to worship and service.

Your Friend and Rector,
Peter

Vestry Goal Setting Retreat Planned for Friday, November 10th

Father Harer and the vestry of Prince of Peace Church will gather for four hours on Friday evening, November 10th to consider a series of goals for our parish. These will include immediate, intermediate and long range goals. They will cover a wide range of topics including worship, outreach, education, evangelism, stewardship, planned giving, youth and property. We ask your prayers for our retreat as we step out in faith to seek God’s guidance and direction for the future of our parish.

Advent Pot-luck and Blessing of Crèches Planned for Friday, December 15th

Please plan to gather with other members of Prince of Peace for an evening of food and fellowship on Friday, December 15th. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. for a pot-luck dinner. This will be followed by a blessing of crèches. Please bring a favorite family crèche to be displayed and blessed. A short program will follow. Please bring a dish to pass. Beverage, plates and utensils will be provided.



Five New Adult Members of Prince of Peace were Celebrated on October 8th

During Bishop Paul's visit to Prince of Peace on Sunday, October 8th, we celebrated the addition of five new members to our parish. Baptized at that service were **Karli Ridley**, infant daughter of Karen Crispell and John Ridley, and **Byron Read**; confirmed by Bishop Paul was **Christine Hallas**; and received by Bishop Paul into the Episcopal Church were **David and Trish Wright**. Along with David and Trish, of course, we welcome as baptized members their two lovely children, Dominic and Vivian. (Also rumor has it that Byron and Christine are planning a New Year's Eve wedding at Prince of Peace.)

A lovely reception of cake and punch was hosted by the parish Episcopal Church Women following the service.

Thanks to Those Who Submitted Worship Preference Question-

Many thanks to those who completed and submitted Worship Preference Questionnaires. In all, 17 questionnaires were received. As one might anticipate, the worship questionnaires revealed a wide range of preferences. Interestingly, the greatest preference was to maintain our current style and schedule of Sunday services. Other common preferences

were for a contemporary type service to be held possibly on Saturdays. Some interest was indicated for a later Sunday morning service. The rector appreciates your thoughts and is processing all your comments. A Worship Committee will likely be formed in the near future to further assist the rector in planning and implementing our worship schedule.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24, 2006

9:00 am Service of Lessons & Carols

4:00 pm Children's Pageant w/Eucharist

11:00 pm Traditional High Mass—Rite I

Christmas Eve Services Scheduled for 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Again this year, our early Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. will feature a family service with the Sunday School Christmas Pageant as its focus. This service is an opportunity for the whole family to gather and to celebrate the birth of our Lord in a festive setting of the Holy Eucharist Rite II.

The late service will be held at 11:00 p.m. this year. It will take the form of a traditional "High Mass" with incense. It will be a Rite I service and will assume a quieter and more contemplative quality than the early service.

We hope that the contrasting character of these two services will appeal to as many people as possible.

UTO
Ingathering
Sunday
November
19th

Select
&
Cut
Christmas
Tree Sunday
November 23

Children's
Pageant
Practice/Tree
Trimming
Saturday
December 2
11:00 am

Consecration Sunday Held on October 29th

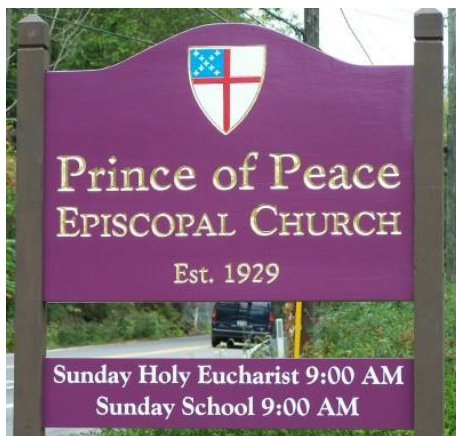
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Sunday, October 29th was set aside as Consecration Sunday at Prince of Peace Church. The guest speaker during the service was Eugene Kelleher, a member of Shavertown United Methodist Church. During the service, commitment cards were distributed and we were asked to fill them out with our financial commitment to Christ's church for 2007. The cards were then brought to the altar where they were consecrated to God's service. A catered luncheon was provided following the service to celebrate the results of the financial commitments we made for 2007.

We are especially grateful to Gene Kelleher for his inspiring message, as well as to Fern and David Schooley for providing a delicious meal for the luncheon. We are grateful also to Hugh Kelley, Marty Braen, Dave Dillon, and all others whose efforts made our first Consecration Sunday a success.

If you were unable to attend church on Consecration Sunday and have not yet received or turned in a pledge card, please contact the church office. We will be happy to provide one to you.

New Church Sign Dedicated in Memory of Edwin Roth



On Sunday, October 15, the attractive new Prince of Peace church sign along Main Road was dedicated in memory of Edwin Roth. The sign was handmade by Scott Key of Signcarv near Tunkhannock. Donations in memory of Ed Roth paid for the sign along with an additional gift from Pauline Roth. The lighting for the sign was donated by Dan Monk, and George Yatsko rented the equipment and dug the trench for the electrical wires. We thank everyone who contributed to the purchase and installation of the sign. Certainly now people driving by our church will know at a mere glance who we are.

That is a great blessing.

Back Mountain Community Thanksgiving Service Planned for Sunday, November 19th at 4:00 p.m.

The annual Back Mountain Community Thanksgiving service will be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Dallas United Methodist Church on Church Street on Sunday, November 19th. This service is sponsored by the Back Mountain Ministerium. The collection at this service will benefit the Back Mountain Food Pantry. You are also invited to bring items of canned or non-perishable food for the food pantry. Please plan to join with our Christian friends from other churches in this act of worship and thanksgiving.

New Back Steps to Church Undercroft Installed

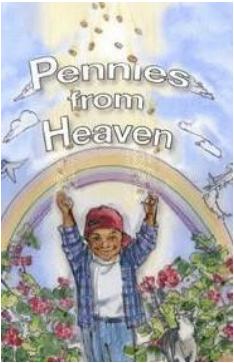
We extend our hearty thanks to George Yatsko for removing the crumbling old concrete outdoor steps to the church undercroft and for building and installing new pressure treated wooden steps. The new steps should last many years and provide easy access once again to the undercroft. ***Well done George!***

Plans are underway for a U2charist to be held at Prince of Peace on Saturday February 17, 6pm. Watch for more information to come!



Sunday School News

Pennies From Heaven Oct 29—Nov 26



The "Pennies from Heaven" project was started by Barbara Crafton, Episcopal Priest, Spiritual Director and Author as way for children to help others.

The children are very excited about our latest outreach project. We will be collecting pennies (anything larger

is of course welcome) until Sunday November 26. All money collected will be gathered and counted by our Sunday School Children.

The money raised will be used to purchase items (through ERD) for poverty stricken families. For more information you can visit our parish website's Youth Page.

Walk A Mile In their Shoes...bringing Hope Health and Healing to All God's Children

Our Children's Sabbath was held on Sunday Oct. 15, and was a great success. We were joined by Mark & Garrett Pall from Huntsville United Methodist. Mark (9 yrs old) played several selections on the organ and both boys sang with the children's choir. Following the service each child was presented with a beautiful cross and treated to a light reception.

Not only did we work to raise awareness of children's issues, but we had a wonderful time! AND Through everyone's generous donations during the second offering we have raised enough to assemble several Healthy Kits for Kids.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED!

A Note from our Deacon

The deacon is having a good time at Prince of Peace Church. I thank you all for helping me remember your names each week!

The Baptism Study Group has looked profoundly at the Baptism Covenant, how it developed (sort of), and how we live into this covenant with ourselves, our church family, our neighborhood and greater community, and with God.

The Network of Biblical Storytellers will meet 2 November at 6:30-8:00, and again 4 January, 1 March, 3 May, and so on, on the first Thursday of every other month.

Thank you for your prayers and support during our time together.

Deacon Lou

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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

WEEKLY DONATIONS FOR BACK MOUNTAIN FOOD PANTRY REQUESTED

An important ministry in our Back Mountain area is performed by the Back Mountain Food Pantry. Weekly distributions of food items are made to low income people to help sustain them through the week. This is especially important during the winter months when heating costs are high. As a member of the Back Mountain Ministerium, our parish is a sponsoring church of the Back Mountain Food Pantry.

We now request your weekly donations of specific food items for distribution by the Food Pantry. We will post in the weekly church bulletin what food items we will collect for the month. The donations should be placed in the tubs inside the main entrance to the parish hall.

During the month of November we will collect canned vegetables.

Thanks for your help and generosity.