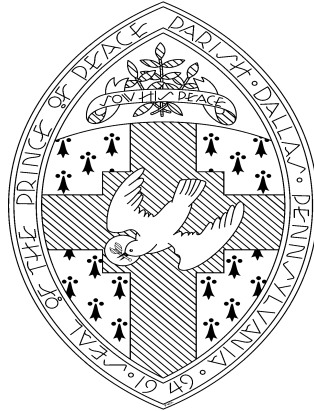


PRINCE OF PEACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

420 Main Street, Dallas Pennsylvania 18612
(570) 675-1723

www.princeofpeacedallaspa.org



Church Update

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 1

OUTREACH MINISTRY: FOOD BANK ITEMS. The Prince of Peace Food Basket is located near the entrance of the church and all non-perishable food donations are presented to The Back Mountain Food Pantry once each month. Please be generous with your support of this parish outreach ministry.

OUTREACH MINISTRY: BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES. Thank you to all who participated in Prince of Peace Outreach Ministry: Back- To - School - Help for Families. All items requested were donated and distributed in time for the start of school.

PRINCE OF PEACE COMMUNITY YARD SALES. Last two of the season: Saturday, September 10th and Saturday, October 7th 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Reserve space in advance by telephoning Lisa Kasarda at 417-2810 or the parish office at 675-1723. All day outdoor vendor space only \$10. Limited inside space \$15. Lunch items such as chili-dogs and baked goods available throughout the day. We do the advertising. You make the sales! **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Baked goods are needed for every second Saturday monthly yard sale. Please drop off baked goods during Friday office hours or early Saturday morning on the day of the sale. Kitchen help is needed on the day of each sale. Please volunteer for a shift to assist in the kitchen by contacting Edna Yatsko at 675-3369.

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE. Prince of Peace Parish needs all those items you don't want anymore. "Remember, your junk is someone else's treasure." Drop off your items near the area of the back windows of the Prater Room as the Episcopal Church Women's group prepares for the Annual Rummage Sale, a two day event set for September 16-17. Your new or gently used items can help families save money on needed household items and clothing and the sale of items raises funds for the parish. Contact chairpersons Pauline Roth and Sandy Sheehan for details on how you can help support this project. Volunteers needed to help.

UPDATING PARISHIONER'S CONTACT INFORMATION: In the event that you and your household have not participated in updating your contact information please take a moment today and during the month of September to complete a Congregation Information Form. Provide as much information as you can along with your e-mail address and fold and drop your form into the offering plate any Sunday during the month. Forms and pencils are located at near the entrance to the Prater Room.

PARISH STATISTICS AND OTHER INFORMATION. Not all details of the parish are posted in the Prater Room but all information and all records [except public dissemination of individual household giving] are available to all members. If any parishioner has difficulty navigating the stairs to review parish records, vestry minutes, financial reports please see Fr. Major or any member of Prince of Peace Vestry who will be glad to deliver materials and converse about all things related to finances, mission and ministry.

THE BELLS, BELLS, BELLS. Good News! The Bell System is scheduled to be rewired and the delay is a matter of waiting for the electrician who has promised this to the parish as a donation. In addition, it is very possible that the portion of the system that can play hymns that has been out of order for many years may be repairable for minor costs. If you would like to donate toward the repair of the system please notify Fr. Major.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS: *at Church and at Home* . With only a very brief and often sporadic time with youth on Sunday mornings we are reminded that Christian formation is something that mostly takes place between parents and their children in the home. This is why our Christian education efforts called **God's People at Church and at Home** focuses on brief Sunday lessons *at Church* and also on providing *at Home* resources designed for supporting parents who are always the first and often the best teachers of their children when it comes to sharing the Christian faith.

Prince of Peace Parish will hold age appropriate sessions every Sunday of every month beginning at 8:55 a.m. beginning September 25th and also provide parents with ample age-appropriate resources for the week so that Christian formation can easily be scheduled around your family schedule.

A FAITH COMMITMENT TO OUR YOUTH. In an effort to provide youth with proper Christian formation and a faith foundation that will last a life time Prince of Peace parish is hopeful that all parents with children will participate with the parish to make a commitment to provide regular encouragement for our youth to: (1) participate in church school on every Sunday of every month, (2) make new discoveries about their faith by utilizing their age-appropriate curriculum and Take-Home resources all through the month, (3) take time to pray every day, (4) participate in weekly Sunday Holy Eucharist, (5) volunteer and assist with the liturgical ministries on Youth Ministry Sunday (Family Sunday) scheduled on the last Sunday of every month and, (6) regularly share their talent and time in service to their Church and world.

NOTE TO PARENTS: Youth Ministry Sunday (Family Sunday). Prince of Peace Parish wishes to encourage our young people to experience ownership of the parish and discover their talents and have regular opportunity to be affirmed in ministry. Please review the Church School Bulletin Board on a regular basis and register your child(ren) to volunteer and assist with the liturgical ministries on Youth Ministry Sunday scheduled on the last Sunday of every month. Please register to participate at least two weeks in advance of the date of Youth Ministry Sunday.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR YOUTH AND THE MINISTRY OF TEACHING. Prince of Peace Parish needs teachers every Sunday for the following classes: Pre-School and Grade 1, Grade 2 and 3 and Grades 4-6. Please review the Church School Bulletin Board calendar and sign up to teach a session or two or three during the year. All of the Sunday lessons and hand-outs are already prepared for you! You can do this! Our youth need to hear from our adults and hopefully they will hear from you on occasion. Sign-up beginning today so that we can make sure there is a teacher every Sunday for every class. We need you for this ministry to our youth!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR GRADES 7-12. Beginning on Sunday, September 25th at 9 a.m. All youth grades 7-12 welcome. Conversations with Mr. Ed Dreisbach on Sunday Scripture, Christian Faith, The Bible, The Prayerbook, Giving Ourselves in Service and scripture's relevance to daily life.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION. All youth or adults seeking the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation , Affirmation of the Faith or Formal Reception in The Episcopal Way at the time of the Bishop's Visit are invited to register with Fr. Major prior to the close of September.

ADOPT-A-GARDEN THANK YOU. The Adopt-A-Garden project for 2011 is in full swing! Thank you to the families who have adopted areas of Prince of Peace grounds and gardens for 2011. See you on the grounds working in the Prince of Peace Gardens!

PARISH LIFE AND MINISTRY COMMISSION MEETINGS. Please participate as you are able in the areas of parish life and ministry meetings that take place during the month. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend all planning meetings. The following meetings are currently scheduled: **OUTREACH COMMISSION:** Every Second Sunday [Note: New Meeting Time] immediately following Holy Eucharist; **FINANCE COMMISSION:** Every Second Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Church Office; **PROPERTY COMMISSION:** Every Last Sunday immediately following Holy Eucharist. Other Commissions currently meet as announced. The Parish Vestry [Governing Board] meets every third Thursday beginning at 6 p.m. in The Prater Room for the discussion and review of the regular business and parish activity in mission and ministry.

WHY BE A VOLUNTEER? WHY ENGAGE IN MINISTRY? Give the Gift of Self: The Church is a world-wide family of God's children. It's a community that supports and strengthens all its members, a home of worship where people gather to praise and glorify God and a center of activity, one that shapes and renews people's lives. Your participation as a volunteer in one or more ministries enables your church to continue sharing Christ's message and making Christ's love a reality for everyone. The entire life of Jesus and his followers can be viewed as a form of volunteerism. Jesus's life and ministry is a tremendous lesson in how to be generous in the giving of ourselves. Supporting the Church is a way to put Christian values and your faith into action. Giving of ourselves in ministry is a sign of our commitment to being effective members of the body of Christ and an offering of thanks to God for all the gifts we have received. Give the gift of self. Consider how you can best follow Jesus and His example of service and generous giving.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS. Many thanks to our committed liturgical ministers. All liturgical ministers receive a schedule for ministry during each liturgical season and the same is posted on www.princeofpeacedallaspa.org and on the parish information bulletin board. Additional schedules are available in the narthex and near the altar guild closet. Readers are urged to prepare and review the Sunday lessons in advance. **READERS NOTE:** The Sunday readings are included on your schedules and copies of the readings for the next several weeks are located in the blue file on the pulpit for your advance review of the lessons.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES. Parishioners of all ages may participate in one or more of the liturgical ministries: Altar Guild, Reader, Usher-Greeter, Chalice Bearer, Ensemble, Acolyte. In addition kitchen hospitality and help securing and closing the building is needed every Sunday immediately following Holy Eucharist.

RESPECTING THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER. The Book of Common Prayer is our collection of ancient and modern prayers and worship services for occasions when the community gathers and for daily individual use as well. The full title of the Book of Common Prayer is "The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church." As it sounds, the BCP includes the common liturgies for all the various rites and practices of the church, including the Morning and Evening Offices, the Eucharist, Ministration to the Sick, Reconciliation of a Penitent, and many others.

Because of the introduction several years ago of lengthy, weekly published service bulletins containing all the excerpts for Holy Eucharist, the prayerful and regular use of our Book of Common Prayer has declined dramatically among the membership at Prince of Peace Church. Now, following the past several years of the disuse of our Book of Common Prayer, a whole generation of youth among us are currently uncertain about the rich content and unfamiliar with how to maneuver through its sections and pages.

During this new Season of Pentecost our revised and simplified Sunday Bulletin directs youth and adults alike in the use of this revered book of our prayers in an effort to revive and renew our longstanding tradition of respecting and praying together from our common book of prayer with our Episcopal sisters and brothers around the nation and of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

If you are completely unfamiliar with the Book of Common Prayer and the prayers of Holy Eucharist you may wish to use the "Annotated Holy Eucharist" booklet located near the entrance of the church which provides both the text of Holy Eucharist and a commentary that explains the prayers and actions of our worship.

VISIT THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER ON LINE. An easy to use site with the daily Morning, Noon and Evening Prayers, daily devotions and much more is available at www.bookofcommonprayer.net.

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER GIFT FOR YOU. If you or your household would like a complimentary copy of the Book of Common Prayer for your home and individual use please speak with Fr. Major who will be happy to provide you with a new or slightly used copy from his supply. Reserve your copy today while supplies last.

SUNDAY HYMNS. The hymns for Sunday Holy Eucharist are posted on the hymn board each week. In the event there are favorite hymns you have not heard in some time, just submit them in writing to Fr. Major and your favorites can be eventually scheduled to coincide with the themes of our Lessons and Liturgical Seasons.

GROWING IN MISSION AND MINISTRY. Why do people come to a church they have not been to before? Statistics show that 6% just walk in because of their own search for a faith community, 6 % join because of a good and likeable pastor, 10% because of outreach to and support for youth and the list goes on. Not one reason comes close to this: 65% join because they are invited by family, friends and other church members.

LUZERNE COUNTY FAIR and "PROJECT PRESENCE". Once again this year the Episcopal parishes of Luzerne County are working together to provide an Episcopal and Christian presence at Luzerne County Fair on September 7-11. Nothing very complicated. If you will help with your presence to staff our fair booth and assist in distributing balloons and other give-a-ways for an hour or more shift during the days of the fair please sign up on the parish information board. See Matt Stretanski or Fr. Major for details.

DALLAS HARVEST DAYS: GIFT BASKETS AND VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED. Once again this year Prince of Peace Church will participate in the local Dallas Harvest Day celebration on Sunday, September 18th. Parishioners interested in helping in the coordination of this community event may contact Fr. Major or Matt Stretanski. Sign up beginning today to provide a "theme gift basket" for the Prince of Peace booth. Some examples of gift baskets needed are: Snack Time, Coffee Time, Kitchen Essentials, Christmas Treasures, Gas Time, Spa Day. Drop off your gift basket on kitchen island by September 11th. Please be creative and generous and help in some way to bolster our presence in the community. Look for a sign-up sheet on the information board soon and consider representing your parish at our booth.

EPISCOPAL PARISHIONERS STAYING INFORMED. The Diocesan and Episcopal Life News Post, [The newSpin newsletter](http://www.diobeth.typepad.com) is published by The Rev. Canon Bill Lewellis on Mondays, and occasionally also on Thursdays: Visit <http://diobeth.typepad.com> for brief overviews and links to news and events in the Diocese of Bethlehem and in the Church around the world.

UPCOMING DIOCESAN CONVENTION. This year's Diocesan Convention is scheduled for October 7-8 at Nativity Cathedral, Bethlehem. The annual convention is our gathering of bishops, clergy, deacons and laity representatives charged to review the mission and ministry of the diocese, address needs and issues of the Church and plan our way forward for the new year. Parishioners interested in serving as delegate or alternate delegate please see Fr. Major today.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN ANNUAL CONVENTION PROJECT. This year the ECW seeks diocesan wide support to provide fabric for the making of school uniforms for the children in our companion diocese, Kajo-Keji, Sudan. One meter of fabric costs \$5. Please purchase one or more meters making a check payable to Diocesan Episcopal Churchwomen and write "Fabric/Uniforms" in the notation/memo line of your check. Mail To: Diocesan ECW Treasurer, Martha Fox, 4465 Farm Drive, Allentown, PA 18014.

CONTACT ELECTED OFFICIALS. Speak up, speak out. Stay in contact with your elected officials and hold your senators and representatives accountable for your preferred agendas at the following site : www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml.

