

Worship
Schedule

SUNDAY

- 9:00 am
Holy
Eucharist

TUESDAY

- 8:00 am
Morning
Prayer
(Chapel)

WEDNESDAY

- 3:30 pm
Book
Study with
Deacon
Lou

A Few Parting Words....

Dear Friends,

Over the last year and a half, I have been privileged to serve as the rector of Prince of Peace Church. At the end of July, I and my family will move to Lewisburg, PA where I will become rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

I am well aware that my ministry here was a short one. However, it was long enough for me to learn to appreciate the gifts that exist among the lay people of Prince of Peace. I hope that if my ministry here has accomplished nothing else, it will at least have taught you, the lay people, that you and your gifts are what will determine the future of this parish. Clergy will come and go, but those of you who are committed to the life and ministry of Prince of Peace are the backbone of the parish. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct you as you continue the ministry of Christ in this place.

We are all more than familiar with the challenges that many churches of every denomination face these days. Expenses increase with regularity, while parish incomes grow, if at all, at a much slower pace. And in an increasingly secular society, churches compete for new members from a smaller and smaller pool of potential members. All of these factors may require churches to adopt new models of ministry. The luxury of a single priest in a single parish may no longer be possible except for the largest

of parishes. This model worked well while resources were plentiful and the majority of the population accepted regular church attendance as the norm. Those days are over. The exception to this rule may be the deep South where church attendance remains high.

Having said this, churches still can and do grow. A growing population base certainly helps. Another source of growth in a parish is a pervasive focus on mission beginning with the clergy and penetrating down through every level of the membership. I have tried to foster such a vision at Prince of Peace. Whether I have succeeded in doing so, I will leave to others to decide.

My prayer is that all of you will use this opportunity to reevaluate the one or two main goals you believe that God is calling this parish to fulfill, and then with faith and determination resolve to work together to accomplish it. It will take the leadership of some of you to begin this. It will take the cooperation and commitment of the rest of you to achieve it.

Thank you for your love and support over the last 18 months. And may God bless you as you strive toward the high calling God has set for you.

Your sincere friend and rector,
Peter

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday &

Thursday

6:30 pm –

9:00 pm

Friday

9:00 am –

2:00 pm

SENECA LAKE WINERIES BUS TRIP

Prince of Peace will be hosting a fundraising bus trip to the wineries of Seneca Lake, NY on Saturday, October 6. The price of \$59.00 includes the bus trip and admission / wine tasting at five wineries. Each person will be responsible for their own meals. Bring some snacks, and a bag lunch. We will stop for dinner at a restaurant on the way home (price of meal not included).



Reservations will be taken from Prince of Peace members and friends through July 31 and then the remaining seats will be open to the public (we can take up to 51 people). The absolute deadline to make a reservation is August 31. Please be sure to reserve your spot soon!

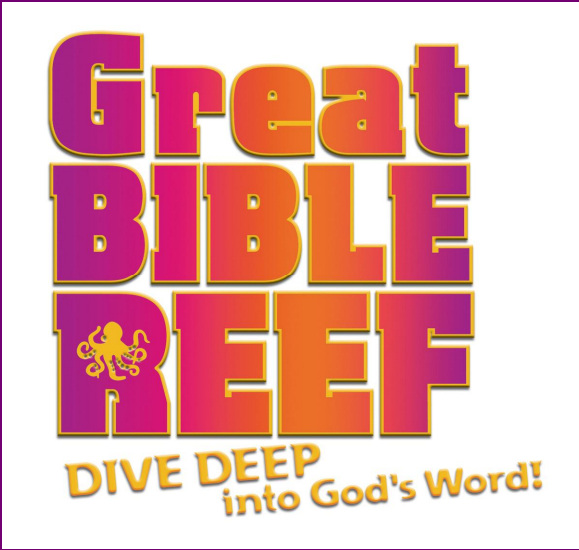
Everyone who makes a reservation and pays in full by July 31 will get a free "Snack Sack" for the trip (to include a beverage and a few snacks).

Contact the Church Office to reserve your spot, payment is required with your reservation.

PARISH PICNIC — SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9*, 11 am FRANCES SLOCUM STATE PARK

Our annual picnic will be held at Frances Slocum State Park (pavilion #3) on Sunday September 9. We will begin with The Holy Eucharist at 11:00 and food, fun and fellowship will follow. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. More information will follow as the date approaches.

* Please note the date changed due to a problem with our reservation.



All children ages 3 and up are invited to:
2007 Community Vacation Bible School

August 13-17 9:00 am - noon
at St Paul's Lutheran Church Rte 118, Dallas
Maximum 125 children. Registration deadline July 29.

Registration Forms available on our website or
at the church.

WEDNESDAY
BOOK
DISCUSION
WITH THE
DEACON
Wednesday 3:30 pm

E PISCOPAL
CHURCH
WOME N
will meet July 11 and
August 15 at 11:45 am
for lunch.

RUMMAGE SALE

Friday & Saturday September 7 & 8
Set-up Wed, Sept 5, 6pm; Thurs Sept 6, 9am

Items can be brought in after August 15.

PRAYER LIST

In our Parish

For those who suffer in mind, body or spirit especially Becky, Ed, Jack, Heather, Doris, Lisa, Marion, Debbie, Bill, Beverly, Father Joe, Father Dan, Carol, Lee, David, Jimmy, Scot, and Mary. For our Shut-ins; Sarah, Joe, Pam, Henrietta, Ralph, Eleanor, and Marion.

For Paul, our Bishop; Peter, our Priest; Leona, our Supply Priest and Lou, our Deacon.

In the Diocese of Bethlehem - Holy God, your Son called us to wrap the whole world in your saving embrace. By your Holy Spirit, give us compassion, purpose and energy to invite into your Church those who do not yet know the transforming power of your love. We ask this through him who has brought us from darkness to light, your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

July 1 – Christ Church, Towanda The Rev. Maureen Hipple, rector www.christchurchtowanda.org

July 8 – The Church Seminaries and those preparing for the ordained ministry
www.episcopalchurch.org

July 15 – North Parish (St. John's Church, Ashland; Christ Church, Frackville; Church of the Holy Apostles, St. Clair) Dolores Evans, senior warden www.northparish.com

July 22 – Diocesan House Ministry Team www.diobeth.org

July 29 – Trinity Church, Athens The Rev. Trula Hollywood, rector www.trinityathens.org

Anytime — Pray for our diocesan community, 66 churches in 14 counties, and our Bishop, Paul. Pray for repentance, renewal and mission in all our parishes. Pray that the Lord will bless us in our lives and ministry.

Pray for Rowan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Katharine, our Presiding Bishop, and Andrew, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The Diocese of Kajo Keji (Episcopal Church of the Sudan) - Pray for our companion Diocese of Kajo Keji in the Episcopal Church of the Sudan and Bishop Anthony Poggo. God bless Africa. Guard her people. Guide her leaders. Give her peace.

Anglicans Around the World

The Diocese of Swaziland—Pray for the Diocese of Swaziland in Africa, Bishop Meshack Mabuza and the Diocesan AIDS Ministry.

Pray for all places in conflict... the peacemakers and the peacekeepers, the victims of starvation, the victims of devastation along the Gulf Coast, and those dedicated to their relief. Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and Palestine, Afghanistan, Sudan, Northern Ireland and Iraq. Pray for peace in our hearts and throughout the world. Pray for the victims of natural disasters and terrorism and their families. Pray for grief counselors. Pray for the protection of children and for the many victims of abuse and their families.



Remember

to visit our

website for

more

information

on events and

topics cov-

www.princeofpeaceofallaspa.org

EXPECTING TOO MUCH FROM SUNDAY

By Tom Ehrich, June 22, 2007 [Religion News Service]

Returning to Sunday parish ministry for four months has given me both a fresh appreciation of the basics and one caution to share with all who care about healthy churches.

First the caution: I think many congregations expect too much from Sunday. They want Sunday to do all of their work, from welcoming the new to serving the old, from teaching to pastoral care, from community-building to business meetings.

Sunday cannot bear that much weight. For one, there's not enough time; 60 minutes on Sunday can barely handle corporate worship. The rest feels like frenzy and lost focus.

It's also the wrong venue. Sunday is for welcoming strangers, not holding business meetings in the lobby. Sunday speaks to corporate identity, not one-on-one friendships or family connections. Sunday worship is time given to God, not to sampling a smorgasbord of religious goods and services.

And Sunday is just too orderly. Even in non-liturgical traditions, Sunday worship has a formality that is necessary for time management, for accomplishing some key objectives, such as preaching and singing, and for focusing the faith community's attention.

The rest of a congregation's work needs to happen outside that orderliness: chance encounters, random acts of kindness, conversations that bridge church and world, in-depth dialogue with clergy, study groups, mission work, personal spirituality.

Those fundamental needs get stifled when they are loaded onto Sunday worship. Clergy feel fragmented.

One successful church puts it this way: Sunday morning is for guests, and Wednesday evening is for members. That is, Sunday takes us outside ourselves, and the rest of the week nurtures our community and draws us deeper.

With that in mind, the basics:

First, more chatting and greeting, less last-minute "party management." The "table" must be set before the first guests arrive, so that everyone's attention can focus on quality of greeting. Last-minute dashing about says, "We weren't prepared, and we don't care."

Second, Sunday worship is communal time, not a venue for silence or private prayer. We need silence and prayer, but trying to carve out silence on Sunday morning by shushing those who talk or sending children elsewhere violates community.

Third, let the children come near. Raising up the next generation of worshipping Christians matters far more than preserving solemnity in the pews.

Fourth, Sunday is a time for singing, not music education. Sing hymns that people want to sing, not ones that will enhance their musicality. Sing hymns that stir hearts, set toes to tapping, elicit tears, draw people close, speak in many accents. Ignore religious hierarchs who insist that only "official hymns" are appropriate. The most tone-deaf element of church life tends to be its official hymnals.

Fifth, Sunday is a time for preaching. Serious preaching. Preaching with an edge. Preaching that looks sinners in the eye and says, "God loves you, now get it right." Preaching that looks the complacent in the eye and says, "God loves you, now get outside yourself." Preaching that looks the lost and lonely in the eye and says, "God loves you, now get up, take heart, he is calling you."

I mean preaching that ventures outside the safety of pulpit and manuscript, stands among the people and says, "Here is what I believe we need to hear today, and I need your prayers to say it." Preaching that risks offending the proud and privileged. Preaching that risks transforming the preacher.

When we get these basics right, our congregations will burst the seams on Sunday and demand together-time on Wednesday.

-- Tom Ehrich is a writer, church consultant and Episcopal priest in Durham, North Carolina. He is the author of "Just Wondering, Jesus: 100 Questions People Want to Ask," and the founder of the Church Wellness Project. To respond to this column, e-mail personally@episcopal-life.org. We welcome your own "Personally" columns.

Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

420 Main Street
Dallas, PA 18612

Phone: 570-675-1723

Website: www.princeofpeacedallaspa.org

E-mail: princeofpeace@epix.net

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

VESTRY INFORMATION

Vestry Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month

Term Expires Jan 2008

Hugh Kelley

Dan Monk

Sandy Sheehan

Term Expires Jan 2009

Chris Sutton

Linda Shrader

George Yatsko

Term Expires Jan 2010

David Wright

Carl Goeringer

Dan Plashinski