

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

A History of the First 20 Years

1968 - 1988

Mercia Bachman

In the Beginning

The first Lutheran worship service in West Windsor was held on October 6, 1966 at the Maurice Hawk Elementary school. Officiating was the young Pastor, John C. Pfisterer, who had been called by the Board of American Missions (BAM) of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) to develop a congregation in West Windsor. At the piano was Kathryn Scheidt of the New Jersey Synod staff and member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Trenton.

The area had been assigned to the LCA by the intersynodical National Lutheran Council in the 1950's. However, it took the initiative and persistence of newcomers to the area to alert the New Jersey Synod and the BAM that it was time to carry out their assignment in the now-developing West Windsor.

West Windsor, in the 1960's, was a rural area close to the educational and cultural advantages of Princeton. It included the Princeton Junction train station which facilitated easy access to New York and Philadelphia. Thus, it was a natural growth area. And growth soon became apparent.

Committed Lutherans moving into West Windsor had several choices for church membership. They could affiliate with established churches in Trenton, St. Paul's in Hightstown, or Messiah in Princeton. The latter, a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, attracted many due to its strong preaching, open communion practice, and active concern for the Lutheran students at Princeton University; a responsibility assigned by the National Lutheran Council.

In 1961, Mercia and Theodore Bachmann settled in Princeton from Berkeley, California. Ted had been Professor of Church History and Missions at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary before being called by the Lutheran Church in America to promote and guide theological education in the U.S. and Canada. Ted and Mercia chose to join the Lutheran Church of The Savior, a mission-minded congregation in the heart of Trenton, and to be associate members of Messiah Lutheran Church. Each of these congregations contributed much to the founding of a new mission in West Windsor. In 1967, The Savior merged with Trinity to become Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

At Messiah the Bachmanns met several people from West Windsor: the well-established Opal and Howard Shrader and the newcomers, Mavis and Lee Baker and their three sons, David, Michael and Brent. Since Mercia had repeatedly pleaded the cause of a mission in West Windsor at the New Jersey Synod office, these new acquaintances responded warmly to her hope and promised their support.

On October 14, 1965, Mercia responded to an invitation to meet with officials of the New Jersey Synod and a representative of the Board of American Missions of the LCA. She presented a list of people interested in being part of a mission church and another of possible prospects. The response was favorable.

On March 8, 1966, the Rev. Edwin Eastman, representing the New Jersey Synod as well as BAM of the LCA, met with a small group of interested people at the Baker home in Princeton Junction. Among those present were Howard and Opal Shrader, their neighbors Jean and James Gunkel, and Mercia Bachmann. They were assured that a mission developer would be sent to the area in June. It was this group that received and encouraged Pastor John and Susan Pfisterer.

Establishing a Mission

Door to door canvassing by Pastor John, as well as the dedicated work of the core group, brought results. New residents kept moving into the fast-developing West Windsor. That summer, Irma and Albert Bruschini and their daughters, Patricia and Diane, arrived from Pennsylvania. They worshipped at Messiah and were introduced to Pastor Pfisterer, another visitor of that day. Bernt, Anneliese, Sharon and Brion Midland arrived in September. The Pastor's call was welcomed by these staunch Lutherans. Soon, they recruited their neighbor Valerie Barr, and her children Donna, Kim and Scott who joined the enthusiastic Lutherans working for a local congregation.

Not all interested individuals had a Lutheran heritage. Christians of varying denominations, and others without church affiliation, responded to the invitation to worship at Maurice Hawk School. Some of the new members, such as Boyce, Margaret and Marcia Harrison, had lived in the area for some time. Marcia spent many hours helping with the secretarial work including "The Herald", the first monthly newsletter, and Margaret made the first altar linens. Boyce served as the friendly greeter and usher on Sundays; he tutored Bernt Midland in the art.

A planning committee consisting of Mavis Baker, James Gunkel and Bernt Midland worked closely with Pastor John to guide the new mission. Congregational activities and responsibilities unfolded. Sunday School began on Reformation Day with an enrollment of twelve students and four teachers: Pamela Erickson, Diane Myers, Mercia Bachmann, and Pastor Pfisterer. Soon,

families with young children, such as Sue and Douglas Graham, were attracted to the nearby Sunday School advertised in community papers. Sue became an active participant in the church work. Attendance doubled.

The mission's first Advent season brought great expectations. The first Sunday evening began with a pot luck family supper followed by a program stressing the hope of a Savior to come. The first Baptism was that of Andrea Leigh Gunkel, on December 4th, 1966. Shortly after, there was joy in another beginning. The Rev. Richard Bartley of the BAM, in consultation with the Pastor and planning committee, purchased the parsonage at 37 Nassau Place at a cost of \$23,000 and 3 1/2 acres on Princeton Hightstown Road for \$18,000. A large sign reading "Future site of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, now meeting at Maurice Hawk School" was erected on the site. It attracted the attention of newcomers like Katy and Jay Sexton who were looking for a friendly place to worship.

On January 28, 1967, shortly after the Pfisterer's moved into the new parsonage—freshly painted and cleaned by members—a couples club was inaugurated. It later became known as PoPam. The Parsonage also became a gathering place for the young people of the mission. In the fall, they had created Chrismons for the first Christmas tree. Individually and collectively the young people brought life to the mission, David Baker, then a high school student, served as the first pianist for the worship service; Brion Midland, chose the name "The Herald" for the monthly newsletter.

From the beginning, a warm and friendly relationship existed between the new mission and the Dutch Neck Presbyterian and Penn's Neck Baptist Churches. Each of these churches willingly shared their facilities for the monthly pot luck suppers that helped solidify the mission. In 1966, the three denominations held a united Thanksgiving service which became a continuing tradition. The first Lenten service was held with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hightstown.

By 1967, there was a significant number of interested people to begin planning an organized congregation. Charter Day, April 2, 1967, highlighted their efforts. On this day, committed individuals signed a document indicating their intention to become full members of an organized congregation confessing the Christian faith according to Lutheran teaching. There was a separate section for children to sign. It was understood that the charter would be open until organization day.

Meanwhile, congregational activities had increased. A women's group, meeting in members homes, supported local welfare projects and cared for the fellowship and altar needs of the mission. An adult choir led by Pastor Pfisterer and meeting for rehearsal in the Midland home contributed much to the Sunday worship. The Sunday School children, under the direction of Mercia and Mavis, became the first children's choir. A confirmation class of two, Diane Erickson and Sharon Midland, met for instruction in their homes. Diane and Sharon were confirmed on May 14, 1967.

From its inception, the mission participated in work of the Synod and larger mission of the LCA. Benevolence giving was generous. Members also supported the inner-city work of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Trenton. In the summer of 1967, a cooperative Bible school with the Baptist Church in Penn's Neck received a select number of children from the large Bible school in the city. Later in the summer, the entire school of African-American and Hispanic children were entertained for a day in the Grover's Mill Park by Prince of Peacers.

The summer of 1967 also brought new recruits. In June, Lillian Gunkel, mother of James, moved from Trenton and provided wisdom and warmth to the young mission as also did Rueben Jessop's mother, Victoria. Rueben, a social worker recently employed by the National Lutheran Council in New York, settle with his family in West Windsor. They all became promoters of the forming congregation.

In early September, the Rev. Norman Nuding, his wife Barbara and sons Stephen, Timothy, David and Ned, returned to West Windsor from their long service in Japan. Their first visitor was the welcoming Pastor John. Since mission was the Nudings' calling, they were immediately at home and at work in Prince of Peace. Among their many contributions were the Sunday evening mission schools held jointly with the West Windsor Congregations mentioned above.

A Church is Born

According to the New Jersey synod guidelines, the organization of a mission into a congregation requires the signature of 60 charter members. This requirement was met two days after the first Easter Sunrise Worship Service was held on the property designated for a church building.

Organization took place in the Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church on April 6, 1968. Dr. Edwin Knudsen, President of The New Jersey Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, presided. The adult signers chose Prince of Peace as the name of the new church, adopted a constitution and budget, elected a Congregation Council and took title to the parsonage at 37 Nassau Place. A Lutheran congregation of 83 baptized members had been formed. The children's names were included in the charter document.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF PRINCE OF PEACE

Baker: Lee, Mavis, David, Susan, Michael, Brent
Barr: Valerie, Kim, Donnel, Scott
Bruschini: Albert, Irma, Patricia, Diane
Clifford: Donald

Delcamp: Kirsten, Keith
Erikson: Norman, Marion, Diane, Pamela
Fuchs: Frank, Peggy, Marguita
Gaertner: Rev. Bertil, Margit, Christen, Martin, Elizabeth
Graham: Sue, Andrew, Luke, Holly
Gunkel: James Lament, Jean, Timothy, Andrea, Melissa
Gunkel: Lillian
Harrison: Boyce, Margaret, Marcia
Jantz: Mr. and Mrs. Carl
Jessop: Rueben, Delores, Kristen, Ruth, Theodore,
Jessop: Victoria
Larsen: Arthur, Helen
Lauf: Albert, Jeanne, Brian, Gregory, Valeria
Midland: Bernt, Anneleise, Sharon, Brion
Nuding: Rev. Norman, Barbara, Stephen, Timothy, David, Ned
Pearce: Robert, Eleanor, Lynn
Pfisterer: Susan, John
Schrader: Howard, Opal
Sexton: H. Jay, M. Kathryn, Mary Christine
Weinhold: J. Frederich, Barbara
Weislogel: Paul, Judith, Andrew
Wilkenson: Eleanor, Jessie
Associate Charter Members: Bachmann: Rev. Theodore, Mercia

The following Sunday, April 21, was a day of celebration. At the 11:00 service in the Maurice Hawk School, the Rev. Thomas Weber, representing the Board of American Missions, preached the sermon. Eight charter signers who had been given special instruction were received into full membership by affirmation of their Christian faith. The first council was installed: James Gunkel, Chair, Rueben Jessop, Opal Schrader, Albert Bruschini, Bernt Midland, Paul Weislogel, Boyce Harrison, Mavis Baker, and Jean Lauf.

That afternoon, at four o'clock, members of Prince of Peace were joined by friends from surrounding congregations to rejoice with the new congregation and celebrate its intention to join the New Jersey Synod of the LCA. Synod President, Dr. Knutson, was the preacher. Following the service, refreshments were served by the women of Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church.

New Responsibilities

Now, as an organized and incorporated congregation, Prince of Peace had new demands and opportunities. During a congregational meeting in June, 1968, the members unanimously called John Pfisterer, the BAM developer, to be their Pastor. He accepted and served until January, 1971 when he was called to be Assistant Pastor at Our Savior in Haddonfield, New Jersey.

During Pastor Pfisterer's tenure, talented new members strengthened the life and mission of the congregation. In the summer of 1968, the Roesslers, the Rev. Carl, Marilyn, Curt and Eric moved into West Windsor from California where Carl had been a Lutheran Pastor involved in the planned care of senior citizens. Both he and Marilyn, a public school teacher, brought nourishment to the young congregation. In the fall, Helen and Ross Wilbur arrived from Des Moines, Iowa where both had been active in social services. Ross joined the staff of the National Lutheran Council in New York. Along with encouraging community service, Ross concentrated his interests on children. As Sunday School Superintendent, he assisted with confirmation instruction, preached children's sermons and planned annual old fashioned Sunday School picnics. Helen served on the church council as Secretary and then President.

The congregation's vision of the larger church was strengthened by the entrance of another group of executives of the Lutheran Church in America and their families: James Unglaube of the Board of College Education, The Rev. Kenneth Crumpton of the Board for Missions in North America, The Rev. Daniel Olson of the Board of World Missions and Guntar Smith of the Division on Stewardship.

Christian nurture of the young congregation was strengthened by the addition of an adult education program. At first, it was an instruction class for unconfirmed prospective members. Later, it became the Adult Forum offering Bible study and discussion of topics of interest. The program benefited from Lutheran Professors from Princeton Theological Seminary. The first of these was the Rev. Dr. Bertil Gaertner, a New Testament scholar from Sweden. He and his family were charter members of Prince of Peace and offered encouragement to the young mission though they knew that their stay in America would be short.

While the congregation was without a Pastor, responsibility rested heavily on Bernt Midland, Vice-President of the Congregation Council (At that time the Pastor was considered the President of Council.) Bernt arranged supply pastors and kept the congregation on course while a call committee sought a new Pastor.

By November, 1971, the Rev. William Parson of the New England Synod had been called as Prince of Peace's new pastor. He and his family were warmly welcomed by the expectant congregation which immediately began to plan a building program under his direction. His talented wife, Catherine, organized three additional choirs. A gifted preacher and diligent worker, William Parsons

unfortunately suffered periods of illness that required his resignation in June, 1973. At about this time, a number of key families were transferred from the area. Other members became deeply discouraged and some withdrew their membership. The Board of American Missions was inclined to close the Mission. The Congregation Council adamantly protested however, and the staff of the New Jersey Synod, President Ehlers and the Rev. Thomas Weber, recognizing the strength and devotion of the remaining families, convinced the BAM to continue its assistance.

Fortunately, the congregation was blessed with members who could be called upon to fill the pastoral vacancy. The Rev. Herbert Anderson, Professor of Pastoral Care at Princeton Theological Seminary, was appointed Vice-Pastor and the Rev. Norman Nuding, serving the Board of World Missions, assumed the presidency of the Church Council. They divided preaching responsibilities and occasionally were assisted by Carl Roessler and Virgil Westlund (a member since 1969) and others. An active lay ministry, including a talented volunteer choir director, Esther McDonald, made this a period of growth and service.

Meanwhile, the BAM, realizing the need for another Developer, looked for a pastor who could fill the needs of a tender congregation and a community poised for growth. The opening of the West Windsor-Plainsboro High School in 1973 became another attraction for home seekers.

Before 1973 ended, the BAM extended a call to the Rev. George Frederick Schott III, a 1969 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, who had served five years as Developer and Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in West Philadelphia. Prince of Peace warmly welcomed their new pastor, his wife, Roberta, (who soon became deeply involved in the work of the church) and their daughters, Lisa and Cheryl on January 6, 1974. Then, the hard work of reviving a mission began. Pastor and members canvassed new developments and followed moving vans to welcome newcomers. Attendance at worship grew rapidly. Among the new members were two Princeton Seminary professors: Donald Juel and Karlfried Froehlich. Both they and their families were generous in sharing their knowledge, teaching skills and musical talent with Prince of Peace.

A Home of Their Own

Soon, an encouraged congregation was ready to renew plans for a first-unit building. In January of 1975, a fund-raising drive—projected and administered by members of the congregation—began with a kickoff dinner at the Dutch Neck Fire House. Response from the 27 member families was so successful that the financial assistance of the BAM was assured. Under the guidance of Pastor Fred and the Church Council (Helen Wilbur, President) plans materialized. A building committee with Albert Bruschini as chair worked with the builder, Carl Jacobelli, to produce a well-planned structure at minimum cost. Groundbreaking took place on July 27, 1975.

Grateful for his leadership, Prince of Peace congregation, on September 9, called the Rev. Frederick Schott to be its pastor, thus ending his status as Developer for the BAM and the New Jersey Synod.

On February 22, 1976, the congregation moved into a chaste but ample sanctuary and rooms adequate for education, social activities and administration. A tall, slender steeple gave the church visibility from the busy Princeton-Hightstown Road. On the following Sunday afternoon, April 29, the building was dedicated to the glory of God at an impressive service featuring a sermon by the Rev. Thomas Weber, special music by the choir and greetings from far-flung friends and former members.

Members accepted new responsibilities that came with the new building; cleaning, landscaping and, eventually, lawn-mowing. Members and friends donated trees and shrubs as well as labor and time. Among the new trees were a number of mature pines, a gift from the nearby R.C.A. Corporation. Although a 60% survival rate was expected, good rains and tender loving care assured that not one tree was lost.

Meanwhile, Pastor Fred and an active Evangelism committee continued outreach in the community. On festive days, the sanctuary was full to overflowing. On weekdays, the facilities were put to good use by local non-profit organizations including, on occasion, St. David the King, a Roman Catholic Mission.

The spiritual life of the congregation was strengthened by Bible studies, adult forums, confirmation classes, annual retreats and youth activities. Among the latter was a hiking group known as Prince of Peace Mountain Comets. With regular trips planned and supervised by Jay and Katy Sexton, the program ran from 1976 until 1988.

The congregation's vision of the larger church was strengthened by the entrance of another group of executives of the Lutheran Church in America and their families: James Unglaube of the Board of College Education, the Rev. Kenneth Crumpton of the Board of Missions in North America, the Rev. Daniel Olson of the Board of World Missions, Guntar Smith of the Division of Stewardship and the Rev. Robert R. Strohn of the Division for Parish Services.

Proximity to the Princeton Theological Seminary with its need for internship placements for Lutheran students gave Prince of Peace the opportunity to become a teaching church in 1971.

Financially, the congregation was doing well with per capita stewardship the highest in the Synod. Prince of Peace became self-supporting in 1981 and contributed liberally to the work of the wider church. In 1982, the LCA-BAM loan was paid off by refinancing with the Aid Association for Lutherans. By 1984, growth in the community and the financial condition of Prince of Peace warranted the addition of a second pastor to serve half time.

Team Ministry

The call committee did not have far to look. Margaret Gatter Payne, having completed a Master of Divinity program at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1980 and an internship of 18 months at Prince of Peace, was awaiting a call to a congregation close to her Princeton home. The Council recommended and the congregation overwhelmingly approved that Margaret be called to serve with Pastor Fred as pastor of Prince of Peace. She was ordained at the 1984 convention of the New Jersey Synod. Mother of four children, Helen, Tara, John II and Benjamin, and wife of busy commuter husband John, Margaret was adept at dividing time between home and workplace. Never had prospects for growth been brighter for the congregation.

In September, however, Pastor Fred, for personal reasons, submitted his resignation. Pastor Margaret, assisted by ordained members of the congregation, Congregation President Milt Teske; and an active laity, continued as sole pastor until January, 1986. During this time, several members of the congregation, recognizing a need in the community, inaugurated plans to begin a nursery school at Prince of Peace. Money was borrowed from the church to fund the project that came to fruition as the Woodchuck Hollow Cooperative Nursery School.

A call committee, in consultation with N.J. Synod Bishop the Rev. Herluf Jensen, was seeking a full-time pastor for Prince of Peace. In November, 1985, the committee recommended to the Congregation Council that the Rev. R. Gregg Kaufman, who had been assigned by the LCA's Division for Mission in North America to develop a new congregation in Carrollton, Georgia and served as Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church there, be presented to the congregation for consideration. The Council approved the recommendation. After meeting the congregation in a social setting and conducting the worship service for All Saints Sunday, Pastor Kaufman was joyfully approved and called by the congregation as pastor of Prince of Peace.

In January, 1986, Pastor Kaufman, his wife, Linda and their children, Karen and Daniel arrived in West Windsor and were welcomed by an expectant congregation and a large group of prospective members. Pastor Payne resumed her nominally half-time position and a productive partnership began.

A new vitality was evident in the congregation: in October, a second worship service was added making weekly celebration of the Eucharist feasible; the educational program, under the direction of Linda Kaufman, was given impetus by a system of rotating teachers; additional educational opportunities and activities were provided for children during Advent and Lent; more congregational committees were formed and given added responsibilities; with the guidance of Pastor Payne, a Womens' organization was born; Pastor Kaufman introduced softball to the recreational program of the church.

Continuing growth in and around the West Windsor community brought numerous visitors to Prince of Peace worship services and activities. Many of them became members. The need for more space was increasingly apparent. The work of a building committee, chaired by John Wiese and including Rich Coleman, Orlen Lunde, James Unglaube, Barbara Nuding, and Marilyn Roessler culminated in concrete plans for expansion. A master site plan was finalized in January, 1988 and a Building Campaign, supervised by the Lutheran Laity Movement, was begun. Pledges received through the campaign did not meet expectations and the master plan was successfully downsized to include a 230 seat sanctuary, narthex space adequate for post-worship fellowship, administrative offices and a lounge. Celebration was in order.

Celebration of the 20th anniversary of Prince of Peace's birth as an organized congregation took place on April 24, 1988. The anniversary committee, comprised of charter members, attempted to reach all former members with an invitation that also included information on the present status of the congregation. Reunions for confirmation classes were held in members' homes. The Rev. John Pfisterer, the church's first pastor, preached at the worship service. After a sandwich lunch, came an informal sharing of memories and thanks for God's eternal grace and guidance.

This brief sketch can in no way give recognition to the many individuals who have served over the years since organization. Due to the character of the area, there was much coming and going. Consequently, Prince of Peace has served as a spiritual way station for hundreds of people who are now scattered all over the world and a few who have gone to their eternal reward. Nor does this summary describe the many hopes and joys as well as pains and disappointments that are part of a living congregation. That story is still to be written. At this time, we can only pause to thank God for 20 years as a congregation wherein we can praise and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. It is His church, and we are its members.

The foregoing account was edited and abridged from Mercia Bachman's History of Prince of Peace - the First 20 Years.

1988-1993

By Norman Nuding

The Way We Were

In this document an attempt is made to record a brief historical overview of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Princeton Junction, New Jersey for the five year period from mid 1988 to mid 1993.

Where was the congregation in 1988? Pastors Gregg Kaufman and Margaret Payne were serving as a male-female ministerial team a relative rarity in the Lutheran Church at that time. There were 450 baptized members in the congregation; families with young children were once again on the increase; space for education was beginning to get tight; two Sunday worship services were held in all but the summer months. Prince of Peace was a congregation on the move.

If one word were to be selected to characterize the five-year period, it would be "growth." Growth happened in a number of phases of the life of the church. The baptized membership catapulted from 450 to 731. In 1992 alone, 93 new members joined Prince of Peace. The church conducted a successful building fund drive making it possible to realistically consider expansion. An active Building Committee went through the arduous process of planning and overseeing the construction of the additional office and educational space, as well as a new sanctuary. Use of the facility by the community dramatically increased. The number of lay persons taking responsibility for activity in the church, although always extensive in the past, expanded into the new membership. "Growth" with all of its attendant benefits and problems was the watch word of this five year period.

Pastoral Leadership

The Prince of Peace tradition of strong pastoral leadership continued during this period with the sensitive and skillful preaching of Margaret Payne, the seasoned administrative and accomplished overall pastoral skills of Gregg Kaufman, and the special talents for teaching and serving persons in need of Dawn Silvius. Pastor Payne resigned her call to Prince of Peace in mid-1991 in order to accept a call as Assistant to the Bishop of the New Jersey Synod. Dawn Silvius, a recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and well known to the congregation as a former member and intern, was called as a three-quarter time Assistant Pastor in December of 1991. She and her family, husband Jim and teen-age children, Erik, Peter and Julie, were soon heavily involved in the life of Prince of Peace. Dawn's responsibilities were extended to full time in January, 1993.

Lay Leadership

Prince of Peace has not been built by pastors alone. During this five-year period, dozens of lay persons have accepted leadership roles in the life of the congregation. Among the very many who served on council and committees and as volunteers in the community, several should be mentioned for purposes of record.

Larry Rogers provided extraordinary leadership to the Council and the congregation in his five years as Council President. He was succeeded by Jane Wiese who served from 1992 to 1993.

During these five years, the church enjoyed the services of a number of Secretary/Parish Administrators. Only JoAnn Rogers, who sensed a special administrative need and leant her organizational skills and knowledge of the congregation during the transition to the new building, was a church member. The position is currently and competently filled by Nancy Baydalla.

Perhaps the most unsung leaders of Prince of Peace are Co-Treasurers, Eloise Crawford and Pamela Teske. They have served very quietly, yet competently over these years. The financial secretaries, Margaret Cehanovich, Jan Findley, and Ann Kyrilis, also have contributed with their steady behind-the-scenes work. They all have been important to the history of Prince of Peace.

Facilities

One of the most obvious signs of growth during this period was the expansion of the physical plant of Prince of Peace. In the beginning of the discussion about extending the plant, some opposition was expressed. Prince of Peace had always been a very friendly, caring community and several persons believed that if the congregation were to become considerably larger, those elements would be lost. Their voices did not prevail but their concern prompted the exhaustive preparation that preceded the actual building plan and contributed to its success.

A Building Committee was appointed. John Wiese, a civil engineer, chaired a committee comprised of Rich Coleman, Orlen Lunde, Barbara Nuding, Marilyn Roessler and James Unglaube. The committee spent countless hours in preparation and finally in overseeing the construction of the new building. When the process was complete, Prince of Peace had a superior facility in which to carry out its mission.

Norman Nuding designed the landscaping of the property. Based on his plan, many volunteers from the congregation provided the physical labor creating a unique atmosphere to surround the new facility.

In the annals of American church history, a new structure has not always been a magnet for new visitors. The opposite proved to be the case for Prince of Peace. The congregation experience a real spurt in growth when the new facility was complete.

The congregation worshipped in the new sanctuary for the first time on September 15, 1991. A dedication service was held on November 17, 1991, with a member of the congregation, Dr. Karlfried Froehlich, Professor of Church History, Princeton Theological Seminary, preaching and The Rev. E. Roy Riley, Bishop, New Jersey Synod, presiding.

Christian Education at Prince of Peace

Over this five-year period, the number of children at Prince of Peace dramatically increased making Christian Education a top priority. Linda Watson Kaufman served as Christian Education Committee chairperson during this time aided by Anne Patterson, Robin Hoffman, Martha Winder and Dee Foley as Sunday School Superintendents supervising the many dedicated teachers and advisors who led Sunday School classes, Vacation Bible School, Advent Adventures, and Youth Groups.

An adult education retreat was held each year from 1988 to 1993, sometimes at the church and in other years at a location away from Prince of Peace. Because the congregation was growing, a plan was devised to divide the membership geographically into ten small groups to provide a more intimate settings for meetings. These groups, called "Care Groups", met for fellowship, for spiritual refreshment and sometimes for study. Some groups admirably achieved their purposes, others did not. The program was eventually dropped.

Prince of Peace has had a wealth of leadership for the stimulating adult forum which meets every Sunday and has allowed for individual sharing of faith experiences. Many of the leaders have come from the seminary community.

Music at Prince of Peace

The music program has experienced a number of changes in leadership during the last five years. The following persons were directors or accompanists during this period: Kristin Acker, Carol Jenkins, Karl Zinsmeister, Mana Furuyama, Patricia Eng, Kwanli Tsang, and Kaori Hongo, The position was expanded to Minister of Music with the hiring of Terrence Sherman in August, 1992.

Perhaps the biggest change in the music program was the addition of an organ for our worship services. The organ was a gift to our congregation from Susan Grainger at the time the new sanctuary was completed. Although the church had always used musical instruments to enhance worship, they increasingly became a part of the regular worship services. This has been a delightful addition to our offering of praise.

The Worship and Music Committee also supervised the addition of a paid Nursery Attendant to the staff. During most of these five years, Banessa Merrick has been a valuable and faithful caregiver on Sunday mornings and during special worship services.

Beyond Prince of Peace

In the early years of Prince of Peace, the church's members dreamed of the time when they would be strong enough to move out in service beyond the confines of our congregation. It seemed like only a dream. This now happens in two ways.

First, groups in the community use our facilities. St. David the King Roman Catholic congregation worshipped in our facility until they recently completed their new sanctuary. Twice over the five-year period, a Korean congregation used our worship facilities for its services. Prince of Peace sponsors the Woodchuck Hollow Cooperative Nursery School which meets in our buHding every school day. Alcoholics Anonymous regularly uses the fellowship hall and meeting rooms. The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Red Cross, Board of Elections, the Indian Voice of West Windsor, an Adoptive Parents Support Group, and Parents Anonymous have also used our facilities. The Alzheimer's Day Care group met at Prince of Peace until early in 1993.

Second, Prince of Peace members go out in Christian service: to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen to tutor and serve meals to the hungry; to Holly House to distribute small gifts and entertain persons who no longer can live alone; to Trenton where, with Habitat for Humanity, they help provide affordable housing for the poor. Some of our young people spend a summer of service in Trenton. The congregation participates in the Crop Walk each year and reaches out in a variety of other ways with service and monetary gifts. Of course, through its benevolence gifts, Prince of Peace supports the broader work of the ELCA both here in North America and around the world.

God has blessed Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. We need to respond by being faithful to God. We must continue to spread the gospel in season and out of season, doing those things which are pleasing to God's eyes.

The foregoing account was edited and abridged from Norman Nuding's History of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1988-1993. Jane Wiese