

January 2015



Worship in January
Services at 8:30 and 11 am
Unless Otherwise Noted

January 4

Second Sunday of Christmas
One Service at 10 am

January 11

Baptism of Our Lord

January 18

Second Sunday of Epiphany

January 25

Third Sunday of Epiphany
One Service at 10 am

Upcoming Events

January 7, 14, 21

Prayer Service

Following Wonderful Wednesday
7:45 pm

For more information, see
A Call to Prayer on this page

January 8

Book Group

7:30 pm

For more information, see page 3

January 11

Congregational Finance Meeting

9:45 am

For more information, see page 3

January 25

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Following the 10 am service

For more information, see page 3

See page 3 for information about
regularly scheduled small groups.

From the Pastor

A Call to Prayer

Sometimes, in crisis, the Holy Spirit drives us to our knees. This is not always a bad place to be.

As Prince of Peace prepares for our congregational meeting on January 25th, where we will vote on a 2015 budget that we anticipate will have a significant impact on our ministry and staff, I am calling the congregation to prayer. We can approach this process as a problem to solve, or we can discern where and how God is calling us into the New Year and beyond.

On the Wednesdays of January 7, 14, and 21, I will hold a prayer service in the sanctuary after Wonderful Wednesdays at 7:45 pm. We need not fall on our knees, but we will bring our thoughts and concerns about our financial challenge into the presence of the Almighty.

I invite you to this time of prayer.

In the meantime pray this prayer as we move forward into 2015.

God of this new day, we pray for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Fill it with all truth and wisdom. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is need, provide for it; where it is in error, direct it. Draw your church together and give us a heart for mission as we discern our financial status and prepare our budget for the coming year. Equip us with a non-anxious presence as we direct the ministry of our beloved congregation. Amen

Pastor Froehlke

New! . . . Pastor Froehlke Has a Blog

Here's How to Find It and Participate in the Discussion

Visitors to the Prince of Peace web page (popnj.org) can now access Pastor Froehlke's new blog.

To access the blog, go to popnj.org and click on *Join Pastor Froehlke's New Blog* in the left column. You will be able to read Pastor's post without registering. Once registered, you will be able to leave a comment.

Many thanks to Al Parker for making this possible.

For a review of Prince of Peace's financial status, see page 4



As 2014 comes to an end, it is natural to look back, evaluate, and ponder the events of the past year. In the life of the church music ministry, there are encouraging signs and trends. Most notably, I've been so pleased with our children. The involvement of our kids in worship and music is profound. Almost all of our young people are active in the music ministry.

This fall, as we began another year of Wonderful Wednesdays, Kate, Megan, and I discussed that this year's children's ensembles would be relatively young. In our *Chimes of Worship* group, more than half of the kids involved had never rung bells or chimes before. Yet, they have progressed mightily this fall, culminating in the ringing of two different

pieces in December ... using sheet music! Kids that have been in our program previously are making great strides. Now, we're able to tackle repertoire that is more in depth and that can challenge and grow their faith.

One of the things that we have been actively trying to accomplish in our *Wonderful Wednesday* program is to equip the children to be informed and active participants in worship. How proud we were, then, on Advent 4. The kids not only rang chimes, sang an anthem, and used Orff instruments to present a communion selection; they also sang out on portions of the liturgy, including long-cherished Lutheran hymns. They sang along with the hymn of the day that focused on the angel Gabriel. They were engaged in the service.

That's what music can do. Music can reach us emotionally. But, texted music has the ability to reach us both sonically and linguistically. And, when the texted music is sacred, our emotions and sensibilities are especially heightened and fulfilled. The music ministry isn't just special music on a Sunday. That's probably the smallest part of what we do. The music ministry is fellowship ... it is devotional ... it is discovery ... it is spiritual education ... and, it's a time to flex some muscles musically.

If you've ever thought about participating in one of the ensembles, now is a great time to start! We'll be re-setting and getting restarted in the new year. The ensembles are open to all! Where there's a will, there's a way ... and a spot! If you have any questions, please let me know.

I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a great new year! 2015 is a time for us to be bold ... to be courageous in ministry! We just have to remember: *courage is just fear that has said its prayers!*

Peace, Doug
Minister of Music

*Photo Taken by Doug Helvering at
Evening of Lessons and Carols, December 19, 2014*

Tidings, the newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, is published monthly. Articles, story ideas, and comments can be emailed to loismcase@gmail.com.

Deadline for the February issue is Saturday, January 24

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehle, Pastor
 Dr. Doug Helvering, Minister of Music
 Victoria Chow-Torres, Church Musician
 Kathy Nowak, Parish Administrator
 Wendy Schutzer, Cherry Tree Club Director
 Eric Jorgensen, Treasurer
 Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

Congregational Council

Bob Durie, President
 Steve Bromberg, Vice President
 David New, Secretary (non-voting)
 Lois Case (Communications, Garden)
 Josh Grim (Wonderful Wednesdays)
 Brandi Hebert (Stewardship)
 James Kisthardt (Worship)
 Kathy Morris (Social Outreach)
 Peter Perkuhn (Christian Education)
 Allison Safranek (Youth)
 Rob Singley (Property)
 Newman Wilson (Digital Team)
 Martha Winder (Parish Care)

Worship Ensemble Schedule

| | 8:30 am | 11 am |
|------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| January 4 | No Ensembles, One service at 10 am | |
| January 11 | Victoria Chow-Torres | Adult Choir |
| January 18 | Adult Choir | Victoria Chow-Torres |
| January 25 | Megan Helvering | Adult Choir |

Small Groups

The three groups below meet regularly and welcome new members.

Parents Invited to Parenting at Panera

Tuesdays at 9:30 am, Panera Bakery
Nassau Park Shopping Center

Join your fellow parents Tuesday mornings at 9:30 to discuss Christian parenting topics and more. This is a relaxed fellowship opportunity to get to connect with fellow parents at Prince of Peace.

For more information, contact Janis Haddock (jhaddock309@yahoo.com) or Melody Bromberg (melb4cm@comcast.net).

Christian Focus Continues Discussion of the Old Testament

Wednesdays at Noon in the Lounge

Discussion is based on a video series of 24 lectures by Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University and begins at about 12:30, following a brown bag lunch beginning at noon.

For more information, contact Phyllis Church (609-799-1793 or p.church@mindspring.com).

Book Group Meets Monthly

On the Second Tuesday of the Month

January 8th, 7:30 pm

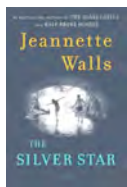
at the home of Phyllis Church
11 Princeton Place, Princeton Junction

Silver Star by Jeannette Walls

When Charlotte Holliday, a single mother and wannabe folk singer, abandons her two young daughters, the police somehow find out about it. Rather than be sent into foster care, however, Liz (15) and 'Bean' (12) flee California and finally end up at the doorstep of their only relative,

Uncle Tinsley, a man they have never met before. The unlikely trio learn to get along, but fitting into their uncle's small southern town proves harder.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Phyllis Church (609-799-1793 or p.church@mindspring.com).



Congregational Meetings Scheduled for January 11 & January 25

Two important congregational meetings have been scheduled in January.

The first, between services on January 11, will be a non-official (no votes taken) meeting to discuss the current budget deficit and approaches to budgeting for ministry 2015. Congregants are asked to think prayerfully about the ministries of Prince of Peace and to come with suggested approaches to bridging the gap between income and expenses.

The January 25 meeting is the official annual meeting of the congregation in which a budget for 2015 will be approved. It will follow the 10 am service.

To see more details about Prince of Peace's financial situation, see the article on page 4.

Congregational council members welcome your comments. A list of members is in the box on page 2.

Youth and Their Families in the News

As part of the Hightstown Rams Pop Warner Pee Wee Football Team, **Andrew Luczak** won the New Jersey Central Division III title and the New Jersey State Pee Wee Division III Championship in November, finishing the season with a record of 10-3. Andrew's father, **Kraig Luczak**, was an assistant coach for the team. An exciting excerpt from the game can be seen on youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ci3cvMS8rE>).

Dan Slothower appeared as Mr. Shellhammer, head of the toy department, in the Kelsey Theatre production of *Miracle on 34th Street* in November.

Corinne and Shannon Smith earned their Girl Scout Silver awards by organizing and performing in musical events at several senior facilities in the area. Corinne (cello) and Shannon (violin) are frequent performers in the PoP Philharmonic.

Several Prince of Peacers participated in the West Windsor/Plainsboro South's production of *The Laramie Project*, including **Kathy Slothower** (producer); **Robin Slothower** and **Matt Zupancic** (cast); and **Sara Froehlike** (lighting).

January TASK Donation is Salad Dressing

The Social Outreach team has designated salad dressing as the contribution of the month for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK). Donations can be placed in the wooden box in the breezeway.

Financial Status Review

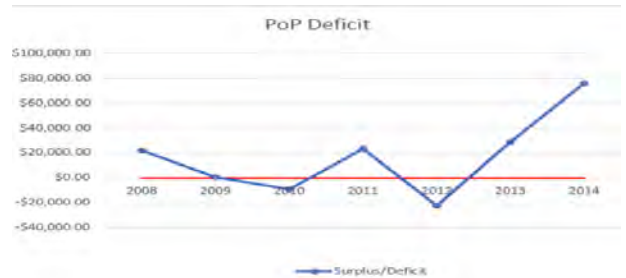
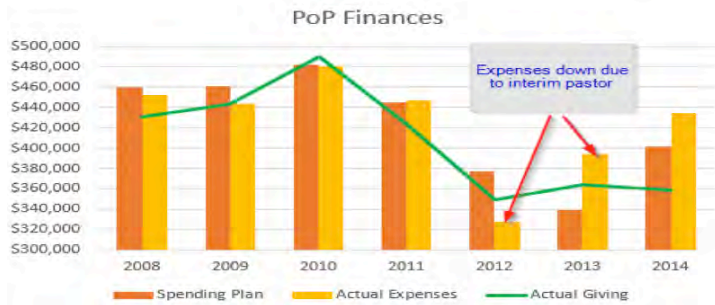
On Sunday December 14th, Pr. Froehke and the Council presented an update of the state of the finances of our church. While our Stewardship Campaign showed positive results – total pledges for 63 families increased \$17,000 vs last year’s pledges for 72 families – our overall giving has dropped dramatically in recent years. This can be easily seen by looking at the graphs below. Total giving dropped significantly in 2008, offset by a corresponding drop in expenditures due to our not having a full time pastor. Our giving has not returned to its historical levels while we now have a full time pastor. This has led us to have significant shortfalls. We planned a deficit last year in an act of faith that our finances would recover over the year. Now that this has not happened, we need to make difficult choices.

Our deficit for 2014 will be approximately \$77,000. If we do not make any changes, we will have a similar

deficit in 2015. Clearly, our congregation can no longer continue its level of spending given these large shortfalls.

Council has been reducing costs across the budget over the last few years while preserving our valued ministries. We are now at the point that we will need to take more active steps to balance our budget for 2015, and are considering reducing our level of staffing.

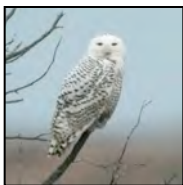
These are very difficult decisions, and they are decisions that we need to make together as a congregation. There will be a meeting held between services at 9:45 am on January 11, 2015 during which we ask disciples to offer their input on the right path forward for Prince of Peace. We need everyone to have their voice heard so that we can share in these burdens together.



Prince of Peace Sunday School Students Practicing Good Stewardship

This fall the Prince of Peace Sunday School children have been receiving a weekly offering. They are donating their offering from the fall to these projects:

ELCA Good Gifts toward the Clean Water project by purchasing water purification pellets. When safe drinking water just is not available - especially after natural disasters or emergencies - water purification tablets do the trick. Just one tablet is enough to transform one gallon of contaminated water into clean drinking water to keep children and families safe from water-borne illnesses like cholera and typhoid.



WWF (World Wildlife Fund) by adopting a Snowy Owl. Snowy Owls inhabit the tundra of coastal Alaska, Canada and Greenland, as well as northern Scandinavia, Russia and northern Siberia. During the winter months, they can be found in the Northern Great Plains of the U.S. and even in New Jersey. With their keen eyesight, snowy owls are well suited for night hunting of lemmings and other small rodents. The owl's flight feathers are tipped with soft down, enabling them to hunt noiselessly through the bleak arctic tundra.

Look for information about their donations and other activities on the bulletin boards around the church.

December Happenings at the Cherry Tree Club



Choosing the Christmas Tree



The month of December was full of wonderful and exciting activities and events at the Cherry Tree Club.

- The children cut down a **Christmas tree** at Simonson's Tree Farm (which donated the tree to CTC) and decorated it for the classroom.
- The CTC children did a **polyanna gift exchange**. Each child chose the name of a classmate, went 'shopping' for a gift for that child in the 'CTC Holiday Store,' and wrapped the gift (with some adult assistance!) to give to their friend. We continue this tradition at the CTC so that the children may experience the joy of giving.
- **Frosty the Snowman** paid a visit to the children.
- The children made **gifts for their parents**: a photo of each child was made into a puzzle and put in a decorative box which said, 'I love you to pieces!'
- **Family Gift Baskets** were given to all the families of the CTC. The Cherry Tree Club would like to thank all those who helped us create wonderful holiday gift baskets this year. Prince of Peace members, outside groups, and companies provided such a wonderful variety of items that the baskets were filled to the brim. They included food items; toiletry items; clothes; games; books; umbrellas; quilts; and teddy bears!
- And last but not least, **Santa** visited the CTC children on December 22nd! Each child sat on his lap and spoke with Santa, and then we all sang holiday songs together.

Opening Presents



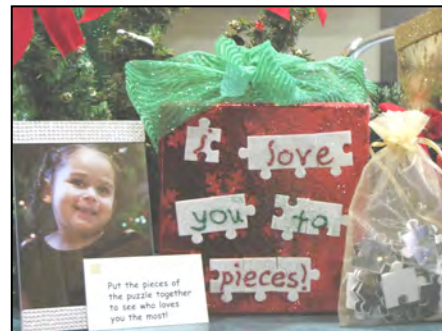
The Family Gift Baskets



Meeting Frosty the Snowman



Gift for a Parent



Thank you to all who helped make our December a month to remember!

Parish Care Preparing for Valentine Care Boxes

The Boxes are coming! The Boxes are coming!

We need lots of help!

We need help supplying, packing and shipping the boxes!

As we enjoy the 12 days of Christmas and Epiphany, it is time to look forward to February. A very favorite tradition, for both the senders and receivers, at Prince of Peace is the filling and shipping of care packages. We fill and send boxes with goodies, supplies and treats to our young adults that are away at school. Many years ago the boxes were a surprise, but now our college students know the box is coming and they are always surprised to see how many goodies and surprises we can fit into the 8" x 8" x 12" box. This tradition started many, many years ago with just a few boxes and last year we sent 32 boxes.

The care packages contain a variety of goodies from home-made cookies and brownies, pens, post-its, candy, instant soups, hot chocolate packets, snacks, and many many other things that make a student's life more enjoyable. This reminds them and their friends that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

The congregation donates the goodies to fill the boxes along with a few dollars to help with the cost of shipping (may be placed in the offering plate with *valentine boxes* noted in the memo section). The goodies are collected at the church for several Sundays in January, the boxes are packed and readied for shipping at the church, and taken to the USPS for shipping. Then by Valentine's Day our young adults away at school get a special package with lots of love and care from their church family.

So while you are out with your holiday returns and bargain hunting, remember we are soon filling at least 26 (with a maximum of 50) but more likely 35 boxes with treats for those in school and living away from home. So if you find some goodies, pick them up and bring them to the church. Shipping last year averaged \$14 per box.

So plan on baking some cookies, supplying some treats and donating some \$\$ to help fill the boxes with lots of extra love, care, prayers, and goodies!

Things to be done:

- Names and shipping addresses of 2014-15 students are needed by January 15, 2015. Parish Care's current listing is posted on the bulletin

board in the gathering area. Add, correct, and delete as needed.

- Goodies to be collected in the gathering area until February 8, 2015.
- Donations of \$\$\$s to help cover the cost of shipping may be put in the offering – note *Valentine Boxes* on memo line.
- Boxes will be filled and readied for shipping on Monday, February 9, 2015 starting at 7:30 pm in the gathering area. We start promptly.
- Boxes to be taken to the post office on Tuesday, February 10, 2015.
- Also, anyone interested in taking on a larger role with this project please let me know

Look for more details posted in the gathering area or contact Martha Winder 609-799-7280 .
maw14jpw@aol.com

Other On-going Projects

Cookie of the Month - Many thanks to Anne Patterson for baking cookies in December and to the Winders for delivering the goodies to our homebound friends. The visit was greatly appreciated and the goodies will be enjoyed. If you would like to bake (one batch of goodies) and/or deliver the goodies please let me know. We would like to make this a monthly happening.

Hope through Healing Grief Notes – mailings to families that have lost loved ones.

SPLASH and **Growing in God's Love** – mailings to families that have welcomed a new child into their lives.

Care Notes - They are available in the breezeway to take as needed. Many Thanks to Chris Wethe for helping to restock our supply.

Meals – prepare and provide a simple meal for a church family as needed.

Transportation - rides needed to and from Sunday church service from the Monroe area and between the church and Princeton Junction train station (around 7:45 am and 4 pm).

If you know of any folks that should be included in any of our projects, or if you would like to assist with any of our projects, please notify Parish Care.

Folks interested in learning more about Parish Care or helping with some current mailings can contact Martha Winder 609-799-7280 or maw14jpw@aol.com

Cub Scouts Help Replenish Crisis Ministry Food Pantry

On a single Sunday in December, Cub Scout Pack 48 of West Windsor helped replenish the food pantry inventory of the Crisis Ministry of Trenton and Princeton. The food drive collected 211 bags (1372 pounds) of non-perishable food and \$1145 in cash donations from patrons at the McCaffrey's supermarket in West Windsor. Assistant Den Leader Reena Goyal organized the event, and her outstanding organization helped the pack to beat the previous year's results, in fewer hours.



McCaffrey's Store Manager John Staszak and his staff were supportive of the pack's proposal to invite shoppers to purchase donations along with their regular groceries. Twenty-six scouts, age 6 through 11, worked in daytime shifts of 90 minutes at the entrance and exit of the store.

Scouts at the entrance handed out leaflets detailing a list of needed items, as they explained, "We're collecting donations on this list to help the Crisis

Ministry. If you get items while you're shopping, we have a shopping cart stationed after the cash registers to collect the food." Store patrons were generous and supportive of their efforts. Community service is a core value of scouting; at each meeting Pack 48 repeats the Cub Scout Promise, which includes 'to do our duty to God and our country, to help other people.' Area scouts of all ages volunteer in nature conservation projects, and public space improvements as well as Scouting for Food programs.

Prince of Peace serves as the chartered organization for Pack 48. Tiger scouts **John Durie**, **Charles O'Kelly** and **Edward Pfaltzgraft** are members of the congregation. For more information about joining the pack, contact Nancy Durie at nbdurie@gmail.com.

Advent Giving Tree and Special Children's Gifts Appreciated

Thank you to all of you who were a part of bringing gifts for the Advent Giving Tree and for the 20 individual children whose wishes were specified by Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ (LSM/NJ). The response was most generous and deeply appreciated, and both the Cherry Tree Club and LSM/NJ benefitted in a big way!

The spirit of giving is alive and well at Prince of Peace, not only in these two endeavors, but in many others, as well, including the Shoebox Project, the Cherry Tree Club Families' baskets, and the donations to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), just to mention a few.

In the next column is a thank-you from Pastor Lisa Barnes of LSM/NJ. Prince of Peace is certainly a large part of the success of their Christmas joy this year. Our LSM/NJ gifts filled a large part of the van that Pastor Barnes came in to gather them. She had several other stops to make (we were the first), and we wondered if there'd be room in the van for the gifts from the other congregations. Thank you again for being a part of this ministry!

The Social Outreach Team

Dear Friends,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for your participation in this year's holiday gift drive. Santa's elves are still busy sorting and distributing, but I can tell you that the response this year has been amazing, and filled with all the promise and possibility of the Christmas season!

Your generosity provided, in part:

- Gifts for more than 180 children
- At least 100 guests of New Visions Homeless Day Shelter with new clothing, as well as hygiene items
- Over 100 bags of groceries
- 48 beautifully decorated gift bags filled with hygiene items and candy
- 16 developmentally disabled women with crafts, games, and special holiday surprises
- 10 children in crisis with new luggage and travel bags to ease them through difficult times of transition
- More than 50 lovingly wrapped gifts for seniors
- Over \$2,500 in grocery store gift cards for residents of our affordable senior and family housing

That's just some of what YOU did! We are so grateful for your support, and the many ways you continue to make a difference.

Peace, Lisa



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Church Office: 609-799-1753
Fax: 609-799-0958
E-Mail : info2@popnj.org
Website: popnj.org
Office Hours: M-F 9 am-2 pm
Worship: 8:30 & 11 am
Educational Hour: 9:45 am

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 8:30 & 11
Sunday School at 9:45

Office Hours

9 am - 2 pm

Breath of God

The Baptism of Our Lord, January 11, 2015



Breath figures frequently in Scripture. God's breath or Spirit hovers over the chaos in creation in Genesis. Breath or Spirit enters the nostrils of the created in the story. Breath and Spirit is breathed onto the disciples by Jesus when he appears to them after his resurrection.

In the gospel text, as Jesus rises from the waters, the Spirit, the breath of God, descends like a dove. Jesus, having held his breath under the water, rises as a model of death and life for us, breathing in the life of the Spirit. He is risen and claimed by God as the beloved with whom God is pleased.

Of course, breathing is two things, breathing in and breathing out. You can hold your breath, but there is no way to hold it forever. Consider how this reflects the Spirit's power in Jesus and then in our baptism. In baptism, the gift is not just one of repentance and forgiveness, but, as the Acts text emphasizes, also involves the Spirit living and acting in the baptized. While it is a gift for our own lives, like the gift of breathing in, it is also encouragement and life, a breathing out of the Spirit into the world.

Baptism is both for our own sake and for the world. In our baptism, we breathe in forgiveness and reconciliation and breathe out the Spirit in our life and works. That's the full life of the baptized disciple.