

January 2016

*Epiphany*

## Worship in January

*Sunday Services at 9:30 am*

### **Sunday, January 3**

*Second Sunday of Christmas*

### **Wednesday, January 6**

*7:30 pm*

*Epiphany*

### **Sunday, January 10**

*Baptism of Our Lord*

### **Sunday, January 17**

*Second Sunday After Epiphany*

### **Sunday, January 24**

*Third Sunday After Epiphany*

### **Sunday, January 31**

*Fourth Sunday After Epiphany*

## Upcoming Events

### **Thursday, January 14**

*Book Group*

*See page 3 for more information*

### **Sunday, January 17**

*7 pm*

*Youth, Martin Luther King Service*

*See page 4 for more information*

### **Sunday, January 31**

*Annual Meeting*

*Following Worship*

*See page 5 for the January*

*Christian Education Calendar*

## On Counting

Tuesday morning, when I return from my day off, I have the habit of checking the 'count,' or maybe I should say 'counts.' I look at the previous Sunday's attendance and giving. I take these two counts as indicators of how well we are doing. Many Tuesdays I'm disappointed.

A week ago I attended a lecture by Richard Rohr. Rohr is a Franciscan priest who I pay attention to as I seek to be faithful in my calling. I was struck by his many comments about 'counting.' Rohr said, 'Our culture loves to count, our egos depend on it.' He's right. The higher the counts from the previous Sunday the better the job I think I'm doing.

Rohr next said that all mathematics should be taken out of the gospel. The gospel is not about counting, the gospel is about extending mercy, and how do you count that?

The struggle for me is that Prince of Peace has institutional needs. As pastor I worry about those needs. Salaries need to be paid. The building needs to be cared for. People need to come. When the counts are low, the institution is challenged.

The trouble with this is that faithful ministry is hard to measure. The attendance count can't measure the inspiring nature of worship. A good Sunday of giving doesn't equate with acts of mercy shown. You can count for the sake of the institution, but you can't count for the sake of the Kingdom. If you could, the two fish and five loaves wouldn't have gone very far.

Our culture will continue to determine winners and losers by counting. The church can't play that game, at least not if it is faithful.

This past Tuesday, as to Richard Rohr's suggestion, I didn't look at the attendance count. I was tempted, especially because I thought Sunday's attendance was pretty good. Instead I focused on the faces I saw. I offered a prayer for the folks I haven't seen in a while. I rejoiced over the new faces we welcomed. And I prayed for our sick and for those who I know are struggling right now.

Mathematics probably can't be thrown out of the institutional church, but I think Richard Rohr is right about throwing mathematics out of the gospel. Counts, whether low or high, are less an indicator of our success than we like to think. What matters is how we extend God's mercy to one another and to the world.

— Pastor Froehlke

## *Life in the Church House*

I thought I would share what life is like in our newly renovated Church House. I want to start with a big thank you to all of POP for supporting the renovation and being so helpful throughout the last 6 months.

The house is, as my girls said over Thanksgiving, cozy. There is a great 'vibe' to the house. The wood floors and trim make it very warm and there is always something beautiful to look at no matter what room you are in. Beautiful craftsmanship inside the house or a lovely view outside of the house. Privacy is not an issue. I haven't gotten around to putting up window coverings downstairs and I'm not sure I will. The cars zooming past on 571 go by too fast to see in and because the house is parallel to the street, their headlights don't shine into the living room either. You might be wondering about the noise level but the cars on the street are like my personal white noise machine. Road noise starts to pick up around 6 am or so and dies down around 10:30 at night. I rarely hear sirens or honking. Just the sound of tires on the roadway. Pulling in and out of the driveway

is really just a matter of being patient. But, as any of you that have driven here know, the driveway is too small and has very little parking and is one of the things that still needs improvement.

The house is very quiet. When I am upstairs I can't hear the back door open. Between the new windows and insulation in the walls, it is nicely sound proof. What I do hear is the cat climbing the stairs as her feet hit the wood floor! The slippery floor is new to her and there have been a few times when she has 'spun her wheels' trying to get traction. But even she has adapted well to a new place. The new heating/air conditioning system works well and is very quiet. My car just fits from front to back in the garage and there is now room out there for more storage. The basement is dry and no longer musty and they insulated the attic door so cold air does not rush down into the house. And a new storm door was put on the front door yesterday so no more drafts from that. The house really is a mix of very old and some newer areas. The kitchen is small but functional and I figured out how to add a little storage so it works well for me. The upstairs bathroom was completely renovated and while it looks very appropriate for the age of the house, it is also highly functional.

Every time I grab one of the very old doorknobs I am reminded that I live in a very special place. And at night when I walk down stairs and look out that small window facing the church I love to see the lights of Prince of Peace. Did you know those stay on until about 1 am? It is very comforting to know POP is right next door and there really is a wonderful sense of God being everywhere around me.

Thank you again for taking the chance that we could make this house a home and a place for a new ministry. I can't wait to see what will be happening going forward. — Melody Kronenberg

*Melody moved into the house in early November and has provided hospitality for two Advent quiet days as well as for the bell ringers who performed at the West Windsor Tree Lighting. In the next couple of months she will be hosting the congregational council and church house task force. The congregational council of Christ the King, Kendall Park, will soon use the house for its council retreat.*

*The house costs came in somewhat under budget. Remaining funds are being held in case unexpected costs arise.*

*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 Sunday, 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  
Tim Urbanek, Treasurer  
Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

### Congregational Council

Lois Case, President  
Josh Grim, Vice President  
(Wonderful Wednesdays & Christian Education)  
David New, Secretary (non-voting)  
Steve Bromberg  
Bob Durie (Property)  
Brandi Hebert (Stewardship)  
Beth Kaminski (Digital Team)  
Kathy Morris (Youth)  
Allison Safranek (Parish Care)  
Shin Sawada (Communications)  
Newman Wilson (Digital Team)

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# January Events

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## Christian Focus Group Begins New Lecture Series

The Christian Focus group meets in the lounge every Wednesday from noon to 1:30 pm. Feel free to bring your lunch if you wish and join our discussions.

On January 6th we will begin viewing a Great Courses DVD entitled *How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee*.

In this lecture series Bart Ehrman, famed Biblical scholar and former member of Prince of Peace, reveals how Jesus's divinity did not become dogma until several centuries after his death. The series is definitely controversial, but is described as valuable to Christians and non-Christians alike. Join us as we discuss each half-hour presentation.

Questions? Contact Phyllis Church (609-799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com



## Two Crossroads Events Scheduled in January

January 1-3: Young Adult Retreat

January 22-24: *Family Weekend*

The next *Wednesday Away* is February 10:  
*Ashes to Ashes*, led by Rose Cohen Hassan

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## Epiphany Service Coming on January 6th

Epiphany is a major festival in our church calendar that often is ignored unless it falls on a Sunday. This year Epiphany, January 6th, falls on Wednesday.

Throughout the year Prince of Peace is offering midweek worship on the first Wednesday of every month, providing us an opportunity to celebrate this festival of the church.

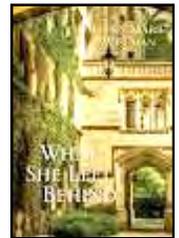
The gospel reading is Matthew's account of the Magis' visit to the Christ Child, a central feature of the nativity story. We extend an invitation to worship at 7:30 on Wednesday January 6th.

## Book Group to Meet January 14

At the home of Phyllis Church  
11 Princeton Place, Princeton Junction  
Please RSVP at 799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com

### *What She Left Behind* by Ellen Marie Wiseman

When Izzy was seven years old, her mother fatally shot her father while he slept. Convinced by her mother's apparent insanity, Izzy, now seventeen, refuses to visit her in prison. However, when her new foster parents ask her help cataloging the items in discarded suitcases from a long-defunct state asylum, Izzy discovers letters and a journal that help her come to a better understanding of her mother's act. She uncovers the story of Clara, a young girl institutionalized in 1929 when she refused to marry the man her parents chose for her. Was she really mentally ill? Was Izzy's mother?



## February 11

At the home of Martha Winder, 14 Candlewood Drive  
Princeton Junction  
Please RSVP at 799-7280 or maw14jpw@aol.com

### *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin



With the help of the local priest and the encouragement of her sister, young Eilis Lacey leaves her small Irish town and emigrates to America. After arriving in New York City, she gets a job in a clothing store and lives in a ladies boarding house.

The author captures 1950's Brooklyn and a young girl's immigrant experience in this captivating story. Things go well for Eilis and she even finds romance with a young Italian man when tragedy at home calls her back to Ireland.

*The Book Group meets at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month unless otherwise noted.*

*New members welcome at any time.  
Please call Phyllis Church at 799-0723  
if you have any questions.*

## More January Events

### First Bible Class Begins January 10

Beginning January 10th Pastor Froehlke will be teaching a first Bible class for all children over second grade and their parents. On January 31 Prince of Peace will gift these children with a new Bible.

Pastor's class will help our children and their parents learn the basics of the Bible. Class will begin in the Music Room on the 10th at 10:45.

### January Wonderful Wednesday Adult Class to Feature Gospel of John

Please join us on **January 13, 20, and 27** for a short exploration of the Gospel of John. We will look at several different themes in the Gospel such as who is the beloved disciple only mentioned in John and compassion ideas echoed in John. The classes will consist of a mixture of readings from the Gospel of John as well as some guidance from scholarly works. Field Ed student Kyle Kirchhoff will be the teacher.



### Next Hand-in-Hand Day Is January 18

The New Jersey Synod of the ELCA and Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey continue to help in rebuilding after Superstorm Saturday with a work day on January 18, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The location and more information will be available two weeks before at <http://www.lsmnj.org/events/hand-in-hand-day-011816>

If you'd like to volunteer but haven't before, you are encouraged to fill out the online volunteer form so the organizers can plan the day.

For more information about this volunteer experience, contact Nancy Reyes ([reyesn@ufrsd](mailto:reyesn@ufrsd)).

### High School Youth Meet January 17

The next high school youth event will be the Windsor Hightstown Area Ministerium's Martin Luther King Junior service at the Peddie School Chapel in Hightstown on Sunday evening January 17th at 7 pm. The service will offer a rich opportunity to experience a vibrant worship in the African American tradition, deepen our Christian commitment to justice, and help us connect with our neighbors of other faith traditions. We hope you can join us on the 17th.

### Wonderful Wednesday Evening Schedule

**5 to 6 pm**

Confirmation

**5:30 to 6 pm**

Joyful Noise (K-1st grade)

Chimes of Worship (2nd-5th grade)

PoPTots (Newborns-4 years)

**6 to 6:40 pm**

Kids of the Kingdom (2nd-5th grade)

Celebration Ringers (6th grade-high school)

Celebration Singers (6th grade-high school)

**6:40 to 7:20 pm**

Community Meal

**7:30 to 8:30 pm**

Adult Education or Worship



### 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.

## Christian Education Calendar For January

### January 3rd

*No Classes*

### January 10th

**First Bible Class** (Children Grades 3rd-5th)

Leader: Pastor Froehlke (Music Room)

**Bible 101** (Adult)

Leader: Mike Fabian (Lounge)

**The Commandments** (Confirmation Class)

Leader: Kyle Kirchoff (Youth Room)

**Old Testament Tales: Elijah**

Leader: Nancy Durie (Cherry Tree Club Room)

### January 17th

**First Bible Class** (Children Grades 3rd-5th)

Leader: Pastor Froehlke (Music Room)

**Bible 101** (Adult)

Leader: Mike Fabian (Lounge)

**The Commandments** (Confirmation Class)

Leader: Kyle Kirchoff (Youth Room)

**Old Testament Tales: Abraham**

Leader: Brandi Hebert (Cherry Tree Club Room)

### January 24th

**First Communion Class** (2nd Graders)

Leader: Pastor Froehlke (Music Room)

**Bible 101** (Adult)

Leader: Mike Fabian (Lounge)

**The Commandments** (Confirmation Class)

Leader: Kyle Kirchoff (Youth Room)

**Bible Heroes: David** (All Children Welcome)

Leaders: Meaghan & Josh Grimm  
(Cherry Tree Club Room)

### January 31st

**Congregational Meeting** (Sanctuary)

**Valentines & Veggie Tales**

All children welcome in the Fellowship Hall



## Donate Stamps for Veterans

The Allentown Lions Club and the Allentown High School Leo Club will be collecting stamps through the end of January for *Stamps for the Wounded*, a 58-year-old project of Lions Club International.

The stamps go to V.A. hospitals and convalescent centers across the country and help wounded veterans fight enforced idleness and its deadly allies: boredom, loneliness, frustration, futility, and despair. From their beds or wheelchairs, the veterans can soak, sort, mount, and trade stamps, or make them into craft projects in therapy sessions.

If you would like to donate stamps or stamp collecting items, please contact Nancy Reyes (reyesn@ufrsd.net) for more information.



*The warm fall did wonders with the late fall crop in the Peace Garden. Shown above is the harvest from December 19 with its bountiful supplies of chard, parsley, spinach, collards, turnips, and onions. All this came in after the gardeners thought they had shut down the garden for the winter.*

# Thanks Received

## Military Care Box

Many thanks to all who donated goodies for the Military Care Box that was sent in November. The box was filled with lots of goodies and notes of thanks to our military personnel. Thank you to our high school youth — Abigail Carlson and her friend; Jenny Fabian; Robert and Matthew DiGioia; Kyle Kirchhoff; and Pastor Froehlke — for helping with the notes and packing the box on a Sunday evening. We sent 54 pounds of care to our troops in Jordan.

Look for the thank you note below and some more pictures of the folks serving in Jordan in the gathering area. It is always amazing to learn how some small simple things can make a person's day.



*Greetings, and God bless you for everything you do to support the troops. I can speak from personal experience and say that you and your team have made life overseas easier, by sending items that remind us of life back home. It doesn't always take a large act to make someone's day. It can be something as simple as a note, or even a piece of candy. I am attaching*

*some pictures so you can see a little of what we do, and so you can physically see the men and women you help out everyday. Thank you for all the support,*

Very appreciative, SGT Nicholas Lally

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## Womanspace Sends Thanks for Diapers and Wipes

We wanted to thank you for your recent in-kind donation of diapers and wipes. Your donation will help Womanspace provide these items to the women, men, and children we serve each year, victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. We are very thankful to you for recognizing the vital work we do to serve the Mercer County community and beyond.

Patricia M. Hart, Executive Director  
Lauren A Nazarian, Director of Development

## Thanks to Carolers

Many thanks to the Pastor Froehlke; Jake, Andrew, Meaghan and Josh Grim; Eliana, Gehrig, and Brandi Hebert; Rebecca Nagin; Joan and Rachel New; Berta Schott; Gerda Somers; and David Jeedi for sharing their voices and time caroling.

We visited Marny Bergh and Saul Schutzer at Acorn Glen and Marilyn Zonis, and Carolyn Aldridge at Stonebridge Assisted Living that morning after church.

It was a great education hour that brought much joy to many. We had fun and even sounded rather good. All of the folks we visited were very touched and greatly appreciated our visit. We would like to try this again in the Spring so keep your voices tuned and plan on joining the carolers.

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## Thank you for Advent Giving Tree Gifts

The recipients of the gifts gathered for children and families served by Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSM/NJ) and our own Cherry Tree Club are very grateful for the caring shown by the folks at Prince of Peace through their participation in the Advent Giving Tree opportunity.

The spirit of sharing was evident in the many gifts that appeared under the tree during Advent and in the response to the requests for specific items by 16 children identified by LSM/NJ. Thank you very much to everyone who was a part of this ministry. Everything from dolls to books to action figures to sweatsuits to pull-ups to gift cards, to warm hats, gloves, and scarves, and many other items were gathered, and a very full SUV delivered the LSM/NJ gifts to their headquarters on December 14. The Cherry Tree items were whisked down the hall to be distributed as needed.

Thank you again for your partnership in this ministry: God's work; our hands.

*As you have done it to one of the least of these...*

Appreciatively and gratefully  
the Social Outreach Team

## Parish Care Notes

*Now that Christmas is past and the New Year is here ... 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 prepare to celebrate Epiphany, it is time to look forward to February.

A very favorite tradition, for both the senders and receivers, at POP is the filling and shipping of care packages. We fill and send boxes with goodies, supplies, and treats to our young adults who 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. (Cash donations can be placed in the offering plate with *Valentine Boxes* noted in the memo section; shipping last year averaged \$15/box). The goodies are collected at the church for several Sundays in January, then the boxes are packed and readied for shipping at the church and taken to the USPS for shipping. 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 30 (but it might grow to 35) boxes with treats. If you find some goodies, pick them up and bring them to the church.

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

### *Things to be done*

Names and shipping addresses of 2015-16 students are needed by **Jan 17**. Parish Care's current listing is posted on bulletin board in the gathering area. Add, correct, and delete as needed.

Goodies to be collected in the gathering area until **February 7**.

Donations to help cover the cost of shipping can be put in the offering – note Valentine Boxes on donation.

Boxes will be filled and readied for shipping on Monday, **February 8** starting at 7:30 pm in the gathering area. Plan on coming and help fill the boxes. We start promptly.

Boxes to be taken to the post office and UPS on Tuesday, **February 9**.

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 .or maw14jpw@aol.com)

### *Ongoing Projects*

**Cookie of the Month:** We are looking for some folks willing to bake a batch of cookies to deliver to members of our church family who cannot get to church. If you can help with the baking and/or delivering, please let me know. Right now I know of four folks who would enjoy the treat of cookies and a visit.

**Hope through Healing Grief Notes:** Mailings to families who have lost loved ones.

**SPLASH and Growing in God's Love:** mailings to families who 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.

**Soups On:** We would like to gather in the church kitchen on an afternoon or evening and make a couple pots of soup. The soup will be used to provide a warm, filling meal to a few of our church family who would enjoy a homemade meal. Any interest in doing this, let me know so we can work on a time to make soup.

**Transportation:** Rides needed to and from Sunday church service from the Monroe area.

*If you know of any folks who should be included in any of our projects or if you would like to assist with any of our projects, please notify Parish Care. We are always looking for folks to learn about and to help grow our Parish Care ministry.*

Contact Martha Winder at 609-799-7280 or maw14jpw@aol.com for more details.



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road  
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753  
Fax: 609-799-0958  
E-Mail : email@popnj.org  
Website: popnj.org  
Office Hours: M-Th 9 am-2 pm  
Fri 9 am-Noon  
Worship: Sunday, 9:30 am

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### *Sunday Schedule*

Worship at 9:30 am  
Education Hour at 10:45 am

### *Office Hours*

Mon-Th 9 am - 2 pm  
Fri 9 am-Noon

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*Ringers from Prince of Peace added to the festivities of the West Windsor Christmas Tree Lighting in December. Shown dressed in their civvies, from left to right: Jen DiGioia, Ginger Reiersion, Melody Kronenberg, Joan New, Gerda Somers, Wendy Schutzer, Rachel New, Director Doug Helvering, and Robert DiGioia.*