



Peace Notes

Prince of Peace Anglican Church

July/August 2015



*(Last month we learned what we SHOULD say to visitors
– here are a few things we should NOT say to visitors)*

Things You Should Never Say to a Guest in Church

If you want to make certain guests never return to your church, say one of these sentences to them when they visit.

Indeed, these unfortunate and ill-timed comments almost always guarantee that you will offend guests and make them very uncomfortable. Guests are often somewhat uncomfortable already, since they are in a new place and a new environment.

By the way, each of these quotes was actually communicated to a guest in a worship service. My guess is that all of them have been said many times ... too many times.

- 1. "You are sitting in my pew/seat"** In colonial times families paid "pew rent" each week for a specific seat and visitors always sat at the back or in the balcony. Those days are long gone – it's first-come, first-seated in most churches.
- 2. "Is your husband/wife with you?"** This question is often interpreted as "We really don't want single adults in our church"
- 3. "Are those your children?"** This question is becoming more common with the growth in the adoption of children who are not the same race or ethnicity as their parents.
- 4. "The service has already begun."** This sentence is often understood to mean, "You are late, and you will be disrupting the service."



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5. "That's not the way we do it here." Of course, you can't have a worship service where any behavior is acceptable. Most of the time, however, the varieties of worship expressions are absolutely fine. I heard from a lay leader recently who witnessed that sentence spoken to a guest who raised her hand during the worship music. She never returned. What a surprise.

6. "You don't look like you're a member here." Perhaps when this sentence was spoken, the church member meant to convey, "Are you visiting us?" But to the guest it sounded like, "You don't belong at this place."

7. "Have you considered attending the church down the street?" I'm not kidding. Someone said this to a woman who was new in town and was visiting churches. She had no idea why the man in the church said that to her, but she never returned to the church.

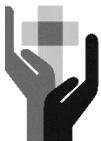
What has someone said to you when you've visited other churches? Was it something you would add to this list? Gladly, I've never heard these things spoken at Prince of Peace – our people have learned the basics of guest friendliness.

- *Pastor John*

The Word of the Lord for July and August 2015

<u>July</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
4/5	Ezekiel 2:1-3:7	123	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-6
11/12	Amos 7:7-15	85	Ephesians 1:1-14	Mark 6:7-13
18/19	Isaiah 57:14b-21	22:22-30	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-44
25/26	2 Kings 2:1-15	114	Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16	Mark 6:45-52
<u>August</u>				
1/2	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	78:14-25	Ephesians 4:17-25	John 6:24-35
8/9	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	34	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	John 6:37-51
15/16	Proverbs 9:1-6	147	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:53-59
22/23	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-25	16	Ephesians 5:21-33	John 6:60-69
29/30	Deuteronomy 4:1-9	15	Ephesians 6:10-20	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Ponder: Prayer—it's in Our Genes



I don't think prayer is merely a sociological phenomenon. I don't think it's something we do just to fit into a community or when we've exhausted all other options. I think it's hardwired into our spiritual DNA. God is the inevitability of humanity's search for true meaning. – Heidi Mann

Prayer, Praise and Thanksgivings

Remember in Your Prayers: The Cosnek family, June Statler, Jack Martin (June's Dad), Martha Vetter, Edward Bottomley, Jim Miller, Radovich family, Robenski family, Blanche Heidengren, Benjamin Heidengren, Adelia Peters, Donna Baucant, Dougherty family, Matthew, Tristan Holt, Ruth Williams, Deacon Dennis Wilson, Marion Morgan, Sharon Morgan, Kristen Steiner, Gaby, Greg Hoover, Charles Garland (Andrea Hoover's brother), Dick and Dee Fuller, Stacey Androlli (Diane Dougherty's niece), Mike Labasic III (Lynne Dwyer's father-in-law), Phil Mertens.



Our Homebound: Susan Cipriani, Evelyn Hoffman, Alice Miracle, Josephine (Jill) Bull and Vera Matusiak.

*Thanks
Everyone!*

Thank you to all who helped with preparing and serving food, setup and cleanup for Greg's McBrayer's Priesthood Ordination on June 11 and all who helped out with the Parish Picnic!

Congratulations to Pastor John on his 29th Ordination Anniversary on June 14!

Wing Fling Ready for Take-Off



Our 2nd annual Wing Fling will be Saturday, August 15 from 1 – 6 pm. The Saturday night 6 PM worship service will be outside. This is an opportunity for us to introduce the love of Christ to our neighbors in our community. We need people to help before (weeks, days and hours up to), during and after the event. There are many opportunities to help make this day successful and we need you.

There are sign-up sheets on the table in the back of the church for specific areas. We are looking for donations of “hand held” dessert foods (nothing that needs a utensil to eat) such as cookies, cupcakes, brownies, etc.)

We will also have tickets to sell in advance and need someone to coordinate that.

If you can help in any way, please sign up or talk to Susan Hovanec. You'll find her at the Sunday 8 am and 10:30 am services, call her at 412-974-5683 or email schovaneco4@gmail.com. If she doesn't hear from you...the **Wing Fling Chicken** may be sent out to find you☺.

Sabbatical Update



The Rector will finish the last half of his sabbatical beginning July 20. Please pray for him as he writes a final paper on grief and hope, and gets some spiritual rest in order to return energized for ministry in the parish in the fall. While he is away, the parish will be ably led by our three other priests and the parish staff and Vestry. A sabbatical committee will deal with any unforeseen situations that arise. Weekly worship will be led by the assisting clergy.

SonSpark Labs Vacation Bible School

July 20-24 ~ 6:00 – 8:15 pm

New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church

183 New Bethlehem Church Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001

Prince of Peace will once again join with New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church for VBS. This year's program is SonSpark Labs, a week of laboratory adventures and fun! Through their adventures children will discover God's Big Plan! We will have a great time with lively songs, hilarious skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks—all the things that make VBS so much fun for children. On top of that, we will be helping children learn that God's plan for everyone is Jesus! Classes are available for children 3 years through 6th grade. Parents and adults are encourage to join our Coffee Chat group during VBS hours at the church. If you would like to help lead the adult study using the topic of your choice, please see Pastor John. To register call 724 378-3751 or email nbpcoffice@comcas.net. Registration forms are also available on the table at the back of the church.



Through the Cross

A Writing Ministry by Jim Fisher



For many years, Jim Fisher has been writing inspiring and thoughtful devotionals. They are collected in a notebook that is in the Conference Room at the church. However, it is difficult to find time before or after worship, or during activities at Prince of Peace to read and absorb these writings. So here is an alternative. Jim is willing to send you a devotional reading about once a month via email. All you have to do is to send him your email address and he will set up a group mailing list for this ministry. If you would like to be included on the list, please let him know. His email address is jrfisher5@comcast.net.

June Youth Update

Hello Prince of Peace Family!



Our busy summer as a youth group has begun! We were able to make up our mini golf event that had previously been cancelled due to bad weather – although we almost had to cancel again. However, the youth refused to let the rain deter them, and we managed to finish the course despite a couple rain delays. At

another event, we played laser tag together and enjoyed some discussion over ice cream afterwards.

Coming up, we are hoping to do community service at the Uncommon Grounds café, as well as many other fun events like attending a Pirates game and going to Kennywood. We will also be involved in the Vacation Bible School taking place July 20th – 24th. In the meantime, we continue to meet each week on Sunday from 6-8 pm for games, snacks, fellowship, Bible study, and prayer – all youth in 5th through 12th grades are welcome! Please continue to pray that our youth will grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord!

In Christ,
Jason Waller

Monday Women's Bible Study

This coming September the Monday Women's Bible Study will begin a new study—1 and 2 Peter. As we finished our study of the Gospel of John, we noticed that the Apostle Peter was having some difficulty matching his actions to his words...as much as he wanted to be brave and follow Jesus, he kept failing in that ambition. But Jesus forgave his friend, and after Pentecost Peter became a bold evangelist for Christ. So we are going to study what Peter wrote and see how he changed and how he helped to change the world.



This study will begin on the third Monday of September, the 21st, and then will meet on the first and third Monday of each month at 1:00 pm. There is no homework, and all materials are provided. All women are welcome! For more details, see Bev McKee or contact her at 724 457-7105.

Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Please watch the weekend worship bulletin and the September issue of Peace Notes for information about this Wednesday morning study.



MISSIONS

Praying for the Nations - Pakistan

A Missionary Outreach through Prayer

For centuries Pakistan's borders and culture had been in constant flux resulting from Persian-Turkic Muslim invasions. In recent history, with the end of British oversight of the region in 1947 and the U.N.'s division of India, Pakistan's borders were set to encompass 796,095 square kilometers, including Kashmiri territory by the U.N.'s division of India. The country is bordered by Iran and Afghanistan (south west and west), China to the north, and the Arabian Sea to the south.

The population of approximately 191,000,000 is widely diverse and complex, so much so that the number and type of people groups are still be researched. Muslims represent 95.8% of the population with a Sunni majority. There are many Muslim sub-groups. Christians form the largest minority at 2.45% - 4 ½ million. Hindus rank third at 1.6%. The official languages are Urdu and English. Urdu is written in Persianized Arabic script, while its grammar is identical to Hindi and other Sanskrit languages. In the 1980's, the military dictator M. Zia Haq, introduced Urdu literacy programs into religious schools, simultaneously with the teaching of Arabic in state schools. This combination gave Urdu an Islamic "edge", and the language is spoken and understood by much of the population today.



Major Concerns:

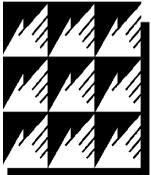
- A weak central government challenged by strong, unmanageable tribal/ethnic factions.
- Islamist extremists wreaking havoc through violence, intimidation and destruction.
- Oppression and cruelty toward women.
- Conflict in Afghanistan at the Pakistani border.
- Threats posed by India over the hotly contested Kashmir territory.
- Hindrance of economic progress by corruption and massive spending for military and security.
- Poor infrastructure and prejudicial restriction concerning minorities trying to obtain work.

Pray for:

- God to release this country from lawlessness and violence

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- A strong, cohesive government led by persons of integrity.
- Protection and provision for believers, and that strength, courage and peace be given them to stand firm (May that be so for all of us!).
- The religious freedom written in Pakistani law to be put into actual practice.



➤ Remember Asia Bibi, wrongly accused of blasphemy and imprisoned for six years, as of June 19. She is a Christian mother of five children, currently in solitary confinement. Five of her appeals have been denied. The most recent 6th appeal has “vanished” from the docket. Pray for her family; pray for a miracle that she be released.

PRAYER GROUPS

Encouraging News:

The number of prayer groups within Pakistan and abroad have increased to include thousands of people who intercede for this nation. [Ed. Note - Remember that Fact Sheets for many nations are available on the Missions Table in the Conference Room.]

- Ellie Ruttner

Mission Trip Planned

Alyssa Cosnek is in her final year in pharmacy school and is planning to go on a medical mission trip to a small rural village in Ethiopia, Africa for two weeks, October 16-31. Together with a fellow classmate, a professor, a pastor and a team of healthcare workers, she will be helping to run a clinic to provide medications and education to about 300 patients a day. If you would like to be part of the mission through your financial support, you can drop a check in the offering plate made out to Prince of Peace with Alyssa Cosnek’s name in the memo line. Or, you can go online through the link: <https://www.servicereef.com/events/global-health-outreach-2/east-africa-october-16-312015/donate>.



If you would like to have updates during and after the trip, please email Alyssa at akcosnek@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Alyssa asks for prayers for health and endurance for the Ethiopia medical team over the next months as they prepare to work in areas that have few of the comforts of home. Since most of the team do not know one another, also pray for a spirit of unity and cooperation and that they be submissive to His good and perfect will while preparing their hearts for His message that it would be all about Him and not about themselves.

Side by Side – Pastor John and Blanche Heidengren



What does the Bible say about “rest”? Its summer and a good time to ask this question. The word “rest” means “peace” or “ease” or “refreshment”. The Bible speaks quite highly of “rest”. God rested after 6 days of creation. The 10 Commandments made resting on the Sabbath part of the Law. One day of rest in every seven days. God is very serious about rest. God wants us to rest because it doesn’t come naturally to us. To rest, we have to trust that God will take care of things for us. From the beginning (Genesis 3), when we decided that we would start making all the decisions, mankind has become more tense and less able to relax.

For the Christian, the ultimate rest is found in Christ. He invites all who are “weary and burdened” to come to Him and cast our cares on Him. *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* (Matthew 11:28) It is only in Him that we find our complete rest—from the cares of the world, from the sorrows that plague us, and from the need to work to make ourselves acceptable to Him. This summer, don’t just take a vacation – build some “rest” into your weekly routine.

- Pastor John



Have you ever struggled with worry? I have battled this and thankfully, I have learned from the Word of God that I don’t have to answer the door “when worry knocks,” but can resist it in the name of Jesus. Yes, God give us a wonderful alternative, verbally handing it to Him in prayer and letting HIM “answer the door.” The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:6-7, *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* There’s something amazing about the peace that comes after I start declaring that I am not going to worry about an issue, but am going to put it in the Hands of the One Who can and will work it all out for my best and for His Glory. After I’ve prayed and thanked God for giving me the assurance that He will work it out, I like to picture two armed guards on either side of my head making sure that nothing returns to try and steal my peace that God has given me about the issue at hand.



A few other encouraging verses come to mind as well: *“Cast your cares on Him, for He cares for you.”* (1 Peter 5:7) Yes, HE CARES! And even more than that, He cares for YOU and ME! Another favorite: *“This same God who takes care of me will supply all your need from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.”* Phil. 4:19 NLT. So when worry knocks at the door, let’s let Jesus answer it for us! - Blanche

August Calendar Note

August 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

The August calendar and worship assistant schedule will be available for you to pick up at the church on the last weekend in July.

Peace Notes will not be published in August. The September issue of Peace Notes will be published one week later than normal, and will be available on September 5 and 6.

Ponder

SANKA-WHAT?!

Not Sanka – *sanctification!* From its Latin roots, this term is related to words such as *holy, sacred and saint*. While classic Sanka coffee commercials boasted it was “instant” and 97 percent caffeine-free, sanctification is commonly defined as a long process of Christian growth – becoming free, we might say, from unhealthy indulgences that compromise our life in Christ.



The trouble is, we struggle all our lives to be “good Christians,” to remain diligent in prayer and service, to wholly trust Jesus, even amid trouble. But we can’t be holy by ourselves.

I find helpful a recent explanation I heard from a pastor: Sanctification is learning more and more throughout life how deeply we need Jesus. Because we can’t cultivate our own holiness, we must let the Holy Spirit draw us to the cross of Christ, where God’s unfathomable love and forgiveness make us holy, or *sanctify* us.

- Heidi Mann

The Lord’s Day

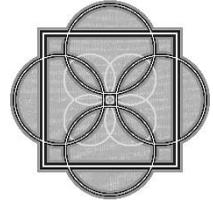


O day of rest! How beautiful, how fair,
How welcome to the weary and the old!
Day of the Lord! and truce to earthly care!
Day of the Lord, as all our days should be!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

+ Christian Symbols +

Quatrefoil - The word *quatrefoil* comes from the Latin for "four leaves." A quatrefoil in art or architecture is the outline of four partially overlapping circles of the same diameter. In Christian tradition, it represents the writers of the four gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John — which overlap one another partially but not entirely, and are equally important to our understanding of Jesus.



From a worship bulletin in Yuma, Arizona:

...so we'll know how many people to prepare for the lunch.

You might want to skip that meal – and the preparations!

+ Bible Quiz +

Which two spies urged the Israelites to move into Canaan, opposing the other 10 who were afraid? (Hint: We know one of the two willing spies by the new name Moses gave him.)

- A. Shaphat and Igal
- B. Hoshea and Caleb
- C. Gaddi and Gaddiel
- D. Shammua and Nahbi

Answer: See page 11





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Worship

Saturday - 6:00 P.M.

Sunday - 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

Prince of Peace is part of the Anglican diocese of Pittsburgh, the Anglican Church in North America, and the worldwide Anglican Communion, and is part of God's one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

Vision Statement

We the members of Prince of Peace Church are called to...go into the world, caring for people with God's love, inviting people to follow Jesus, and then teaching them to obey Jesus in all they do.

Mission Statement

Our vision is fulfilled as we intentionally train followers of Jesus to...

- Worship God passionately,
- Care for each other graciously,
- Study God's ways diligently,
- Give to God sacrificially,
- Connect purposefully with outsiders,
- Serve God's church whole-heartedly...so that those separated from God would experience Jesus and follow Him.