



Words of Peace

August 2007

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A Word from Pastor Terry

Lessons I Learned in Vacation Bible School and Other Summer Musings

Whoever said that the summer season in the United States is a time when things slow down must not have been involved in parish ministry. All right, so we don't schedule Sunday School during the summer months; most of our musical groups don't lead worship each week; and lots of worshippers take vacations; but there has still been plenty going on. It's been my experience that the Holy Spirit is particularly active in the summer. Can that be true? Or could it be that our routines have shifted just enough to allow us to better notice what God is doing in our lives?

Here's a list of six lessons that I've learned and relearned once again this summer. Many thanks to those who have been God's instruments for teaching me and for those who have been my fellow students in ministry.

There is nothing like a group of



youngsters to enliven a gathering. My most enduring memories from the summer will be the large groups of young people and their voices united in songs of praise at the Village of Hope worship in Haiti, at Confirmation Camp at Mar-Lu-Ridge, and at Vacation Bible School (VBS) at St. Albans Episcopal. It's an awesome experience! We must continue to encourage those voices to sing out the Gospel year-round.

When we pool our time, talents, re-
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sources, and gifts, working together, we can accomplish amazing things through Christ. It took the contributions of a lot of people, and not just members of Peace, working together, to make Confirmation Camp and VBS a reality. The same is true of most ministry that we do in this congregation. Every member is important, as are your gifts.

There is much to be learned by listening. Too often I get caught up in the idea that I must be results-oriented. I want closure. I grow impatient. For me, this has been particularly true in relation to my husband John's healing process and with regard to our African Immigrant Ministry during this period of intentional review. Again, I have found that there is a time for action, and there is a time for listening. When I set aside time to listen to God in prayer, I am much clearer about God's intentions for my life. When I listen to others, I learn so much—about their hopes and dreams, about their talents and gifts, about their cares and sorrows, about the delightful people that God has placed in my life. Gratefully, I don't have to have all the answers!

In the midst of the seemingly mundane tasks of life, or the more exciting ones too, for that matter, be alert for God's surprises. So many times in the Scriptures we read how God acted in a manner that was just the opposite of what the people expected. Jesus seemed to be at odds constantly with the temple officials for violating some Jewish law of the Sabbath or for going against society's norms or for associating with the wrong people.

God still operates that way. Jesus is still turning our world upside down, just as his crucifixion and resurrection did. Not only that, sometimes it's "those people," rather than our own friends and colleagues, who are instruments of God's blessings.

"Mission is messy sometimes," along with a variation, "The gospel is messiness." The first is one of my favorite quotations from a former parishioner. As I recall, it had something to do with VBS! A new colleague spoke the second. These are profound lessons. Many of us, including myself, seem to function best when things are neat and orderly, well-planned and rehearsed. While there's nothing wrong with a good plan, ministry is about people—and people, unlike plans or tangible objects, don't always behave according to our expectations. One has to be flexible. Plans and expectations may need to be revised. Especially when working with people, including children, one must be willing to get one's hands dirty for the sake of the Gospel. That's part of what it means to live in the shadow of the cross of Christ.

It's all about love. This *is* the heart of God's good news for the world. When we act out of love for God and love for neighbor, we can't go wrong. "Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:14).

I'd love to hear what you've learned this summer!

In God's peace,
Pastor Terry Hannon

¹This is an update of an article I wrote in August 2004 for Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Reston, VA. The main points are still valid, I believe, even though the context has shifted.

A Summer Time Report from our Council

Council President,
Sue Clark

Isn't summer supposed to be a time for slowing down and relaxing? Not this summer! But it has been an interesting time and a time for expanded horizons at Peace. Many people have been involved in many activities. Kudos to those who

- Participated in the African Immigrant Review process,
- Led Vacation Bible school,
- Worked on the choir loft,
- Watered trees and mowed the lawn,
- Kept in touch with those who are sick or homebound,
- ☉ Met as a Call Committee, and to all of you who
- ☉ Pray for Peace and its members and friends.

On June 30 and July 1, Peace participated in a review of our African Immigrant Ministry. You may know that the ELCA has supported our ministry financially for a number of years and continues to do so. A team involving ELCA staff, Bishop Schneider, three pastors from our synod, and three members from our congregation (Rosa Quaynor, Behailu Estafanos, and Sue Clark) reviewed background materials, attended worship services, met with the Council, and interviewed Pastor Abebe, Pastor Nana and Pastor Terry. It was an intensive two days. The review team leader, Pastor Wolfgang Herz-Lang, summarized the activities in a report that included five observations and recommendations. The first is quoted directly.

“The Review Team wishes to commend Peace Lutheran Church for its long-standing commitments to, and its consistency in striving for, diversity, hospitality, and social justice. PLC is, and has been for much of

its 50-year history, a model for others in the Metro DC Synod and the wider ELCA. It is, as Review Team member Dr. Everett Flanigan remarked, ‘light years ahead’ of other ELCA congregations.”

The Review Team had a number of recommendations relating to the future of the Amharic worshipping community in relation to Pastor Abebe's retirement. These included holding an exit interview with Pastor Abebe, which was completed July 22, and holding discussions with members of the Amharic community seeking to know their views on their own future, which were held July 7, July 18, July 21 and 22.

The team noted that while the intention is for Peace to be one church, “the three worshipping communities are quite distinct, and at times, the African immigrants feel and function, and are treated like ‘tenants’ in the building rather than as fellow members of the church.” To align current practices with the ideal of being one church, the team recommends that a planning and visioning retreat be held in the fall of 2007 so that pastors and leaders from all three communities can work on a future design for the ministry of Peace; this retreat should be led by an experienced outside facilitator. There was a recommendation to restructure the PLC Council. The group also recommended that council members periodically attend and become familiar with all services, that Pastor Nana's

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A Summer Time Report cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

role be strengthened, and that regular staff meetings be held.

The team suggested that Peace is ready to become more fully multicultural by carefully planning “how the principal worship service of the congregation can become even more welcoming by including many people of color in visible worship leadership roles (including Pastor Nana), by making use of additional instruments and global hymnody, by using the visual arts (banners, murals, sculpture, vestments, projection), by experimenting with various liturgical settings, and by the occasional use of other languages (such as reading one of the lessons in Amharic or Spanish, for example).”

Noting that there appears to be some burn out among lay leaders, the review team suggested that “PLC increase its cultural proficiency, that is, more and more understand, appreciate and celebrate the God-given gifts of various cultures and language groups.” To accomplish this, the group recommends workshops, Bible study, and use of ELCA materials on intercultural issues. In a follow up session, one pastor noted that we must have in-reach before we can engage in out-reach.

The Council will be engaging in discussions and planning. Not all recommendations will be accepted, new ideas will emerge. I may schedule an open meeting for the congregation. You are encouraged to review the full report which is available from the church office or from me.

Meanwhile, the immediate question is how to con-

tinue the Amharic service. Follow up discussions, as noted above, have been held. What is clear from those meetings is that Peace is committed to this part of our congregation and the Amharic community is committed to staying at Peace. Pastor Abebe will remain through August under synod guidelines as a supply pastor. He will then travel to Ethiopia for approximately three months. During that time, the Bishop will be involved to appoint supply pastors in consultation with leadership of Peace. The Amharic community wants Pastor Abebe to return to Peace as their pastor when he returns from Ethiopia. Pastor Abebe indicated that he will make his decision when he returns from Ethiopia.

There is much to challenge us in this report, much to think about and much to pray about. Please let me hear your views as we develop plans for the future.

Sue Clark

The Peace Newsletter has been distributed electronically for many months. It saves us postage and you receive the issues in a timely fashion.

Nevertheless, if you prefer a print version, please contact the church office and we will send each issue via the mail.

Adult Education Ministry
Adult Education Ministry Leader,
Karen Shilling

Adult Forum

I am currently planning presentations for Adult Forum for this fall. If you are interested in planning or presenting at an Adult Forum, please let me know at shilling-karen@hotmail.com. All ideas and suggestions are welcome.

First Friday

The August First Friday met on July 27th. We will meet again in September. If you are interested in joining us or have an idea for a future book to discuss, please let me know at shillingkaren@hotmail.com.

Children's Ministry
Children's Ministry Leaders,
Margerete Heber and Donna Thiessen

Volunteers are needed to teach Sunday School

and to lead special activities starting in September. Classes are typically organized into Pre-K, K-1, 2-3, and 4-6 grades. Our focus for the coming year will be on miracles in the Bible, with breaks to study Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter during the appropriate holiday seasons. Teacher Guides will be provided with lesson plans and activity ideas. If you are able to teach a class, team teach, or substitute for part or all of the year coming school year (starting September 9th through May), or lead a special activity (cooking, craft or game), please contact Margarete Heber at (202) 549-5308 or Donna Thiessen at (703) 566-3051.

Youth Ministry
Youth Ministry Leaders,
David Stoner and Shanna Klein

Summer Youth Retreat

The Peace Lutheran Youth (PLY) will be traveling to Berkley Springs, WV for a long weekend of fun, games and service.

Leaving: Wednesday, August 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Returning: Sunday, August 12th at approx. 12 noon

We will be staying at the cabin of John and Sue Clark.

Activities will include hiking, campfires, swimming, river tubing, performing community service, team building and Bible studies.

A make-up date will be available soon for those parents who were not able to attend the mandatory planning meeting that was held on July 15th.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact David at david.stoner@gmail.com or Shanna at enome2@yahoo.com.



Witness Ministry

Witness Ministry Leader,
Vicki Haugen

Senior Beacon Program: There are residents of the **National Lutheran Home** that never receive mail or cards in their mailboxes. The NLH Auxiliary has contacted area churches to ask us to participate in sending residents cards for their birthday, special occasions, as well as being a pen pal. The Scrappy Ladies of Peace have made greeting cards to send to some of the residents. If you would like to become a pen pal, please pick up a packet of cards in the Fellowship Hall and complete an application form. If you have questions or need information, please see Susan DeHaven.

New Nametags available: The Witness ministry offers the opportunity for you to learn the names of your "neighbors and visitors" in church by making you a nametag. As we continue to transition with an interim Pastor, new music staff, visitors and a new senior Pastor; this may truly help all. A sign up sheet is on the Family board in Fellowship Hall or contact Vicki Haugen at 703.914.3993 or vicki.haugen2@gmail.com. Watch at the church entrances for a place to hang your nametag between church events.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is in need of yarn for this worthy project. Please contact Anne Whitten 703.560.9056 for donations.

WRAP (Women's Renewal at Peace) will meet Wed, August 15, 7pm for summer fellowship at the lake. Join us at the home of Vicki Haugen, 6409 Lakeview Drive. Falls Church, 22041 for a boat ride and bible study from our Lutheran Women Today magazine. Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre to share as we troll the waters of Lake Barcroft. Please RSVP to Vicki at 703.914.3993 or vicki.haugen2@gmail.com by Sunday Aug 12.

Others Ministry

Others Ministry Leader,
Pat Henkel

August's special offering is for Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter in Annandale. Bailey's is a Fairfax County shelter run by Volunteers of America for adults without children. There are 36 beds for men and 14 for women. During the winter there are an extra 10 beds for cold weather overflow. Opened in September 1987, Bailey's offers a full service program – case management, on-site mental health and substance abuse counseling and health care services.

July's special offering was for Lutheran Social Services

June's special offering for ACCA raised \$1340. Thank you for your generosity.

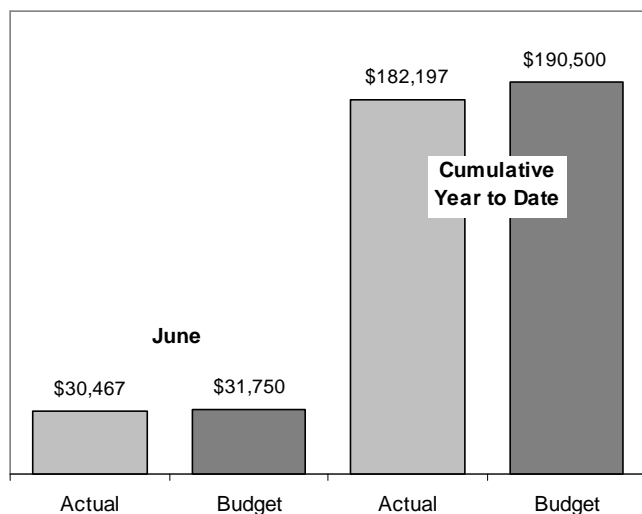
Fellowship Ministry

Fellowship Ministry Leader,
Vacant

The next Lunch Bunch will meet on **Tuesday, August 21, 2007** at 11:30 am at the DaVinci Restaurant located at 6347 Columbia Pike, Falls Church, VA in the Barcroft Shopping Center. Lunch Bunch is a group of individuals that want to gather for lunch once a month for food and fellowship. A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please call Elaine and Bob Peoples at 703-751-8937.



Join us for
**LUNCH
BUNCH!**



To give a view of how we are doing with the budget, each month in the newsletter we will be placing a chart like the above. The chart shows the actual envelope giving and what was budgeted for last month and cumulative year-to-date. "Envelope Giving" contains the offerings collected through both envelopes placed in the offering plates on Saturday or Sunday and through direct giving through Thrivent Financial Services.

The bi-annually Contribution Statements will not be mailed to your home until the end of the 3rd quarter. We have had some set backs with the software that contains that data. The problems with the software have been corrected, but the office staff will need to re-enter some of the information that was lost while the problems were on-going. Thank you for your patience.

Save the date! Community Dialogue on Homelessness

Hosted by Annandale United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 30, 2007
3:00 – 5:30 pm
Annandale United Methodist Church

There are thousands of homeless families and individuals in Fairfax County. Have you ever thought about how this occurs and what you can do to prevent it? Join us in a dialogue which will help identify who are the homeless, who are at risk, and what actions we can take, as individuals, civic organizations and faith communities, to prevent and eliminate homelessness in Fairfax County.

We will be joined by representatives from the County, support services organizations, both governmental and non-profit, and representatives from the Community Council on Homelessness.

A detailed agenda and registration information will be available in early August. Meanwhile, questions may be directed to aum-comissions@yahoo.com, or contact Pat Henkel who will be attending the event.

Please Note:

The Peace Quilters will not meet in August.

The quilters will resume quilting on September 12, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome to participate making these wonderful quilts which are donated to Lutheran World Relief.

50th Anniversary Dinner Invitation

Dear Peace Members, Former Members, and Friends,

Peace Lutheran Church is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Several activities are being planned throughout the year, culminating on the first week-end of November with a formal dinner on Saturday, November 3rd and two traditional worship services on Sunday, November 4th.

Plans are underway for the 50th Anniversary Dinner, which will be held at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. An interesting program is being planned.

The all-inclusive cost of the dinner is \$40 per person. (Please indicate your choice of entrée on the reservation form below). A cash bar will be available during the social hour. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. For those not able to cover the full cost of the dinner, a fund is available to help so that the cost does not deter you from joining us for this special evening. Please contact Pastor Nana, Habtu Mesfen, Pastor Terry, or Amy Acland for more information or to register. All inquiries will be kept confidential.

Since there was no response to the offer of a children's event, families should make their own arrangements concerning child care. If lack of child care prevents you from attending, please contact Stephanie Running for assistance in planning child care. Children may attend the dinner at the Army Navy Country Club at the full anniversary dinner cost.

Sincerely,
The 50th Anniversary Committee

50th Anniversary of Peace Lutheran Church

Name(s) _____

Phone number: _____

Email(s): _____

Number attending _____ x \$40.00 per person = _____

(Please make check payable to Peace Lutheran Church with 50th anniversary on the memo line)

Entrée selection:

_____ Chicken Breast Stuffed with Apples & Corn Bread

_____ Fresh Baked Rockfish with Dill Cream Sauce

Final Date for Reservations: October 1, 2007

The Lazarus Project's July Enrichment 2007



The first ever July Enrichment Program at Village of Hope in Gantier, Haiti was a huge success! Sixteen volunteers from all over the US (three from Haiti) taught classes in English, Art, Dance, Woodworking, Cross Stitch and Singing. Only one of the volunteers was a trained teacher. The rest of us just bravely jumped in to teach what we know as best we could!

The English teachers were able to teach vocabulary, some grammar and, most importantly, pronunciation, which is very important when they normally learn English with a French or Creole accent! Christy Howlett taught for 3 weeks and has many stories to tell!

Marni Maree taught Art for 2 weeks. She taught drawing and painting to most students who never had a

chance to paint. The class ended with a mural painted by the new artists on a very prominent wall at Village of Hope School. The children are very proud of the beauty they created. Some of the students gave Marni their art to show the people in the US what great artists there are in Haiti. You will get to see it very soon. One student gave Marni the greatest gift of all when she proclaimed, "I feel the artist in me!"

The Woodworking class was taught by Marni's father, Tom McCarthy. The children in the class never held saws, hammers, squares or drills before this class. By the end of 2 weeks they were making trays to be used as gifts for visiting teams. This class opened up a whole new opportunity for them to be able to create something that could be sold to make money for their families!

The other volunteers who taught were: Margaret Bollinger, Haiti (English), Cara Frame, VA (English), Vicki Glaesner, Juno Beach, FL (Art), Evelyn Torrey, FL (English), Liz Schuch, Faith Lutheran, VA (Singing), Tom Lambiase, Prince of Peace, VA (Cross Stitch), Nelson Latona, Prince of Peace, VA (Woodworking), Erika Quinn, Prince of Peace, VA (Art, 3-D), Sherry and Liam McLaughlin, Fon du Lac, WI (English and Art), Brian Fisher, Philadelphia, PA (Service Learning) and Walnes, Haiti (Dance), Youdell, Haiti (English).

Thank you to Thrivent for donating \$1000.00 through "Operation:Socks" to be used for teaching supplies for the classes.



Newsletter
DEADLINE

THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR "THE WORDS OF PEACE" IS AUGUST 15TH.

*(Comments, suggestions, articles, etc should be emailed to:
parishsecretary@sharingpeace.org or placed in the secretary's mailbox.)*

Worship Schedule

August 2007

Every Friday

9:00 p.m. African Ministry Prayer Meeting

Every Saturday

7:00 p.m. African Ministry Worship Service
in Amharic

Every Sunday

8:00 a.m. Informal Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
12 noon African Ministry Worship Service
in English

dfSun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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	

Schedule of Events

Brass of Peace

every Sun. at 7 p.m.

Bells of Peace

every Mon. at 8:00 p.m.

Bells con Brio

Every Tue. at 7:00 p.m.

Messengers of Peace

every Tue. at 8:15 p.m.

Child Care Provided

Ghanaian Bible Study

every Tue. and Fri. at 7:00 p.m.

Special Events

Thu., Aug. 2

6:30 p.m. Council and Ministry Meeting

Fri., Aug. 3

10:00 a.m. Peace Shawlers meet at Starbucks, Barcroft Plaza

Sat., Aug. 4

4:30 p.m. Multicultural Bible Study

Wed., Aug. 8 to Sun., Aug. 1

PLY Retreat

Fri., Aug. 10

10:00 a.m. Peace Shawlers meet at Anne Whitten's home

Sat., Aug 11

4:30 p.m. Multicultural Bible Study

Tue., Aug. 21

11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch

Other Goings-on

Every Tue.

7 p.m. Toughlove

Parent Support Group

7 p.m. AA

Every Thu.

8:30 p.m. AA

Every Sat.

7 p.m. AA

ACCA Transportation

Thanks to all who drive for this valuable ministry providing much needed transportation of those in need to medical appointments. Peace Lutheran Church's next scheduled dates for providing transportation are August 27 to August 31. If you are interested in helping provide transportation, please contact Kay Dameron on 703.256.3178. We are always in need of more drivers.



For the Month...

Date	Assisting Minister	Acolyte	Reader	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers
Aug 5	Vincent Guss	The Youth of Peace	Alan Bird	Amy Acland, TBA, TBA	TBA	Ed Axthlem, Jim Buchanan, Chuck Flinger, Tammy Heppner, Helga Recevuto, Allian Pratt
12	Habtu Mesfen	The Youth of Peace	Dick Wargowsky	Sandy Wargowsky, Donna Thiessen, TBA	TBA	
19	Kathleen Wage	The Youth of Peace	Christy Howlett	Cathy Krooohs, Liz and Randy Hernandez	TBA	
26	Stephanie Running	The Youth of Peace	Ray Marquardt	Debbie Marquardt, Phyllis Carson, Jacque Hill	TBA	

Date	Altar Care	Doves	Communion Set-up	Cookies	SOS
Aug 5	TBA	Abena Opoku Donna Thiessen	Doug and Marcia Miller and Mike and Gail Merritt	Ray and Debbie Marquardt	Elaine Peoples
12	TBA	Amy Makenin Judi Person		Phyllis Carson	Debbie Marquardt
19	TBA	Margarete Heber Robyn Seifart		Dan and Mary Dose	Vicki Haugen
26	TBA	Christ Maiers Nadine Krutzky Mitchell		Barbro Gendell	Susan Duerre

August's special offering...

...is for Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter in Annandale. Bailey's is a Fairfax County shelter run by Volunteers of America for adults without children. There are 36 beds for men and 14 for women. During the winter there are an extra 10 beds for cold weather overflow. Opened in September 1987, Bailey's offers a full service program – case management, on-site mental health and substance abuse counseling and health care services.

Place
Stamp
Here

**Peace Lutheran Church
6362 Lincolnia Road
Alexandria, VA 22312**

Address Correction Requested

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Fax: 703-750-6773

E-mails

info@sharingpeace.org
pastorterry@sharingpeace.org
pastornana@sharingpeace.org
parishsecretary@sharingpeace.org
stevebenson@sharingpeace.org

Sunday Services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
12 noon (African Ministry—English)
nursery & preschool care provided

9:00 a.m. Sunday School (for ages 3—Adult)
(September—May)

Saturday Service: 7 p.m. (African Ministry—Amharic)



www.sharingpeace.org