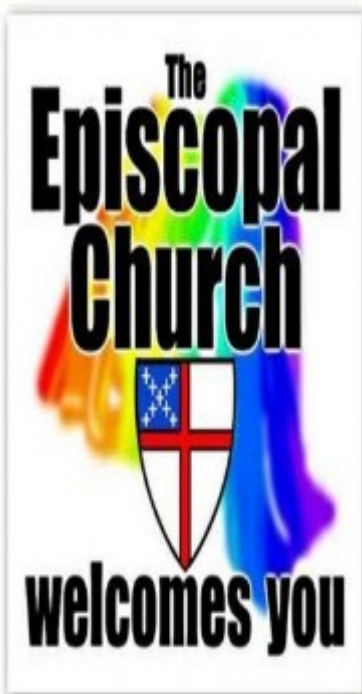


September 2026

The Episcopal Church
in
Gettysburg, PA

Inside this issue:

From The Priest in Charge	1
Building Use	3
Sunday School	3
Choir Director	4
Franklin Friends	5
Quilts for Comfort	6
Bishops Visit	6
Pet Donations	7
Mark Your Calander	7
Round of Prayer	8
Birthdays and Anniversaries	8
Lectionary	8



The Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace

The Episcopal Epistle

From the Priest In Charge *The Rev. Jim Strader-Sasser*



"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax

collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.
(Matthew 21: 28-32)

Matthean Theology and Existential Settings

The Parable of the Two Sons only appears in Matthew. Matthew, much more so than the other Synoptic Gospels, places great importance on the virtue of righteousness. Matthew also warns against the evil natures of complacency and hypocrisy. Jesuit New Testament Scholar and Historian – Daniel Harrington – wrote:

"Matthew's Gospel should be read as one of several Jewish responses to the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in A.D. 70. The Matthean community still existed within the framework of

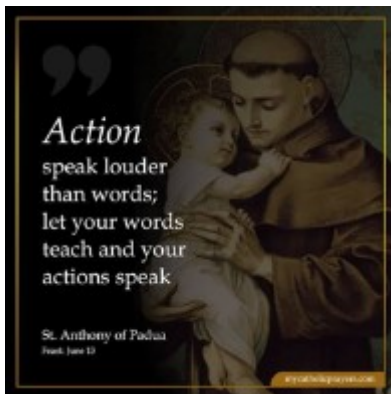
(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Judaism but in tension with other Jewish groups, especially the early rabbinic movement. The point (of Matthew's Gospel) is that Jesus' life from start to finish was in perfect harmony with the Scriptures. Or to put it more in keeping with Matthew's outlook – the Scriptures are in perfect harmony with Jesus' life." (Harrington, 1991, p. 17)

Living Righteously Like Jesus Did

I think we all know the idiom that "Actions speak louder than words." Matthew's critique of hypocrisy/empty words applies to our modern paralysis in the face of national and local economic hardship. 37%



of people living across the nation can't afford an emergency expense over \$400. (The Currency, 2026). An Adams County Fact Sheet

published in 2023 states that there are only 36 affordable homes for every 100 extremely low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities needing available rental properties. (Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, 2023). Not everyone can readily afford to pay \$50-\$60 for a full tank of gas. Prince of Peace We can't solve all of these difficulties. What can we, at some level, faithfully and morally solve?

Vulnerable, Interdependent Love

Buddhist Monk, peace activist, poet, and teacher – Thich Nhat Hanh said:

"The source of love is deep in us, and we can help others realize a lot of happiness. One word, one action, one thought can reduce another person's suffering and bring that person joy."

We are neurologically and psychologically wired to make initial impressions of someone. We use cognitive and experiential biases in that impulsive process. (American Psychological Association, 2026).

Paradoxically we are very hard-wired for cooperation. Our ancestral inclination is to work as a team with people like us (in-group bias). Thus, true Interdependence requires more intentionality and mutually beneficial bonding toward accomplishing a shared goal with "others". Everyone must feel they have equal power and importance in relational work. Leaders must actively encourage and reward cooperation. (Jesse Koster, 2026)

What's probably most difficult – especially in contexts where people inherently don't trust institutions or their neighbors – is to constantly offer opportunities to build trust in valuable interactions. There's one word that energizes such work – **Vulnerability**.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

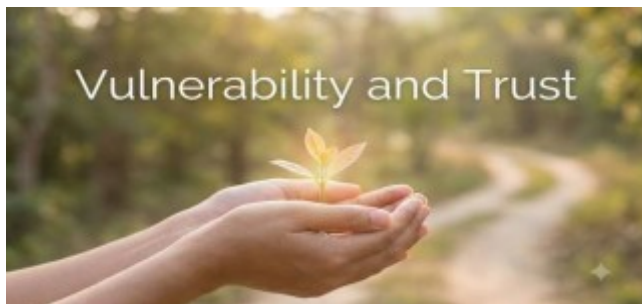
"Vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, and creativity. It is the source of hope, empathy, accountability and authenticity. If we want greater clarity in our purpose or deeper or more meaningful spiritual lives, vulnerability is the path." (Brown, 2016)

Reflection

I close with two thoughts. First, we must believe that there is far greater sacramental value in what we do rather than in what we say. Second, we must become more conscious of how our split-second biases and stereotyping keep us from following Building Use

Jesus to relieve the suffering of others—especially those we do not yet know.

Blessings along The Way—Jim+



Building Use



As parish groups begin to gravitate to a more regular use of the building, with groups being

able to gather and meet in the building, it is important that the parish office be contacted and the meetings be placed on the calendar to avoid conflicts with other groups meeting in the building.

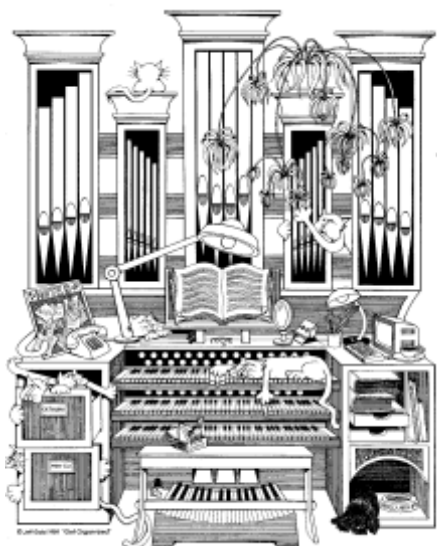
Sunday School



"We are working on plans for Sunday school for the Fall, please check the bulletins and emails for further information as it becomes available" What do you think

about having an occasional multi-generational offering in conjunction with a reduced number of children-only Sunday School programs? Are you willing to volunteer for either one of these offerings? Thanks!

From the Organist and Choir Director



Special Summer Music Thank Yous

Thanking all those who provided special music on Sunday mornings throughout this past summer: Karen Botterbusch, Dale Elkiss, Paul Kennedy, the Prince of Peace Choir, and our Psalm Cantors: Nancy Bainter, Trish Jones Burke, Chris Ground and Amy Kleponis.

We are most grateful to all of you for offering your gifts of music at our worship.

CHOIR REHEARSAL START-UP:

*"Sing with all your heart, for in your voice,
the love of God finds expression."*

For all those who currently sing in the Prince of Peace Choir, or have sung in the choir in the past, or would like to consider singing in the choir in the upcoming year . . . please join us as we begin our new choir

season!

Prince of Peace choir rehearsals will begin again after Labor Day on **Thursday evening, September 10th at 7:00 PM**

Please come and bring a friend as we celebrate the beginning of our new choir year together, *"Singing and making melody unto the Lord,"* – all are welcome!

Pope Leo XIV discusses sacred music — an integral part of the liturgy

In his discussion of the Second Vatican Council's emphasis on the role of sacred music in the liturgy, where it states that *"The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art,"* Pope Leo XIV explains that sacred music fosters both prayer and communion among the faithful:

"Music, indeed, is part of the liturgical action and is not merely a decorative part of the celebration," Leo said. *"In particular, music expresses the affective dimension of prayer, as St. Augustine says: 'Cantare amantis est,' that is, 'singing belongs to those who love.'"*

"Singing also fosters communion. It contributes to the unity of hearts, overcoming differences between people and bringing everyone together in praise of God through the symphony of voices." - Pope Leo XIV

Mark Your Calendars: Lessons and Carols – December 5th at 4:00 PM

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be presented at Prince of Peace on **Saturday, December 5, 2026 at 4:00 PM**. Featuring the Prince of Peace Choir and the Gettysburg College Brass Quintet, the service celebrates the story of God's redemption of His people with the reading of sacred Scripture and the singing of traditional carols.

Rehearsals for Lessons and Carols will begin in mid-October – members and friends of the congregation are invited to participate as readers and/or singers in the choir.

Community Outreach Franklin Friends

Beginning in September of last year, Prince of Peace joined an initiative previously established by Flohr's Evangelical Lutheran Church to provide food assistance for children and families at Franklin Township Elementary School. The school, located in Cashtown, is part of the Gettysburg Area School District.

Each Friday during the school year, Flohr's Church contributes non-perishable food items to Franklin Friends, a group who provides meals and snacks to children who may not have access to sufficient food over the weekend.

Throughout the 2026-2027 school year, our church will be once again collecting items to lend our support to this important

program. Using the food list included here, we have committed to gathering donations and dropping them off at Flohrs Church on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The specific dates for the 2026-2027 school year are as follows: (9/23, 10/28, 11/25, 12/23, 1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28). If you would like to join the list of those willing to help with the monthly deliveries this year, contact Sarah Bair. Please look for the donation box in the back of the church beginning, Sunday, September 6th.

Our parishioners did an amazing job supporting this program last year. The people at Franklin Friends were delighted to hear that we would be helping again this year. Thank you so much for your steadfast support!

We are thankful to be able to continue our support of Franklin Township Elementary School and the children it serves.

Entrees (Individually Packed)

Chicken and Tuna Salad

Chef Boyardee Individual Cups

Mac and Cheese Individual Cups

Ramen Noodles

Jif to Go with Deli rounds

Individual Servings of:

Fruit Cups

Vegetables

Applesauce

Small Boxes of Raisins

Snack Foods (Individually Packed)

Pretzels

Goldfish

Fruit Snacks

Granola Bars

Pudding Cups

Breakfast Items (Individually Packed)

Cold Cereal

Oatmeal

Drinks (Individually Packed)

Juice

Hot Chocolate Packets

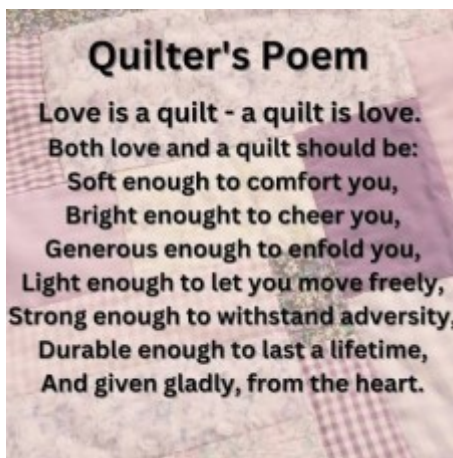
NOTE: Occasional donations of individually packed cookies, pop tarts, and chips are also welcome as extra treats.



Bishop's Visit

Diocesan Bishop Audrey Scanlan will be visiting with us from 9-11am on Wednesday, Sept. 9th. We be

sharing a light breakfast as well as a conversation about the upcoming year for the diocese as well as for Prince of Peace. 2027 opens transitional windows for the parish and diocese alike. What can we plan for now and how can Prince of Peace support the Diocese of The Susquehanna and vice versa.



Quilts For Comfort

Quilts for Comfort Begins Again

After a summer hiatus monthly quilt bees will begin again on Tuesday, September 8th.

We'll gather in the conference room from 9:30 to 2:30 to make quilts for Gettysburg and surrounding areas.

Come when you can, leave when you must. Bring a bag lunch & we'll take care of the rest. Hope to see you there.



Cat and Dog Product Donations



We continue our monthly ingathering of products for the two no kill shelters in the area we are supporting: Forever Love in Gettysburg and the Helen Krause

Animal Foundation in Dillsburg. When you go to the grocery store think about “God’s Little Ones” and pick up a can or two or a bag of cat or dog food to help these shelters feed, rehabilitate and find good loving homes, “Forever Homes”. We thank everyone for the very generous outpouring of support this past Sunday, August 30th. The bin was filled once again and Lee has picked the products up for delivery to the shelters. He expresses his sincere thanks to everyone who donated. The bin will be in place for the next scheduled intake date, Sunday, September 27th.



Mark Your Calendars

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events at Prince of Peace:

Saturday, Sept 5th: Book Club, 11:00 AM

Monday, Sept 7th: Office Closed

Tuesday, Sept 8th: Quilt Bee, 9:30 AM

Wednesday, Sept 9th: Bishop's Visit, 9:00 AM. Light breakfast and brainstorming.

Sunday, Sept 13th: Annual service and picnic at Gettysburg Area Recreation Park. This year we have reserved the Lions Pavilion.

Tuesday, September. 22nd: Deadline for the October newsletter.

Help us keep our records up to date.

Have we missed listing your birthday or anniversary in the past?

We may not have the information in our database. Please contact Marrie at the office with your information.

717-334-6463

princeofpeace@gettysburgepiscopal.org

SERVICE SCHEDULE SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Collect for Labor Day

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



September 6

Pentecost 18

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 13

Pentecost 19

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalm 114

or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 20

Pentecost 20

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

September 27

Pentecost 21

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

The Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace

P. O. Box 3005, 20 W. High St.
Gettysburg, PA 17325-3005

Telephone: 717-334-6463

The Rev. James Strader-Sasser
Priest In Charge

The Rev. Pamela Cooper White Ph.D. Priest
Associate

The Rev. Richard A. Ginnever
Priest Associate

The Rev. Jan Heller Ph.D. Priest Associate

The Rev. Cathy McKinney
Chaplain for Pastoral Care
Cathy Elkiss

Organist and Choirmaster

Marrie Sanders
Parish Administrator
princeofpeace@gettysburgepiscopal.org

Tim Back, Sexton
Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

