



# Tower Echoes

The Monthly Newsletter of Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church  
7500 Greenwood Avenue North  
Seattle, Washington 98103  
206.783.2350 — [www.prlc.org](http://www.prlc.org)

Volume 56, Issue Five

June/July, 2009

## Mobilizing to End Poverty

At the end of April, seven members of our community—Sarah Cody, Kirstin Docken, Karen Kosciolk, Patrick Meagher, Leon and Pat Seaman, and Nathan Verret—traveled to Washington DC for the Mobilization to End Poverty. Organized by Sojourners, a faith-based social justice advocacy group ([sojo.net](http://sojo.net)), the Mobilization brought together 1,200 Christians from around the country for the purpose of lobbying the federal government on behalf of the poor. After worshipping, training, and many inspiring speakers, we spent a full day on Capital Hill speaking directly with the staff of our state's elected officials.

*(continued on page 3)*



Members of the PRLC group on the Capital steps



ELCA Presiding Mark S. Hanson participating in the panel discussion



President Obama addressing the conference via a video feed

## Church Office Closure

Please note, the church office will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day. If you are in need of emergency pastoral assistance at this or any other time the church office is closed, please call the on-call emergency pager at 206-579-3766.

## Summer Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour will be held between the services on the tile floor area just outside the kitchen during the summer months. The latte cart will be up and running and regular and decaf coffee will be available as well. Please sign up for hosting a coffee hour at the Grace Station on Sunday mornings.

## In the Family

### Deaths

Jeanette Iverson  
Died May 5, 2009

Mark your calendars now!

Fall Women's Retreat

**October 16, 17, 18 2009**

St. Andrew's House on Hood  
Canal

Led by Pastors Bev Piro  
and Mary Lindberg

More information to come.

## Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church

7500 Greenwood Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98103  
206-783-2350  
[office@prlc.org](mailto:office@prlc.org)

### Church Staff E-mail Addresses:

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### Sunday Schedule:

Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Education at 10:00 a.m.  
Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

### Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Newsletter Deadlines:

Summer 2009	July 10 (for 7/16 mailing)
September 2009	August 21 (for 8/27 mailing)
October 2009	October 23 (for 10/29 mailing)

*The mission of Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church  
is to provide a place to worship God,  
to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ,  
and to reach out to the community.*

## From Vicar Elizabeth

As I look at the calendar in my office it is starting to become very obvious that my time in Seattle is starting to come to a close. I have so enjoyed my time at Phinney Ridge and know that I have learned a lot about ministry by just being in the presence of this church family. You will all have a special place in my heart for years to come. I thank you for opening your doors and hearts to the internship process and making this year a rewarding experience for me. Your dedication and commitment in helping to form future leaders of the church is a wonderful attribute. I feel truly blessed that I had the chance to learn, observe, and discover myself as a future pastor in this place.

Peace be with you!

(*“Mobilization...”*, continued from page 1)

We asked for three specific commitments:

- ⇒ To make cutting poverty in the U.S. in half over the next ten years an official goal of the House and the Senate.
- ⇒ To vote in support of the current proposed White House Foreign Affairs Budget which includes an increase in our accountability-based foreign aid to countries in need.
- ⇒ To support and pass Health Care Reform this year that includes protection for our society’s most vulnerable populations.

The day concluded with a rally at the House office buildings where we heard from many more Senators and Representatives including Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Every member of our group was deeply touched and inspired by this experience, but it was only the beginning. We hope to share this inspiration with you as we continue our work. Watch for opportunities to view recorded material from the Mobilization and participate in advocacy opportunities throughout the summer.





## This Month at LYONS:

### June Middle School Events

#### **June 7, 6:30-8pm, Crown Hill Chill Olympics!**

(Note- To make this event description more interesting, please start playing the Olympic theme song in your head. Thank you.) Here it is, the Chill to rule all chills. The 3rd annual, Crown Hill Chill Olympics! The most popular games and challenges from 2008-09 Chill season, will be brought back and packed into this last Chill of the year. Keeping with the tradition, edible gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded, and of course, good times will be had! (OK. You can stop with the music now.)

**Location: LYONS Den 1501 NW 90th St Cost: Free**

### June High School Events

#### **June 28, 6:30-8pm, High School Summer Trip Meeting:**

If you are registered to go to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering we'll see you at this meeting! It's time to plan some more for Jesus, Justice, JAZZ!

**Location: LYONS Den/Fellowship Hall 1501 NW 90th St Cost: Free**

### June All LYONS Events

#### **June 14, 5-7pm, LYONS End of the School Year Celebration!**

Come celebrate another FABULOUS year of LYONS fun together! It's our always awesome cookout! We'll do the grilling and you bring a side dish to share! (Last names A-H bring a salad; last names I-P bring a side dish; Last names Q-Z bring a dessert). LYONS will provide drinks and table service. We'll also honor our Seniors and wish them God-speed on their way as well as present the recipients of the 2009-2010 Bergstrom Memorial Scholarships.

**Location: Crown Lutheran Fellowship Hall 1501 NW 90th St Cost: Free**

Vacation Bible School is Coming!

**By Word and water  
all belong...**

## Journeys with Jesus

Vacation Bible School

7/13-17, 2009

9-12:30

FOR STUDENTS

(LEAVING) KINDERGARTEN  
THROUGH (LEAVING) GRADE 5.

*"...Like streams and rivers, we will sing:*

*'The gift of water's what we bring.'*

*Up, up with us and join the song.*

*By Word and water all belong  
to God alone.*

*Now sing along!*

*Til earth's drowned in Baptismal song."*

 **PHINNEY RIDGE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Registration forms available at the Grace Station,  
or contact Children & Family Minister  
Abigail Jiménez at [ajimenez@prlc.org](mailto:ajimenez@prlc.org)*

## Parish News, Notes & Comments

**A one-time only event, "Dreams and Visions", will be held on Sunday, June 7.** The contractors will allow us to be in the Sanctuary "just as it is" for Evening Prayer. Here's what's planned...

At 5:30 p.m. we'll gather for a bring-your-own picnic supper on the front lawn. AT 6ish, Pastor Hoffman will lead us in a Bible Study about mission, vision, discipleship, the call to service. At 7, we'll gather in the sanctuary for Evening Prayer.

Part of our Evening Prayer service will be the opportunity to take the wisdom from our Bible Study together and etch our hopes and dreams on the bare concrete floor of the sanctuary. We'll write them in chalk on the bare concrete and the next day the arduous process of installing the new stone floor will begin.

When our sanctuary is complete, we will have the powerful satisfaction and important symbol of "standing on our hopes and dreams" for fulfilling the will of God for the sake of the Gospel.

This is an adult event, planned for those who are Middle School age and above. While childcare will not be provided, we suggest that parents of young children who are planning to attend contact one another for some in-home shared play dates. A list of those planning to attend will be available at the church office. Check in with Don at 783-2350.

**June Circle Bible Studies** will bring another year of faithful Bible Study and Circle Life to an end for 08-09. All Circles will take the months of July and August "off" and then resume their usual schedules again in September. Pastor Hoffman will be the Bible Study leader for June, with the study text being Exodus 3. The schedule is listed below:

<b>Mary/Martha</b>	June 10 at 12:30 p.m., potluck lunch in Tree of Life Room
<b>Bethany</b>	June 15 at 10:30 a.m., salad lunch at Carol Olson's home
<b>Salem</b>	June 17 at 9:30 a.m., at Mabel Rockness' home

Our **annual rite of "Quilting" High School Seniors** will take place on Sunday morning, 7 June at the 8:30 a.m. liturgy. Our high school seniors this year are: Maureen Hendrix, Dorela Hyseni, Lucy Williams and Lori Pearson. Coffee hour following the service will be in honor of these four young women who have come to such an important place in their walk of faith. We are grateful to the Tuesday Quilters' Group who supply us with quilts with which to gift the seniors each year on behalf of the entire congregation.

**The Car Show Speeds onto Phinney Ridge.** The Annual Greenwood-Phinney Car Show is fast approaching on Saturday, June 27. Despite our renovations which will make the 300 level inaccessible, we still hope to offer some form of hospitality for this huge event. When else can we meet about 20,000 of our neighbors in one day? In order to accomplish this, we need a lot of volunteers to help set up, serve coffee and donuts, and clean up. It's a fun way to meet our community, and help the church share the love of Christ through hospitality. Please contact Patrick in the office—[pmeagher@prlc.org](mailto:pmeagher@prlc.org)—or mark the Count Me In form for more information.

There will be a brief but important **Confirmation Orientation Meeting** on Sunday, 7 June at 10 a.m. in the Tree of Life Room. This meeting is for **STUDENTS AND PARENTS** of young people in our congregation who will be in either 6th, 7th, or 8th grade in the fall of 2009. Pastor Hoffman will lead the meeting and details will be shared about how our ministry of confirmation is conducted, when the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism will be held, and share the curricula that are used for each of the grade levels. Please contact Pastor Hoffman if a representative of your family will NOT be able to attend.

**The food bank mission team would like to thank Alec Engber and David Kahle** for all their hard work in the National Letter Carrier's Food Drive on May 9th. Because of their hard work, the PRLC Food Bank will receive a large shipment of food from Northwest Harvest.



**Northwest Washington Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.

## Listening Sessions With 2009 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly will begin with worship on Monday, Aug. 17, and conclude Saturday, Aug. 23, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Host synods are: Minneapolis Area Synod and Saint Paul Area Synod.

Four listening sessions with our voting members will be held in May and June. This is an opportunity for congregational members to express their opinions regarding the various resolutions and other decisions that will be made at this year's churchwide assembly.

- Saturday, May 30--10 a.m. to noon at Our Savior's Lutheran, 215 Mukilteo Blvd, Everett; 425-252-0413
- Saturday, June 13--10 a.m. to noon at St. Luke's LC, 3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue; 425-822-7907
- Thursday, June 18--7 to 9 p.m. at Salem Lutheran, 2529 Laventure Road, Mount Vernon; 360-336-3600
- Saturday, June 20--10 a.m. to noon, University Lutheran, 1604 NE 50th St, Seattle; 206-525-7074

At the 2008 Synod Assembly voting members elected ten people to attend the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. (Bishop Chris Boerger and Larry Johnson, Associate in Ministry and Synod Vice President, attend automatically because of their leadership positions.)

Those elected were: The Rev. Chris Berry, Western Washington University Campus Pastor; Diakonda Gurning, Synodically Authorized Minister, Indonesian Lutheran Fellowship; Glenn Ryder, Denny Park in Seattle; The Rev. Jianhua (Jimmy) Hao, Grace Chinese, Seattle; Millie Fosberg, Burlington in Burlington; The Rev. Pam Russell, Prince of Peace, Shoreline; Richard Bridges, Trinity in Lynnwood; Sarah Tveit, Burlington in Burlington; and Vanessa Unti, St. Matthew in Renton. You can reach all of our Churchwide Assembly Voting Members by using this email address: 2009cwavoting-members@lutheransnw.org.

For more information about the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly please visit [www.elca.org/assembly](http://www.elca.org/assembly).

## Fill the cart with Non-Food Necessities

It is very hard these days not to think about stretching the family food dollar a bit farther. Imagine if your decision was whether to buy laundry soap or diapers for your child. Clients of our food bank have to make decisions like this every week. Often the PRLC food bank will have a small bag of laundry soap to hand out to clients or a bag of diapers that might last for a week. Many weeks the food bank is not able to supply these non-food necessities for our neighbors.

Every month the food bank will be soliciting non-food necessities to help meet the needs of our clients. We ask that you bring items to the church and deposit them in the shopping cart in the entryway. Through your generosity we hope to fill the cart with items to share with the many who come to our doors looking for assistance. The list of items is printed below:

Month	Non-Food Necessity	Month	Non-Food Necessity
January	Diapers (sizes 1-5) / toilet paper	July	Tooth brush / tooth paste
February	Tooth brush / tooth paste	August	Deodorant / hand soap
March	Deodorant / hand soap	September	Dish soap / laundry soap
April	Dish soap / laundry soap	October	Shampoo / conditioner
May	Shampoo / conditioner	November	Thanksgiving distribution
June	Diapers (sizes 1-5) / toilet paper	December	Christmas distribution and gifts

## The Back Page, by Pastor Hoffman

### *Mason-minded or Mission-minded?*

It's so very exciting these days to walk into the sanctuary and take stock of the changes that are taking place. The "tearing down" phase seems to have come to completion, so now every time one enters for a peek the "building up" parts are being crafted into place. Yesterday a little molding, today a little paint, tomorrow a new wall or flooring.

While that may be an exciting thing to see and witness day by day, it's also the perfect time for us to recall a few of the words of the powerful Grundtvig hymn, based on I Peter 2, "Christ builds a house of living stones/we are his own habitation."



As living stones, we are called to be mission minded, not mason-minded. It's not so much what gets built. More important to the life and health of the congregation for the years to come is what grows out of our building. *How will we use it for Christ's mission in the world?*

A large part of the June Congregation Council meeting will be devoted to this question. Together we will sit and pray, vision and dream around those things to which God is calling us as we prepare in just a few short weeks to re-occupy our newly renovated sanctuary. This would be the perfect time for you to share your ideas, thoughts, hopes and dreams with council members and staff as we prepare for this important conversation.

I suspect that as with all mission done in the name of Christ, we will be looking at what it is that we get to give away in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus. While we will no doubt casually talk for a long, long time about "our" new building, the truth of the matter is that it is not ours at all, but a gift from God, given to us for the good of the Gospel. An important learning for us as we re-occupy will be acting on the question, "How can we give this away for the sake of the Gospel?"

*Where two or three will seek his face, he is their midst will show his grace, blessing upon them bestowing. And through those two or three - or two or three hundred, that blessing will be bestowed upon the world as we are mission-, not mason-, minded.*

See you in church,  
Pastor Hoffman

**Save a Tree**  
Get this newsletter by email!  
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office@prlc.org

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# Save the Dates:

- JUNE 1-13**    **PRLC Main Kitchen Shut Down**  
For renovation work
- JUNE 7**    **Sunday of The Holy Trinity**  
**SUN**    Graduating Seniors Honored
- JUNE 27**    **Greenwood Car Show** ✕  
**SAT**    Greenwood Avenue
- JULY 3**    **Church Office & CDC Closed**  
**FRI**    In observance of Independence Day
- JULY 13-17**    **Vacation Bible School** ✕  
**M-F**    Mornings at PRLC

