

## **Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Sterling – Logan County, Colorado Grant Review September 2022 – High Plains Region – Church Assistance Funds**

Prince of Peace is one of two Episcopal churches in northeast Colorado outside of what is considered the greater metro area. We are in a partnership relationship with St Charles Episcopal Church in Ft. Morgan. For five years, we were shepherded by Rev. Steven Hagerman. He retired August 1, 2021. Currently, we are in a transitional period.

The Diocese has been searching for a priest to continue our partnership with St. Charles. This year, 2022, we worship with a supply priest each 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month and have a Lay Pastoral Leader who leads the Administration of Reserved Sacraments on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday a lay person leads Morning Prayer.

The varied types of worship services help us to build the leadership at Prince of Peace Church. Members of the Bishop's Committee also participate in Vestry 101 which is offered through Faith Formation and the Iliff School of Theology's Campus Portal. The different types of worship involve our congregants, a consistent priest, build leadership and because of this, aid in sustaining financial self-sufficiency.

For the past seven years Prince of Peace has been helping Under the Umbrella, a nonprofit group which feeds the hungry in Sterling and Logan County. We decided we needed to think of creative ways to use our church building as our numbers went down. Currently, Under the Umbrella uses the church building for the preparation and serving of meals to the hungry. They serve anywhere from 65 to 80 people at each meal, 2x a week. We also invite the hungry to worship with us and join us for a meal which follows our Saturday service in our parish hall.

Under the Umbrella uses POP Sunday school rooms for a food pantry and a clothing closet. Through the use of the building, Under the Umbrella, is carrying on the work of Jesus and fulfilling the needs of our community through the use of our church. Prince of Peace Church enables the hungry, hurting and homeless of Sterling to recognize that Prince of Peace Church is a name in the community connected in distributing meals, food, and clothing. Under the Umbrella also donates a generous offering to Prince of Peace to use the building each month. The presence of our church plays a significant role in the Sterling Community.

Prince of Peace reaches out to the community in other ways. Early this spring when Russia invaded the Ukraine, we held a prayer vigil for the Ukrainian people. Six clergy and lay leaders from local churches participated in leading prayers during the vigil at Prince of Peace Church. It was well received. We, also, reach the community through our "Ashes to Go" ministry.

Before the COVID pandemic we participated in a community Lenten Prayer time each week. We stopped when the virus made it unsafe to gather. We are looking forward to participating in the community prayer and worship time in 2023. During 2022 we visited

the local nursing home and gave valentines to all of the residents and nurses. We were excited to baptize a young boy and welcomed a new member.

None of these things would be possible if our doors closed. With the help of the High Plains Region, we remain vigilant in reaching out to the community, keeping our doors open and using our building to carry on the will of God through our ministries. During 2022 we visited the local nursing home and gave valentines to all of the residents and nurses.

Keeping our doors open is important in building the Kingdom of God. Our ministries that reach out into the community, stewardship planning and tithing, having a priest who is consistently at our church, and building leadership will lead us to long term financial stability. The High Plains Region grant has given us hope and the opportunity to continue being a significant Episcopal presence in Sterling, CO.

We greatly appreciate the support and the encouragement of the HPR Missioner and all who serve on the High Plains Region Executive Committee, for the acceptance of our past grant applications. Thank you!

Submitted by Mary Anderson, Lay Pastoral Leader, Prince of Peace Church  
With approval of the Bishop's Committee

Supply Priest	Worship & Mileage 1xmon	\$3600		
Musician	1xmon	\$600		
Water & Sewer		\$1950		
Total		\$6150		