

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

February/ March 2005 Newsletter

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church is a member of More Light Presbyterians.

Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

One Great Hour of Sharing

With the Lenten season upon us, it's time to turn our thoughts to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Through this offering, Christians throughout the country respond to Christ's love by joyfully sharing with people in need.

Presbyterian gifts support the work of the Presbyterian Committee for the Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

For several years, Bryn Mawr has used this offering as a chance to share our abundance and to strengthen our church community through a **Silent Auction**. Here's how it works. Members and friends offer items for bidding. These items have been as varied as a Theme Dinner for eight, Babysitting, Guitar Lessons, Lawnmower Tune-Ups and Secret Recipe Pies. Think creatively – what can you offer that others might want to bid on?

We hold our Silent Auction during the two weeks prior to Palm Sunday. Everyone has a chance to bid on the items. The winning bids go to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

We have raised several thousand dollars over the years through these auctions and church members have also had a chance to get to know each other better. You'll be hearing a lot more about the Silent Auction in the coming weeks – both about the causes the money supports and how you can participate.

If you have questions, if you'd like to offer an item for bidding, or if you'd like to "request" that somebody else offer a specific item that you'd like to bid on, please contact Lisa Bullard at 612-377-6003 or LB@lisabullard.com.

Calling All Youth!!!

This year we are adding a new element to our One Great Hour of Sharing event – A Youth Art Gallery. All BMPC young people are encouraged to create one or more works of art to be auctioned off as part of our annual Silent Auction.

During the bidding, we will display the items in a BMPC Art Gallery. Any work of art is welcome; drawings, paintings, sculpture, handmade jewelry or craft items. Young people can work from their own inspiration or can follow the specific themes of this year's nationwide One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Adults are also welcome to create art for the auction.

For further information or to volunteer to be curator of the Art Gallery, please contact Lisa at 612-377-6003 or LB@lisabullard.com.

Please join us in this powerful witness to Christ's love.

Easter Egg and Candy Hunt -- Young People – Help Needed

Several youth (middle, high school or college age) are needed to help set-up and assist younger children with the Easter Egg and Candy Hunt on Easter Sunday, March 27. It is not a huge time commitment and will be lots of fun. Please contact Brett at 612-381-1543 or bstruwe@cariboucoffee.com

February FoodShare Campaign

Over the next few weeks, our congregation will join people of goodwill from across Minnesota to help alleviate hunger. The annual March FoodShare Campaign will start a little early this

February FoodShare Campaign (con'd)
year since Easter and One Great Hour of Sharing
are also during March.

Our congregation supports the work of the PRISM food shelf. **We will be collecting both food and cash contributions throughout Lent.** Remember; stretch your donation further by giving cash. There will be a fishbowl in the food collection wagon for cash donations or they can be put in the collection plate clearly marked, "Food Shelf".

Foods PRISM Really Needs:
Baked beans, All types of beans, Chili, Cooking oil, Flour/Sugar, Macaroni & Cheese, Jam and Jelly, Pancake Mix/Syrup, Peanut Butter, Potatoes, Stuffing, Ramen, Tea, Coffee, Tuna

Non-food Essentials Needed
Bar soap, Deodorant, Diapers size 2 and larger, Dish/Dishwasher soap, Maxi Pads/Tampons, Paper towels, Shampoo/Conditioner, Toilet paper, Toothpaste.

Next 50

Our church is participating in the Next 50 program sponsored by the local presbytery. The program's goal is to help churches become more welcoming and inviting for present and potential members.

Updates

As part of this ongoing program, Jamie Schultz and Lynda Shaheen attended a two-day workshop called the Magnetic Church. The speaker, Andrew Weeks, gives workshops across the country on marketing, greeting, communications, media and managing growth. The information was helpful and gave us ideas for future initiatives. If you would like more information, go to www.magnetic-church.com

Elevator Committee

The Elevator Committee (Lisa Bullard, Robbie Steels, Jeff Larson and Steve Borden) has spent the last several months researching the options

and costs associated with installing an elevator to make our lower level accessible to everyone. We recently concluded this phase of our research and provided detailed reports to the Finance Committee and Session. Unfortunately, the cost is likely to be much higher than early indicators led us to hope. The minimum anticipated cost is \$167,000. This projected amount is based on work with Architect Ward Sessing and a general contractor with over 30 years experience installing elevators. To reach this preliminary cost figure, the committee considered a wide variety of options; different locations, different types of elevators and different contractors. The committee acknowledges that there are likely other unexplored options.

We have provided detailed reports to the Finance Committee and periodic updates to Session. After the last round of updates, and given the higher-than-anticipated price tag, Session concluded that it is time to step back and develop a "big-picture" of all our facility needs over the next decade, before we commit to moving forward on any specific project. Therefore, the Elevator Committee is on hold unless or until there is further need for our services.

On behalf of the Elevator Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has supported our efforts, through garage sale donations, encouraging words and prayer. We felt you "lifting us up" as we went through this long process! If anyone would like more detailed information, I will be happy to hold an informational meeting. Please contact me at 612-377-6003 or LB@lisabullard.com. I will schedule a meeting at a time that works best for all those interested. --- Lisa Bullard

Bryn Mawr Bios

The Next 50 group thought it would be great to get to know more about each other and stay connected as a community of faith. We plan to introduce you to new members or re-introduce you to "old" members of the church. This month we'll meet the Farrar & Collins family and the Struwe family

Mike Farrar, Marion Collins and Lucas

Mike was born in Washington D.C. and lived on the East Coast, until moving to Madison WI where he finished high school. He attend UW Madison as an undergraduate, Washington University in St. Louis where he received his Ph.D. in Immunology in 1993. He did post doctoral studies at the University of Washington in Seattle and completed his post doc work in New Jersey.

Brett, Heather, Laurel and Quentin Struwe

Brett was born in Pierre, DS, grew up in Washington and attended high school in Eden Prairie, MN. Heather has always lived in Minnesota. Brett and Heather met at Eden Prairie High School. Brett played basketball and Heather was a cheerleader for the team. Brett took Heather to her senior prom and many of you were able to see Heather's very special gold, pink, blue, sparkly, prom dress at the Basement Ball for the CL7 several years ago.

They both attended UW Madison. Brett earned a BA in English and History, Heather a BS in Physical Therapy. They returned to the Twin Cities after graduation and were married at Pax Christi Catholic Church in 1995.

Currently, Brett is the Director of Coffee Production for Caribou Coffee and Heather is a Physical Therapist for Fairview University Hospitals working one week-end a month.

While in New Jersey, Mike and Marion met swing dancing in Manhattan. At the time, Marion was completing medical school in the Bronx

In 2000, Mike accepted a position as an assistant professor in the Center for Immunology and Department of Lab Medicine and Pathology at the U of MN. Marion was able to transfer her pediatric residency and completed the last two years at the U of MN. Marion is currently a pediatrician at the Fridley Child and Teen Medical Clinic.

Marion and Mike were married 2001. Their son, Lucas, was born August 2, 2004. They found BMPC in the yellow pages. They like the open, friendly nature of the church. They also like the sense of community. In the future, they are planning to assist in the nursery and Mike is interested in helping with building upkeep

Brett, Heather, Laurel and Quentin Struwe (cont'd)

Brett and Laurel have two children; Laurel (6) and Quentin (3-1/2). Laurel is in kindergarten this year and Quentin attends ECFE once a week and loves playing with his church friends Anders and William.

Heather and Brett came to BMPC on Friendship Sunday, 1998, after seeing some BMPC flyers in the neighborhood. They became members because of the people and the hands-on commitment to others. Brett is interested in becoming more involved with youth in his role as a deacon. Heather just completed two terms on session and has participated on several committees including current involvement with Mission Possible and Next 50.

Praise and Thanks

This newsletter section will give us a chance to express our gratitude for things both large and small. If you would like to submit items for the next newsletter, email them to Lynda Shaheen (Lynda_shaheen@yahoo.com) or put a note in her box at church.

Thank you **Angi Hooker** for keeping the kids in mind on Sunday, January 30 (and always). Thanks for kid-friendly food, asking some teens for help, and feeding the kids while we were in the annual meeting.

Thank you **Betsy Kerr** for coordinating the adult education series on Transgender. It was very enlightening and educational.

Praise for **Cara Benoit** for coordinating a cooking day and food round-up for Joel and Minke.

Thank you **Lynda Shaheen** and **Jamie Schultz** for taking time out of your busy schedules on a January Saturday to attend a church workshop for Next 50.

Thank you **Rob Prater** and **Greg Snow** for clearing snow at the church. It is a very big job and your work is much appreciated.

Praise for **Dave Fink** for moving Mission Possible forward in our options to adopt a refugee family.

Praise for **Steve Borden** and his committee for their work on the building.

Praise for **Barb Nepper** and friends for the beautiful arrangements on the communion table.

Praise and thanks to **Wendy Nove** and **Heather Struwe** for their devoted service on Session and to **Robbie Steele** for her excellent service as Moderator of the Deacons.

Adult Education – God’s Politics

God is not a Democrat. Or a Republican. With these words a group called Sojourners began a petition and ad campaign during the 2004 presidential election, proclaiming that as people of faith we have a message to bring to the public life of our country. When we return to the roots of our faith in the Old and New Testaments, we find that the prophets, Jesus and the writers following Him had important and eternal messages on what have become critical issues of our time – poverty, the environment, war, human rights, truth-telling. These messages – and their meaning for our lives – have been lost in the slogans that pass for “Christianity” in the marketplace of ideas today.

We will explore our faith and the relationship between faith and politics in adult Sunday School for four weeks using Jim Wallis’ book *God’s Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn’t Get It* as the basis for our discussion. Led by Laura Kadwell

Please join the discussion – **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. – February 20 and 27, March 6 and 13** – Heritage Room.

News and Notes

Amazon.com Link on BMPC Web Page

In case you’ve been wondering if your Amazon purchases actually amounted to anything, BMPC received a “commission” check of almost \$100 after the Christmas season.

St. Anne's Place Benefit

New and Notes (cont'd)

Cedar Lake 7

The Cedar Lake 7 will perform a benefit concert Sunday, April 10th at 2 p.m. BMPC is partnering with Valley Community Presbyterian Church to raise funds for Mission Possible. Valley CPC will host the event. Please come and hear some great music sung for an important cause. More details will follow.

Thank You from St. Anne's Place

"Thank you again for participating in our 2004 Adopt-A-Family program. The mothers and children were so grateful for your generosity. Please realize that you do make a very big difference in people's lives by your giving.

BMPC Welcomes New Administrator

Mary Ann Kosmas began work on January 3 as our new church administrator. She comes to us having emerged from retirement at the Star Tribune where for 16 years she managed their education web site, taught team building courses and managed the technical training department. Prior to that she worked as a technical trainer for First Bank System and directed a vocational rehabilitation project with Resource Inc. A graduate of the University of Minnesota with degrees in education, she also worked as a consultant designing curriculum.

Mary Ann lives in South Minneapolis with her husband John, an architect. She has 6 children, 2 stepchildren and 12 grandchildren. Mary Ann is a member of Colonial Church in Edina where she serves as a Deacon. Her interests are many ranging from drawing icons to issues of faith and justice. She has found Bryn Mawr Church to be a welcoming and interesting place to work. Please introduce yourself to Mary Ann when you see her. We are grateful to have Mary Ann working with us.

Her office hours are typically:
Monday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Tuesday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Thursday 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

A Taste of Jazz

An entertaining brunch benefiting Ascension Place & St. Anne's Place

Sunday, April 24, 2005

12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Ballroom

Performances by Debbie Duncan, Connie Evingson and Dennis Spears
Silent Auction and Brunch

Reservations: contact Julia at 612-588-0861 or juliadudas@ascensionplace.org

Sunday Volunteers

February 27

Greeters: Schifsky/R. Johnson

Coffee Hour: Peterson/Hopkin

Nursery: Beveridge/Anna Dilliard

March 6

Greeters: Kerr-Steele/P. Johnson

Coffee Hour: Fink

Nursery: Sally Neverman/Emily Dilliard/Alyson Beveridge

March 13

Greeters: Watkins

Coffee Hour: Todd/Lynda

Nursery: Maggie and Trina PaStarr

March 20

Greeters: Nove

Coffee Hour: Clarkes

Nursery: Angela Hopkins/Sarah Peterson

March 27

Greeters: Schifsky/R. Johnson

Coffee Hour: Kerr-Steele

Nursery: Darren & Cara Benoit