

November Newsletter

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 13

Stewardship Pledges

Please have your pledge cards with you on this Sunday and bring them forward for the stewardship dedication during the worship service.

Vision Discussion

Plan to attend the Vision Discussion after worship on Sunday. A light lunch will be served before the meeting starts. Childcare will be available during the meeting.

Bryn Mawr Adult Ed - War and Peace November-December

Facilitated by Brian and Maggie PaStarr

November 13: Marie Braun from Women Against Military Madness will talk on Conscientious Objection and the Right To Refuse To Kill - as some local churches are doing. Handouts for the following week; "Iraq's Demand, A U.S. Withdrawal" and "The Two Gulf Crises."

November 20: Discuss the September 27 Peace March in Washington, the ANSWER Website, as well as the two handouts; "Iraq's Demand" and "2 Gulf Crises". Handouts for the following week; excerpts from "Don't Call It an Elephant".

November 27: Thanksgiving- No scheduled meeting unless people want to meet informally.

December 4: Discuss George Lakoff's "Don't Call It an Elephant." Lakoff is a Linguist who wrote a short book on how the Right Wing has used specific language to frame the debate in a way that keeps Progressives and Human Rights groups looking like reactionaries. Handout for the following week; excerpts from Chapter 12, "Micah's Vision for National and Global Security" from "God's Politics" by Jim Wallis.

December 11: Discuss "Micah's Vision" from "God's Politics".

December 18: An informal meeting for those who want to come together to sum up the various discussions on war and peace.

Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 20

Please mark this special day of thanks on your calendar. We will have a hearty Coffee Hour to celebrate the season following Worship.

Included in this newsletter is an invitation for you to read and then share with a friend, neighbor, co-worker, etc.

Use this special day to make an extra effort to invite someone new to church. Additional invitations are available in the narthex at church.

If you are able to help with Coffee Hour please contact Heather at hstruwe@mn.rr.com or 612-381-1543. Thank You!



Upcoming

Christmas Season Events

Poinsettias for Christmas

Sunday, November 13 and November 20

It's time to order Poinsettias for the holiday season. Order forms will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Cost of each plant is \$9. Payment is due with your order.

Santa Night @ St. Anne's Place

Tuesday, December 20, 5:30-7:30 pm!

This is an annual event for our church and St. Anne's Place. As most of you know, SAP is a homeless shelter in north Minneapolis that serves women and their children. Santa Night is a big bash for the children at the shelter. Santa visits for pictures, we make holiday picture frames, there are treats to eat and we help children 'shop' and wrap gifts for their mom.

We need 12-15 volunteers to help with all the festivities of Santa Night. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex at the church. Please contact Heather Struwe if you have any questions.

Adopt a Family

During the Christmas season, we will again adopt families who have recently moved out of St. Anne's Place, a nearby homeless shelter for women and children. Sign up sheets will be posted on the hallway bulletin board listing items that each family needs. Purchased items must be wrapped and labeled with the recipient's name and returned to the

church by mid December (the exact date to be announced).

If there are not enough families to be adopted or too many organizations are participating, we may also provide St. Anne's Place with items the families still living in the shelter might like at Christmas time. This list will also be posted on the hallway bulletin board. You may purchase as many or few items from this list as you like. Purchased items must be unwrapped and returned to the church by mid-December. For more information, contact Lynda Shaheen at 612.374.4201 or lynda_shaheen@yahoo.com.

Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 18

December is near and with that comes the gathering of all toddlers, children and teens of the church for the Christmas Pageant held during the worship service.

Parents mark your calendars for the following rehearsal dates:

Sunday December 4 – during Sunday school and Choir time (9:30)

Sunday December 11 – during Sunday school and Choir time (9:30)

Saturday December 17 - Dress Rehearsal begins at 10 a.m.

I am still in need of volunteers to help with this year's show – if you are interested please contact me, Alyssa Prater, at a_prater@earthlink.net

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m.

It's time for the annual tradition of decorating our church building and Sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. There will be hot cider and cocoa with treats on the table. Christmas Carols will play in the background and there will be plenty of fun for kids and adults alike! See you there! Angi Hooker

Praise and Thank You's

Here's an opportunity to express our gratitude for things both big and small. If you would like to submit something for the next newsletter, send an email to Lynda Shaheen (lynda_shaheen@yahoo.com) or slip a note in her box at any time before the next due date.

Rebecca and Richard Bauer and Priscilla

Lindmark would like to extend a very heartfelt "Thank You" to our Pastor, Deacons and our entire BMPC Church family for the many prayers, kindnesses and hospitality you extended in celebration of Rebecca's brother Brad's life. As many of you know, Brad loved joining us for our Christmas Eve and Easter services and enjoyed visiting with many of you in person. The

many kind words of comfort you shared with us during his final days will forever be cherished in our hearts. Many thanks to all the **Deacons** and others, including **Alyssa Prater** for her help in the nursery. Thank you for all the work that went into my brother's funeral on October 4. It was a very moving and beautiful time!

Praise and thank-you to **Robbie Steele, Betsy Kerr, and Sammie** for all of their hard work putting together their infamous Candy Leaf Crawl! It is wonderful to be a part of a community that so clearly values children as well as the child in each of us!

Special thanks for the great support of two important Building Committee members; **Barb Nepper** has single-handedly managed all the cleaning needs of our church. This includes skillfully managing our current cleaning service, documenting and instituting our first complete cleaning "hit" list and relaying all the information to both the committee and our church leadership.

Ron Johnson has been my "go-to-guy" for any repairs and maintenance. He and I have shared the responsibility for our "second" home. I would be lost without these two individuals. Thank you SO very much! Steve Borden

The Finance Committee wants to acknowledge the work of **Lynda Shaheen, Roger Clark and Dan Berks**. As Treasurer for BMPC (a volunteer position), Lynda manages and oversees every financial transaction made during the year. As part of her responsibilities, she also participates in a thorough financial review of the church's books. For 2004, Roger and Dan agreed to serve as reviewers of Lynda's work. The three church members held a long meeting in late September to review the processes in place and then delivered a comprehensive report. The Presbytery requires a review of the financial processes; a report is filed in the minutes.

Thanks to Lynda, Roger and Dan for completing this task!

Thank you to the **kids** who have been carpet-sweeping their crumbs after treat time in the parlor.

Thank you to the **Rusks** from Laurel and Quentin Struwe for being our church neighbors and providing shelter from the rain after we took the wrong bus home.

Thank you to **Mary Jo Schifsky** and **Richard Bauer** for their work on Stewardship.

Praise and Thanks to and for all the **new families** that have been joining us at Sunday School and worship these past few months!

Thank you to **Jamie Schultz** for all of the work she does behind the scenes.

Thank you to **Alyssa Prater** for organizing the new Pre-school Sunday School program.

Thank you to **Lynda Shaheen, Alyssa Prater** and **Sarah Peterson** for shopping for St. Anne's Place and **Wendy Nove** for delivering the items we purchased.

Thank you to **Peggy Johnson** for always thinking of St. Anne's Place for her household donations.

Praise to **Bill Rusk** for becoming an Eagle Scout. Bill is the first church member in a long time to attain the highest rank in scouting.

Mission

Mission was able to respond to the needs of our mission partner St. Anne's Place – a homeless shelter for women and children – this past month by making several large purchases.

During our monthly Sunday dinner at the shelter, church members Wendy Nove and Alyssa Prater learned of items the shelter was in great need of. We were able to use over \$600 of our designated gifts for St. Anne's Place to purchase these items. We delivered pots and pans, baby bottles, pillows, underwear, diapers and socks. The Staff was delighted!

St. Anne's is still in need of women's coats that are new or slightly used. If any of you wish to donate, please bring coats to the church and put them in the St. Anne's Place box in the back of the sanctuary.

This year we collected \$620 for the **Peacemaking Offering**. Of that \$620, 50% goes to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, 25% goes to Presbytery Peacemaking activities and we retain 25% to use for our own peacemaking efforts. Mission Possible designated Friends for a Non-Violent World, a local Quaker based peacemaking group to receive our portion.

A new responsibility of Mission Possible is to help designate a portion of any large, undesignated gift the church receives. Session established a policy of tithing (giving away 10%) of any undesignated gift to the church over \$1000. For now the Session has determined that the tithe will go to Presbyterian Mission and Mission Possible is given the responsibility for designating that giving within the many options offered through PC(USA) mission programs.

This year we received two large memorials; one in memory of Elaine Johnson and the other in memory of Dagmar Dingley. Mission Possible voted to send these to three different Presbytery efforts: an Iraq Disaster Response for Children; a Public Policy Advocacy, Human Rights, Justice and Peacemaking initiative; an Israel-Palestine Peacemaking Project. May these gifts honor the memory of our church members.

If you'd like to become involved in the Mission Possible team, please call Mike Tieleman Ward, Heather Struwe or Lynda Shaheen. You may also join our email group by contacting Rick Sampson.

Treasurer's Notes

Our congregation collected \$871.14 for the victims of **Hurricane Katrina**. This money has been sent to the local Presbytery for use in their efforts in the affected region. Thanks to all for your contributions.

The **end-of-the-year** is approaching. If you would like a letter for tax purposes acknowledging any non-cash donations you've made to the church, please fill out a Donation Acknowledgement form located by the mailboxes and place in the Treasurer's box. Thanks.

Bryn Mawr Bios

In each newsletter, Next 50/Outreach is spotlighting a BMPC family or individual so we can share our histories and learn more about one another. Thank you to Breanne Hegg for compiling this month's bio.

The Marshall and Shaheen Family

Lynda Shaheen and Todd Marshall grew up together in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, but it wasn't until after college that they met each other and started dating seriously. By that time, Lynda had completed a Latin American studies degree at Middlebury College and Todd had finished a degree in government from Franklin and Marshall College.

After earning a pair of master's degrees at the University of Michigan (his an MBA, hers a master's in social work administration/community organizing) plus a stint playing baseball in the minor leagues (just Todd), the two eventually settled in Minneapolis. Lynda and Todd tried a few Episcopal churches and then joined BMPC in 2000 because they felt so welcome here.

Before staying home to raise William, 4, and Andrew, 1, Lynda worked on behalf of affordable housing in the Seward neighborhood with CommonBond Communities. Lynda has many interests. She is our BMPC treasurer and she enjoys sewing, cooking, Spanish language and culture.

Todd works for Target Corporation as a senior buyer in preschool toys. He also serves on Session and the finance committee. These are two busy people who very actively serve our congregation.

Cedar Lake 7

The Cedar Lake Seven web site (www.CL7.com) now has a blog (web log) page where we'll be posting articles about concerts we sing and other things we're up to. Also new to the web site is a calendar of our concert schedule. Links to both are on the upper left-hand side of the page under "etcetera". The CL7 is a mission of this church and if you'd like to see this part of the church's mission in action, let us know. We'd be happy to take you with us to a concert as an honorary roadie.

To give you an idea of what you might find there, here's an excerpt from the CL7 blog entry describing our first concert this season at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center on September 22:

"We had no idea what to expect going into this concert, the first of our year. The SalArmy runs a residential detox program at 900 4th St N (in the same building as the thrift store), and when we showed up to unload our gear and set up, we were required to sign in and submit to breathalyzer tests. We set up our equipment in an institutional chapel room with beige linoleum, dark red carpeting, and hard wood theater style seating. The place looked like it had last been redecorated in the early 1980s, all except for the high-tech Clavanova keyboard that kept Greg amused for a while"

"We soon found out that we were the special guests for one of their routine evening programs. The program started at 6:00 with recognition of new and returning residents. Then "graduation" certificates were handed out to six gentlemen completing "Level 2" and two completing "Level 3." We later learned that there are five levels to complete to "graduate" out of the program, with curriculum including an

individualized combination of work assignments and training in chemical dependency/AA, spirituality, therapy, anger management, and similar issues."

...

"Once we got up to sing, they just ate it up. They ate up anything upbeat, especially if it mentioned the devil and his demise (example: "Pray"). They hung in during the slower more contemplative numbers in the middle of the program, but we could have left out one or two of them. By the time we cranked up the energy again in the home stretch, the place was going wild. By "Safety Zone" (the next to last tune), there was a joyous conga line snaking through the aisles and across the front."

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"How about making SalArmy the first concert of every season, just to get things off on the right foot?"

To read the entire blog entry, go to www.CL7.com

Project Jericho

At their October meeting, Session decided to move the church office across the hall to the Art Room and remove the wall that separates the current church office from the Heritage Room A.K.A. Project Jericho

The main motivation for removing the wall is the increasing number of people attending Adult Education on Sunday mornings. We've had as many as 23 people in this small space, so some folks sit on the floor. This change will also give us another large gathering space on the main level for other events.

While we are going through a visioning process that may result in renovation of the building, Session believes that this change needs to happen now. A contractor will handle some of the work, but there is need for volunteers to paint and move furniture. Contact Barb Nepper if you can help.

Confirmation

Sunday, December 4

Throughout the year four young people from our church have been going through the FaithQuest Confirmation program in partnership with Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in Saint Paul. Rev. David Stewart, pastor at DAPC leads the program. BMPC member Sarah Peterson has assisted him. The kids attend five weekend retreats and go on a weeklong mission trip. The last retreat is November 18 – 20 where they will write their faith statements.

Confirmation Sunday will be December 4 during our 10:30 worship service. Please keep our confirmands **Jesse Borden, Emily Dilliard, Kaia Fink and Peter Rusk** in your prayers as they complete this process of faith exploration.

Supper Circles

The "kids welcome" circles are smaller because there are too many for one, but barely enough for two. We have one or two other families with kids that may be late entries into the supper circle circuit - so the circuit may grow as we go.

Circle 1 (kids welcome) (11)

Bauers
PaStarr
Struwe
W Nove

Circle 2 (kids welcome) (9)

Peterson/Hopkins
Goulet
C Nove
Snow

Circle 3 (8)

Schultz/Beveridge
Ron & Mary Jo
Jon and Jeri
Fink

Circle 4 (9)

Neverman
Kadwell
Barb and Kate
Rusk
Dan Berks

The Best Holiday Provisions Are Love And Forgiveness.

Mark your calendars!!
January 6 – January 9, 2006
BMPC Clearwater Winter Retreat

Volunteers for November and December

Sunday, November 13

Greet/Offering – Watkins
Coffee - Watkins
Nursery – Deb Goulet & Rachel Neverman

Sunday, November 20

Greet/Offering – Nove
Coffee - Markets
Nursery – Brett & Heather Struwe

Sunday, November 27

Greet/Offering – Schifsky/R.Johnson
Coffee - Nevermans
Nursery – Tieleman-Ward

Sunday, December 4

Greet/Offering – Kerr-Steele/P.Johnson
Coffee - Bordens
Nursery – Rob & Alyssa Prater

Sunday, December 11

Greet/Offering – Watkins
Coffee - Clarkes
Nursery – Tracy Christofilis

Sunday, December 18

Greet/Offering – Nove
Coffee
Nursery – Kristin Markert

Sunday, December 25

Greet/Offering – Schifsky/R.Johnson
Coffee
Nursery