

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
420 Cedar Lake Road, Minneapolis,
MN 55405

September/October, 2010

A Minister's Musings

“ . . . the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” Galatians 5: 22-23

I had to get out of my office today. The backhoe was preparing the ground for our addition, and I was distracted by how close the arm seemed to swing past my window. I began to wonder if the site was already a hard hat area and if I should get the heck out. It was perfectly safe, but I moved to the parlor anyway – fewer distractions.

The noise of demolition and the vibrations of the backhoe are welcome distractions. It's exciting to see all of the workers following the plans and doing their work. A few months ago our architect told us that construction would be fun. The planning is complete and we are ready for some fun.

Construction may be fun but it also requires flexibility on our part. For several months we will be in transition. We hope to keep much of our regular church life and programming up and running. James Steele Construction is working with us to maintain as much safe access to our building as they can. When we begin our program year on September 12 we will have choir, Sunday School, worship and nursery. We'll have our picnic at the Bryn Mawr Meadows. We will continue to worship in the sanctuary, enjoy fellowship after the service and let you know through email, website and signs what to expect when you enter the building. I expect that communication about space will be confusing at times and ask for your flexibility and forgiveness in advance.

The Bible speaks of the fruits of the Spirit and as we move through construction we will need to draw heavily on a few of them: patience, kindness, generosity and faithfulness. It won't be long until we are celebrating Christmas, enjoying our renovated space and using the new elevator to get to the lower level. In the meantime we can pray for one another, for our project and for the ministry of this church that is so much more than a building.

Peace,
Jamie

Friendship Sunday

Sunday, September 12th

The Picnic Potluck is ON and fast approaching! We will be meeting after church service at Bryn Mawr Meadows. Please bring a salad or side dish to share and come dressed for fun. Deacons provide veggie burgers, hotdogs, hamburgers, brats, drinks and table service. We would like to have a few games for any participants, both young and old. Any volunteers to organize games please contact Angela Hopkins. You can be the one to decide if it's softball, kickball, frisbee or any combination of your choice. Please consult our new website in case of postponement due inclement weather.

Rain date will be Sunday, September 19th.

From The Deacons:

Getting a head start on Supper Circles!

Now is the time to sign up to participate in supper circles. Supper Circles are small groups that meet about once a month to share a meal and fellowship. Supper Circles are a great way for families to get to know each other!



Families and individuals sign up and we randomly put together groups. Households then take turns hosting potluck style dinner parties. The host does the main dish and each family brings something to contribute. The Supper Circle sign-up sheet will be at Worship and the Friendship Sunday Picnic! See Angela Hopkins if you have questions. Deadline to sign up is Sept 20. Supper Circles start meeting in October.

Update on Mission Collections

While church construction is underway, we ask you to hold off on bringing in donations of food for PRISM foodshelf, or donations of items for St. Anne's Place (a homeless shelter for women with children). However, we don't want to forget these places entirely during our building project! The Mission Possible group will continue to support them as we have for so many years, and you can also continue to support them via monetary donations. Please feel free to put cash or a check into the weekly offering--if you write either "PRISM" or "St. Anne's" on the offering envelope, we will make sure your donation reaches the appropriate program. Both of them are very good at stretching your dollars to do good work!

Sunday School

We will be kicking off our year on Sunday, September 12th!

*Ages 1-5: Meets during the service in the nursery. This will occur after Children's Time. Bring the children downstairs for some singing, a project, and a Bible story.

*Grades K-3 and Grades 4-6: We have been discussing an exciting Sunday School time for these age groups. We will meet at 9:30 -10:20 in whichever room/space is available that week. We want to involve our children in the last worship service each month AND invite special guests to be a part of our learning project. We will have a Bible text or story for our focus and elaborate on this throughout the month. We will combine this text with a talent of our special guest to give a hands-on interpretation of the story. The guest will visit for one or two Sundays in the beginning of the month. We hope to present our project during the last service of the month. We might write our own song or prayer. We might act, bake, draw or sew our thoughts together with our special guest. Please look for these presentations as we progress through the year. We will separate the age groups on occasion, depending on the project at hand and the space available during construction.

Friendship Sunday: Please have your child (Grade K and up) bring one tool to Sunday School. (No power tools please.)

Collecting: pieces of small scrap wood. Please bring to church by September 12th. (Scraps no bigger than a shoe box.)

Contact Nicole Hiedeman if interested in teaching some Sundays in the nursery or sharing your talents with the older children.

Adult Education in 2010-11

The Adult Education group invites you to join us for lively discussion of good books, timely topics from current events, and Bible study this coming program year.

First up, starting Sunday, Sept 19, we will begin our year reading and discussing several editorial perspectives on the building of the Islamic Center near "Ground Zero – 9/11." On 9/26 or 10/3 staff from the Minnesota Budget project (invited – date not yet confirmed) will tell us about the gubernatorial candidates' budget proposals, to set the "table" for our discussion of the values underlying each of the proposals.

October 10- November 21: Jill Bolte Taylor's book, My Stroke of Insight, is a fascinating story of a brain scientist's spiritual discoveries as she gains new understanding of how the left and right sides of her brain enable her to feel separate from or connected to the world as a result of a stroke suffered at 36.

December 5-19 & January 16-23: Joan Chittister, The Gift of Years, a look at the many dimensions of aging, offering a view of these years as a time full of potential, peace and joy. In a culture that glorifies youth, she helps us see the possibility and opportunity in the later stages of life. The discussion will be for those who wonder about their own place in the world as they age – and for those whose friends and loved ones are facing the struggles and concerns of these years.

January 30-March 6: Women of the Bible – named and unnamed -- have much to teach us about the role of women in society over the years. How were women portrayed by the writers of scripture? What can we learn about the culture, the writers and ourselves from the stories that have come down to us? How have these stories influenced how we think about women today?

March 13- April 17: Lenten focus on spiritual practice with readings from Henri Nouwen.

Look for precise meeting locations in This Week at BMPC emails – construction impact on meeting space are unknown at this date. For more information, contact Kate Houston at klhouston4@gmail.com

Tell Us Your Peacemaking Possibilities

Once again we will focus on causes that support Peacemaking on the first Sunday of October. One of the things we do that day is to take a special offering; part of the money goes to support national and international peacemaking efforts, but we also donate a portion of the money locally, to support peacemaking initiatives here at home. We have made an effort to "share around" the money in the past by choosing a different local peacemaking organization each year. If you would like to recommend a local organization, please contact Lisa Bullard (LB@lisabullard.com or 612-377-6003) by Aug. 30th. We will add your suggestion to the list of groups that the Mission Possible Team considers for this offering.

CL7 Concert to Help

Teens Find a Place to Call Home

Please set aside the afternoon of Sunday, November 7, at 2:00 p.m., for a Cedar Lake Seven concert at Wooddale Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park. This benefit concert is co-sponsored by Bryn Mawr Church's "Mission Possible" Team, the CL7, and a coalition of west metro churches. The coalition is working with many community agencies and schools to launch a much-needed Suburban Host Home pilot program.

Modeled after a successful program in Minneapolis, the suburban program will launch in select western suburbs (with a goal to grow beyond those areas), to help fill a critical gap in options for older teens and young adults who, for one reason or another, can no longer stay in their family homes. At the present time, most of these individuals either "couch-hop" (sleeping on a string of friends' couches), or hit the streets. The Suburban Host Home Program will seek to find host homes in the communities where these teens have grown up, so that they can complete high school where they are currently enrolled. Studies have documented that youth succeed best when they remain stable in their schools and receive support from their own communities. Currently, youth in the West Metro who are homeless or at-risk cannot obtain needed housing and services within their home communities. Those who seek more organized services have to head to Minneapolis (where programs are often filled to capacity), and for many of them, that means dropping out of school and sometimes "dropping out" in other ways, too.

This program will work to find families who are willing to serve as host homes and offer emotional support to these young people while they finish school and find ways to be self-sufficient.

The CL7 concert is one of the major kick-off events for the program, as they begin to officially recruit host homes this fall. Given the number of churches involved, it's also sure to be a great gathering of our faith community neighbors to the west! Please save the date and invite your friends and families to turn out for what's sure to be a moving and joyful experience.

For further information, contact Lisa Bullard, Mission Possible coordinator, at 612-377-6003, or LB@lisabullard.com.

Nursery Update

The children have been playing well in our temporary Nursery space. Thanks to the many volunteers who have helped to move and set up the Nursery. We will begin our sign up for an additional person to help out during the church service each Sunday in September. Please consider signing up to help out during one Sunday this fall. It is a fun way to get to know the little ones of our church!

We have begun the process of looking for a new Nursery attendant. Danni Dancer, who has been with us for over two years, will be having her second child the end of October. We are looking for a responsible and caring adult to take over once Danni leaves. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this position, please have them contact Stephanie Bell for more details.

(Please join us Sunday, September 26, when we recognize Danni during worship for the work she has done in the Nursery.)

Nursery volunteers needed

Please consider spending a Sunday helping in the Nursery during the Service. Sign up in the narthex.



Coffee Hour

We will be continuing coffee hour during construction! This will consist of juice and light snacks. We have a folding table to set up each week and a few supplies next to the table. Look for an email requesting volunteers

to host. We will resume coffee during the coffee hour as when we have continual access to the kitchen.



Clearwater Winter Retreat

Save the Date

BMPC Winter Retreat at Clearwater Forest
January 7-9, 2011.

Some tidbits from the 219th General Assembly, by Betsy Kerr

The long-awaited 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. is already only a memory. The hospitality provided by the Committee on Local Arrangements was much appreciated by the attendees, and I'd like to thank those from Bryn Mawr who participated in one way or another in this effort: **Bob Boehlke, Roger and Sandy Clarke, Richard and Nico Bauer, Chaz Nove, Jamie Schultz and Grace Beveridge** (I hope I'm not forgetting anyone!). **Roger and Sandy Clarke, Karin Ciano, John McLaughlin** and I also made some beautiful music, along with a few hundred other singers, for the Opening Worship on Sunday July 4th. We were joined there by a handful of other Bryn Mawr members, but it was hard to know it, as there were somewhere around 5,000 people present. For me, the most memorable part of the service was the creation-themed opening processional, with its towering puppets (courtesy of Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater), colorful and flowing banners and dancers, and lumbering animals of all sorts (word is, one of our own was inside the bear costume!).

.More touching for me was the Celebration of Worship organized by the More Light Presbyterians group Tuesday evening in a room at the Hilton. Bryn Mawr folks **Bob and Mary Boehlke, Chaz Nove, Jamie Schultz, Lisa Bullard, Karin Ciano, Eleanor Hand, Robbie and myself** joined a couple hundred other folks in a lively but moving experience of worship, united in commitment to full inclusion in our life together, symbolized by the ubiquitous rainbow scarves knitted by supporters prior to GA. In fact, the response to the call for rainbow scarves was so enthusiastic that MLP (More Light Presbyterians) received well over the 1,500 scarves they were hoping for!

I'd like to share just a couple of personal reflections from my experience of GA. First, there's an incredible amount of work that goes on there, as delegates spend the majority of their time in various committee meetings, doing the nitty-gritty work of the church's business. I sat in for about an hour on the deliberations of one of these committees, the Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage. It was near the end of their deliberations and they were putting the finishing touches on their reports, so it was less interesting than some earlier sessions where they heard testimony from interested parties. My overwhelming impression was: What tedium! I could never be a GA commissioner! However, the positive side is the amazing orderliness with which the discussion took place, allowing every commissioner to state their position and to suggest wording changes they thought appropriate. It is amazing to see our Presbyterian democratic form of government in action!

While GA of course addressed many issues relating to Presbyterian life and governance, my own special interest had to do with inclusion of gays and lesbians. Not knowing beforehand quite what to expect in terms of attitudes, I was pleasantly surprised by the realization that the number of supporters of inclusivity quite outnumbered the opponents. Rainbow scarves were everywhere! Once again, the Assembly voted in favor of deleting 'Amendment B' (which requires marriage or 'chastity in singleness' for ordination), but once again this must go to the local Presbyteries and be approved by a majority of them in order to take effect. (Keep praying for more changed hearts!)

Finally, I spent a couple of hours volunteering at the More Light booth in the exhibit hall, and while there was not a lot of traffic at that moment, I did witness a moving scene. A couple of other More Light folks were engaged in conversation with a young (high school-age?) woman who had come to the booth and who apparently had shared with them some difficult situation in her own life, perhaps a close friend or family member who was wrestling with their sexuality and perhaps a less than affirming reaction from others. Here, she was able to receive accurate information, encouragement and affirmation. This is the kind of activity that our congregation's annual donation to MLP supports!

(For more information on LGBT issues at GA, see the following More Light site: <http://www.ga219.org/>)

BMPC Choir Returns

Choir rehearsals will begin on the Wednesday after Labor Day (September 8th.) The first piece (Sunday, September 12th) will be "Chariot." All are welcome to be in the choir.

A New BMPC Website

Check out the new website developed by Rick:

<http://www.brynmawrchurch.org>.

So far we have volunteers to produce pages on Mission, Spirituality, More Light, and the History of BMPC. If anyone has any other ideas on things they would like to see, let Rick know.

Thanks for Volunteering

Greeters/Counters

August 29 – Rick and Jen Sampson
9/5 – Betsy Kerr & Peg Johnson
3/9/12 – Jim Hooker
3/29/19 – Barb Becker & Laura Kadwell
Nancy Blankfard & Keith Beveridge
9/26 – Nancy Blankfard & Keith Beveridge

10/5 – Betsy Kerr & Peg Johnson
10/12 – Jim Hooker
10/19 – Barb Becker & Laura Kadwell
10/26 – Nancy Blankfard & Keith Beveridge
10/31 – Rick and Jen Sampson

Coffee

9/5 – Neverman
9/12 – The Deacons
9/19 – Watkins
9/26 – Nicole Heideman

Important Dates

September 5	Labor Day
September 8	Choir Practice resumes
September 12	Friendship Sunday Potluck Picnic following Worship
September 19	Sunday School resumes Adult Ed resumes Rain date for Friendship Sunday Picnic
September 26	We honor Danni Dancer during worship
October 3	Peacemaking Sunday and World Communion