

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

**November/December, 2010**



### A Minister's Musings

Days grow shorter and the darkness lingers as we approach the Advent Season. Last weekend we lost power during the snowstorm and I was reminded of the limits darkness places on our ability to navigate our surroundings, to read, to see what we need to find. A few votives allowed me to wander and a flashlight helped me find what I needed, but otherwise there were few options for doing much of anything in a place filled with darkness. It is no coincidence that the season of Advent arrives as we move toward the darkest days of the year. Advent is a time of expectant waiting for the arrival of the light that comes into the world as we celebrate Christmas and the birth of Christ. That's why we light candles during our worship in Advent to remind ourselves that the dark days will come to an end.

This Advent is a time of great excitement for our congregation as we anticipate substantial completion of our construction project before Christmas. Darkness may be overcoming the daylight during these early days of winter, but our building has never been more filled with light. New fixtures and replacing the old yellow glass bring a new brightness to our space. One of the highlights of our project is the new room at the East end of the building with windows on three sides. I can hardly wait for the learning, meeting, praying and celebrating that will take place in that room. Not only will it be a lovely gathering spot for us, but it will allow the neighborhood to get a glimpse of the life that energizes this congregation. I am thrilled that we are seeing this vision for our building unfold before our very eyes.

In the midst of our celebration we are reminded that we face difficult times. We pray not only for our own ministry, but for all who lead and govern us that important decisions will be made for the good of all people. That God would come to us in the most vulnerable way possible, as a little child, continues to give me hope for our world. We are called to be bearers of this hope. This Advent season may we infuse our celebrations with prayers for all who are hurting. The light has come into the world and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Peace,  
Jamie

### Christmas Eve Worship

We will be celebrating Christmas Eve with a candlelight service at 7:30 pm. Please plan to bring the entire family and celebrate the season at this warm and joyous service. The offering at the Christmas Eve Candlelight service will go to the Deacon's Fund

### December 12 is the Christmas Pageant!

Mark your calendars and invite the family! The Christmas pageant is scheduled for December 12 during the 10:30 service. Practices will be held during Sunday School, December 5 and from 10:00a.m.- 12:00 Saturday morning, December 11. All the kids are encouraged to participate. Pageant directors are Tanyia Abel and Kristin Markert: Please direct questions to them. Joy to the World!



### Hanging of the Greens

It's time for the annual tradition of decorating our church building and Sanctuary for the Advent and the Christmas season. There will be hot cider, treats on the table, Christmas Carols in the sound system, and plenty of fun for kids and adults alike!

**Saturday, December 4th at**  
**9:00AM.**  
**See you there!**

**Poinsettia orders due Sunday, November 21.**  
Order one to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas Eve, and take it home for Christmas.  
Order forms at BMPC

## Santa Night at St. Anne's Place:

### Date to Be Announced

We volunteer on a special night at St. Anne's each year. It is a night of fun and games while parents and children shop for holiday gifts for one another. The children shop and wrap gifts for their moms and moms shop and wrap for their children. Santa makes a special appearance, and we plan a craft activity for the children. Please consider volunteering your time this special evening by helping in the store, wrapping gifts, or spending time with the children and their activities. Contact Heather Struwe (612-381-1543 or [hstruwe@gmail.com](mailto:hstruwe@gmail.com)) with any questions.



## New Bryn Mawr Church Cookbook Available in Time for Your Holiday Shopping!

The Cookbook Committee is hard at work putting the final touches on the new Church Cookbook. Thank you for all of your wonderful contributions! Our hope is to have the books available for sale on the Sunday of the children's Christmas Pageant. We are also planning to offer a limited number of copies of the first Bryn Mawr Church Cookbook (which came out 8 years ago) for those of you who missed the chance to purchase one of those. If you are not able to be at church this holiday season and would like to order one or both cookbooks through the mail, please contact Lisa at [LB@lisabullard.com](mailto:LB@lisabullard.com) or 612-377-6003. And please consider purchasing copies of the new cookbook for holiday gift giving—all of the profits will go to the church building fund!

## St. Anne's Sponsor-A-Family

After families move from St. Anne's, their resources are limited. During the holidays, our congregation sponsors families that lived at St. Anne's during the past year. We provide gifts from their wish list. As in previous years, look for family wish lists posted in the hallway and consider signing up for one person or for an entire family, shopping for their 'wish' items, and delivering them to church. They will then be bundled, tagged and delivered to St. Anne's for distribution to the families.

St. Anne's also has a gift program for families currently living at St. Anne's. They create a holiday store where family members can shop for each other. The items needed for this program need to be new and unwrapped. They will be collected at church and delivered to St. Anne's Place for their store. Look for a list of sample items posted in the hallway. You may already have a few items around your home that would be appropriate.

### **Items will be due December 12**

Contact Nicole Hiedeman with any questions and listen for upcoming announcements.

## Mission Possible Prayer Calendar

The Mission Possible Team has created a prayer calendar so that we can focus special prayers on a different mission program each month. We invite you to specially remember the following in your prayers:

- for **November**, our **neighborhood schools:** Anwatin Middle School and Bryn Mawr Community School;
- for **December**, **St. Anne's Place**, the North Minneapolis homeless shelter for women with children;
- for **January**, **Clearwater Forest**, the Presbytery camp where so many of us have created special memories.

## Update on Mission Giving

While church construction is underway, we asked 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). 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. Until the construction is complete you can place 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. Thank you for your continued generosity.

## **BMPC Clearwater Winter Retreat** **January 7-9** **Leaning Tree Lodge**

Join your Bryn Mawr family and friends for a weekend of playing games, doing puzzles, eating good food, relaxing, worshiping, listening to the ice crack under your feet, seeing the stars, throwing snow balls, going skating and sledding and many more fun activities.

Please hurry and make your reservations and plan to have a great time at Clearwater Forest.

### **Reservation must be made and paid by Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Reservations are non-refundable.

Please send your check to **BMPC** attn:Wendy Nove or give directly to Wendy Nove.

Questions call Wendy Nove 612-977-9292

### **Rooms \$120 for the weekend**

Breakfast \$3.00/person x 2 day=\$6.00

Lunch \$8.00/person x 1 day=\$8.00

Dinner \$8.00/person x 1 day= \$8.00

### **Breakfast**

All pay for breakfasts except children 2 and under

### **Lunch and Dinner:**

Children 5 and under are free for lunch and dinner and Children 6-11 are ½ price.

Please fill out registration form, available at church or on the BMPC web site

Scholarships available for Rooms

## **Thank you for volunteering!**

### **Sunday, November 28**

Greet/Offering: N. Blankfard & K. Beveridge

Coffee Hour: Goodwynes

### **Sunday, December 5**

Greet/Offering: B. Kerr, P. Johnson

Coffee Hour: Bells

### **Sunday, December 12**

Greet/Offering: J. Hooker

Coffee Hour: Clarkes

### **Sunday, December 19**

Greet: open, Offering: B. Becker & L.

Kadwell

Coffee Hour: Papkes

### **Sunday, December 26**

Greet/Offering: N. Blankfard & K. Beveridge

Coffee: Nevermans

**Important Dates**

November 21	Poinsettia orders due
November 28	First Sunday of Advent
December 4	Hanging of the Greens
December 5	Second Sunday in Advent Pageant Practice, 9:30 a.m.
December 11	Pageant Practice, 10a.m.-12:00
December 12	Third Sunday in Advent Pageant Children's Pageant
December 19	Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 25	Christmas Eve Worship, 7:30 p.m.

