

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

November/December, 2015



A Minister's Musings

Last night Angi Hooker sent me a text offering to take care of worship on Sunday. This after Greg had suggested that the Cedar Lake Seven could cover if I couldn't get back to preach. She said the two of them could handle it, whether I made it back for worship or not. I was moved by their offer yet hesitant to accept. Then my friend Kara called me and I told her about it, and my waffling about accepting the gift. "So you're telling yourself a story that you shouldn't accept this kind gesture because you've already been away a lot, or what if you can make it back, blah blah blah." When someone repeats your words back to you and begins with the phrase "you're telling yourself a story" it can sometimes give you different ears to hear. They just offered me a gift, a generous and kind gift without any strings attached, and I was reluctant to accept.

How does such a thing happen to a person? In this season of darkness and light, of anticipating and longing, what is being offered to us that we are reluctant to receive? I have long thought of myself as someone who easily accepts gifts and offers of help. I'm having to revisit that belief. The day before we moved my mom to hospice, my sister offered to take the day off and help. I told her we would be fine, she shouldn't use one of her precious personal days when we, my dad and I, could handle it. I should have let her help. I tell myself a story that I am not good at estimating time, or logistics or doing things simply. Maybe the real truth is that I think I can handle more than I can, that I'm not so good at receiving what other people offer.

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

So in this little space between our Thanksgiving Sunday and the first Sunday of Advent I give you a word of gratitude and hope. During this beautiful and hard time in my life I am grateful for you and your great capacity to be the church. I am grateful for every note, hug, meal, and offer to take care of things that have enabled me to be present with my mom as she nears the end of her life. You have given me the opportunity to practice what I preach, to care for myself by letting you care for me and those around me. I am learning so much and feel so supported by your love. My friend Jodi says that Advent is the time to kick loneliness to the curb. It's time for me to kick self-sufficiency to the curb as well. Because God came into the darkness so that we could have hope, and that hope comes from the people all around us. I told myself a story that I might not want to accept that gift of relief that came in the form of a simple text message. Then I realized that sometimes the stories I tell myself just aren't true and I texted her back. I would like to accept.

A blessed Advent to you,

Jamie



Hanging of the Greens Service

This year we will again have a hanging of the greens service on Sunday, December 6 at 10:30.

This festive service will include descriptions of how we came to have wreathes and poinsettias, holly and evergreen as well along with lots of singing. This service is one where everyone can participate and we welcome all who are interested in reading or helping place wreathes flowers, and other greenery.

You are welcome to donate a Christmas ornament for the tree in the sanctuary. During the service, you will be invited to hang your ornament on the Christmas tree. No worries if you forget it or are otherwise unable to bring an ornament, we will have some available so all can participate. Homemade ornaments are very welcome!

If you are interested in being a part of this service contact Jeri Papke.

December 13 is the Christmas Pageant!

Mark your calendars and invite the family! The Christmas pageant is scheduled for December 13 during the 10:30 service. Practices are scheduled to be held during Sunday School, and Saturday morning, December 12. All the kids are encouraged to participate. Tanyia Abel and Lindsay Hartjes are directing the pageant. Please direct questions to her.

Joy to the World!

Order a Poinsettia

Consider ordering one to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas Eve, and take it is yours to take home for Christmas. Order forms are by the office door.

BMPC Clearwater Winter Retreat

February 12-14 (15)

Leaning Tree Lodge

Presidents Day Weekend-We have an additional day/night available

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 14th and are non-refundable.

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

Questions? call Wendy 612-977-9292

Rooms \$146.50 for the weekend

Sunday night \$49.50/small & 65/large

Meals Breakfast \$3.00/person x 2 day=\$6

Lunch \$8.50/person x 2 day=\$17.00

Dinner \$8.50/person x 2 day= \$17.00

Breakfast

All ages pay for breakfast at the \$3/meal

If you are planning to stay Sunday night and need Breakfast provided please include \$3 more/person

Lunch and Dinner:

Children 4 and under are free for lunch and dinner and Children 5-11 are $\frac{1}{2}$ price.

Please do not bring food items containing NUTS

Please fill out registration form and return to Wendy or to the office by January 10th with payments. **Checks made out to BMPC.**

Scholarships are available for rooms Friday & Saturday nights

Coffee Hour

Our coffee hour following worship is one of the best ways for our community to share and take time from the busy days we all have. Coffee hour hosts always needed.

Sign up to host on line or on the bulletin board.



Thank you for your generosity!

The Mission Possible team is thankful for your generous gifts to support our Mission Possible programs! Totals for our special fall collections include:

- Peacemaking offering: donations of \$1,020 to be shared between Presbyterian Peacemaking programs and the Domestic Abuse Project of Minneapolis
- Sheridan Story November collection, to help provide weekend food bags for hungry kids: \$520
- Thanksgiving collection to be donated for use by the social workers at Bryn Mawr Elementary and Anwatin Middle School: \$258

We are also very grateful for the many volunteers who help make our Mission programs possible! Thank you, one and all, for your willingness to share the gifts that God has given you with others in our community and beyond! If you have questions about our Mission Possible programs, feel free to contact Lisa Bullard at LB@lisabullard.com or 612-377-6003.

Adult Ed

With themes of spirituality, racism, end of life, and consciousness, we continue in December and into the new year with:

We Know How This Ends: Living While Dying, by Bruce Kramer and Cathy Wurzer. Dec. 6-13 and Jan. 10-31, led by Dan. After being diagnosed with ALS, Bruce shares his experience and lessons with Cathy, whose father has descended into dementia. The educator and journalist created conversations and this book.

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life, by Richard Rohr. Feb. 7, 21-28 and March 6-20, led by Jamie. The author explains how the second half of life can be full of spiritual richness and growth. His message is also that we grow spiritually much more by doing wrong instead of right.

Thank you to leaders and participants. All are welcome to join in every Sunday, or drop in when you are able.

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 - wish lists for moms and children. You may already have a few items around your home that would be appropriate.

Items will be due Sunday, December 13

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

**Look for Family lists and mom/children "wish lists" posted in the BMPC hallway.
Thank you for your generosity.**

Santa Night at St. Anne's Place:

Wednesday, December 16th , at 6:00p.m.

This is our annual holiday event at St. Anne's Place homeless shelter for women and their children. It is a night of lots of activity with a special appearance by Santa!

We help the children meet and photo op with Santa; shop and wrap holiday gifts for their mom; and make crafty picture frames for their Santa picture.

Please consider volunteering and see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Or contact Heather Struwe (612-655-4740 or hstruwe@gmail.com) with any questions.

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

420 Cedar Lake Road South

Minneapolis, MN 55405

612-377-5222

www.brynmawrchurch.org

Important Dates

- November 29** First Sunday of Advent
- December 6** Second Sunday in Advent
Hanging of the Greens Service
- Saturday, December 13**
10:00 a.m-12:00 Pageant
Rehearsal
- December 13** Children's Pageant
St Anne's Adopt-a-Family
Gifts due
Third Sunday in Advent
- Wednesday, December 16**
Santa Night at St Anne's
6:00 p.m.
- December 20** Fourth Sunday in Advent
- December 24** 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- February 12-14(15)** Clearwater winter retreat

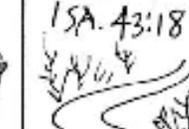


SO FAR FROM HOME
WE MAKE OUR WAY
TOGETHER, YET ALONE.
BEHIND THE WORLD
WE KNOW AND LOVE
AHEAD, A
NEW UNKNOWN.

WE DID NOT CHOOSE
THIS TIME OR PATH
BUT NOW, AS
NIGHT DRAWS NEAR
WE SEEK A PLACE
OF WARMTH AND REST
O, DO NOT
TURN IN FEAR!

SOME BREAD, A BED,
A BIRTHING STOOL
IS WHAT WE
NEED TONIGHT.
WE STAND BEFORE
YOUR DOOR AND KNOCK.
IS YOURS A
WELCOME LIGHT?

YES, I'VE THE HEART,
THE HOME, THE LIFE
THAT OPENS WIDE
THE DOOR
TO GREET THE
STRANGER, FRIEND OR
FOE
THAT WELCOMES
CHRIST ONCE MORE.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>29 LIGHT ONE CANDLE.</p>  <p>JER. 33:14-16</p>	<p>30 SEE THE GROWTH.</p>  <p>ISA. 11:1-3</p>	<p>1 BE PATIENT.</p>  <p>ROM. 8:25</p>	<p>2 BAKE BREAD.</p>  <p>1 COR. 5:8</p>	<p>3 TRUST.</p>  <p>PS. 62:5-8</p>	<p>4 KEEP HOPING.</p>  <p>HEB. 11:1</p>	<p>5 TASTE IT.</p>  <p>PS. 34:8</p>
<p>6 LIGHT TWO CANDLES.</p>  <p>LK. 3:1-6</p>	<p>7 MAKE PEACE.</p>  <p>PS. 122:6-9</p>	<p>8 SEE THE LIGHT.</p>  <p>JN. 1:6-9</p>	<p>9 BE EARLY.</p>  <p>PS. 119:147</p>	<p>10 SHOW THANKS.</p>  <p>1 THESS. 1:2,3</p>	<p>11 CELEBRATE.</p>  <p>DEUT. 26:11</p>	<p>12 FORGET THE FORMER.</p>  <p>ISA. 43:18</p>
<p>13 LIGHT THREE CANDLES.</p>  <p>ZEPH. 3:14-20</p>	<p>14 REMEMBER REFUGEES.</p>  <p>PS. 137:4</p>	<p>15 CHOOSE BETTER.</p>  <p>LK. 10:38-42</p>	<p>16 WATCH FOR ANGELS.</p>  <p>PS. 91</p>	<p>17 BE STRONG.</p>  <p>MT. 26:41</p>	<p>18 GO!</p>  <p>2 JN. 12</p>	<p>19 SEE THE NEW.</p>  <p>ISA. 43:19</p>
<p>20 LIGHT FOUR CANDLES.</p>  <p>LK. 1:46-55</p>	<p>21 SAY YES.</p>  <p>LK. 1:26-38</p>	<p>22 RECEIVE HIM.</p>  <p>ISA. 9:6</p>	<p>23 MAKE ROOM.</p>  <p>LK. 2:1-7</p>	<p>24 INN.</p>  <p>JN. 1:14</p>	<h1>ADVENT</h1>	