

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

March-April 2012 Newsletter

Sunday School

We have continued with monthly Bible stories and have shared our discussions during 'Our Service' at the end of each month. We hope you have enjoyed our short presentations and this chance for our children to speak in public. We all enjoy greeting you on these Sundays and participating in a variety of ways during the service.

During the month of March we have been discussing hunger, malnutrition and starvation. We are supporting MN Foodshare by asking the children to help out with a special chore at home in exchange for one dollar. We will collect our hard earned money and donate it to PRISM this month.

Children's Choir will be singing on Palm Sunday.

Sunday School will be cancelled on Easter Sunday. Enjoy your Easter morning with your children and see you during service.

Community Service:

We will be going to Feed My Starving Children on June 9, 2012 and working from 9-11 in Chanhassen. All are welcome to join the Sunday School Children. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Peterson or Nicole Hiedeman. We are excited about doing a service project and especially about having as many participants from our congregation as possible!

May 20, 2012 - Last Sunday School of the School Year and PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

We need some additional adult help with the cooking. Who wants to help fry sausage or flip pancakes? Let us know if you'd like to join in the fun or we just may approach you and ask (or beg) for help.

New Church Officers

Welcome to our newest church officers: Deacons Lina Wiksten and Suzanne Shatila and Elders Dave Goodwyne and Katie Anderson. We are grateful to those who have recently completed service: Deacons Angela Hopkins and Melanie Goodwyne and Elders Barb Becker and Reede Webster.

We are also deeply grateful for the long service of Lynda Shaheen as our treasurer and Jen Sampson as our financial secretary. Both of them were serving in these positions for close to a decade. No one knows the hours that each of them has given to the church. Thank you Lynda and Jen. The Session has elected Wendy Nove as treasurer. Donna Foth will be doing some of the treasurer duties and will take on the duties of the financial secretary as well.

A Minster's Musings

Late last year I was invited to be part of a small group of pastors, three Presbyterians and three Lutherans, who were applying for a grant from Austin Seminary in Austin, Texas. The grant is offered by the College of Pastoral Leaders to small groups of pastors who want to connect around a particular topic or pursuit for a two year period. Our group decided to organize around identity in a faith community: "What does it mean to be a member, to belong to the body of Christ?" We decided we would try to meet about once a month for a twenty four hour retreat. We would read a book that somehow related to our topic and spend time on retreat discussing our reading, relaxing, praying and being renewed for our work. We were happy to learn that we received a grant for \$10,000 and have already held our first two retreats. We will also go to Austin, Texas in October to meet with other grant recipients for a conference. I am grateful for this opportunity to join regularly with colleagues in ministry and look forward to sharing some of my experiences with you.

Peace, Jamie

Adult Ed

Just Eating: Practicing our Faith at the Table

Please join us for adult education as we explore the relationship between the way we eat and the way we live. During the next six weeks or so we will use passages from the Bible along with stories from the local and global community to explore different aspects of our relationship with food:

- the health of our bodies
- the challenge of hunger
- the health of the earth that provides our food
- the ways we use food to extend hospitality and enrich relationships
- the opportunities for action, renewal and transformation in our eating practices as individuals and as faith communities.

Come for the whole series or come when you can. All are welcome any Sunday at 9:30 in the More Light Room.

Annual Garage Sale

Hosted by: Robbie & Betsy, Beth Rusk & Jen Sampson at
2502 Zenith Ave N., Golden Valley, MN 55422

Sale dates: June 28-30 8:00 - 5:00 all three days

Drop off: for regular sized items begins June 4th

for large items, one week prior to sale (June 22nd)

please call before you come for any drop offs.

Questions? rsteale651@comcast.net or 763-529-7862.

This annual fundraiser has contributed over \$30,000 toward the new elevator at church thanks to volunteer help and donations from everyone at church, our neighbors, friends & family of church members, and local businesses. Last year alone our sale raised almost \$9,000.00 and I challenge each and every one of you do your part to beat last year's total. Donate your own unwanted items, those of your family & friends, watch your neighbors trash, unwanted merchandise from your work places - be creative in gathering stuff. Tell your friends and family to come and shop our sale too.

Here's what I don't want this year: Computer equipment, old TV's, anything broken or dirty, anything considered hazardous waste, buckets of rusty nails, etc. Good, clean, quality stuff is what makes this fundraiser a huge success year after year. You may bring adult clothing this year but please note, I will be picking through it for only the best/most current stuff and forwarding the rest on to another cause.

I want everything else, and here are some ideas to get you looking through those closets and cupboards, under your bed or in your attic & garages: CD's, VHS, DVD's, electronics, sporting goods, kitchen equipment & supplies, partially used bottles of lotion, anything to do with kids, books, furniture, linens, pet supplies, dinnerware, stemware, knick knacks, hand/power tools, garden tools, cars, boats, lamps, home decorations, gift baskets that we can raffle off, cases of pop/water or candy to sell, unwanted (or outgrown your house), but healthy house plants, labeled garden transplants (raspberry starts, perennials, etc.), golf clubs, nice rugs, lawn furniture or almost anything else you can think of - ask me if you are unsure about any particular item.

All donations are tax deductible.



Bake sale!

Again, we will be selling baked goods to raise additional donations to the church. **PIES** are what really sold like hot cakes last year and what kept the best in the heat so that is all I'm looking for this year.

If you can bake a pie or three or seven, please let me know.

All pies must be wrapped and labeled in some way.

The cuter they are wrapped the better they will sell but I will take them however I can get them.



Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

Coffee hour hosts are always needed. Please sign up to host coffee hour on the sheets posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Thanks,
The Deacons



Please Pray for...

Our prayer focus for March is PRISM Food Shelf. Our prayer focus for April is the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition. Our prayer focus for May is the Cedar Lake Seven. Thank you for remembering these mission concerns in your family's prayers!

One Great Hour of Sharing

It's time again for the annual One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. Through this offering, Christians around the country respond to Christ's love by joyfully sharing with people in need. Our church's gifts support the work of the Presbyterian Committee for the Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Here at Bryn Mawr, we have used this offering both 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 included: special food and treats, tickets, babysitting, kid activities, yard work, theme dinners, artwork or handcrafted items, vacation get-a-ways, handy-person services, computer help.

Children and young people are also encouraged to consider what services they might donate for the silent auction. Some examples from the past include yard work and Mother's Helper. Children's "Fish Banks" are also available in the front entry of the church so that kids can save donations for OGHS throughout Lent.

You can also request an item or service if you have a special request—for example, you'd pay big-time for a babysitter on your anniversary weekend—and we'll post that request.

Everyone will have a chance to bid on items in person during coffee hour on March 18 and 25. The OGHS special offering will be taken on Palm Sunday (April 1). Your donations are more than welcome even if you don't participate in the Silent Auction!

If you have questions, if you'd like to offer an item for bidding, or if you have a special request, you can contact Lisa

Penguins

We have an art installation on our property. Mina Lierwood's art class from Anwatin Middles School created life size sculptures of a variety of penguins. On March 5 the class had their own march of the penguins as they walked down Laurel Avenue to place the penguins on the lawn along with signs that give interesting facts about these interesting creatures. Luckily these penguins do just fine in warmer temperatures.



"Thank you, Lisa!"

There's an unsung hero among us. You've no doubt heard of "Mission Possible". Lisa Bullard is the engine behind that name, the person who for the last four years has made sure that the 'possible' becomes the 'real'. As you are probably aware, Lisa singlehandedly manages--with patience, humor and her great organizational skills--our hugely successful annual One Great Hour of Sharing silent auction. But her behind-the-scenes work goes on all year long. As chair of the Mission Possible group, she convenes regular meetings or conducts e-mail discussions to get members' input, she manages the church's Mission budget, overseeing gifts to various recipients such as St. Anne's Place and More Light Presbyterians, and writes the Mission Possible Prayer Focus that appears in the Sunday bulletin each month. Plus she does hands-on work like selecting and purchasing appropriate books for our St. Anne's literacy program throughout the year. And no doubt much more. So we say a resounding "Thank you, Lisa!" for your faithful service, which is a blessing to us, and to many others beyond our community.

The BMPC Community

Day on the Hill

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition's "Day on the Hill" this year is March 20. This is a great chance to influence our legislative decision-makers about social issues (poverty, health care, children) that are important to all the people of Minnesota. Rev. Alike Galloway, Kwanzaa Community Church, will be this year's keynote speaker. If you'd like to learn more about this event, you can check with Mike Tieleman or Roger Clarke, who have attended in the past, or visit jrlc.org. Part of our Mission Possible budget goes to support the work of this organization.

Thoughts on Applause During Worship

In nearly all churches in which I have been a part, applause after the choir anthem has been a topic of discussion. Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church is no exception. There are a variety of opinions on what is appropriate and why; I would like to share mine.

My own opinion is, "It depends." Here is the dilemma. Sacred music contains a message. When I audition choir music I listen to both the music and the message. What I listen for is a good message that is supported with good music. Hopefully I choose well and the congregation enjoys the music and hears the message. When I hear applause I believe it is in response to the performance, and I find myself wondering whether the message has been heard. Now this is not to say that I don't want the acknowledgement of the choir's performance. I do, and I think the choir does also. Yet there is a message that the anthem brings to the worship service through the music and performance, and it is important also.

So, should there be applause? I think it depends on the piece. It depends on the message. If the music is all about praise and glory or is fast and loud, then applause is probably ok. If the music is slow and quiet, about struggle or journey, or contains thought provoking lyrics, then sit back and reflect on the message. You can always offer a prayer of thanks or come to me or a choir member and tells us what a wonderful job we did, and when you do, we would like to hear about the message you heard and what it means to you.

Respectfully,

Doug Neverman

BMPC Church Summer Retreat

Friends & Neighbors of Clearwater Day
Friday July 13 - Sunday July 15, 2012

Join your BMPC family and friends for a weekend of fun and sun! The weekend will be filled with games, swimming, campfire songs, BBQ, hikes, bike rides, canoeing, boat rides, high ropes course, and worship. Come join us for the day or the weekend.

Lodging and Meals --- Sign up early!
I have rented Leaning Tree Lodge for both Friday July 13 and Saturday July 14.
We have 15 rooms available in Leaning Tree.
Rooms hold 3-4 people.
Breakfast will be prepared by BMPC members.
Lunch and Dinner are prepared by the PCF staff.

Friends & Neighbors Day is Sat, July 14h.
If you wish to come just for the day, please contact Wendy Nove.

Reservations are required.

Reservation must be made and paid by Wed., June 6.
Reservations are non-refundable.
Please send your check to BMPC attn: Donna
Questions call Wendy Nove 612-977-9292

Rooms \$25/bed + \$10 for each additional person
Breakfast : \$3/person x 2 days=\$6
(Children 2 & under free)
Lunch: \$5/person x 1_day=\$5
Dinner: \$7/person x 1 day= \$7
(Children 5 and under are free for lunch and dinner)

Campgrounds are also available for free, contact Wendy Nove.

Holy Week and Easter

April 1 10:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Children Sing and Palm Parade
April 5 7:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae and Communion
April 8 10:30 a.m.	Easter Sunday Service followed by a Candy Egg Hunt for Children

