

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

**March/April, 2010**

### A Minister's Musings

Update on the building project: First, thank you for your support of the building project and for your generous financial gifts. The congregation voted in January to proceed with securing a mortgage for our building project. The Board of Trustees of the Presbytery was excited to hear about our plans for making the building more accessible and urged us to find a lender and come back with the terms of the loan for the approval of the board and ultimately the Presbytery. The building committee is working with the architect as he completes construction drawings and works with the city planning department. As the construction documents are finalized the contractor will secure bids from subcontractors and give us a bid for the project. Finally, the Session is working on securing a mortgage and determining how we can fund a mortgage. Please join with me in praying for all who are working to make this happen.

In the midst of our building project work we also continue to worship, study and engage in mission. I look forward to the fun of our One Great Hour of Sharing silent auction which helps others and builds community. Enclosed is an envelope for your gift, whether or not you participate in the auction.

You are also invited to participate in our Maundy Thursday service on April 1 at 7:30. This is a moving service where we celebrate communion and remember the final events in Jesus' life. We will have the traditional readings, but this year each reading will be followed by a musical offering and a brief silence as a candle is extinguished leaving the sanctuary in darkness. Darkness does not have the last word, however, as we light a candle of hope. May that light be present for you as we slog through these last days of winter anticipating the promise of resurrection.

Jamie

### Fundraiser Media Sale

In addition to the annual garage sale this year, Robbie Steele & Lisa Bullard will be holding a media sale at Lisa's house (200 Sheridan) during the Bryn Mawr Festival of Sales (April 30th & May 1st). We have received a donation of well over 4,000 CD's that we can use to raise additional funds for the elevator. We will also have DVD's, VHS tapes, & some Audio Books at this sale. As you begin your spring clean out, please set aside any media items you are ready to part with in an effort to boost sales at this event. We are also in need of a few empty CD cases, in case you have some you need to unload. You may bring these items to Robbie or Lisa at any point or leave them at the church for pick up by one of us. Remember, your donations are all tax-deductible AND for every \$2,000 dollars we raise, we knock one month off our future mortgage! Dig deep and come and shop.

### Annual Garage Sale Fundraiser

I have tried to be very clever in my pleas to you over the past few years, but this year I've got nothing! So here it is straight up - WE NEED YOUR GOOD JUNK!! Not right this moment, but very soon. The annual church fundraiser garage sale will be held at Robbie & Betsy's house (2502 Zenith Ave N) June 10,11, & 12 (8 - 5 each day), and we need everything you've got in an effort to minimize the church mortgage. Dig into all your nooks & crannies, call your friends and family members, and selectively raid your neighbor's trash (or simply ask them to help our church out with a donation). We will begin receiving regular sized donations on Sunday, May 2nd with a cut off date of June 6th. Large donations may be delivered June 5th - 9th. No computers or old (non HD-ready) TV's will be accepted, but everything else is fair game as long as it works, is relatively clean and saleable. Any questions call Robbie #763-529-7862. All donations are tax-deductible, and all proceeds go to the elevator fund. It's never too early to start spring cleaning. ...Please call ahead to set up drop off time.

Robbie Steele  
763-529-7862



## Adult Sunday School Spring Topics Update

The Adult Sunday School class has begun a series called “The Other” that will extend through March 28<sup>th</sup>. The focus is on how we view and treat people who are different from ourselves because of their religion, race, disability, or other status – and how these attitudes then prevent our truly knowing others – on both a personal and cultural level.

The class began with a brief exploration of what it means to be in authentic dialogue with another. After a brief look at some ways in which we separate ourselves from others, the class will focus specifically on race and conclude with a discussion of “white privilege.” “White privilege” is the recognition that people who are white take for granted certain benefits that most never recognize – and that these benefits give them an advantage in our society.

The series concludes with a guest on March 28<sup>th</sup> and we especially hope folks will join us for this session with **Julie Landsman**. Julie is a writer and consultant who taught in the Minneapolis Public Schools for 25 years and has published numerous books and articles on diversity and education. Beginning on March 14<sup>th</sup> we will be reading excerpts from her book, Growing Up White, in preparation for her visit. Please check the narthex for reading materials throughout the course.

Our final study series will begin on April 4, and continue through May 9 with discussion of Susan Monk Kidd’s book *Dance of the Dissident Daughter*. Kidd (who is also the author of *Still Life of Bee*), writes about her struggles as a practicing Christian as well as her developing sense of independence and feminism – a sense that causes her conflict with her world and her church. Through this struggle she finds a new voice and a new view of what Christianity and the church can be. Ten copies of the book will be available. Come join us!

## 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!

## Please Place Your Easter Flower Order.

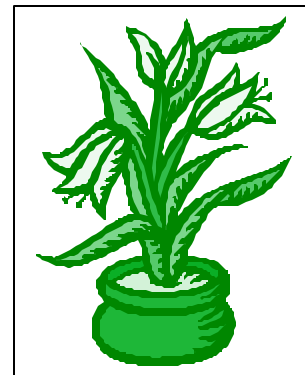
Orders due March 21.

Once again we will decorate the Sanctuary with Easter Flowers ordered by our members.

Tulip, Lilies and Hydrangeas can be ordered in honor or memory of loved ones.

After Easter, the flowers can be taken home to your garden.

Look for order forms on Sunday and leave your order in the envelope on the Narthex bulletin board.



## Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

**Coffee Hour hosts.** This year we would like you to sign up to host Sunday coffee hours in honor of a special person or day. Choose a Sunday in a month that celebrates a special time for you or your family. Some ideas are: wedding/commitment anniversaries (yours, your parents, grandparents, or friends), graduations, baptism anniversaries, parent/grandparent birthdays, new jobs, first/last day of school, first/last day of summer/winter. It can just be because you had a good day or because you need a good day. You don't need to provide different kinds of snacks or do anything differently; it will just be a way of celebrating something meaningful with your church family.

Please look for a new coffee hour sign up sheet in the narthex, and sign up early for the year. If you share a reason for hosting, your special occasion will be listed in the bulletin.

Contact Sally Neverman (612-377-7871) with questions.

## 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 been as varied as a Theme Dinner for Eight, Babysitting, Guitar Lessons, Event Tickets, and Secret Recipe Treats.

Children and young people are also encouraged to consider what services they might donate for the silent auction. Some examples from the past include yardwork, Mother's Helper, and Organizing Help. Children also collect money in "Fish Banks" throughout Lent.

Please join us for your chance to bid in person on Silent Auction items during coffee hour on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in the upstairs church hallway. This is always a fun and lively event and a great chance to get to know your church friends in new ways.

All winning bidders will be notified the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup> and you will "pay" for your winning bid by making a donation during the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday (March 28<sup>th</sup>). Children should also bring their fish banks to church that day. Please also consider making additional donations to the collection as you are able.

If you have questions, you can contact Lisa Bullard at (612) 377-6003 or [LB@lisabullard.com](mailto:LB@lisabullard.com).

**P.S. There is still time to collect on your Silent Auction items from last year.** The list of winning bids for 2009 is on the bulletin board in the upstairs hallway across from Jamie's office.

## Haiti Relief

Thank you for your generous donations of \$932 towards disaster assistance for the victims of the Haiti earthquake. Bryn Mawr's Mission Possible team added an additional \$68 from the Mission budget so that our church could send an even \$1,000. Your past donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering have also had an impact in Haiti through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Please continue to pray for the people of Haiti.

## March Is FoodShare Month

More than one million Minnesotans live in households struggling to put food on the table. In 2009, visits to Minnesota food shelves increased more than 25 percent. For 28 years, Minnesota FoodShare has coordinated the largest food and fund drive in the state: the March Campaign.

That makes March an especially critical month for local food shelves: basically, the more a local food shelf raises during March, the more money they receive from MN Foodshare. Our congregation collects food throughout the year for PRISM (People Responding in Social Ministry), located nearby off Highway 394. But because of this special incentive, we especially encourage you to consider a donation during the month of March.

Food shelves are able to multiply the purchasing power of cash, so cash donations are especially welcome. However, we will also continue to collect donations of food and hygiene items.

## Day on the Hill

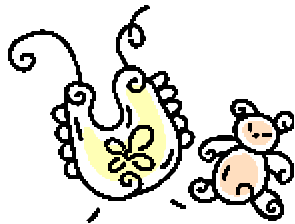
The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition's "Day on the Hill" this year is Thursday, March 25th. This is a great chance to influence our legislative decision-makers about social issues (poverty, health care, children) that are important to all the people of Minnesota. If you'd like to learn more about this event, you can check with Mike Tieleman-Ward or Roger Clarke, who have attended in the past, or visit [jrlc.org](http://jrlc.org). Part of our Mission Possible budget goes to support the work of this organization.

## Clearwater News

Hold the Date

July 9-11 BMPC Summer Retreat @ Clearwater

There is always a need for help in the nursery.  
Please consider spending a  
Sunday morning in the Nursery.  
Sign up in the narthe x.



## Thanks for Volunteering

### **Greeters/Counters**

3/17 – Betsy Kerr & Peg Johnson  
3/14 – Jim Hooker  
3/21 – Barb Becker & Laura Kadwell  
3/28– Nancy Blankfard & Keith Beveridge

### **Coffee**

3/14 – Neverman  
3/21 – Bell Family  
3/28 – Available  
4/4 – Betsy/Robbie/Wendy/Lisa  
4/11 – Clarke  
4/18 - Available

## Important Dates

March 14	One Great Hour of Sharing – Silent Auction Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 21	One Great Hour of Sharing – Silent Auction Easter Flower orders due.
March 28	<b>Palm Sunday</b> /Children Sing
April 1	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Communion & Tenebrae Service at <b>7:30 p.m.</b>
April 4	<b>Easter Sunday</b> /Egg hunt for children following worship