

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

September/October, 2011

A Minister's Musings

The other night members of the Session and the Board of Deacons met at the home of Jim and Angi Hooker for our annual joint meeting. After a lovely meal everyone was invited to choose one of the marks of a Christian in Romans 12 and think of a story from their experience that reflected that particular characteristic of the Christian life. They included: showing hospitality to the stranger, weeping with those who weep, rejoicing with those who rejoice, loving one another with mutual affection and overcoming evil with good. These are just five the marks that the apostle Paul lists in this passage.

It is easy to see the faithful life as something that is beyond our reach or to believe that our tiny contributions don't matter. But what I experience each time I am invited to reflect on my life in this way is that it's kind of remarkable how many opportunities we have to live our faith. We shared stories of our own experience, but I am often overwhelmed when I think about how each of these is expressed by our community as a whole.

We certainly know how to rejoice with those who rejoice. We have celebrated births, weddings, new members, baptisms, the dedication of our new building and a successful debt reduction campaign. As of August 28 we have received 43 pledges for a total of \$317,250 (just \$750 shy of our goal).

We have also wept with those who weep. We have shared our prayers and resources with victims of disaster in Japan and North Minneapolis. We have wept with Bob Boehlke and his family, as together we mourned the death of Bob's wife Mary. Not only did we weep, but we also rejoiced in the celebration of her life.

We have much to be grateful for in this community of faith. I look forward to joining with you on Friendship Sunday, September 11 as we kick off the new program year. We cannot be perfect in our life as followers of Jesus, but we can practice faithfulness in the smallest ways knowing that they contribute to building up the Kingdom of God.

Peace,
Jamie

Friendship Sunday

Friendship Sunday Picnic/Potluck September 11:

Fall is here and that means Friendship Sunday picnic/potluck time! This year we will gather on the front lawn. If it rains, we will gather in the downstairs dining room. Wonderful that we have that option this year!

Plan to stay after church for:

- Burgers and Brats and drinks (provided by the Deacons)

You bring:

- A dish to share – we encourage salads and other hearty sides especially
- A blanket or camp chairs (the front lawn is not as spacious for tables and chairs)
- A friend!

See you there!

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. Supper Circles start meeting in October.

BMPC Directories

Updated directory information is now easily online via Google Docs. The online directory can be easily updated, so send corrections or updates to the office. BMPC members can log on without a password through the email address (the email address from which you receive BMPC communication.) To gain access through other email addresses, send an email request to Office@brynmawrchurch.org and that email address can easily be granted access to the online directory. Print directories are available at the church. Look for copies by the mail slots.

Sunday School

Sunday School is underway for all children and guests!

Toddlers will have a story and an activity in the nursery. This will usually begin after Children's Time with Jamie. Watch for other children heading to the nursery before the Sermon.

All school age children are welcome to another great year of SUNDAY SCHOOL!

We will have class each Sunday from 9:30-10:20 in the downstairs classroom. We have another year of guests and monthly themes/Bible stories. This year we will focus on the 'Top Ten' (or so) Bible teachings beginning with Noah's Ark in September. We will meet as one group and separate the age groups as needed. We hope to discuss some foundations of our faith as well as explore some basic differences from our religious neighbors as we move through the Old and New Testament.

Our big kick off will be Friendship Sunday on September 11th. Come, bring a friend and plan on getting your feet and hands into the action. We will be having various guests throughout the year to share their special talents with us. Let us know if you'd like to help out and if we did not reach out last year to our volunteers, you are still on the Sunday School radar and may be approached this year.

We will also be doing 'Our Sunday' at the end of each month where the children participate in the worship service. We look forward to having time with the children each week. Come when you can as we do a little something different each week.

See you all soon,

Kristin, Nicole, Sarah, and Stephanie.

Nursery Update

The nursery will be open from 9:00-12:00 starting on Friendship Sunday. Infants through five year olds are welcome to join in the fun during this time. Lindsey takes wonderful care of our children during Sunday School and the service. Grace is her dedicated volunteer who assists Lindsey with the children.

Stories and songs will be done with the children after the Children's Sermon during the service. We hope you will join us for playtime this fall!

Adult Education in 2011-12

Fall: Three study series will help us think about how we engage in building community – both within our church community, and as members of the larger community.

In September, starting on Sept 11, we will read and discuss three selections from Soul of a Citizen a book that encourages the growth of our humanity. In these unsettled times, it helps us find the inner strength to express our beliefs regarding important issues to keep our faith in ourselves as moral beings and positively affect the community and people around us. We invite you to share your individual attempts and collaborative actions to reach out to the larger community.

Many in our contemporary world – especially in this country – would say we have lost the ability to talk with one another across the boundaries of religion, ethnicity and politics. The subcultures to which we belong and beliefs we carry with us have come to separate rather than unite us. Yet we must solve complex issues if we are to survive as a species and “be all we can be” – as human beings and as children of God. How can we begin to find “common ground” with those who do not share our beliefs?

In October, we will explore some of the issues that divide us and the ways in which creative thinkers are learning to engage in dialogue across the divide. Both readings and guest speakers will inform our discussions.

In November and December as we move into winter holiday season, we will learn about the spiritual beliefs of several of the presidential candidates. How do their beliefs seem to form their world view and policy positions? Where do we find common ground and where do we part ways? How do our spiritual beliefs inform our public policy viewpoints? And how do we act on those beliefs in the political process?

Winter – Spring Look for details of 2012 study series in the next newsletter. After a break for the holidays, we will reconvene on January 15 for a six week series on the Basic beliefs of Islam taught by Bob Boelke. A lenten series on Death and Dying will follow.

Join us for Adult Education at 9:30 – 10:20 in the More Light Room, starting Sept. 10. Look for reading materials for Sept. 11, on Sunday, September 4. Updates will be in “this week at BMPC” emails, and the bulletins. For questions, please contact Kate Houston, at klhouston4@gmail.com or 612-377-7321.

BMPC Grounds and Rain Garden

As the weather cools down, the gardening activity heats up.

Greetings from the garden! A special thank you to the amazing BMPC all-volunteer mowing team including: Barb Becker, Kate Houston, Elaine DenHerder and Kristen Markert. If you've got time to mow the church lawn in September, please contact Barb Becker. More special thanks to Wendy Nove for her tireless weeding in August.

As you may know, Metro Blooms (www.metroblooms.org) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping metro residents reduce runoff and improve water quality through the use of rain gardens, rain barrels and green roofs. This year, Metro Blooms and the BMNA have partnered to assist Bryn Mawr residents in designing and building rain gardens at reduced cost to help manage runoff into Bassett's Creek and the larger watershed.

BMPC is part of this effort. This fall, a rain garden will be planted in the basin on the front lawn. Once established, the garden will be irrigated entirely from rain and runoff from the church's downspouts, and will clean that water before it heads into our streams and lakes. Metro Blooms' design drawing for the rain garden is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway; extra copies are available too. The designer, Bryan Pynn, is also assisting the church with designs for other areas of the property affected by the construction to manage runoff, reduce mowing, and create contemplative spaces that will link visually to the rain garden design.

In early to mid-September, the front lawn area will be graded and mulch will be delivered in preparation for the rain garden planting. The actual planting date will be scheduled soon; if you would like to be involved, please watch for an email and check the BMPC Facebook page.

Upcoming BMPC Garden Workdays:

Saturdays 9-11a.m., weather permitting (date changes will be communicated via email/Facebook)

September 17: Weedstravaganza! Bring gloves, buckets, pitchforks, shovels, yard waste bags, refillable drinking water bottles, and lots of energy. We will spread mulch, pull weeds, bag yard waste, and prepare for the rain garden installation. We will be renovating the garden in front of the BMPC sign on the triangle; free plant divisions will be yours for the taking. Karin, a Hennepin County Master Gardener, will be available to answer questions.

October 22: Leafstravaganza! Bring gloves, rakes, trowels, kneeling pads and yard waste bags. Rake leaves, plant bulbs, and help get the gardens ready for the winter.

November (TBA): Last Call! This will be our final leaf raking and fall cleanup before the snow flies.

Tell Us Your Peacemaking

Possibilities

Once again we will take a special Peacemaking Offering on the first Sunday of October. Part of the money will go to the Presbyterian Church's national and international peacemaking efforts, but each year we also donate a portion to an organization with local ties. This year, the Mission Possible Team has designated the Nonviolent Peaceforce, which reaches out to people internationally but has its U.S. headquarters in Minneapolis. Their mission is to promote, develop and implement unarmed civilian peacekeeping as a tool for reducing violence and protecting civilians in situations of violent conflict. Watch the bulletins for further information about this special offering and Adult Ed offerings that will give you a chance to learn more about the important work done by the Nonviolent Peaceforce. You can also visit their website at www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org.

Coffee Hour

Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour during the summer. It's an important time for hospitality because we greet many summer guests.

There are still some open Sundays in Oct., Nov., and Dec. Anyone can contact me if they're interested in hosting. Sally N.



PRISM Food Shelf has Urgent need for Volunteers

Many students volunteer at PRISM during the summer and when they go back to school there is a real need for more volunteers to help maintain the quality of service that is PRISM'S goal. The most urgent need is for FRONT DESK and AUTO SHOP DESK volunteers. These folks will be trained to receive visitors, answer calls, direct and filter requests for auto repairs and car-purchase questions, etc. These volunteers are essential to the life of PRISM. Please contact Monica Trevino mtrevino@prismmpls.org with questions or if you're interested in becoming a PRISM volunteer.

Thanks for Volunteering

Greeters/Counters

9/4 – Betsy Kerr & Peg Johnson
9/11 – Jim Hooker & Dave Goodwyne
9/18 – Barb Becker & Laura Kadwell
9/25 – Nancy Blankfard & Keith Beveridge

10/2 – Betsy Kerr & Peg Johnson
10/9 – Jim Hooker & Dave Goodwyne
10/16 – Barb Becker & Laura Kadwell
10/23 – Nancy Blankfard & Keith Beveridge
10/30 – Rick and Jen Sampson

Coffee

9/4 – Neverman
9/14– The Deacons
9/18 – Rusk
9/25 – Bells
10/2—Shaheen
10/9 – Neverman
10/16 – Clarkes
10/23 –
10/30 – Valko/Anderson

Important Dates

September 5 Labor Day
September 7 Choir Practice resumes
September 4 Friendship Sunday
Potluck Picnic following Worship
Sunday School/Adult Ed resume
September 17 Weedstravaganza! Yard clean-up
September 22 Leafstravaganza! Yard clean-up
October 2 Peacemaking Sunday and World
Communion

Clearwater Winter Retreat

Save the Date
BMPC Winter Retreat at Clearwater Forest
January 13-15, 2012.