

# Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

## Pastor's Blog: January 12, 2012

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By the Rev. Kellen Smith

“Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve.” This quotation from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one of my favorite from King’s writings. King emphasizes that we don’t need special qualifications or knowledge, we only need a “heart full of grace” to serve. This coming Monday we mark MLK, Jr. Day as a testament to the ongoing legacy of his life of service and Christian love.



For many years now, MLK, Jr. Day has been honored as a day of service, where people come together to serve. The Greater Philadelphia area actually has one of the largest volunteer gatherings in the country. According to the Greater Philadelphia MLK Day of Service coordinators, “Since 1996, some 675,000 volunteers across our region have celebrated Dr. King’s legacy by turning their community concerns into volunteer service and ongoing citizen action on King Day and beyond.”

As a church family, we will be recognizing MLK, Jr. Day with our Hands on Day of Service on Saturday, January 21 from 9:20-1:00pm here on the BMPC campus. It will be great to see as many members of our congregation as possible for this great event. You can register by Thurs., Jan. 19 by clicking [here](#).

In keeping with the themes of MLK, Jr. Day, in February, during Black History Month, we are hosting Civil Rights legend, Gwen Appling. Gwen is one of the stars of the Academy Award winning film, *The Children’s March*, which tells the story of how the young people of Birmingham, Alabama, braved fire hoses and police dogs in 1963 and brought segregation to its knees. Their heroism complements discussions about the ability of today’s young people to be catalysts for positive social change. The film will be screened at BMPC on Sunday, February 19 at 11:15am, followed by a soul-food brunch and concert. A second screening geared toward children, youth, and their families will take place on Saturday, February 25 from 9:30-11:30am.

As we reflect on living lives of servanthood, we can find strength and courage through our faith Christ. As a response to God’s gracious love, we serve through the stewardship of our time, talents, and treasure. We have many ways to give and serve. When we do, may we be reminded that the Holy Spirit is always with us as we read in Joshua 1:9, “Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” See you Sunday!