

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Pastor's Blog: February 2, 2012



By the Rev. Charles Grant

Ada Mutch

When I arrived at the church last Friday morning, I had a message waiting from the Mutch family: "Please call." I knew what that had to mean. Ada had been failing in recent days; her spirit, as always, was tops, but her body was worn out. And so we lost Ada just a week shy of 107 years.



If you have been around BMPC for even a short time, you have heard some of the "Ada stories." (See the front page for a few) Some of them are almost unbelievable: Her family couldn't get tickets to sail on the *Titanic*, so they took the next ship out. Her military service in World War II. Swimming in cold Maine waters well past 100. It is said George Washington was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." Ada Mutch was "first in Scotland, first at Baldwin, first in nursing leadership, first in war, but most of all, first in the hearts of Bryn Mawr Presbyterians."

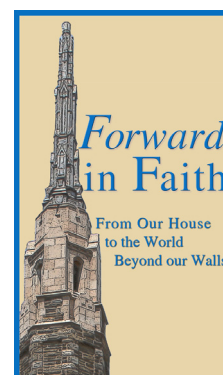
Ada was and always will be a spiritual symbol of our congregation. She combined a deep and traditional Presbyterian faith with an openness to the future and an active witness and service to humanity. She came to worship eager to hear God's word. She loved and promoted church music. She lived to serve.

On Saturday, February 11, at 11 a.m., I invite you to the memorial service for Ada Mutch. Jeff Brillhart and I are designing a Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church joyous service of worship and thanksgiving that we hope will capture something of the spirit and witness of this most amazing woman.

Forward in Faith

For over six months the *Forward in Faith* committee has been meeting weekly to bring us to this Sunday's congregation-wide launch of the campaign. There will be something on Sunday for every age and interest. It will be an exciting--and in every way *super*--Sunday you will not want to miss.

My sermon for the day is based on a story about the prophet Jeremiah found in Jeremiah chapter 32. Jeremiah had his ministry in the years leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. As the invaders approach, Jeremiah issues a prophecy that catastrophic and total destruction is coming. Then Jeremiah does something quite provocative: He buys a field. He buys it, pays for it in cash, gets it officially recorded--and waits for God to act.



What was he up to? Jeremiah was absolutely confident destruction was coming. And Jeremiah was equally confident that on the other side of destruction God was going to not just restore Israel to the way it had been. It was going to be better than ever. And Jeremiah wanted to make sure he was in on the ground floor!

Souper Bowl of Caring

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.” This prayer by a youth pastor inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.



The prayer gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? The senior high youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, liked the idea so much they decided to invite other area churches to join the team. Twenty-two neighboring churches participated that first year, reporting their results so a total could be determined, and then sending all \$5,700 they had raised to area non-profits.

That was 1990. Since then, the Souper Bowl food collection program has generated an extraordinary \$81 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. In addition, hundreds of thousands of youth have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.

Through our Hunger Committee, BMPC will participate in the Souper Bowl food collection THIS Sunday. Bring some canned goods to worship and a couple of dollar\$ as well. **Our goal is at least one can and one dollar for every person in worship this Sunday.** May our *enacted* prayer be, “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat”. And don’t let our rivals, the Giants, win. Amen.