



VOLUME 114, ISSUE 12

NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2011

# The MESSENGER

*Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church*

Preparing for

## *Thanksgiving & Advent*



### *Christmas Eve Services in the Sanctuary*

- Family Service with Nativity Tableau at 4:30 p.m.
- Candlelight Service with Sermon and Communion at 8:30 p.m.
- Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols at 11:00 p.m.

### *Christmas & New Year's Day*

- One Service at 10:00 a.m., Ed. Bldg. closed.

THE MESSENGER

# Moving Forward in Ministry

## Building Spiritual Foundations— Adding Depth to our Doing

**THIS IS OUR CURRENT CHALLENGE AS A CHURCH!** In a continuing response to last year's Congregational Self Study and the ministry priorities approved by Session last spring, we are considering ways to enhance our congregation's life in faith. Several initiatives on our "front burner" include:

- ▶ Affirming and living into our church's core values
- ▶ Building up our spiritual foundations as individuals seeking relationship with God through Christ
- ▶ Intentionally adding 'depth to our doing' as involved members connected to BMPC's life
- ▶ Assisting BMPC to become 'more fit' as a stronger, effective church organization

Two small, ad-hoc groups have met throughout the summer and are ready to jointly launch a challenge to the congregation and its ministry areas. They have developed the following questions in hopes of inspiring discussion and response:

- ▶ How do we reach out and **ATTRACT** visitors and new members?
- ▶ How do we **INTEGRATE** congregants into a place of belonging?
- ▶ How are we offering **ENRICHMENT** for the head (in Biblical knowledge), heart (in Christian character) and hands (in service)?
- ▶ How do we regularly **EVALUATE** our ministry and programs in the interest of encouraging discipleship and church growth?
- ▶ What spiritual practices currently shape your life? Is God calling you to take up additional practices?

Ask yourself these questions...come up with your answers...and find opportunities to respond – as an individual, a member of a committee, or a participant in one of our classes or programs. If we each take one action step in response to these challenging questions, then we are already intentionally infusing a new approach to our life together at BMPC.

### 14th Annual Lower Merion Interfaith Celebration of Thanksgiving SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Adath Israel, 250 N. Highland Ave. at Old Lancaster, Merion Station  
*Opposite Bala Cynwyd Library, 3 blocks down Old Lancaster Road after it splits off  
Montgomery Avenue*

Sacred texts from various traditions ▪ Native American Dancers  
Interfaith Adult and Children's Choirs ▪ Offering to benefit ElderNet

SPONSORED BY 25 MAIN LINE CONGREGATIONS, INCLUDING BMPC



### A Service with Prayers for Comfort and Healing for Those Who Are Grieving at Christmas

"A SAFE AND QUIET HAVEN  
FOR ALL WHO MOURN"

Sunday, December 18, 11:15 a.m.  
Chapel

The holidays can be difficult for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones and those who are struggling with challenges of body or spirit. The Rev. Dr. Charles Grant and our pastoral team will lead this service for all who grieve and seek healing of body and soul. The service will include special music, readings from scripture, the Iona Community's ritual of healing for health and wholeness, and most importantly, sacred time in sacred space for all who seek rest from their heavy burdens. Come if you are grieving. Come if you seek a deeper awareness of God's healing presence. Come with a friend who needs the blessing of quiet grief and a respite from the frivolities of the holidays. The service will follow the 10:00 a.m. service on December 18.

**THE MAGNIFICENT LEADED STAINED GLASS WINDOWS** in our sanctuary reflect God's glory, telling biblical stories and parables through their beautiful artwork while reminding us that earlier BMPC members had faith in our future. After all, leaded stained glass windows can last for many, many years. There are windows in Europe that are still installed in their original 16th century lead frames and have held up beautifully through the ages. Sadly, a number of our stained glass windows, only between 50 and 80 years old, are now buckled, broken and cracked.

Most of the windows of the sanctuary are – like the building itself – in Gothic Revival style. They were designed and fabricated by the famed Willet Studios in Chestnut Hill from 1935 to 1974, using transparent colored glass with a mechanical finish imparted by a roller (American Cathedral glass) and handmade, mouth blown antique glass painted in the traditional Trace and Matte technique of glass painting. Pieces of Norman slab glass are also utilized throughout the Willet windows.

Twenty-eight of the 43 stained glass windows in the sanctuary suffer from lead oxidation, corrosion of steel ventilator frames, broken glass, bulging, and deterioration of the stone surrounds in which the windows are placed. The next time you are in church, look at the “Pentecost” window given in 1974 in memory of Andrew M.E. Dunlap by his wife. It is the glorious five-panel window in the west transept balcony.

There is serious water damage near the top of the window and when you look closely, you can see how badly most of the glass segments have bulged. Little or no maintenance has been performed on this or the other sanctuary windows for decades and now their condition is critical. Short-term fixes are neither possible nor cost effective and the windows must be restored at a stained glass studio. The “Pentecost” window will soon be restored through a generous gift from Paul and Nel Mecray, who made their gift in memory of their parents – and in the hope that their gift might invite others to consider similar gifts.

The restoration process begins by erecting scaffolding on both the inside and outside of the window. The entire

window will be unattached from the stone, lowered to the ground, packed into specially built crates, and transported to the studio. During the six to nine months the window is at the studio, openings will be sealed with painted plywood and covered on the inside in a manner intended to be as attractive as possible. Upon completion of the studio work, the window panels will be transported back to the church and reinstalled into the frames. There is no reason why the windows restored today cannot last for another 80 to 100 years before they will need further substantial restoration.

As you can imagine, while critically necessary, none of this work is inexpensive. Now you know another reason for



the comprehensive fund raising campaign, Forward in Faith, that BMPC is embarking upon. Precious artistic and structural elements of our buildings like the glorious stained glass windows require our stewardship and care. We have been blessed by the visions of previous congregations who included us in their dreams. Now it's our turn to envision the future for the generations to come and accept responsibility for the resources God has bestowed upon us. The campaign goal includes \$2.5 million for the restoration of the stained glass windows.

**Learn more about the Forward in Faith campaign, and how you can support it, at [www.bmpc.org/forwardinfaith](http://www.bmpc.org/forwardinfaith).**

# Stewardship

GREETINGS,

It is that time of year again...when we contact our members about their stewardship pledge for 2012. There is certainly a lot going on at BMPC that demonstrates how we live our faith beyond Sunday morning. Perhaps you are not aware of all that we do to impact the world. The stewardship campaign will share some of this with you in various places, at various times this fall so you can better understand our...

## Stewardship Stories – Why We Give

### DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ That through the combination of our operating budget, the Foundation and direct appeals, BMPC directed in excess of \$1.5 million towards benevolences last year?
- ▶ That our campus, one of the most visible signs of our commitment to our local community, does much more than host Sunday worship and house our staff? Here is just a small sample: Christian education classes for children, youth and adults; early childhood education at the Weekday School pre-school; counseling and support at the Middleton Center; temporary living accommodations for the homeless as part of our participation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network; concerts, programs and seminars open to the public.

Perhaps you are compelled to give to BMPC because you know that BMPC is making an impact near and far from Bryn Mawr.

- ▶ Worldwide Ministries has fifteen mission partners. Our support of these organizations is important and makes a difference. One example is The Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) in India. Through a system of 20 hospitals and 27 community centers located in underserved areas of India, EHA helps to bring health and medical care to 600,000 Indians per year. In a country where 1 in 4 families live below the poverty line, the needs are tremendous. EHA, along with support from BMPC, is working to meet that need.



- ▶ The Outreach Council of BMPC continues to support numerous local organizations such as United Community Clinics. This once a week clinic operates out of First African Presbyterian Church on Girard Avenue. Hundreds of people who have no health insurance count on this program to provide for their family's medical needs. Besides physical exams, it provides ongoing support for patients with diabetes and high blood pressure, wound care, flu shots, and tuberculosis screening. Medical, nursing and social work students from the University of Pennsylvania provide the services under the supervision of doctors from the medical school.

We hope that when you are contemplating your pledge this year that you think about your own stewardship story and consider why you give...and if you are moved to pledge at a level that is a little bit uncomfortable remember the words of Hebrews 13:16:

*“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”*

Sincerely,  
The Stewardship Committee



**SEVERAL YEARS AGO I SAT ALONE** in the back of Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church on 121st Street in New York City. I was staring at the enormous iconic mural of Jesus behind the altar as I waited for the 8:00 am weekday Mass to begin. Once again, while trying to finish a course at Union Seminary, I found myself sitting in an unfamiliar place. The course required site visits to worship services of many faiths along with written field and journal notes describing what we had seen and experienced. Since it was impossible for me to do this on Sunday mornings, I went on weekday and Saturday mornings as well as Sunday evenings. A silent litany of “been there, done that” was all that passed through my mind that cold, windy, almost winter morning. Somewhat jaded, I mumbled to myself, “What could be different today, in this place?”

God certainly has big ears.

Almost immediately a construction worker, complete with flannel shirt, work boots, sweatshirt, dungarees and a hard hat, sat down to the right in the pew in front of me. He knelt down, bowed his head, and then pulled a child's First Communion rosary, a string of tiny, white beads, out of his pant's pocket. Holding them in his hands, he began to gently caress these delicate, almost translucent beads with his fingers. As he prayed, these fragile beads held in his rough, dirt-stained hands silently slipped through his fingers as the crucifix on the end of the rosary slowly moved downward. His face transformed into an expression of rapture and peace. This man – like a child, so comfortable with his faith and unafraid of spiritual intimacy – opened himself to expressing and receiving come what may through the Spirit. I watched as he worshipped and adored.

The liturgy continued with the priest and the faithful offering Sanctus response in unison voice singing “holy, holy, holy” unto the Lord. Thus began the sacred procession of the community with hands outstretched to receive the bread and the wine – Christ incarnate – on this day, in this place. The man held the rosary in his hand as he returned to his seat, his face full of love and joy. The words of a familiar carol flooded my thoughts, “...and our eyes at last shall see Him, through his own redeeming love.”

Without realizing it, I had become unimpressed with the presence of God in our midst and immune to seeing the face of Christ in a different form, in a different place, in a different way. But my vision was changed in that church by beholding him – a middle-aged man with a set of rosary beads – whose purity of faith rekindled my own. There was beauty in this glimpse of glory divine and a reminder that God's world is so much larger than our own.

As we wait this Advent season, marking off the days with our children and families, let us open ourselves to the promise of Christ's coming with the trust of a child. May we allow our hearts to embrace the truth that when love divine breaks into the worlds of our lives, its light reveals God's face anew.

— Jacqui Van Vliet

---

## Family Fun Friday

**Friday, November 18, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Congregational Hall**

Pizza supper followed by the showing of the holiday movie *The Polar Express*, based on the Chris Van Allsburg book. RSVP by Nov. 17 to [CarolynBeitmann@bmpc.org](mailto:CarolynBeitmann@bmpc.org), ext. 8812.

## Sacred Shelter December meeting

**Saturday, December 3, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Monthly covenant group meeting of parents and parents-to-be (single, married or divorced) who come together for support and encouragement over dinner. Childcare provided.

## Advent Craft Workshop and Supper

**Sunday, December 4, 3:30 – 6:00 p.m., Ministries Center Court**

Fellowship and fun for all ages with festive craft projects. Nominal charge. Questions? Peggy Hermann at [PeggyHermann@hotmail.com](mailto:PeggyHermann@hotmail.com). Simple pasta supper immediately following the workshop, free will offering. RSVP by December 2 to [CarolynBeitmann@bmpc.org](mailto:CarolynBeitmann@bmpc.org), ext. 8812

## Caroling at Rosemont Presbyterian Village

**Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Meet in Congregational Hall at 6:15 p.m. for carpooling to sing Christmas carols in the halls of Rosemont Village. A wonderful time for all ages! Pizza supper provided.

## Christmas Day Worship

**Merry Christmas! Sunday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.**

Families worship together (all ages) in the Sanctuary. Education Building closed – no Church School classes or childcare.

## SUNDAY CLASSES

CONTACT CAROLSCHMIDT@BMPC.ORG, 8819

### **The Case for God: Discussion of the Book by Karen Armstrong**

**Part II: 1500 CE to the present**

CONTINUES THROUGH NOV. 20TH, 8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM

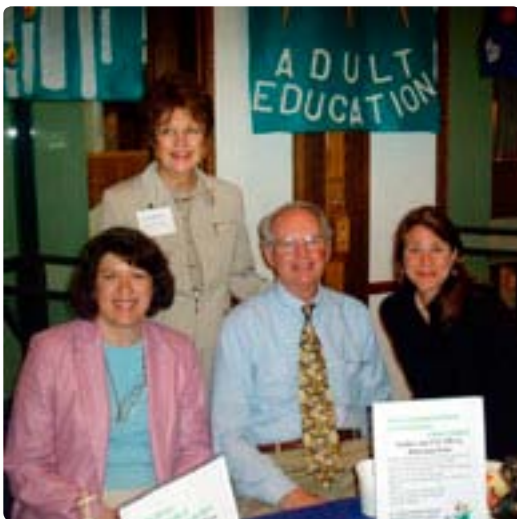
Led by the Rev. Dr. Paul MacMurray.

Join us as we explore the history of religious practices in many different cultures and the part that religion plays in human life, drawing on the insights of the past in order to build a faith that speaks to the needs of our dangerously polarized age.

### **Is This All There Is?**

DECEMBER 4, 11, & 18, 11:15 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM

Led by Leah Brecher-Cohn, Middleton Center Counselor. Have you reached all your goals in life and are now asking, "Is this all there is?" Are you disappointed with your personal circumstances and asking, "Is this all there is?" Are you feeling anxious and/or depressed about the condition of the world and wondering, "Is this all there is?" Are you managing life beautifully but haven't had time to ask, "Is this all there is?" Attend these workshops to explore these questions and find new joy and peace in your life. (details, pg. 7)



### **Medicare Questions?**

Whether you are new to Medicare or just looking to make a change to your current coverage, Kim Andrews can answer your questions. An Apprise coordinator with the state health insurance assistance program, Kim will present Medicare basics as well as updates for 2012.

**Sunday, November 13, 11:15 a.m.  
Converse House Meeting Room**

Open enrollment for Medicare changed this year from October 15 – December 7, so this is a timely as well as informative program.

**Questions?** Call Lorie Benovic, 610-525-8833 or email LorieBenovic@bmpc.org



### **Seniors Club Lunch**

Wednesday, Nov. 16, Noon

Special Guest: Dr. Sharon Hirsh  
PRESIDENT OF ROSEMONT COLLEGE

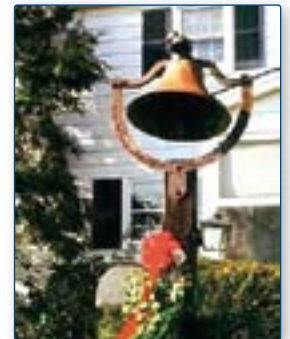
### **The Challenges and Importance of Higher Education**

Dr. Hirsh is an internationally recognized scholar and author whose enthusiasm for Rosemont, teaching, our community, and art are contagious.

All welcome who are concerned about the college years (students, grandparents). Bring a brown bag lunch.

### **Senior Adults Pathways to Learning**

On Saturday, December 3, we invite you to join us for a bus trip to Odessa, Delaware, to enjoy *Christmas in Odessa*, a self-guided walking tour of private homes and public buildings, many dating from 18th and 19th centuries, that are decorated for the holidays. In addition to the house tour, there are other special events which are included in the ticket price. Lunch is on your own at the Odessa Fire Hall; trip including transport is \$45. RSVP by Nov. 25 with check payable to BMPC/Senior Adults mailed to the church at 625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr PA 19010, attn. Amy Bauer. Bus departs 9:00 a.m., back parking lot and returns at 4:00 p.m.



the  
are  
are  
a t  
fee

## Presbyterian Children's Village (PCV) *Healing Spirits, Nurturing Children, Serving Communities. Since 1877.*

By Betty Wu

It's hard to believe that I have been co-chairing the PW Christmas Angels for ten years and involved for 14. Thank you to all participants – the generosity of BMPC is truly amazing. To participate in this year's program, please contact me for gift lists (gifts due early December) [efwu@pcv.org](mailto:efwu@pcv.org) or 610-519-1615.

I am frequently asked what PCV is. It is difficult to summarize the work being done at the Village. It was founded by Presbyterian Women as a post Civil War orphanage. Over the years, it has adapted to the changing landscape of services to children. Today, PCV is more than a residential program; it provides a comprehensive range of prevention, child welfare, therapeutic, and educational services to help heal the spirits of children, families, and communities in crisis. The Village nurtures the individual, encourages healthy familial ties, and strengthens the communities of the Greater Philadelphia region. It provides services from two facilities: residential services and headquarters are located in Rosemont and The Preheim Center in southwest Philadelphia provides community-based, prevention, and behavioral health services.

Visit our website at [www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org), contact me, or learn more about the Village at our Third Thursday Coffee at 8:30 a.m. on the third Thursday of each month. ([RSVP@PCV.ORG](mailto:RSVP@PCV.ORG) by noon Tuesday prior.) If you need a speaker or are interested in holding a meeting at the Village, please let me know.

Thank you for your generous support and prayers. Together we will make a difference!



Y-Group creates Christmas stockings for Presbyterian Children's Village.

BMPC's Presbyterian Women contributes to the Presbyterian Children's Village through its benevolence fund.

To contribute, please send your donations to:

Presbyterian Women  
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
625 Montgomery Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

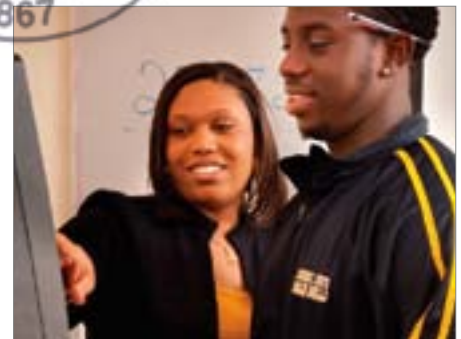
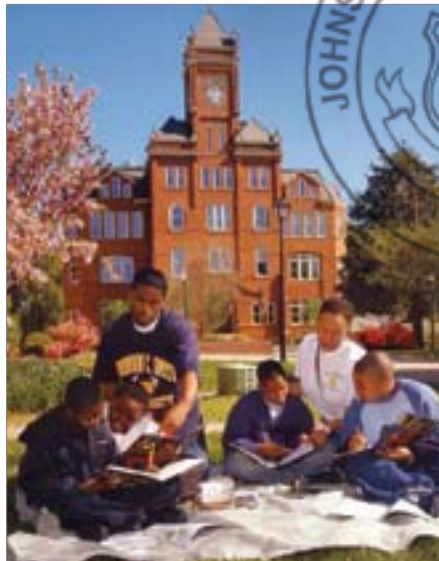
# Worldwide Ministries



## Our Mission Partner: Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU)

Ranked several times by U.S. News and World Report as one of the best comprehensive colleges in the South, JCSU is a private liberal arts university with approximately 1,500 students from various backgrounds. The university was founded under the guidance of the Presbyterian Church and named “Biddle Memorial Institute” after Major Henry J. Biddle, who provided \$1,400 to start the college. The first black football game was played in 1892 against Livingstone College. In 1919 it became the first black college in the South to offer professional courses in education. Johnson C. Smith provided a handsome endowment for the institution in 1921 and the board changed the name to Johnson C. Smith University. Today the university is independent and not affiliated with the church.

For more than ten years, BMPC’s Worldwide Ministries Council has designated funds to JCSU’s seminary scholarship fund for African American students. To find out more about the history and offerings at JCSU visit their web site: [www.jcsu.edu](http://www.jcsu.edu).



### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) The money given by Presbyterians across the country during the Christmas season has helped ministers and their families in time of unusual need as well as Presbyterian-related racial/ethnic schools and colleges. ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PEW HOLDERS DURING THE ADVENT SEASON.

The Middleton Center provides opportunities to still and center yourself and to nurture gratitude for the fullness of life amidst the activity of the season.

## Take a Class

### IS THIS ALL THERE IS? FINDING THE MORE IN EACH DAY

No matter what our circumstances are, this physical world reality is not all there is. By applying the principles of Spiritual Psychology we will explore the intersection of spiritual concepts and practices to our everyday challenges. In doing so, we will be better able to put things in perspective, heal unresolved issues and navigate more smoothly through life.

In this workshop we will have the opportunity to look at personal issues and explore methods to create more joy and peace in our lives. Through presentations, exercises, reflection and discussion we will learn about and practice techniques that help us all lead more fulfilling and purposeful lives. Join Leah Brecher-Cohn, LMFT, MA, MS, therapist with the Council for Relationships and student of spiritual psychology, on December 4, 11, 18 at 11:15 a.m.



## Develop your Parenting Skills

Join other parents who want to talk about what it takes to raise healthy, well-adjusted, ethically-grounded teenagers on the Main Line in an 8-part series planned with Main Line Reform Temple. Coming up:

### BULLYING

with Paula Singer and Lisagail Zeitlin  
November 10, 7 p.m., at BMPC

### STRESSED OUT

with Donald McCown  
December 6, 7 p.m., at  
Main Line Reform Temple

### LEARNING AND THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

with Robert Zeitlin  
January 19, 7 p.m., at BMPC

## Walk the Labyrinth

The labyrinth is one of the oldest symbolic figures of humankind. For millennia, it has been scratched into rock or clay, painted on pottery, laid out with stones on the ground and drawn in old manuscripts. The labyrinth is not only a soothing design, but a metaphor of the life path. It reflects our journey through time and major life themes: departures, turnings, examinations, achievements, and the mysteries and graces of being led. Walking the labyrinth is like looking into a mirror. Life's questions and answers rise up and are able to offer insights about self, life itself, God and the world. Walk the labyrinth on November 1 and December 6 from 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. in Congregational Hall.

## Consider Spiritual Direction

As human beings we want to draw closer to God. Sometimes we need guidance to find the way. Spiritual direction encourages you to explore your relationship to God and to notice God's action in your daily life. As you reflect you begin to recognize God's presence and grace all around you. Spiritual direction is not so much about being "directed" as it is about listening to God's personal communication in your own life and finding ways to respond in gratitude and service. It can take place in either an individual one-on-one setting or in a group. Group spiritual direction is a way to honor the call to a deeper relationship with God within a small prayerful community that meets regularly for contemplative sharing. Call the Middleton Center for more information or to make an appointment with one of our Spiritual Directors.

Visit [www.middletoncenter.org](http://www.middletoncenter.org) or call 610-525-0766 for more information. As you move through this holy season, may you be found by wholeness, upheld by the unfathomable, entranced by the simple and filled with the joy that is God.



Do your plans for Thanksgiving morning include the annual **BMPC THANKSGIVING PANCAKE BREAKFAST**? Sponsored by Youth Ministry, this fun-filled family tradition will take place **Thursday, November 24, 8:30-11:30 a.m. in Congregational Hall** – where the entire congregation is warmly invited to mingle for intergenerational fellowship and to enjoy hot-off-the-grill pancakes. Each year, the Thanksgiving Pancake Breakfast, a popular church-wide event, attracts a crowd of families and friends.

Should you need any further motivation besides the anticipation of delicious pancakes and syrup (gluten/sugar-free available), here are a few words from current and former youth about why they love this event:

*“I love being able to make pancakes with all of my best friends from church! We get to make scrumptious pancakes and then all sit down and eat together. It’s fun because we never really get the chance to eat a nice breakfast all together.”*

—Lauren Callans

*“My favorite part about the Pancake Breakfast is how everyone comes back together. It’s not necessarily just your group of friends from youth group, but it’s also your family, the people who work at the church, the parents who went to camp, the kids still in high school. It’s not just limited to the BMPC youth alumni; it’s the entire community.”*

—Sarah Page

Here’s another reason to come: you can enjoy this tasty meal and holiday fellowship for only \$5 per person or \$20 per family.



Last but not least, if we are able to get 250 people to attend, the youth will have the opportunity to give me a haircut clipper-style. This alone could be worth the price of a plate of pancakes!

Let’s enjoy time together while supporting our youth, their families, and our college students who return for the holiday. See you for hotcakes on Thanksgiving morning!

Kellen A. Smith



## “Christmas Light” Concert Dec. 11

By Jeffrey Brillhart

Continuing a cherished 27 year tradition of annual December concerts, the Senior Choir and Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia will offer a Christmas concert on Sunday, December 11, at 4 p.m. This concert, titled Christmas Light, will sweep you into the Christmas season with a broad array of carols, choral motets and hymns, many with the audience singing along! Framing the music are traditional Biblical readings and poetry by Susan Palo Cherwien, author of the book *Crossings: Meditations for Worship*. Susan’s words provide the focus for this concert: “Christmas is the return of light, the return of light, the birth of the Sun – S-U-N or S-O-N – the word-play is apt, the pun well-put.”

How appropriate it is to focus on Christ as light. The world needs Christ’s light, we need Christ’s light to lead us. We invite you to Christmas Light, a concert that will bathe you in the light of Christ as expressed through words and song.

Visit [www.bmpcfinearts.org](http://www.bmpcfinearts.org) to download the concert program. Organ Scholar Keenan Boswell will begin a festive organ prelude at 3:40 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 18 and under. To purchase in advance, email [StephanieSpeakman@bmpc.org](mailto:StephanieSpeakman@bmpc.org) or call the Fine Arts Office at 610-520-8836.

## Stronger Families, Brighter Futures

This is the motto for TURNING POINTS FOR CHILDREN, an organization assisted by funds from the BMPC Outreach Council. Turning Points was formed in June of 2008 when the Philadelphia Society for Services to Children merged with the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania. Both organizations have provided services and support to Philadelphia's children and families since the 1800s.



More than 2,100 families and 3,000 children are assisted through various programs:

- ▶ **Alternative Response System**  
Engages families that are in a moderate level of risk for abuse and neglect.
- ▶ **FAST – Families and Schools Together**  
Partners with schools and agencies through 30 Philadelphia schools.
- ▶ **The Family Project**  
For parents with children who are looking to provide a better life for themselves and their children.
- ▶ **In Home Protective Services**  
An intensive in-home program for families in which the children are at imminent risk of abuse or neglect.
- ▶ **Kids n' Kin**  
Child advocacy program centered on supporting children with absent biological parent.
- ▶ **Time Out for Teens & Tots**  
For teen mothers and their children.
- ▶ **Madeira Family Center**  
Emergency food and formula program.
- ▶ **Stronger Families Brighter Futures Parenting Program**  
Support groups for at-risk adult parents and caregivers.
- ▶ **Family Finding**  
Enables children in out-of-home care to reconnect with family members.

## Helping the Helpers!

From Our Hunger Committee

Give a man a fish and he eats for a day but teach him how to fish and he eats for the rest of his life. This axiom has never been truer than in the fight against hunger. Our BMPC Hunger Committee supports approximately 25 local organizations that are in the trenches fighting the vicious cycle of hunger and poverty. Two organizations that do more than just providing nourishing meals are Fresh Start and Urban Tree Connection.

Fresh Start is a Philadelphia organization run by Derek Felton. Derek is an inspirational leader who grew up in abject poverty and spent time in prison, yet he has turned his life around and is enabling local Philadelphia residents to rise above their brutal circumstances. Derek and his organization always provide food, but they also run workshops and training about managing food resources, money and health. Derek says that food is the first priority but education must follow in order for people to break their dependencies and move forward with their lives. He is tireless in his quest and a true foundation of his community.

Urban Tree Connection is an organization run by Skip Wiener. Skip's organization rehabilitates vacant lots in Philadelphia into thriving gardens producing locally grown produce. These gardens are tended by local residents who learn valuable life skills while providing nutritious food for themselves and their neighbors in a sustainable way. In addition the scourge of urban blight is alleviated as residents develop a keen sense of ownership and pride in their neighborhood. They are ready to launch what would be the first low-income farm stand in Philadelphia.

The Hunger Committee takes great pride in all of the organizations we support, but we need your help. Your contributions in our little white envelopes in the pews are critical in helping us make a difference for local people in need.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

CONGREGATIONAL WIDE DAY OF SERVICE  
Martin Luther King Day, January 16, 2012

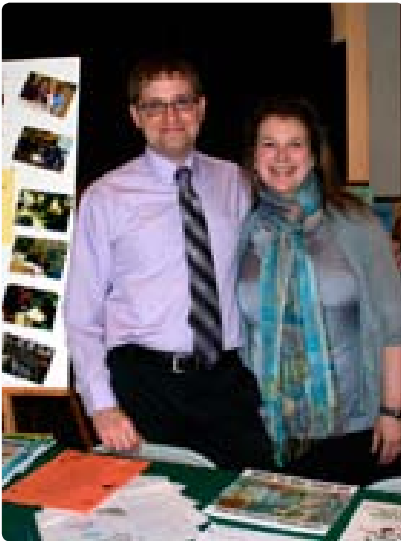


**THE MESSENGER**  
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
625 Montgomery Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
610-525-2821

The Messenger is published bi-monthly  
by the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.  
Periodical postage paid at Bryn Mawr,  
Pennsylvania and additional entry.

Postmaster: Send Address Changes To

The Messenger  
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
625 Montgomery Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010



## Give Gifts that Keep on Giving!

Advent Gift Market and Shopping List, 2012

Think “outside the box” when choosing Christmas presents and give gifts that aid the concerns of hunger, shelter, healthcare, children, education, peacemaking, or the environment. This year's AGM shopping list features benevolences supported by local and worldwide BMPC ministries, so your gifts direct assistance without intermediaries. Our kick-off market to explain the projects, which are sponsored by BMPC councils and ministries, will be Sunday, November 20, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. in Congregational Hall. Shopping lists will be mailed or may be picked up in the BMPC Court or downloaded at [www.bmpc.org](http://www.bmpc.org). Sales will continue on Sundays in the Court through December 18.

## Seasonal Flu Vaccine.

Sunday, November 20, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.,  
Ed. Bldg. Room 101, \$25

(Free with traditional Medicare Part B; card required).  
Limited pneumonia vaccine also offered, \$50.  
Registration: 610-520-8832.

