

Following is the text of the minute for mission delivered on November 6th by the chair of the stewardship committee, Brad Baturka at our 10:00 service.

Good Morning,

As Dr Grant indicated I am speaking to you on behalf of the stewardship committee, and as has been mentioned earlier in this service, next Sunday is commitment Sunday when we will be receiving your pledges for 2012. Feel free to make your pledge today if you are so moved, many others have already done so. Pledge cards should be available in the pew racks where you are seated.

Those of you who have been attending this church for some time have had the pleasure of hearing stories and sermons about stewardship from our pulpits. This includes the one we just heard today...one I suspect Dr. Carter believes, or hopes, was his last stewardship sermon at BMPC. It's OK to feel that way Dr. Carter, I suspect many in the church also recognize, with conflicting emotions, this possibility. I hope you will allow me that last comment since I am serving on the Pastor Nominating Committee. That committee has been studying classic sermons as we calibrate our ability to evaluate candidates. While doing that we recently heard a sermon that inspired my talk with you today.

Perhaps some of you may recall Dr. Watermulder's "Balm in Gilead" stewardship sermon. In it he pointed out that there is no simple ointment to cure one from being lulled into a false sense of security **AND** from possessing an indifference to problems that are around us. Instead, Dr. Watermulder contended that "the only balm strong enough to cure us is Christ, who thrusts us into the world around us with the compassion of a Good Samaritan". He then recounted the evidence of our health, the collective compassion of BMPC, through stories which may sound familiar to you Even today:

- He talked about our participation in the establishment of Temple Presbyterian Church in the dangerous, impoverished streets of North Philadelphia

- He also discussed the fact that our education building was overflowing....five days a week... hosting the Timothy School for autistic children, our tutoring program for children from West Philadelphia and the weekday school..... and then in use again on Sunday for Children and Youth Ministries.

This church has a history of making an impact.

More recently, Dr. Bay delivered his last stewardship sermon to us which he light heartedly referred to as his *"Sermon on the Amount"*. In that sermon Dr. Bay recounted stories he heard from new members on why they selected BMPC as their new church home. They praised our Church School, our Youth Ministry, our ministries of Fine Arts, the quality of our worship and our ministries in the community and in the wider world.

This church has a reputation as a leader in all areas.

And last year we heard from a member, Ann Buchanan. Her story was less a listing of our accomplishments but instead one of the most moving testimonials that I have ever heard....and I know many others felt the same way. She described how after making an "audacious" commitment her pledging journey "fundamentally changed" how she lives. She told us that "By going to a scary and unknown place, she actually found a serene and faith-centric place, a land where she tries to live in gratitude and faith, not anxiety and fear".

I know her story moved people to action. How do I know this?

I witnessed a young couple sitting next to me that day make a pledge they were not planning on making. Then later in the week we received a letter from another couple who told us they were going to double their pledge based on what they had heard from Ann that previous Sunday.

Ann's story made an impact.

As you are making your pledge this year-----

Perhaps you will be moved because you know that BMPC continues to make a difference near and far from Bryn Mawr.

- Did you know that Worldwide Ministries has fifteen mission partners? Our support of these organizations around the world is important and makes a difference.

- Did you realize that the Outreach Council supports numerous local organizations such as
 - United Community Clinics.
 - West Philadelphia Alliance for Children and
 - Broad Street Ministries.

- Did you know that last year members from this church contributed over 3,800 volunteer hours to the other carpenter and prepared and delivered over 1,200 casseroles to families in need in our area?

I encourage us all to reflect on a comment by Dr. Watermulder as he concluded his “Balm in Gilead” sermon. After listing the good things BMPC was collectively doing in the world...things we did in the past, are doing now and will continue to do;

He said... “They couldn’t happen if you didn’t pledge the money to make it happen”.

With the support of all, 2012 will be another great year in the life of BMPC and those it serves. Thank you.