



NEWSLETTER

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From Pastor Carrie

Greetings!

November is just starting out and in a few short weeks, most of us will be sitting around tables giving thanks. Gratitude is a BIG part of the Stewardship Season. This year's stewardship theme, "Better Together," has reminded us that as we usher in a new Reformation Period, we are "Better Together" when we strive to discern who God is calling BPC to be and what God is calling BPC to do. Nothing is more important than moving ahead with a unified vision of doing community together and serving the world around us. You were sent a "Generosity Brochure" last week. Please take a look at it and pray about your part in being a piece of the puzzle that brings BPC's mission and ministry to life; fill out your Generosity Brochure (front and back) and bring it to church on Nov. 12th as we celebrate in worship and as we eat together after church around tables at our Stewardship/Thanksgiving Dinner!

And while Thanksgiving activities with our families might not be quite over, a chill in the air is evident and the music is starting to play all throughout the malls and everywhere you go—it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! I do so love this season! But, in the church calendar, we have 4 weeks of spiritual preparation before we actually get to the Christmas Season. This period of preparation is called Advent. Advent is a time to focus on what the coming of the Christ child means to us and it is supposed to be a time of reflection and spiritual awakenings. Unfortunately, it seems that this season is anything but that! We are hurrying here and there, going to parties, trying to squeeze in too many shopping stints to get all our gifts bought, working at a frenzied pace, letter writing and cookie baking. With all of this "to do", we might forget that Jesus is really the reason for the season and that this season is for "being" with God, family and friends and not "doing" more and more that stresses us out!

As is the custom at BPC, we will begin the Advent Season with a Tree Lighting, starting at the Boyds Post Office, and after the ceremony, taking a hayride back to the church for our first ever "Advent Fair" in Kerr Hall. There, we will engage in advent stations that help us focus on God and others who need our attention and presence this month. Stay for an hour for fun, food and fellowship and in between, we will deck the halls.

Then, each Sunday we will celebrate Advent with our wreath lighting and litany, practical ideas to slow down and prepare our lives to be ready to receive the gift of a new born babe that came into this world and transformed those in it. We have a special treat during worship on December 17th, as our youth will lead us in worship.

Our youth will help us open our eyes to see Christmas everywhere and to make room for Jesus.

May this be a time of spiritual renewal and peace for you!

Blessings,
Carrie

From the General Assembly Co-Moderator

Let's Innovate Before We Have To

by Jan Edmiston

Walmart continues to be the largest company in the world. Love them or hate them, they are not merely amazing innovators; they innovate before they have to.

Sam Walton started Walmart in 1962 but through the years, he was a master of innovation. In the 1990s, Walmart went into rural areas while Kmart, for example, stayed in the suburbs.

It took Kmart 15 years to plant stores in rural areas.

As I was walking in the Chicago Loop last week, I noticed that Walmart has adapted once again. Among the sweeping skyscrapers, a Walmart Neighborhood Market stood out on a busy corner. Also within the city are a Walmart Express and even a Walmart Superstore. Urban Walmart stores have been around for several years now. By 2020, [Walmart projects](#) that there will be so many stores in the District of Columbia that 64% of the population will live within 2 miles of a Walmart.

So what can we learn as spiritual communities? Most of our congregations have not brought innovation to our church kitchens much less to our worship practices, our mission priorities or our organizational structures.

Why is that?

- **We tend to confuse “traditions” with “customs.”** We don't want to mess with “tradition” which (we think) means that we don't want to change the way we do the Christmas pageant. Actually, Advent is a church tradition. The Christmas pageant is a church custom. We can change customs to our hearts content. (Advent, on the other hand, will always be the four Sundays before Christmas and the days in between.)
- **We fear making mistakes.** If our congregation shames people who make mistakes we will never try anything new. Failure is immeasurably educational, though, and we need to do it more often.
- **We institutionalize customs.** We have a great chili dinner one year and somebody says, “*We should do this every year.*” Before you know it, we've had a chili dinner for 17 years and nobody likes it much anymore but “*we have to do it. It's what we do on the last weekend in October.*”
- **We innovate as a last ditch effort.** (And then it's too late.) We could have easily restructured our educational program or our leadership model years ago when we had the capacity to make effective change. But – for whatever reason – we didn't do it. Maybe we were complacent or we didn't want to offend somebody in power or we didn't see change coming. But we missed our window and now our educational program or our leadership pool are so depleted that we can't recover.

Last weekend, I visited a congregation of lively members who were clearly happy to be together, happy to work together, happy to serve. One member joyfully said, “*We never know what's going to happen around here!*”

Exactly. Innovation is part of their culture.

And innovation is not important for innovation's sake. It's important because the world is changing, our contexts are changing, our populations are changing. **Waiting to change the way we are the church doesn't serve the God who has called us.**

Upcoming & Recurring Events



The **Choir** meets every Wednesday at 2pm at Jane Dassen's house. Contact Jane at 301-948-9816 if you're interested in joining.



The **M&Ms** (Mission and Merriment group) meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month in Pollock-Williams Hall, from 11 am to 1 pm. At each meeting, we start with a devotion, have a brief business meeting and then make two fleece blankets. Each month, two blankets are made for baby cribs, and two are for youth-sized beds. These blankets are given to a pregnancy center and the Children's Advocacy Center, both in Frederick.

Some members of M&Ms carry out knitting and crocheting projects at their homes, making prayer shawls and hats for those who lose their hair due to chemotherapy. The prayer shawls are given to anyone struggling with illness or loss. The hats are distributed to oncology units and cancer treatment centers and anyone who wants one for a friend or relative.

Contact Marj Turbyfill at 301-972-0265 if you are interested in receiving any of the items we provide and for more information.



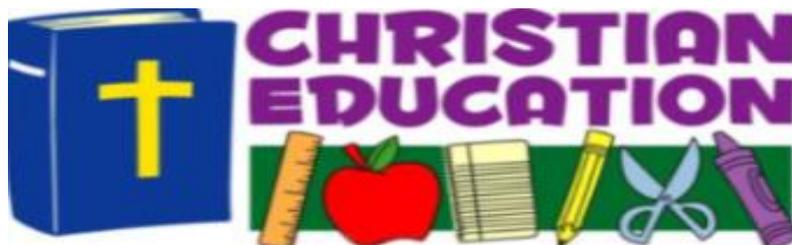
Lunch Bunch meets the second Tuesday of each month at various restaurants. The next gathering is November 14th at noon at *Carrabba's* in Germantown. For reservations, contact Pat Royals at 301-540-9035 by Sunday, November 12th.



Men's Fellowship meets the second Saturday of each month, now at *IHOP* in Germantown. We welcome all men to join us for a hearty breakfast, devotion with discussion and good conversation. The next gathering is November 11th at 8am. For more information, contact Rowland New at 301-882-7151.



Soul Sisters will meet Thursday, November 16th at *Bennigan's* in the Clarksburg. Come join us anytime between 6:30-9pm for fun, fellowship, and food with friends.



This year we are using a rotation model with the Deep Blue curriculum. Over the next 7-8 weeks, kids will explore the story of Paul preaching about the Fruit of the Spirit using art, cooking, games, mission, science activities and spiritual practices, as well as story and drama. Children will attend the beginning of the 9:30am worship service and then meet downstairs for class time from 9:45- 10:30. If you are interested in helping out please contact Pastor Carrie or Dee Smith.

Youth Group Schedule

Sun, Nov 12	5:00-6:30pm, Kerr Hall
Sun, Nov 19	5:00-6:30pm, Kerr Hall
Sun, Nov 26	No Youth Group- Happy Thanksgiving!
Fri, Dec 1	Tree Lighting/Advent Celebration 7pm, Post Office, then Kerr Hall. Possible caroling date TDB
Sun, Dec 3	5:00-6:30pm, Kerr Hall
Sun, Dec 10	5:00-6:30p, Kerr Hall
Sun, Dec 17	10am-Family Advent Service, Kerr Hall
Sun, Jan 7	5:00-6:30pm, Kerr Hall



On November 29th, the **Adult Study Group** will begin a 4-week advent study titled Because of Bethlehem Love is Born, Hope is Here by Max Lucado. Contact Dick Ernst at 301-540-2143 for more information and material.

CHURCH NEWS

From the Deacons

The Deacons met on October 9th. The deacons continued discussing the coordination of duties with the Worship, Fellowship and Mission Teams. The collections for those affected by the hurricanes were a huge success. A new collection for Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas Angel Tree will begin soon. Thank you to those providing donations and our organizers for these collections to support those in need!

Next meeting: Monday, 11/13 at 7pm in P-W Hall.

From the Trustees

The Board of Trustees and Pastor Carrie Yearick met on Tuesday, October 24th. Pam Holston gave an update on the present status of burials in our cemetery. The HVAC system in the Vail Building was repaired. The appliances in the kitchen have been checked and new controls installed in the ovens. A new street address sign has been installed on the Vail Building. Some drywall repair and painting has been done in P-W Hall, and the problem with the back door has been fixed. Both closets in P-W Hall have been reconfigured. Discussed forming a sign committee to address the various signs needed for the Church.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 11/28 at 7pm in P-W Hall.

PNC Update

By Mark Stunder, PNC Chair

The PNC offered a call to a candidate. Unfortunately, that candidate declined. The PNC and Session are strategizing as to the next steps in the process.

Please continue to keep the PNC in your thoughts and prayers!

The PNC: Carole Beal, Anne Davies, Ginger Gibson, Glenn Karta, Nancy Knott, Margaret Leaman, Rowland New, Moira Ruth, Mark Stunder (Chair)

Hurricane Relief

Our church was able to contribute nine large boxes of emergency supplies for victims of recent hurricanes and flooding. Moyer and Sons Moving and Storage, of Clarksburg, generously donated two full-sized moving vans to transport supplies, from churches and individuals, to Texas and Florida during September and October. We really appreciate the local company's swift response to the disasters that occurred within the southern states of our country. We also thank each person from BPC who contributed to this important effort

Thanksgiving Baskets for WUMCO



Mission and Merriment (M&Ms) is sponsoring a Thanksgiving food drive on behalf of Western Upper Montgomery County Help (WUMCO). WUMCO provides those in need with emergency food, as well as financial assistance for housing and utility costs, medicines and medical procedures, and Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets.

The food items they would like are:

- canned string beans, corn, peas, or lima beans
- stuffing mix or stuffing cubes/crumbs
- sauerkraut
- mashed or other potatoes, fresh potatoes, fresh sweet potatoes
- anything else someone would make for a Thanksgiving dinner

Please no cranberries or cranberry sauce - they already have plenty of this.

If you would like to give money, WUMCO suggests gift cards from Giant or Safeway. Please place any gift cards in the offering plates during Sunday service.

Food collection bins are located in the sanctuary, Pollock-Williams Hall, and the Vail Education Building.

Please bring in your donations by November 19th.

The Mission Ministry



Appreciation and Gratitude to our Mission & Merriment group and Ken & Carole Beal hosting one of the October fellowships; to everyone who contributed to the Potluck; to Mary Beitzel for cleaning the church.

BETTERtogether



Fellowship Hosting is needed during the first three or four weeks of each month. The last Sunday of each month is designated as "Potluck." The sign-up sheet is in P-W Hall. Join with a friend or other family or two to host Fellowship between the services.



Prayer List

Pray for grieving:

Family and friends of those who died during October:

Greg Boivin, Xia Martinez, Arolyn Barjam, Mike Sutherland, Lt Col Bill Askins, and Steve Orach.

Pray for healing:

Gene Ahalt; Gwen Alred; Cindy Ashley; Carlos Aulestia; Wynona Beuz; Marie Bishop; Susan Blackman; Nell Brewer; Michael Broschart; Cornelia & Cornelia Ann Burr; Charles Shepherd Burton; Dave & Judy Cullen; Nancy Daughtry; Earl Dillehay; Averi Donat; Billy Dorsey; Harry Dove; Sandy; Bruce Gibson; Mary Grafton; Ruth Hoyt; Daniel Inscoe; Joe Katran; Kenny; Carey Beth King; Kaisy Knott; Samuel, Adrienne & Carmela Lopez; Jack Louth; Debbie Mantel; Jane Mote; Carol Nair; Jean Phillips; Rex Reed; Carolyn & John Repass; Jim Rhea; Nicholas Turbyfill; Arthur Virts; Winfill family; Gene Younkin; those who have recently lost loved ones; active members of armed services and their families; and members of the pastor nominating committee. Pray for communities and nations recovering from natural disasters. Pray for those recovering from their war wounds, for victims of violence and war throughout the world.

140th Anniversary Pictures

If you contributed pictures for the 140th anniversary celebration and have not picked them up, they are in the church office. They will also be in Kerr Hall during the Stewardship Dinner.

Generosity Brochure 2018

Please have each adult/youth in your family fill out front and back of this generosity brochure

Name _____

Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Can you receive a text on this phone? ____ Yes ____ No

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Date of Birth _____ That means I am _____ years old.

E-mail(s) _____

Some Things About Me:

I work:

- Mainly outside the home

Name of company _____ Part-time ____ Full Time

My Position is _____

- Mainly at home
 I'm Retired
 I'm in school. What School? _____ Grade/Degree Sought _____

What community project would you like BPC to do in the next year? Dream BIG! _____

My favorite place/group to volunteer at/with is _____

If you & your spouse/partner give/pledge together, only one of you needs to fill this part.



BETTERtogether

Name(s) _____

Pick one of the following:

Weekly \$ _____ per week

Monthly \$ _____ per month

For a Total of \$ _____ annually

NAME _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THE BOXES THAT APPLY TO YOU!

Worship

- I have been in a play or musical
- I like to paint or draw
- I can quilt
- I am very creative
- I have worked on set design
- I love scrap booking
- I know some things about sound systems
- I like photography
- I know how to make slideshows
- I like to do photo editing
- I am a computer geek
- I like to sing
- I have sung a solo
- I play an instrument- _____
- I wouldn't mind layleading in worship
- I like creative writing
- I have a great faith story to tell

Building & Grounds

- I have done plumbing work
- I like to work with electrical stuff
- I am pretty much a "handyperson" at heart
- I have done tile work
- I have done some construction work
- Mechanical stuff intrigues me
- I like landscaping
- I have painting experience
- I like woodworking
- I can help clean the Sanctuary

Fellowship

- I can bake
- I love greeting people at the church
- I find it easy to talk with people
- I have a heart for making new comers feel welcome
- I like to plan fellowship events
- I love interior design & fellowship setup
- I love helping to bring a special event alive

Christian Education

- I like to teach kids
- I like to lead youth
- I like to teach adults
- I know the Bible inside and out
- I have been in a small group
- I would like to be in a small group
- I would like to lead a small group
- I have theological training
- I have a social work/counseling background
- I like storytelling
- I would like to be in a book club
- I can help with Vacation Bible Camp
- I like to teach toddlers

Mission

- I have worked with the homeless
- I would make a casserole for a homeless shelter
- I'm interested in going on a mission trip
- I've been on a mission trip
- I like to visit older adults
- I like to take communion to people who can't make it to church
- I like to visit those who are sick or in the hospital
- I crochet or knit
- I'm interested in a women's fellowship group
- I'm interested in a men's fellowship group

Administration

- I have a background in finance
- I love numbers
- I know some things about investing
- I like fundraising
- I want to leave the church a gift when I die
- I have funds to give for worthy projects
- I have time to give to church projects
- I have an HR background
- I have website creation/maintenance experience



- November 4 – Turn clocks back 1 hour @ bedtime
- November 7 – Election Day
- November 11 – Veteran's Day
- November 12 – Stewardship Dinner, 1 blended svc @ 10:30am
- November 13 – Office Closed
- November 23 – Thanksgiving Day
- November 24 – Office Closed
- November 26 – Potluck
- November 27 – Newsletter Deadline



Annual Stewardship Dinner

**Sunday, November 12th after
one blended service @ 10:30am**

The church provides the turkey, dressing, gravy, potatoes, green beans, sauerkraut, rolls and beverages.

Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share!

**Sign-up sheets are in P-W Hall, Kerr Hall, and the Sanctuary.
Please indicate name, number of people attending, and item to share.**

Sign-up early so we know how many turkeys to buy!