

February, 2014

# THE WARNER MEMO



Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

[www.warnermemorial.org](http://www.warnermemorial.org)

[Online February Calendar](#)

## WORSHIPING TOGETHER IN FEBRUARY

### Sunday, February 2

Communion

Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

“Being, Doing”

### Sunday, February 9

*Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday*

Matthew 5: 13-16; Ephesians 2: 11-22

“One in Christ”

Jan Moody Preaching

### Sunday, February 16

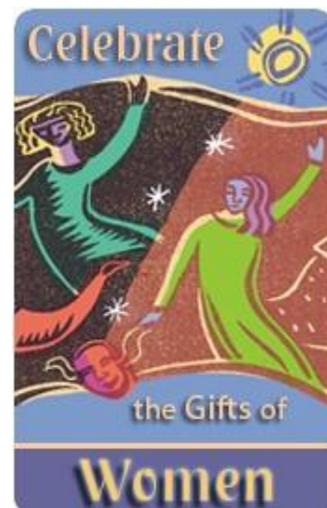
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 5:21-37

“Beyond Doing the Right Thing”

### Sunday, February 23

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Matthew 5:38-48

“Resistance That Isn’t Futile”



Please support the Warner Memorial **Deacons’ Fund** by contributing on the first Sunday of each month. You may use the special envelopes in the pew racks. Please give generously to help our neighbors in need.

Any and every day, you can nourish the spirits and fill the stomachs of adults and children living in our midst in this county. Simply bring in cans and boxes of non-perishable food for our receptacle in the narthex – it’s the **“For I Was Hungry...” barrel**. Food placed in the barrel goes to the **Mid-county United Ministries (MUM)** pantry for needy folks. Thank you!

Copies of the **2013 Warner Annual Reports** booklet are available on the table near the C.E. office in the Church’s main hallway. Reading these annual reports is a good method of finding more of who we are and what we are about as a community of faith and purpose.

Note: This month’s cover photo is by June Eakin, showing the Louise Horn memorial window in the redecorated Warner parlor.

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear members and friends,

Many of us are familiar with the myriad of television shows or movies that are spiced with bathroom humor (in my view, a general demonstration of a lack of cleverness among the writers for these shows). I don't think I like what it says about humanity that so many of us have an interest in vulgar humor or vulgar language that focuses on something as natural as waste material from our bodies. Instead of bathroom humor, I wanted to write in this Memo article about bathroom theology. I do so as construction work on our accessible restroom here in the church building is about to commence.



Bathroom theology can help us keep our faith from being so heavenly-focused that it is no earthly good. First, with hopes that you won't think this too crass, even Jesus had to pee and poop. Yes, he was fully human and fully divine. When we get right down to what being human is, a big part of it has to do with our human bodies and how God enables them to function. Our bodies help us know that we are not created to be totally independent. We regularly need nutrition from beyond ourselves in order to live. We take in what is life-sustaining and, with God's wonderful design, our bodies release waste products. That's a pretty good system.

Second, we are all similar in this regard, but some of us differ in the area of mobility, which gives our congregation an opportunity to show sensitivity to particular needs. Jesus, in his ministry, frequently showed that addressing practical physical needs (for food, shelter, or mobility) in a loving way demonstrated godliness. If our spirituality is totally separated from our physicality, then we'll be ignoring a large part of the practical best God intends for us. Some need a little more room or support to do what humans are supposed to do.

So our accessible restroom which will be across from the Common Room will give adequate space along with support bars for those with a wheel chair or walker. Having such facilities will help Warner move closer to being a house of prayer for all people. The restroom will also have a changing table for fathers or mothers to use in changing diapers (because babies pee and poop too, and we want to show we are sensitive to the needs of all ages).

Is bathroom theology a fitting issue to discuss in the pastor's note? Perhaps not, but with our new facilities, there will soon be some among us who will have one more reason to be grateful to God. Nothing wrong with that!

Proving once again your pastor has strange thoughts now and then,

Kirby Lawrence Hill

## BOARD OF DEACONS



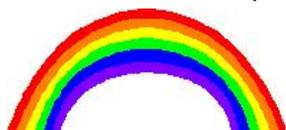
Dear Friends,

Shortly before Christmas I received a piece of junk mail in our mailbox that was just another solicitation. Most of the time, I throw out this type of mail without opening it up.

For whatever reason that particular evening, I decided to open this piece of mail. Enclosed was a pretty note with a picture of a dove and a quote that I would like to share:

*“On the street I saw a small girl cold and shivering in a thin dress, with little hope of a decent meal. I became angry and said to God: why did you permit this? Why don’t you do something about it? For a while God said nothing. That night He replied quite suddenly: ‘I certainly did something about it, I made you.’”*

While this quote is about a child, it made me think about the homeless of this area and what we can do ( and have done ) as a congregation and as individuals....



**In February**, we will have another opportunity to help the homeless through the **preparation and serving of dinners at Rainbow Place shelter**. Rainbow Place is a women’s shelter located at Rockville Presbyterian Church, and the deacons are once again coordinating Warner’s efforts to assist there. *Sign-up charts will soon be available outside the church office to either prepare a dish or serve on Saturday evenings all month.*

The women there always enjoy the food from Warner and often say they wish we could serve there all the time. They also delight in the company of the servers....Food for the soul as well as the body.

If you have always wanted to sign-up to prepare a dish but have hesitated because you are unsure what to prepare, the women of Rainbow Place prefer simple comfort food.... casserole dishes, sliced ham, lasagna, mashed potatoes...if you still have any questions on food to prepare, or on being a server, please ask a deacon. Please also check Sunday bulletins in February for updates and further information. The Board of Deacons and the women of Rainbow Place thank you!!!!

*Stay tuned to the March MEMO for news of Spring Deacon activities.*

Elizabeth Bunn, Moderator



# WINTER FEST

Children's  
Carnival



February 8, 2014



10am-2pm

Learning Center for Young Children

Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

10123 Connecticut Avenue, Kensington MD

MOON BOUNCE

CHILDREN'S CRAFT ROOM

SILENT AUCTION

CARNIVAL GAMES

FAMILY PHOTO BOOTH

BAKE SALE

LUNCH BY ARMAND'S PIZZA

PERFORMANCES BY "THE BANJO MAN" FRANK CASSEL!



\*SNOW DATE: FEBRUARY 22

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### **WARNER YOUTH GROUP REPORT: SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2014**

The youth are happy to report that 88 cans of soup for Mid-County-Ministry were collected and \$187.00 was collected for the local charity, Montgomery County Humane Society, in support of SOUPER BOWL of Caring. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort to care for all of God's creation.



### **SAVE THE DATE**



The youth are calling on skiers and snowboarders interested in forming a group to go to Whitetail Resort on February 17, President's Day. For information about the resort, go to their website:

<https://www.skiwhitetail.com/winter>.

To receive group rates, we need 15 people to sign up! To join the group, see Jan Moody.

### **A DAY OF SERVICE**

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Grace Hill, Linnea Hjelmstedt, Charlotte Cook, Shane Gillette, Simon Winter, Andrei Pinkus, Julia Cope, Ana Pinkus, Hannah Cope, Janet Tennent, and Jan Moody joined the Interfaith Youth for Climate Justice for a day of service in Columbia Heights, D.C. We helped with a light bulb swap campaign. People were offered free energy efficient light bulbs in exchange for their old light bulbs. We then ate lunch together and shared stories from the day in small groups. It was wonderful to hear a variety of experiences including meeting a woman who had marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in a freedom march and who was very grateful for the free light bulbs. Warner youth hope to join IYCF for another service project in April.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (cont...)

### **WARNER'S THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY AND ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We call your attention to Warner's adult classes. On Thursday mornings at 10:00, Rev. Hill leads a Bible study class in the common room. This class reads and explores the upcoming Bible verses for the next Sunday.

On Sunday mornings at 9:30, also in the common room, Susan Bates leads an adult class based on the curriculum, "Feasting on the Word." This Class delves into the applications and meanings for us of that day's Bible passages to be used in worship.

YOU are welcome to come and participate in these class opportunities.

## COMMUNITY

### **"TWO CENTS-A-MEAL" CONTRIBUTIONS ARE A MONTHLY BLESSING**

After worship on January 19 several of our members gathered again in the Common Room to count the monthly "2 Cents-a-Meal" offering, which goes to help hunger relief programs both near and far. We collected \$306.50, our best monthly total in a long time. From the January and February "2 Cents" collections, 40% will go to Rainbow Place Women's Shelter at Rockville Presbyterian Church and the remainder goes to Presbyterian-led programs – regional, nationwide and overseas.



We have been collecting Two Cents-a-Meal for more than two decades. Thank you for your generosity and dedication to this monthly offering, and blessings to the people whose bodies and spirits are fed by it.

--Ann Rakow

## NOTES FROM SESSION

### **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

At the January Session meeting, officers-elect (those who will be on the Session or Diaconate) were examined to approve them for ordination and/or installation. They were each asked to reflect on one of these three prompts: (1) Share a bit about your faith journey; (2) Tell about a time when you had a special sense of God's presence with you; (3) Tell why you believe God is calling you to be a church officer at Warner at this time. All of the officers-elect were approved for ordination/installation. We thanked Kay Gorman, Bill Landfair, and Barbara Shaw for their dedicated service, as they are about to rotate off the Session.

We received reports on Warner's year-end financial status and the construction financial report. Update on the construction progress was also given – we hope that the accessible restroom will be completed by the end of February and that the elevator will be in place in May.

Approval was given for the Presbyterian Women to head a renewed effort to sell Equal Exchange fair trade items (particularly coffee) during our Sunday receptions after worship.

### **WARNER MEMORIAL'S AIM/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN – YEAR 2**



Although our Access In Motion (AIM) projects have moved at a much slower pace than we had originally hoped for, much has been accomplished. We are all enjoying the beautiful new floors in the social hall and in the downstairs hallway. Work is in progress for our updated fire alarm system and the related enclosure of the narthex stairwells. In addition, by the time you read this, work should have started on our accessible restroom on the main floor across from the Common Room. The foundation for the elevator addition to the building has been laid, as evidenced by the big pile of dirt in front of the church. The elevator itself has been ordered and should arrive in April. Installing the insulation above the sanctuary can begin when the electrical work has been completed.

A total of \$183,114 in pledges and gifts were received by the end of 2013. As noted in the Annual Report, we did not need to draw upon our loan to pay for any expenses incurred and billed in 2013. We are thankful to each and every person and business who have donated so far. To date, \$83,780 has been pledged by members and friends for 2014. Again, we are thankful to each and everyone who has made their pledge for this year and

## NOTES FROM SESSION (cont...)

have started making their donations. In your box of church envelopes this year you found a new green envelope marked “Improvement Fund.” You are encouraged to use this for your capital campaign donation. You may also use the white pew envelopes; clearly indicate “capital campaign” on the front of the envelope, please.

And it is not too late to make a pledge or unannounced donation to our capital campaign for 2014. Simply use one of the white pew envelopes and make your intentions known with either a donation or note of intended pledge for the year. All gifts, small or large, are gratefully received.

PS to the AIM Committee section of the Annual Report for 2014: No mention was made of the important contributions made by Barbara Shaw to the work of this committee. Barbara brings enthusiasm, knowledge, attention to detail, astute questioning, and willingness to do much of the follow up and reporting needed to make this committee work effectively.

--Kay Gorman

### **PRESBYTERY MEETING**

National Capital Presbytery met on January 28, with Susan Middleswarth and Jim Bresee joining Kirby in attendance at the meeting. Among the significant actions at the meeting was the adoption of two overtures to this summer’s General Assembly having to do with a proposed change to Presbyterian policy regarding marriage. One overture would change wording in the Directory of Worship in the Book of Order so that marriage would no longer be defined as only between one man and one woman. Currently, Presbyterian pastors are not allowed to officiate a same gender wedding. The proposed change would permit but not mandate the participation of teaching elders (pastors) in the marriage of same gender couples in states where such marriages are legal. The second overture dealt with the same topic, but had to do with how such a decision would be implemented by an authoritative interpretation of the General Assembly instead of by ratification of such a change by the presbyteries. After much discussion, both overtures passed with strong voice votes. Such changes would not take effect unless adopted by General Assembly.

The presbytery also had a long discussion about whether to authorize an administrative commission to step in to take control of the governance of a congregation which has been



**NATIONAL CAPITAL**  
P R E S B Y T E R Y  
Missional · Pastoral · Prophetic

## NOTES FROM SESSION (cont...)

unwilling to work with presbytery in choosing and paying its pastor. A decision in this matter will be delayed until our May meeting.

Updates and revisions in the presbytery's compensation policy for pastors and certified educators were adopted.

Our own Mark Eakin was elected to serve on presbytery's Mission Coordination Commission.

Larry Hayward, pastor of Westminster Church in Alexandria concluded his service as Moderator. Diane Hutchins, minister member at large, is our new Moderator and Rudy Cohen, Ruling Elder from Burke Presbyterian, is our new Vice-Moderator.

-- Jim Bresee, Susan Middleswarth and Kirby Lawrence Hill

## ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

### **A NOTICE FROM WARNER'S PLEDGE BOOKKEEPERS**

To all members and friends of Warner: Your 2013 Giving statements are available for you to pick up. On Sunday, February 2, they will be in boxes (alphabetized) in the narthex before worship, and in the social hall during the fellowship time. Any statements not picked up in the next week or so will be mailed out. Thank you for saving us the postage by getting your individual envelope with the annual statement, and thanks for your support.

Boxes of offering envelopes are still available. If you do not have a box of weekly or monthly envelopes, but would like one, please contact Sharon Allen; a new number can be assigned to you.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The 2013 holiday season may be past, but the warm glow of the annual PW Christmas Party lingers.



A fabulous group of ladies gathered at Lisa Smeallie's home on a cold December evening, ate way too many delicious cookies, and sang not nearly enough carols, led by none other than John Horman! It was such a fun evening that highlighted what makes the Warner community so special.



### WINTER RETREAT

Five Warner women traveled over the river and through the woods to Bishop Claggett Conference Center to participate in a planned retreat with the theme of, "God's Magic Kingdom" on the weekend of January 17-19. It may have been cold and windy outside, but



they received a hearty welcome and the atmosphere was warm and inviting as they joined 20 or so other women for small and large group discussions and worship throughout the weekend. Attendees enjoyed not only getting

to know each other better, but also had an opportunity to meet other women, most of whom were Episcopal, and make new friends. It was a lot of fun and the setting was beautiful, even in the bleak mid-winter.



### ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY

#### GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY -- FEBRUARY 9, 2014



Warner's very own Jan Moody, Director of Christian Education, will be preaching this Sunday. Jan became a Presbyterian Woman on the day she was baptized as a member of Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

more than 20 years ago. As a member of the congregation she has served as a deacon, Stephen Minister, and former secretary for the PW Leadership Team. She joined the Warner Church staff as director of youth and Christian education in 1995 and continues to coordinate religious programming for children, youth, and adults. Even though she believes she has been called in ministry to teach rather than preach, she welcomes the opportunity to serve as one of the worship leaders for the Celebrate the Gifts of Women service.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (cont...)



During the 9:30 Sunday school hour, Susan Kirk of First Alliance Church will speak to the adult class in the Common Room. Ms Kirk is “The Shop For Freedom” Manager at Justice Ventures

International (JVI). Justice Ventures is a justice non-profit that provides legal casework, training, and advocacy for victims of extreme injustice. Come learn and engage with one another to learn why sex trafficking happens, what is being done to alleviate this extreme injustice that is close to God's heart, and how you can make a difference. We plan to discuss, problem-solve and develop a better understanding of the second largest crime in the world today. Don't miss the opportunity to hear stories from women trapped in the sex trade and the hope and freedom they now experience doing dignified work, being part of a family, and mentoring others. Several years ago, JVI also began to partner with freedom businesses Freetset and Starfish Project to distribute merchandise made by survivors of sex trafficking in India and China. You will have an opportunity to purchase merchandise from them at Fellowship Hour that day.

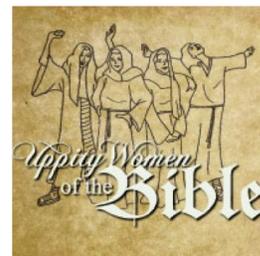
Ana Pinkus will be the liturgist that day and Presbyterian Women will host Fellowship Hour. If you would like to help with that effort, please contact one of the members of the PW Coordinating Team. *We are hoping to use the silver service – it has been a long time!*

### **CIRCLE MEETINGS**

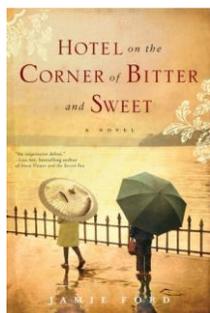
Reflection Circle will not meet in February so that its members can attend the Sunday school class led by Susan Kirk on February 9th.

### **JOY CIRCLE -- FEBRAURY 11, 2014**

Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, February 11 at 7:30 PM in the church library to continue our video Bible Study series, “Uppity Women of the Bible.” It is safe to say that all who have attended have found this to be a very thought-provoking and amusing study. At this meeting we will finish our discussion of the book of Ruth. Summary materials will be provided ahead of time for those who want to catch up as well as for those of us whose memories need a little help. But all are welcome, with or without preparation.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (cont...)



### **BOOK CLUB MEETS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2014**

For those who plan/read ahead, the following Book Club event will be Friday, February 21st. We will be meeting at Ginny Atwood's home at 7:00 pm. The book selection for that evening is "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet", which per Wikipedia, "... is a bestselling novel (2009) by Jamie Ford about the love and friendship between Henry Lee, a Chinese boy, and Keiko Okabe, a Japanese girl, during the Japanese internment in World War II. They both attend an (otherwise) white prep school as "scholarship students" in Seattle. Henry's father is adamantly anti-Japanese, as is the increasingly hostile general population of Seattle following the Attack on Pearl Harbor. In spite of this, Henry and Keiko begin an intense friendship until Keiko is taken to an internment camp with her family...". Please plan to join us and invite others who may be interested. Also, if you are willing to host a book club night at your home or suggest a venue, please contact Lisa Smeallie or Sue Burns.

### **EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE RETURNS**

PW has decided to take on responsibility for this fair trade coffee program and plans to take orders for Equal Exchange coffee products during the month of February at Fellowship Hour. We will kick off this program on Sunday, February 9th and also take orders on Sunday, February 16th. For those who may not be familiar, these origin coffees highlight the nuanced flavors that are unique to specific regions and geography, from fruity and complex Ethiopian beans, to balanced and chocolaty Peruvian ones. The Equal Exchange organization has worked with small-scale farmers and their co-ops for over 25 years and small farmer sourcing is part of its to seek out the best-tasting ingredients from innovative producer groups and provide them as sustainably and directly as possible. Warner has served Equal Exchange caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee at Fellowship events for several years. Depending on the response, we may be able to offer other items in the future, but please plan to place your orders. Sue Burns and Nancy Lawrence-Hill are your points of contact for this effort.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (cont...)

### **WOMEN SERVING WOMEN AT RAINBOW PLACE, FEBRUARY 22ND**

We thought it would be fun for Warner Women to provide the meal and serve at Rainbow Place as a group, and have informed the deacon coordinator that we have selected Saturday, February 22. If you would be interested in joining us in this effort, please contact Sue Burns; look for the sign-up chart once it is posted (in the main hallway near the office) in February. We also may end the evening with coffee/dessert at a nearby venue. Please think about joining us that evening.



--Sue Burns

## OUTREACH AND FELLOWSHIP



On the Outreach & Fellowship bulletin board in the Warner church main hallway there is a sign-up sheet for those who would like to host the Sunday after-worship Fellowship Hours in coming weeks. If you are able, please consider volunteering for this – remember that you can combine efforts with others as a group. **Thank you!**

## WARNER PEOPLE

### **SUPPORTING ONE OF OUR FAMILIES**

As many of you know, Rebecca Garber, while expecting her and Ted's first child, underwent major surgery for an emergency condition at the end of October. She was in intensive care for several weeks. Little Sydney was not due until the beginning of February, but had to come early because of Rebecca's condition. She was in intensive neo-natal care for quite some time. Rebecca continues with treatments five days a week. If there are those who are able and want to give financial support to the Garbers, the Session has approved publicizing an effort set up through the following web address: [www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/qjk3/team-reb](http://www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/qjk3/team-reb)



## WARNER PEOPLE (cont...)



### STEPHEN MINISTRY FULFILLS A VITAL MISSION

In recent years, Warner's Stephen Ministry program has expanded to include more Stephen ministers from other nearby churches. As Barbara Jaquette, our Stephen Leader, mentioned in a previous Warner Annual Report, we have now become more fully the "Stephen Ministry of Kensington." These partnerships enhance the program.

Stephen Ministers do not "fix" anything, but rather listen and serve as companions discretely to serve their "care-receivers." To receive the care of a Stephen Minister, speak to Barbara Jaquette or Rev. Hill.

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Scott Daugherty
- 2 Andrew D'Souza, Sumatie Colbert
- 3 Bob McNeil
- 4 Dana Lemaster, Andrew Stalker
- 8 Telsche Seeley, Kay Gorman
- 9 Carol Brewka, Pam Creel
- 11 Tiff Carroll, Asha Datta
- 12 Andrew Letizia, Laura Batis
- 15 Kelly Locher
- 23 Jonathan Brodsky, Henry Dunn
- 25 Ann Rakow, Bill Landfair
- 26 Kathy Swendiman, Sharon Allen
- 27 Sasha Letizia
- 28 Anne Hancock



### MARCH MEMO ISSUE

Please submit articles and notices for the March Warner MEMO any time before Thursday, **February 20**. To all of our contributors: You may send your material via disk or typed hardcopy to the church office, or via e-mail to [memo@warnermemorial.org](mailto:memo@warnermemorial.org). ... and we thank you for your contributions!

## **Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church**

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- Please see bulletin boards outside the Main Office -

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Music Director: Kate Carr

Organist: Alina Belenky

Director, Learning Center for Young Children: Karen Murphy

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Administrative Assistant: June Eakin

Nursery Attendants: Robin Feller & Shannon Stalker

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