

September 2019

# THE WARNER MEMO



Gladys C. Lipton

[Return to 11:00am Worship Schedule on September 8!](#)

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
WARNER MEMORIAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[September Calendar](#)

## MEET OUR NEW INTERIM PASTOR!



We are pleased to welcome Rev. Leslieanne Adkins Braunstein as our new interim pastor. She has extensive experience, having served in interim ministries at Fairlington, Bush Hill, Western, and Hope Presbyterian churches. She is also experienced in providing pastoral care, having served as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care at Potomac Presbyterian, and as chaplain at Goodwin House in Alexandria.

A native of New York City, Leslieanne felt called to ministry following a 15-year career as a law office administrator for firms in New York and California. She notes that these years in management “honed her organizational, managerial, and analytical skills.” She is also a trained mediator and describes herself as an “empathetic and effective listener.”

In describing the ministry setting to which she believes God is calling her, Rev. Braunstein writes: “I wish to serve in ministry with a congregation that is mindful that we live every day in the school of Christ; that recognizes our spiritual life is a journey rather than a destination; that knows its vision and mission are God’s gifts, deeply rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Leslianne lives with her husband Richard Braunstein, a retired attorney, in Washington, DC. They have three children and six grandchildren. She is a proud member of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe (Eastern Division) in Providence Forge, VA, one of the seven Virginia tribes that recently received Federal recognition.

Rev. Braunstein feels a connection with Warner Memorial, having served as guest pastor at worship on April 28, July 7, and August 25. She will begin her official duties as interim pastor on September 1.

Warner is blessed to have Rev. Braunstein lead us on the final leg of our journey toward calling a new installed pastor.

With joy, gratitude, and hope in God's vision for Warner,

The Session of Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

**Sunday, September 1 Lord's Supper Served**

**Sunday, September 8 Rally Day! Return to 11am Worship**

**Sunday, September 29 Worship with Ken-Gar**

### **A Worship Note from Pastor Leslieanne**

Beginning September 8, our worship will focus on "What Disciples Do" – a topic I am pretty certain is near and dear to the hearts of Warnerites. The series is structured according to "A Preacher's Guide to Lectionary Sermon Series," compiled by Jessica Miller Kelley and contributed to by a myriad of fabulous preachers and teachers. I am excited to be delving into these scriptures with this particular perspective, accompanied by these faithful colleagues. The series introduction says: "Although Christians are often identified by what they believe, Jesus seemed to care more about what his followers did. Faith practices along with theological beliefs, are crucial to Christianity." I am looking forward to exploring a wide variety of topics that will challenge us to lean into and live out Jesus' call to follow him.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



### **Rally Day is Sunday, September 8, 2019!**

The Christian Education Commission welcomes you “Back to Church School” for a new CE year!

Our regular Sunday morning schedule includes educational offerings for all ages and starts on Rally Day:

- 9:30am Intergenerational Story
- 9:45am Adult Bible Study & Youth Choir
- 10:15am Youth & Children’s Bible Studies
- 10:30am Adult Choir
- 11:0 am Worship
- 12:15pm Fellowship

During Fellowship hour on Rally Day, CE will display historical materials compiled by Hannah Cope, Sharon Allen, and others to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the church, as we go into the 126th year in the life of this particular church.

This year’s Sunday school curriculum is from “Feasting on the Word,” a lectionary-based resource that is produced within our denomination. All ages study the same texts in a manner accessible to each within close learning communities where faith is nurtured

and questions are affirmed. Children, youth, and adult classes are always open to new participants.

Additionally, other studies are being planned for this year, including a study that will help us to grow in our understanding of the Ten Commandments as a loving gift that nurtures our lives of faith, utilizing a new curriculum titled “Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.”

We welcome all teachers – including teachers of children and adults – to come to our Teacher Training after worship on Sep. 15 and/or Sep. 22. Please fill out a survey to indicate your availability, click [here!](#) In addition to reviewing available resources – new and old – we will hear about other new plans for education at the church!

Dave Grace, C.E. Director

## COMMISSION TO THE COMMUNITY

### Art Open House at Interfaith Works Women’s Center



Gladys C. Lipton’s artwork

Mark and June Eakin, Kay Gorman, Ina Rae Kramer, JoEllen LaPrade, and Marilyn Victory eagerly accepted the invitation to attend an Art Open House held at the Interfaith Works Women’s Center on August 18.

From the moment we arrived we were warmly greeted by both the staff and the women who live at the Center while they are preparing to transition to stable housing. Our experience reminded us that we all have more in common, more that makes us one, than what makes us separate.

First we were invited into an area where food is served, and given snacks and beverages by smiling staff members who urged us to gather around Gladys C. Lipton, the artist whose artwork is currently on display at the Center, to hear her inspiring story. Women who live at the Center, referred to as guests, knew they were also welcome to attend this gathering, and so her audience was comprised of maybe 20 people, some guests of the facility, some Gladys's family members, and some who responded to the poster which was made available to the community, as we did. We still have ours posted on the CTC bulletin board.

This remarkably warm and engaging woman once had a career as a foreign language teacher in an elementary school. She must have been revered. Eight years ago, she found herself in a new place - retired, grieving the loss of her husband of more than 70 years, and she decided to try something she had never done before. She took up a paint brush, and now 600 paintings later, she is once again happy. . . mostly, inspiring others to live their lives fully, accepting what one must, and changing what one can.



Throughout the Center, on every available wall, the richly colorful, decorative, paintings of Gladys Lipton are displayed, and we were guided through the facility so that we could see them all, and at the same time notice what else was on the walls: information about how to earn your GED, how to apply for a job, which

volunteers were coming each day to teach classes in yoga, positive thinking, make-up application, knitting, etc.

From a handout we were given: “Interfaith Works depends on a network of dedicated volunteers to accomplish our goal of making Montgomery County (have) the lowest poverty rate county in Maryland. We help people find a path to lift themselves out of homelessness and poverty through integrated programs that prevent, stabilize, and empower.”

Each year there are three artists invited to have a show at the IW Women’s Center. Each is given an open house event, and the ability to have their art work displayed on the walls for several months. A staff member explained that “art takes us out of our Alpha Selves, and into our Beta Selves which is good.” Believing that art has the ability to heal, it is good to have it displayed for the residents, staff and visitors.

We will be informed when another artist is in residence at Interfaith Works Women’s Center so we can encourage others to visit the center and perhaps consider volunteering.

Questions? Email [volunteer@iworksmc.org](mailto:volunteer@iworksmc.org)

Ina Rae Kramer

### **One Journey Festival**

Ina Rae Kramer, Jo Ellen LaPrade, Susan Bresee and Geoff Cope attended the second annual One Journey Festival Saturday June 29 on the grounds of the National Cathedral in Washington. It was an extremely hot and humid summer day. Ina Rae, Jo Ellen and Susan came early, and walked in the shade slowly from one booth to the next, enjoying their packed lunches at the shaded picnic tables along the way. Geoff came later in the day.

The theme of several of the booths that described outreach to people in other cultures and countries could have been called “third-world-meets-new-world.” United Nations sponsored technology helps find lost refugee family members with the use of non-invasive retina scans. Another booth let us experience a 3-D virtual reality African village: a family’s visit to a medical clinic and the family meal of stew eaten by hand from a shared wooden pot. We were in the very same rooms as they were; we could move about and hear their voices. Many of the volunteers at these booths were young people, dedicated and eager for us to understand their work and the people they work with in the wider world.

Many other booth volunteers were people from our metropolitan area. Mary Proenza, Marymount printmaking professor, had her students research the history and plight of refugees and study refugee statistics from the UN Refugee Agency: <http://www.unrefugees.org>.



Mary Proenza

She and her students created a portfolio of work “Walk with Us.” Mary sent their prints and their story to share with Warner, and they are currently displayed on the Commission to the Community bulletin board outside the office.

Mary’s shared her print “Welcome Refugees” (above). “Refugees Fleeing” (below) by Jalyn Holland told its story without words but with moving depth.



Jalyn Holland

KAMA DC provides diverse classes to build community and to teach information and skills: Contemporary Indian politics with Tuneer, Jordanian cooking with Afaf, Brazilian dance and society with Juliana and Daniel. Newcomers to the U.S. bring diverse skills and knowledge. KAMA has been active in Austria and Germany for the past decade. If interested in classes, contact KAMA DC at [info@kamadc.org](mailto:info@kamadc.org).

Let's learn Arabic!		
Hello	مرحبا	Marhba
Welcome	اهلا وسهلا	Ahlam wa Sahlan
Thank you	شكرا	Shukran
Nice to meet you!	سعيد بلقائك	Saeed bi legak
How are you?	كيف حالك؟	Kaif halik?
Have a good day	طاب يومك	Tab Youmik

Other booths at the One Journey Festival explained and demonstrated diverse learning experiences. NaTakallam/We Speak is a local translation and education service that provides refugee language and cultural classes to people who want to learn and practice Arabic, French, Spanish, or Persian. Catholic Charities sponsored tables with coloring, writing, and crafts for children and those young at heart.

At their booth, volunteers from the Washington National Cathedral Sanctuary Committee shared the “Prayer for Justice.” It was a fitting conclusion to our day at the One Journey Festival.

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit  
May so move every human heart,

That barriers which divide us may crumble,  
Suspensions disappear, and hatreds cease;

That our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and  
peace;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We walked from the One Journey Festival in a haze of humidity, past a group of musicians and dancers in native costumes, and to our car parked, fortunately, in the shade of a very tall and very old tree.

Susan Bresee

### **An Invitation To Learn About Refugee Work of Presbyterian Churches in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq**

This invitation comes to us from Rev. Dr. Nancy Fox, director of our presbytery’s Refugee Ministry Network, of which Warner is a founding member:

Rev. Elmarie Parker, the PCUSA regional liaison to Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, will be in our area Friday, September 13 through Monday, September 16. Elmarie works to deepen and strengthen the relational ties between the church in her region and members and churches of the PCUSA. She knows first-hand the vital ministries of our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Christ in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, including the work they are doing with the forcibly displaced and refugees in their areas. (There have been Presbyterian churches

in the Middle East for about 170 years!) See <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnection/elmarie-and-scott-parker/>

In our presbytery, New York Avenue (DC), Immanuel (McLean, VA), Trinity (Arlington, VA), and Heritage (Alexandria, VA) Presbyterian churches all support Elmarie and her husband Scott's work. National (DC) supports the work of the Synod of Syria/Lebanon's ministry of running schools for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon.

On **Saturday morning, September 14, 10:00am, at Vienna PC**, the Presbytery's Global Mission Network will host Elmarie for an hour PowerPoint presentation and Q&A time at their meeting. They have invited anyone interested from our Refugee Ministry Network (or anyone in any of our churches, really) to attend and then chat with them briefly after the presentation about our network.

This is a great way to learn about how your churches could come alongside the churches in Syria/Lebanon and Iraq and their work with displaced and refugees who have NOT fled the Middle East but are also unable to return home. Since less than 0.5% of the world's refugees will be resettled anywhere, a concern for the world's refugees has to drive us to look at the countries that are hosting them in vast numbers. In Iraq and Syria, the churches are also actively working to help Christians stay in their historic homeland so that they do not become refugees, or even helping them to return home.

Mark your calendars and consider taking advantage of this opportunity!

InaRae Kramer

## **Peace and Global Witness Offering**

The Commission to the Community would like to remind you that the special collection for Peace and Global Witness will be collected throughout the month of October. Watch for more information about this important annual collection coming soon in your Sunday bulletins and on the CTC bulletin board.

Geoff Cope



## **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

### **Climate Emergency: Montgomery County Responds**

Saturday, September 14, 2019, 11:00am-1:30pm  
Silver Spring Civic Center  
1 Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring, MD



This is an opportunity to gather with local officials and residents to talk about Montgomery County's goals for and progress toward reducing energy use, improving transportation, and reducing consumption, by working with residents and businesses. At the event, there will be a climate scientist, a panel of climate advocates in Montgomery County, as well as opportunities to sign up and work with local groups. Please talk with Dave Grace and visit the [event page](#), if you are interested in participating in this gathering (free registration).

**“Climate in the Pulpit” September 13-15 (D.C., MD); Nov. 15-17 (VA)**

Have you heard of “Climate in the Pulpit”? Interfaith Power & Light (D.C.,MD.,NoVA), Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, and Virginia Interfaith Power & Light are encouraging all congregations across the region to focus on scripture that guides us to be good stewards of creation, use Earth Care resources in our worship services, and plan other learning programs anytime this fall. To respond to this call, we are planning a Potluck Dinner and Movie Screening....

Mark Your Calendar! All are welcome! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors!

Screening of “[Paris to Pittsburgh](#)”

Potluck Dinner and Movie Night

Saturday October 12, WMPC Social Hall

Potluck Dinner at 6pm; Movie at 7pm (Film is 1-¼ hours)

(Sign-up sheet and more information will be posted later)

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

### **Only One Workday!**

The Buildings & Grounds Commission has streamlined our volunteer maintenance to one WorkDay in the fall plus occasional projects when needed. In August, a group of 6 people patched the worst of the potholes in our paved parking lot. **Saturday, October 12th will be our only workday for a year.** Please mark your calendars to be there. If we can call you for projects at other times, please tell June Eakin.



G. Peeples / USFWS

We mourn several trees that have died in the past year. Efforts to remove and replace them are in the works, so look for changes on the north point of our property.

Have you noticed the clean and bright bricks and windows? Members of the Fountain of Mercy church that worships in our building cleaned all the walls, retaining walls and windows for less than a commercial company would have cost. We checked for leaks and our windows passed the test.

Thank you for your fortitude and patience as we seek to replace the Sanctuary air-conditioning. By working through the Maryland EmPower program, we anticipate PEPCO will cover up to 40% of the cost and offer generous financing. Think cool, dress cool, and bring a fan or borrow one from the ushers.

June Eakin, Chair



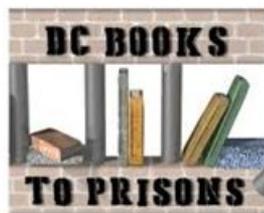
Presbyterian Women are gearing up for a busy fall season which will begin a new year of our monthly Joy Circle and book club meetings. Books to Prisons in DC continues and we begin plans for our Annual Fall Retreat, the Fall Gathering for National Capital Presbyterian Women, and our annual meeting in November. We hope you will find some of our activities of interest, and mark your calendar to join us for fellowship and friendship.

**Tuesday, September 10, 7:30pm** Joy Circle resumes in the church library.

**Saturday, September 21** we are going to the **Fall Gathering for National Capital Presbyterian Women** at Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church in Washington DC. Registration begins at 9am with the program going from 9:30am until 12:30pm. This year's theme is Gun Violence. For more information go to <http://www.presbyterianwomenncp.org>. We will organize transportation and car pools. If interested, please speak with June Eakin or Sue Burns, and register with June Eakin by September 13. Cost is \$15, \$5 for students.

**Friday, September 27, at 7:30pm**, the Book Club meets to discuss the first book of the year, *A Place For Us*, by Fatima Farheen Mirza (meeting place TBD). A New York Times bestseller, NPR calls the book "A stunning novel about love, compassion, cruelty, and forgiveness — the very things that make families what they are... a miracle of a book." For those who like to read ahead, on October 29 we will be discussing *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, and on November 22, *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah.

**Saturday, September 28**, Books to Prisons meets to read letters and send book requests to inmates around the country. Join us for this activity at the Foundry United Methodist Church in NW DC and for lunch afterwards. Please contact Lena Aspiras or JoEllen LaPrade if you have questions or are interested in attending.



**Saturday, October 5**, is the date for our Warner Memorial Presbyterian Women's Fall Retreat at the beautiful Claggett Center in Germantown, MD. The day starts at 9am, includes lunch and access to the beautiful grounds,

and ends at 4pm. We are planning some very interesting activities ranging from a dialogue on cultural diversity to Presbyterian Perspective on the Trinity, and of course, Worship. We invite all women of Warner to join us for this day of reflection, conversation, and community. Cost is \$35 per person. Transportation and carpools will be arranged from Warner. For more information please contact Marilyn Victory or Lena Aspiras.

## OUTREACH & FELLOWSHIP

### Message From The Hospitality Committee

Based on feedback from the current Fellowship Team Leads, Session has approved changes proposed to streamline the Fall 2019 Fellowship Schedule. We are a busy congregation and some folks have indicated they are burnt-out and wearying. We are continuing the team approach for Fellowship but also making a few changes to ensure our team model is both sustainable and respectful of all involved, yet provides Fellowship opportunities.

So...you may have already noticed the approach to rely on volunteers to host and provide a simple Fellowship Hour will continue through September. We currently have only one Sunday, 9/15, up for grabs.



The team rotation for hosting will begin **the first Sunday of October (10/6) and we will be omitting a Fellowship Hour one Sunday a month (typically the first Sunday)** as well as a two-week hiatus over the Christmas holidays (which we implemented in past years). I want to thank all the Team Leads, who have all agreed to continue as such and have reviewed the proposed schedule (posted on the bulletin board across from the church

office). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or one of your Team Leads.

Lastly, thanks again to all who hosted over the summer. It was an unusually busy summer for Warner and yet we were able to provide this fellowship time throughout. My decision to attend Warner almost 28 years ago continues to be validated as one of the best decisions I ever made... Thank you all!

Sue Burns

### **We're in the Labor Day Parade!**



Remember to come to the Kensington Labor Day Parade on **Monday, September 2** to see The Learning Center for Young Children (LCYC) community and your fellow Warnerites marching in the parade.

## **WARNER PEOPLE**

### **The Trautvetter's New Address**

Bob and Ila Trautvetter have a new address:

333 Russell Avenue, Apt 411  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2880



## September

- 2 Susan Kline, Bob Trautvetter
- 4 Catharine Burke
- 7 Peter Smeallie
- 8 Charlotte Hunker
- 9 Susan Bresee
- 10 Julia Cope
- 14 Janet Trautvetter
- 15 Presley Harrell-Mitchell, Preston Harrell-Mitchell, Julia Simenaur, Anne Fleur Winter
- 16 Kaitlin Dunn
- 18 Cheryl Geiger
- 19 Cecelia Letizia
- 21 Steve Dunn
- 22 Paula Harrell-Mitchell
- 24 Graham Dunn, Max Dunn, Benjamin Fulton
- 25 Elizabeth Lohr
- 27 Catelyn Koff
- 28 Bennet McGlade
- 29 Matthew Koff

**WARNER WELCOMING STATEMENT**

All people are of sacred worth and God loves everyone without exception. We welcome all people into our worship, fellowship, membership, and leadership. Believers, seekers, and doubters are all welcome at Warner. We are an affirming and supportive spiritual community that celebrates God's infinite love, wisdom, and grace through worship, music, education, mission, and fellowship. Though we are all unique, we are united in loving and praising God and in loving each other. We are committed to communing together in such a way that we give witness to Christ's sacrificial life, redeeming death, and glorious resurrection. Loved and accepted by God, our congregation offers love and acceptance to all.

**Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church**

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*Home Page:* <http://www.warnermemorial.org>

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CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUESTED