

December 2015

THE WARNER MEMO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

www.warnermemorial.org

[December Online Calendar](#)

WORSHIPING TOGETHER IN DECEMBER

Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday of Advent--Communion

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6

“What Shall We See?”

Sunday, December 13

Special Music

“Music for Singers and Brass” by Daniel Pinkham

Sunday, December 20

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-45

“Fulfillment”

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

7 p.m. Nativity Play and Candlelight Service

10:30 p.m. Pre-service music

11 p.m. Communion and Candlelight Service

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-14

“Good News of Great Joy”

Sunday, December 27

Rev. Jessie Lowry, preaching

Every day of the week, you can help adults and children in our community who are struggling below the poverty level. Please remember to bring cans and boxes of non-perishable food for the **Mid-County United Ministries'** food pantry in Wheaton. Together, we can continue to fill the big wooden “hunger barrel” in the Warner narthex. Thank you!

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear members and friends,

We are transitioning from a time of thanksgiving (little ‘t’ means it is more than one day) to the season of Advent. To experience and express gratitude unto God, we first have to make sure that we don’t develop spiritual amnesia – a disorder where we have forgotten what God has done for us. As we retell the story of God’s providence and grace time and again, we remind ourselves about what God has done. But gratitude requires more than a memory. The heart has to get connected to the mind for there to be a resulting warmth that enwraps the remembrance. However, the heart is not fully engaged until we give voice to an expression of our gratitude. And certainly, our demonstration of thanksgiving doesn’t have to be limited to a prayer or song, but can engage our hands in service as an expression of gratitude.

Advent, like a thanksgiving focus, also looks back to what happened. It is a time we remember the coming (this is what the word ‘advent’ means) of our Lord Jesus, born into this world. We make preparation for that coming so that our minds can take full notice in giving God full credit for what happened. Our remembrances are then enriched with a connection with our hearts, as deep feelings well up in response to the significance of the story. We then may well be inspired to express some kind of response with our mouths and hands. Advent starts with gratitude and moves quickly toward hope. Even as it looks back, it also looks forward. It is filled with joy and anticipation of the welcome we extend to God’s coming reign, to be fully realized in God’s due time.

There is much to look forward to during Warner’s version of Advent, with beautiful decorations and singing, along with eating and worshiping that fill us richly. It is truly a special time. But our anticipation cannot simply be limited to events, even as rich as the December church calendar is. For our deeper hopes are not met with that which accompanies the season – they are met in the appearance of our God in the flesh, in our experience of Emmanuel, God-with-us. The events that originated the season have an awesomeness that challenges our minds, fills our hearts, and beckons us to lift our voices and hands to express our full gratitude and joyful anticipation. For if Advent tells us anything, it is that God isn’t through with us yet. May God fully engage you--mind, heart, voice, and hand--this Advent Season!

With gratitude, joy, and anticipation,

Kirby Lawrence Hill



Advent/Christmas Schedule 2015



November 29: First Sunday of Advent

December 6:

9:30: Intergenerational Advent Workshop

10:45: Pre-worship service singing and lighting of Chancel Christmas Tree

11:00: Worship

12:30: Reception and Carol-Sing-A-Long in Social Hall

7:00 PM: Advent Bible Study*

December 10:

6:00 PM: Parents' Night Out- Two hour event designed for children ages four to ten.

December 13:

11:00: "Music for Singers and Brass, featuring Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata and Praetorius' In Dulci Jubilo"

12:30: Cookie Reception

7:00 PM: Advent Bible Study*

December 20:

11:00: Worship

1:00: Charlie Brown Christmas Workshop—Two hour event designed for children four to ten.

7:00 PM: Advent Bible Study*

December 24:

7:00 PM: Early Candle Light Christmas Eve Service

10:30 PM Pre-Service music

11:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

*Join Jan Moody at her home for this three part study of the Christmas story. We will explore how the Good News message of Jesus' birth is conveyed in both similar and different ways in the Gospels.

COMMUNITY

WARNER SUPPORTS ANNUAL PRESBYTERIAN CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

**PROMISES MADE
PROMISES KEPT**



During December, Warner Memorial Church collects the annual Christmas Joy Offering for the PC (USA). This offering supports Presbyterian workers, both active and retired,

who have unusual financial need. It also supports five church-related schools and colleges that aim to educate promising students from ethnic or racial minorities who need extra help because of poor previous preparation. You will find an offering envelope in this issue of the MEMO; envelopes are also in the sanctuary pew racks. Thank you for contributing to this vital mission.

YOUR “TWO CENTS-A-MEAL” PROGRAM KEEPS ON ROLLING!

On the third Sunday of every month, we collect Warner’s Two Cents-a-Meal project, which contributes to hunger relief nearby and, through Presbyterian programs, around the nation and the larger world community as well. On November 15, we counted \$267 in coins, checks and currency. From this, our discretionary 40% goes to help the Mid-county United Ministries (MUM) food pantry in Wheaton. Thanks to all who continue to donate to this program. Our next collection will be on Sunday, December 20.



PLEASE DONATE FOOD TO OUR BARREL

Every day, you can help the Mid-County United Ministries food pantry in Wheaton by bringing in cans and packages of non-perishable food for our barrel in the church narthex. **Thank you!**

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM KENSINGTON—NORTH CHEVY CHASE MINISTERIUM

At the annual community Thanksgiving Service on November 24, the collected special offering was given to the International Rescue Committee, Suburban Washington Resettlement Center in Silver Spring. The total was \$1,463.25. Blessings!

-- Cheryl Tatham, Minister, North Chevy Chase Christian Church

WORSHIP & MUSIC



POINSETTIA CHART SIGN-UP

Please sign up to donate either a white or red poinsettia which will be used to decorate our sanctuary. You may choose to have the Deacons deliver the plant to one of our homebound members or friends, or you may choose to take the plant home with you after the Christmas Eve services. The sign-up chart is located in the church's main hall near the office. The cost of each plant is \$10. Thank you for helping to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas!

Note: Because we have to pre-order our plants by the case and by color, we have ordered 24 red plants and 8 white plants. We are unable to change or add to our order. When you sign up on the poinsettia chart, please put your name on a separate line for each plant you wish to donate.

--Kay Gorman, for the Warner Flower Committee

HELP WANTED—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Warner Memorial Church has openings for able-bodied folks to usher at worship on Sundays. We're looking for interested individuals and couples to consider ushering for a month of Sundays -- or for specific Sundays. Please scan the schedule, which is on the hallway bulletin board near the church office door, and see where you could fit in.



BUILDING & GROUNDS

NEW HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING BEING INSTALLED IN THE SOCIAL HALL

When the hot water heating system that was located under the floor of the Social Hall began to leak earlier this year, the Session voted to replace it with combined heating and air conditioning systems that are now being installed in the Social Hall. It will be the first time the room will have been air conditioned, an improvement that we may not appreciate right now, but will next summer. And of course, we will notice the new warmth of the room over the next few months. We are thankful for the Chris Maguire bequest that has made this project possible.

BOARD OF DEACONS



NEWS FROM WARNER'S BOARD OF DEACONS

-The Board of Deacons would like to thank all Warnerites who assisted in preparing and serving Saturday dinners at Rainbow Place, the women's shelter at Rockville Presbyterian during the month of November. The women there always appreciate the food we prepare for them ! If you missed out in helping, your next opportunity will be in February. Stay tuned to upcoming MEMOs and Sunday bulletins for further details as the time draws near.

- It is the holiday season, and once again the board will soon be preparing Christmas baskets for our homebound members. Along with these baskets of fruit and candies and other goodies, will be tins of homemade cookies prepared by the Presbyterian Women. Thanks go to the PW for their assistance in helping us make these baskets so delightful for so many years!

-The board would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing deacons (Class of 2015) for their years of dedicated service to Warner and the community: Steve Dunn and Catharine Burke. We will be welcoming the new deacons at our January meeting.

The deacons would like to wish you and yours a happy Christmas and a blessed 2016!

Stay tuned to the next MEMO for information on the "Souper Bowl" luncheon at the end of January.

– Elizabeth Bunn, Moderator

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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

NEW BOOKS ADDED TO THE LIBRARY SHELVES... CHECK THEM OUT !

Marsh, Clive. Theology Goes to the Movies; An Introduction to Critical Christian Thinking.

Marsh discusses films like Babette's Feast, Do the Right Thing, Passion of Christ, Bruce Almighty, and other popular films for their theological content.

Wren, Brian. Praying Twice: the Music and Words of Congregational Song.

Wren explores the power of music in worship not from a technical viewpoint but as an encounter with God.

Sotomayor, Sonia. My Beloved World.

The U.S. Supreme Court justice tells her fascinating life story with the hope of inspiring others.

Daniels, Marta. Peace is Everybody's Business.

This title is a mantra of sorts for Elizabeth Evans Baker, a peacemaker whose love of beauty and the arts inspired her activism toward peace.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEW YEAR IN BOOKS:

Early in 2016, the Warner library will schedule a Book Talk on "H is for Hawk", by Helen Macdonald. Susan Fulton will give the review and lead the discussion about this book, in which a young woman tries to counteract her deep mourning at the loss of her father by training a falcon.

On February 7, as Saint Valentine's Day approaches, you're invited to share your favorite love poem with the group in the Warner library.

--Marie Rosche, for the Committee

Look for our large assortment of beautiful Christmas books adjacent to the New Books display.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PW 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

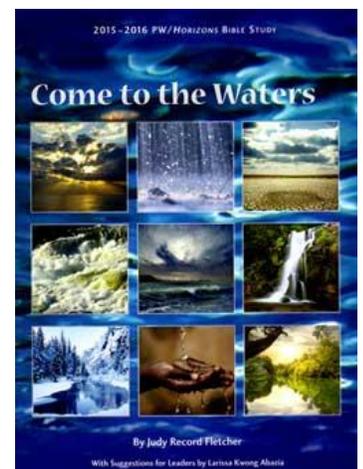


The highlight of our 2015 Annual Meeting in November was having Nancy Sushinsky, the Director of Rainbow Place, visit as our guest speaker. Nancy described the history of Rainbow Place, which was founded in 1982 as a result of discussion that occurred during a Rockville PW Bible Study of Isaiah, at which the women asked, “What are we doing to help the homeless in Montgomery County?” The initial response, according to Nancy, was that there were no homeless in Montgomery County. We know well that it is not the

case, and was not the case in 1982. In addition to expressing her deep gratitude for the myriad of ways that groups at Warner provide support, Nancy highlighted how much the clients there appreciate being viewed and treated like one of us. She noted that the mission is not only to provide shelter to homeless women during the winter months, but also to provide support that will assist them in making a transition to a better quality of life. Please consider donating toiletries and personal hygiene items to Rainbow Place.

IT'S CHRISTMAS COOKIE TIME!

Warner PW will host the Fellowship Hour on December 13th with the annual Cookie Reception. EVERYONE is welcome to share a batch (or two) of their favorite cookie. Extra cookies will fill the tins for the Deacons' home bound baskets. We are filling 17 tins this year. If you have small holiday/winter theme tins to donate, please bring them to the church office before December 10. Bring your cookies on the morning of Sunday, December 13.



REFLECTIONS CIRCLE

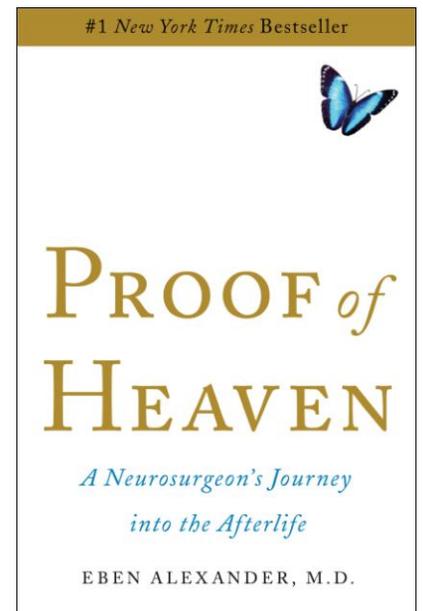
The next meeting of this circle will be held **Sunday, December 13th at 9:30 a.m.**, location at Warner to be announced. The group is following the 2015-2016 Horizons Bible study, **“Come to the Waters”**. So far this has been an intimate gathering but we remain very pleased to be able to provide this option. Please contact Lora McGlade if you have any questions and to obtain your book if you want to have it before the first meeting.

JOY CIRCLE

Joy Circle will continue its study at the January 2016 meeting to allow members to attend the annual PW Christmas Gathering. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 12th at 7:30 p.m.** in the Common Room/Library and we will discuss Lesson Four: Dangerous Waters—God’s Deliverance. The focus of the lesson is the Israelites crossing of “... the Jordan River; the Psalmist is emotionally and spiritually drowning—everyone needs God’s help. God does not disappoint.” We will “... Consider the ways God saved the Israelites and how God saves us today. Study books are \$9.50 each. Please contact June Eakin, if you have not already done so and plan to buy a study book. We look forward to seeing you next year!!

BOOK GROUP

We met at **June Eakin’s home on December 4th** to discuss our third book of the season, “Proof of Heaven” by Dr. Eben Alexander. From the web, *“A scientist’s case for the afterlife... Thousands of people have had near-death experiences, but scientists have argued that they are impossible. Dr. Eben Alexander was one of those scientists. A highly trained neurosurgeon, Alexander knew that NDEs feel real, but are simply fantasies produced by brains under extreme stress. Then, Dr. Alexander’s own brain was attacked by a rare illness. The part of the brain that controls thought and emotion—and in essence makes us human—shut down completely. For seven days he lay in a coma. Then, as his doctors considered stopping treatment, Alexander’s eyes popped open. He had come back...”* Ginny Atwood led the discussion. As always, having read the book is not a prerequisite for participation in our discussion!! Please join us for future booktalks!



ANOTHER FALL PW ACTIVITY

Weather not only permitted, but provided a most beautiful sun-filled fall day as a perfect backdrop for our hike through the woods of Sandy Spring, during which we got just a taste of what it must have been like to be a slave seeking freedom in the late 19th century in Maryland. The guides provided rich stories and historical context that really brought alive the reality of the choices made by and experiences of the “freedom seekers” as we walked a mile or two in their shoes that day. Ending the day with a tasty lunch at the Olney Ale House was the perfect lagniappe for our outing.



LOCAL PW MISSION SUPPORT NEEDED!

As a reminder to all, PW’s budget continues to be derived 100% from your donations. You can help Warner PW with its continued efforts to support local mission by donating directly or by ordering Equal Exchange coffee or other items offered. We would like to not only sustain, but grow our local mission projects such as providing hygiene items to the women at Rainbow Place or donations to MUM or Courtney’s House. Get connected to other Presbyterian Women in our area on the webpage www.presbyterianwomenncp.org.

NEW IDEAS...

We are always seeking new ideas for activities and projects, that would interest two, three, or more Warner women. The suggestions can run the gamut; for example, we recently received the suggestion of pursuing prison ministry in some way in addition to scheduling outings to see the movies, “Brooklyn”, or “Suffragette”. All it takes is an email or phone call to one other person to get the planning started--don’t be shy.

Should you have suggestions for new endeavors, please contact any member of the PW Coordinating Team: Sue Burns, Lora McGlade, Karen Cook, JoEllen LaPrade, Lisa Smeallie, June Eakin, Kay Gorman, or Charity Singletary. Note that the next CT meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2016, at church – ad hoc attendees are most welcome.

A MESSAGE FROM WARNER'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE

“Will You Answer?”

The following is an excerpt from a devotional found in [The Upper Room](#) and written by Gale A. Richards.

Read Mark 1: 16-20

Sometimes when our son was playing in his sandbox he would act as if he hadn't heard when his mother called him. One time she asked him, “Why didn't you answer me?” With remarkable honesty he replied, “I thought if I pretended I couldn't hear you, then you might leave me alone.”

Many times we treat God in the same way. God has called us, yet often we pretend not to hear. We ignore the Spirit who is nudging us in a certain direction through scripture, or we turn away when we sense the urge to speak to someone or offer a helping hand to a stranger. We are God's creation, yet God has given us the freedom to choose to turn away from opportunities to serve.

For years, out of fear or busyness, I made the choice to turn away. But turning away left a separation between God and me. Something was missing, and life felt incomplete. I finally realized that I could draw close to God by responding to the nudges and calls. The first few times were scary. But I followed God's leading and now give thanks for the blessing this has brought me. Relationship with God brings a whole new dimension of fullness to life. Hobbies, leisure activities, and even work tasks take on new meaning and joy when we do them to praise God.

Prayer: Dear Lord, open our ears to hear your call and direct our feet in paths of service to you. Amen.

Could answering a call from the Officers Nominating Committee be a way of saying “yes” to God's call to service?

--Susan Middleswarth, for the Committee

Mark 1 : 16-20

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

SPECIAL NOTES

POTLUCK GROUP GATHERS AT THE KIRCHHOFFS’

On Saturday evening, **December 19**, the Warner Potluck Group will meet at the home of Ann and Bill Kirchhoff at 7:00 p.m. for a dinner and the annual gift exchange. Please notify Susan Fulton (301-949-0691) if you intend to come, and to receive your food category assignment.

STEPHEN MINISTRY PROGRAM OFFERS SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

“I need someone to talk to . . .” Are you, or someone you know and love, experiencing a burdensome or distressing condition? Our Stephen Ministers can help. For more information about the blessings of this confidential, Christian care program, please contact Barbara Jaquette (301-593-2875) or Rev. Hill at the church office (301-949-2900).



ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

OFFERING OUR PLEDGES FOR OUR PROGRAMS AT WARNER

As of the end of November, we received 62 pledge cards from Warner members and friends. Thank you! Whether or not you have already submitted your pledge for 2016, we appreciate your thoughtful consideration of what you may be able to give to Warner.

Here's an excerpt from the article written by Bill Kirchhoff for the November MEMO, asking us all to reflect on the value of our church and its programs:

What is Warner worth to me?

*What is the value of its mission and ministry to me in my life in the church,
and among my friends in the congregation?*

*What is the value of its mission and ministry in my life beyond the confines of the building,
and the community of the congregation?*

What shall I render to the Lord?

For it is not just giving for Warner, it is indeed giving to the Lord.

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 PEOPLE

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Scott Bunn
3	Mark Eakin, Carol Fineman, Ginger Kleinguenther
4	Mary Barber, Ty Bragg
10	Sungho Paik
11	Varsha Datta, Ted Human
14	Mary Landfair, Simona Letizia
17	Brian Eakin
18	Andrei Pinkus
19	Sheri Daugherty
20	Brad Hill
21	Leigh Cook
22	Laura Kline
24	Jordan Hill
25	Tim Cook, Vol Moody
26	James Smith
27	William Landfair, Donald Stalker
28	Eric Adams, Mary Cameron
30	Loyce Bowen, Cynthia Firman, Susan Middleswarth
31	Sean Brosnan, Calvin McGlade

NEXT MEMO ISSUE

Please submit articles and notices for the January issue of the Warner MEMO **by Sunday, December 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 ... and we thank you for your contributions!

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- Please see bulletin boards outside the Main Office -

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Organist: Sungho Paik

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