

December 2016

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# THE WARNER MEMO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



***Merry Christmas to All !***

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[www.warnermemorial.org](http://www.warnermemorial.org)  
[Online Calendar](#)

# WORSHIPING TOGETHER IN DECEMBER

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## **Sunday, December 4**

*Second Sunday of Advent -- Communion*

Romans 15:4-6; Isaiah 11:1-10

“A Spirited Shoot”

## **Sunday, December 11**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

Luke 1:46-55; Isaiah 35:1-10

“On Display”

## **Sunday, December 18**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

A Sanctuary Choir Presentation of “A Christmas Celebration”  
by Henry Mollicone; special music and scripture readings

## **Saturday, December 24**

*Christmas Eve Services – 7 pm and 10:30 pm*

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

“A Higher Decree”

## **Sunday, December 25**

*Christmas Day*

Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14

“Full of Grace and Truth”

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

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Dear members and friends,

One of the most famous paintings in the world is the *Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci. He painted it late in the 15th century in a convent in Milan, Italy. There is a story that as he was about to finish the painting, da Vinci invited his students to come in and take a look at it and critique it. He unveiled it and the students praised the intricate work, beauty and delicacy of – the tablecloth. The legend is that Leonardo took a brush with paint and with one sweeping gesture painted over the tablecloth. “Look at the Master’s face!” he said. “Look at the Master’s face!”

In the middle of the 19th century, author Mary Shelley described her impression of the painting in her travel narrative. She wrote: “First we visited the fading inimitable fresco of Leonardo da Vinci. How vain are copies! Not in one, nor in any print, did I ever see the slightest approach to the expression in our Savior’s face, such as it is in the original. Majesty and love- there are the words that would describe it – joined to an absence of all guile that expresses the divine nature more visibly than I ever saw it in any other picture.”

The significance of the birth of Jesus is that he is the One through whom we can see the very face of God. There are many things, like having the ‘right’ tablecloth, that can distract us from the truest essence of the importance of his coming. Look for the majesty and love that is revealed in the face of Jesus and don’t let even the intricacy, beauty, and delicacy of other Christmastime events divert your gaze.

With joy over God’s great work of art,

Kirby Lawrence Hill

# COMMUNITY -- MISSION

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## ***Warner's Angel Tree is Back!***

There are many children in Montgomery County whose families cannot afford to give them birthday presents because they must use all of their resources to provide shelter, food and clothing. InterFaith Works maintains an InterFaith Clothing Center for the working-poor, stocked with clean and serviceable donated clothing available to them without cost, thereby helping them to stretch their earnings to cover more of the necessities, and in addition, InterFaith Works has a "Birthday Closet" at the center from which a child having a birthday can receive a birthday gift. The Director of Family Services says, "I cannot tell you how much the children we serve appreciate being able to get a special new toy on their birthday."

If you would like to help stock the Birthday Closet, please bring a new, unwrapped present that you think would please either a young boy or girl, and place it beneath our Angel Tree, which you will find located on the edge of the stage in the Warner social hall. Just as the wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus in celebration of his Birth Day, we can help celebrate the birthdays of dear children throughout the year.

You may bring your Angel Tree gifts any time during Advent. We can keep receiving gifts until Christmas Day, after which we will deliver them to the Interfaith Clothing Center.

Thank you!

-- Ina Rae Kramer and Jan Moody



## Advent/Christmas Schedule 2016

### Sunday, December 4:

- 10:00:** Advent Bible Study – A four week series -  
“Creation: A Divine Cycle”
- 11:00:** Worship
- 12:30:** Reception and “Carol Sing-A-Long” in Social Hall

### Thursday, December 8:

- 6:00 PM:** Parents' Night Out - “Winter Wonderland” -Two hour event designed for children ages three to ten.

### Sunday, December 11:

- 10:00:** Advent Bible Study
- 11:00:** Worship
- 12:30:** “Book Talk” on Rev. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the famous German theologian who loved the Christmas season – Come to the library where Alan Schroeder, our in-house Bonhoeffer guru, will lead us in appreciation of the man, his theology, and his vision of the holy season.
- 7:00 PM:** Evening Advent Bible Study- The study will remember the Christmas story as told in the Gospel of Matthew and will include discussion about hopes and fears for 2017. Hosted by Jan Moody at her home, 4012 Everett St.

### Sunday, December 18:

- 10:00:** Advent Bible Study
- 11:00:** “A Christmas Celebration” - by Henry Mollicone
- 12:30:** Cookie Reception
- 7:00 PM:** Evening Advent Bible Study (see above for more details)

### Saturday, December 24:

- 7:00 PM:** Early Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- 10:30 PM:** Pre-Service music
- 11:00 PM:** Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

### Sunday, December 25:

- 10:00:** Christmas Day Bible Study
- 11:00:** Worship

## ***Christmas Joy Offering***

The annual Presbyterian Christmas Joy Offering is traditionally received during the Advent Season. At Warner, we will begin to receive the Joy Gift on Sunday December 4th and continue through Christmas. The Joy Offering provides assistance in two areas: grants to current and retired church workers in their time of need and to develop our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

- The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provides critical financial assistance to eligible workers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and their families, and to qualifying retired church workers and their families. In 2015, gifts to the Joy Offering helped make possible \$3.8 million in grants to more than 600 households in need.
- The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has an institutional relationship agreement with four historically Presbyterian Racial Ethnic colleges and universities and one college preparatory school, which educate women and men for professions of their choice. This work helps overcome hurdles that the students may face due to their racial or ethnic heritage.

-- Mark Eakin, for the Community Commission

(NOTE: Joy Offering envelopes will be in the Sanctuary pew racks during December. These envelopes are also included in this paper issue of the MEMO.)

## COMMUNITY – MISSION

### ***Where Does Our Mission Money Go?***

For many years, Warner's Commission to the Community has been supporting Peter Graeff's work in Haiti. Last month we made one of our quarterly \$500 payments toward this work. Peter grew up as a member of Warner and remained a member until he joined the Peace Corps. Trained as an agronomist, Peter found his calling helping people in developing countries improve their lives through more effective and sustainable agricultural practices. He has been working in Haiti for more than 30 years and primarily serves to help people on the small island of La Gonave just west of Haiti's capital, Port-Au-Prince.

While he focuses on agronomy, much of Peter's work has been to help his neighbors in La Gonave improve their ability to have successful careers and live productively and self-sufficiently. We have come to know many of these neighbors through the years and it has been a pleasure to help them succeed. Warner has been pleased to support Peter's work throughout his time in Haiti.

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The Warner Memorial Commission to the Community would like to thank the Warner congregation for their contributions to the ***Peace and Global Witness Offering*** during the month of October. The total amount of donations collected was \$1,644. Seventy-five percent of that amount will go to the national and international peacemaking efforts of the denomination. The other 25 percent will be used by organizations selected by Warner's Commission to the Community. In recent years, we have divided that portion among three organizations:

**The Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC)** fosters dialogue among persons and peoples with differing beliefs in the DC area. The IFC holds workshops and seminars ... and each year around Thanksgiving the IFC holds a concert to celebrate the diverse cultures that exist in our nearby community.

## **MISSION – continuing article - Peace & Global Witness Offering**

**The Family Tree**, an organization headquartered in Baltimore but serving all of Maryland, has a “Stress Line” which anyone in a parenting crisis can call at any hour of the day or night to talk with someone who will offer guidance through a difficult time. The Family Tree also gives classes in parenting that teach how to discipline effectively without resorting to physical or verbal abuse.

**The Jerusalem International YMCA (JIY)** over the years has become increasingly inclusive. It offers programs open to Christian, Jewish, and Muslim children, youth, and adults where they can come together to play and learn.

Your donation will deepen Warner’s connections to local, national, and international peacemaking efforts in some of the most difficult places of conflict in the world. It will provide opportunities to help reduce global conflict, racism, militarization, gun violence, bullying, and church conflict, and provide resources that train people like us to be part of proclaiming Christ’s peace to all God’s children. Thank you and the peace of Christ be with you.

-- Ty Bragg and Ina Rae Kramer, for the Commission

## **Two Cents a Meal Offering**

On the third Sunday of every month, we collect and celebrate Warner Church’s 2-Cents-a-Meal special offering. Your monthly contributions of coins, dollars and checks help fund hunger relief programs --- locally, nationwide, and overseas -- through our denomination. From the collections in October and November, our discretionary 40% went to aid Mid-county United Ministries (MUM) and their food pantry in Wheaton.

Thank you to those in our congregation who have been contributing. You and your family can join in this effort. Simply bring in your donation on December 18.

# DEACONS

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At our monthly meeting on Monday, November 28, the Warner board of deacons reviewed the project of supplying Saturday dinners in November for Rainbow Place women's shelter in Rockville, which the deacons coordinate. We look forward to renewing this effort in February 2017.

We organized the plan for Christmas gift baskets, which we'll prepare on December 19, and deliver that week to Warner's "shut-ins." The deacons will also take poinsettia plants to those homebound folks over Christmas.

We discussed the ongoing monthly need for funds to provide Giant food grocery gift cards for indigent people who come seeking help at Warner Church. From the deacons' fund, we contribute as we are able. We also worked on how best to provide transportation and/or visitation for several people in our congregation. Additionally, the deacons help with Warner's awareness of the ongoing needs of Mid-county United Ministries (MUM).

– Tiff Carroll, for the Board of Deacons

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. Most of your donations help Warner provide grocery cards for needy people in our county (see above). Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

# STEWARDSHIP

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## **GIVING EMPOWERS LOVE - Stewardship Report**

The Stewardship Work Team set an aggressive goal of a 10% increase in pledge amounts for 2017 compared with 2016. The congregation has responded very generously to that challenge as we are almost 90% toward our goal, while we are still waiting on those who have yet to pledge to get their pledge cards in. Some 80% of the pledges show an increase over last year's pledge. Over half of the pledges show at least a 10% increase! The Stewardship Team is very thankful for the generous response so far and urges those who have not gotten their pledge cards in to the office yet to please do so. Each pledge helps the Session know what we can budget for the coming year, and we definitely want to see how our campaign theme can be lived out as our Giving Empowers Love!

Thanks to this year's Stewardship Work Team -- Tiff Carroll, Karen Cook, Joel deJesus, and Dawn Rhine -- for their service.

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

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The Warner Sanctuary Choir will be presenting special music during the Sunday, December 18 worship service. Henry Mollicone's "A Christmas Celebration" is a delightful collection of familiar Christmas texts set to new music that recalls the Renaissance, through its use of a flute and percussion accompaniment. A series of narrators will take you through the Christmas story as the choir punctuates the narrative with these charming and infectious compositions. Our special guest will be Shira Reeves, flautist. Shira was last seen at Warner in the October "Kensington Sings" program, playing flute in Bach's "Coffee Cantata."

-- Peter Smeallie, director

# WORSHIP & MUSIC

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The Advent Season, the beginning of our liturgical year, has begun! Are we all ready? Individually we may not be, but the Worship and Music Commission, with many helpers, is busy preparing our sanctuary for this glorious season. Beside our more obvious Advent Season signs such as the Christmas tree and banners and Advent wreath, you will see our purple paraments in use at the pulpit and lectern. The parament colors change to match the season of the liturgical year. Purple is used during Advent and Lent, green during Ordinary Time, red at Pentecost, and white at various times related specifically to our Lord, Jesus.

In addition to the paraments changing color, the flowers worn by our ushers change to match the church seasons. We have been asked about that, so thought others might like to know why the flowers change. Over recent years, Charity Singletary and Grace Sookal have provided our ushers with flowers to indicate who is serving this important role on any specific Sunday.

## *Sanctuary Chancel Flowers*

The sign-up chart for donating poinsettias to beautify our Christmas services is now posted in the hall outside the office. Plants are \$10. You may indicate on the chart whether you prefer to take your plant home after the Christmas Eve 11:00 service or to have the plant delivered to a homebound person in our congregation. Thank you in advance for helping to make our sanctuary especially beautiful for the Christmas services. Also, the flower chart for 2017 is now posted on the bulletin board outside the office. Our bouquets continue to cost \$40 (including delivery charges). Please check the calendar for your special occasion dates and sign up early. You are encouraged to write on the flower chart to whom you are dedicating the flowers. You will be called to see if you have any special flower color requests.

-- Kay Gorman, for the Worship & Music Commission

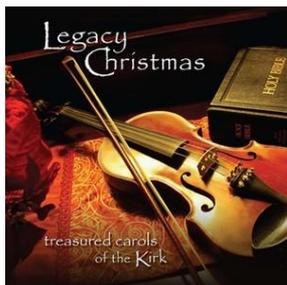


# Presbyterian Women

*Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community*

## **Buy Gifts – Do Good**

Our holiday gift sales are off to a good start at the Harvest Brunch with Equal Exchange coffees, teas, and chocolate. The Christmas cards designed by Tim Cook are very popular; all proceeds after costs will benefit the WMPC General Fund. The delightful cards are \$12/pack of 10+envelopes. CDs of Christmas music will be for sale to benefit Living Waters for the World. These sales will continue through December 4<sup>th</sup>.



## **Yum & Hum & Hymns**

All women are invited to join us for our annual Christmas cookie party and carol singing on December 13, 7:30 p.m. at Lisa Smeallie's home . Bring a plate of cookies to share.

## **Calling All Cookies and Bakers!**

Warner PW will be filling tins with cookies for the homebound and others at the Annual Christmas Cookie Reception, on Sunday, December 18. Bring a batch of festive cookies for the Fellowship Hour and we will select some for the tins. We are also gathering small-medium tins with a Christmas motif, please leave any donations in the kitchen labeled "PW."

## **WE'RE PULLING TOGETHER A NEW COOKBOOK**

Lisa Smeallie has agreed to head up a new Warner Cookbook, and the first ingredient needed is... recipes and lots of them. Please email an electronic (preferable) version of your favorite recipe to her (lcsmeallie@comcast.net) and if there is an interesting history or story related to it, include that information as well.

*(continued on next page)*

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (continued)**

Regarding the planned cookbook, if you have any questions or if you are interested in working on this endeavor, please contact Lisa Smeallie directly.

**Rainbow Place Shelter Donations**

Have you noticed the rainbow-colored box in the hallway near the CE office? Please place donations for the ladies of Rainbow Place inside and they will be delivered. They are always in need of ladies' sanitary products, SMALL soaps, shampoo, oral care items, and warm socks.

**> Joy and Reflections Circles are on a study hiatus during December and will begin lessons again in January.**

The next PW Coordinating Team meeting will be Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. We are seeking to initiate a local mission-based activity working alongside women outside of Warner PW. If you have suggestions for new endeavors, please come to our CT meeting or contact any member of the PW Coordinating Team: Sue Burns, Lora McGlade, Karen Cook, JoEllen LaPrade, Lisa Smeallie, June Eakin, or Kay Gorman.

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***Come to a "Book Talk" on Bonhoeffer –  
Sunday, December 11, in Warner Library***

The Reverend Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the famous German theologian, loved the Christmas season. He felt that it is the time of year that Christians feel closest to God and to their families. He wrote brief devotions on the subject. Now, accompanied by an array of beautiful snowy photographs, a book -- Wonder of Wonders: Christmas with Dietrich Bonhoeffer -- has been produced from these writings.

On Sunday, December 11, after morning worship service, come to the Warner library in the Common Room, where Alan Schroeder will lead us in appreciation of the man, his theology, and his vision of the holy season. Come and get inspired!

-- Marie Rosche, for the Library Committee

# BUILDING & GROUNDS

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## ***What's new around our building?***

The new landscaping at the LCYC entrance is a place to pause with children and enjoy a bit of our natural world. It was lovingly designed and installed in memory of Tucker and Alana Schruben; the walkway incorporates a train track theme for his love of Thomas the Tank Engine. In the spring, we look forward to a bench – place to sit to tie a shoe or have a quiet talk. This garden is being funded through memorial donations.

Why do the plants look dead? Our new conservation landscaping not only enhances handling of water runoff, it also provides cover and food for wildlife. Seed-heads and foliage will not be trimmed until springtime. The yew bushes along Calvert were trimmed to accommodate the concrete work; we hope for renewed growth in the spring.

Projects recently accomplished

- handrails repaired and installed on new concrete steps. Next step is painting, if you can help contact Ken Kramer.
  - Apron and driveway now allow access to our grassy parking lot on Prospect St. Rain is needed to grow grass seed, drive there cautiously
  - Gas leaks and boiler repairs keep the system functioning properly.
- At the top of the list of building priorities designated by the Warner Session was the need for new sanctuary doors and framing to replace what is barely functional and secure. We express deep appreciation to Mark and June Eakin for covering the costs that will beautify the entrance to our sanctuary. The gift is being given in memory of Mark's mother, Tillie. A committee is considering choices and installation is expected by early spring.

# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

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In the wake of recent campaign promises and the ratified U.N. COP 21 agreement, local actions are more important than ever in preserving our world for the future. But what can we do? In the book of Micah (6:8) we find instruction in “what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” In the PC (USA) document “Power to Change” we are urged, “Presbyterians can set an important example of stewardship by not only minimizing our energy consumption, but also by pursuing a carbon neutral lifestyle.” In the January 2016 MEMO we offered the following suggestions from our Adult Faith Formation classes:

- Have an energy audit conducted on your home.
- Consider rooftop solar panels or purchasing renewable energy as your electric source.
- Use alternatives to toxic chemicals.
- Eat less meat, especially beef.
- Put in conservation landscaping and native plants.
- If you have financial investments, you may use faith-based investing and seek out those that are socially responsible, either in mutual funds or equities.
- Sign up to receive updates about actions you can take from home. Visit Warner’s website:

[http://warnermemorial.org/pages/page.asp?page\\_id=357210](http://warnermemorial.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=357210)

Have you taken action in any of these areas? Will you share your experiences with other members? Like a child learning to walk, we all need a helping hand. There are hands ready to help you in making Earth care a personal choice.

– June Eakin, for the Environmental Stewardship Team of Barbara Shaw, Mark Eakin, Jan Moody, Janet Tennent and Tiff Carroll.

# WARNER PEOPLE

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## ***Welcome to New Members !***

**JoEllen LaPrade** and **Elizabeth Lohr** joined Warner Memorial Church recently. At worship on Sunday, November 27, the congregation celebrated them as new members. Both women have been attending Warner for several years. (In fact, JoEllen has participated in the Sanctuary Choir for some time.) Please extend a warm welcome to these, our newest members.

### 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.

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

-- Luke 2:13-14

## From the Warner Memorial Nominating Committee

**“Freedom to Choose”** (Excepted from the **Upper Room**, written by Clay Vincent):

“Every day we are required to make choices: when to get up, what to eat, how to approach the day. Many of our choices are major decisions about what road we will travel in life. Our environment, education, goals, friends, and heroes all influence our choices.

As a parent, I made many decisions for my child in his early years, gradually, as he grew older, I allowed Tyler to begin to make his own choices. No matter what I thought, he had to start deciding what road he would walk.

The disciples made a choice. Jesus called to Simon and Andrew: “Come, follow me.” He said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people” (Mark 1:17). Jesus offered them a choice that would direct the rest of their lives.

God gave us free will to choose our direction in life. We can choose to pray daily, read the Bible, participate in the life of the church. When we learn to put our faith in God and allow God to guide our lives, we can have confidence in the choices we make.

*Prayer: Thank you, God, for the wisdom you give us each day. May we use it to make good choices and to give you the glory. Amen”*

The Warner Officers Nominating Committee continues to seek members to serve as officers on the Session and Board of Deacons for the coming years. Elections will be held in January. Will you choose to join hands with other members in guiding our congregation? – June Eakin, for the committee of Ben Fulton, Ann Rakow, Tiff Carroll and Tim Cook

# WARNER PEOPLE (continued)

## **December Birthdays**

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

## **NEXT MEMO ISSUE**

Please submit articles and notices for the January 2017 issue of the Warner MEMO by Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25. Meanwhile, 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)  
YOU make this newsletter. Thank you for your contributions!

**Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church**

10123 Connecticut Avenue

Kensington, MD 20895

301-949-2900

FAX 301-933-7704

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

- Please see bulletin boards outside the Main Office -

Pastor: Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

Director, Youth & Education: Jan Moody

Music Director: Peter Smeallie

Organist: Sungho Paik

Director, Learning Center for Young Children: Karen Murphy

301-949-2933

Administrative Assistant: Dina Bickel

Stephen Ministry Contact: Rev. Hill

MEMO Editors: Tiff Carroll & Sharon Allen

MEMO e-mail: [memo@warnermemorial.org](mailto:memo@warnermemorial.org)