

February 2017

THE WARNER MEMO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OF WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



www.warnermemorial.org

[Online Calendar](#)

WORSHIPING TOGETHER IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 5

Communion

Isaiah 58:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

“Fast Living”

Sunday, February 12

At KenGar

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Matthew 5:21-24

“Getting All the Way There”

Sunday, February 19

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

Matthew 5:38-48

“The Identity of our Neighbor”

Sunday, February 26

Transfiguration Sunday

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

“Less Fully Confirmed”

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,

Our Warner sign in front of our sanctuary now reads: “Jesus was a refugee. Matthew 2:13” I conferred with members of the Session before putting that on the sign as I am reticent to post provocative messages, but clearly the gospel is provocative at times. And if the good news is not relevant, it isn't really good news. The message is in response to President Trump's executive order regarding refugees. According to the Washington Post, “The executive order calls for barring Syrian refugees from the United States indefinitely, and prohibits admitting any refugees from any nation in the world for 120 days. For 90 days, no citizen of seven majority-Muslim countries — even those who hold American green cards and have been living in the United States for years — will be admitted without a waiver.”

Matthew 2:13 is a passage that reminds us that Jesus himself was a refugee as a child when his life was in danger from King Herod and his family fled to Egypt. Conservative and liberal Christians alike agree that the bible is replete with exhortations that call upon people of faith to welcome sojourners and refugees. The Trump Administration's stated objective is to bolster security for our country, but the seven primarily Muslim countries whose citizens are currently banned from entering the U.S. have not had any of their citizens involved in an act of terror in our country during the current century. If this executive order is perceived as a move that the conflict is between Christians and Muslims, that would undermine national security in a variety of ways and it has the potential to make Christians and Americans vulnerable targets around the world.

This sign is not intended to be an attack on the president or his political party. There actually are Democrats and Republicans who are quite unnerved by this executive order. Our church seeks to stay away from partisan politics. But it is clearly at the core of our Reformed heritage that there is an imperative to address urgent

issues that affect the most vulnerable. God calls us to do as much. If you have comments on how we can navigate the way to live out our faith as it relates to the public arena, I welcome your ideas, concerns, and questions.

With thanks for God's great concern for the least of these, our sisters and brothers,

Kirby Lawrence Hill

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

I hope everyone has noticed the work completed in the past year to repair and beautify our exterior. In order to preserve this work, please note that we do not apply ice melt to new concrete for TWO YEARS. We will be using sand for traction when needed, please use caution in icy weather. While it might seem that our new plants are dead, they are only resting! With care, they will return each year to provide beauty for the eye and sustenance for wildlife. The stalks of seed-bearing plants are left in place to provide winter forage and shelter. On our spring Workday, we will clear away old growth to make way for spring sprouting. Please take note in the new Schruben Memorial Garden at the LCYC entrance, that there is interest in four seasons. Ann Schruben's plan is even now showing promise with buds on small plants near the concrete walkway. Take time to enjoy this work of love.

In 2017, we have instituted a schedule of maintenance inspections. Some are only conducted annually, so if you see something, say something! Contact June Eakin (chair) or the church office with comments about our facility.

The work of the commission continues year 'round and you are welcome to attend our meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Save the date – Church Workday, March 25, 2017

--June Eakin

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2017 Wednesday Evening Lenten Series

A five-session Lenten series will be offered on **Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:00 on March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5**. The evening includes a simple meal of soup and bread and a study of the Confession of Belhar, the newest addition to the PC(USA)'s Book of Confessions. The book, *Lenten Reflections on the Confession of Belhar*, will be used as a resource for the sessions. A sign-up sheet to order the book will be posted outside the C.E. office.

Kerri Allen who wrote devotions for the book writes, "The timing of this devotional mediation is providential... At a time when the nation is deeply divided and fearful of the unknown, the Belhar Confession reminds the church of Jesus Christ that unity in Christ is dependent on standing in solidarity with the least, the lost, the lonely--the marginalized and the oppressed. These devotions provide the spiritual reflection for the church's responsibility to prophetic witness in profoundly troubling and complex times."

Vacation Bible School 2017 June 26-June 30

It may be cold outside, but it is not too early to put **VBS 2017, Clean Water for All God's Children**, on your calendar. During the week of June 26, from 9 until noon, children, aged four to ten, will explore the many ways that water, God's life giving resource, can be celebrated and cherished. Registration materials and a sign-up sheet for volunteers will be available outside the C.E. office.

--Jan Moody

COMMUNITY -- MISSION

Last Month's Giving by Your Mission Commission

With the start of 2017, we authorized the first of our quarterly checks for Warner's pledge to Presbyterian **Unified Giving**. This pledge is roughly two thirds of our entire benevolence budget. Some goes to the national office, but most is used in our own National Capital Presbytery to support its mission.

Part of the Presbytery's mission consists of coordinating activities of local churches that share common mission goals. For example, congregations that feel called to focus on urban ministry are encouraged to work together and share their experiences.

There is also a huge variety of projects that are important to individual congregations, and the Presbytery attempts to help them flourish. These projects include both internal strengthening and growth of new or established congregations and outreach to the congregations' neighborhoods or even across the world. Here are some examples:

- In 2016, two projects at Warner were directly assisted by the Presbytery. First, our church went through the CAT Scan (**Church Assessment Tool**), in which everyone was urged to fill out a questionnaire showing how we felt about many aspects of life at Warner. The cost of this tool was supported by the Presbytery. The Warner Session is now using the results of the CAT as it considers new ways that our church can develop. Also, last summer, we received a grant from the Presbytery for a better fence around our Shepherd's Garden.
- Members of two Virginia churches go regularly to the Shirlington Employment and Education Center to meet day laborers who are looking for work, to bring hot food for them while they're waiting, and to share in conversation, music, and a brief worship service. The message to these men is, "you are not alone."
- The Takoma Park Presbyterian Church recently organized a workshop to better understand racism and to learn ways that they can foster reconciliation. The goal is to serve as a pilot for other churches.
- A dozen faith communities in Fairfax County formed the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. Its initial purpose was to encourage the Fairfax County Government to reduce the carbon usage in its operations. Since its start three years ago, the alliance has grown to over 50 faith communities, and has expanded its influence. The Presbytery has helped by providing matching grants.

These examples are a very small portion of the work that is supported by Unified Giving, to which Warner gladly contributes every year.

— Cory Atwood, for the Commission to the Community

BOARD OF DEACONS

On December 19, we had our usual meeting and then assembled holiday fruit baskets which were taken to Warner folk who cannot make it to church regularly. These were delivered before Christmas along with containers of tasty home-made cookies which were baked by the Presbyterian Women. Deacons also delivered Christmas poinsettia plants from the sanctuary, after the worship service on December 25, to the same Warner folk. These deliveries included time spent visiting with those receiving the items being delivered, which is an important part of what we do. A purchase of Giant Food gift cards was authorized for distribution to needy folk by Kirby in December.

The Board of Deacons met again on January 23. We completed planning of the Souper Bowl lunch which was provided after church on January 29. Thanks to all the Deacons who provided great soup, cheese, bread and crackers, and assisted, as well as all others. Thanks to the elders who provided desserts and a pot of soup for the lunch. We discussed the Saturday night suppers that Warner will provide in February for the homeless ladies of Rainbow Place. The sign-up sheets are posted outside the church office. There are still a number of opportunities for you to provide a part of a meal for Rainbow Place. Please consider helping with this worthy effort. We authorized another purchase of Giant Food gift cards for Kirby to distribute in February.

Deacons, and others in the congregation, have continued to assist with transportation and other needs of the members and friends of

Warner. Deacons also on a weekly basis continue to take flowers used in the worship service to those members and friends who cannot regularly attend, and visit with them.

--Alan Schroeder, 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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

February marks our sixth anniversary as an Earth Care Congregation with activities in four focal areas: Worship, Education, Facilities, and Outreach.

The year 2016 was warmest on record! Have you noticed changes in the natural world around you? Birds, plants, and insects are all affected by climate change. How can you do your part to fulfill the Paris Climate Agreement and reduce greenhouse gas emissions? In both large and small ways, you can be a part of the solution.

- Maryland continues to offer financial incentives for rooftop solar panels. Often installations require no upfront costs and are transferrable upon sale of the home. Contact June Eakin for details.
- Conserve energy through insulation – PEPCO offers many free and low-cost opportunities through the Maryland EmPOWER program, including a free Quick Home Energy Checkup. <https://energywiserewards.pepco.com/md/>. Don't put it off, start saving energy and money this year.
- Really Recycle Paper – more than just newspaper- Montgomery County takes it all, empty paper flour & sugar bags, clean cardboard

freezer cartons, rinsed juice cartons, and more; if it's made of paper pulp, it's probably made from trees! Then, buy products made with recycled fibers.

Coming soon to Netflix is the highly acclaimed "Chasing Coral", with our own Mark Eakin as a science advisor. This compelling and emotional documentary follows the story of recent coral bleaching events and efforts to document and preserve healthy coral reefs around the world. (Stay tuned for showings at WMPC.)

--June Eakin



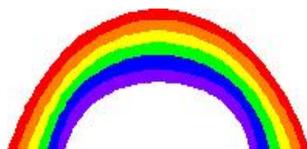
February will be a busy month!

During worship on January 15, two PW officers were installed for 2017-2019: JoEllen LaPrade as Treasurer, and Madalena Aspiras as Vice-moderator. Sue Burns continues as Moderator, and Karen Cook as Secretary. The next Coordinating Team meeting will be Saturday, February 18th at 10:30 a.m. in the Trinity Room. All are welcome.

On January 21, many women of Warner participated in the Women's March on Washington. Some were present in DC and others watching on television. Though there were more than twenty people from Warner, we didn't find one another amongst the thousands who converged on the National Mall! While attendees professed many different viewpoints, there was an overall message of justice, mercy, and empowerment for everyone, the most amazing part of the experience was the sheer numbers of people--women and men, young and old, of many cultures--gathered for a peaceful protest.

Sharing the love with Rainbow Place ladies

On Saturday, Feb. 11, Warner women will prepare, deliver, and serve the meal at Rainbow Place. For the third year running, we will also donate a gift bag for each resident, with cozy socks, chocolates, bus tokens, and a pretty token in celebration of Valentine's Day. Special guests that night will be John Horman and Bill Burns presenting music and leading a sing-along. If you wish to participate, sign up on the Deacons' Rainbow Place sign board or donate funds to PW to purchase the gifts.



The NCP Presbyterian Women Prayer Breakfast will be held this year on **Saturday, Feb. 4**, at Ebenezer Presbyterian in Woodbridge, VA. The theme is "Mission Possible", and the morning will be devoted to learning and sharing about mission projects we can be a part of with our Christian sisters. Several women from Warner plan to attend. Contact Sue Burns about it.

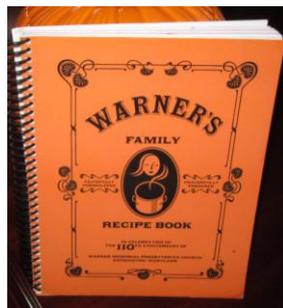


We'll be selling Equal Exchange coffee, tea, and chocolate during Fellowship Hours on February 5 and Feb. 12. Remember to bring your checks and cash to pick up something for someone special this month.

Have you heard about a new cookbook?

Get your "ROUND TUIT." We need your recipes!! The sooner you send your recipe to editor, Lisa Smeallie, the sooner she can pull together our next cookbook. Please email an electronic version (preferable) 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. You can also



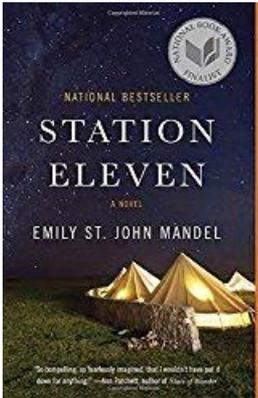
give her a paper copy. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa directly. Only a few people have sent in their recipes but we want this edition to include as many people as possible.

Circles = monthly Bible study and spiritual support

Reflection – Second Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Trinity Room, “Who Is Jesus?”

Joy – Third Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the church library. The January meeting began Lesson 2 of “Who Is Jesus?” when we read the lesson book and began our study. If you can attend on February 21, it would be helpful to read the lesson and the Gospel of Matthew beforehand.

Bible Study books for both circles are available for \$8 in the church library. If you’re studying at home, there is also a companion DVD you may borrow.



PW Book Group – Tuesday, February 28

“An audacious, darkly glittering novel set in the eerie days of civilization’s collapse, *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel tells the spellbinding story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity. A novel of art, memory, and

ambition, *Station Eleven* tells a story about the relationships that sustain us, the ephemeral nature of fame, and the beauty of the world as we know it.” (From the publisher.) Join us, and our discussion leader JoEllen LaPrade, in the Church Library at 7:30 p.m. to discuss this 2014 National Book Award Finalist. The book is available through the public library in several formats.

--June Eakin

WARNER PEOPLE

In Memoriam – Peter Graeff

Peter Graeff, who was in failing health, died in Haiti on January 11. Peter, along with his parents and siblings, attended Warner for many years, and he was raised in the Warner Church family. Peter dedicated his life to the people of Haiti, and wrote to Warner and visited periodically to share his experiences and let us know of the needs of the people of Haiti. His brother Ed has set up a memorial website at www.forevermissed.com/peter-graeff#about. Those who knew Peter are encouraged to go to this website to post memories, pictures, etc., or just read what others have posted.

The memorial service for Peter Graeff will be held at Warner on Saturday, March 4 at 11:00 a.m.

Celebration of our newest member

Jim Ketchum met with the Session in December to join Warner Memorial by profession of faith. His membership was completed when he was baptized during worship on January 8. We celebrate Jim as our newest member. His wife, Melissa, joined earlier last year and their son, Henry, was baptized as well in October. We celebrate having all three Ketchums as a part of Warner's congregation.

Stephen Ministry Program Offers Confidential Caring



Our congregation is blessed to participate in the Stephen Ministry, a nationwide support program. This program provides concerned, confidential listening by trained caregivers. To find out more about Stephen Ministry or to receive such care, please contact Barbara Jaquette (301-593-2875) or Rev. Hill at the church office (301-949-2900).

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
- 10 Jacqueline Enright
- 11 Tiff Carroll, Asha Datta
- 12 Andrew Letizia, Laura Batis
- 15 James Gray
- 21 Dina Bickel
- 23 Jonathan Brodsky, Henry Dunn
- 25 Ann Rakow, William Landfair
- 26 Kathy Swendiman, Sharon Allen
- 27 Alesandra Letizia
- 28 Anne Hancock

NEXT MEMO ISSUE

Please submit articles and notices for the March issue of the Warner MEMO by Tuesday, February 21. **(This must be a strict deadline, please!)** 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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