

September 2016

THE WARNER MEMO

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WARNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Join Us on Sunday, September 11, for Worship

Plus Fall Start-up of Classes for All Ages, Choirs,

And Annual Picnic on the Church Grounds

(Details inside – Bring Friends and Neighbors)

Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

www.warnermemorial.org

[Online Calendar](#)

WORSHIPING TOGETHER IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 4

Communion

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6; 13-18

“In Our Business”

Sunday, September 11

Rally Day

1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

“Repentance”

Sunday, September 18

Mission Report – Warner’s Johnstown Work Team

Sunday, September 25

1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

“The Life That Really Is Life”

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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!

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. Your donations help to provide Giant food cards for low-income people, and also support the Stephen Ministry program. *Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.*

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Educator Elizabeth Caldwell describes church as a place where:

“... all of God's children gather in one space for shelter, for nurture, and for spiritual fellowship, which grows through relationships and through participation in the life and mission of the family of faith.”

As summer winds down, the Warner Church family will gather this fall and welcome a new season of opportunities to nurture faith formation for all ages.

On Rally Day, **September 11**, the Christian Education Commission is launching a change in the Sunday morning schedule with the hope that the fresh design will make educational opportunities more accessible to more people, given the pace and schedule of our lives.

10:00: Faith Formation classes for adults

11:00: Faith Formation activities for children, pre-school through 2nd grade, during the worship service

12:15-1:00: Faith Formation activities for youth, grades 5th through 12th

More details about each of the offerings are provided in the Christian Education notices in Sunday worship bulletins, articles in this month's *MEMO* and on the Warner website.

As we dive into the new schedule, the C.E. Commission welcomes feedback and suggestions for ways that the church can equip all ages to grow as members in our community of faith. ***“To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3: 1)***

Early September is an excellent time to savor summer memories while at the same time looking forward to the fall and new learning opportunities.

- Thursday morning Bible Study starts on September 8 at 10 a.m., as Kirby leads an active discussion group, using the scripture passages that will be used the following Sunday. Come and join us in the Common Room Thursday mornings. Exploring the Bible can enrich our growth and worship experiences.

(See more C.E. news on next page)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUMMER MEMORIES--VBS 2016

Children, teens, and adults, ranging in age from 3 to 90, gathered together for five days of Vacation Bible School June 27-July 1. The theme for the week, *Come to God's Table Where All Will Be Fed* was incorporated into activities that included Bible study, music, art, service and recreation. On Friday, the children and counselors presented a presentation of John Horman's adaptation of the folk tale *Stone Soup* for family and friends.



The intergenerational gathering of God's children ranged in age from three to ninety and included 34 children and 23 adults and teens. For our mission project we collected cans of food and donated 230 pounds of nonperishable food items to benefit the food pantry of MUM.

The program provided a fun way to build community and affirm gratitude for God's grace in equipping the youngest and oldest, and all in-betweens, to respond to the needs of neighbors.

NEW BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Come see what's new in Christian Education this fall. The adult class that meets in the Common Room at 10:00 will be introduced to *The Present Word* series which will consider the theme of the "sovereignty of God", a way of describing God's greatness and preeminence over all things in creation.

Grace and Gratitude, a new curriculum for young children, will be used in the children's class that will meet in room 4 during the 11:00 hour. Children are invited to encounter God's people, described in the book of Exodus, such as Moses, Abraham, and Sarah. The youth will meet for choir at a new time, 10:00, in the choir loft, and gather, following worship, in the Youth Room for a new program entitled, *Chat and Chew*. Activities will include: discussion of the worship service with a focus on a particular aspect of worship, such as, how the day's Scripture lesson and sermon can be applied to our daily lives, or how the music in the service enhanced the worship experience. The youth will also plan off-site activities of service.

COMMUNITY

RUTH BROWN WILL BE AT WARNER, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st !

***Dinner at 6:30 in the Social Hall, followed by her presentation.
Please Plan to Attend!***

For many years, Warner has had a close relationship with a Presbyterian Missionary--or a pair of them--in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Our congregation has sent financial support, prayed for, visited, and been visited by these dedicated Christian servants, and we've learned from them that we can indeed help them to be God's hands in a land far away.

First, Warner supported Dr. and Mrs. Sager, who were assigned to the Good Shepherd Hospital there, and were able to visit with us at Warner. Their pet project was to teach young boys how AIDS is transmitted. They had discovered that Congolese boys so loved to play "football" (soccer) that if they had an opportunity to play with a real soccer ball rather than the ones they made for themselves from plastic bags, they would be willing to stay after a game to hear what the missionary doctor had to say about how to avoid catching AIDS. Jan Moody found a source of free soccer balls, many more than they had hoped for, and the Sagers were the first to call us "A Mission Minded Church!"

Next, Dr. and Mrs. Haninger took up that post. Nancy Haninger's pet project was to combat hunger by growing Moringa Trees – a remarkable tree, which some have called the "Tree of Life," for every part of it is edible and nutritious! Warner held a Tea and a Silent Auction which raised more than \$5,000, received a grant from Presbytery for an additional \$4,000, and created an alternative gift project called "Gifts from the Heart," which allowed us to buy Moringa Tree Seedlings (\$1 each) and send word to our friends that we were doing this in their honor at Christmas. The Haningers visited us twice; then Pastor Kirby and Mark Eakin journeyed to the DRC to visit the Haningers.

Now, we have Ruth Brown as our connection with our brothers and sisters in DRC, coming, on Wednesday, September 21st, at 6:30 p.m. to a potluck dinner which Session has authorized us to arrange, in order to interpret to us what it is she is doing in God's Service. One of those who met Ruth on her last visit shared with me the pleasure of "seeing her passionate energy on behalf of the people she works with," and "her enthusiasm for projects the Congolese are developing."



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Ruth Brown writes, *“Warner Memorial Church has been a tremendous support to my work and to PRODEK, the agricultural program in Congo. Your church is truly helping address the childhood malnutrition concern in the Kasais.”*

We need everyone’s help to make the dinner and the presentation (on Wednesday, September 21) a success. Consider providing a main course dish, a salad or a dessert, and/or agree to assist with set-up, or clean-up. Look for a sign-up sheet on the Commission Bulletin Board – in the church’s main hallway -- or contact Ty Bragg or Ina Rae Kramer.

I know that you will want to make every effort to participate in this experience and to meet Ruth and hear about her work bringing God’s love and help to individuals who have endured poverty and war for too long. I know that you will find it both inspiring and uplifting. -- Ina Rae Kramer, for the Community Commission

YOUR “MISSION COMMISSION” IN ACTION

Once again we are very grateful for the Centennial Fund, which was established on Warner’s 100th birthday, and which regularly provides interest and dividends to help in unexpected disasters such as we have seen this summer. Virtually all of our regular budget is already earmarked for other projects, so in times of emergency the Centennial Fund can be lifesaving.

The early summer brought news of floods in two of our neighboring locations. In late June severe rain and floods came to the southeastern part of West Virginia, killing dozens of people and washing away buildings and vehicles. Forty-four counties declared states of emergency. For example, near Charleston the Elkview River rose 27 feet overnight. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is now setting up plans for long term assistance, and the Warner Commission to the Community designated \$2000 from the Centennial Fund to support this work.

Then on July 30 extraordinarily heavy rains hit Ellicott City, in Howard County north of here, destroying the downtown area and killing several people. At our August 1 monthly commission meeting we learned that a new organization, Ellicott City Strong, had been started to facilitate contributions for relief and rebuilding. We decided to send \$300 from the Centennial Fund to support this work. We discovered that they were receiving donations only digitally, so one of our technologically adept members sent them \$300 via his cell phone; he has been reimbursed from the Centennial Fund.

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Since then we have seen news reports of merciless flooding in Louisiana. This will surely be discussed at our September meeting, as we consider how much money the Centennial Fund still has available to be used right now.

- Cory Atwood, for the Commission to the Community

WORSHIP & MUSIC

THE LORD'S PRAYER, ECUMENICAL

On the first Sunday of the month--the Sunday when we receive Communion--we also use the ecumenical form of the Lord's Prayer. Many people have asked to be reminded of why we do this. Several years ago, the Worship and Music Commission looked at the forms and traditions we follow in our church service. While studying the Communion service we considered that many, many Christian churches were also serving communion on the same Sundays as we do. As spoken in our call to worship on August 7, "Our sisters and brothers in Africa, Europe, South America, Asia, and in all lands and countries, join us in lifting the bread of life and the cup of salvation." Using the ecumenical form of the Lord's Prayer serves as a reminder that as we join together in communion with Christ, we are joining with Christians around the world. We are not alone in our worship of God. We are part of the church worldwide. We will celebrate that relationship when we join Christians around the world on Sunday, Oct 5th, World Communion Sunday. And we will remind ourselves of that relationship on the first Sunday of each month when we celebrate communion and use the ecumenical form of the Lord's Prayer. – Kay Gorman

NOW AVAILABLE—OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate our ushers. This is a job that can be done at home, requires no meetings, and gives you the opportunity to talk to fellow Warnerites at your own pace. Congregants are encouraged to sign up to serve as ushers on the chart outside the office. The usher coordinator keeps track of vacancies on the chart and calls people to volunteer to serve as ushers during these vacancies. Please contact Kay Gorman if you can fill this important position. – Kay Gorman

SAVE THE DATE – OCTOBER 30TH

On Sunday, October 30, there will be a special concert for the benefit of the Lee Rodkey Memorial Fund, at 4:00 PM in the Warner Memorial Sanctuary. The Rodkey Fund was established to honor the memory of longtime Warner member and music lover Lee Rodkey. The fund helps to pay for special needs of the Warner music program, including the recent renovations of our organ, and the Soprano Section Leader position that is currently being ably filled by Reshma Crawford. *(continued on next page)*

The concert on October 30 will feature the Warner Sanctuary and Bell Choirs, along with special guests the New Brass Quintet (featuring Warner's own Bill Burns) and the Albert Einstein High School Chamber Singers, directed by WMPC Music Director Peter Smeallie. The program will feature a mix of musical styles, with something for everyone! Mark your calendars now to be present for this unique event! More details will be forthcoming in the October Memo. ---Peter Smeallie, WMPC Music Director

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WHAT WE DID LAST SUMMER . . .

Summer 2016 was indeed a scorcher and hopefully we all found time to relax and recharge. The PW Coordinating Team was busy, however, and has plans in place for an interesting Fall 2016.

WOMEN OF WARNER TEA

Women of Warner, 30 or so of us, gathered on one of the steamiest days of summer 2016 for a “proper” tea. We enjoyed tasty treats and fellowship amidst a backdrop of tables topped with vintage cloths, teapots, china, music piped in over the PA, and photos of past Warner teas via a slide show on the stage screen. Not to mention the festively dressed ladies topped with “proper” bonnets. Thanks to the wonders of the new-fangled AC, we stayed marvelously cool as we sipped, supped, and chatted the afternoon away. We were fortunate to learn more about the wonderful work of a local charity, A Wider Circle, from its Director of Volunteers, Brittany Kelly. We hope to expand our relationship with this organization that devotes its energies to assisting individuals and families who are transitioning from homeless situations and setting up their own households, preparing for job interviews, etc. PW has enjoyed a long-term relationship with Rainbow Place, and we think these two organizations dovetail beautifully.



WARNER PW NEEDS YOUR HELP....

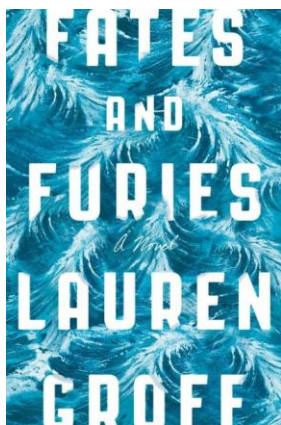


We hope it is evident that Warner Women are a well-spring of great intentions and ideas along with the energy and enthusiasm to take action. The primary ingredient missing or lacking in moving us forward is the financial wherewithal to sustain current local projects and new initiatives. As we have mentioned in the past, PW is entirely self-funded and relies on donations from within the congregation, in addition to its fund-raising efforts. Regardless of the source, monies raised in any way go to support PW’s global, mission effort, local mission at Warner and educational activities, such as: **(Please see list on next page)**

- PW Birthday Offering
- PW Thank Offering
- Equal Exchange
- Joint Venture International (JVI)
- Mid-Count United Ministries (MUM)
- NIH Children's Inn
- Rainbow Place
- University of Livingstonia
- World Vision
- Young Adult Volunteers (YAV)
- A Wider Circle
- Women's Retreats
- Gifts of Women

Please prayerfully consider how you can assist us in our efforts. We have refrained from holding a formal PW pledge effort in recent years and wish to highlight our ever-growing need for your financial support. We were overwhelmed by your support of the 2016 church-wide PW Birthday offering and are confident we can count on you to, once again, to help us sustain and increase the positive impact we can not only globally, nationally, but right here in our own backyard so we can bloom where we are planted.

2016-17 PW BOOK CLUB



We will be kicking off the 2016-2017 season on Tuesday, **September 27th at 7:30PM in the church library.** Lisa Smeallie will be leading our discussion of *Fates and Furies* by Lauren Groff. This novel is a National Book Award finalist, was an NPR top pick of 2015, and named best book of the year by the *Washington Post*. *Fates and Furies* is a story of a marriage, as told from both sides. Please plan to join us for a lively discussion; as always, having read the book is not a requirement for attendance. Hope to see you there!

WHO IS JESUS? WHAT A DIFFERENCE A LENS MAKES...

In addition to a new Bible Study, the 2016-2017 **Joy Circle** season holds one slight schedule change: We will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month this year to cover, "Who is Jesus?" by Dr. Judy Yaters Siker. We will meet on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:30 PM in the church library to begin the season with an overview of this study. You can request a study book through JoEllen LaPrade (PW treasurer) or June Eakin (circle leader). Please let us know if you would like a book; the cost is \$8 per book.

Stay tuned for more information regarding the **Reflections Circle**, which has met in past years at 9:30 AM on the second Sunday of the month. Lora McGlade has led this group in the past and is currently assessing the level of interest in meeting at this time. Please contact Lora directly for the current status of this small group offering.

PW FALL GATHERING—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

The 2016 NCP PW Fall Gathering will be at Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church on Saturday October 1 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The theme for this year's meeting is, "*Selfies with Jesus*", inspired by the Horizons Bible Study. The program will include a session on Mission, led by Mike McNamara from Presbytery. Please look for more registration information on the PW Bulletin Board, in the Sunday Bulletin as well as the Warner Weekly, or just ask Sue Burns. Registration is \$15 and may be paid at the door. We will plan to carpool from the Warner parking lot that day.



FALL RETREAT AT BON SECOURS--SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

We have made great progress in planning our fall retreat at the **Bon Secours Conference Center in Marriottsville, Maryland**. We are looking forward to the day, which will include spiritual enrichment planned by Jan Moody with a theme of "A Cloud of Witnesses, a session on the "History of the Bible," led by Lisa Smeallie and an overview of this year's (and next) Bible Study, "Who Is Jesus?" (See info above), led by June Eakin. Plan to join us for all this along with ample opportunity to enjoy not only the chapel and the Sun Porch, where we will be meeting, but to stroll the stunningly beautiful grounds. Cost is \$50 per person and includes breakfast and lunch, as well as the use of the grounds for the day. With assistance from C.E., we have limited funds available to provide financial assistance. Please contact Sue Burns or the Church office if you are planning to attend. We would like to have a head count by **Friday, September 23rd**.



We of Warner's Presbyterian Women are always seeking fresh ideas for activities and projects that would interest two, three, or more Warner women. All it takes is an e-mail 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.





PLANS IN PLACE FOR A NEW COOKBOOK

It is that time again... Lisa Smeallie has agreed to head up the next 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 and, if there is an interesting history or story related to it, include that information as well. If you have any questions or if you are interested in working on this endeavor, please contact Lisa directly.

UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY COMMISSION

WARNER'S TWO CENTS-A-MEAL PROGRAM... YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION!

On Sunday, August 21, we counted \$183.50 in coins and currency. Thanks to all who contributed! For August and September, our discretionary 40% will go to Farmers and Hunters Helping the Hungry program. That group donates venison to area food banks for indigent people. The money you give helps to process, prepare and preserve the meat. Every month, your donations also help food programs nationwide and overseas.

– Ann Rakow

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

At the meeting of Warner's Board of Deacons on Sunday afternoon, August 28, we discussed several current concerns and opportunities.

➤ Rally Day picnic plans:

We ask the congregation to help by bringing salads and desserts for the picnic on the terrace and lawn following worship on Sunday, September 11. **Please bring a salad or side dish if your last name begins with A through N; please bring a dessert if your last name begins with O through Z.** As usual, the deacons will provide hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, and buns, plus condiments and beverages.

(If it's raining that Sunday, we'll see you in the Warner Social Hall.)

Kensington's Labor Day Celebration: On Monday, September 5, Warner's deacons will help Mid-County United Ministries (MUM) with their information booth at the festival. Look for us on Armory Avenue near the lower entrance to the Safeway store.

The deacons also continue to support Warner members and friends who are homebound. We visit them with flowers every Sunday afternoon, and try to lend support to their family members or friends who are caregivers. – Tiff Carroll, for the Board of Deacons

WARNER PEOPLE

IN MEMORIAM, RALPH SLOAT

On Sunday evening, August 21, Warner Memorial received the sad news that Ralph Sloat, long-time member, had passed away. He had been ill for some time, but we still receive this news as a loss. (As of September 1, we are waiting to see when the family would be ready to set a time for the memorial service. It now looks like it is going to be at least a week or two more before a service takes place. We'll try to inform everyone as soon as we find out, via e-mails and telephone calls.) Ralph Sloat served our church in many quiet and faithful ways. Please keep his family in your prayers. We can give thanks for Ralph's dedication to God, particularly as it was expressed in his dedicated service to and support of Warner's life and ministry.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Bob Trautvetter, Susan Kline
- 4 Catharine Burke, Michaela Hepp
- 6 Margaret Adams
- 7 Peter Smeallie
- 8 Charlotte Hunker
- 9 Susan Bresee, Jennifer Carlson
- 10 Julia Cope
- 14 Janet Trautvetter, Robin Hepp, Brian France
- 15 Julia Simenauer, Anne Fleur Winter
- 16 Kaitlin Dunn
- 18 Cheryl Geiger, Joanna Bresee
- 19 Lois Smith

- 21 Stephen Dunn
- 24 Benjamin Fulton, Hugo Buitano, Michelle France, Graham & Maxwell Dunn
- 25 Elizabeth Lohr
- 26 Anuj Datta
- 27 Kristen Adams, Catelyn Koff, Celicia Letizia
- 28 Bennet McGlade
- 29 Matthew Koff

TWO RECENT ADDRESS / PHONE CHANGES:

Joan Bannon

410 Torrington Place
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-585-4780

Marilynn Victory

301-767-6447 (cell phone)

> A **prayer joy** from Alan Schroeder: “I am thankful for having good medical care during my recent hospitalization and for feeling better now than before. I am thankful for God’s grace & presence and for the prayers and support of this congregation.”

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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY PROGRAM HELPS EASE LIFE'S LOSSES

For someone who will listen and help you (in strict confidence) find the spiritual resources to get through a tough time, call the Warner Stephen Ministry leader Barbara Jaquette (301-593-2875) or call Rev. Hill at the church office (301-949-2900).



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“We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor.” **Paul’s letter to the Romans, Chapter 15:1-2**

“There never was a time when, in my opinion, some way could not be found to prevent the drawing of the sword.” -- **General Ulysses S. Grant (quoted in Peace Prayers)**

“Nonviolence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our very being.” -- **Mohandas Gandhi (also quoted in Peace Prayers, published by Harper Collins)**

Editors’ Note: We ask for the congregation’s continued support for the work of Mid-County United Ministries (MUM). From their headquarters in Wheaton, MUM’s staff provides much-needed services to low-income people in our neighborhoods. These services include the food pantry (see page 2 of this *MEMO*) and rental and referral aid. Thank you!

NEXT MEMO ISSUE

Please submit articles and notices for the October issue of the Warner *MEMO* **by Sunday, September 25**. 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!

Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church

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- Please see bulletin boards outside the Main Office -

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Music Director: Peter Smeallie

Organist: Sungho Paik

Director, Learning Center for Young Children: Karen Murphy

301-949-2933

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