

October 2025

Welcome

Welcome to the Bryn Mawr newsletter. The idea behind the content is to deliver news and information to and from Bryn Mawr's parishioners and the good work we are doing in the community. We hope you enjoy!

FAVORITE ZUCCHINI BREAD

MIX: 3 eggs (beaten)

1 cup vegetable oil

2 tsp. vanilla

2 cups of sugar

ADD: 2 cups shredded zucchini

1 8 oz. can of crushed pineapple (drained)

3 cups of flour

2 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. baking powder

1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1 cup sweetened coconut flakes; can use unsweetened if you prefer

2 LOAVES: Pour batter into 2 metal bread baking pans, greased and floured

(We actually put a teflon sheet on the bottom of the pan which Paul cut to fit because the dough tends to stick to the pans.)

Bake at 350 degrees. Do not undercook. Test for "doneness" with a toothpick. Remove bread from pans within 5 minutes of removal from oven and place on metal screen to cool and dry.

Submitted by Debby Nonn



Holiday Basket Preparations

By Kathy Farwell

Over the summer, food pantry volunteers have completed several of the tasks needed to be done in preparation for the upcoming holiday basket distribution:

- ~ Counted, opened and flattened 75 plastic bags – ready for packing hot dogs, cold cuts, margarine and cheese
 - ~ Numbered 3 sets of paper bags, 1-75; one set for toiletries and two sets as inserts to 75 totes that hold the dry good items and loaves of bread
 - ~ Inventoried 75 totes (added any missing #s, culled any in poor condition)
 - ~ Numbered 75 bottles of laundry detergent
 - ~ Steadily collected 75 EGG boxes from Piggly Wiggly, numbered and stacked– to pack with juice, eggs and produce, usually potatoes, carrots and fresh fruit
- Hundreds of food items have also been counted, boxed and set aside ready to fill +/- 75 totes approximately 10 days before distribution day (set in collaboration with school support staff ~ one week before Thanksgiving, Winter Break and Spring Break.)

Once the distribution dates are set, we set a tentative date to order produce 3 weeks prior; fill toiletry bags 2-3 weeks ahead; * pack totes 1-2 weeks before; *pick up and pack produce 2 days before; and on the morning of Distribution Day, pick up eggs, meet at church at 7:00 am and pack all the cold food to be ready for pickup/distribution.

Clients check in to receive their baskets beginning at 7:45. A small but mighty group of volunteers load carts with a food tote, toiletry bag and cold food box for each client or school family. School staff arrives by 8:00 to begin their deliveries to families in the community who have signed up for this service and have a student at Taylor Prairie School, Cottage Grove School, Granite Ridge School, Glacial Drumlin School, Monona Grove School, or MG21.

* These tasks are completed far in advance for a couple of reasons. By packing well ahead, we can purchase any needed items and pack another set of components if any additional families request food assistance. Because of the sheer quantity of items that need to be packed, we find that breaking up these large tasks on different days with different groups of volunteers is more manageable and less daunting. Also, for a few years now a young man and his coach collect the donated items from the barrel at the Piggly Wiggly and bring them to the pantry on Monday mornings to be checked and shelved. We (the three of us: Patti, Kim, Kathy) are there to welcome him and assign other tasks as needed. With us being there every Monday morning, we can complete small chunks of the multi-step packing process well before distribution day.

Third Grade Food Drive

By Kathy Farwell



Since the late 1980's, the Cottage Grove area 3rd graders and staff have hosted a food drive for the Cottage Grove Food Pantry. In conjunction with their Social Studies

Unit of Community Services, the students are introduced to and learn about various services that are provided within the community of Cottage Grove.

Every year, the third-grade teacher coordinator extends an invitation to the pantry coordinator or other representative to talk about the food pantry to all the third-grade classes. Information is shared about the pantry, what it is, where it's located, who

can use it and what kinds of food we accept. This presentation initiated the start of a weeklong drive for food and toiletry items. At the end of the week a large group of volunteers waited in the fellowship hall as each 3rd grade class, every 20 minutes, walked from Cottage Grove School with their bags of food.

Once at church, the students gathered around the growing mountain of donations and learned additional information about how their collection benefits the community. Before heading back to school, they were given a tour of the pantry shelves and cabinets.

That was the format before 2021. When Granite Ridge School (grades 3,4,5) was built, the 3rd graders could no longer make that trek to church, so pantry volunteers now pick up the donations at week's end. Although the logistics of this week-long event have changed over the past few years, the result is always remarkable. The spirit of teamwork and generosity is very evident in the quantity of donations we receive.

We look forward to this year's food drive set for the week of October 6-10!

Miss Rachel Ann Hammond*

By Eugene Howard Skaar (Father of Vicki Skaar Kraus)

Submitted by Vicki Kraus

She was loved by all who knew her;
And was known from far and wide
She had chosen God to worship,
And Jesus as her guide.

Her smile was always ready;
To greet you on the way
She was forever kind and willing,
She did her share of work and play.

She was especially loved by her companions

Who worked near her in church and school;
She did her duties most faithfully
Always steady and forever cool.

She was a leader in Christian Endeavor
And we gathered without her one night;
The Reverend told of her absence,
He outlined her sickening plight.

She had been stricken with an illness that morning
And her mother has asked us to pray
For her daughter's fast recovery
When the doctor had her taken away.

We were all sorry to hear of her malady
And prayed for her fast return;
But God had willed it different
As we were soon to learn.

She died that night in the hospital
And left those she did love;
For a better world beyond us
In God's heaven far above.

*Rachel died April 30, 1939 at 10:30 pm



Bryn Mawr Members Per Capita Why? *By Todd Fletcher*

In addition to your Annual Pledge to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church each member is assigned a Per Capita amount to be paid to the Presbytery to support all of their activities throughout the year. This year's Per Capita is \$40.00 per member. As of June 30th, only 46% of the total Bryn Mawr pays out to the Presbytery has been received. The Church Treasurer has already paid our Annual Contribution to the Presbytery even though we haven't collected even half of that total to date. The

amount due from our church is based on our membership at the end of the prior year. John Knox Presbytery is made up of 55 congregations that are doing ministry, with each other and for each other in ways they simply couldn't do alone. Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the expenses associated with coordinating and performing their functions are shared by every member as well. To summarize, your Session has agreed to pay John Knox Presbytery our requested Per Capita for 2025 whether or not we have received those funds from our members. So, if you have already paid your Per Capita for 2025, Thank You! If you haven't paid it yet the Session would greatly appreciate you doing so sooner rather than later this year.

Submitted by Debby Nonn

Several months ago, I was driving in Door County with my husband and his brother who was visiting from out-of-state. They hadn't been together in many years and were interested in revisiting the community they had grown up in. As I struggled to find my way through this unfamiliar area of Wisconsin, I passed a graveyard and noticed a memorial stone which caught my attention. So I stopped and took a photo. It was a quotation from Oliver Wendell Holmes. When I reflected upon it, I was grateful that I had taken the time to stop. It had given me an insight which would help me not only make my way through Door County and the intricacies of my brother-in-law's visit, but also through the larger concerns of life. Here's what it said:

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we're moving. To reach the port of heaven we must sail; Sometimes with the wind, sometimes against it. But we must not drift or lie at anchor."
I wonder if Holmes himself was inspired by the story of the journey of the Magi.



Elbow Grease

Submitted by Pastor Steve

When I was in high school, I worked after school at a paint store. Occasionally, a friend of the owner would come in to buy paint.

When the customer was ready to check out, my boss, the owner, would say to the friend, "There's one thing you don't have, one thing that you're missing. The customer would look puzzled. Then the owner would reach under the counter to pull out a can that said on it, "Elbow Grease." Then they would have a good laugh.

If only our Christian faith came in a can, and then when we needed some, we could go buy it at the store.

Where do you get more faith when you're running low - a friend, our spouse, a neighbor? A book, the Bible, a walk in the woods. Looking for invigorating our faith, we might find it at church - in the prayers, the Scriptures, the music, the fellowship, and so forth.

We will find a boost for our faith where we find it. And we will find it as long as we keep looking for it. When our faith is rusty, maybe we need "elbow grease!" - Pastor Steve

Church-type Jokes

1. An irate customer called the newspaper office. She screamed, "Where's my Sunday paper?" The agent said, "The Sunday paper will be delivered tomorrow on Sunday as usual." There was a long pause. Then, the customer said much more calmly, "Well, that explains why no one was in church today."

2. At Creation, God was talking to one of the angels. God said, "I just made a time in which both light and darkness have parts. The angel said, "That sounds great. Now what are you going to do?" God said, "I think I will call it a day."

3. *Parishioner:* Pastor, I apologize for my husband who walked out during your sermon.

Pastor: I did find it rather upsetting.

Parishioner: It's not a reflection on you. He's been walking in his sleep since childhood.



2025 Cottage Grove Community Garden

Submitted by Patti Ryback

This year I took over the administration part of managing the Cottage Grove Community Garden that is located on our church property adjacent to the parking lot. I'm happy to announce that all the 27 plots have been rented this year. We have 16 families that are participating this year. I am gardening there as well with my son Justin and his wife Jesse. At times the grandkids help too.

The trees that were taken down from the church's hill were chipped up and the gardeners used it for mulch.

It has been a struggle keeping the thistles down, but as you can see, most plots have been doing well with the rain and heat.

There are various animals that enjoy the bounty in the garden. There are birds, deer, rabbits, mice, chipmunks and a fat groundhog.

Mom's Blessing

Submitted by Patti Ryback

On July 1, 2024, I moved my 89-year-old mom to an assisted living facility two miles from my home. I know my mom is in her last years of life and I feel

blessed to help her through this challenging time. My mom is in hospice care and is very appreciative of all the help she receives daily. Although my mom has Alzheimer's, she knows me and her other children and their spouses. Yesterday I was helping her in the bathroom, and she kissed me on the back of my head. It made me realize how special a mother's love is. I feel very blessed to have a mom that is so loving and smiles all the time. The one thing she really enjoys is going out for a Dairy Queen vanilla ice cream cone. In September, mom will celebrate turning 91 with a small party at our house. In July, I was saying goodbye to my mom after a visit and she asked me to give Rick a message "Tell him Happy Christmas". I did give Rick the message but quickly realized that the Hallmark Channel on her TV had Christmas in July the entire month. I know my mom is a special lady and I'm glad to be her daughter.



October Birthdays

- 1 Kenady Drew Farwell
- 2 Leslyn Spinelli
- 8 Vicki Kraus
- 22 Jim Nemke
- 23 Hannah Joy Hank
- 25 Allyson Donahue
- 26 Shilah Conklin
- 31 Debby Nonn

October Anniversaries

- 4 Steve & Anne McNabb
- 24 John & Jan Fletcher



2025 Session and Deacons:

Session Members/Committee Chairs:

- Dave Conklin – Finance
- Todd Fletcher – Worship/Personnel
- Debby Nonn
- Patti Ryback – Communications
- Jeff Stapleton – Buildings and Grounds
- Pastor Steve - (Moderator)
- Vicki Kraus – Clerk of Session

Deacons:

- Eileen Conklin
- Louise Rhead
- Cindy Skaar
- Tammy Tuten
- Ramona Winger