



Welcome

Welcome to the Bryn Mawr newsletter, Spiritual Reflections. 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 and on our own spiritual journeys. Please feel free to share with us your own spiritual reflection to publish in the newsletter each month. We hope you enjoy!



Message from Reverend Elaine

This article has been on the internet for some years, but it may be new to you. To reflect on the wisdom it offers, may it give us some new insight.

An Interview with God

I dreamed I had an interview with God. “So, you would like to interview me?” God asked.

“If you have the time,” I said. God smiled.

“My time is eternity, what questions do you have in mind for me?”

“What surprises you the most about human kind?” God answered.

“That they get bored with childhood, they rush to grow up and then long to be children again.” “That they lose their health to make money... and then lose their money to restore their health.” That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present... such that they live neither in the present or the future.”

“That they live as if they will never die and die as though they never lived.”

God's hand took mine and we were silent for a while.

And then I asked, "As a parent, what are some of the life's lessons you want your children to learn?"

"To learn they cannot make anyone love them, all they can do is let themselves be loved."

"To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others." To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness." "To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in those we love, and it can take many years to heal them." "To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most but is the one who needs the least." "To learn that there are people who love them dearly, but simply do not yet know how to express or show their feelings." To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently." "To learn that it is not enough to forgive one another, but they must also forgive themselves."

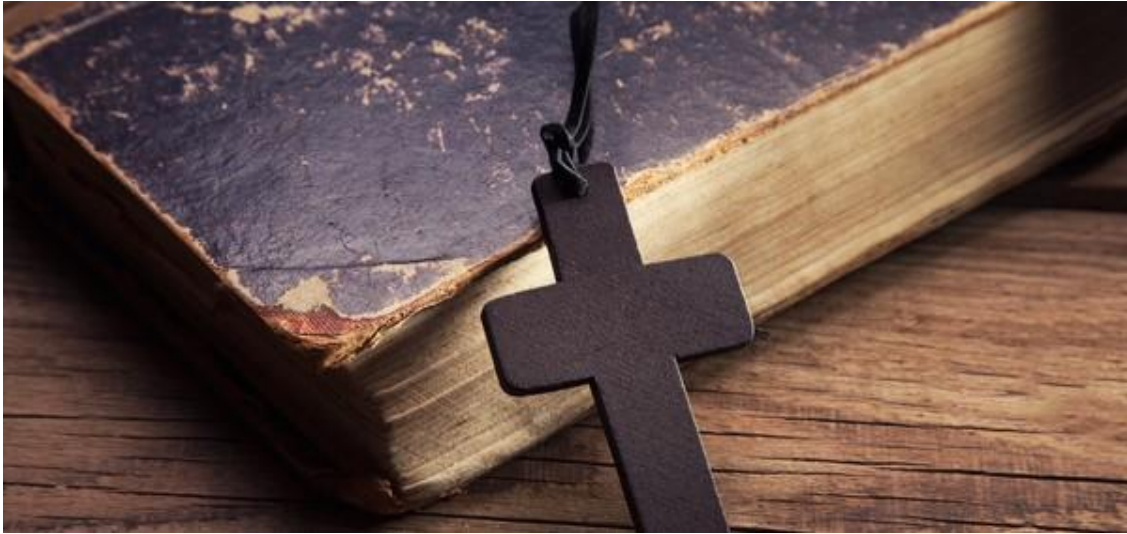
"Thank you for your time," I said humbly. "Is there anything else you would like your children to know?" God smiled and said, just know that I am here, always."



Last Sunday We Celebrated World Communion Sunday!

World Communion Sunday was begun in 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church. It was adopted throughout the Presbyterian Church in 1936. In 1940, it was recognized by the National Council of Churches and spread to denominations worldwide. It is observed on the first Sunday in October to promote Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation.

On this Sunday, through different traditions and customs, we remember the Lord's Supper. It is a celebration of what Jesus has done, and continues to do, for each one of us. We do this to open our eyes and hearts to the breadth and depth of the Christian family and tradition. We celebrate with different customs so that we understand the worldwide nature of Christianity. As world conflicts arise and divisions appear between people and nations, our World Communion celebration takes on a greater meaning as a unifying force.



Adult Education Classes!

Our first Expanded Adult Education class was held after Worship on September 9th. It was very well attended. In fact, we had to bring in additional chairs for all the attendees! Rev. Elaine led a lively discussion of The Lord's Prayer. She brought in several resources and some modern language versions of the prayer. Our next class will be held on October 14th following Worship. We will discuss the book by Marcus Borg: "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time". You do not need to have read the book in advance to attend the class, but if you haven't, it might just inspire you to read it afterward! Please join us!



I Know He Listens

A Story of Prayer by Wendy Garthwaite

Last year my mother and father were taking their annual driving trip to Florida with my aunt and uncle when my dad became severely ill with pancreatitis. I won't go into all of the details here. It is a very long story but one with a good outcome.

After months in a hospital and the ups and downs that come with being in a hospital, my dad ultimately got better. During the back and forth to hospitals in Missouri and Madison, I prayed a lot, I talked to God a lot. One particularly bad day when my sister had called to tell me my dad might not make it, I went home and prayed harder than I had ever prayed before. I spoke to God and asked him for strength for my mother, sisters and my family. Then the most amazing thing happened. I closed my eyes, swollen with tears. I laid down and was immediately filled with the most incredible sense of peace. I stood up and went to my husband Kyle and told him, "everything is going to be okay." And it was. I talk to God daily and pray all the time. I know he listens.



Calendar of Events

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting after worship on October 28, 2018. The purpose of this meeting is to approve a change in Article V of the Bylaws regarding the number of Deacons.

It is time to nominate persons to fill opening positions of Elders, Deacons and At-Large Members of the Nominating Committee for 2019. Think about volunteering and/or recommending someone for a position. Talk with one of the members of the Nominating Committee: Wendy Garthwaite and Gary Everingham are co-chairs and members are Rhonda Pfeffer (Deacon Member) and Kathy Christoph, Dona Everingham, Wendy McNall, and Stacie Rudy (At-Large Members). After approval of the Report of the Nominating Committee at the Session Meeting on November 1st, 2018, the report will be presented at Congregational Meeting to be held on November 18th after worship. Let me know if you have questions about this. – Vicki Kraus

PRESS HOUSE: Our church is hosting a Pres House dinner on Sunday, October 28th. We again will need donations of food or money. We also always are in need of volunteers to finish preparation and serve on the day of

the meal. There is a sign-up sheet on the side table. If you have questions, please contact Eileen, Vicki or Otto.

LUKE HOUSE: 3rd Wednesday of each month (October 17) – Join us in serving at Luke House. We are always in need of food items and volunteers. Please sign up today!

DEACON FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST – Mark your calendar! The next date for the Deacon fellowship breakfast is October 17 (Village Café). In addition, there is a Deacon breakfast scheduled for December 19 (Olde Towne Coffee House). Breakfast is at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome. Please feel free to invite friends and family.



Christians

by Maya Angelou

When I say...'I am a Christian'

I'm not shouting 'I'm clean livin',

I'm whispering 'I was lost,

Now I'm found, and forgiven'.

When I say...'I am a Christian'
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say...'I am a Christian'
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I am weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say...'I am a Christian'
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting that I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say...'I am a Christian'
I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are far to visible
But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say...'I am a Christian'

I still feel the sting of pain.

I have my share of heartaches

So I call upon His name.

When I say...'I am a Christian'

I'm not holier than thou.

I'm just a simple sinner

Who received God's grace, somehow!



In Jesus' Name We Pray

- Bob Adams, hospitalized with an infection.
- Karen and Preston Baker (Karen –breast cancer returned, will be doing radiation treatments/Preston-stomach issues from past surgery)
- Diane, mother-in-law of Mark McNall's who has health concerns

- Jeanne and Herb Evert (Jeanne in hospital for thyroid/carotid artery surgery)
- Evert family who lost grand nephew (our nephew's son) Zach Bulanow on July 8 when a car hit his motorcycle at the end of his driveway.
- Kathy Farwell recovering from thyroid surgery.
- John Hueber recovering from surgery; John and Stacie's dog, Nikko, diagnosed with cancer
- Jim (friend of Stapleton's) who has gastroesophageal cancer, started radiation and chemo
- Joey, Jeff Stapleton's cousin, diagnosed with brain infection
- Rick, Eileen Conklin's cousin who is the hospital
- Gary Everingham's brother Joe's health concerns
- Andrew Tuten's friend, Carter Gehl, killed in car accident and the Gehl family
- Karel Moore, heart transplant on July 31 and recovering at daughter's
- Judy Phillips brother, Bud, recovering from knee surgery.
- Larry Rhead's brother Earl, and Jack recovering from health issues.
- Louise Rhead's granddaughter who is pregnant and T1 diabetic
- Esther Stapleton who is dealing with kidney issues
- Sharon Pristash and family (Shelley's close friend whose father passed away 9/3)
- Teresa, Shelley's step-mom, diagnosed with melanoma; recovering from surgery
- Lauren Truman (Leslyn Spinelli's daughter), started immunotherapy for melanoma
- John Tuten's family in the passing of his brother, Michael
- Mary Jane Ubbelohde (eye surgery)

To help keep the prayer list updated, prayers will remain on the list for two months and reviewed at the monthly Deacon's meeting. If you wish to have us

continue praying for an individual or family, please let one of the Deacon's know so we can add them back on. All other prayers involving a world situation, community concerns, groups, governmental, disasters, etc. are prayed for during church. Due to confidential reasons, please be sure the person you want on the prayer list has given us permission to do this and a prayer request card has been submitted with this marked on the prayer card.
