

# BRYN ATHYN CHURCH

July 1, 2012

## ANNUAL REPORT

June 30, 2013

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Annual Report of the Bryn Athyn Church of the New Jerusalem, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania 19009

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September 25, 2013

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~ NOTICE ~

### THE SEMIANNUAL MEETING OF THE BRYN ATHYN CHURCH

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

7:30 pm, Heilman Hall

Items of business:

Pastor's Report ~ Treasurer's Report ~ Assistant Pastor's Report ~ Cathedral Director's Report ~  
Program Coordinator's Report ~ Strategic Planning Report



### REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Rev. Jeremy F. Simons

*When the universal influence which emanates from the Lord is at work forms of good and truths appear to arrange themselves into order, as though they moved into such order of their own accord." Arcana Coelestia 6337*

It would be nice if things in this world instantly became arranged into a state of order all by themselves in response to influx. Instead the process of arranging things here is slow, laborious, and plagued by wrong turns and roadblocks.

So it is satisfying when we can look back and see positive changes that have happened and keep on happening.

After some challenging years on a number of fronts, the past few years have seen a return to stability, and promising signs for the future in Bryn Athyn. We see a balanced church budget for the coming year, increases in the school population, exciting improvements at the Cathedral, and the continuation of the planning process that began with the Appreciative Inquiry interviews and sessions of the past few years.

The Marriage Program under Lori and John Odhner and Stephen Ministry Program under Nina Dewees have been bright spots this year. Both of these programs have involved numerous people in mentoring and helping others throughout the community.

The continuation of the planning process that began with Appreciative Inquiry has been energetically carried forward by Erik Buss and enthusiastically embraced by the Board. I believe that good things are coming out of this process.

Improvements keep coming at the Cathedral on many levels, from a revitalized Young Children's Service under Phil Schnarr to many physical improvements. The new geothermal air-conditioning system was turned on this summer to the joy of many. Excitement about the new Skinner organ continues to build. The old Schlicker organ was sold and taken away in July 2103. We are enormously grateful to Fred Haas for this gift and to Jay Barry for his patient work to plan for it. We will miss Jay, who has been called to be the Pastor in Glenview. His place is being filled on an interim basis by Jim Adams.

A big change in all of our services is the retirement of Music Director Chris Simons this summer and the arrival of Graham Bier to take his place. Chris has been involved in making music in Bryn Athyn for most of four decades, and brought music in the church to a very high level in those years. I think that Graham is well qualified to continue this tradition and Terry Schnarr's skilled organ playing and terrific leadership in many areas will make sure that things do not slide.

The school is running well under Reid Prichett and Kirsten Cronlund. I am especially grateful to Joanne Kiel for her work on school admissions, in addition to her great work leading the preschool. There are many new families in the school this year as a result of her patient and welcoming efforts. Along these same lines, we will very much miss Lindy Bochniak's enthusiasm and energy in her work with new families and young people. She is moving on after seventeen years of excellent work building connections with people of all ages and motivating volunteers for numerous church and school projects.

The years 2003 to 2013 have been a period of significant change for the Bryn Athyn Church, as well as for the other institutions in this wonderful community. When I became pastor we were nearing the peak of a time of financial prosperity and there was interest in transforming the church and its schools in important ways. As it turns out a lot did change over the past ten years, from the addition of the preschool, to the video live-streaming of services at the Cathedral, to many new buildings on our campuses. The recession and other factors made things interesting, but I think that overall we have seen real improvement on many fronts.

I thank you for your support during my term as pastor. I want to thank the pastoral staff - Phil Schnarr, John Odhner, Solomon Keal, Jay Barry and Erik Buss for their efforts. I want to especially note LynnEllen King, who does more good things for more people than I would ever have thought possible. Allyn and I love this society. Good things are happening in the community from Nina Finkeldey and her staff's work in our beloved BA Thrift Shop, to Danielle Odhner and the wonderful people who put on Bryn Athyn Bounty. I urge you to attend the Semi-Annual Meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2013, where you will hear more about what is going on. ~

**MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PASTOR**  
**Rev. Eric H. Carswell**

Both last spring as I started to be involved in Bryn Athyn Church issues and since July 1 when I formally assumed the role of head pastor, I have tremendously enjoyed the opportunities this role provides.

This congregation is well-served by so many people working in the pastors office, at the Cathedral and at the Bryn Athyn Church School. I've been reminded many times over of how many caring and thoughtful people are gathered together in and about this congregation. The variety of church services and the people who support them and who attend them is a testimony to how we believe in turning to the Lord in prayer, praise and to seek instruction from Him.

I've just enjoyed the start of another school year at BACS. Watching the teachers getting ready in their classrooms, the parents dropping off or picking up children, and the students themselves from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade has been inspiring. Each day the children's hearts, minds and lives are being influenced for good in ways that can serve them to eternity.

This congregation exists because of a shared recognition of the Lord's loving and wise guidance for our lives. We want to help people know the Lord, understand what He wants to teach us and have their lives influenced for the good through these means. This guides our worship services and adult education opportunities. It is behind our conviction of the importance of New Church education. The light and life of the Lord as He has revealed Himself in His Second Coming helps support a community of wisely caring people.

As the head pastor of a natural organization committed to serving a powerful spiritual cause I appreciate the roles so many of you have that support this congregation's goals. Thank you for your volunteer efforts and for the substantial financial support required for the uses we have chosen to pursue. I hope you also look at the good things we are able to accomplish and are glad you are part of this effort. I look forward to working with and serving you. ~

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT PASTOR**  
**Rev. Erik J. Buss**

This has been a year of important transitions. We saw the transition to a new pastor and the development of a strategic plan, both of which will have a large impact on the future of the Bryn Athyn Church.

This year I took on two new duties. The main one was leading the development of our new strategic plan, using the outcomes of the Appreciative Inquiry process that wrapped up last September. The plan is not completed yet because we decided to wait until we had a new pastor so he could lead us in some key decisions such as developing a mission statement. But we did go through an extensive process of asking people to rank the items of the strategic plan that they thought we need to work on the most in the next year. You can see a full report of the outcomes of that process on pg. 3.

The other role I took on was to offer support and guidance to the project teams that arose from our final Appreciative Inquiry summit last September. Some groups have finished their work, such as the Trust Through Transparency team. Others are in various stages of progress, and others still have stopped any meaningful work. And late this spring another initiative arose as a project and is being implemented.

The Young Adult Vesper services that started at the end of the last fiscal year continued monthly through this year, averaging over 30 people a service. I have been leading the process and given half of the services. I have been involved in conversations with young adults about additional ways to meet their needs and to make the church more accessible to them.

I have many ongoing duties, including the following:

- Preaching three or four times a month
- Teaching 8th grade religion and various school commitments
- A host of regular meetings as part of the administration of the church
- Regular pastoral visiting and counseling
- Support of the yearly Journey campaign
- Pastor for the New Church Day pageant and Tableaux
- Leading strategic planning for the church

Evangelization is one of my areas of responsibility. We are continuing to become more welcoming at our worship services. Working with the Bryn Athyn Church and Cathedral Outreach Committee, chaired by Terry Schnarr, we have made a number of improvements.

Here are a few of them:

- Support for Young Adult Services and programs
- Developing a contact list of folks interested in church events (cont. on pg. 3)

## Report of the Assistant Pastor Cont.

- Developed a flier on Swedenborg
- Updated and expanded a list of opportunities to get involved in the community
- Streamlined process for how to become a member and included this in welcome packets
- Established new procedure to make free books available for interested newcomers who tour the cathedral
- Advertising for Festival Services
- Quality control of Cathedral worship services, providing a feedback mechanism
- Experimented with Sunday afternoon outreach programs (talks on Dementia, Johnny Appleseed)

In addition I have been involved in other outreach activities:

- Giving New Church Overview classes at the cathedral to those new to the church and to those interested in attending BACS or ANC Secondary Schools
- Performing cathedral weddings for some people not in the church, including meeting 6 times with the couple to prepare them for marriage in the light of the Doctrines.

It was a delight to have some adult baptisms this year and we hope to have many more in years to come.

I am also involved in several General Church and Academy committees at the request of the bishop: Bishop's Consistory, Council of the Clergy Membership Committee, ANC Board.

In this coming year I am adding three areas of responsibility to my job: A broader commitment to reaching out to young adults, responsibility for developing and implementing a program to help people with personal spiritual practices, and supervision of our efforts to support and develop the use of small groups to serve people's spiritual and emotional needs. I am excited about these additions and look forward to working with Eric in the coming year. ~

### OUTCOMES OF VOTING ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN

**Rev. Erik J. Buss**

Over the last few months we've been asking people in the congregation to help us prioritize the 27 items on the strategic plan that arose from the Appreciate Inquiry process, and subsequent work with the Board, Pastor's Office and School. This prioritization gives us an indication of what is most important to people. All 27 initiatives are useful, and we'd love to work on each of them, but given budget and staff reductions over the last few years we have to target our efforts to the things that are the highest priority and offer the greatest potential benefit.

Almost 200 people gave us their input, and because we went to eight different venues to get it we think this feedback is broader than we would have gotten at a society meeting. Thus the pastoral staff and board are happy with the results.

The top three items based on the priority voting are:

- 1) Support people in spiritual living, and provide them with tools and support to engage in the spiritual practices the Lord tells us about.
- 2) Find ways to welcome young people into our church community, and to involve them in it.
- 3) Ensure that there is broad input and transparency in decisions.

Coming out of the Appreciative Inquiry process, it was clear that people in Bryn Athyn were interested in three areas: spiritual living, building a welcoming community and effective governance. It is not surprising that the top three topics come from each of those three areas.

- Other initiatives that got a lot of support were: Create spaces in which people can gather to develop and experience community
- Reach out to existing members and friends who have become disenchanted or have faded away
- Support people in their commitment to marriage, in all phases of life and relationship status
- Offer pathways for people new to the community to feel they are part of the community
- Support people in their efforts to serve others outside our community
- Develop and expand our welcoming presence for newcomers
- Foster broad support for New Church education in all its many forms
- Elementary School: Carry forward the timeless elements of New Church Education and incorporate the core knowledge, skills and learning environments identified as necessary for students in this new century.

What is striking about these is that they have to do primarily with welcoming, nurturing, and supporting others, and with supporting education. Also striking is the fact that people did not, on the whole, vote for things that affected them so much as what they thought was good for the congregation (i.e., young adults did not vote for reaching out to young adults, but older people did). It seems people were voting from a genuine spirit of charity.

The pastoral staff and board is working on plans to implement these initiatives, so stay tuned. If you have ideas, energy, or resources you would like to contribute to any of them please let me know. These are not the projects of the pastoral staff. These are projects for all of us. Let's ask how all of us can engage in making them a success. ~

**REPORT OF THE CATHEDRAL DIRECTOR****Rev. Jay Barry***A Year of Changes*

The past fiscal year saw some significant changes at the Cathedral. Among them: 1) the re-arrangement of our staff due to budget restraints. 2) the advancement of two major projects: the Haas Organ Project, and the North and South Nave Repointing Projects, and 3) leadership changes, including a new Director of Music.

*Worship Services*

Not including our festival services, our Young Children's Service enjoyed an average attendance of **65**, the Family Cathedral Service an average of **101**, and the Adult Cathedral Service an average of **178**. The attendance at the Children's Service remained steady compared to the year before, but the Adult and Family Service numbers saw a decrease. The average attendance at all three services was **344**, compared to 413 the year before. This represents a decrease of 16%.

We welcomed a total of **1,614** people at the Christmas **Tableaux** services, and **1,315** people during our three **Christmas Eve Services**, with **241** attending the **Christmas Vespers Service**. **Palm Sunday** saw **553** people in attendance and **187** for our **Good Friday Service**. On **Easter Sunday** we welcomed **1,141** people at 3 services. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, we estimated **1,200** people; (there were just too many to count, honestly). Also, at our special **Charter Day Service**, where we welcome ANC students, faculty, friends and family, we counted **587** people.

**One of the bright spots** this year was a special service that **Rev. Erik Buss** initiated: the **Young Adult Vespers Service**. Erik created a welcoming worship service atmosphere for our young people, and in nine services the total attendance was **298** with an average attendance of **33**. Congratulations Erik, for this promising new offering on our Cathedral worship service programs.

*Visitors*

We welcomed a total of **9,179** people to the Cathedral last year, and this number includes school tours and people who just walk in between the hours of 1 and 4pm. This constitutes a **20.75% increase** over last year. We can congratulate Julia and her team, which also includes **Maddy Nehlig** and **Jency Cole**. And if you count online visitors as part of this category, we had **30,821 visitors to our Bryn Athyn Cathedral website**.

*Budget constraints and Staffing Changes*

I want to thank Doreen Horigan, our administrative assistant, as we negotiated some very difficult financial waters last year. We ended **FY 2011-12 with a deficit of \$110,278**; we worked hard and made difficult changes during 2012-13 to address the deficit, and began the process of bringing the budget to the balancing point with staffing changes. Although we did not reach our goal of a

balanced budget during 2012-13 we have laid the groundwork for this to happen in 2013-14. My gratitude goes out to Stewart Asplundh, who has been a tremendous help and a faithful partner with Cathedral finances.

*Leadership Changes*

I have taken a new position as Pastor at the Glenview New Church and stepped down as Director on June 30, 2013. In my place, **Jim Adams** has agreed to return to the Cathedral in an interim capacity. **Rev. Jeremy Simons**, though officially retired, will bring his skills and friendly presence to the Cathedral part-time to continue our pastoral presence. We are delighted that very experienced **Rev. Eric Carswell** is the new Pastor in Bryn Athyn.

Finally, we have recently welcomed **Mr. Graham Bier** as the new music director of the Bryn Athyn Church. This is quite exciting, for Graham will bring his years of professional experience in Britain to the Cathedral. Welcome, Graham, with our best wishes and high hopes as you bring your talents to this community!

*The Chara Aurora Cooper Haas Pipe Organ at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral*

With hard work, we saw this project mature in the past year. First, the Bryn Athyn Church was able to come to an agreement with **Fred Haas** on the cost of the gift. Next, we secured a **formal donor agreement** which will make Fred's generous offer a reality. **Charles Kegg** was selected as the builder of the organ, and **Steve Hendricks** was chosen to design and build the wooden façade for the new pipes. There are many more exciting developments. If you have questions about this project, don't hesitate to ask **Terry Schnarr** or **Jim Adams**. If all goes as expected, the new organ will be installed late in 2014.

*The North and South Nave Repointing Projects*

Respecting building maintenance, we turned our attention to applying new grout between the limestone block walls of the Cathedral. This is called 'repointing' and the scope of work agreed to by the Trustees includes the exterior North and South walls of the Nave. This is an essential maintenance project that will protect the Cathedral from water, which degrades the stone. This project is expected to take several years, and will rely on the expertise of **Jens Langlotz**, our Masonry Director.

*A fond farewell*

As departing Director, I now say farewell and God bless to all of you. The Bryn Athyn Cathedral has a special place in the heart of our worldwide church, and I have been honored to care for this building, and the people who work here and visit us for the past couple of years. Lend a word of support to the staff when you see them, for they truly know how "to make the difficult easy, and the easy beautiful." I will carry all of you with me in the years ahead as I continue to serve the church in Glenview. ~

## CARING FOR MARRIAGE PROGRAM

John and Lori Odhner

The goals of the program are to cultivate a sense of value for marriage in the community, with both married and unmarried people, and to provide support for those marriages, both before and after the wedding.

**Annual Conference in February** - This year was our eighth conference, and included a variety of workshops aimed at different stages in relationships. The children's program was a great chance for children to enjoy each other and try a number of activities. There was both paid and volunteer staff, including Delta Mu students, college students, and people from the community. Alison Jackson and Rebecca Jackson coordinated this. LynnEllen King was our wonderful caterer, and kept people well fed. Saturday dinner was at the Lord's New Church and Sunday was a delightful dinner at Cairnwood Estate. Both events offered live music. Adults had a number of workshops and activities to choose from. For 2014 a committee has been formed to help create a meaningful event. This is our largest effort of the year, and serves 150-200 people. The program runs in the black.

**Mom's Morning Out** - In an effort to support the parents of young children we have offered one morning a month of childcare. Volunteers from the community give wonderful attention to the children who come. There have been between 14-30 adults or older children who provide care for the 15-40 children who come. Twice there have been classrooms from BACS who come for half an hour to play with toddlers and hold babies. It has been a win-win-win situation, where students can be of genuine support by being truly useful, and toddlers get the attention of caring adults and older kids. There has been a wave of positive feedback from the program.

**Mentoring** - Twenty couples with more experience have been trained and linked up with younger couples to provide a base of support. The goal is to meet for an hour a month, which helps to create a connection over time. In celebration of the training, the mentor couples had a progressive dinner last spring. There will be another training beginning this October for other couples who are willing to be mentors. The program is another win-win, blessing both couples. There is no cost for training or for having a mentor.

**Marriage Moats** - These are daily inspirational email messages and stories that go out each morning to 650 people. With an average of 300 opens a day that is 2100 opens each week. There is no cost to people who receive it. These messages are embellished with beautiful photographs by Joy Feerrar, Jenny Stein, Stephen Conroy and Andy Sullivan. The only expense is the internet server which is the same as the one for the Post and runs about \$200 a year. There is often

feedback published in the newsletter. Here are a couple of responses:

*I continue to be amazed that you rise SO EARLY every morning to compose such wonderful nuggets of wisdom for your readers. You do it EVERY DAY! Where and how do you find all these glorious aids to help us all be better people - better couples? I have been considering it such a chore - but then I think about how the Lord leads me to hold your daily thoughts with me throughout the day so that I can be more aware of trying to live better. Surely you are double blessed by HIM - and rightly so - as you dig deep into your bag of experiences to help HIM shed light on our lives. Once again - thank you, good and faithful servant!*

*I wonder if the majority of your readers are female. It is important to remember how different, but valid, the male experience is. You have referenced their views many times and I find that extremely helpful. I have read all of your moats and they have all been helpful. You put one out last week that was so helpful for our marriage at that particular moment. We were arguing about something and he kept talking about his intentions, and I felt his conversation was invalidating my emotional response to his actions. I read your moat to him and it was exactly what we needed. It was like having a mediator show up and help us. We were able to move past the wall that was created by our miscommunication. I thank you for that!*

**Marriage Groups** - These small groups run for a few months each season, and are designed to offer a chance to connect with other couples in a positive atmosphere. It is upbeat, including communication tools and a chance to give your relationship a boost. We meet in homes, and there is no charge.

**Newsletter** - This has been published for six years, and is now printed on a bimonthly basis to reduce costs. It is also available online. It includes doctrinal articles, photographs, stories, book reviews, quotes from the Word, news items about marriage and helpful links. Paul Simonetti helps to create this publication.

**Anniversaries in the Post** - This is intended to honor couples and offer our blessings to one another.

**Dolls for June 19<sup>th</sup>** - As a part of the larger effort to create June 19th gifts, a flock of women and children took classes from Carol Nash to learn how to make Waldorf type dolls. The process was delightful as we sewed and talked together over two months. Twenty seven people made dolls, which were happily given to girls entering kindergarten. We will continue in 2014.

**Lending Library** - There is a collection of books, DVD's and movies accrued over the years that relate to marriage. These are available in the Pastor's office for people to borrow, and there is no cost to the church or to people who borrow.

**Individual support for couples** - This is provided privately to couples who need short term support in person, by phone or online. ~

**ANNUAL MEETING OF BRYN ATHYN CHURCH****Friday, April 26, 2013****Nicholas Rose**

Pastor Jeremy Simons opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with a brief worship service. He led in the Lord's Prayer, and read from Arcana Coelestia 6338.

Minutes of the Semi-Annual meeting held on September 28, 2012, were approved as circulated.

Rt. Rev. Thomas L. Kline introduced Pastor-elect, Rev. Eric H. Carswell. Ballots for the election of Trustees and Affirmation of Pastor were collected. Rt. Rev. Kline presented Rev. Jeremy Simons with a tie pin in honor of his years of service.

**Pastor's Report:** Rev. Simons announced that a balanced budget for 2013-2014 has been passed by the Board of Trustees and this news was enthusiastically received. "Years of Service" awards were then presented.

**School Report:** Dr. Reid Prichett, Headmaster, spoke about the importance of New Church education and how experiences at Bryn Athyn Church School will be valuable to students for the rest of their lives. Reid then showed a video by the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade where students talked about what they valued about a New Church education.

Rev. Simons noted that this year has seen an extraordinary increase in the number of students participating in chapel music and that it has been wonderful to witness this.

Rev. Simons then announced the election of the following people to the Board of Trustees: Incumbents Sean Connelly, Wendy Cooper and Barbara Doering, and new Board Member David Fuller. Rev. Eric Carswell was affirmed as Pastor of the Bryn Athyn Church by 93%.

A motion to adjourn having been seconded and adopted, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. ~

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER****Stewart Asplundh**

2012-2013 was mixed financially compared to the previous year. While our annual fund contributions were down, we did reduce expenses overall and so came in with a much lower deficit number than anticipated. We had budgeted for approximately a \$(65,000) deficit and ended the year at a \$(17,024) deficit.

As mentioned in the contribution report (see pg. 9) we saw a disappointing decrease of approximately \$120,000 in giving towards the operating budget. However, we did see the successful start of the Parent Fund initiative, with over 80% participation from school parents. We received special gifts directed towards reducing our deficit, and finally we were fortunate to receive a very generous estate gift during the year.

Tuition income and financial aid again both increased due to the increase in tuition. Other notable income items are BATS overall income of \$115,554, Cathedral Rentals at \$29,140, and Other at \$45,210 which is mostly after school program fees.

On the expense side we saw a decrease of 6%, with total expenses down from \$5,122,695 to \$4,825,226, down approximately \$300,000 from the previous year. While positive financially, some of these changes have required difficult decisions as we work to reach financial sustainability.

Looking forward to 2013/14 we are budgeting for a balanced budget. In 2013/14 we will see a salary increase of 2.5% but have several employees that are moving to a part time (retiree) status, mostly, offsetting the increase in salary costs. Previous steps taken to change retiree health benefits will allow future retiree health costs to be funded by reserves, saving approximately \$70,000 in the operating budget.

The Cathedral fund showed a reduced deficit of \$(84,776) for the year. Income was lower than budgeted and we were over budget in both buildings and grounds maintenance. Adjustments were made during the year to address these items and good progress was made setting the stage to reach a balanced budget in 2013/14.

Thank you for your continued financial support and all of the ways that you participate in and support the life of the church and school. This is especially important as we move forward in providing for the uses of the Bryn Athyn Church now and in the future and we are grateful for this. ~



## REPORT OF THE HEADMASTER Reid Prichett

Bryn Athyn Church School sent a class of thirty-three eighth grade graduates into the world in 2013. Their New Church education was punctuated by our school theme led by Rev. Phil Schnarr: *"Let Your Light Shine."* This theme allowed our school community to explore the nine degrees of the neighbor drawing on the commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." We are reminded in Matthew 5:16 that "Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." The theme fostered a healthy focus on how we grow the relationships that allow our community to thrive.

Early last year, along with communities across the world we were profoundly saddened by the horrific events of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Such senseless and horrendous attacks defy rational explanation. To remember those who were lost, we honored the President's request by flying our flag at half-mast for six days. The safety of our children is a top priority at Bryn Athyn Church School and Preschool. School safety procedures are designed to keep our children safe and we are always working to improve our practices. For example, we recently implemented a new visitor policy and installed electronic locks at main entrances. We also carry out safety drills on a monthly basis. We work closely with both Campus Security and the Bryn Athyn Police Department to make sure that our children are safe. We continuously monitor and improve our school safety practices and procedures.

We were excited to begin the school year with 272 students, up two students from start of the previous year. Unfortunately, our enrollment fell to 262 by the end of the school year due largely to families moving out of the area. But projections for enrollment for the 2013-2014 are promising as we have begun the year with 278 students. Joanne Kiel's tireless work as Coordinator of Enrollment Management has connected us with a number of families seeking what a New Church education offers. Her leadership has helped us be clear about the process and family characteristics that make for a good match with our school mission. I want to thank each society member who has helped to introduce families to our school, helped people get to know our school's core beliefs, and provided a warm welcome into our school. It is only through our collective efforts that we will continue to grow our school with families who have affection for our New Church beliefs.

We lost only three days of school to Hurricane Sandy. It is hard to believe that these were the only weather-related days we lost this year. We were able to make up these lost days, in part thanks to teachers putting in extra time.

Teachers continue to work very hard due to our board mandated budget reductions of a few years ago. I am frequently humbled by the variety of ways that teachers work closely with students to provide them with a rich New Church education. This past year we gathered with the ANC faculty at the cathedral to share our experiences as New Church teachers. Robin Morey and Sheila Daum continue to lead important development of our curriculum. Judy Soneson and Carol Nash led the efforts to welcome a great many student teachers from the Bryn Athyn College Education Division. We offer special appreciation to Diana Synnestvedt who is retiring after many years of service in our school. The work of our New Church teachers is never done, but it ushers in the presence of the Lord.

As directed by the Bryn Athyn Church School Committee, an Ad hoc [Program Committee](#) has been formed to take an important step toward realizing our strategic goal of constructing a 21st Century New Church curriculum. By November 2013 the committee will recommend a programmatic direction for our school. This thoughtful look at our program provides the opportunity to consider building rich learning opportunities (such as a modern language or a service curriculum) into the BACS student experience. This will require some changes to our daily schedule and/or annual calendar to enable us to meet the recommended goals. They have already collected feedback through a survey from parents and society members. The committee is taking on a weighty task in helping us chart our curricular path ahead so that our school can continue to best realize our mission.

We continue to experience an outpouring of support and volunteerism from the entire BACS community. Smiling faces and helping hands are active in our school. Member contributions sent a clear and compelling message that each of us plays a role in making our school a place where the Lord's work is done. Of particular note was the success of our Parent Fund (our annual fund). Over 80% of our parent population gave to the fund and in total contributed \$85,000 (including pledges and matching funds.) These contributions directly impact the delivery of a meaningful New Church education to our students by providing funds for field trips, musical instruments, and other classroom materials. These gifts also inspire others to give and enable us to gather future donations, reinforcing our efforts to build stewardship of our schools.

We lost only three days of school to Hurricane Sandy. It is hard to believe that these were the only weather related days we lost this year. We were able to make up these lost days, in part thanks to teachers putting in extra time.

Our hearts are warmed by how our society comes together as a whole, working collectively for our students and asking the Lord's blessing on these efforts. May the Lord continue to imbue us with the capacity to see the blessings He provides us each day. ~



## THRIFT SHOP

B.A.T.S. in the barn

### BATS REPORT

Nina Glebe Finkeldey

It's precious to work where many people regularly express gratitude, one way or another,

from different perspectives. Unending thanks for all the support. Another financially successful year. See treasurer's report.

**Project Week:** We closed for a week to make room for cleaning, projects. Volunteers and staff came and cleaned as if there was no tomorrow. One job energized the next, and a cleaning/organizing/project domino effect rippled out. The craft area was reorganized and restructured, inventory removed for deep cleaning, windows cleaned, bags ordered, chalkboards created, poster displays developed, mounds of music priced, corners vacuumed, and spiders displaced.

**Recycling has vastly improved.** Thanks to the growing recycling industry, we recycle much more of what we cannot sell. We keep it out of landfills *and* spend less on dumpster fees. Win-win.

**Outdoor Workday:** Thanks to Brad Cranch and his crew who helped by hauling away brush and provided good tools for the mighty volunteers who removed vast quantities of weed and vine creep. Others built some shabby-chic outdoor palette tables and window boxes. Class act. Steve Synnestvedt and crew donated work on gutters and board and batten repair and staining. Energizing! So grateful to them all.

**Community Service:** More high schools in general require community service. Our own Bryn Athyn College has a course on Altruism. Consequently, we get more help from a variety of ages and backgrounds. Some of the college students who choose to do their course requirement at BATS bless us beyond the end of term and stay as regular volunteers. And, happily they often seek us out on their return visits to BA! Many thanks to all at BATS who contribute to that warm sense of community and the making of lifelong friendships.

**Percentages of Income:** Miscellaneous household items 39%; Clothes 30%; Furniture 6.25%; Jewelry 5.7%; Recycled metals and clothing 5.2%; Christmas 3.6%; Books 3.85%; Toys 2.8%; Dealers 1.5%; EBay 0.7%; Gift certificates 0.6%; Honey/eggs 0.45%; Plants 0.5%. In addition, church and school received \$1,864.60 worth of merchandise in kind for their classrooms and services.

**"Gathering Nuts for Winter/A New Concept"** In winter months we struggle with keeping up a healthy amount of inventory to meet the demand. This is always a pattern, but it has increased in its challenge. Therefore we planned a different approach and ran a successful modest first

experiment picking up inventory from four streets in the community, requesting items (the "nuts") that we could draw on in the winter months when donations always slack off, though the demand is always there. Encouraging results! We left information on doorsteps, paths, and sides of mailboxes, returning on a scheduled day, finding great stuff with BATS signs on the various piles. It was like Christmas (without the stress)! We will be doing this a number of times again, and I am hopeful that this will help us more effectively meet the demands of the winter months. A full shop is a happy shop.

**Volunteer count - about 250. Paid - Two FT, seven hourly, plus furniture crews.** In addition to the productive and fun service of the shop, we have the blessings of each other. There have been good times and difficult times in peoples' lives, as is always the case. Thanks to the Lord for all of these people and for the joy they bring to so many. ~



### THETA ALPHA GUILD REPORT

Louise Stevens

#### CHRISTMAS SEASON

December 2, 2012, 7:30pm. Cathedral speaker, Eric Carswell. Refreshments - Carol Henderson and committee.

Classroom library/scouts gifts \$100.

Gifts to retired church staff, town residents 85 and older, those who are ill at the time and the spouses of those who passed away during the past year, December 2011 to December 2012.

#### EASTER SEASON

Program at Cairnwood Village - Jeremy Simons was the speaker.

Easter Monday we help the pastoral staff with distribution of the flower offering from all Bryn Athyn Services.

#### END OF THE YEAR

Carol Henderson's committee puts on a reception following the ordination.

June 19<sup>th</sup> we provide delicious ice cream and sherbet at the picnic.

#### ONGOING EFFORTS

Funeral information via email and /or phone calls - Joyce Bostock

Chancel guild - Nora Cooper

Cookbooks - marketing, Carol Henderson

Red Ball Distribution - Liz Childs

Hospitality - Elizabeth Sellner

Standing officers: Doreen Carey and Louise Stevens. ~



## REPORT OF THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR Lindy Bochneak

In addition to assisting with Bryn Athyn Church School Admissions and the many wonderful programs the Bryn Athyn Church offers to its community and surrounding communities, I have coordinated or participated in the following:

17 years helping to coordinate volunteers and outreach for Thanksgiving service and fruit offerings.  
16 years - College Care Packages  
15 years - Senior Blessing Service  
13 years - Adopt-A-Dormie Program  
7 years - Journey Spiritual Growth Campaign  
8 offerings a year of New Church Overview  
5 years - Christmas and Easter Cairnwood Connector events  
5 years - Family Connector Program

I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to serve the church for 17 years in this position. The freedom to explore new ideas and work in an office that is fun, supportive and kind is not everyone's work experience. I am grateful that it has been mine! Thank you all for the HUGE support you have given me along the way. I am thrilled that my replacement is Nina Dewees. She will bring a new energy to the job, I wish her well! ~



## CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT Stewart Asplundh

2012-2013 was a mixed year for contributions, with a decrease in the annual fund and basket contributions, but offsetting increases in special contributions and the School Parent Fund. We received special contributions directed towards reducing our deficit of over \$100,000. A school-wide School Parent Fund initiated this year (previous years focused on 8<sup>th</sup> Grade parents only) encouraged school parents to contribute, receiving \$67,882, with over 80% of school families participating.

Direct contributions were \$478,013, down from the previous year by \$180,100, a 28% decrease. Basket contributions were \$155,756, down by \$27,138 from the previous year, a 15% decrease. Overall contributions to operating funds were \$802,823, a 13% decrease over the previous year.

During the year we received a very generous estate gift not included in the annual fund numbers above that will be set aside for future uses and invested. We also received contributions for specific projects and funds, including various capital projects at the cathedral and school, and for various funds that support many of the uses of the church and school.

We continue to work towards growing the number of contributors to the annual fund. However, the total number giving dropped from 484 to 455 in 2012-2013. This year we will continue to take steps to increase member giving, and have budgeted funds towards institutional and financial stewardship. This was seen as an important part of our financial sustainability by both the administration and the board. We will continue to place emphasis on participation with those families with children at the Bryn Athyn Church School and build on the successful Parent Fund.

Thank you to all who participate in the many uses of the church. We appreciate and thank you for your financial support of the Bryn Athyn Church and School. ~

**BRYN ATHYN CHURCH: STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**GENERAL FUND**

INCOME	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14		ACTUAL 2011/12	ACTUAL 2012/13	BUDGET 2013/14
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>				<b>SCHOOL EXPENSES</b>			
Direct Contributions	658,113	478,013	597,000	<b>INSTRUCTIONAL SALARIES:</b>			
Basket Contributions	182,894	155,756	145,000	Full-time Educational	2,052,277	1,894,754	2,006,488
Special Contributions	80,885	101,172	0	Part-time Educational	164,301	153,658	157,634
School Contributions		67,882	20,000	Tutors & Substitutes	225,312	183,106	213,049
	921,892	802,823	762,000	Summer Program			
					2,441,890	2,231,518	2,377,171
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME:</b>				<b>INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:</b>			
New Church Investment Fund	2,227,547	2,250,998	2,263,148	Classroom	27,373	39,352	47,057
Other Investment Income	22,431	14,852	20,000	Student Support	5,219	4,512	7,000
	2,249,978	2,265,850	2,283,148	Library	3,088	7,251	4,982
<b>TUITION INCOME:</b>				Audio/Visual	2,289	1,037	2,000
Total charges	1,947,639	2,128,400	2,558,003	Computers	86,947	97,297	95,250
Less: Financial Aid	-629,104	-820,418	-1,056,470	Computer depreciation			
	1,318,535	1,307,982	1,501,533	Music	8,522	3,322	4,005
<b>PRESCHOOL INCOME:</b>				Physical Education	14,566	10,922	18,925
Tuition	119,369	116,063	133,100	Other courses	4,531	3,116	7,550
Other Income	13,009	25,000	30,000		152,536	166,809	186,769
	132,378	141,063	163,100	<b>OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL:</b>			
<b>FUND RAISERS (Net after expenses):</b>				Professional Development	22,511	29,750	28,555
Merchandise Certificates	15,879	11,322	12,500	Testing	5,386	2,461	3,200
Magazines	350	226	1,500	Special School Programs	5,446	3,578	3,750
Book Fest	27		1,800	Admissions/Enrollment		44,072	16,200
Christmas Card	6,520	5,179	6,500		33,343	79,861	51,705
Thrift Shop	146,585	70,000	93,949	<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>			
Thrift Shop Surplus	-66,585	45,554		Administration Salaries	493,027	489,247	537,642
	102,775	132,281	116,249	Secretarial Salaries	101,915	98,939	103,155
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME:</b>				Uncollectible Accounts	3,000	3,000	3,000
Cathedral Rentals	14,975	29,140	27,000	Workers Compensation	32,427	17,300	25,000
Cemetery	13,152	14,560	19,000	Auditing	7,800	4,500	5,670
B.A. Post	30,178	25,395	39,000	Miscellaneous	47,536	48,177	51,160
Rentals	8,406	18,783	20,000	Equipment & Supplies		(100)	1,000
Music Lessons	9,409	11,890	26,000	Secretarial Supplies	7,063	4,286	7,225
Extra PE Fees	11,320	13,125	17,500	Machines & Service	22,523	20,031	29,800
Other	43,870	45,310	29,750		715,292	685,380	763,652
	131,309	158,203	178,250	<b>PRESCHOOL:</b>			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	4,856,867	4,808,202	5,004,280	Preschool Expenses	200,447	154,077	153,668
					200,447	154,077	153,668
<b>SOCIETY EXPENSES</b>				<b>SUMMARY General Fund</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
<b>SERVICES:</b>				<b>INCOME:</b>			
Salaries	581,772	502,607	503,338	Contributions	921,892	802,823	762,000
Young People	1,111	3,050	8,900	Investment Income	2,249,978	2,265,850	2,283,148
Cemetery	14,482	12,373	10,000	Tuition	1,318,535	1,307,982	1,501,533
Evangelization	3,825	3,481	10,000	Preschool	132,378	141,063	163,100
Misc. Society Services	46,762	61,776	46,135	Fund Raisers	102,775	132,281	116,249
	647,952	583,287	578,373	Miscellaneous	131,309	158,203	178,250
<b>ADMINISTRATION:</b>				<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	4,856,867	4,808,202	5,004,280
Administration Salaries	405,251	355,120	348,259	<b>SCHOOL EXPENSES</b>			
Secretarial Salaries	59,274	61,587	55,309	Instructional Salaries	2,441,890	2,231,518	2,377,171
Equipment & Supplies	4,978	4,617	2,850	Instructional Materials	152,536	166,809	186,769
Misc. Administration	52,943	34,242	30,688	Other Instructional	33,343	79,861	51,705
B.A. Post	60,582	62,274	49,000	Administration	715,292	685,380	763,652
Real Estate	17,580	16,075	3,500	Preschool	200,447	154,077	153,668
	600,609	533,915	489,606		3,543,508	3,317,645	3,532,965
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>				<b>SOCIETY EXPENSES:</b>			
Janitorial	85,073	90,924	92,500	Society Services	647,952	583,287	578,373
Utilities	81,041	84,667	100,000	Administration	600,609	533,915	489,606
Insurance	34,202	43,147	38,145		1,248,562	1,117,202	1,067,979
Improvements	1,039	37,913	-	<b>MAINTENANCE EXPENSES</b>	330,625	390,379	399,097
Building Maintenance	70,185	70,601	88,852	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	5,122,695	4,825,226	5,000,040
Grounds	25,961	29,076	45,000	<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	(265,827)	(17,024)	4,240
Security	30,296	31,977	29,800				
Cathedral Support	-						
Major Maintenance	2,828	2,074	4,800				
	330,625	390,379	399,097				

**BRYN ATHYN CHURCH: STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
CATHEDRAL FUND

	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	EXPENSES (CONT.)	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
<b>INCOME</b>							
Investment Income	865,994	827,072	822,808	GROUNDS:			
Society Support				Common Grounds Maint.	248,325	226,203	207,200
Other Income	43,695	40,409	25,500	Water	14,954	14,538	13,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>909,689</b>	<b>867,482</b>	<b>848,308</b>		<b>263,278</b>	<b>240,741</b>	<b>220,200</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
ADMINISTRATION:				SPECIALTY MAINTENANCE:			
Administration Salaries	114,570	193,233	139,021	Organ Maintenance	1,365	959	500
Security	61,031	67,194	57,000	Stained Glass Repairs			
Insurance	74,140	82,862	84,000	Major Maintenance	16,699	8,991	13,100
Auditing	3,200	2,500	2,000		<b>18,064</b>	<b>9,950</b>	<b>13,600</b>
Benefits	143,143	91,795	84,605				
Visitors, Volunteers	25,106	33,856	23,800	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,019,967</b>	<b>952,258</b>	<b>845,572</b>
Miscellaneous	8,350	5,935	6,900				
	<b>429,540</b>	<b>477,374</b>	<b>397,325</b>	<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(110,278)</b>	<b>(84,776)</b>	<b>2,736</b>
BUILDING MAINTENANCE:							
Common Building Maint.	218,636	157,305	139,147				
Utilities	90,449	66,888	75,300				
	<b>309,085</b>	<b>224,193</b>	<b>214,447</b>				

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE STATISTICS**

	2011-2012		2012-2013	
Regular Services	No.	Avg.	No.	Avg.
Informal Family	45	95	51	101
Young Children's	46	60	50	65
Family Cathedral	47	119	51	101
Adult Cathedral	48	208	52	178
Doctrinal Class	18	32	-	-
Holy Supper	12	80	11	59
Special Services	No.	Total	No.	Total
Thanksgiving	1	950	1	1135
Christmas Tableaux	6	2117	6	1614
Child. Christmas Eve	1	174	2	260
Reg. Christmas Eve	3	1814	3	1315
Palm Sunday	4	900	3	553
Good Friday	1	138	1	187
Easter	4	1437	3	1141
New Church Day	1	1800	1	1200
Charter Day	1	519	1	587
Christmas Vespers	1	236	1	241

Return to ***Bryn Athyn Church***  
***Pastor's Office***  
P.O. Box 277  
Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania 19009

#### **BRYN ATHYN CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor ..... Rev. Jeremy F. Simons  
Assistant Pastor ..... Rev. Erik J. Buss  
Assistants to the Pastor  
Rev. Jay Barry                      Rev. Phil Schnarr  
Rev. John L. Odhner              Rev. Howard Thompson  
Rev. Solomon J. Keal

Cathedral Director ..... Rev. Jay Barry  
BACS Headmaster ..... Dr. Reid Prichett

#### ***Officers of the Corporation***

Jeremy F. Simons ..... President  
Erik J. Buss ..... Vice-President  
Nick Rose..... Secretary  
Stewart L. Asplundh..... Treasurer

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#### **MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE BRYN ATHYN SOCIETY who have passed into the Spiritual World from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013**

Charles Alden Simons	Carole Renn Maddock
Margaret Brown Odhner	Joan Ellen Klein Price
Chara Aurora Cooper Haas	Ruth Pryke Glover
Ray Synnestvedt	Edward Dudlik
Gregory Swain Nelson	Mary Beth Bergman
Beatrix Cooper Redmile	Grace Nixon Crowther
Jeanne van Zyverden McQueen	Dennis John Clark
Owen James Schnarr	Bryce Sherman Genzlinger
Dorothy Lodge	Joanna Whitehead
Sharon Acton Holmes	Harry Coy
Willard Dean Thomas, Jr.	Paul Andrew Olson
Richard David Schiffer	David Bruce Duncan
Kathryn Merrell	Priscilla Alden Greer
Gwynneth Merrell Brown	

#### **BRYN ATHYN CONGREGATION STATISTICS**

*Members of the Bryn Athyn Church:	769
Members of the General Church:	284
Friends (age 20 and above, not GC members):	1,638
Young people (ages 15-19):	228
Children (ages 0-14):	489
Total Congregation:	3,408
*Included in GC Members	

#### **NEW MEMBERS OF THE BRYN ATHYN SOCIETY from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013**

Millie Bai	Nancy C. Kloc
Lisa Bair	Karina Kraus
Jane M. Blair	Leah Kurshan
Maxwell Blair	Gillian S. Mayer
Shareen H. Blair	Patrick Mayer
Gerda S. Fiske	Torrance Pitcairn
David B. Fuller	Marcia Kennedy
Monica Gruber	June Rhoda
Anita Halterman	Drew Signor
Barry C. Halterman	Dale Smith
Bronwen Henry	Gene Szostak
Tirah Keal	Penny R. Tirpak
Heather Klein Ludwig	Thomas Tirpak
Michael C. Kloc	

#### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

**9:30am** Informal Family (Society Building)  
**9:35am** Young Children's (Cathedral Council Chamber)  
**9:30am** Family Cathedral (Cathedral Nave)  
**11:00am** Adult Cathedral (Cathedral Nave)  
**8:00pm** Young Adults Vespers (Council Chamber) - monthly