

❖ **WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT** ❖
Newsletter – November 2018

The West Berks Mission District is a coalition of area Lutheran Churches working together to do effective, cooperative ministry. YOU are a member of the West Berks Mission District! The WBMD office is located in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1015 Windsor Street, Reading PA 19604.

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WBMD Fall Assembly Event

Thursday, November 1, 2018 7:00 PM

Hosted by St. Mark Lutheran Church in Birdsboro

5 Brooke Manor Birdsboro 19508

Registration opens at 6:30.

Join us for worship at 7:00 which will be followed by the meeting, where we will hear from some of our Ministry Grant recipients and vote on a **WBMD budget for 2019**.

Stay for light refreshments and fellowship after the meeting.

Each congregation should be represented by their rostered ministers and 2 lay voting members. All are welcome!

WBMD – Witnessing Boldly – Making a Difference!

UPDATE ON THE JOHNSON-AGIRI FAMILY

The Johnson-Agiri family from Nigeria was with us at last year's Fall Assembly. They came to the U.S. in May 2017 and are seeking asylum here due to credible fear of returning to their country. Many of you, as well as other congregations in the area, have been extremely generous in providing for the needs of this family over the past 17 months. You have supported them financially, invited the children and family to events, provided furnishings and household supplies for their apartment, helped them build a support network in the community, connected them to work-place development programs and tutors to help with their language skills and provided transportation as needed. The family wishes to thank you for your gracious and generous support!

Tola finally received his work authorization in August and was hired the next week at East Penn Manufacturing. He will finish his 12 weeks of training soon and will then be working third shift. Their asylum hearing is scheduled for December 11th. Please continue to keep them in prayer.



2018 CROP Hunger Walk another great success!!!

On Sunday, October 7th about 250 people walked at Gring's Mill in the annual Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk.

This was our 37th annual Walk and we have already collected about \$25,000! 75% of money raised goes to Church World Service to help feed people around the world and 25% goes to the Greater Berks Food Bank to help feed our hungry neighbors locally.

Special thanks to all for helping to fight hunger one step at a time! GREAT JOB!!!

This year's awards went to:

Funky Flip Flop Award for the most youth walking - St. Paul's UCC in Fleetwood AGAIN!

Golden Sneakers Award for most walkers - West Lawn United Methodist Church AGAIN!

Benevolent Bling Award for most money raised – so far it seems to be West Lawn UMC!

Looking forward to next year!

2019 CROP Walk – Sunday, October 13th

We always have some interesting characters join us for the CROP Walk!



Embracing Fractured Stained Glass: Death and Life in Churches



Our third annual **TableTalk** event was held at the McGlinn Conference Center on October 15 and was attended by 27 people. We heard from Mr. G. Travis Woodfield, MDiv, about his research on the topic: *“Embracing Fractured Stained Glass: Death and Life in Churches”*.

He led some interesting conversations around the idea of finding ways to embrace the end of life for some churches, as we do through hospice care for individuals. We can engage in the end-of-life process and determine how the congregation/church will be remembered when it no longer exists in a specific building. We can be intentional about having a “good death”, going out with a bang so to speak, rather than just waiting for the inevitable to happen and dreading what that will mean for us.

This was just the beginning of the conversation and gave those present much to consider. It is a fact that all living things will die at some point and congregations can be considered “living” things. Great churches of the past no longer exist but their mission and ministry is remembered still. The fact that they are no longer in existence does not diminish in any way who they were and the important role they played as part of the Kingdom of God!

For more information you can contact Travis at: itsalwaysthree@gmail.com