



April 2010

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

# The Lighted Cross

## Our Journey to Easter

### **Palm Sunday, March 28: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.**

Experience the powerful music and moving dramatic presentation of *Watch the Lamb* (both services).

### **Lenten Lunch, Wednesday, March 31, 12:30 p.m.**

Speaker: the Rev. Philip Poncé, "Where in the World Is God?"

### **Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.**

The chancel area is transformed into the second floor of a Jerusalem inn. A reenactment of The Last Supper unfolds as the 12 disciples tell us about their relationship with Jesus and share that last meal together. Communion will be served at the rail in front of the frozen tableaux.

A light meal at 6:00 p.m. in Schieck Hall will precede the program.



### **Good Friday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.**

We follow Jesus to the cross through the moving music of John Stainer's *The Crucifixion: A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer*. Brian Meneely, tenor, and William McNeal, bass, join the Chancel Choir.

### **Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 3, 10:00 a.m.**

Light breakfast, meditation and egg hunt. *Please bring a dozen filled eggs.*

### **Easter Sunday, April 4: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.**

He is risen! Hallelujah! Trumpet, Chancel Choir (10:30 only) and Organ celebrate the triumph of the resurrection. Join us to sing "The Hallelujah Chorus" (10:30). Sermon: "A Day Like Any Other Day? Oh, No!" Easter Communion will be served.

## FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

### Staff salaries restored, but a challenge remains

There's more good news, a demonstration of faith, and a challenge to report this month. As you know, we are facing major financial issues this year, with pledges, contributions and other income projected as of the first of the year to be down by 15%. Because of this expected reduction in income, our budget for 2010 was cut 13%, a reduction that could only be made by cutting all staff salaries by 10% and accepting an expected deficit of almost \$11,000.

Last month, Jim Tiede reminded us that stewardship is not a one-time event, but is the response we make at any time when we hear of the needs of our church. As a result of his pleas, several of our members have stepped up with major increases in their pledges for the year, such that we have been able to restore staff salaries to their 2009 level, retroactive to the first of the year.

However, we still face a crippling short budget. There is very little available for general and special programming needs. That is where the demonstration of faith comes in. The Administrative Board has authorized the Finance Committee to consider special requests for additional funds for specific programming costs up to a total of \$10,000, although, in connection with the restoration of staff salaries, that will increase our projected deficit to \$27,000.

Unless giving increases during the year we will not be able to complete this program, and will have to cut off funding for programming needs at some point during the year.

In an article on the preservation of Alaska's salmon fisheries, one of the Native Alaskan fishermen was quoted as saying, "When I was growing up, people didn't worry about heating oil; they'd just go chop more wood. But subsistence requires cash nowadays." That's the way it is with our church. As much as we hate to talk and talk about money, "Ministry requires cash nowadays." And that is the challenge.

*John Paylor For the Finance Committee*

---

### Write a letter about your BUMC experience

Would you write a letter if it meant helping someone find the comfort you have found with BUMC? The Evangelism and Nurture Committee has begun an initiative of delivering letters of personal testimony by mail.

- We delivered 100 Christmas cards in December to homes in the BUMC neighborhood with a "Dear Neighbor" letter written by Linda Shriver describing her reasons for involvement with our church.
- Joy Fuerst has written a personal letter directed toward the folks on the list of visitors from the Fall Festival. She included the key dates for events at BUMC for Holy Week.
- Others are doing the same.

We want your letter and your story. Would you be willing to write a personal invitation describing what inspires you to be an active member? We are looking for members and active participants to write a personal letter for "friends" of BUMC, a personal invitation stressing the importance for your spiritual life to follow Christ through being involved with the church. Why is this place special for you and your family? What drives you to come here week after week, year after year? You can make a life-changing impact on someone. The letter can be long or short, but we try to make these personal and from the heart. We hand-address and stamp them.

There are several ways to submit your personal letter: send it by email to me at [mkbenton@gmail.com](mailto:mkbenton@gmail.com), mail it to me at 17 Ridgewood Road, Malvern, PA 19355, or put it in my mailbox in the office. Thanks for making a difference.

*Mike Benton*

## PASTOR'S WORD

# We're a Christian community that INVITES

**I** HAVE HEARD more than once from those who have become members of our church that one of the reasons they have for joining our church is that we are a friendly and inviting congregation. Recently, I had a meeting with a member who has belonged for ten or more years, and the same comment was made. What attracted that family to this church was our being friendly and inviting. I think this call for a hallelujah moment. I think it also compels us to think of those who have trained and who have invested many hours into making our church a friendly and inviting church.

It was no mistake when we wrote into our mission statement that “God calls Berwyn United Methodist Church to be a community of Christian believers that *Invites...*” Please note that “*Invites*” is an action verb! Being an invitational church is rooted and grounded in deep theological truths, for one of the very important words in scripture is the invitational word “*COME*.”

God spoke to the people of Israel, inviting them to come back to him when they turned aside in sin; to come to God in their needs, trial and tribulations; to come and seek God while God may be found; to come rejoicing and giving thanks and to come to God in their hunger and thirst for justice, righteousness and for peace. Jesus was also very invitational and used the word “*COME*” very often. The one invitation offered by Jesus that we have heard repeatedly is, “Come unto me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Jesus recognized the importance of being invitational for the building and the expansion of God’s reign here on earth. He has left us the legacy of being an inviting church.



We have no choice but to be a friendly and inviting church. These are parts of our DNA as the people of God. This is the sacred task that God has given to us. We have been doing this sacred task for many years now. It is a task that we will continue to do until God’s reign is fully realized here on earth. It is work that all of us needs to be doing. So far we have left it to a few on the Membership and Congregational Care Committee to do. We can accept today that Jesus expects all of us to be inviting people.

Imagine with me the difference we would make if each one of us invited a family member, a friend or an acquaintance to worship with us every Sunday. In so doing we would double our attendance in no time. It is good for others to perceive that we are a friendly and inviting congregation. It is not enough just to do that. We have to be actively engaged in reaching out and inviting others to come and experience the spiritual grace that Christ offers to us as we worship in sincerity and truth. We are an invitational church! Let us be up and about doing the sacred task of inviting others to be with us by coming to Jesus and finding rest.

Remember, the strength and the courage to do this task of inviting comes from the power of the Holy Spirit. Being a congregation that nurtures will be the next topic we consider. Be blessed as you share in the work of inviting!

Pastor Phil

# Youth to undertake a project to fight world hunger



Anthem, the BUMC youth group, will participate in the worldwide 30-Hour Famine on April 23-24. For 30 hours, participants get a taste of hunger by not eating – something more than a billion people around the world experience every day.

More than half a million teens in the United States will participate in the 30-Hour Famine this year. Last year, more than \$10 million was raised to aid children vulnerable to hunger and preventable disease .

We will meet at 7 p.m. Friday, April 23, at the church. We will remain together until 5:30 p.m. Saturday. During this time we will have a number of activities: games, videos related to the topic of world hunger, a service project, and, if needed, some sleep.

This is not just a lock-in; it is a chance to focus on the gifts we have and to fight hunger. As part of the challenge, youth and leaders are challenged to commit to the cause. The degree that you choose to take this challenge is up to you. If you would like to fast for all 30 hours, you should make Friday's lunch at school your last meal.

You can participate if you choose not to fast, as long as you are respectful to those who are not eating. There will be regular juice breaks for everyone in order to keep our blood sugar up. Those who need to eat for medical reasons may do so discreetly. I know this seems like a long time to go without food, but I encourage you to try, in order to get the most out of the experience.

Everyone has a chance to make a difference by supporting the youth with contributions. Thirty dollars, the cost of a family outing to the movies (tickets alone!), is enough to feed a family for a month. Though we're getting a late start this year, I think we can still achieve a goal of raising \$90 per participant. Ask your friends at school. Ask your neighbors. Fundraising packets have been handed out.

*Chris Padot*

## Two teams going to Appalachia Service Project

Berwyn United Methodist Church is sending two teams of youth and adult volunteers to the Appalachian region where Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia come together. This is a depressed region where folks of limited means need our help to make their homes safer, warmer and drier. Volunteering for a week with ASP (July 4-10) allows our youth to give selflessly of themselves in the spirit of Christ. Many see the world differently when they come back. Every step of the trip is a real adventure.

We are finalizing our teams as the youth define their summer plans. There are several open slots for young people who are at least 14 years old. We also need two more female adult leaders. The youth and adult volunteers will be contributing the cost of their room and board. We will raise funds for the rest of the costs of the trip (van rentals, building supplies, gas, etc). Our first fund-raiser will be the Easter offering. Stay tuned for other fund-raising events for ASP.

*The ASP Organizing Team: Mike Benton, Scott Campbell, Chris Padot*

# Uniting in a common cause, fighting malaria

Have you ever wondered what could be accomplished if all the United Methodists around the world – all 11 million of us – united in a common cause? The weekend of April 24-25 has been designated as Change the World event, and United Methodists around the globe will unite that weekend in supporting “Imagine No Malaria,” a program to fight this preventable, treatable disease that kills one child every 30 seconds. Malaria is caused by a parasite called plasmodium, transmitted through the bite of a tiny mosquito, and it causes great suffering throughout Africa. It has been largely eradicated in the tropical portions of central and south America.

A simple method of fighting malaria is the program “Nothing But Nets,” which involves covering beds with insecticide-treated nets to prevent mosquito bites during sleep. The program was initiated by Rick Reilly, a columnist for *Sports Illustrated*, and is administered by the United Nations Foundation, the aid group started by Ted Turner. A local hero of the program is Katherine Commale, a member of Hopewell United Methodist Church, who by the age 7 had raised \$73,000 for the program.

On April 25, BUMC will participate in the Change the World event. Look for our “Imagine No Malaria” station in the narthex, demonstrating the use of nets to protect children and adults. You will have the opportunity to purchase bed nets to help defeat this dread disease. A bed net costs \$10.

---

## *Lay Leader’s Letter: Those 70 ministry programs*

Last month I noted that as a member of Berwyn United Methodist Church, you are blessed by participating in at least 70 ministry programs, and that we are still adding to that list. These programs are many and varied, and include foreign missions, community support, youth programs, children’s education, family services, and many others.

How can our small church community support so many programs? Because we have many dedicated members working through our Administrative Board, our committees, councils, and task forces, and individually, who are tireless in their commitment to Berwyn’s Mission Statement: *God calls us to be a community of believers that: Invites, Nurtures, Encourages Service.*

No matter how many ministries we support, or how many workers we have, there are always more needs to be addressed, and more tasks to perform. Do you feel a need to become more involved in the ministry programs of Berwyn Church? Are you aware of a community or personal or other need that you feel should be addressed by our church? If so, please let our pastor, or Nancy Atchison, my co-lay leader, or me, know. Or call the church office and leave a message with Veronica. Let us know if you want to volunteer or if you have an idea for additional ministries.

Many great programs of the church universal and of Berwyn Church have begun with the idea of a single person or the commitment of a single person to meet a perceived need. Don’t feel that any idea is unworthy of adding to our ministry, or that you do not have a talent that can contribute to the fulfillment of our Mission. Please step forward to give us your ideas and to offer to become a participant in expanding the ministry programs of Berwyn Church well beyond the 70 or so we are now supporting.

By doing so, you will help to insure that Berwyn Church will continue to be a generator of blessings.

*John Paylor*

---

## Spaghetti dinner with Fire Company is April 10

The church and the Berwyn Fire Company are co-hosting a spaghetti dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, April 10, in Schieck Hall. The menu includes salad, bread (plain and garlic), spaghetti with marinara sauce, spaghetti with clam sauce, spinach lasagna, meatballs, sausage and peppers, coffee, tea, lemonade, and a variety of homemade desserts. The proceeds after expenses will be shared by the church and the fire company. The price is \$12 for adults and \$8 for children under 12, with a \$40 maximum for a family. The dinner is limited to 250 people, so sign up soon with the church office or the fire company. The children will be able to inspect a fire truck parked outside the church.

# WORSHIP COMMITTEE

## Striving to enhance the Sunday morning services

As our committee meets, we are continuing the discussion of our MAP – Ministry Action Plan. With each task we undertake, we must ask ourselves, “Where is God in this task?” Something we strive to do is to enhance our worship experience – not necessarily to change anything, but to add something to it.

We want people to be touched visually, audibly, emotionally. Everyone gets touched in a different way. Some people thrive on hearing Scripture each week; others may be moved by the anthems of the choir; still others hear God speak to them during the sermon.

Keeping this in mind, we look forward to adding different elements to our service and we would love to have the participation of all our members and the community in this effort. Are you a part of a small group that has a message you would like to share? Has your Sunday School or Bible Study Class had a group epiphany you want us to hear? Is there a piece of music that inspires you in a difficult situation you would like to share?

One thing our committee has been discussing and is ready to start implementing is the addition of a third service – a praise or blended service. We are looking for people who would be interested in participating in this type of service, especially musicians – guitarists, keyboardists, drummers, singers. If you are interested in helping us with this endeavor, please let us know.

We look forward to finding new ways to rejoice and praise God in our worship services.

**Coming events.** The Worship Committee has several special events scheduled for the next few weeks.

*May 9 – Mother’s Day.* All the mothers in our congregation will receive a special flower to thank them for all that they do in caring for our families and church.

*May 23 – Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday.* Join us for this special occasion as we welcome 12 young people into the congregation.

*June 6 – Lay Participant Recognition.* We will recognize everyone who helps out with our worship services: acolytes, ushers, liturgists, choir, Friday helpers, greeters, lower arrangers and deliverers, etc.

*June 13 – Graduation Sunday.* We will recognize and congratulate our high school and college graduates.

*June 20 – Father’s Day.* We don’t want to forget all the fathers in our congregation. We want to acknowledge and celebrate everything they do for our families and our church.

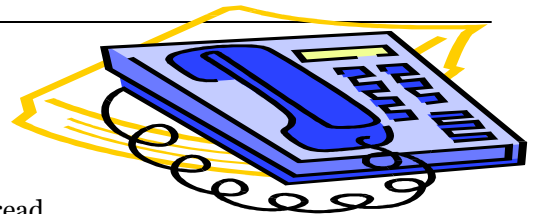
Kristine Adams

---

## The Lighted Cross

**Next deadline: April 15**

*The Lighted Cross* is published monthly (except in July and August) to spread the good news about the activities of Berwyn United Methodist Church. Chairs and members of committees are invited to submit articles to inform the congregation about events and the work of the church. Individuals are invited to submit cards of thanks and brief items of interest about congregation members. Your submissions may have to be edited for length. The next issue will be published May 1, and an electronic version will be available earlier on the church website. Submit your items to [gene.foreman@verizon.net](mailto:gene.foreman@verizon.net) or use the mailbox in the office.



Church Phone:  
**610-644-5555**

Office E-mail:  
**officebumc@comcast.net**

Church Website:  
**www.berwynumc.org**

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## Help make our church a headquarters for heroes

Hero Headquarters is coming to our church this summer! We are looking for all heroes, GREAT and SMALL. Think you got what it takes? To stand out in the crowd? To make a difference? Join us at the Hero Headquarters, June 27-July 1 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Vacation Bible School registration is NOW OPEN.

See Jessica Simmons for a registration form and place it in her mailbox in the office. The fee is \$35 per child, not to exceed \$70 per family. The deadline for registration is June 1. If registration is turned in after June 1, the fee jumps to \$45 per child, not to exceed \$90 per family. Please take note of this.

We are also looking for the older Superheroes among our adults! Hero Headquarters takes a lot of time and volunteers. We are looking for crew leaders, meal cookers, music makers, skit leaders, game players, and those with hearts for kids. We need EVERYTHING you have! If volunteering is not for you, please check out our wish list of craft items and other things to make Headquarters possible.

The most important thing that Hero Headquarters needs is a director, as Jessica will be leaving BUMC at the end of April. This is a huge role, and Jessica would love to help you transition into it smoothly. She will do her best to help you, and guide you into this position. Please consider this role.



AT BERWYN  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
JUNE 27-JULY 1  
4:30-7:30 PM

#### **April 4 Worship Service**

*Narthex Greeter:* Jack Campbell

*Acolyte:* Katie DeFlavia

*Liturgist:* Larry Dodds

*Ushers:* Mike Benton, Ed Denisevicz,

Charles Parvin, Tom Pierce

*Children's Sermon:* Pattie Littlewood

*Coffee Committee:* Cynthia Bushnell,

Jan Polasky, Kelley and Moses Hogan

*Flower Arranger:* Sue Tiede

*Flower Delivery:* Judy Fisk

#### **April 11 Worship Service**

*Narthex Greeter:* Jack Campbell

*Acolyte:* Sophie Dunn

*Liturgist:* Sue Tiede

*Ushers:* Gene Foreman, Scott West,

Jim Spofford, Doug Fuerst

*Children's Sermon:* Judith Lang

*Story Time:* Gina DeFlavia

*Coffee Committee:* Margie O'Donnell,

Darlene Spofford, Barbara Hall

*Flower Arranger:* Claudia Sharpless

*Flower Delivery:* Judy Fisk

#### **April 18 Worship Service**

*Narthex Greeter:* Jane McDowell

*Acolyte:* Javier Montaner

*Liturgist:* Carl Linsenbach

*Ushers:* Claudia Sharpless, Ben Cutler,

Eloise Levitt, Andrew Cutler

*Children's Sermon:* Anne Poncé

*Story Time:* Janelle Larson

*Coffee Committee:* Pam Benton,

Gina DeFlavia, Jennifer Cutler

*Flower Arranger:* Sarah Polasky

*Flower Delivery:* Cynthia Bushnell

#### **April 25 Worship Service**

*Narthex Greeter:* Sue Farina

*Acolyte:* Campbell Wolov

*Liturgist:* Stephanie Borelly

*Ushers:* Judy Fisk, Jeremy Borelly,

Alan Hess, Tyler Borelly

*Children's Sermon:* Nancy Atchison

*Story Time:* Kelley Hogan

*Coffee Committee:* Carol Williams,

Judy Fisk, Amy Dwyer

*Flower Arranger:* Kay Pierce

*Flower Delivery:* Jane McDowell

#### **Thursday Helpers**

April 1: Pat White

April 8: Sue Farina

April 15: Barbara Borst

April 22: Sue Farina

April 29: Pat White

#### **Friday Volunteers**

April 2: Betsy Newman

April 9: Claudia Sharpless

April 16: Barbara Borst

April 23: May Dickenson

April 30: Maynard and Doris Krug

## The Nursery School

The Mother/Staff Spring Dinner planning is almost finished with final touches being put on the Silent Auction. The invitations to the mothers and staff are being mailed and the last decisions for decorating are being decided. April 29 will find about 80% of the mothers joining the staff at The Saturday Club in Wayne. The mothers provide appetizers, salads and desserts.

The Easttown Library has a new assistant children's librarian with all kinds of great ideas. The library will be visiting the school with a choice of about ten programs. We will certainly take advantage of this outreach by our community library.

Next up will be our Easter Candy Scramble and parties. After that comes Spring Break, followed by some special programs during April. Best of all will be our return to the playground. The children have been taking walks on the parking lot, drawing with chalk and watching for emerging signs of spring. We have all seen hopeful glances at the playground, and the children have asked many times when they will be able to play on the equipment. We know there will be great shrieks of joy when they are able to once again feel warm sun and just run and jump. That is one of the true joys of childhood.

*Ann Bole*

---

## Paoli Boy Scout Troop 181

*Troop 181 meets at BUMC three Tuesday evenings each month. The troop also has a weekend activity once a month.*

We are happy to announce that four more Webelos Scouts have committed to crossing over and joining our Troop this year, giving us a total of 11 new Scouts. Our older Scouts will mentor and assist the younger Scouts in setting goals and helping them quickly achieve the rank of Scout and then Tenderfoot. We always welcome families who want to come to our meetings to see if this is a right fit for them and their sons. No previous scouting experience is necessary.

In April, Troop 181 will spend a weekend camping at Pocono Plateau, a ministry of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our Scouts will perform service to the camp by helping with trail preservation or another outdoor project as directed by the camp staff. Our Scouts will also have time to have fun while participating in personal-growth exercises such as rock climbing or a high-ropes course.

## *From the Organ Bench: The Choir's journey to Easter*

As I write this in mid-March, I am looking at rain drizzling on the window and wistfully yearning for the return of the sun. It is gray and dreary, but I know beyond any doubt that the sun will be shining and the earth will be bringing forth the blooms of spring. There will be warmth and light and joy.

I realize how much the reality of our physical world reflects the truth of our spiritual life. Lent is a time of waiting and watching as we travel the difficult journey with Jesus to Jerusalem. But our hope is just as sure as the sun's imminent shining that by the grace of God the seeds of resurrection have already been sown. The Son will rise and bring new life and light to all of the earth.

In our music, the Choir is journeying with Jesus to Good Friday and Easter. Members have been working on John Stainer's *The Crucifixion* since January, studying recorded voice parts and attending numerous rehearsals. The notes have been learned, and we are now moving to a deeper level of subtle dynamics, careful blending, and attention to various details.

We cannot sing these words week after week without being transformed by them and drawn closer to the mystery of God's love for us. It is our prayer that you, too, will be transformed when you join with us to worship at the foot of the cross on Good Friday.

I made an appeal to you for the financial means to support our Good Friday offering of music. I am filled with gratitude for the amazing generosity of the BUMC congregation. With heartfelt thanks I am delighted to tell you that we have exceeded our needs! I am humbled by your overwhelming support of the Choir, of me, and the BUMC Music Ministry. Thank you. Thank you.

*Judith Lang*

---

## Farewell and best wishes to Jessica Simmons

In April, our children's ministry coordinator, Jessica Simmons, will be leaving BUMC. We have been blessed to have Jess work with our children and youth in recent years, first as an assistant youth coordinator, and now leading the children's program.

Jess has brought to BUMC a genuine love for children and a strong belief in the importance of helping even the youngest among us begin their spiritual journeys. We are grateful to have had Jess with us, and we wish her a lifetime of peace and joy as she develops her career as a teacher and takes on all that life has to offer her.

We expect to have more to share about the open position in the near future. For now, please be sure to say thanks and farewell to Jess before she leaves us at the end of April.

*Brian Donadio*

---

## Adult Fellowship plans progressive dinner April 18

The Adult Fellowship will hold a progressive dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18.

The company rotates through four homes in the course of the evening, experiencing a different meal course at each home in sequence. Participants should provide an appropriate dish to one of the hosting households.

Sign up after worship services on April 4 or 11 and indicate whether you will bring an appetizer, casserole, salad, or dessert.

The co-chairs are Sally Robie (610-644-6631) and Nancy Atchison (610-644-2775).

# Cards of Thanks

**From Bob Fisk:** Judy and I would like to thank the people of BUMC for their caring and loving ways — for their offers of food and transportation, for their cards, phone calls, and visits from the members and our pastor, during my recent stay in the hospital. We also appreciate the prayer shawl that was given to us; the loan of equipment that was required for me to come home; the necessary alterations to the stairs for the garage entrance to the house; and the installation of the required grab bars at the doorway. This list goes on and on, and what it shows is that the Berwyn Church is a special place comprised of a large number of special people. Again, our thanks to the entire congregation.

**From May Dickenson:** I would like to thank the people of our church for the cards and other thoughtfulness while I've been recovering from back surgery. God Bless.

**From Kristine Adams:** On behalf of the Worship Committee I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who made our Lenten and Holy Week experiences special. Special thanks to our Lenten readers: Javier Montaner, Mike Benton, Wendy Wolov, Ed Denisevich, Sue Tiede and Kate Walker. The readings would not be significant without the creative and thoughtful design of our weekly symbols by Sue Denisevich. I would also like to extend a big thank-you to JoEllyn Beck for the production of "The Upper Room" to add to our Maundy Thursday service. And where would we be without Judith Lang and our fabulous choir and soloists for their presentation of *The Crucifixion*?

---

## What's going on at Berwyn United Methodist

**New member.** Robert Leschinsky is a single young man from the Norfolk, Virginia, area. He lives in Charlestown Township and has established a landscaping business, Green Leaf Ground Maintenance. Robert likes the intimacy of the 8:30 a.m. worship service, but everyone can see him on Maundy Thursday as one of the Disciples of Jesus at the Last Supper reenactment. You can easily recognize Robert because of his height (he's over 6 feet without his cowboy hat) and his big white pickup truck. Please welcome Robert to BUMC.

**Acme Tapes.** The Lydia Circle thanks all of you for saving your Acme register tapes. The money we received for these receipts has supported mission projects of our United Methodist Women circle in Central America, Africa, and the United States. We have been notified by Acme that this program is ending, so we need you to dig through your pockets, purses and drawers for your register tapes and place them in the brown "Acme Register Tape Envelope" on the bulletin board in the south hallway above the steps. Receipts must be received by April 11.

**Calling all graduates.** If you or a loved one is graduating from high school or college this year, please send the information to [kristineadamspc@verizon.net](mailto:kristineadamspc@verizon.net). We would like to recognize all of our graduates at a special Graduation Recognition service on June 13 and in the June issue of The Lighted Cross. Please include name, school, degree, post-graduation plans, and church and school activities.

**Club Berwyn.** On Feb. 12, six kids came together and helped us to make six blankets for the homeless in Washington, D.C. The blankets were delivered through an organization called "Homemade for the Homeless." ... In April, the kids will participate in Gloria Saturday's Easter Egg Hunt, Bowling with Club Berwyn, and other events. They will sing in the worship service and receive Bibles on April 23.

**Parents' forum.** A. Michael Blanche, social worker and therapist, will lead the fourth and final session in a series of open forums for parents in Schieck Hall at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 27. The subject is "Dealing With Transition." The series has been sponsored by the church's Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team and the E. Chelsea Campbell Memorial Foundation.

**Book Club.** The next meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, at the home of Margi MacKenzie. Chuck Parvin will lead a discussion of *Brooklyn*, a novel by Colm Toibin.

**Pictorial Directory.** We have received the directories from Olan Mills. Watch for an announcement on how to get your copy.

# After tragic house fire, former member needs help

The church's Care and Concern Committee is offering support to Jim Reilly Jr., a former member of our church family who has experienced a series of catastrophes.

Jim is a son of James and Eleanor Reilly, longtime members of BUMC who are now deceased. The Reilly family lived next door to the Walker family while the children were growing up. Jim is now a member of Elam United Methodist Church in Glen Mills.

Jim's 21-year-old son, Andrew, was killed in a car accident in August 2006 on his way to Millersville University to begin his senior year. He was studying to become a special-education teacher.

Two years later, Jim's wife, April, a nurse, was diagnosed with advanced colon cancer. She died in October 2008, leaving Jim to care for Shaun, their 29-year-old son, who is severely disabled.

In January of this year, Jim was laid off from his printing job because of the poor economy.

Although it seems that Jim had already suffered through some of the worst times that anyone could have, he recently had to endure another tragedy: His house burned down.

Fire officials have determined that the fire was an accident. Jim was cooking dinner, and he said Shaun came into the kitchen wrapped in a fringed afghan. When Shaun left the kitchen, Jim noticed smoke and went into the family room to find the afghan and the sofa on fire. Jim looked for Shaun and found him in another room. They both got out of the burning house unhurt, but the house was left with little to salvage. Tabitha, Jim's daughter, a senior at Immaculata University, was away at the time.

We here at BUMC wanted to know how we could help the family, and we learned that Elam UMC had set up a fund to aid the family. Checks may be sent to Elam UMC, 1073 Smithbridge Road, Glen Mills, PA 19342. Be sure to write "Jim Reilly Fire Fund" in the memo field of your check.

This is something we can do for a child of our church who needs help now. Thank you, BUMC members. In God's name,

*Maxine Jex*

---

## Supper clubs are eager to have new members

The church's small-group supper clubs are active and scheduling get-togethers. All adults are welcome and encouraged to participate.

The groups generally meet on their own schedules once a month or less frequently to do a meal or some other activity and get to know each other better.

If you are interested in joining a group, call Sally Robie at 610-644-6631 after 5 p.m. weekdays, or contact the church office, 610-644-5555.

---

**Care of Creation Sunday is April 25.** The blessings of God are evident all around us, including in the sacred spaces that make up our houses of worship. These sacred spaces are where we come to be spiritually nurtured, enriched, and recharged. These spaces become a gathering place to meet in fellowship with our neighbors, and are the center of our mission activities. In response to the blessings that God bestows, we are called to be like the faithful steward Jesus describes in Luke 12: 42-44, caring for who and what God loves and working to further the kingdom of God. "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted; even more will be demanded" (Luke 12:48). This is true for our houses of worship. Even as we are blessed as communities of faith with gathering places for our worship and ministry, we have responsibilities to be good stewards of these sacred spaces. The 300,000 houses of worship in the United States spend more than \$2 billion on energy each year. – *From the National Council of Churches*, submitted by Amy Dwyer.