



April 2011

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

Two understated Holy Week events

We are more than halfway through our Lenten journey. My fervent prayer is that you have been blessed, strengthened and sustained through the varied and many spiritual disciplines you have used to nurture your soul.

As April unfolds, we will experience the gamut of emotions such as the joy and exuberance of Palm Sunday. Before that service ends, the emotional pendulum swings in the opposite direction as we are taken anew to Calvary and to the cross and rehearse again the great sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. We leave church on Passion Sunday declaring again and again, "For me, for me he died." This thought fills our hearts and souls with grateful gratitude and penitence.

Two other events during Holy Week are not often highlighted: feet washing on Holy Thursday and the celebration of Gloria Saturday.

One thing Jesus did on Holy Thursday was to wash the feet of his disciples as a symbol of service and humility. For many this is the third sacrament instituted by our Lord, but it is not celebrated as Baptism and Holy Communion are. In the Upper Room on the night Jesus was betrayed, he said in a symbolic way to his disciples that they would be nourished and strengthened through the holy meal he instituted, so as to be of service to others, working collaboratively with all in the world in humility and acceptance. One element of the Holy Thursday worship service at BUMC will be the feet-washing ceremony. I invite us to pray and think about this action of Jesus and discern what it means for us today.

The Saturday before Easter is called Gloria Saturday. During the affirmation of faith that we use periodically during worship, we say: "He descended to the dead." Students of the Word have said that as Jesus descended to the earth to be the redeemer of the world, so he descended to the dead on the day before Easter to offer hope and salvation to those who had gone on before him. A scripture passage we use on Gloria Saturday reminds us of that. Peter, writing to the early Christians, said: "He went through it all – was put to death and then made alive – to bring us to God. He went and proclaimed God's salvation to earlier generations who ended up in the prison of judgment because they wouldn't listen" (1 Peter 3:18 – 19, *The Message*). Another translation renders it this way: "For Christ died for sins once and for all, a good man on behalf of sinners, in order to lead you to God. He was put to death physically, but made alive spiritually, and in his spiritual existence he went and preached to the imprisoned spirits" (*The Good News Bible*). As one commentator put it: "The principle of the doctrine is that through Christ's descent, death and the Underworld have been made powerless. Christ had transferred those souls, either all imprisoned there or only those who believed during his preaching to them depending upon the source referenced, to Paradise" (Krista in *Descensus ad Inferos*). This doctrine and credal statement were introduced to the Christian church in 359 C.E. Some Christians are stretched by this teaching, as there is no reference to it in the Gospels. It excites me, because it teaches us that God's love is extended to all and that Christ went to great lengths to offer salvation to all who would accept and believe in him. On Gloria Saturday we gather to remind ourselves of this event in the life and ministry of Christ. Because we have the Easter Egg hunt on this day, many of us may think that this is just a children's or family program. It is for all of us to come and remind ourselves of the redeeming act of Christ on that day. So I invite you to attend.

I have highlighted two aspects of our faith that we do not hear too much about. I pray that this knowledge would bless and strengthen you as you continue to journey through Lent. May God's blessing abound in your life so that you may be a blessing to others along the way!

Schedule of April's Events

For Lent and Holy Week

April 6 – 12:30 p.m., fourth Lenten Lunch in Schieck Hall. The speaker will be Taylor Kiser, youth director at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

April 13 – 12:30 p.m., fifth Lenten Lunch in Schieck Hall. The speaker will be Sum Tang, youth director at St. John's Presbyterian Church.

April 17 – 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., Palm/Passion Sunday worship services. This is also "Invite a Friend" Sunday (details on page 5 of this issue).

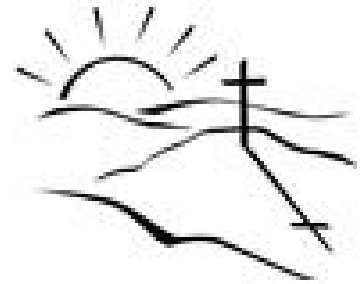
April 20 – 12:30, sixth and final Lenten Lunch in Schieck Hall. The speaker will be the Rev. John R. Loring, pastor of The Baptist Church in the Great Valley.

April 21 – Holy Thursday Communion Service and Feet-Washing Ceremony.

April 22 – noon to 3 p.m., Good Friday Ecumenical Service at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli; 7:30 p.m., service at BUMC, with special music by the Chancel Choir (details below).

April 23 – 9 a.m., Gloria Saturday continental breakfast and Easter Egg hunt.

April 24 – 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., the glorious celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.



Diverse selection of 9 anthems on Good Friday

Berwyn United Methodist Church has developed a moving tradition of beautiful choral music for the Good Friday liturgy's service of darkness. This year's service at 7:30 p.m. April 22 will be based on The Seven Last Words of Christ with choir, organ, cello, flute and soloists.

Instead of a formal cantata, the choir will present a diverse selection of nine anthems, seven of which reflect on a Word from the Cross.

There will be an introductory anthem, "O Come and Mourn With Me Awhile" by Hopson. This will be followed by anthems from the German Baroque, "Ah, Holy Jesus" by Cruger and "Praise to Thee, Lord Jesus" by Schuetz. The Classical Period is represented by Mozart's beloved "Jesu, Word of God Incarnate." The World War II period is represented by "Like as a Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks" by Howells. Contemporary music includes the lush "O Holy Jesu" by Artman for seven-part choir; the haunting "At the Cry of the First Bird" by Peninger, based on an anonymous medieval text; and the extremely dramatic "The Earth Did Tremble" by Neidmann, with text by Francis Quarles. The service will end in darkness with "Thee We Adore, O Savior" by the 19th century composer Dubois.

Joining the Chancel Choir will be Elizabeth Mendoza, cellist who plays with the Pennsylvania Ballet, and Kathy Murphy, who is returning with her exquisite and moving flute playing. The soloists will be JoEllyn Berky Beck, soprano, and Scott Campbell, tenor.

Judith Lang, our director of music, has compiled this service, arranging cello and flute parts for several of the anthems. As usual, she will accompany the choir on organ.

Please plan on joining us for this beautiful service. Invite a friend!

Connekt

Youth Concert and Motivational Event open to the public on Saturday April 9

4:30-6:00 p.m

“How Young Leaders Can Get Into Great Colleges”

Dr. Clinton Ohlers

- What can middle/high school students do NOW to increase their chances of getting into a better college?
- What should these students know about trying to pick a career?
- How can I be a leader in high school and college?

FREE ADMISSION, FREE PIZZA



Dr. Clinton Ohlers received his Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, after earning his M.Div. degree.

7:00-10:00 p.m., in Schieck Hall

the Shackeltons



**Nationally Known Rock Band:
The Shackeltons**



**Philadelphia Area Rock Band:
Zorro Gato**



**Speaker:
Chris Padot**



**Emcee:
Dr. Rebecca
Blacksmith**

Free admission, suggested donation \$5

Youth:

\$50 King of Prussia Mall Gift Card for bringing the most youth who have never been to BUMC.

Adults:

\$50 in Christian books for bringing the most youth who are new to BUMC.

LAY LEADER'S LETTER

Remember John Wesley's prayer during Lent

I remember when it used to be common for people to ask what you were giving up for Lent. I commonly replied, "Smoking." It sounded good, but since I did not smoke anyway, it was meaningless and useless. It benefited neither me nor God.

But Lent, the 40 weekdays before Easter starting with Ash Wednesday, should have meaning. Traditionally it has been marked by prayer, fasting, and charitable deeds. Lent should be a season of soul-searching and repentance as a way to focus on our need for God's grace. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of our redemption at Easter, given to us freely through God's grace and the sacrifice of his Son.

Giving up some pleasure during Lent, such as by fasting, is a way of remembering our dependence upon God and our need for his grace. We can go further, and dedicate our lives to pursuing God's will. John Wesley expressed his dedication through this Covenant Prayer, which, although traditionally used at a New Year's Eve or New Year's Day Covenant Service, is also appropriate for Lent:

*I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee;
Exalted for thee or brought low by thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.*

John Wesley used this prayer as a covenant to dedicate himself completely to God. Can you make the same covenant?

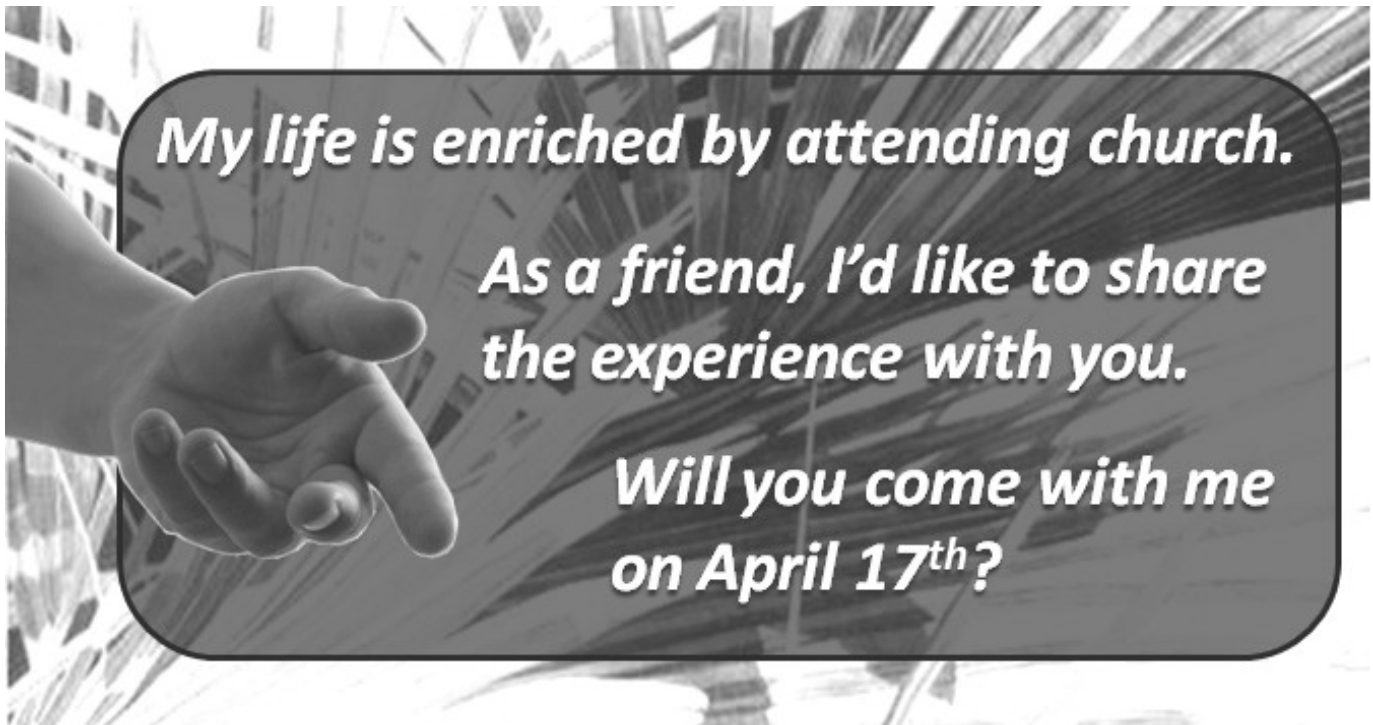
John Paylor

Calling all graduates:

If you or a loved one is graduating from high school or college this year, please inform Kristine Adams at kristineadamspc@verizon.net. We would like to honor all of our graduates at the 10:30 service on June 12. Send Kristine the following information on the graduate: name, school, postgraduation plans, and school activities or honors. We also will recognize the graduates in the June issue of The Lighted Cross. Help us make the list complete by sending the information to Kristine promptly. Thanks.

Dr. Harry C. Rogers, former BUMC member, dies

Dr. Harry Carlton Rogers Jr., 87, emeritus A. W. Grosvenor Professor of Materials Engineering at Drexel University, died March 2 at Stratton Veterans Administration Hospital in Albany, N.Y. The Rogers family were members of BUMC when they lived in Berwyn. Dr. Rogers, a noted metallurgist and expert on metal fractures, joined the Drexel faculty in 1969 and retired in 1992. He is survived by his wife, Jean, a son, two daughters, and six grandchildren.



My life is enriched by attending church.

*As a friend, I'd like to share
the experience with you.*

*Will you come with me
on April 17th?*

If your life is enriched or enhanced by coming to church, why wouldn't you want to share that with your friends? Certainly, you would invite them to your favorite restaurant. Is there any better way to express your friendship than to invite a friend to visit a place that offers you such peace and comfort?

We are setting Sunday, April 17, as "Invite a Friend Sunday." However, the entire month of April offers us many activities and services that would appeal to friends and neighbors. You might consider offering to pick them up and drive together.

To go to church with your friends – rather than merely agreeing for them to meet you there – really says: "I want you to be a part of what I truly value in my life."

And let's make room for our guests. We hope to have many with us on April 17 and for Easter the following week, April 24. Unless you are bringing a guest with you, please park in the back lot and leave the front parking spaces for visitors. And be sure to greet all our visitors and make them feel welcome.

Children celebrate success of 'Read to Feed' fundraiser

To our dear BUMC family:

I write this Read to Feed update with pure joy. I am in complete awe of our wonderful children and your generosity. On March 13, our children gathered to celebrate their reading and fundraising goals. We enjoyed a fun pizza party, received certificates celebrating our achievements, and shared how many pages and books we read for the project.

For Read to Feed, thus far (some sponsorships are still being collected) our children have raised... drum roll please...**\$757.50!** When we add this to the totals that we have previously raised through Vacation Bible Camp and the alternative gifts program, we will certainly be able to buy that cow (or maybe even an ark).

I can't begin to express my appreciation and gratitude to all of you for supporting our children with this wonderful project. My heart is completely full. Thank you.

Sarah Polasky

The SPRC: Who we are and what we do

The BUMC Staff Parish Committee of 2010 made a covenant during Charge Conference to be more communicative with the congregants of our church. This covenant is appropriately consistent with the buzzword *transparency*.

The composition of the SPRC and its duties and responsibilities are set forth in the Discipline, as follows:

- The committee shall be elected annually by the Charge Conference. There are three classes consisting of three people elected each year.
- The committee shall meet at least quarterly, with the Pastor or District Superintendent being present at all meetings.
- Duties of the committee include:
 - o Promote support and respect for the Pastor and staff and their respective families.
 - o Promote unity in the church.
 - o Ensure effectiveness of the ministry and mission of the church through the Pastor and staff.
 - o Provide an annual evaluation of the Pastor and staff relative to the ongoing effective ministry.
 - o Develop and approve written job descriptions for the staff.
 - o Encourage and recommend persons for candidacy for ordained ministry.

We are rewriting the job descriptions. During the spring, evaluations of staff members will take place, followed by preparation of the documentation for Charge Conference.

The members of the SPRC are Janet Campbell, Jen Cutler, Judy Edinger, Andrew French, Keith Fritz, Moses Hogan, John Paylor, Gina Phelps, Pastor Poncé, Barbara Stockler, Sue Tiede and chair Gene Williams.

Gene Williams

Dr. Anita Powell to be our district superintendent

The Rev. Dr. Anita Powell has been appointed by Bishop Peggy Johnson as the new district superintendent of the Central District, effective July 1.

Dr. Powell served the West Chester UM Church as associate pastor and founded the Church of the Open Doors in Kennett Square. She has served on the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Conference Relations Committee and Deacon-Elder Work Team, and she is a candidacy mentor. Through her involvement in community organizations like Martin Luther King Jr. Community Advocates and Martin Luther King Jr. Community Breakfast, Dr. Powell has become known throughout the region as a champion of social justice and reconciliation. Before becoming a United Methodist, Dr. Powell was a pastor in the American Baptist Church.

She succeeds the Rev. Dr. Gary George, who has been appointed by Bishop Johnson to Grace UM Church at Ogontz Avenue and 71st Street, Philadelphia. Dr. George had served several years at this church before becoming a district superintendent.

Impulsivity and anger: This is the topic of the fourth and final parenting session sponsored by the Drug/Alcohol Recovery Team and the E. Chelsea Campbell Memorial Foundation, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, in Schieck Hall. Impulsivity and anger can be the fuel that drives many of our children's decision making. What is the straight talk between developmental, typical challenges and ADHD? What lies under the anger? How do we get beneath the anger to treat the potential depression or anxiety? How can parents deal with their own anger or frustrations? A. Michael Blanche will facilitate the discussion.

Help us Feed the Five Thousand at Easter

A favorite mission project for Lent returns as we Feed the Five Thousand. This year we have new options to make it easier for you to participate.

For those new to the church, here is an explanation of what Feed the Five Thousand is all about: During Lent we fill bags with specified groceries sufficient to feed a family of four for three days. The filled bags are then delivered to United Methodist Neighborhood Services on North Broad Street in Philadelphia, where they are distributed to families in need. We are usually shy of 5,000 meals, but it makes a great goal to strive toward.

The only complaint we have heard over the years is that for many, when the bag (a double paper bag with handles) is filled, it is too heavy to carry. So this year we have three options:

Option 1 – Purchase the food as usual, but bring it in as many bags or boxes as you need to make it manageable to carry into the Narthex. We will have string, tape and markers for you to designate which containers go together.

Option 2 – Purchase the food and sign up for a member of the Missions Committee to come to your home to pick it up. Pickups will be on Saturday, April 9, or Sunday, April 10.

Option 3 – Donate \$35 to have a Missions Super Shopper purchase the groceries for you. Make the check out to **BUMC** and be sure to write **Feed 5,000** on the memo line.

The list of groceries is: one box of cold cereal (Cheerios or Total for example); a 64-ounce plastic bottle of juice (apple, grape, V-8 or orange); a 28-ounce jar of peanut butter; a 1-pound bag of rice; four 14-16-ounce cans of fruit packed in juice (peaches, pears, applesauce, oranges); a 1-pound bag of dried beans; a 12-ounce can of tuna; a can of Spam or 12-ounce of white chicken; a family-sized macaroni and cheese dinner; a 28-ounce can of pork and beans; four 14-16-ounce cans of vegetables (corn, green beans, carrots, tomatoes); a 1-pound box of spaghetti; and a 28-ounce jar or can of meat-flavored spaghetti sauce.

Please bring in your groceries, ask for a pickup, or make a cash donation by April 10.

Donna Pitz

Special Easter offering will aid the people of Japan

The special offering at Easter will be given to the United Methodist Committee on Relief for Japan. UMCOR has partnered with the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ) and first-responder GlobalMedic to bring immediate relief to communities affected by the earthquake, tsunami, and the uncertainty provoked by possible radiation poisoning from damaged nuclear reactors. One hundred percent of donations to this advance will help the people of Japan recover from this still-unfolding disaster. Your Easter donation will allow UMCOR to provide not only immediate assistance but long-term rehabilitation that may include the reconstruction of homes and places of worship, among other needs.

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 is scheduled to be delivered by postal mail by May 1, and an electronic version will be available earlier on the church website. Submit your items to gene.foreman@verizon.net or use the mailbox in the church office.



Church Phone:
610-644-5555

Office E-mail:
officebumc@comcast.net

Church Website:
berwynumc.org

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

EASTER LILY ORDERS & LANDSCAPE FUND

Orders are now being taken for lilies
to beautify the church sanctuary for
Easter morning services of resurrection.

Contributions may be made to the landscape fund
for beautification of the church grounds.



Please use the appropriate order form(s). Make checks payable to BUMC.
Indicate on your check whether it is for Easter lilies or the Landscape Fund.
Send or bring your order to the church office. The deadline for ordering lilies is April 10th.

ORDER FORM FOR LILIES

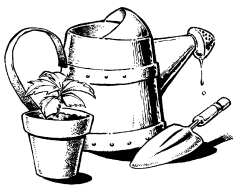
I / We wish to purchase _____ lilies \$9.00 each. Check Total \$ _____

Name _____

In Memory/ Honor/ Celebration of _____

Please take your beautiful flower home after the Sunday Morning Easter Service

LANDSCAPE FUND CONTRIBUTIONS



I / We wish to contribute \$ _____ to the Landscape Fund.

Name _____

In Memory / Honor / Celebration of _____

WHAT'S GOING ON AT BERWYN UNITED METHODIST

United Methodist Night at the Phillies. If you've ordered tickets for the game against the Pirates at 7:05 p.m. Saturday, July 30, you will be in the company of many friends. Nancy Atchison reports that 117 tickets were sold at BUMC.

ETC Class. The Every Topic Considered adult Sunday School class will be going forward in April with some of the topics touched on in the "Living the Questions" video/discussion series. Suggestions for other topics of interest are welcome. Contact: Claudia Genuardi.

SBS Class. The Shared Bible Study adult Sunday School class is continuing its study of "Hallelujah, the Lenten Part." Join us as we enjoy Handel's Messiah and prepare our hearts for the Easter season.

United Methodist Women. Lydia and Maria Circles will meet at noon Sunday, April 3.

Book Club. Gene Foreman will lead a discussion of *Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime* by John Heilemann and Mark Halperin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, at the home of Claudia Sharpless (610-644-8928). Everyone is welcome. RSVP to Claudia.

Nursery School. March was a busy month, as we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday, 100th Day, and St. Patrick's Day. On the 100th day of the school year, the 5-day children celebrate with a pizza party. They also participate in activities relating to the number 100: jumping 100 times, reading 100 words, and gluing 100 objects onto a piece of paper. St. Patrick's Day is a favorite with all the children. They love arriving in school to see what mischief the leprechaun has done; the tricky fellow loves to turn chairs upside down, take books off of shelves, and even turn the children's milk green.

Boy Scout Troop 181. Fifteen Webelos Scouts are joining the troop this year. Our older Scouts will mentor and assist these younger Scouts in setting goals and helping them quickly achieve the rank of Scout and then Tenderfoot. In late March, the troop visited Independence National Historical Park. In April, the Scouts will spend a weekend at the Ockanickon Scout Reservation taking part in a program that teaches teamwork, communications, trust, leadership, decision making, problem solving, and self-esteem. Several of the older Scouts are planning their Eagle projects, which involve building raised beds and an outdoor classroom in the courtyard of Devon Elementary School.

Join the Adult Council on a bus journey

On Saturday, April 30, the Adult Council is sponsoring a Mystery Bus Trip for anyone interested. The cost of the trip is \$100 a person and includes transportation on a luxury-equipped bus, lunch and two scheduled activities.

The destination is within three hours of Berwyn. The approximate schedule: depart church at 7 a.m.; Activity 1 (requires walking on a fairly flat and even surface), 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; lunch (located on the second floor, stairs only), 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.; free time, 1 to 2:30 p.m.; Activity 2, 2:30 to 4 p.m.; arrival back at church, 7 p.m. Dress will be casual and much of the activity will be outside, so dress according to the weather for the day. Questions: Rick Stoker or the Church Office.

Reservations and payments are due to the Church Office by Monday, April 18. Make checks payable to **BUMC** and put **Bus Trip** on the memo line. Detach and submit the completed form below with your payment.

MYSTERY BUS TRIP

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011, 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

Name (s) _____

Amount Paid \$ _____

Lent is a time to reflect on our giving practices

Lent is a time we focus on our relationship with God, with others and perhaps with ourselves. We often think of it as a time to give things up, but it is also a time to reflect and add behaviors and practices.

To quote Eugene Cho:

... I don't want to think of Lent as a season of giving up things but rather a season of more deeply giving in or giving to:

- *In what way am I more compelled to give in to the ways of God?*
- *How am I more deeply giving in and giving to – to my neighbors, family, church, strangers, etc.?*
- *How am I more deeply giving or growing in stewardship, generosity, my convictions, etc.?*
- *How am I more giving in to the ways of Christ? How am I more giving in to mercy, justice, and humility?*

Here's an alternative invitation for Lent – whether you give up something or not: Give yourself more fully to Jesus and the kingdom of God.

Lent is a time to reflect on our ability to share what we have been given, and consider how we can give radically, sacrificially and completely.

Janelle Larson

For the Finance and Stewardship Committee

Mark your calendars for these special Sunday events

The Worship Committee has scheduled several special events during the next few months. If you would like to participate in any way, let us know. Mark your calendars:

May 8 –Mother's Day. Each mother in our congregation will receive a special flower to thank her for all she does in caring for our families and church. We will also have a hat contest – wear your prettiest or most special bonnet, and someone will get a prize.

May 22 – Lay Participant Recognition. We want to recognize everyone who helps with our worship services: acolytes, ushers, liturgists, choir, Friday helpers, greeters, flower committee, special readers, etc.

June 12 – Graduation Sunday. On this day we will recognize and congratulate our high school and college graduates.

June 19 –Father's Day. We don't want to forget all the fathers in our congregation. We want to celebrate everything they do for our families and our church. Wear your spiffiest tie and we'll give a prize.

Kristine Adams

Conference Loan Fund. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Loan Fund gives local churches and United Methodist churches and agencies a head start on the future. You can invest as little as \$1,000 in the Fund, and you will help local churches build, repair and renovate their facilities. The borrowers (local churches and Conference agencies) receive low-interest loans for capital projects from the Fund while you receive 3% interest. You can add to your savings at any time and can withdraw all or part of your investment with 60 days' notice. Telephone: 610-666-9090, ext. 251.