



April 2008

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

FROM THE PASTOR

Observing the Feast of the Ascension

ON SUNDAYS when we stand to profess our faith by repeating the words contained in one of our creeds, we often repeat the phrase, “He ascended into heaven.” This is one phrase that has always “stretched” me. It makes me wonder, “Exactly what does this mean to me today – living on planet Earth in the year 2008?” We declare in this belief that Jesus was exalted (lifted up to a higher location), but as Christians we are taught that He is as near to us as the very breath we breathe. It is the kind of phrase that causes me to confront many of the paradoxes that we have as Christians. Maybe you have wrestled with some of the Christian paradoxes also? Some other paradoxes are that He is our advocate yet will be our judge; that He is distant yet near; that He is transcendent yet imminent; glorified yet humble.

Each Sunday, as we recite one of the creeds, remember that we profess in this doctrine that in the ascension, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God (Col. 3:1). I wish to borrow and excerpt from A. M. Ramsey, which states, “This belief involved more than Jesus having gone to a place beyond the sky called heaven. For the phrase ‘at the right hand of God’ meant not a place, but a participation in the sovereignty of God over all things. The exalted Jesus had entered a state and an activity which transcended the limitation of place altogether” (*A Theological Word Book of the Bible*, page 22).

When we worship and praise Christ, we are mindful that He is exalted and glorified and is worthy of our praise. We live life conscious of the fact that Christ is there for us at all times and in all places, and that His activity in our lives is not limited by time and space.

As a community of faith we will be celebrating the Ascension of our Lord on May 1. As usual, it falls on a Thursday. Consequently this Feast Day and its importance to us Christians are often overlooked. Please be reminded of this Holy Day and its significance.

Be blessed during the Feast of the Ascension on May 1.

Pastor Phil

VOICES FROM THE FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Taking time to review our maintenance expenses

As January passed into February, many of us were frantically gathering all the required documentation for the preparation of those dreaded federal income tax returns. As we reviewed the expenses and receipts for the last year, it often dawned on us just how much revenue has actually been spent on the “basics.”

Suddenly, we realized the annualized costs of homeowner’s insurance, home maintenance fees, heating/cooling bills, yard beautification and maintenance, along with general repairs. Yes, each of us knows well how much effort and expense is put into creating and maintaining our own homes, large or small. However, is it often that we take notice of the same effort and expense that is put into creating and maintaining our house of worship?

During the hot days of summer, how nice it is for us to sit in the cool sanctuary during the service. How delightful for us to feel warm and cozy in our church during the bitter cold winter months. What a wonderful feeling to attend services in a clean, safe church with beautifully landscaped grounds.

As you well understand, all of these amenities cost money to maintain. This is why we must continue to financially support our beloved church. Every small and large gift amount means so much toward our goal of preserving and protecting our place of worship.

Sally Bridwell

Spaghetti dinner and talent show on April 19

Join us on at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 19, in Schieck Hall for the Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show. All proceeds from the event will benefit our 2008 Appalachia Service Project team.

The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids, and \$35 max for families over five persons. Tickets will be for sale after both services on April 6 and 13. You can also reserve tickets online from the ASP page of the church website, www.berwynumc.org/asp. Online tickets can be picked up and paid for at the door. All tickets must be purchased before Wednesday, April 16.

Do you have a talent you'd like to share on April 19? Whether it is comedy, music, dancing or something unique, all types of talent are invited. Talent acts should be 10 minutes or less, unless approved ahead of time. To sign up, use the form on the ASP page of the church website, sign up in the church lobby, or contact RPBenton@gmail.com.

The Appalachia Service Project works in the impoverished region of the Appalachian Mountains to make homes, warmer, safer, and drier. This year, our youth will travel to Tennessee. The Spaghetti Dinner is one of the primary fundraisers, so please support it if you are able.

Ryan Benton

COMING EVENTS

May 4: Stress and anxiety in a teenager's world

The Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team (DART) is sponsoring a workshop in Schieck Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, May 4, for parents and students in grades 9 - 12.

Alcohol and drug use is often used to alleviate stress and anxiety, one of the reasons we see so much use of substances in our youth. Our goal is to educate and support with ideas on how to deal with our stress and anxiety in a busy world.

Two groups will be held — one for parents, led by Michelle Kindt, and another for teenagers, led by Chris Willson. Michelle and Chris are psychologists with practices in Devon and have extensive experience in working in these fields. They have requested that questions and suggested topics for the workshop be submitted before May 4. There is a box outside of Schieck Hall to place your suggestions.

Pizza and soda will be served.

Members of the community are welcome. Please feel free to invite friends and neighbors.

May 4: Picnic honors confirmands and graduates

We will honor the Confirmation Class and those graduating from high school and college this year at a special luncheon on Sunday, May 4, after the 10:30 a.m. service.

We are hoping for good weather because we are planning a barbecue featuring beef spiedi, marinated chicken breasts and hamburgers. And, of course, all the normal picnic stuff along with it.

Signups will be held on April 20 and 27. We will take up a free-will offering one the day of the barbecue to defray the expenses.

If you could help prep on Friday or help clean up on Sunday, please let Rick Stoker or the person handling signups know that you would be willing to help.

May 18: Adult Fellowship's progressive supper

The Adult Fellowship will hold a progressive supper on Sunday, May 18, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. We meet at someone's home for appetizers, then on to another for soup, then on to another for salads, and finally on to dessert at another home.

If you would be willing to host one of the courses, please contact Sally Robie or Nancy Atchison. This is a great time and gives each of us a chance to view others' spring gardens. See you there!

MISSION MEMO

BUMC aids children and youth in Nyeri, Kenya

A portion of our Easter offering will be used to support the Children and Youth Empowerment Center in Nyeri, Kenya. The center was established in 2006 by Paul King'uru, a Kenyan Rhodes Scholar and friend of Janelle Larson's.

The center and an affiliated drop-in center currently serve more than 150 street children in Nyeri, a provincial capital about 100 miles north of Nairobi. They have the potential to grow to 800 children, in both residential and non-residential care.

The center provides a comprehensive package of care, including food, health care, education and social services for street children and other highly vulnerable minors. The center seeks to help prepare these children for the transition into employment and society. Its work is primarily supported by local volunteers, churches and Paul's tourism-related business.

As you probably know, Kenya had elections in late December, followed by two months of conflict. Because of this, the economy collapsed and the center's sources of funds dried up. While the program remains viable, it is in dire need of support. Any help we can provide will be used well and greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Janelle Larson at 610.688.6014 or JBL6@psu.edu.

Mission Committee thank-you notes...

Thanks to Sue Farina and Gail Campbell, who hosted and slept over at St Thomas Villanova on March 3. Beaver Patrol of Scout Troop Devon 50 provided a very special dinner: sliced ham with grilled pineapple, white rice, green and yellow beans with garlic butter sauce, Romaine lettuce salad with almonds and dried cranberries in a raspberry vinaigrette, and brownines. The patrol is led by Jacob Nemetz. The women and the hosts were very impressed.

Thanks to Gina De Flavia for driving a load of **Feed the 5000** bags to United Methodist Neighborhood Services at 804 North Broad Street in Philadelphia, and to members of the choir, who helped pack the bags in her car.

Thanks to kitchen crew and all Soupy Thursday supporters

We would like to thank all of you who supported Soupy Thursday this year. We started on the last Thursday of November and ended on March 20. It has been a long winter season, and we are looking forward to finding some other cause to take up our Thursday afternoons. A special thank you to the prep crew, who helped chop all those vegetables, and we can't forget those who cleaned up the kitchen each week too.

Rick Stoker

What's going on at Berwyn United Methodist Church

Men's Group: At the breakfast meeting at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 12, the speaker will be Ben Tiede, a candidate for a Ph.D. in molecular biology at Princeton University. Ben will continue the discussion of "Faith With Reason, Reason With Faith."

ETC class (Adult Sunday School Class): In April, the class will work on finishing the material from "Saving Jesus." We have Lesson 11: "Resurrection" for two sessions and Lesson 12: "Why Jesus is Worth Saving" for two sessions. Join us Sundays in the Library from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

United Methodist Women (Lydia Circle): The group will meet at 6 p.m. April 6 in the Parlor. We are continuing our consideration of Israel/Palestine.

Eagle Scout project is an outdoor chapel at BUMC

For his Eagle Scout project, Fredy Tuez-Chumpitaz plans to build an outdoor chapel beyond the retention basin that borders the church's rear parking lot.

Fredy, a member of Troop 50 Devon, said he would be working on the project during April and May. The chapel he is planning could be used for outdoor services by the church and also for events of the Nursery School and Boy Scout Troop 181 and Cub Scout Pack 113, which meet at BUMC.

His plan calls for an open chapel on 20 by 20 feet of ground. It will have a cross, eight rustic benches, and a table made out of a piece of slate and cinder blocks.

Fredy said he has several scoutmasters looking over his plans. Also, he said, BUMC members including Ryan Benton, Ann West and Vic Burriss "have been a big help."

He expects to plant bulbs alongside the benches. He would appreciate a donation of bulbs if anyone has leftovers from spring planting. "It is not important as to what type of flowers they are," Fredy said, "but I don't want people to go out and buy new ones. Just leftover ones they aren't going to use."

Fredy, who is the son of our nursery assistant, Eliza Chumpitaz, said he expected to exceed the 100 hours of labor required for an Eagle Scout project.

Vacation Bible School

July 7 - 11

REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL BE IN THE MAY ISSUE OF THE LIGHTED CROSS.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

DIRECTORS: *Nancy Atchison, Ryan Benton, Janet Campbell, Karis Ponce*



CHURCH AND SOCIETY TASK FORCE

'The Power of Forgiveness' to be shown April 12

Our next film in the "Movies That Make You Think" series is *The Power of Forgiveness*, which will be shown in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 12.

This documentary was directed by Martin Doblmeier. It presents stories about the Amish, the 9/11 tragedy, and peace-building in Northern Ireland, along with interviews with renowned Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh, Nobel Peace Laureate Elie Wiesel, best-selling authors Thomas Moore and Marianne Williamson, and others. It explores the role forgiveness holds in various faith traditions and examines how the scientific community is now measuring the physical and mental benefits of letting go of grief and resentment.

Jason Buchanan of All Movie Guide wrote the following summary (www.nytimes.com):

"The simple act of forgiveness can have profound consequences, and in this documentary filmmaker Martin Doblmeier explores the personal and spiritual transformation experienced by those who somehow summoned the power to forgive others for their transgressions.

"After studying the concept of forgiveness for the past two decades, researchers have finally begun to understand the true power of forgiveness. Recently, clinicians have found that by helping people learn to forgive, they can help them lead more meaningful and productive lives."

Book Club will discuss 'A Thousand Splendid Suns'

The BUMC Book Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, at the home of Claudia Sharpless, to discuss *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

The discussion leader will be Romaine Rood. If you are interested in attending, call Claudia at 610-644-8928.

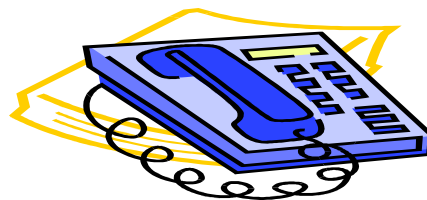
The final meeting of the year will be May 14, when the book to be discussed is *Call of the Wild* by Jack London. Ann West is the discussion leader and Romaine Rood is the hostess.

The Lighted Cross

Next Deadline: April 15

The Lighted Cross is published monthly (except in 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 April 1. Please submit your items by April 15 to gene.foreman@verizon.net.



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610-644-5555

Office E-mail:

officebumc@comcast.net

Church Website:

www.berwynumc.org

Lending a Hand

April 6

Liturgist: Brian Donadio.

Ushers: Mike Benton, Ed Denisevicz, Molly Denisevicz, Chuck Parvin.

Acolyte: Jeremy Borelly.

Coffee Committee: Sue Farina, Pam Smith, Pam Benton.

Flower Delivery: Margie Mackenzie.

April 13

Liturgist: Donna Pitz.

Ushers: Gene Foreman, Jim Spofford, Doug Fuerst, Scott West.

Acolyte: Victoria Phelps.

Coffee Committee: Carol Williams, Stephanie Borelly, Sally Robie.

Flower Delivery: Judy Fisk.

April 20

Liturgist: Rick Stoker.

Ushers: Claudia Sharpless, Sabastien Galvez, Eloise Levitt, Scott Phelps.

Acolyte: Sarah West.

Coffee Committee: Amy Dwyer, Marge Smink, Donna Pitz.

Flower Delivery: Jane McDowell.

April 27

Liturgist: Stephanie Borelly.

Ushers: Judy Fisk, Hal Craig, Alan Hess, Tyler Borelly.

Acolyte: Asa Walker.

Coffee Committee: Sondra Wilen, Jan Polasky, Cynthia Bushnell.

Flower Delivery: Barbara Borst

Dads' and Moms' events next for Nursery School

The Easter hunt is over, and we decided it really should be called the Easter Scramble. The candy disappeared from the lawn at an alarming rate.

Next on our calendar is Donuts With Dad. That is a special time for the dads to see what their children are doing in school. The child and father usually do a special project that day, have some play time and maybe another activity. Donuts With Dad is on three different days: the 3-Day visit is on April 16, the 2-Day visit on April 17, and the 5-Day visit on April 18. Scheduling the event on three different days avoids having fathers going back and forth between two rooms, which always left at least one and usually two children unhappy and the father rather harried! We have a number of families with two children in the school.

Another special time is our Mother/Staff Spring Dinner, which is our main fund-raiser for the year. The dinner will be on April 17 at The Saturday Club in Wayne. Along with the dinner, we hold a silent auction. This event is run by the Management Team, with many of our mothers involved in the planning of the evening.

Ann Bole

Kate and Brian Walker join Fall Festival's team

The Fall Festival Committee welcomes Kate and Brian Walker as new members. On this committee, each member serves three years and is chair the final year. This year, Judy Fisk is the chair. Janet Campbell will be chair in 2009 and the Walkers in 2010.

The committee asks that you remember the Fall Festival as you clean your home this spring and summer, and be thinking about how you can support the silent auction. And circle the festival date, Oct. 11, on your calendar.

Baptism: Henry Joshua Fuerst

Henry Joshua Fuerst, born on May 9, 2007, to Douglas and Joy Fuerst, was baptized at the 8:30 a.m. service on March 9.

