



April 2009

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

A schedule of events leading to Easter Sunday, April 12

With Christians around the world, Berwyn United Methodist Church will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on **Easter Sunday, April 12**, in worship services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Following is a schedule of remaining Lenten events at Berwyn:

Lenten Lunches, April 1 and 8: These events, at 12:30 p.m., will conclude the series of Wednesday luncheons. The speaker on April 1 is Ann Hatfield, ministerial candidate at Trinity Presbyterian Church. The speaker on April 8 is Veronica Mosley, our church's administrative assistant.

Holy Thursday, April 9: At 7:30 p.m., we will have a service of the Upper Room commemorating the institution of the Supper our Lord gave to us for our spiritual nurture and strength.

Good Friday, April 10: The annual ecumenical service will be held at the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church from noon to 3 p.m. That evening at 7:30 at BUMC, the Chancel Choir will make a musical offering of "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Theodore Dubois (*details below*).

Gloria Saturday, April 11: We will have a short devotional and the Easter Egg Hunt for children of our church and community (*details, Page 7*).

'The Quintessential Good Friday Cantata'

That is the description Director of Music Judith Lang applies to "The Seven Last Words of Christ." She said, "We performed this work last year, and it was so well received we decided to do it again. With the experience gained last year, I expect our choir and guest performers to present an even more dramatic program."

In addition to the Chancel Choir and soprano JoEllyn Berky Beck, a member of the choir, guest soloists include tenor Brian Meneely and bass Josué Ceron.

JoEllyn Beck has studied voice at Temple University, and has been the director of Mixolydian, an *a cappella* choir, for the past 22 years. In addition, she is an accomplished flutist, and will provide flute accompaniment for this presentation.

Brian Meneely received both a bachelor of music education and master of music performance degree from Temple University. He is presently on the music staff of Villanova University. He has performed with many orchestras in the United States and Europe, including the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Josué Ceron, a native of Mexico City, is a student at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia, and has appeared in a number of sacred and secular musical performances, including Respighi's *La Fiamma* in the Kimmel Center.

Guest accompanists for this special performance include Elizabeth Mendoza, cello; Mindy Cutcher, harp; and Susan Jones, timpani. In addition to JoEllyn Beck on the flute, Judith Lang will provide organ accompaniment as well as directing the cantata.

An understanding stewardship is needed

“Greed or grace...”

It’s always important to insert, what is heard in the public domain, into a Christian context. That’s the job of the Christian. I don’t know of anyone who is sympathetic with large cash bonuses paid to executives of a near failed, massive insurance company. In fact, the public outrage is clear, direct, universal. There is something wrong with a system that rewards or at least protects corporate leaders who are responsible for massive fiscal mismanagement that has resulted in a threat to the nation and world teetering on the end of economic collapse.

Is it all due to greed? Better than even chance, though it is always important to note that for capitalism to succeed depends in large measure on the dual engines of growth and self-interest. But note how easily things go out of control. The proper context for the Christian is an understanding stewardship.

Sure, locally our task is to promote and manage the financial ministry and business of the Berwyn congregation. But all is to be done from a posture of good stewardship where it is understood that God is owner of all, and we God’s people manage it only for a time.

From a practical standpoint, charitable giving and sharing with neighbor is a great vehicle, not only to serve those with real needs, but also to maintain critical balance. To be good citizens, the call is to participate in the economy of our land and at the same time be a servant of God and neighbor. This way, there’s a good chance that life will be lived as a response to grace rather than greed.

Steve Cherry

February 2009	Actual	Budget	favorable (unfavorable)	% of budget
Contribution Income	\$49,858	\$59,500	(\$9,642)	84%
Contrib - Mortgage fund	\$974	\$1,368	(\$394)	71%
Other Income	\$9,140	\$8,706	\$434	105%
Expense	\$79,791	\$76,094	(\$3,697)	105%
gain(loss)	(\$19,819)	(\$6,520)	(\$13,299)	

Adult Fellowship Progressive Dinner

Sunday, April 26

Meet at Sue and Frank Farina’s home for appetizers at 5 p.m.
577 Gregory Lane, Devon

*Sign up after church on April 12 and 19
to bring appetizer, salad, casserole or dessert*

Coordinators: Sally Robie, 610-644-6631, and Nancy Atchison, 610-644-2775

FROM THE PASTOR

We, too, walk in the newness of life

NEWNESS OF life is all around us! This morning I awakened to the singing of the birds. As I walked to the office, even in the cold of the morning, I noticed that the trees were budding. As I looked in the back yard, small tender flowers were unfolding. All around – nature abounds with signs of new life.

Signs of new life remind me that Easter is near. I know that before Easter there will be the journey to Calvary. There will be the agony and pain of the cross. There will be the bleakness of the day that turned to darkness. There will be the winter of the soul when all seems barren and dry. There will be the despairing cry from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me!”

Through this journey, because we have twenty-twenty vision, we can say, “Thank you, God, for Easter.” The early disciples did not have this vision. They thought that the end of the journey had come for them. After their tragic loss, they went back to ordinary living. In despair, they went back to their boats, their nets, their comfort zones and their families – simply to survive, grieve and exist. What a surprise they got when they saw the evidence of the newness of life that God offered in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



On Easter day, Jesus was not the only one who experienced newness of life. The disciples and the women who were witnesses to this great and mighty act of God experienced in their lives the newness of life that enabled them to be faithful witnesses and world wide ambassadors for Christ.

Easter is near with the offer of newness of life to each and every one of us. It is a time when we are reminded that in and through the resurrected Christ, new life is given to us again and again to withstand the vicissitudes of life.

Paul, in writing to the Christians at Rome, had to remind them – as I wish to remind you – that we too walk in the newness of life. To quote Paul, “Therefore we have been buried with him by our baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life” (Romans 6: 4).

May this Eastertide be a time when we appropriate to our lives this fact that through the resurrection of Jesus Christ d live in newness of life. Christ has indeed made us new persons in him through the power of his death and resurrection.

My family joins me in wishing you a holy and blessed Easter!

Pastor Phil

MINISTRY ACTION PLAN

The church's strategic roadmap to the future

The strategic Ministry Action Plan (MAP) was adopted at the Charge Conference in November. The primary purpose of this plan is to establish a focus and direction for the ministry of Berwyn United Methodist Church for the next five years or more. The following vision statement serves as a guideline for planning long- and short-term goals.

- With the Guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will strive to be a caring and transforming community of faith that embraces sojourners at all points of their journey.
- We will provide opportunities to discover and use our gifts to serve Christ.
- We will focus on spiritual development and growth.
- We will accept a range of theological diversity through a variety of means including multidimensional worship experiences and diverse opportunities for fellowship, education, sharing and outreach.
- We will be advocates for peace and justice.

The MAP was developed over 18 months of discussion, prayer and inspiration by a very dedicated workgroup chaired by Mike Benton. Before adoption at the Charge Conference, all of the church committees reviewed the document, provided input into how their programs connected to the vision, and established goals. Committees have already begun to implement many of the goals and are investigating others. With the help of the Holy Spirit, BUMC will continue to strive to be the church that God is calling us to be.

A full copy of the Ministry Action Plan is posted on our website, www.berwynumc.org. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Atchison and Jim Tiede, lay leaders.

We want to recognize your 2009 graduates

It is coming close to that time of year – high school and college graduations. If you have a family member who will be graduating from high school or college this spring, we would love to know about it.

All graduates are invited to attend our Graduation Sunday service on June 14. The church would like to recognize all of our graduates and celebrate their achievements at that service.

The graduates also will be saluted in the June issue of The Lighted Cross.

Please give us the graduate's name, school, degree (in the case of a college), a summary of school activities and accomplishments, and plans for the future. You can e-mail the information to Kristine Adams at kristineadamspc@verizon.net or you can mail the information to her. Her home address is in the church directory.

Blankets are delivered to children of Coatesville

On March 9, a total of 32 blankets were delivered to the Bridge of Hope in Coatesville and Lancaster. Jessica Simmons was present as nine of them were distributed to children of Coatesville. The children's faces lit up when they saw the blankets and wrapped themselves inside. Jessica thanks her Club Berwyn kids and the kids of Sunday School for having a hand in this project. She also thanks Sue Farina, Janet Campbell, Sharon and Tracey Meyers and the Dodds family for taking extra blankets home to cut and create. This is such a wonderful gift for the children of Bridge of Hope, and Jessica is blessed to have been given the opportunity to give back. Thank you!

FIRST IN A SERIES

Learning to make the most of our spiritual gifts

In November we completed the *Spiritual Gifts Inventory* during one of our worship services. The purpose of taking this inventory was to gain additional insights into the ways in which God has blessed us with special gifts for use on our journeys of faith. Since we completed the inventory, I've had the opportunity to have conversations with a number of individuals as well as the ETC Class on the nature of spiritual gifts and the role they can play in our lives.

As a result of some of these conversations, I decided it might be helpful to summarize some of what has been written about spiritual gifts in a series of articles in *The Lighted Cross*. I hope these articles will be of help to you as you review the results of your inventory and think about how you could use your spiritual gifts as part of our community of faith at BUMC.

1. The Scriptural Basis for Spiritual Gifts

The *Spiritual Gifts Inventory* was developed by Charles Bryant and described in his book *Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts*. A copy of this book is in our church library. Perhaps the most important place to begin studying spiritual gifts is to look at the scriptural basis for the presence and role of spiritual gifts. Bryant cites four passages as key to our understanding of spiritual gifts:

Romans 12:1-8

Ephesians 4:1-16

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

1 Peter 4:10-11

I would add 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 to this list (see especially *The Message's* version).

In reviewing these passages, I would encourage you to consider a variety of translations of the Bible, since each of them can provide a unique perspective on a particular passage. I have found the website www.biblegateway.com to be a very helpful tool. Enter the passage into the search bar, and you can choose from among many biblical translations.

Five main themes related to spiritual gifts arise out of the passages of scripture cited above:

Spiritual gifts are God given. We don't choose our spiritual gifts; they are a blessing given to us by God. As we become spiritually alive, we gain access to God's plan for the world around us. But spiritual gifts don't come fully developed. Just like other skills and talents, we need to work on them to develop them to their fullest potential.

Spiritual gifts are for service. They are given to us so that we can use them in service help continue to grow God's kingdom here on earth.

Spiritual gifts are given/awakened in those who are spiritual active. The challenge for us is to discover the gifts with which God has blessed us. Resources such as the *Spiritual Gifts Inventory* or the United Methodist Church's website on Spiritual Gifts (go to www.umc.org and enter Spiritual Gifts in the search bar) are among many useful tools to help discover our spiritual gifts.

Spiritual gifts are important for the health and growth of the church. Paul uses the analogy of a body to describe how there are many parts, some large and some small, some visible and some hidden away. When all are healthy and well-functioning individually, the body as a whole is fit and healthy as well.

Only God knows the limits to the variety of spiritual gifts. The Bible lists many, but we shouldn't be limited by what is written in the scriptures. For example, I view the work that has been done to create a wonderful BUMC website as the result of a Spiritual Gift.

As you read through the scriptures, see how many of these themes you can recognize.

A question that arises almost immediately is: What is the difference between a gift and a talent? Unfortunately I'm out of space, so you'll have to look for next month's issue of *The Lighted Cross* for the answer to this question. In the meantime, think about the nature of spiritual gifts as described in the scriptures and share your thoughts with family or friends so you can gain from their insights and they can learn from you.

Jim Tiede

MISSION MEMO

Here's how to help feed the 5000 at Easter

We hope you will participate in the Feed the 5000 Lenten project.

For several years this project has been a way for us to provide an "Easter Basket" of food for families who live in the inner city. Dr. Mary White, director at United Methodist Neighborhood Services, is very pleased that we remember these families at Easter. Families are recommended to UMNS by other agencies in the area.

Thanks for all the paper bags you collected and donated, and thanks to Jan and Paul Polasky, who donated recyclable bags that are very strong. The filled bags should be at church on Palm Sunday, April 5. Here is the list of items we need:

- 1 box of cold cereal — Cheerios or Total, for example
- 1 64oz plastic bottle of juice – apple, grape, V-8 or orange
- 1 28oz jar of peanut butter
- 1 1 lb bag of rice
- 4 14-16oz cans of fruit packed in juice –peaches, pears, applesauce, oranges
- 1 1 lb bag of dried beans
- 1 12oz can of tuna
- 1 can of Spam or 12oz of white chicken
- 1 family-sized macaroni and cheese dinner
- 1 28oz can of pork and beans
- 4 14-16oz. cans of vegetables — corn, green beans, carrots, tomatoes
- 1 1 lb box of spaghetti
- 1 28oz jar or can of meat-flavored spaghetti sauce

Please put the groceries in the paper bag we have provided and supply an outer plastic bag to add strength and to aid in carrying the filled bag. Please do not add extra items, as most people walk or take public transportation to United Methodist Neighborhood Services and the bag is already very full.

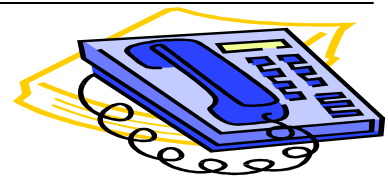
Interfaith Hospitality Network. On Monday, April 13, members of the Beaver Patrol of Boy Scout Troop Devon 50 will prepare the dinner at Interfaith Hospitality Network. This will be the third year they have prepared a meal for our guests. Jacob Nemetz coordinates the selection of the menu, and each Scout helps prepare an item. Last year the ladies were very impressed with the selections. I am looking for a hostess and a couple to sleep over that night.

Betsy Newman

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: April 16

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 or use the mailbox in the office.



Church Phone:
610-644-5555

Office E-mail:
officebumc@comcast.net

Church Website:
www.berwynumc.org

Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Message on April 11

We will be hopping down the bunny trail on Saturday morning, April 11, at 9 a.m. to our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Message. Children of all ages are invited to this special time of our Easter week.

Breakfast nibbles and juice will be enjoyed as we decorate bags to begin our egg hunt (outside, weather permitting) ending with a special Easter message for all of us.

A donation of one dozen filled plastic eggs is requested for each child participating. And, as it is always fun to have extra eggs, *anyone* can drop off eggs to the work room next to the church office and *everyone* is invited to enjoy this special time with our church family

Any questions? Call Janet K Campbell 610-647-8291 or e-mail jack.campbell@verizon.net.

Raising money and awareness by fasting 30 hours

On March 13-14, 16 youth and four adults fasted for 30 hours in order to raise money and awareness for World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.

For the first six hours, participants fasted on their own, with lunch on Friday being their last meal. Once gathered in the church, we spent 24 hours together, drinking juice to keep our energy up, but giving up food. Instead of eating, we spent time reflecting over the statistics of hunger, becoming truly thankful for what we have. For example, did you know that every year \$17 billion is spent on pet food in the United States and Europe combined, but it would only take \$7 billion to provide clean water and sanitation to the entire world?

In addition to thinking about this and other statistics, youth gave back by doing some yard work around the church and creating centerpieces for a local shelter. Jeremy Borelly, Andy Cutler, Ben Cutler and Drew Garrison, with adults Ryan Benton and Rob Boyer, raked leaves, picked up sticks and logs, and dragged away tarps full of debris to clean up the playground and outdoor chapel. At the same time, Andres Montaner, Sam Stead, Karis Ponce and Rachel Burriss were working together on another project with adult Jess Simmons.

At 6 p.m. Saturday, we broke the fast together with a simple meal. Thanks to everyone who has supported us through your prayers or monetary donations. Our goal is for each participant to raise \$100. The U.S. Government has given World Vision a grant, to match each donation x5. If all 20 of us raise \$100, the result after the grant will be \$10,000, which will feed 28 kids for a year! If you would still like to make a donation, contact Ryan Benton at 610-308-4309 or RPBenton@gmail.com.

Cards of thanks

From Gail and Scott Campbell: On behalf of the Chelsea Campbell Memorial Foundation, the Campbell family would like to thank you for your contributions to the First Annual Golf Outing on Sept. 1, 2008. As you may know, that date was especially meaningful to us. It would have been Chelsea's 21st birthday. The outing was a huge success. We could not have asked for better weather and fun. In keeping with our mission, we were able to start a scholarship program at Mirmont Treatment Center. Recently we had the opportunity to meet the first scholarship recipient; it was a wonderful feeling to see this young person filled with such gratitude. The 2009 outing will be Labor Day, Sept. 7. We hope you will be able to play golf or join us for dinner. Photos of the 2008 outing are at: www.chelseamemorial.org.

From Mabel Williams: This is a note of thanks for the many phone calls and cards received for my 95th birthday. Also to my family, my deep thanks and appreciation for the wonderful 95th birthday celebration you gave me. *It was wonderful.*

WHAT'S GOING ON AT BERWYN UNITED METHODIST

Movies That Make You Think. We will show "How the Earth Was Made" at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 4. Jason Buchanan wrote in All-Movie Guide about this 2007 film: "How could the planet that was once a simmering sea of radioactive, molten rock evolve to become the universe's greatest refuge for human life? This is the question asked by filmmaker Peter Chin as he descends deep into the volcanoes that formed the planet's crust and dives to the bottom of the ocean to explore the first evidence of life on Earth. Beginning in the distant past and stretching into the far-off future, this documentary utilizes cutting edge special effects and breathtaking footage from remote locations in order to find out not only where life came from, but where it could be heading as well." The children's film will be "Nim's Island."

Men's Fellowship. The group's breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. Saturday, April 18. Please note the change to the third Saturday; we have moved from our regular second Saturday meeting date so as not to conflict with Easter activities. Our speaker will be Ben Hartley, a Methodist deacon and adjunct professor of Methodist History at Palmer Seminary. He will speak to us about the beginnings of the Methodist movement in England and America, including the contributions of Coke and Asbury in America, and the important role played by the Circuit Riders. Please plan to join us for a delicious hot breakfast and this program in our series on United Methodist history.

Club Berwyn. Club Berwyn Late Night will take place from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, April 17. Bring your pillows, and come in your pajamas for a night of relaxation, movies, snacks and more. Friends required. Call Jess Simmons by April 13 to RSVP: 610-764-0718.

Gardening Help Needed. Do you enjoy gardening? Can you spare a bit of time? We are coming into the time of year when the grounds around our church need attention. Could you weed and water one day a month or one day a week during June, July, August and September? Even if you can only come out one time, it would be a big help. Contact Claudia Genuardi, 610 644-7061 or magnetstone@verizon.net.

Fall Festival and Flea Market, Oct. 10. It's never too early to start cleaning out those long overlooked closets, cupboards and pantries. Don't forget the basements and the attics. Are your bookshelves bulging? We could use your extra books. As you go through your recipes and find that cookie or cake you have been intending to try, remember to make one for our bake-sale table. We are looking for co-chairs and volunteers for booths. This is our one big fundraiser for the missions and for the benefit of our church home. Contact Janet and Jack Campbell or Kate and Brian Walker.

The Lunch Crew. Nancy Atchison, chair, expresses thanks to the following volunteers who helped prepare the Lenten Lunches: Kay Pierce, Sally Robie, Donna Pitz, Romaine Rood, Dick Rood, Judy Fisk, Pat White, Rick Stoker, Claudia Sharpless, Sue Farina, Amy Dwyer, Debbie Nemetz and Jennifer Cutler. The luncheons have been an important outreach during the Lenten Season.

El Salvador Scholarships. Thanks to your generosity, we have sent a check for \$2,540 to fund the education of nine students from our sister church, Roca Eterna. These are students whom we met and worked with during our two mission trips to Ahuachapan, El Salvador.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class. The study group led by Pastor Ponce meets in the church parlor from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., followed by lunch, each Wednesday. After the Lenten Lunch series the study will be on the book of Ephesians. Questions: call the church office, 610-644-5555.

Sunday Morning Bible Class. Led by Elaine Parvin, we are studying Dr. Win Green's book "All You Ever Wanted." We meet in the room next to the pastor's study.

ETC Class. We are studying the book "Food & Faith" by Wendy Whiteside. This study is about how faith is nurtured, strengthened, and enhanced by food. It is also about all the ways food touches our lives. Janelle Larson will join us for several discussions and we will also look at some of the Bread for the World material in this context. If you would like a copy of the book (\$7 plus shipping), let Amy Dwyer know (perthenia@mac.com).

Creation Celebration. On April 26 we will celebrate Earth Day at church. Think about carpooling to church...bringing your own mug for coffee. Our worship will center on the world God has made and our stewardship of these great gifts. We plan to share information about how you can be "greener." If you have a pet project you would like to share, please be in touch with Amy Dwyer (perthenia@mac.com).

LENDING A HAND

April 5

Acolyte: Jeremy Borelly

Liturgist: Stephanie Borelly

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

Story Time: Jennifer Cutler

Bulletin Preparation: Pat White

Coffee Committee: Margie O'Donnell,
Barbara Hall, Darlene Spofford

Friday Volunteers: Peh-sun and Hui-chen Ku

Flower Delivery: Cynthia Bushnell

April 12

Greeters: Dave and Kristine Adams

Liturgist: Sue Tiede

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

Bulletin Preparation: Sue Farina

Friday Volunteers: Doris and Maynard Krug

Coffee Committee: Sue Farina,
Pam Smith, Pam Benton

Flower Delivery: Judy Fisk

April 19

Greeters: Margie and Tom O'Donnell

Acolyte: Harold Craig

Liturgist: Gene Foreman

Ushers: Claudia Sharpless, Ben Cutler,
Eloise Levitt, Scott Phelps

Story Time: Amy Dodds

Bulletin Preparation: Barbara Borst

Friday Volunteer: Peggy Robinson

Coffee Committee: Margi Smink,
Donna Pitz, Amy Dwyer

Flower Delivery: Jane McDowell

April 26

Greeter: Pete Tillet

Acolyte: Maria Merino

Liturgist: Brian Donadio

Ushers: Judy Fisk, Jeremy Borelly,
Alan Hess, Tyler Borelly

Story Time: Wendy Wolov

Bulletin Preparation: Sue Farina

Friday Volunteer: May Dickenson

Coffee Committee: Stephanie Borelly,
Sally Robie, Carol Williams

Flower Delivery: Margie O'Donnell

Nursery School racing toward spring break

Berwyn United Methodist Nursery School is moving so quickly through the rest of the year, that it feels as though we need to slow down! And we will slow down as we approach Spring Break. We are hoping for some gentle weather while we take a breather.

We had a wonderful storyteller for the 5-Day classes. Clem Bowen had the children totally focused and laughing so hard they were bent double at times.

The 3-Day classes visited the Wayne Art Center. They were treated to a wonderful program.

We have had our conferences with the parents and a book sale at the same time.

Now we are ready to welcome some special people for Donuts With Dads. It is a very life affirming event just to watch these big men come into school holding hands with their children and then getting down on the floor for some playtime before they sit at the tables for a "roll up the sleeves" art project. The hard part comes when it is time for Dad to be off to work, leaving the child behind to complete the school day. The staff is very well versed in calming crying children.

There are some special times coming along in April when we return. Art Goes to School will be coming to us. The women who present this program have been trained at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. They bring large replicas of famous pictures. The children learn a bit about the artist and even match props to the pictures as well as special colors. Children get an up-close look at the masterpieces and an opportunity to choose their favorites. The 3-Day and the 2-Day classes will be journeying to The Great Valley Nature Center, one of our favorite places. Malvern Federal Bank of Paoli will be coming to BUMNS to present a program about saving money. Then we have our Spring Mother/Staff Dinner and Auction. The management team has been working very hard to plan this event, held at The Saturday Club of Wayne. This event is our largest fundraiser of the year.

The nursery school is a very busy place!

Ann Bole

More information about Bread for the World

*We are moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ
To Work for Justice for hungry people.
They may be in the next house. Or in the next country.
No matter where they live, they are our neighbors.
And we have the power to help.*

—From the Credo for Bread for the World

As we learned last month Berwyn United Methodist Church has become a covenant member of Bread for the World. Part of caring for the hungry includes changing policies that keep people in poverty. Often we don't actually understand how the policies we create keep people in poverty. It is a matter of justice. While we continue to help with the acts of charity (food banks, emergency food aid etc.), we need to be advocating for changes that will help make difference in the way we do business. "Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities where we live."

"Bread for the World has a remarkable record of success in Congress. Year after year, Bread members have won far-reaching changes for hungry and poor people. The U.S. government has doubled funding for effective programs that help developing countries in Africa and other poor parts of the world; this would not have happened without the persistent advocacy of Bread for the World members. Bread for the World has also helped to strengthen U. S. national nutrition programs assisting millions of the families in this country who struggle to feed their children."

Mike Benton and Amy Dwyer attended the regional workshop for Bread for the World on March 22 to learn about the offering of letters and the ways in which the work that Bread for the World helps hungry people. We were in a workshop with people from 10 different denominations, people of all ages from students at Cabrini and Villanova to people who have been involved with Bread for years.

Amy Dwyer

Three events of interest in our area

AIDS Benefit Concert. "Voices of Welcome: Songs of Joy" with singers from five United Methodist churches will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26, at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church, Burmont Road at School Lane. Tickets are \$10 each. Information: 610-259-2104. Directions: www.drexelhill.umc.org.

Laity Academy. The 27th Annual Academy for the Laity will be held July 31 - Aug. 2 at the Park Ridge Hotel and Conference Center in King of Prussia. This conference is open to all laity and includes basic and advanced workshops for Christ Servant Ministry, basic Christ Servant Ministry courses for young adults, a new workshop on missions, and a clergy workshop on partnering in ministry with laity. A special guest will be our new bishop, Peggy Johnson. Last year, more than 300 people from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference attended this inspirational gathering. It is possible to commute or to attend for one day.

Storyteller at St. David's. Tracy Radosevic, an internationally acclaimed storyteller, will speak at St. David's Episcopal Church evening service at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 5. Members of Lydia Circle will attend the service as their April meeting. Claudia Sharpless (610-644-8928) is leading the group from the BUMC parking lot; be there at 4:15. and ready to leave at 4:30.

Daily devotionals and announcements are posted online

If you would like to see a sample of our church's daily e-devotional, go to <http://www.edevotionals.com/churchpages.html> and search for Berwyn United Methodist Church. Barbara Hall sends these daily e-mails to 93 people. Each e-mail includes a Bible text, devotional and prayer, along with announcements of BUMC interest Church committee chairs are urged to send their announcements to barbarahall@edevotionals.com so that our members will have the most current information on events.