



December 2009

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

SUNDAY, DEC. 13

Adult Choir's Christmas Cantata and the annual Christmas Brunch

On Sunday, Dec. 13, the BUMC Adult Choir will present a Christmas cantata as part of the 10:30 worship service. "On this day, Rejoice!" by Jonathan Willcocks is a festival of English carols presented in exciting harmonic and rhythmic settings. This beautiful work is scored for flute, clarinet, choir and organ.

Jonathan Willcocks is the son of the beloved English composer David Willcocks, who established the tradition of Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge. Jonathan, who was a chorister with his father in the King's College choir, is making his own name in England as a proficient choral composer.

Dr. Eve Friedman, who is on the faculties of Friends School Mullica Hill and Rowan University, will play flute. In 2006 she became the first person ever awarded the Doctor of Music degree in Baroque Flute from Indiana University's renowned Early Music Institute.

Jeremy Correnti will play clarinet. He teaches band and clarinet at Germantown Academy. He graduated from the University of Delaware, where he studied clarinet with Charles Salinger and saxophone with Wendell Hobbs.

The choir has been working hard to prepare this challenging music. On Oct. 17, the choir spent the day in retreat to really delve into the notes.

After the cantata on Dec. 13, we will have our annual Christmas Brunch. Proceed to Schieck Hall for a feast of baked salmon, chicken breasts, oven omelet, baked mixed-berry French toast, cheesy baked potatoes, and other items.

The price of the brunch is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-10, and free for children under 5. Reservations will be taken on Sunday, Nov. 29, and Sunday, Dec. 6, or you can phone the church office no later than noon Wednesday, Dec. 9.

Christmas Eve Services

We have the opportunity as the family of God to celebrate anew the coming of our Lord Jesus as God Incarnate on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve.

5:30 p.m.: The Family-Friendly Service.

7:30 p.m.: Lessons and Carols Service.

11:00 p.m.: Communion and Candlelight Service.

We are called by God to be the ambassadors of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, so let us invite our neighbors, friends and relatives to come and rejoice and celebrate with us.

VOICES FROM THE FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We have budget challenges for both 2009 and 2010

“God is in the details.”

Sometimes the saying is “The devil is in the details.” I prefer the former because not always is it enough to make sweeping faith statements (true and fervent though they may be), when awareness of God and making way for God’s work requires attention to fine detail.

It is in this spirit that the Finance/Stewardship Committee is intent, at the end of this most difficult year, to provide detail for your awareness and stewardship planning. First, we are up against a situation of serious shortfall as we end 2009. The results for Oct. 31 are as follows . . .

October 2009	Actual	Budget	favorable (unfavorable)	% of budget
Contribution Income	\$284,086	\$297,500	(\$13,414)	95%
Contrib - Mortgage fund	\$7,937	\$6,834	\$1,103	116%
Other Income	\$39,411	\$39,120	\$291	101%
Expense	\$386,374	\$379,769	(\$6,605)	102%
gain(loss)	(\$54,940)	(\$36,315)	(\$18,625)	

. . . The cash position is suggested by the “actual” column, which shows that to date we have spent more than we have taken in from all revenue sources, to the tune of about \$55,000. This means that we are further using reserves to fund what we are called to do and is a “detail” that cannot be ignored for long. The number at the bottom of the “budget” column reminds that we’ve lived with a deficit budget for the year. In fact, the Administrative Board approved a deficit budget for 2009 with an understanding that we had sufficient reserves as a fallback position to cover a shortfall. The hope was that economic recovery and attention to the challenge would yield a better than budget result. In reality, utilities, snow removal and other expenses proved to be more costly than expected.

Detail of this sort is like the difference between recognizing God’s goodness and the great gift of a congregation and its life and outreach, and sitting down and writing a check after detailed thought. Our Stewardship emphasis “Empowered by God – Responding by Grace” places all of our detailed thinking in the context of God’s goodness. And we are called to recognize that the power God gives and the appropriate response has a detailed technical side.

The 2010 budget process is also a challenge. The people of the Finance/Stewardship Committee are very clear about the priorities to be addressed in a budget exercise. Things like personnel (always the most expensive portion of any expense budget but the most important); emphasis on children and youth ministries as well as music ministry; and our connectional/mission expressions — all of these have prominent expression in projected expenses. The preliminary run, including the responses from the Stewardship Sunday on Nov. 8, show a 2010 shortfall approaching \$90,000.

This is early in the process, and there is typically a lag in response. But there is significant concern. We do not have reserves to support such a financial plan for 2010.

It is for these reasons that we are holding three information/discussion sessions: Nov. 22 and 29 and Dec. 5 (9:30-10:15 a.m.). These open sessions will provide detailed information and opportunities for discussion.

Join us, for the *detail*. God is in this!

Steven Cherry

FROM THE PASTOR

We can be God's messengers of the Good News

IN WHAT WAYS have you been a messenger of the Lord recently? When last have you shared with a friend, a colleague or a family member the ways in which you have been sustained and blessed by God? The Good News and the message of peace are to be proclaimed by each and every one of us — for God has called and equipped us to be his mouthpiece.

The Christmas story would not be complete without the story of the angels who came to declare to Mary that she would bear a Son; to Joseph, assuring him that all was well and that he should be obedient to the heavenly will even though it went against his human instincts. Lastly, the angels as messengers of God came to the shepherds while they were out in the fields and shared with them the coming of God to the world in and through Jesus, a lowly babe wrapped in swaddling bands and lying in a manger.

They presented their message through word and song. The exciting part of the story is that the shepherds did not keep the experience to themselves. They went to see and share the good news that they had received. In the coming of Christ and in the shepherds' sharing, the world was transformed forever.

God down through the ages had need for messengers, and in every age there were those who valiantly and boldly proclaimed God's messages.

There were Moses, who spoke boldly to the Pharaoh; Isaiah, who spoke to the fears of the people giving them hope; Jeremiah, who spoke unapologetically to the kings of his day; Amos, who spoke to the corrupt priests who were disobedient to the ways of God; and John the Baptist, who declared the way of the Lord and the coming of a Messiah to those who were living life as though there was no hope of God intervening in their lives and their future.

Isaiah realized how important the messengers of God were. He said in chapter 52 and verse 7: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'"

God still has need of us to be messengers in this day and age. We have received the message. Are we going out of our way to share it with others?

This Christmas season is a time when we can see ourselves as God's angels, God's messengers of Good News to those in this world that are hurting and despairing. Let us be the voice of God to those who come into our lives. God depends on each of us to be messengers this day and always.

My family joins me in wishing you all a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas and a peace-filled New Year.

Pastor Phil



On Dec. 6, help decorate the church for Advent

We will gather at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, for our annual Hanging of the Greens and Dinner with Carol Sing. It will be a wonderful time to decorate our church for the Advent/Christmas season and enjoy each other's company as we sing some good, old-fashioned Christmas carols.

Something else we will be doing to celebrate the season is to have some special readings by family groups as the Advent Candles are lighted at Sunday services on Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 13 and 20.

Soupy Thursday is back in business on Dec. 3

Soupy Thursday is back! Beginning Dec. 3, you can plan on having your supper prepared at the church, either to take out or eat in. The Dec. 3 menu gives you a choice of either butternut squash soup or turkey noodle soup. Dec. 10 will feature cream of potato, and Dec. 17 will feature chili.

Takeouts will be available beginning at 5 p.m. Soup is \$5 a quart, and fresh-baked bread is \$3 a loaf. We have both white and whole wheat bread available. Please bring your own container for the soup.

Join others and sit down around the table and eat in Schieck Hall. Soup is served each Thursday evening from 6 to 7:15. The supper is \$3 a person and includes soup, bread, beverage and a small dessert.

If you are available to help, we still need a couple of people to handle the cleanup on the fourth Thursday of each month. Please contact Rick Stoker.

Soupy Thursday takes a holiday on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.



Nine will go to Mexico to help build two facilities

Nine representatives of Berwyn United Methodist Church will leave Jan. 16 with Discovery Service Projects to help build a hurricane shelter and a community center in Cozumel, Mexico.

Those making the trip are Jeff Barger, Dick Rood, Brian Walker, Rick Stoker, Steve Stoker (Rick's brother), Claudia Sharpless, Nancy Atchison, Carol Shaw (Nancy's friend), and Pastor Phil.

The projects are in the early stages of the construction, so we will be working with mortar and blocks. Those who have the skill will work in teaching and sewing. Please pray for us as we express our love for God and others through the work of our hands.

Pastor Phil

John Paylor is elected lay leader for 2010-11

John Paylor was elected lay leader of BUMC at the annual Charge Conference on Nov. 8. Our lay leaders traditionally serve two years. John succeeds Jim Tiede, who has completed his term.

Nancy Atchison continues as lay leader through 2010.

Others who are assuming new leadership positions for 2010 are: Brian Walker, treasurer; Jim Tiede, chair of Finance/Stewardship; Carol Williams, chair of Membership/Congregational Care; and Donna Pitz, chair of Mission/Outreach.

MEET THE NEW YOUTH COORDINATOR

Chris Padot: At home on the air and on stage

Our new youth ministry coordinator, Chris Padot, is an experienced performer: He's been on radio regularly for 16 of his 32 years; he has fulfilled more than 500 speaking engagements; and he has organized countless band concerts.

"I was really called to minister to kids," he says. He thinks he can make the biggest impact as a mentor, but his connection to Christian bands is also a strength in his ministry. "To engage the kids, it's better to incorporate music," he says.

Chris began his part-time ministry at BUMC on Nov. 15. He will continue to run Crosstreadz, an at-risk, youth outreach program. In addition to inspirational speaking by Chris, Crosstreadz organizes stage events with performers in rock and roll, jazz, Americana, hip-hop, electronica, and other contemporary music styles.

As for mentoring, Chris (whose last name is pronounced *pa-DOE*) lets young people know that "I turned my life around and so can you!"

Chris came from a broken home and frequently was in trouble with the law. The defining moment in his life occurred when, at age 25, he was operating a tree service in Florida and a tree limb fell 60 feet onto his head. Unconscious, with more than a hundred facial and sinus fractures, he was airlifted to a hospital and given little chance of survival. Miraculously, he recovered in five days. Since then, he says, he's never been the same.



Chris, who had dropped out of high school, got his GED. Then he enrolled in the Word of Life Bible Institute, studying theology and youth counseling in an intensive two-year program. He began at the institute's campus at Hudson, Fla., near Tampa, and finished the course at the institute's campus in Schroon Lake, N.Y.

His work in radio, television and band concerts led to his meeting Rebecca Blackstone, who interviews business leaders on strategies for success on "The Leaders Spot," a Washington-based radio program. He and Rebecca are now married and live in Philadelphia.

At BUMC, Chris will direct youth programs and lead the youth Sunday School class. He intends to spend one-on-one time with young members and to confer regularly with parents. He will work closely with Jessica Simmons, our children's ministry coordinator.

Chris expresses his philosophy on his website, www.crosstreadz.org. Here is what he says about Christianity: "We are Christians because we have been saved by the same grace we teach. We have struggled with and endured trials and temptations just like everyone else. We love, serve, and lead best when we are real – when we take off the religious masks and allow others to see grace at work in our own lives through our weaknesses, our wounds, and our love."

MISSIONS MEMO

Scholarships invited for Roca Eterna's students

Since 2006, BUMC has had a sister relationship with Roca Eterna (Eternal Rock) United Methodist Church in Ahuchapan, El Salvador. For the last several years, our members have provided scholarships for a number of their students. Their education is not free; families of students have to pay tuition at public schools.

Pastor Jose at Roca Eterna UMC will send us a list of students who need financial aid in order to continue their education. Annual costs range from \$350 for elementary and high school students to \$720 for university students. You may sponsor a student on you own or share the cost with another family. Please contact Gail Campbell or Nancy Atchison if you would be willing to sponsor a student or if you need more information by Dec. 31, 2009.

This year the Christmas offering at BUMC will be used to support Roca Eterna. We have committed to sending \$1,200 each year to support the work of the church itself or other projects taken on by the church. One hundred dollars a month is not a lot of money, but the money has been used very wisely. Recently some of the money has been used to start new congregations in El Salvador. We are excited that they have used our gifts to help spread the Word. This year any additional funds collected in the Christmas offering will be used to support scholarships for children

Missions Reminders: The gifts that the Sunday School children are collecting for Mount Zion's Christmas party need to be at church on Sunday, Dec. 6, and the toys being placed under the Christmas tree in the Narthex need to be there no later than Dec. 13.

Also, the money for Christmas Poinsettias and Christmas meal donations should be remitted by Dec. 13 so that we may get to the Acme and buy the Acme gift cards we mail out.

Update your contact data

We are updating our roster of addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. If your information has changed, please let the church know by sending an e-mail to the church office, officebumc.comcast.net. Or complete a form that will be available at the ushers' table through Sunday, Dec. 27, and place it in the offering basket.

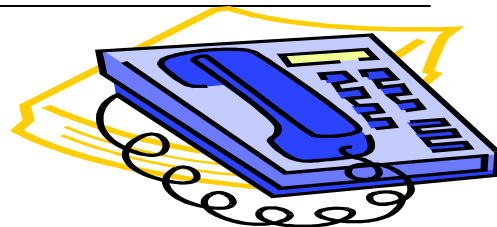
Parents' fellowship is forming

We are planning a Parents' Breakfast Fellowship and Morning Out at regular intervals. On Saturday, Nov. 21, parents were invited to meet at Patty Mac's in Berwyn at 8:30 a.m. to enjoy an hour of breakfast and fellowship. After the breakfast and fellowship time, the rest of the morning was scheduled as free time for parents, with childcare provided at the church. If you're interested, contact Mike Benton or Joy Fuerst.

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: Dec. 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 Jan. 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

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

A tip sheet for publicizing BUMC's activities

The Communications Committee is ready to help you publicize your events and programs both within our church family and in the community at large. As you plan your work for the church, think about how publicity can multiply the benefits of your efforts. To obtain this publicity, you need to *communicate* with the Communications Committee. This tip sheet is intended to simplify the communicating.

First, to review the ways that our church communicates to its internal and external audiences:

Internal

The Lighted Cross: published monthly except July and August
Daily e-devotionals and announcements
Sunday worship bulletin
Phone tree/recorded announcements
Church bulletin boards, posters, signs in Narthex
Announcements at the beginning of worship services

Internal/External

Church website, berwynumc.org
News releases and advertising in local media
Sign on the front lawn
Notices in commercial websites such as ByTheZip.com
Special advertising opportunities such as diner placemats, public-access cable

The Church Website: As our society moves increasingly online, www.berwynumc.org becomes ever more important as a communications tool both for reaching members of our church family and our neighbors in the community. Several of our new members say the website is how they first learned about BUMC. To inform our neighbors about events like our Fall Festival and our Christmas Cantata, the website is essential. And the website is an instantaneous way of communicating within the church family. Send your notices to mkbenton@gmail.com.

The Lighted Cross: The monthly newsletter is mailed to more than 400 people with connections to BUMC. The deadline is around the 15th of the month, and the newsletter is printed in time to reach its postal destinations by the first of the following month. The Lighted Cross is posted on the church website at the same time the print version is put in the mail. The website also archives previous issues of the newsletter. The Lighted Cross is looking for information about planned events, news about church committee activities, and stories about interesting things that BUMC people are doing. The Lighted Cross is a good vehicle for keeping the congregation posted on what your committee is talking about. Think ahead! If you're planning an event for Thanksgiving, for example, you need to submit information to The Lighted Cross by Oct. 15. Send the notices to gene.foreman@verizon.net or leave them in the Lighted Cross mailbox in the church office.

eDevotionals: More than 90 people receive an e-mail daily with a Scripture verse and brief meditation, followed by a list of prayer concerns and news about church activities. Send your notices to barbarahall@edevotionals.org. If you're not now a subscriber to eDevotionals, ask Barbara to add your e-address to the list.

Sunday Worship Bulletins. Send your notices to officebumc@comcast.net. Veronica Mosley needs these by Wednesday in order to place them in the following Sunday's bulletin.

Phone Tree. Veronica can record a reminder about important church events and send it as an automated telephone message to members of the congregation. Speak with her at 610-644-5555.

The Sign on the Church Lawn. We can announce an event to both the church family and the community by posting a notice on this sign, which the Walker Family changes nearly every week. If there's no event to publicize, the Walkers will post a wry homily that will make us smile. Contact the Walkers at pestohead@aol.com.

News releases and advertising in local media. We run weekly ads in Main Line Suburban Life and occasional ads in the West Chester Daily Local News. We also submit news releases from time to time about the program of the church, particularly about events in which we would like to get the larger community involved. Send your notices to jlpaylor@verizon.net. John also looks for opportunities to publicize BUMC in such media as www.bythezip.com.

The Communications Committee

LENDING A HAND

December 6

Acolyte: Javier Montaner

Liturgist: John Paylor

Ushers: John Ku, Bob Borst,

Will Bushnell, Carl Bushnell

Children's Message: Janet Campbell

Story Time: Janelle Larson

Coffee Committee: Donna Pitz,

Carol Williams, Amy Dwyer

Flower Arranger: Claudia Sharpless

Flower Delivery: Barbara Borst

December 13

Acolyte: Campbell Wolov

Liturgist: Amy Dodds

Ushers: Jack Campbell, Jon Stockler,

Alice Nicholas, Brett Shallcross

Story Time: Kelley Hogan

Coffee Committee: Sally Robie,

Stephanie Borelly, Jennifer Cutler

Flower Delivery: Jane McDowell

December 20

Acolyte: Laura Stockler

Liturgist: May Dickenson

Ushers: Don Young, Dave Adams,

Peh Ku, Pete Tillett

Children's Message: Nancy Atchison

Story Time: Jennifer Cutler

Coffee Committee: Amy Dodds,

Janelle Larson, Janet Campbell

Flower Arranger: Jan Polasky

Flower Delivery: Judy Fisk

December 27

Acolyte: Maria Merino

Liturgist: Betsy Lang

Ushers: Bob Fisk, Nagle Bridwell,

Judy Dunn, Margie O'Donnell

Children's Message: Luis Montaner

Coffee Committee: Margi Mackenzie,

Eloise Levitt, Patti Littlewood

Flower Arranger: Sarah Polasky

Flower Delivery: Judy Fisk

Thursday Helpers

Dec. 3: Pat White

Dec. 10: Sue Farina

Dec. 17: Barbara Borst

Dec. 24: Sue Farina

Dec. 31: Pat White

If it's December, it's the Christmas Show

Nursery School is bursting with excitement. At BUMNS, December means Christmas Show. Decorations, presents and practicing for the show take up most of the short time we have at school during this busy month.

The Christmas Show takes place over two days. The first day is a full-dress rehearsal, and parents are invited to attend with video cameras in hand. The show is presented the following day, and parents may use still cameras at this show.

The children exhibit so many emotions. There are those that know they have found their true calling — the stage! Then others are so shy that it is difficult to look out at the audience, let alone sing a song. Some of the children sing loud enough for the entire class. The youngest ones often forget to sing, but work to find Mom and Dad in the audience so they may yell "hi" and vigorously wave and wave.

All in all, the show is a wonderful gift for the families and a growing experience for the children. Cookies and punch finish off the day, and school closes down until the beginning of January.

If you have about 45 minutes to join us, the dress rehearsal is on Tuesday, Dec. 8, and the show is Dec. 9. We start at 9:30 a.m. sharp. It is a great way to recapture the fun of Christmas.

Ann Bole

DART plans sessions for parents

Starting on Jan. 26, DART will sponsor open-forum parent sessions on the last Tuesday of each month. The time is 7 to 8:30 p.m. Topics will include: healthy communication with your children; setting boundaries with your children; technology safety (use of the Internet, cell phones, texting, social networks); dealing with transition. Our leader will be Michael Blanche of Comprehensive Counseling.

What's happening at Berwyn United Methodist

Pictorial Directory: We have one last day for photographs for the directory — Tuesday, Dec. 15, from 3 to 9:30 p.m. If you have not scheduled your portrait, please call the Olan Mills appointment center, 1-800-866-2263, for an appointment. This is the last chance to be included in and to receive a copy of the new directory, which will be published and available early next year.

Men's Fellowship: We will meet at for breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 12. The program will be "Memories of Christmases Past." We are asking each member to bring a memory of Christmas Past to share. Your family might have special Christmas traditions or stories from other cultures; you might have a memory of a special Christmas that you experienced as a child; you might have taken a Christmas trip to a special place; or you might have a cherished Christmas ornament or other item that you would like to bring to share. All men and boys are invited.

Shopping Night: Church & Society will host a Fair Trade Shopping Night at Exton Ten Thousand Villages from 5 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 12. Fifteen percent of the proceeds will be used to fund our connection with Bread for the World. We hope you will think about fair trade crafts for Christmas gifts.

United Methodist Women: Lydia Circle and the new Spanish Circle will have their Christmas meeting at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, at Amy Dwyer's house, 2431 Whitby Road in Havertown. We usually bring appetizers and dessert. Let Amy know you're coming: perthenia@mac.com.

ETC Class: The topic during Advent is "Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?" Alternatives is a nonprofit organization that equips people of faith to challenge consumerism, live justly and create meaningful celebrations. It promotes an alternative biblical vision of life based on voluntary simplicity and stewardship of creation. It encourages meaningful celebrations that reflect conscientious, earth-friendly ways of living.

Ezra and Nehemiah: Each Sunday, next door to the Pastor's Study, we are studying God's Word from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. In 539 B.C., Cyrus, king of Persia, decreed that Jewish exiles could return to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel's leadership. Nehemiah returned as governor to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, while Ezra, a Levite priest, began teaching Moses' Law and restoring God's Covenant. Read with us as we learn from these men. We meet from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., with choir members excused at 10.

In the Library: Gene Foreman has donated a copy of his newly published journalism textbook, *The Ethical Journalist: Making Responsible Decisions in the Pursuit of News*.

Club Berwyn: Our annual Late Night will be held from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11. Admission is one new or gently used pillow case. These pillow cases will be used to make dresses for girls in Africa. More on this when you attend. We will be watching movies and snacking, so bring your pillow and come in your pajamas. Bring your friends too. Please let Jess Simmons know by Dec. 6 if you are coming.

Cards of Thanks

From Romaine and Dick Rood: Now that we are home and settled, we would again like express our thanks and appreciation to Pastor Phil and members of the congregation for the tremendous support that you provided us this summer. Losing three family members in five weeks was difficult, but each card, call, visit, basket and gift of food made us feel that we were engulfed in God's love through you. We are indeed blessed to be a part of such a caring church. Please know how much we value each of you. Blessings, Dick and Romaine

From Viola Walker: Dear Friends at Berwyn United Methodist Church, Thank you, thank you for all the loving support I received at Stafford's memorial service. I can't begin to tell you what it meant to me and the whole family! Our time spent at the Berwyn Church leaves me with warm feelings. Love, Viola

Viola's address is: 101 Plaza Drive, Apt. 313, Downingtown, PA 19335