



December 2010

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

A FEAST ON DEC. 19

Choral Anthems, Christmas Brunch

At the 10:30 service on Dec. 19, the Chancel Choir will sing a wonderful selection of Advent and Christmas anthems. Kathy Murphy will play her flute on four of the seven pieces.

Two of the pieces are by the English composer Gustav Holst, including "Christmas Day," which is a mixture of English carols and employs a variety of soloists from the choir.

Music Director Judith Lang said, "We have been working hard to prepare this music, which will be such a joy to present to you."

After this feast for the ears, we will continue to feast – on Rick Stoker's amazing Christmas Brunch.

The menu will feature both breakfast and lunch items. The following is just a sampling: french toast, quiche, baked salmon, roast pork loin, cheesy potatoes, winter salad and assorted desserts to include cream puffs.

The price for the brunch is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-10, and free for children 5 and under. Signups will be taken at the Dec. 5 and 12 services.



Christmas Eve Services

Friday, Dec. 24

5 p.m. — Children's Pageant

7:30 p.m. — Bell Choir

11 p.m. — Chancel Choir

Five from Berwyn going to Jamaica

Five members of BUMC will join Discovery Service Projects on a mission trip to Jamaica from Jan. 2 to Jan. 16.

Nancy Atchison, Dick Rood, Rick Stoker, and Claudia and Dick Sharpless will help rebuild the Trinity Evangelical Ministries in the town of Retreat in St. Mary Parish. Trinity is a training center designed to teach courses in office management, computer skills, food and beverage preparation, house-keeping, and cosmetology.

For 25 years, Discovery Service Projects has worked to build and refurbish structures to improve people's lives, health, and safety with projects in the United States, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

In the town of Retreat, DSP will be constructing a building to replace one of three existing structures that have been condemned because of termite damage. Project leaders hope that eventually all three buildings can be replaced.

DSP is also continuing scholarship help for more than 25 children in Honduras at \$100 each and a medical student in Guatemala at \$3,000 a year, as well as providing financial assistance for some volunteers who cannot afford to pay their own way to work in Jamaica.

The BUMC group is inviting members of the congregation to join in prayer and in providing financial support. Donations, marked "Discovery Service Projects," can be placed in the regular offering at worship services. Here is a gift list: \$5 toward the purchase of gravel, sand or cement blocks, \$25 toward the purchase of a bag of cement, \$50 toward the purchase of framing lumber, \$200 toward the purchase of roof panels, \$500 toward the purchase of a fireproof door and frame. For more information about the mission go to the DSP website: www.discoveryserviceprojects.org.

A 50-inch plasma television for the Library

Thanks to the generosity of members of the ETC (Every Topic Considered) adult Sunday School class, the Library is equipped with a handsome, wall-mounted television monitor.

Members of the ETC class frequently watch video presentations as a basis for their wide-ranging discussions on Sunday mornings. After struggling with the weekly set-up, cabling and tear-down of a video projector, screen and DVD player each week, the class decided to donate new 50-inch plasma flat-screen TV. Then several members came in on a Saturday to permanently mount the TV.

The Library now is a convenient educational theater for any group.

Check out the church calendar

You can access the church calendar from your computer. First, visit the church website (berwynumc.org). Click on "Resources" and then click on "Church Calendar." It's a web address you'll want to bookmark.

MISSIONS MEMO

Here are holiday opportunities to help others

Our **Thanksgiving Offering** this year is going to support three different programs. Our Missions Outreach supports local, national and international initiatives that strike a balance between education and empowerment programs with emergency and emergent relief programs. The three programs that will share out Thanksgiving offering are:

- Valley Forge REACT, the Tredyffrin Township Needy Family Fund operated in cooperation with the Tredyffrin and Easttown Township Police Departments and the Main Line Ministerium. REACT provides food, clothes and other necessities to low-income families in the area.
- Cookson Hills Center in Cookson, Oklahoma, a United Methodist Mission run by missionary Meri Whitaker. Cookson serves the Native American population in the poorest county in Oklahoma.
- Children and Youth Empowerment Centre (CYEC) in Kenya, which provides residential care and educational programs for former street children and youth in Nyeri, Kenya.

Our **Christmas Offering** will go toward the church's annual commitment to Roca Eterna Methodist Church in Ahuachapan, El Salvador. BUMC has supported Eternal Rock since 2006, when a team of our members spent two weeks there helping with construction, healthcare and educational projects. Eternal Rock is a vibrant, growing church that provides adult literacy and children's educational programs for their community.

Our **support for three Methodist organizations in Philadelphia** is so appreciated and means so much to those who have so little.

- For **United Methodist Neighborhood Services**, please bring in hats, scarves, and mittens and hang them on our Mitten Tree by Sunday, Dec. 5.
- For the **Methodist Home for Children**, we provide toys, games and books for children, as well as gift cards for their mothers. Tricia Klem from Methodist Home's Development Department, said that the agency is serving 400 more children than last year. A full list of toys and gifts is available in the Narthex.
- For **Mount Zion United Methodist Church**, we collect toys for children and toiletries for adults, especially men. We take these to Mount Zion to be given out during their Christmas party for people in their neighborhood who live in shelters.

New this year: the BUMC Alternative Gift Program. The Berwyn United Methodist Church Alternative Gift Program gives you an option to donate to the special needs of the mission programs we support throughout the year.

Your tax-free donations flow through BUMC to one of 10 programs chosen by the Missions Committee. You can give in the name of a family member, teacher, employee, or friend. It is an alternative to a "store bought" gift and emphasizes the true meaning of giving. You will receive a gift card that describes your gift and the mission project it supports.

Your choice of donations this year will support REACT, the Chelsea Fund, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Methodist Home for Children, Appalachia Service Project, Cookson Hills Center, Heifer Project, Volunteers in Mission Scholarships, Peru Fund, and the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre.

There will be a range of giving options to suit everyone's budget. For example, you can give \$5 to Cookson Hills Center to buy nails for a building project. For \$20 you can donate a starter flock of chicks for a family through Heifer Project. A donation of \$50 to Methodist Home for Children in memory of Bob Niles will honor his years of service and financial support. Gift amounts for scholarships will go much higher. This new program will be available Dec. 5, 12 and 19 and will be on our website (www.berwynumc.org) by Dec. 5.

Donna Pitz

Lay Leader's Letter: Helping the church grow

This month's letter presents me with somewhat of a conundrum. As I write, Charge Conference (scheduled for Dec. 1) has not been held, but when you read this, it will have been. I guess I will have to engage in a little prophecy.

I prophesy that at Charge Conference Berwyn UMC will adopt as a goal for 2011 to increase our membership by 10%. Initially, that goal may seem impossible. But think what Berwyn can be if it is achieved!

A 10% increase represents about 40 new members, and in 2010 we added 36. True, that 36 included 12 from our Confirmation Class, which we will not have in 2011. But that means that we did add 24 other new members. Something about our church is attractive to newcomers. A goal of 40, while a big challenge, is within the realm of the possible.

Each of us should ask what we can do to make this goal a reality. First, pray. Pray for our church, for strength and courage for ourselves, and for those in our community who potentially could be our fellow church members.

Ask a friend to come to church. Are you glad to be a part of Berwyn UMC? Do you know others who might also want what you have found at Berwyn? Remember Andrew French's article in last month's issue of *The Lighted Cross*. Offer to bring your friend with you. When you do so, you will make that person or family feel a part of our church instead of just a visitor.

Support the church with your service and your gifts. We have just completed our stewardship drive. Without the finances to support the facilities, staff and programs of our church, we will have little to offer new members or even ourselves. And without the voluntary services of its members, Berwyn UMC would not function. An active, joyful, innovative church will be its own magnet to draw others into its fellowship.

Be willing to accept new and different ways of doing things that would make our church comfortable to others without detracting from its essential nature that makes it so meaningful to us.

A 10% increase in membership is a goal that can be achieved if we all work to make it a reality. And Berwyn UMC will be a stronger, more effective, more supportive, more satisfying church when that goal is realized.

John Paylor

Prayer chain: I just press the 'send' button and —

The computer with its "send" button is almost magic. Last night, as I received some calls about sending out prayer requests, I couldn't help but reflect on the wonders of the computer and the magic of the send button. For centuries, man has acknowledged the power of intercessory prayer, yet it's only since the advent of the computer that have we been able to engage so many people in prayer so quickly.

Presently, 33 people receive the request for intercessory prayer when I push that button. If you are not one of them, just call the church office or Ann West (610-687-0222) and you'll become a part of this important ministry. What that means is that when someone calls and requests prayer, an e-mail will be sent to you. If, on the other hand, you want to request prayer, all you have to do is call the church office (610-644-5555) or Ann, and your prayer request will be sent.

Once this request is sent via e-mail, the name will appear in the prayer list in the next church bulletin as well as in the weekly e-newsletter. To respect privacy, we have a policy that no name of a member of the church family will be put on the prayer chain or on the prayer list unless a specific request is received from that person or his or her family.

Ann West

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Anthem is planning a winter wonderland hayride

This past year we've been defining needs and, with your support, discovering solutions. Our goal is to offer a variety of experiences that will encourage, enlighten, and inspire the youth of BUMC to be Christians who live their faith in an exciting and contagious way.

Anthem is looking forward to an exciting Christmas event at Arasapha Farms in Aston, Delaware County. The youth will ride on a sound-equipped hay wagon through the rolling hills of Arasapha Farm, which has been transformed into a winter wonderland with huge light displays, decorated trees and buildings, bridges and brooks. They have real, live reindeer and a beautifully animated Santa's workshop on site. The hayride lasts about 20 minutes and is choreographed with all the favorite songs of the season. After the hay ride, we will relax by a bonfire and warm up with a cup of cocoa. We will also get an up-close look at their famous live nativity scene, which features real animals and actors. This event costs \$9 and will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12.

The holiday hayride at Aston is also an official drop-off point for Toys for Tots. So we will have the opportunity to serve while having fun.

Please prayerfully consider how you might be involved in Anthem this year. God is doing something special, and we'd love for you to be a part. If you're wondering how, you can do so by either praying for us or helping us fundraise – or both. I hope you're as excited as I am about a year filled with service, fellowship and fun.

Chris Padot

There are volunteer opportunities awaiting you

Guardian Angels. This mission project reaches college students away from home to let them know BUMC keeps them in their thoughts and prayers. You may pick up a form in the entrance area of the church to sign up your college student, or to volunteer to be a Guardian Angel. Or you may call or e-mail Cynthia Bushnell with the information at cynbush57@verizon.net or 610-935-9552.

Advent readings. This is a great opportunity for families, friends and individuals to share in the excitement and anticipation of Christ's birth. Volunteers are needed for Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Dec. 26. We also need three volunteers for Christmas Eve to light the Christ Candle during services at 5, 7:30, and 11 p.m. Contact Kristine Adams, kristineadams@verizon.net.

'Soupy Thursday' crew will take a break this winter

Rick Stoker reports that we will not have Soupy Thursdays this winter. Because of a shortage of kitchen helpers and the downturn in attendance last year, Rick's crew has decided to take a break.

If you really enjoyed Soupy Thursday and hope to see it return next year, volunteer yourself and a friend to help out. And, most important, if Soupy Thursdays do return next year, come and eat, or take out your soup to enjoy at home.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Hanging of the Greens. Come to the church at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, and help decorate for Advent. We will provide dinner, drinks, and a dessert.

United Methodist Women. Lydia and Maria Circles will meet for breakfast at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, at Janet Campbell's house for their Advent celebration.

Men's Fellowship. The men of the church will gather at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, for a brief breakfast, then go to work on demolishing the top portion of the retaining wall along the sidewalk at the kitchen door. The purpose of the project is to drain the sidewalk to avoid the retention of water and ice. All men are welcome to come and help. Please e-mail or phone Paul Polasky if you will be attending, so we have an idea of how many to expect for breakfast.

ETC Class. The class is watching a video series titled "Living the Questions 2.0." Each Sunday, there is 20 minutes of video, followed by a discussion. Future topics include: The Prophetic Jesus, Evil, Suffering and a God of Love, The Myth of Redemptive Violence, Practicing Resurrection, Debunking the Rapture, and Reclaiming the World. Details are at: <http://www.livingthequestions.com/xcart/home.php?cat=366>. ETC meets each Sunday morning at 9:15 in the Library.

"Hallelujah!" This is the title of the current study by the Shared Bible Study (SBS) class, based on Handel's *Messiah*. The study of the Christmas section will continue through Dec. 12. We are learning about the biblical texts upon which this oratorio, one of the best-loved musical compositions of all time, is based. SBS meets at 9:15 on Sunday mornings, in the Shared Office, just down the steps from the sanctuary.

Adult Council. The council asks all adults to save Saturday, April 30, on their calendars. On that day the council will offer a mystery bus trip for anyone interested. Keep the date open and look for details in future issues of *The Lighted Cross*.



NURSERY SCHOOL

Children to perform 'The Blizzard of Oz' on Dec. 8

The holiday season is upon us. The children are busily practicing for the annual Holiday Show. This year the performance will take place in the church sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8. The "play" is titled "The Blizzard of Oz," written and directed by Katie Donals, our music teacher.

Hearing the children sing holiday music always warms the heart. On Dec. 5, our children have been invited to sing at the lighting ceremony of the Christmas tree in Berwyn. These are busy but memorable times.

On Nov. 1, Mrs. McDermott and Mrs. Hanzsche's classes traveled to Highgate in Paoli. The children wore their Halloween costumes and serenaded the residents with Halloween songs. After the performance, the children were treated to treats by the residents. The visit was enjoyed by all. The residents admired the Halloween costumes and loved the singing.

This is the time of year to be thankful for every moment. Our school staff wishes everyone a happy holiday season.

Janet Wham

BOY SCOUT TROOP 181

Camping trips, recruiting event, and food drive

Hello from Paoli Troop 181! We meet at BUMC three Tuesday evenings each month. We learn the Boy Scout fundamentals, such as knot tying and first aid, and serve the community with food drives, trail building and the like – all while gaining experience as leaders. In addition to our weekly meetings, we have a weekend activity or trip once a month.

We have been busy with camping trips to the Hawk Mountain in the Poconos in September and to the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Virginia, in October.

We had our annual recruiting camping event for potential new scouts at the church during the weekend of Nov. 13-14. Cub Scouts and their parents from various packs around the area attended the event, and our scouts engaged the visiting scouts in activities such as archery, first aid, orienteering and fire building.

November also is the time when we conduct their food drive. We are participating in the Chester County Council's drive to collect 100,000 cans.

Please check us out at paoli181.com, where you can find our calendar of activities, monthly newsletters and contact information.

CARDS OF THANKS

To Our Friends at Berwyn UMC:

Many thanks for the cards and prayers we've received during Joan's recent chemo treatments. As always, we are working together to combat her side effects, especially low energy levels.

We send best wishes to all of you for a Blessed Advent, a Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David and Joan Myers

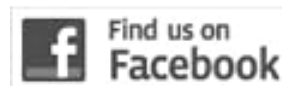
Don't *ever* let anyone say BUMC is not a caring church! My family and I are most grateful for your outpouring of prayers, expressions of concern and *many* kindnesses, first upon the death of my granddaughter's fiance' and again during my recent hospitalization and recuperation. Our sincerest thanks to each and every one of you.

Pat White

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 is scheduled to be delivered by postal mail by 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 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.