



February 2009

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

FROM THE PASTOR

Growing in faith, touching lives

One of the joys in pastoral ministry is to see the change that Christ makes in the lives of individuals. To walk with people through the difficult times of life and to observe the magnificent ways in which God supports and sustains them hour by hour, day by day. I delight in sitting with people in a Bible study class and benefiting from the wisdom and insight that they share as the holy Word of God is expounded and explained. I am confident that the insights and wisdom shared and gleaned are the work of the Holy Spirit.

It has been my joy and delight here at Berwyn United Methodist Church to see how members have grown in the faith. I can identify individuals who were quiet and reserved when they first joined the church, and now they are integrated and active, having cultivated many friends and daring to do things they thought they could or would never do. I have gotten to know other members who are inspired by God and share profound thoughts at the various Bible studies we offer. Again, these are persons who would not have said a word “in church” before. There have been others who have testified about a wonderful experience of the Lord in this place. So much so that it led them to be willing to make a positive contribution to the life and work of the church through the various committees on which they now serve. Christ makes a difference in our lives, and in many wonderful ways we have been showing that difference in the lives we live and the work we do, especially in reaching out through love and missions continually for the Lord. Because God has made a difference in our lives, we too would want to make a difference in our community and the world.

As a church we are blessed to have the mission statement we have. It frees us up to do all the things that we are doing on an ongoing basis. We are an inviting church. We want to give away what God has blessed us with. So much so, that we have received over 60 new members over the last three and a half years. We are intentional in faith development or nurture. Our children and youth are high priorities in our ministry as a church. Bible studies and worship services are offered. In all, we offer 112 worship experiences annually. Our choir nurtures us through the message in song and through the music that causes our souls to soar into the presence of the Most High God. So many lives are touched regularly by our encouraging service. Our leaders and committee members spend countless hours planning and implementing events and programs that touch our hearts and lives. Many lives in the community around us are blessed because we dare to care for them by offering our gifts, our time and our talents. I cannot help but think of the number of people at Mount Zion, the Methodist Home for Children, and the Neighborhood Services of Philadelphia who were blessed this past Christmas because we dared to care and reach out to them in the love of Christ our common Lord. Others in the community have thanked me for the work of the DART team.

I delight in being your pastor and being a part of the wonderful things that God is doing in our midst. Over the course of this year let us remind ourselves again and again that we are a community of faith that is called to invite others to Christ, to nurture those who come to us and who have been part of Christ’s body for many years, and to dare to encourage service in kingdom building and in reaching the least, the last and the lost. May God continue to bless and prosper the work we do to the Lord’s honor and glory!

Pastor Phil

What a difference one month can make

If you happen to have a copy of the January 2009 issue of The Lighted Cross (or if you go to www.berwynumc.org and select “resources” and then “newsletters”), turn to page 2 to note what a remarkable difference one month can make.

This calls for some specific detail and reflection:

1. As of Nov. 30, 2008, the church’s financial position was a negative \$21,000. *Even though there was the usual hope for a strong end-of-year showing, the \$21,000 gap loomed large. The only way to make up such a loss is to use reserve funds.*
2. The last Sunday of the year broke records. BUMC took in more than \$33,000. *It is gratifying to realize such generosity and end-of-year strength. It is for all to be thankful to God and to supporting church constituents for such commitment. It is most helpful relative to the overall desire to fund the ministry and mission of the congregation.*
3. As you can see below, compared to the balanced budget guideline, the overall result for the year 2008 is positive by about \$9,700. *Instead of having to dip into reserves to cover expenses, our reserves were increased.*
4. Overall income (in all three categories) was better than budget by about \$9,800, including significant attention to debt-service obligations. Note the contribution level for the Mortgage Fund. Other income (including building use) was also ahead of budget. Individual, pledged contributions were behind budget, which may suggest the need to provide new opportunities for designated giving.
5. The 2009 approved budget includes a \$31,000 deficit. *A deficit like this results when promised contributions from the fall stewardship campaign lag behind projected expenses. The expense side of the budget is flat – almost to the dollar – compared to that of 2008.*

The Finance and Stewardship Committee will be watching closely every month, to see that obligations can be met in full. *Having a healthy reserve is an excellent way to enter a new year, but cannot be expected to carry the day. The challenge remains for faithful stewardship in difficult economic times. Stay tuned.*

Steve Cherry

December, 2008 Final	Actual	Budget	favorable (unfavorable)	% of budget		
Contribution Income	\$379,095	\$393,130	(\$14,035)	96%		
Contrib - Mortgage fund	\$20,738	\$8,200	\$12,538	253%		
Other Income	\$51,717	\$43,360	\$8,357	119%		
Expense	\$441,893	\$444,690	\$2,797	99%		
gain(loss)	\$9,657	\$0	\$9,657			

Choir to offer '7 Last Words' on Good Friday

On Good Friday, April 10, the Choir and Friends will again offer "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Theodore DuBois. This was so well-received last year, that we wanted to repeat it. The soloists who were here — Brian Meneeley, Josue Coron, JoEllyn Berky Beck — will be with us again. Harpist Mindy Cutcher and timpanist Susan Jones, both members of the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, will also be with us. In addition, there will be a cello.

We will begin our Good Friday 7:00-7:45 rehearsals on Feb. 19. The dress rehearsal will be Sunday, April 5, from 1:30 to 3:30. Please consider singing with us in this amazing and moving spiritual experience. We can provide you with a score and MP3 recordings of your part. Please prayerfully consider joining us.

We will again be asking for patrons to help support the costs of this service. If you choose to help in this way, envelopes will be available for you to make a contribution in memory or in honor of someone. Names will be printed in the service leaflet.

Save the date. Invite your friends. This is a service of worship that you will not want to miss.

Judith Lang

SAVE THESE DATES

Vacation Bible School: July 13-17

The program will be from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. each of the five days. There will be more information in future issues of The Lighted Cross.

Fall Festival and Flea Market: Saturday, Oct. 10

We need workers and flea-market items and collectibles and chairpersons and movers and cleaner-uppers and baked goods and books — and everyone and everything in between!

We will be gathering our thoughts and our workers very soon. Keep us in mind as you are cleaning your closets, attics and basements.

More information soon.

Janet Campbell, 610-647-8291

Kate and Brian Walker, 610-644-1357

MOVIES THAT MAKE YOU THINK

'50s film 'I'll Cry Tomorrow' to be shown Feb. 7

In cooperation with DART, the Church and Society Task Force will show the 1955 film *I'll Cry Tomorrow* at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

Robert Horton wrote in his review for Amazon.com: "Susan Hayward has a signature role in *I'll Cry Tomorrow*, a pedal-to-the-metal look at the troubled times of singer Lillian Roth. Hayward snagged her fourth Oscar nomination for the part, which takes Roth from humble beginnings through great stardom and finally into a hell of alcoholism and recovery. The movie delivers on a couple of tendencies of its era: a fresh frankness about addiction ... plus some handy psychoanalyzing of the heroine — in this case, Roth's problems are laid at the feet of her pushy stage mother (Jo Van Fleet). With all the *sturm und drang*, there's not a lot of room for songs, but we do get to hear vintage tunes such as 'Sing You Sinners' and 'When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob, Bob Bobbin' Along.' Hayward does her own singing, and she can best be described as a belter rather than a singer ('belter' describes her acting style, too). Also in the cast, portraying the men at various stages of Roth's life, are Ray Danton, Eddie Albert and Richard Conte (trailing the aura of violent noir behind him); Daniel Mann directed, just after his duties on *The Rose Tattoo*. It's a slice of Fifties melodrama, the kind that hasn't aged particularly well, but if you appreciate Hayward's customary pull-it-from-the-guts style, you'll be grossed."

The children's movie will be the Disney-Pixar film "Wall-E."

NEW MEMBERS

Moses and Kelley Hogan of Berwyn

Moses and Kelley Hogan live at 110 Waterloo Avenue in Berwyn. They met and began dating in 1995 while students at West Virginia University. Moses and Kelley married at The Venetian in Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 17, 2000. They moved to Kimberton, Pa., from West Virginia in 2002 when Moses became employed with McKesson Corporation and Kelley became employed with Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals Inc. Moses is a support product specialist at McKesson, and Kelley is a pharmaceutical representative with Novo Nordisk. They are the proud parents of a son, Jacob (Jake), born Aug. 3, 2004, and a daughter, Mackenzie, born April 18, 2007.

Nursery will need a volunteer helper

Karis Poncé has served this church in many ways during her years in Berwyn. One of the most helpful ways has been to assist Eliza Chumpitaz, our nursery attendant, with the care of young children during worship services, or to substitute for Eliza when she was unavailable.

This is Karis' senior year at Conestoga, and she will be vacationing this summer and going away to college in the fall. So the Staff Parish Relations Committee needs to find a volunteer or volunteers to be available to serve in the nursery when needed.

This volunteer could be an adult or a teen with caregiving skills and interests. If you are interested, please contact Eliza or Judy Edinger.

MISSIONS MEMO

In Peru, Maria Claudia is making progress

In December I mentioned that we had begun sending the money our church has donated for the care of Maria Claudia to Peru. Maria Claudia is the great-niece of Elisa Chumpitaz, who staffs our Nursery on Sunday mornings. As a church we have supported the Chumpitaz family for many years, starting shortly after the mission trip Sue Burriss made to Peru. Maria Claudia, as many of you know, has a malignant tumor that is pressing on her spine, which has caused her to have difficulty walking. The first money was disbursed in October and provided funds for testing to determine the best course of treatment. Chemotherapy is being given to shrink the tumor.

The youth of the church held a dance marathon in November to raise funds for this cause. They raised \$5,040. Additional funds have come in from members of the congregation and the community.

At the end of November an additional \$2,000 was distributed for the cost of the chemotherapy. According to Elisa, the results have been promising and there will be other courses of chemo at regular intervals.

You as a congregation have been very generous to support the healthcare of a little child, and I am writing this to thank you and the youth of the church for your excellent work. Please continue to keep Maria Claudia and her family in your prayers.

I hope that you have seen the request for Trader Joe bags in the Sunday worship bulletin. At Christmas, they were using the tall bags that we need to hold the nonperishable items that provide food for a family of four for three days as our Lenten mission project. Special thanks to those of you who have already been collecting these large bags, and I hope we can collect enough to double-bag our items. Double-bagging would make it easier to transport the bags to United Methodist Neighborhood Services, and also easier for the recipients to take their food home.

We were scheduled to serve the evening meal at Interfaith Hospitality Network on Jan. 26. Thanks to Janet Campbell, Ann West, Peggy Robinson and Claudia Sharpless, who have offered to help us.

Betsy Newman

New in Library: Reference on Jesus' sayings

A recent donation to the BUMC Library is the impressive reference book *What Does Jesus Say About... : Christ Speaks to Us Today* by Cecil R. Price. Rev. Price is the brother of Ken Price, who along with his wife, Lynn, is a member of our congregation. Cecil Price serves as senior research fellow with Christian Information Ministries in Richardson, Texas. He holds degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary, Columbia International University, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Christians often ask, "What would Jesus do in this situation?" The Scriptures give many answers and insights about questions concerning life on earth, death and eternity, but it is hard to know exactly where in the Bible to find the answers to these questions. Price's unique Bible study resource complements and expands traditional concordance listings by categorizing key words, concepts and phrases of Christ. The subject entries of Jesus' teachings also include the setting, which allows the reader to visualize the verse in context with the related scripture. The sayings of Jesus are quoted from the New American Standard translation of the Bible. Additional features are the introductory chapter, "How to Get the Most Out of This Book," and the appendices, "How to Personally Know Jesus" and "Map of the Ministry of Jesus." You will find *What Does Jesus Say About...* on the new book shelf in the BUMC Library.

Thank you, Ken and Lynn Price, for your donation to the BUMC Library.

Margie Smink

WHAT'S GOING ON AT B.U.M.C.

United Methodist Men. The BUMC Men's Club will meet for breakfast at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, in Schick Hall. Our speaker will be the Rev. Kevin Readman, chairman of the Commission on Archives and History of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, as we continue our series on United Methodist history. Whether or not you were present to enjoy the eggs and sausage prepared by Paul Polasky and to hear the Rev. Fred Day's opening presentation in this series at the January meeting, plan to come out for another great breakfast and program in February. All are invited.

Church & Society Task Force. The group will meet at 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, to discuss plans for Creation Celebration in April. Anyone interested in helping in that project is welcome. Let Amy Dwyer know if you will attend.

ETC Class. Jim Tiede will lead us through the Spiritual Gifts book starting Feb. 1. If you missed his earlier series on this book, plan to catch it this time.

Club Berwyn. Kids, join us for another Club Berwyn event at the church at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7. Pickup is at 7:30. Celebrate the Love of God with us. Friends are welcome. RSVP by Feb. 4 to jsimmlove@hotmail.com or 610-764-0718.

Super Bowl Party. The Youth Group will sponsor a Super Bowl party in the youth suite on Feb. 1 from 5:30 p.m. until halftime (roughly 8). This event is open to anyone, young or old, who would like to watch the game and join in the festivities. We'll have plenty of food and the game on the projector screen. If you would like to join us, send a note to RPBenton@gmail.com so we have an idea how much food to get. Or just show up, and we'll see you there.

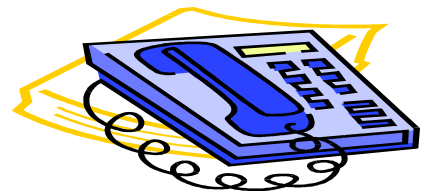
Lydia Circle. The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 1, in the Parlor.

Book Club. The BUMC Book Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the home of Claudia Sharpless, 610-644-8928. John Edinger will lead a discussion of *The Other Boleyn Girl* by Philippa Gregory.

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: Feb. 18

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 March 1, and an electronic version will be available on the church website by Feb. 21. Please 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:

www.berwynumc.org

LENDING A HAND

Feb. 1

Acolyte: Jeremy Borelly

Liturgist: Kay Pierce

Ushers: Jim Tiede, Judy Kim,

David Surine, Frank Farina

Children's Message: Luis Montaner

Story Time: Gina Phelps

Bulletin Preparation: Pat White

Friday Volunteers: Rosalie Hart,

Ruth Rumiano

Flower Delivery: Margie O'Donnell

Feb. 8

Acolyte: Harold Craig

Liturgists: Boy Scouts

Ushers: Larry Dodds, Tom O'Donnell,

Don Kirkland, Brian Donadio

Children's Message: Janet Campbell

Story Time: Jennifer Cutler

Bulletin Preparation: Sue Farina

Friday Volunteers: Peh-sun and

Hui-chen Ku

Flower Delivery: Cynthia Bushnell

Feb. 15

Acolyte: Zachary Phelps

Liturgist: Carl Linsensbach

Ushers: Richard Sharpless, Ted Jex,

Ryan Benton, John Edinger

Children's Message: Judith Lang

Story Time: Janelle Larson

Friday Volunteers: Maynard and Doris Krug

Flower Delivery: Jane McDowell

Feb. 22

Acolyte: Laura Stockler

Liturgist: DART

Ushers: Hal Craig, John Paylor,

Holly Dillon, Gene Williams

Children's Message: Pattie Littlewood

Story Time: Wendy Wolov

Bulletin Preparation: Sue Farina

Friday Volunteer: Barbara Borst

Flower Delivery: Margie O'Donnell

Nursery School's 3rd quarter begins

So many happy faces greeted us when school reopened for the third quarter. We didn't even have any tears from our youngest children. They were so full of energy and settled right back into their school routines. The 5-Day children were the noisiest, but we expected that. They were so happy to see their friends again.

When January comes around each year, a big change takes place. We see so much more maturity and so many academic changes. It is evident in all the children but most easily seen in our Pre-K classes. The children are eager to learn and eager to move forward on a quicker pace. The Game Room, which is a pre-reading, pre-math learning room, is where we see amazing leaps of higher-level thinking skills and a deeper understanding of the concepts presented. It is a very satisfying time in the developmental skills area of our school program.

The All School Coffee was well attended by our nursery school parents. The Management Team hosted the coffee. All the parents attending had a chance to sign up for one or more of the committees for our Spring Dinner and Auction. That is set for the evening of April 23.

In January, we had a visit from The Yello Dyno program. This is a 5-Day program and teaches children how to stay safe in difficult situations and how to be aware of "tricky" strangers. More programs are set for the 2-, 3- and 5-day programs in February.

The school was represented at the first Preschool Expo held at the Easttown Library. The library hopes to make this an annual event.

Ann Bole