



February 2010

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

FROM THE PASTOR

Reminding ourselves of our mortality

ON FEB. 17, our Lenten Journey begins with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 p.m. At that service we will be reminding ourselves of our mortality with the words “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return” as the imposition of ashes are placed on our hand or forehead. Having been reminded of our mortality, we are then exhorted to pray, study the Holy Scriptures, meditate, serve others and fast. Four of these spiritual disciplines are things many of us do on an ongoing basis as part and parcel of nurturing our souls. Fasting is another matter. This is the one that stretches us as faithful followers of Jesus.

Jesus encouraged the followers of his day to fast. He went off by himself to lonely places to fast and pray, giving us a model of fasting and how intentional we need to be with this spiritual discipline. He reminded his followers that strength, courage and perseverance in the faith journey came through prayer and fasting, for he said more than once to his disciples: “Fast and pray.” The early Christians continued in following Jesus’ model and exhortation on fasting and made it, in many instances, a mandatory observance.

The early Methodists observed it as a mandatory observance. John Wesley fasted twice weekly, and he developed what is called today the Wesley Fast. This is where he ate supper/dinner on Tuesday and would not eat again until supper/dinner on Wednesday. Similarly with Thursday evening into Friday afternoon, basically skipping breakfast and lunch. He required the preachers of his day to fast, and when he prepared persons for membership, he taught them the importance of fasting and insisted that they be faithful to this spiritual discipline. In the General Rules he established for Methodist Societies, the third rule was for us to attend “upon all the ordinances of God” and he included among many other ordinances “fasting and abstinence.”



Lent invites us to ask ourselves in what ways we can fast and pray. Maybe we would not want, as Wesley did, to fast two days of the week, but what about Thursday into Friday? Is the Wesley fast workable for you as it has been workable for so many through the years? Let us covenant during this Lenten period to follow what Jesus encouraged us to do and what John Wesley and countless others did in fasting and praying. God gives us grace to be faithful in attending to the ordinances given to us for our spiritual nurture and growth.

Have a Holy and Blessed Lent.

Pastor Phil

Schedule of events for Lent. *Page 4.*

FINANCE REPORT

Generous gifts in December erase a projected deficit

Although I have only been chairman of the Finance Committee, I already feel exceedingly fortunate in this new role.

First, the committee has been very blessed to have had the leadership of Steve Cherry as chair and Pam Benton as treasurer for the past 6 years. During this time they have done an outstanding job of creating an awareness of the important role stewardship and financial ministry plays in enabling BUMC to achieve its mission as “a community of Christian believers that Invites – Nurtures – Encourages Service.” Thank you, Steve and Pam!

In addition, I am pleased to inherit a committed Finance Committee, including new members Jean West, Kathy Lewis, Judy Fisk and Brian Walker as treasurer. I look forward to working with the entire committee in this next year as we address the financial needs and concerns of BUMC.

Most important, we are all blessed to be part of an amazing community of faith at BUMC. During December, as you may recall, the Finance Committee sent a message describing the concerns related to the 2009 budget and a request that people consider making an additional pledge in 2009. I am very pleased to report that through the amazing generosity of BUMC as a whole, and in particular that of eight members who made significant increases to their 2009 pledges, instead of ending 2009 with a \$32,000 deficit, we were able to close the year with a surplus of \$8,000. What an amazing statement of faith and commitment!

I look forward to my year as chair of Finance and continuing in the tradition of excellence demonstrated by Steve and Pam. Please don't hesitate to let me know what Finance Committee can do to continue their service to BUMC.

Jim Tiede

Letters From the Lay Leaders

February! What a depressing month. Days are short, dark and cold. The sun seems to hide behind a curtain. The joys of Christmas and the good resolutions for the new year fade into a distant memory. The promises of spring and Easter seem to recede further into the future instead of drawing closer. A wag once said that it is a good thing February has only 28 days, as he did not think we could take another single day of February weather.

A song tells us that when we feel a need for comfort, we should take time to count our blessings. What blessings can you count today? Think about being a part of the family that is Berwyn United Methodist Church, a part of the family of God. Think also about how you can *be* a blessing. Make a list of 28 blessings, one for each day of February. It is sure to make the month a little less dreary, and to speed the coming of spring. Blessings!

John Paylor

God has blessed Berwyn UMC with outstanding lay leadership. The following leaders, who completed their terms in December, are to be commended for their service and dedication: Pam Benton, treasurer; Stephanie Borelly, co-coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Council; Steve Cherry, chair of Finance; Judy Fisk, chair, Membership and Congregational Care; Betsy Newman, chair, Missions; Jim Tiede, lay leader; and Brian Walker, Trustees. We thank God for their ministry.

Nancy Atchison

Our Ruth Frey leads Children's Hospital mission team

This article and photograph about a member of BUMC are reprinted, with permission, from the Fall/Winter 2009 issue of Global Health, published by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Ruth Frey first became involved in Global Health at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in 2006, when she traveled to the Dominican Republic to serve as a nurse practitioner. That visit had such positive impact that Ruth has returned for the next three years, taking on the added responsibility of being a team leader. Ruth has a long personal history of doing humanitarian work through her church, and her connection with Global Health provided Ruth with the opportunity to fulfill her wish to work internationally with the added bonus of doing it through Children's Hospital.

Ruth's enthusiasm for her work with Global Health derives from several experiential factors. First, she truly enjoys the friendships that form among team members from the United States as well as the connections with the Dominican partners. Ruth also feels gifted to have the ability to help grow a program that benefits children living in extreme poverty and to witness the positive difference the programs make for the children and their families. Ruth has been part of a program that is not only thriving but has been sustainable as well.



In the Dominican Republic, Ruth Frey briefs the mission team

Ruth holds a true respect for each team member in CHOP's Global Health groups serving these children. She believes volunteers gain an experience of a lifetime caring for the children in poor communities like the Bateyes in the Dominican Republic or villages in Botswana or the streets of West Philadelphia.

The value of this Global Health work is enormous for Ruth, because it brings the clinical expertise of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to the people of the Dominican Republic and thus brings the children world-class care and better outcomes. Also, the CHOP teams train the local professionals caring for these children, working side by side with them, thus sharing their education in a very personal and first-hand way. This program is about empowering the people who care for the children they serve. In the end, Ruth knows the whole team benefits as well as the ultimate beneficiary, the children.

Ruth has become a volunteer leader in CHOP Global Health, and her vision is to see the enterprise continue to grow while maintaining and enhancing its current programs. For the Dominican Republic, where she has contributed so much, she would like to see the CHOP presence solidified on a year-long basis. She would like Global Health to continue to develop opportunities for CHOP's own employees to learn international medicine that can be brought to other settings and continue the care of children worldwide. Ruth also values the giving component of Global Health at Children's Hospital, where people who recognize how privileged their lives and careers have been can selflessly return this good fortune to so many less fortunate.

Ruth received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Villanova University and her Master of Science in Nursing degree as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner from the University of Pennsylvania. She has worked at Children's Hospital for 28 years as a nurse, a manager, and nurse director. Ruth has been a nurse practitioner at CHOP's Kids First Haverford for the last 11 years.

SCHEDULE FOR LENT

A breakfast, lunch devotionals, special readings

Pancake Breakfast. Sunday, Feb 21, is the first Sunday of Lent. The Adult Council has decided a good way for the congregation to welcome Lent would be with a pancake breakfast. The breakfast will be held in Schieck Hall from 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

So come early on the 21st for Sunday School or the 10:30 service and have a time of fellowship and breakfast with your church family. Or stay late from the early service and visit with some of those folks from the later service that you don't normally get to see. There will be pancakes (plain and blueberry), a breakfast meat, eggs, fruit and lots of coffee to wake you up. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit UMCOR's Haiti relief effort.

Lenten Lunches. During our journey in Lent, we will have a luncheon program at 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday beginning on Feb. 24 and continuing until March 31.

The theme for this journey will be "Where in The World Is God?" based on a Lenten devotion prepared by Stephen J. Carter. The Rev. Dr. Jay Wilkins of Trinity Presbyterian Church will be the speaker at the Feb. 24 luncheon. Other speakers will be from Berwyn United Methodist Church and Trinity.

Lunches will be prepared in the church kitchen, and a free-will offering will be received.

Special Readings at Worship Services. Once again there will be special readings during Lent. If you would like to participate, please contact Kristine or David Adams. The readings are:

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17.

Feb. 21, Gratitude based on Deuteronomy 26:1-11.

Feb. 28, Trust based on Genesis 15: 12, 17-18.

March 7, Mercy based on Isaiah 55: 1-9.

March 14, Faithfulness based on Joshua 5: 9-12.

March 21, Transformation based on Isaiah 43: 16-21.

March 28, Christ's Passion according to Luke.

Please Mark These Dates:

April 1, Holy Thursday.

April 2, Good Friday. The choir will sing "The Crucifixion."

April 3. Easter Egg hunt, meditation, and light breakfast at 10 a.m.

April 4, Easter Sunday.

Good Friday Choir to begin rehearsals on Feb. 4

The Good Friday Choir will begin rehearsals at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, for our performance of John Stainer's beloved "The Crucifixion" for the Good Friday service. The regular Sunday choir rehearsal will begin at 8. The work is scored for choir, organ, and two soloists. The soloists joining us are Brian Meeneely, tenor, who has sung with us for the past two years, and William McNeal, bass.

"The Crucifixion" was written in 1886-87 and first performed in Marylebone Parish Church in London on Feb. 24, 1887. Stainer dedicated the work to "my friend and pupil William Hodge," who, at that time, was organist and choirmaster at Marylebone, as well as being an assistant organist to Stainer at St. Paul's Cathedral. Mr. Hodge played the organ for that first performance.

Hodge's choir at Marylebone was described as "one of the best and most active church choirs in London," with a membership of 60 boys (trebles and altos) and 30 men, including a paid tenor and bass soloist. The boys rehearsed every day, and that it was not uncommon for them to attend choir up to 15 times each week. (Don't worry! We will only be rehearsing one hour a week.) Please consider joining us for this beautiful Lenten experience.

Judith Lang

14 young people enroll in Confirmation Class

Nancy Atchison and Pastor Phil will be working with 14 young people who have decided to acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Confirmation classes will be conducted at 4:30 p.m. each Sunday, beginning Feb. 7 and running through May 16, with the Confirmation Service being held on May 23 (Pentecost Sunday).

We will be using the “Making Disciples” curriculum prepared by Bishop Will Willimon of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. We have plans to visit a historic church, to attend an ethnic worship experience, and to participate in a service project. This year we will not be offering a Confirmation Camp as we have done in the past.

Please keep these young people in your prayers as they prepare to become professing members of our church: Sarah West, Jack Wolov, Victoria Phelps, Hannah Dodds, Laura Stockler, Emily Hoffman, Tracy Meyers, Meghan Dillon, Katie Dillon, Mark DeStefano, Jefferson Toro, Caleb Chambers, Savannah Chambers, and Langston Chambers.

Missions Memo: Bake Sale and Feed the 5000 projects

Peru Fund Bake Sale – Feb. 14. For those who love to bake, save Feb. 13 to prepare your best desserts. For those of you who love to eat home-baked treats, don’t be late for church on Valentine’s Day if you want your pick of delicious cakes, cookies, pies, and other treats. Proceeds of the bake sale will replenish BUMC’s Peru Fund. If you would like to help with set-up or sales, please contact Barbara Hall, coordinator of our Peru Fund Bake Sale.

Feed the 5000. During the first four Sundays in Lent, our church will again be filling bags with nonperishable food – enough for a family of four for three days. The list of food items to be collected will be available in the Narthex starting on Feb. 21. United Methodist Neighborhood Services distributes the food to families in need in Philadelphia.

Donna Pitz

Sign up for day trip to Native American Museum

The Adult Council and the ETC class are planning a trip to the Native American Museum in Washington on Saturday, Feb. 6. This all-day trip is open to everyone. If you plan on going, please contact Paul Polasky at papolasky@yahoo.com or call 610-341-9151 and leave a message, including how to contact you. We must have a head-count to ensure adequate transportation.

The buses will leave the BUMC parking lot at 8 a.m., arriving at the museum at about 11:30. Lunch will be individual choice and responsibility. We will reassemble and start back about 4 p.m., arriving at BUMC about 7:30. The cost will be \$20 a person to cover the bus rental and fuel.

Soupy Thursdays continue with these menu selections

Following are the scheduled soups for Soupy Thursday for February:

Feb. 4 – cream of mushroom

Feb. 11 – French onion

Feb. 18 – cream of broccoli

Feb. 25 – vegetable

Takeouts are available from 5 to 7 p.m. for \$5 a quart. Come eat in Schieck Hall from 6 to 7 p.m. for \$3 a person, which includes soup, beverage, bread and dessert. Where can you find a better deal?

FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

30-Hour Famine and other events are planned

Anthem is the new name of BUMC youth group. Anthem is the lives of many rising up as one. The idea is a shared message, a unified sound – we’re rising up for what really matters, and we’re rising up together. Connecting with Anthem is easy. Simply have your student show up at the Youth Room on a Sunday evening at 5:30, and right away we’ll connect with them.

The Youth Council met in December and discussed the calendar and curriculum for the winter/summer seasons. Our goal is to offer a variety of experiences that will encourage, enlighten and inspire our youth to be Christians who live out their faith in an exciting and contagious way.

The first project is one that our youth are very familiar with: The **30 Hour Famine**, on April 23-24. We will be raising money to combat world hunger.

Three other projects are being offered to youth and their parents as options. We are planning fundraisers, and we hope that, depending on the level of financial support raised from church members, all youth will be able to attend at least one of the following:

Snow Camp. This three-day winter camping program of Teen Quest is held in Somerset, in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania. Ten minutes from the Seven Springs ski resort, Snow Camp offers students, leaders, and youth groups a winter camp experience you will never forget.

Appalachian Service Project. The trip to Kentucky this summer is for youth at least 14 years of age and entering the ninth grade. Serving others by making their homes warmer, safer and dryer, is one of the most life-changing experiences ever. Many from our church have gone on past ASP trips.

Broad Street Ministry Youth Initiative. Friday night begins with a tour of the Broad Street Ministry neighborhood, exploring the complexity of an urban church. The evening ends with a commissioning service led by Broad Street Ministry musicians and staff. Saturday provides hands-on experiences that raise awareness of social injustice and economic inequalities. Projects might include cleaning up a park, eating with the homeless, creating urban art, or working with children’s organizations.

Chris Padot

Open forum for parents continues on Feb. 23

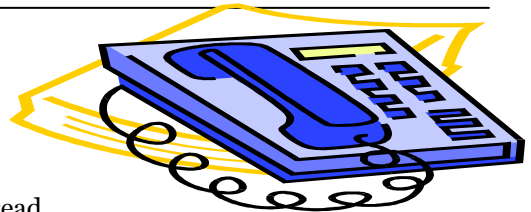
A. Michael Blanche, licensed social worker specializing in dealing with addiction, will conduct the second of four monthly open-forum sessions for parents in Schieck Hall at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23. The topic will be “Setting Boundaries.” The remaining sessions will be held March 23 and April 27.

All parents currently raising children are invited to these sessions, which are free and sponsored by the church’s Drug Alcohol Recovery Team (DART) and the E. Chelsea Campbell Memorial Foundation. Information: Call Gail Campbell at 610-644-7843 or go to church website, www.berwynumc.org.

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: Feb. 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 March 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.



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610-644-5555

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Church Website:
www.berwynumc.org

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HERO HEADQUARTERS

AT BERWYN
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JUNE 27-JULY 1
4:30-7:30 PM

LENDING A HAND

February 7

Greeter: Jane McDowell

Acolyte: Javier Montaner

Liturgist: Janelle Larson

Ushers: Jim Tiede, Andres Montaner,
David Surine, Kelley Hogan

Story Time: Gina Deflavia

Coffee Committee: Pam Benton,
Gina Deflavia, Jennifer Cutler

Flower Arranger: Claudia Sharpless

Flower Delivery: Jane McDowell

February 14

Greeter: Jacob Nemetz

Acolyte: Campbell Wolov

Liturgist: Boy Scout Troop 181

Ushers: Boy Scouts

Story Time: Janelle Larson

Coffee Committee: Carol Williams,
Judy Fisk, Amy Dwyer

Flower Arranger: Sarah Polasky

Flower Delivery: Barbara Borst

February 21

Greeter: Cynthia Bushnell

Acolyte: Laura Stockler

Liturgist: Kay Pierce

Ushers: Larry Dodds, Tom O'Connell,
Don Kirkland, Brian Donadio

Story Time: Kelley Hogan

Coffee Committee: Sally Robie,
Sue Farina, Stephanie Borelly

Flower Arranger: Jan Polasky

Flower Delivery: Margie O'Donnell

February 28

Greeter: Margie O'Donnell

Acolyte: Mateo Merino

Liturgist: DART

Ushers: DART

Story Time: Jennifer Cutler

Coffee Committee: Amy Dodds,
Janet Campbell, Janelle Larson

Flower Arranger: Kay Pierce

Flower Delivery: Cynthia Bushnell

Thursday Helpers

Feb. 4: Pat White

Feb. 11: Sue Farina

Feb. 18: Barbara Borst

Feb. 25: Sue Farina

Friday Helpers

Feb. 5: Peh-sun and Hui-chen Ku

Feb. 12: Betsy Newman

Feb. 19: Barbara Borst

Feb. 26: Peggy Robinson

The Nursery School

Nursery school rarely slows, and the month of January is no exception. The children returned with nary a tear. With January being our big "move ahead" month, the children have jumped back into the learning process without a look back. They are social, fun-loving and interested in using all their skills. We love to watch the progress and the enjoyment that the words "I can do it!" bring.

We add interest to the learning process by taking trips in the warmer months and bringing in interesting programs during the colder months. The Great Valley Nature Center brought a program based on *The Mitten*. They are presenting outreach literature-based programs to schools and incorporating live animals as part of the story line. Another January program is Yello Dyno, a stranger-coping program designed to have children prepared should they find themselves in a difficult situation. This is presented to the 5-Day children. A dental program will be geared toward some of our younger children.

Our parents will also be involved during the month of January. The January All-School Coffee is held in the Narthex for all the parents. Parents Visitation is also scheduled, giving every parent some observation and interactive time in the classrooms.

The Management Team is beginning the preparation for the Mother/Staff Spring Dinner in April. That evening includes dinner and a Silent Auction. It is always well attended, and the mothers work hard to ensure a welcoming and enjoyable evening.

Paoli Boy Scout Troop 181

On Dec. 30, 15 Scouts and several adults from Troop 181 assembled at BUMC to give back to the church, our chartering organization, by performing repairs and maintenance. The volunteers spent two and half hours fixing emergency exit lights, putting caps on outlets, putting batteries into exit signs, polishing woodwork, and doing other small tasks.

In February, the boys are looking forward to their annual ski trip. February also brings the Klondike Derby, where our Scouts will have the opportunity to reinforce their scouting skills while competing with other Scout troops.

Troop 181 will assist at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Feb. 14, which the church is observing as Scout Sunday. The troop also assisted on Jan. 17, when Scott Wilson delivered the message.

What's happening at Berwyn United Methodist

Potluck Supper. The Adult Supper Clubs will have a combined Potluck Supper in Schieck Hall at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. All adults are invited, even if not currently in a Supper Club group. At the supper, Gail Campbell will speak about her medical mission trip to Mongolia in November.

Pasta Night. In April (date to be announced) we will join with the Berwyn Fire Company to host a benefit pasta night in Schieck Hall. The fire company will be present and helping. The buffet menu will feature spaghetti with marinara or clam sauce, meatballs, Italian sausage, lasagna and many other items. The proceeds of this event will be split evenly between the church and the fire company.

Maria Circle, United Methodist Women. The group will meet at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, at Luisa Merino's house. This group conducts its meeting in Spanish. *El Grupo de Maria nos reuniremos el dia Viernes, Febrero 12 a las 7 p.m. en la casa de Luisa Merino, 108 Ivy Court, Upper Darby (phone 610-789-2705). El Grupo conduce la reunion en Espanol.*

Lydia Circle, United Methodist Women. The group will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, to make health kits for Haiti. We will have a light supper and a devotion. Be on the lookout for the following items needed for the health kits (\$12 value per kit): 1 hand towel (15x25 inches up to 17x27, no kitchen towels); 1 washcloth; 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized); 1 fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers); 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 ounces and up); 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper; no child-size brushes); \$1 to purchase toothpaste that will be added to the kits by UMCOR. Let Amy (perthenia@mac.com) or Jan (papolasky@yahoo.com) know what you find, so they can make up the difference before the meeting.

Film on Feb. 27. DART (Drug Alcohol Recovery Team) and the Church & Society Task Force will show "My Name Is Bill W" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27. The film is based on the true story of Bill W., a stockbroker whose life falls apart after the stock crash of the 1920s. As Bill W. and his loving wife come to grips with his depression and alcoholism, he and a friend form a support group that leads to the formation of Alcoholics Anonymous.

ETC (Every Topic Considered) Class. We will study Jim Wallis' "Rediscovering Values: On Wall Street, On Main Street, On Your Street." Wallis will discuss his book in a free program at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3, at Friends Select School, 1651 Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Shared Bible Study Class. We are studying Ezra and Nehemiah. Join us – we meet in the room next to the Pastor's study.

Children's Program. Please note the following dates: Feb 12, 5 to 7 p.m.: LoveWell with Club Berwyn as we make blankets for a local shelter; March 13, time to be announced: Club Berwyn Green Event; April 1, about 1 p.m.: Come Bowling with Club Berwyn; April 3, 10 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt – bring a dozen filled eggs; a light breakfast will be served.

DART Sunday, Feb. 28. The Drug Alcohol Recovery Team will host both services. Guest speakers will be Kathy Yamas, who will deliver the sermon, and Bill and Pam Roberts.

Cards of Thanks

From Veronica Mosley: Thank you for your kindness and generosity during the holiday season. May God continue to bless and guide Berwyn UMC in 2010. In His service and love, Veronica.

From Jacob Nemetz: Devon 50 Boy Scouts had a great wreath sale this year. I would like to thank all of you for supporting me and my troop.

From Jessica Simmons: I express my appreciation for my staff Christmas gift this year – an unexpected but a lovely gesture by the congregation. My thanks go to the kids who put on a spectacular performance of "No Room at the Inn" on Christmas Eve, and thanks as well to the following for their help: Kristine Adams, Janet Campbell, Amy Dodds, Judy Dunn, Janelle Larson and Wendy Wolov.