



February 2011

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

Battling Jamaica's mud to help build a school

Five BUMC members – Nancy Atchison, Dick Rood, Claudia and Dick Sharpless, and Rick Stoker – joined a Discovery Service Projects mission team Jan. 2-16 to help build a vocational school for the Jamaica Baptist Union in Retreat, St. Mary's Parish, near Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Discovery Service Projects is an ecumenical group that tries to alleviate poverty through personal service. The organization has led volunteers in more than 39 service projects throughout Latin America and the poorest regions of the United States.

As one of the seasoned veterans of Discovery Service Projects commented, I found our hotel to be the nicest place we have ever stayed on these mission projects – notwithstanding the fact that the board of health closed the hotel the day we left for lack of maintenance.

In contrast, the working conditions were the most difficult we have encountered.

The rains in December had left the work site a muddy mess, and the location of the site necessitated hauling all the materials into the site by hand. When I say mud, I mean the most sticky, slippery clay you have ever seen! People's shoes got stuck, the mud pulling them right off their feet.

We spent much of our time with pick axes and large hoes trying to break up the mud and to backfill around all the foundations. We used wheelbarrows to move huge piles of "marl" – a stone-like material that is hard to shovel, hoe, fork or rake – into the foundation (marl, Rick Stoker observed, is a four-letter word). We formed bucket brigades to move concrete, which was mixed by hand because it was cheaper to hire local laborers to mix the concrete by hand, rather than to rent a cement mixer. We formed human chains to move concrete blocks. We built forms to pour columns, we sifted the stone out of the sand used for concrete, and we wired rebar.

We were working with five Jamaicans who were paid by Discovery Service Projects. They built the scaffolds and laid block, while we were the grunt labor.

I was in a small group who sewed at the Ocho Rios Baptist Church. We made 48 hospital gowns for a local clinic, redecorated the church nursery, and made pillowcases and sheets for church's free clinic.

On our days off, we climbed Dunn's River Falls, went to the beach or pool (when it was not raining), and snorkeled in pouring rain – the fish didn't mind the rain. I attended the Baptist church the first Sunday and the Methodist church the second Sunday. Both services ran 2 ½ hours, with a warm welcome and lots of spirited singing.

Thanks to all of you who prayed for us. Participating in a mission trip reminds me how fortunate I am and makes me realize that it is not *things* that make me happy. The people in the countries we visit have so much less, and yet they praise God and enjoy the life they are given.

Nancy Atchison

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Your giving in 2010 exceeded the budget goal

Below is a table summarizing the 2010 End of Year budget status for Berwyn UMC. As you can see, we were very blessed to end the year with a surplus in spite of significant increases in our expenses.

The Finance Committee is extremely grateful and thankful for the wonderful generosity of all those who have demonstrated their generosity throughout the year. Thanks to this widespread commitment to being faithful stewards of that which God has given us, our committees and areas of ministry continued to offer programs of benefit to our church, our local community, and those in need in the world at large. What a wonderful blessing this is!

As a result of the refinancing of our mortgage and retroactive adjustments to early 2010, when the interest rate should have been reset, our mortgage principal has dropped by \$12,000. In addition, with our new interest rate, our monthly mortgage payment will drop by \$760.

Once again, the Finance Committee would also like to express their thanks to all of those who made a pledge as part of our 2011 Stewardship Campaign. We look forward to seeing the great programs and events that our committees and areas of ministry will offer this year.

With grateful praise,

Jim Tiede

Final 2010 Budget Summary	Actual	Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Income			
Contributions	396,151.91	364,263.00	31,888.91
Contributions - Mortgage Fund	7,145.66	8,500.00	(1,354.34)
Facility Income	45,497.50	44,420.00	1,077.50
Other Income	4,915.88	3,300.00	1,615.88
Total Income	453,710.95	420,483.00	33,227.95
Expense			
Administration Expense	48,139.61	46,252.00	1,887.61
Committee Expense	280.00	350.00	(70.00)
Communications	2,133.34	2,200.00	(66.66)
Connectional Ministries	40,760.00	33,760.00	7,000.00
Education Expense	3,068.12	3,600.00	(531.88)
Facilities Operations Expense	105,451.07	99,551.00	5,900.07
Local Ministries	142,564.37	139,457.00	3,107.37
Membership & Congr. Care	228.17	200.00	28.17
Mortgage Expense	69,965.64	70,000.00	(34.36)
Music Expense	26,747.87	26,256.00	491.87
Reconciliation Discrepancies	(1.00)		
Worship	3,055.96	1,950.00	1,105.96
Youth Expense	663.30	600.00	63.30
Total Expense	443,056.45	424,176.00	18,880.45
Net Ordinary Income	10,654.50	(3,693.00)	14,347.50

GOAL: BE A 'WELCOMING CONGREGATION'

Our members are learning to be skilled greeters

Our Narthex Greeters are polishing their skills in welcoming visitors and members of the church family to the Sunday worship services.

The Membership and Congregational Care Committee had one meeting last year devoted specifically on welcoming visitors. Now, I send a greeting tip each time I contact members of the committee.

The foundation of meeting and greeting new people is *remembering their names*. The first questions I ask my daughter, Marsha, who was church-hopping last summer, are "How were you greeted? Were they friendly?" On second visits she seemed very impressed if they knew her name or if someone she met during the first visit came up to her and welcomed her a second time.

We – the whole congregation – can become skilled greeters by saying hello to new people and remembering their names. Many visitors don't want to be singled out during services, but they seem pleased to be remembered if they visit a second time. They are impressed if we remember their names or some subject mentioned during the previous visit.

Someone who has spent a great deal of time studying the skills of successful church greeters is Richard Liedtke, who each Sunday greets 300 to 600 people by name at his church in Vancouver, Wash. Over the years, he has learned the names and faces of more than 3,000 people.

In his booklet "How to Be a Master Greeter," Liedtke writes: "A Master Greeter builds many bridges of friendship. ... A visitor's priority is to build relationships with God and with others. Through the Master Greeter and through the friendships of others, the gospel becomes easier to accept."

Liedtke (pronounced lit-key) also offers weekly tips on his website, www.mastergreeter.com.

Here is a sample: "Spontaneous combustion occurs when certain conditions come together to ignite a material. Spontaneous growth occurs in churches when visitors are warmly welcomed and make new friends. If they feel wanted and accepted, they will spontaneously tell their friends about the nice church they visited. They will begin to invite those people to join them at their new church. Start a fire in your church by reaching out to the new people."



Renewing the 'welcoming' certification

Berwyn UMC received a Welcoming Certified Congregation award from United Methodist Communications in 2004.

To renew the certification each year, one or more members of a church's welcoming ministry team participate in an online forum and complete a few tasks designed to help the church maintain a dynamic and engaging welcoming ministry. The annual renewal process is completed electronically through online forums.

Berwyn UMC's Membership and Congregational Care Committee, along with the Evangelism and Nurture Committee and probably other committee representatives, will meet to discuss renewing the certification. At this meeting, a person will be designated to be responsible for the renewal.

This welcoming award is made possible by the participation of the whole congregation, so we'll keep everyone up to date on our progress.

Carol Williams

Memorial Garden construction to start in spring

The Memorial Garden fund has finally accumulated enough money to begin construction of Phase I this spring.

The committee began planning this project more than six years ago. When the plans were approved by the Administrative Board and the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Cabinet in 2008, the understanding was that church funds would not be used to build the project. Sales of niches, memorial donations and contributions have raised the money needed.

Plans for the Memorial Garden are available in the Narthex. Please contact Nancy Atchison, Sally Robie or Judy Fisk if you have any questions.

Thanks for donating \$6,500 in special holiday gifts

Your donations in the Christmas envelopes and your contributions toward our new alternative gift program well exceeded expectations. BUMC received about \$6,500 between Christmas envelopes and the alternative gift program.

The Christmas envelope donations go to Rocca Eterna, our sister church in El Salvador.

As for the Alternative Gift Program, there were donations to all ten organizations offered for alternative gifting. Those that received \$250 or more are Kenya Youth Empowerment Center, Rocca Eterna scholarships, Methodist Home for Children, E. Chelsea Campbell Foundation, Heifer Fund, Peru Fund, and Appalachian Service Project.

We have been asked if members may give gifts throughout the year, and the answer is a resounding "Yes!" To make a donation at any time, just ask Donna Pitz for a form.

Peru Fund Bake Sale: Isn't it convenient that our bake sale to support the Peru Fund comes the day before Valentines Day? So 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 Feb. 13 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 Peggi Robinson or Barbara Hall, coordinators of our Peru Fund Bake Sale.

Donna Pitz

DART to show a film on Feb. 26 and host two speakers on Feb. 27

In observance of Recovery Month, the church's Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team will present two events.

On Saturday night, Feb. 26, the film "The Lost Weekend" will be shown at 7 o'clock. The 1945 film, starring Ray Milland and Jane Wyman, raised awareness about alcoholism. The film follows a chronic alcoholic through a four-day drinking bout.

On Sunday morning, Feb. 27, two guests will speak at the 8:30 and 10:30 services: Peg Costello, clinical director of Mirmont Treatment Center at Lima, Delaware County, and Nicole McCourt, who will share experience, strength and hope.



EASTER WILL BE ON APRIL 24

Mark these spring dates on your calendar

“This is the day the Lord hath made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made.”

I find myself singing this song to get me moving on these cold, gray, snowy, icy mornings. I need to remember that winter is necessary to make way for spring. Soon enough we will be seeing green grass, yellow sun in a blue sky, and a rainbow of beautiful colors in flowers.

It is time to prepare for Lent, as we observe Christ’s ultimate sacrifice, and for Easter, as we observe his glorious resurrection. Please mark these dates on your family’s calendar:

March 9 – Ash Wednesday

March 13 through April 10 – Lent

April 17 – Palm Sunday

April 21 – Holy Thursday

April 22 – Good Friday

April 24 – Easter Sunday

Once again there will be special readings at Sunday services during Lent. If you would like to participate, please contact the Worship Committee co-chairs, Kristine or David Adams, at 610-889-7520 or kristineadamspc@verizon.net.

We also will join with Trinity Presbyterian Church in presenting a series of Wednesday lunches in Schieck Hall during Lent. The dates are: March 16, 23, and 30, and April 6, 13, and 20.

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The Worship Committee has discussed adding a third service, but at our last meeting we decided it is best to just enhance our current services. We are thinking of bringing back the Creative Team that was once here at Berwyn. Do you feel God speak to you through music, dance, art? We would love to have you share your personal gifts with the rest of the congregation. If this sounds like something that is on your heart, please contact Kristine Adams or any member of the Worship Committee.

Looking forward to spring and being reminded of God’s promises,

Kristine Adams

United Methodist events you may want to attend

Feb. 11-12: Conference-Wide Laity Retreat at the National Christian Conference Center, 1485 Valley Forge Road, Phoenixville. Retreat leaders are Rev. Dr. Sandra Steiner-Ball, a member of the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and Rev. Sunil Balasundaram, a native of India and presently pastor of Trinity UMC in Lickdale, Pa. The retreat begins with a buffet dinner at 6 p.m. Friday and runs to 3 p.m. Saturday. The cost is \$55 for a commuter. A printable brochure and reservation form is at: http://www.epaumc.org/sites/default/files/Events/Laity_Retreat_Registration_Trifold_Brochure.pdf. Contact: John Paylor or Pastor Phil.

March 11-12: “Leading Beyond the Walls” workshops. At Annual Conference earlier this year, Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan., one of the fastest growing Methodist churches in the country, led a presentation of “Leading Beyond the Walls.” The Church of the Resurrection is returning for followup sessions. Members of churches in our district will attend sessions at Paoli UMC, 81 Devon Road, Paoli. The Friday session will run from 5:30 to 9 p.m. and the Saturday session from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact: John Paylor or Pastor Phil.



Maria and Lydia Circles, United Methodist Women

The Maria and Lydia Circles of United Methodist Women gathered on Dec. 4 for an Advent brunch. It was a time of great fellowship, as evidenced by all these smiling faces. The two cir-

Since September, news in your mailbox every Friday

We have now been distributing a weekly e-newsletter to members of the BUMC family for five months.

The e-newsletter comes out on Fridays and highlights the plans for that Sunday's worship services. It also includes the prayer list, a schedule of events, and announcements.

The e-newsletter, designed as a "quick read" for busy people, supplements the Communications Committee's older methods of distributing information. These include the website (berwynumc.org), the monthly Lighted Cross, the Sunday worship bulletin, and the telephone tree.

To reach the community at large, we use the sign on the front lawn and run a small weekly advertisement in Main Line Suburban Life, an expanded listing in the Verizon Yellow Pages, and occasional ads in ML Suburban Life and the West Chester Daily Local News. The occasional ads are used to announce special events at the church, such as the Christmas Cantata.

Ann West, our publicity liaison, oversees the special ads and distributes news releases. An article about BUMC's Prayer Shawl Ministry appeared recently in ML Suburban Life.

If you are not receiving the weekly e-newsletter and would like to have it delivered to your computer every Friday, send your e-mail address to officebumc@comcast.net.

Gene Foreman

Lay Leader's Letter: The long, arduous road to success

The excitement is gone, now. The holidays seem a distant memory. The tree, the presents, the wonder of Christmas morning, the celebration of the year past and expectations for the new, have faded. Ahead lies the drudgery of everyday life through the winter season. The daily struggle of commuting, of work and family, laundry, sick kids, snow to shovel, meals to prepare. Where are the great expectations of the recent season? The plans for the new year? It's just a long, slow slog from each day to the next. The days of nothingness seem to stretch on without end.

The glory is gone, now. The beautifully decorated church, the wonderful music, the pageantry of the children's programs, the holiday meals together, are but distant memories. We attend weekly worship, we know there are committee meetings, stewardship concerns. But where are the great expectations of the recent season? It's just a long, slow slog from each day to the next. The days of nothingness seem to stretch on without end.

The wonder is gone, now. The dreams, the heavenly visitations, the pain of birth in a stable, the unexpected visits of shepherds and wise men, all seem so far away. Now, it's just the struggle of living and raising a child. The daily feedings, the skinned knees, the first halting steps and words. They had been given signs and wonders of great things. But when will they come to pass? It's just a long, slow slog from each day to the next. The days of nothingness seem to stretch on without end.

So it was for the holy family. It will be thirty years before the child of Bethlehem enters his ministry. But the years have not been empty, time passed and wasted. During those seemingly endless days and years he grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him. Those long years were a necessary time of preparation.

So it is for us, our families, our church. We want fulfillment for ourselves. We want success for our families. We want our church to grow. But it will not just happen, just now. Like the Christ child, long days, even years, of preparation are required. We need to tend to the mundane needs of each day, just as in raising a child. But the sum of all those days will lead to the day when we will see our dreams come to fruition.

John Paylor



Second parenting workshop is on Internet issues

A. Michael Blanche (*photo*), a licensed clinical social worker with a private practice in West Chester, is the facilitator for a series of workshops on raising children. The second of the four workshops will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, in Schieck Hall. The topic is *Technology and the Internet*. Discussion questions include: "What is cyber bullying?" "How do you deal with impulsivity of the texting generation and the general desensitizing of language?" The workshops are sponsored by the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team (DART) and E. Chelsea Campbell Memorial Foundation.

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 is scheduled to be delivered by postal mail by 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 church office.



Church Phone:
610-644-5555

Office E-mail:
officebumc@comcast.net

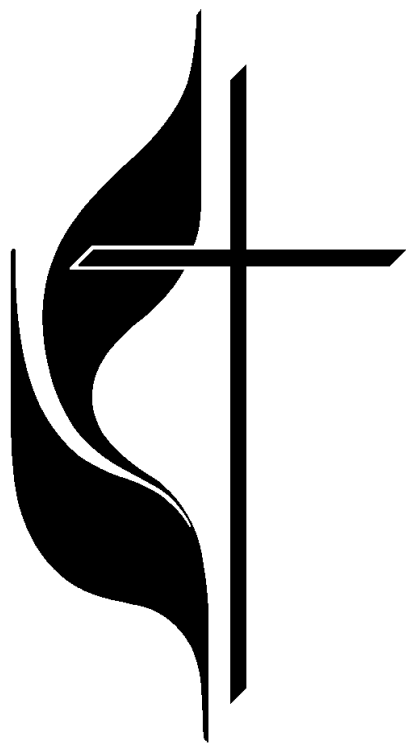
Church Website:
berwynumc.org

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Men's Fellowship. The group will meet for breakfast and fellowship at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, in Schieck Hall. The theme this month is "What Are We Doing Here?" Contact: Paul Polasky (610-341-9151).

Shared Bible Study Class. The class is studying *Amos and Hosea: Boundaries, Tough Love, Amazing Grace* by George W. Ramsey. The prophets' message – about God's tough love and amazing grace extended to a people even though they often broke the divine heart – is relevant for today's society divided on issues of theology, politics, economics, government, and morality. All are welcome. We are just down the steps from the Sanctuary in the Shared office.



Baptism. Eric Daniel Brennan was baptized Dec. 26. Eric Daniel was born July 27, 2009, to David and Amy Brennan. He is the grandson of David and Dorothy Brennan and Eric and Sharon Wagshal.

Super Bowl Party. Anthem, the BUMC youth group, will gather at the home of the Fritz family on the evening of Feb. 6. RSVP to: Chris Padot.

Mystery Trip. The Adult Fellowship will board a bus on Saturday, April 30. Watch for details in next month's issue of *The Lighted Cross*.

Church Directory. Please submit any changes of address, email, and/or phone numbers to the church office for the 2011 Church Directory to officebumc@comcast.net.

Flowers/Greeters. If you would like to donate flowers either to honor or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the chart in the Narthex. Please sign up to be a greeter.

End-of-Year Statements. Please collect your end of the year statements for your monetary contributions to the church, to document your tax return.

Help Needed. Once again, we will join with Trinity Presbyterian Church to sponsor Lenten Lunches as an outreach to the community. A light lunch will be served, followed by a speaker. Help is needed to shop, plan, and prepare the lunch or to clean up on March 16, 23, and 30, and April 6, 13, and 20. Contact: Nancy Atchison.

Phillies Tickets. "United Methodist Night at the Phillies" will be July 30 against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Tickets are \$28 each, and \$5 comes back for our ministries. Contact: Nancy Atchison.

Pasta Dinner. Save the date: Saturday, April 9 at 6 p.m. in Schieck Hall. We will reprise last year's successful joint fundraiser with the Berwyn Fire Company. Details will be in next month's issue of *The Lighted Cross*.

NURSERY SCHOOL

A class for 2-year-olds is added in the new year

The new year has brought a new 2-Day class to Berwyn United Methodist Nursery School. The 2-year-olds in the new class have adjusted well to their first school experience. Socializing, sharing and taking turns are skills learned in the 2-Day class. The first week included two literature-based activities: The books *Corduroy* and *The Mitten* were read to the children, followed by an art project related to the stories.

The month of January also brought Pajama Day. The children wore pajamas to school and enjoyed hot chocolate and doughnut holes in their classrooms.

The 5-Day children are having two outreach programs. The Yello Dyno program teaches the children about personal safety. A nutrition program encourages healthy eating and making appropriate food choices.

The All-Parent Coffee is Feb. 2. All parents are encouraged to attend this social event.

Overheard in a 3-Day class: "I love you, Mrs. Hanzsche. I love you more than a baby duck." Sincere words from a young child that reinforce a teacher's reason for teaching.

Janet Wham

BOY SCOUT TROOP 181

Scouts will help conduct the 10:30 service on Feb. 13

The troop will participate in Boy Scout Sunday at BUMC on Feb. 13. At the 10:30 service, the Scouts will help with readings, ushering and taking the offering.

The boys also are looking forward to the annual ski trip during the weekend of Feb. 25-27 to Jack Frost in the Poconos. This is always a fun trip.

In the coming weeks, we expect several Webelos Scouts to make commitments to join our troop. Our older Scouts will mentor and assist the younger boys in setting goals and helping them quickly achieve the rank of Scout and then Tenderfoot. We always welcome families who want to come to our meetings to see if this is a right fit for them and their sons. No previous scouting experience is necessary.

Troop 181 meets at BUMC three Tuesday evenings each month. In addition to our weekly meetings, we have a planned weekend activity or trip once a month.

Free program on chemical-free lawn care Feb. 16

There will be a free program on Healthy Chemical-Free Lawn Care at Wayne United Methodist Church, 210 South Wayne Avenue, on Wednesday, Feb. 16. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. with registration, networking and light refreshments. The program of speakers and visual presentations will begin at 7 p.m. The sponsors are Wayne UMC's Environmental Stewardship Committee and Main Line Interfaith Green Group. Reserve with the church office: 610-688-5650 or llynch@wayneumc.org.

Thanks from SPRC for the staff's Christmas gifts

On behalf of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee, I would like to thank all those who made contributions to recognize the excellent staff of Berwyn United Methodist Church during the 2010 Christmas season.

Gene Williams