



February 2008

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Here is a list of BUMC events leading up to Easter on March 23

Lent begins Feb. 6. That evening at 7:30, we will have an **Ash Wednesday** service with the imposition of ashes.

Lenten Fair/Pancake Breakfast. This event will be held in Schieck Hall from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 10. This is a great opportunity for the whole congregation to come together. The Sunday School children will be busy making items for Lent. Adults and children can come for pancakes, waffles, sausage and scrambled eggs – and to see what is going on.

Lenten Lunches. Trinity Presbyterian Church and Berwyn United Methodist Church will team up again this year to offer physical and spiritual nourishment during Lent. On the Wednesdays noted below, beginning at 12:15 p.m., Rick Stoker and his helpers will be offering up a nice meal in Schieck Hall, followed by a 20-minute devotional meditation. The devotion leaders:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Feb. 13 – Jim Tiede | March 5 – Anne Hatfield |
| Feb. 20 – Karen Parsons | March 12 – Pastor Phil |
| Feb. 27 – Veronica Mosley | March 19 – Rev. Jay Wilkens |

One Great Hour of Sharing: On the fourth Sunday in Lent, March 2, United Methodists come together for One Great Hour of Sharing, with a special offering to help UMCOR care for people caught in storms, war, disaster and disease.

Holy Thursday. On March 20, there will be a service of the Upper Room in which we will have a common meal, the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and a Foot Washing ceremony in Schieck Hall.

Good Friday Ecumenical Service. On March 21, the annual ecumenical service will be held from noon to 3 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church.

Good Friday Service at BUMC. At 7:30 p.m. on March 21, the worship service will include a presentation of *The Seven Last Words* by DuBois. There will be an enlarged choir, a harpist, a timpanist and two guest soloists. The soloists are Brian Meneely, tenor, and Michael Krueger, bass, both of the Wayne Oratorio. JoEllyn Beck will sing the soprano solos.

Anyone who would like to sing with the choir for this service is invited to come and rehearse on Thursdays from 7 to 7:45 p.m. If make this commitment, you need to be available for the dress rehearsal on Sunday afternoon, March 16. Contact Judith Lang for details about singing in the choir.

People who would like to help defray the costs of this special service are invited to make a donation in memory or in honor of someone. Donors' names will be printed in the Good Friday service leaflet if the donation is received by Thursday, March 13. You may place your donation in the church offering plate or send it to the church office. Make sure that you indicate that the money is to be used for the Good Friday service. Also, indicate whether the money is being given in honor or in memory of someone, along with the name of the person.

Gloria Saturday. On March 22, there will be a continental breakfast and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Easter, glorious Easter. On March 23, we celebrate the reality that we serve and worship a risen Lord.

REPORT ON STEWARDSHIP

Final report for '07: We broke even

December 2007	Actual	Budget	favorable (unfavorable)	% of budget	
INCOME	\$423,330	\$441,960	(\$18,630)	96%	
EXPENSES	\$421,411	\$441,960	\$20,549	95%	
gain(loss)	\$1,919	\$0			

Study the numbers above. They represent the final report of our financial stewardship as a congregation for 2007.

The good news is that we broke even. That is, for the year we took in \$1,919 more than we spent. This is good because we do not, after all, need to dip into our reserves to maintain our ongoing program of mission and ministry.

But you can also see that we didn't make budget on either side of the equation. That is, we were short in budgeted revenue *and* we restrained spending. This makes for a responsible use of cash, but it may mean that we've been unable to support all the spending that we'd like or need.

We are pleased to report a balanced finance report for the year. The attention of congregation members is unwavering, and you are to be congratulated for your high level of commitment, particularly at year's end.

Year 2008 is one of promise and renewal. The encouraging results from Consecration Sunday — Stewardship '08 helps us look forward with grand enthusiasm. Watch to see how God will work in our midst.

Steve Cherry

A busy schedule of activities for confirmation class

Fourteen members of the confirmation class began their journey on Jan. 20 and will be received into church membership on May 11, Pentecost Sunday.

Members of the class will be considering the following topics: God, Jesus, worship, the Bible, saints and gifts, ministry, baptism, spiritual life, death and resurrection, life in the church, and the faith journey.

They will also be attending worship at Tindley Temple, visiting historic Old St. George Church, packing food at SHARE in Philadelphia, and attending Confirmation Camp at Gretna Glen. Nancy Atchison and Janelle Larson will be assisting Rev. Ponce in facilitating the class.

Those who have said yes to Christ and are willing to be a part of the confirmation class are Emily Anderson, Jeremy Borelly, Langston Chambers, Andy Cutler, Ben Cutler, Katie Dillon, James Emery, Matthew Hoffman, Emily Miccariello, Andres Montaner, Alex O'Donnell, Zachary Phelps, Roger Toro and Asa Walker.

FROM THE PASTOR

Scouting Ministries Sunday for 2008 will be celebrated on Feb. 10 throughout the United Methodist Church. We are delighted and privileged to be the chartered organization for Troop 181. I thought it would be good for us to hear of the excellent work this troop is doing. I invited Jack Warnock, the Scout Leader, to share some of the highlights. Below are his thoughts and reflections.

Pastor Phil

Plenty of Eagles are flying high at BUMC

Nothing is more exciting than catching a glimpse of a bald eagle soaring nearby on a vacation trip. Fortunately, we read more success stories about how conservation and protection have brought back small populations of these majestic birds to even our own Philadelphia region. Fortunately for us too at BUMC, there has been a growing flock of Eagle Scouts in our midst.

In the last two years alone, Boy Scout Troop 181, which the church sponsors, has had eight young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout: Steve Denisevich, Taylor Arnold, Ryan Donahue, Andrew McCarty, Greg Brown, Matt Warnock, Sean Miller and Vincent Szupica.



When you become aware that only 2 percent of the millions of boys who join the Boy Scouts ever become Eagle Scouts, you realize how specially blessed we are with so many in our house. And there are more Troop 181 Eagle Scouts coming in 2008.

The troop runs its programs throughout the year, giving its scouts lots of opportunities for fun, advancement and adventure – most of it in the outdoors.

Coming up in the calendar are lots of camping trips with great fun like skiing, canoeing and kayaking, hiking, swimming at the beach, and deep-sea fishing. Parents are in the act – they like to have fun, too.

You can check out the troop on its website, <http://www.paoli181.com/Home.aspx>. New kids are always welcome to join the troop. Come on out and become an Eagle.

Book Club will discuss ‘Finn: A Novel’ on Feb. 20

The BUMC Book Club will discuss *Finn: A Novel* by Jon Clinch at its meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the home of the Ponces. John Edinger will be the discussion leader.

Other meetings of the club:

March 19 – *What Is the What* by Dave Eggers; Marge Smink, discussion leader; Ann West, hostess.

April 16 – *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini; Romaine Rood, discussion leader; Claudia Sharpless, hostess.

May 14 – *Call of the Wild* by Jack London; Ann West, discussion leader; Romaine Rood, hostess.

Creating our Vision Statement

By Mike Benton

Chair, Evangelism Committee

During 2007, the Evangelism Committee and other congregation members developed a Vision Statement (in the box on Page 5) that provides a picture of what BUMC will strive to be in the future.

The last time our congregation did strategic planning was in the mid-1990s. At that time, we developed the following Mission Statement:

God calls us to be a community of Christian disciples which:

- Invites persons to follow Jesus Christ
- Nurtures Spiritual growth
- Encourages individuals to use their gifts in service to the church and the world.

Later, we shortened that Mission Statement to make it easier to remember:

God calls Berwyn UMC to be a community of Christian believers that:

- Invites
- Nurtures
- Encourages service.

The new Vision Statement augments – but does not replace – the shortened Mission Statement. Here is why we have two statements:

The *Mission Statement* is what we believe we are here for; it's why we exist. The *Vision Statement* is a compass pointing the direction for achieving our mission.

Mission is static like a noun. *Vision* is dynamic like a verb.

We will use the Vision Statement to ensure that our church programs are moving us in a consistent direction. It is our hope that this Vision Statement resonates with and inspires the members of our congregation.

We are not done. Our next task is to develop specific strategic objectives, long term and short term, that are consistent with the Vision Statement. We will share these objectives with the congregation with the expectation that we can work together to grow a church with vitality and longevity.

To help you understand the planning process, here is some historical background:

In the mid-1990s, in addition to developing a Mission Statement, we developed a strategic plan. These included improving our physical facilities, focusing on arts and music, and enhancing membership caring and outreach. Following that strategic plan, we embarked on significant programs such as the building expansion and renovation, the caring committee, the Stephen Ministry, and integrating fine arts into worship.

Certainly the most challenging and courageous of these programs was the building renovation and expansion. The planning and execution of this took six years, across the terms of two pastors. With the building effort behind us, a beautiful, modern and functional facility at our disposal and with a new pastor who is a good match for our church, we are positioned to enter a new phase. So we need a new strategic plan.

Coincident with our church's reaching this plateau, the bishops of the United Methodist Church at their meeting in the Fall 2005 adopted an initiative for 2005-2008: "Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." One of the programs sponsored by the UMC Board of Global Ministries is the Church Vitality Index (CVI), a starting point building on inherent strengths of a congregation.

—Continued on Page 5

Vision Statement for Berwyn United Methodist Church

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will strive to be a caring and transforming community of faith that embraces sojourners at all points of their journey.

We will provide opportunities to discover and use our gifts to serve Christ.

We will focus on spiritual development and growth.

We will accept a range of theological diversity through a variety of means including multidimensional worship experiences, and diverse opportunities for fellowship, education, sharing and outreach.

We will be advocates for peace and justice.

—Continued from Page 4

The Evangelism Committee has administered the CVI program at Berwyn. CVI consisted of two parts:

- Surveying the congregation to identify our church's strengths. The survey was offered electronically and on paper, and 30 people participated.
- Identifying characteristics that motivate Berwyn. This process was conducted by congregation members who were chairs of committees or held other church leadership positions in 2007.

The two-part process resulted in a report identifying the strengths of our congregation. The report is available here: <http://www.berwynumc.org/other/cvi.shtml>. The strengths of our church were identified as:

Experiential Worship: Meaningful worship services in which a wide variety of people experience the presence of God.

Evaluation System: Variety of worship experiences to provide meaningful worship for various people and the leaders of the congregation regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of worship.

Individual Commitment: Committed to developing one's relationship with God and living faithfully every day.

Care Giving: Worship opportunities that provide comfort, safety, nurturing and renewal, as in healing services, intercession, communion, petition, and commissioning.

Mission and Outreach: Recognition that the movement of God's call within the gathered church to be sent out as the scattered church and seeking God's will, direction, and focus to prioritize their work in the world.

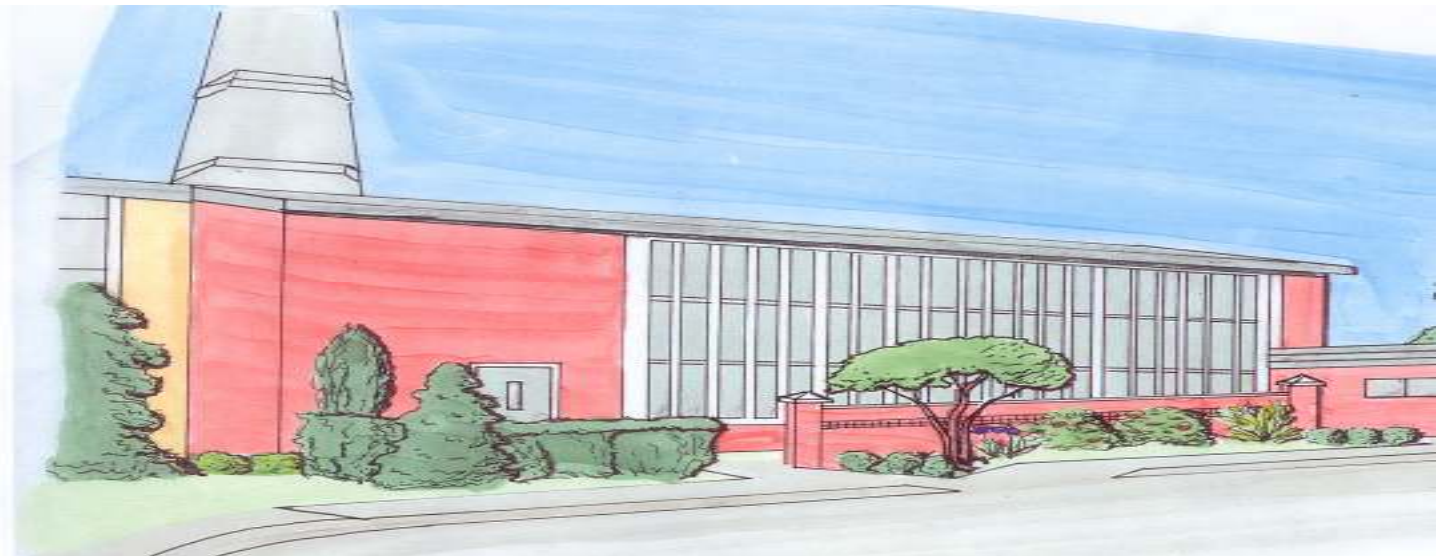
Welcoming/Inviting: Attention to the worship details that forge an overall impression on newcomers: greeting, ushering, the aesthetics of the worship space, accessibility, music, architecture, Christian symbolism, and the layout of the worship experience so that newcomers are comfortably a part of the experience

Visionary Leadership: Leaders help people understand God's vision for people who worship. The pastor and other leaders talk about the vision of a community that worships and lives a spiritual life together.

Our group spent an evening discussing each of these focus areas. We explored their meaning to each of us at a personal level, reaching into ourselves to identify the deep spiritual needs we have that are satisfied by our experience at Berwyn. From these discussions we developed a series of positioning statements describing what makes Berwyn unique, and why others might want to join us on a journey into the future. Each of those positioning statements became a line on the new Vision Statement that you see in the box.

Members who have been participating in the strategic planning include Amy Dwyer, Ann West, Barbara Emery, Keith Emery, Karis Poncé, Brian Donadio, Cindy Shallcross, Claudia González, Janelle Larson, Jim Tiede, Joy Fuerst, Jan Polaski, Linda Peterson, Luisa Merino, Marge Smink, Nancy Atchison, Phil Poncé and myself.

As the planning continues, the process is open to anyone. If you will let me know that you are interested in joining, I will include you in meeting invitations and the distributions of work-in-progress reports.



Questions and answers about the Memorial Garden

Perhaps the first question is “What is a columbarium?” The dictionary describes it as “a vault with niches to contain the ashes of cremated bodies.” In recent years, more and more churches have installed columbariums as a way to honor the remains of those who have passed on. What better place than in the church to place these remains? It is there where we are baptized, it is there where we give our life to Christ. What better witness than to have our remains placed in this sacred space?

The number of Christians who are being cremated, rather than buried, is increasing. A question often asked is “What does one do with the cremated remains of loved ones?” Fortunately, there is a dignified way that is consistent with Christian tradition.

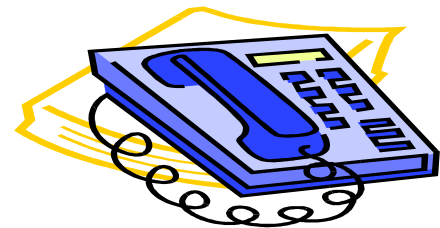
Another advantage of cremation is cost. The cost of a typical burial is \$9,000 with prices escalating yearly. The pre-construction cost of a niche at BUMC for two people is \$2,000.

The planned location for the BUMC Memorial Garden is pictured above. This location along the north side of the Sanctuary meets all requirements – handicapped access, low maintenance, and ease of access for committal services. Members of the Memorial Garden Committee will be in the narthex after church services to answer your questions. On the church website, you can access the January issue of *The Lighted Cross*, which contains a detailed article about the Memorial Garden.

Nancy Atchison



Lighted Cross
Deadline:
Feb. 17



The next issue of *The Lighted Cross* will be published on March 1. If you would like to contribute something to the next issue, please e-mail your article to Gene Foreman at **gene.foreman@verizon.net**

by Feb. 17. The preferred delivery method is an attachment in Microsoft Word. There is a mailbox in the church office for *Lighted Cross* articles as well.

Church Phone:

610-644-5555

Office E-mail:

officebumc@comcast.net

Church website:

www.berwynumc.org

MISSION MEMO

How we can help others achieve a better life

Berwyn United Methodist Church has been working with St. Thomas Villanova in its support of Interfaith Hospitality Network for more than 10 years.

Members of the ETC Class brought the organization to the attention of the Mission Committee, and we interviewed the coordinator. Since that time we have provided lots of volunteer hours, food, good company, and prayers for people who are working hard to achieve a better life for themselves and their families. Many of you have been involved in this good work. Recent workers include Amy and Jim Dwyer, Pam Smith, Jan Polasky, Claudia Sharpless, Emily Miccariello, Claudia Genuardi, Ruth Frey, Sue Farina, Romaine Rood, Debbie and Jason Nemetz, Gail, Scott, and Leah Campbell, and Betsy and Joe Newman.

At first, our volunteers who spent the night slept on a lumpy couch. Today, comfortable beds located in a large room are available. The families have their own private rooms upstairs. And their bathroom has been updated, providing a shower. I have only recently been part of this mission, and I am very excited to see how many of the single moms who are part of this program are succeeding.

Recent graduates of the program include:

Sheri, mother of two teenagers and a 9-year-old, who worked two jobs during her time at IHN so that her family could qualify for the Habitat for Humanities home they moved into on Dec. 15.

Donna, who has worked in the office of IHN for a while and has two boys, Frank and Tony, who are middle school students, and a daughter, 3.

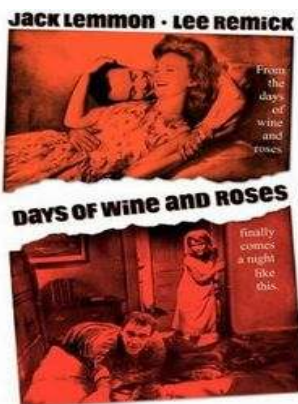
Khalila, who has three daughters, Princess Amiyah, 3, Aliyah, 1, and a baby, Aaliyahn, 3 months. Khalila began attending dental hygienist school in Bryn Mawr this month and moved into an apartment in Montgomery County.

Dorothy, mother of Joshua, 1, who landed a work-study job in the interior design department at college.

Our next assignment will be Monday, March 3. That is earlier than usual, because Beth David Synagogue kindly switched weeks with St. Thomas so that we would not have guests during Holy Week.

Other exciting mission news: There will be a Valentine Cookie Sale in support of the Chumpitaz family on Feb. 10. We're looking for lots of bakers to make cookies for us. Eliza will be decorating the bags. We will also sell cupcakes if you'd like to make them. Mission Committee members will be calling to ask for your baked donations.

Betsy Newman



Feb. 9: The next movie to make you think

The next film in our "Movie That Makes You Think" series is *Days of Wine and Roses*, to be shown at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, in the Sanctuary.

The 1962 film stars Jack Lemmon, Lee Remick, Charles Bickford and Jack Klugman. The Academy Award-winning film tells how two seemingly normal Americans succumb to alcoholism and how they deal with their problem. DART will lead a discussion after the movie.

On March 8, the film will be *Freedom Writers*, and the discussion will focus on education reform.

Lending a Hand

Liturgists

Feb. 3

John Paylor

Feb. 10

Boy Scouts

Feb 17

Betsy Lang

Feb. 24

DART

Ushers

Feb. 3

Larry Dodds
Tom O'Donnell
Don Kirkland

Feb. 10

Dick Sharpless
Pat Anderson
Ted Jex

Story Time

Volunteers

Feb. 3

Holly Dillon

Feb. 10

Wendy Wolov

Feb. 17

Beth DePenna

Feb. 24

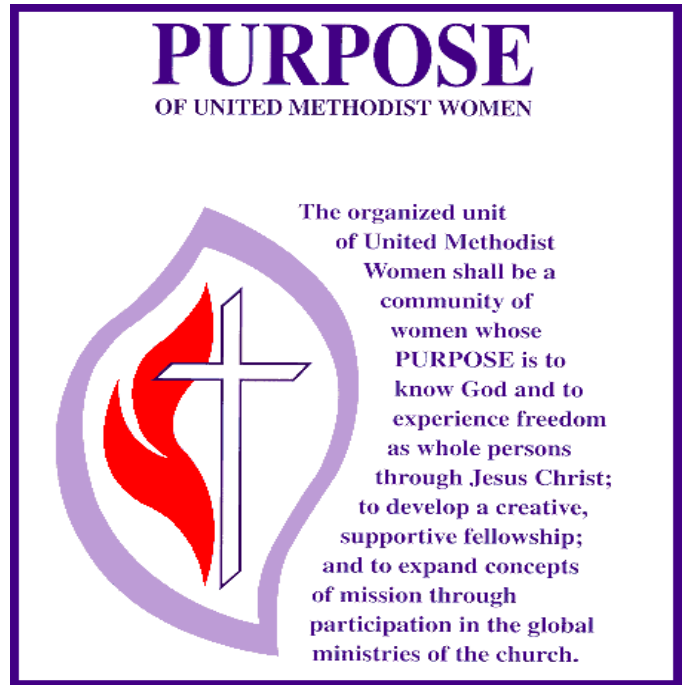
Brenda Hoffman

Feb. 17

Bob Niles
Al Froy
Holly Dillon
Gene Williams

Feb. 24

Brian Dunn
Vic Burriss
Luis Montaner
Rachel Burriss



Lydia Circle continues

Israel/Palestine study

Lydia Circle (United Methodist Women) will meet in the parlor at 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3. We will make sure we are finished by 7:30.

We will continue our study of Israel/Palestine. Nancy Atchison is going to tell us about her trip to Israel.

We'd love to have you join us! Questions? Contact Amy Dwyer, 610-789-8118 or perthenia@mac.com.

Card of thanks

My sincere thanks to all for the many visits, calls, cards, food and good wishes. My shoulder replacement is a success!

The prayer shawl has been very comforting, and I am thankful to all who take part in this ministry,

Doris Krug

What's going on at Berwyn United Methodist Church

Men's Group: The Men's Group will meet at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, for breakfast and to hear the second in a series of four speakers on the subject of "Faith With Reason, Reason With Faith." The series encourages dialogue between the Faith Community and the Scientific Community. The speaker on Feb. 9 is the Rev. Frank Pennington, pastor of the United Church of Christ at Valley Forge. Subsequent speakers in the series will be Dr. Peter Dodson, professor of anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, March 8, and Benjamin Tiede, candidate for a Ph.D. in molecular biology at Princeton University, April 12. Al Froy, leader of the Men's Group, invites anyone interested to come for good food for both the body and the soul.

Nursery School: January started out as a slower month than our very busy December. The children were more than ready to get back into their routine and meet up with all their friends again. Several classes will be crossing the field to visit the Easttown Library for some special story time. Our 5-Day classes will also have a visit from the Yello Dino program and learn about Good Touch/Bad Touch and Tricky Strangers.

The school is beginning to look like a snowy winter day as the children work on their cold-weather projects. The children are ready for snow, while the adults are hoping to contain the snow to the bulletin boards in the rooms. We have had some extra time outside for play, and that has been a big plus for the children. We all know that when the colder weather does arrive, the energy builds up within these little ones. Our playground is the perfect place to get some of that energy released!

Soupy Thursdays: Here are the soups for February's Soupy Thursdays: Feb. 7 — cream of broccoli; Feb. 14 — tortellini; Feb. 21 — clam chowder; Feb. 28 — chili. Takeouts are available from 5 to 7 p.m. for \$5 a quart. Or you can eat in from 6 to 7:15 p.m. for \$3 a person. Remember to let Rick Stoker know if you schedule a meeting for soup night, so that a table can be set up for you.

Edinger honored: John Edinger was honored by the American Society of Civil Engineers with the 2007 Stephen D. Bechtel Jr. Energy Award in recognition of his "career contributions to the energy industry, spanning academia, engineering practice and professional service, and in particular, for contributions to the area of waterbody dynamics." Dr. Edinger's research into limnology and the thermal aspects of water body dynamics is widely respected, and he was the primary developer of a three-dimensional hydrodynamic water-quality model used by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Leader needed: We are still looking for someone who would be interested in heading up this year's Ladies/Girls Tea Party on Saturday, April 26. If you are interested or if you know of someone who you think might be interested, please let Sue Farina know as soon as possible.

Fall Festival, Oct. 11: Berwyn United Methodist Church, along with the Easttown Library, Surrey Services and Trinity Presbyterian Church, will have sales on that date to support a variety of funds. You can support our church through your donations, helping to set up and price, working the day of the sale, or coming with a friend or the family that day to purchase or have lunch.

Flower Show: We are planning a trip together on Friday, March 7. Meet at the Berwyn train station by 9:30 a.m. to take the 9:34 train. We have 12 tickets reserved for the 3:45 Afternoon Tea. The tickets are \$28 each. These tickets will be sold first come, first served. See Nancy Atchison to reserve and pay for your tickets.

Trip postponed: We have decided to postpone the trip to Italy that was tentatively planned for October 2008. We now intend to go in April 2009, shortly after Easter, which falls on April 16 in 2009. The trip will be about 13 days and will cost about \$4,200 per person for roundtrip air, transfers, hotel, many meals, and lots of sightseeing. We will see Rome, the Amalfi coast, and Sicily. If you are interested, please let Rick Stoker know so that he can get an idea of how many places to reserve. Watch *The Lighted Cross* in the spring for exact dates and prices.