



January 2010

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross



Creating BUMC's baby quilt for Operation Healing Hope

Our Lydia Circle-sponsored Bible Study involved 14 women during Advent. As we gathered in various homes, Biblical themes of healing, pregnancy and childbirth were interwoven with stories of African women who suffer from obstetric fistula. This birth injury, related to obstructed labor and lack of medical care, is now being addressed through the United Methodist Board of Church and Society's Operation Healing Hope project.

The outcome of our time together was not only great fellowship but also a beautiful baby quilt, crafted to be sent to Camphor United Methodist Mission in Tubmanville, Liberia. Our quilt, along with several dozen others, will be given to the Traditional Birthing Assistants Association of local midwives to give to mothers and newborns.

Our quilt will be on display at church during January. The picture above shows us laying out the quilt squares. Please take a look at the finished piece!

We're also happy to report that our donation of nearly \$400 was given to Dr. Mark Morgan, our guest speaker in November, who purchased supplies for the surgeries he performed while in Eritrea, Africa, during two weeks in December.

Dr. Morgan operated on 25 women with obstetric fistula and reports they are doing well. He is grateful for our church's support and will be sending pictures of his trip soon that we will post on the church website. Thanks to everyone who took part in this special mission project.

Carol Cherry

VOICES FROM THE FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Reflections on a six-year term as committee chair

Calendar beginnings and ends are arbitrary. The swing of the seasons and cycle of the planets are not. There is great order in all this. But what is good about the idea of a *new* year is that it reminds one of the opportunity to do things differently. We are not doomed to a “Groundhog Day” style repeat of the same thing over and over. God is to be thanked for this, since the alternative is deadly.

To renew means to make new again. Almost redundant, really. Bold to the extent that we can expect, hope and pray for renewal ... being made new again. We were once brand new. We can become new again. Requires growth, though.

I’ve come to the end of a six-year term as chair of the BUMC Finance/Stewardship Committee. I am so thankful for the chance to serve, and it has been fabulous to share time and space with very talented and dedicated people who have paid close attention to the financial stewardship of the mission and program of the congregation.

However, it has been bittersweet to preside over the most difficult budget process I’ve ever experienced. The trajectory we’ve watched has been decreased regular contributions through the year. The trend has been happening for several years.

Sometimes, a painful challenge of this sort is nothing more than a call to renewal. Re-new. Make things new. Rethink church (this is actually a national United Methodist re-branding effort that encourages us to think about how to be in ministry in the electronic age). Re-think Berwyn UMC. What about Berwyn UMC as a congregation is needed in the community and world? How can we change our outreach? Who can be invited into the fellowship to join the journey? What new forms of ministry and mission for Christ should be accomplished here?

I am deeply pleased that the committee is in the hands of the very able Jim Tiede and that Brian Walker will be handling treasurer duties. Furthermore, we know that God will do great things. I’m confident that the people of the congregation will do great things, perhaps greater even that what has been done in the past. This will be BUMC’s renewal.

Steven Cherry

Ready for some soup? Visit Schieck Hall on Thursdays

Soupy Thursday resumes on Jan. 7.

Takeouts are available from 5 to 7 p.m. each Thursday in January. Soup is \$5 a quart and bread is \$3 a loaf.

If you would like to eat at Schieck Hall, the price is \$3 a person. Soup is available from 6 to 7 p.m. The price also includes bread and dessert. Why not come and share a time of fellowship with your church friends?

Jan. 7 – Lentil soup.

Jan. 14 – Cauliflower cheese.

Jan. 21 – Chicken tortilla.

Jan 28 – Vegetable.

FROM THE PASTOR

New Year: A time of renewal and commitment

AS A BOY growing up in Honduras, one of the things I looked forward to every first Sunday of the New Year was the Wesley Covenant Service. It was a time of renewal and commitment and a reminder that I had a relationship with the Lord that I intentionally renewed annually.

The covenant prayer was not an easy prayer to pray. As a matter of fact, it was this prayer that caused dis-ease among many to the extent that they did not attend the service or refused to pray when the time came in the service to say this prayer.

John Wesley began to encourage Methodists to do the Covenant Service in 1747, but it was not until Aug. 11, 1755, that he held a Covenant Service in the French Church of Spitalfields.

The words he gave us then and the words that have been used during the centuries are: "I am no longer my own, but Thine. Put me to what Thou wilt, rank me with whom Thou wilt, put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for Thee or laid aside for Thee, exalted for Thee or brought low for Thee; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to Thy pleasure and disposal. And now, o glorious and blessed God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, Thou art mine and I am Thine. So be it. And the Covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

These are not easy words to pray, and you can no doubt see why some were reluctant to pray them.

I was blessed each year as I renewed my commitment to God to spend and be spent and to affirm that God was my portion for evermore and that I was God's child. I saw this prayer as an expression of my love and devotion to God, believing that it was God who first loved me and gave Himself sacrificially on my behalf. For it is the love of God and the love we have for God that sustains us and enables us to "run the race that is set before us."

I delighted in praying this prayer, because it prompted me to embrace the ministry/work that God has assigned to me. I don't do it because I want to do it, but for the love of God that prompts me to be so engaged.

In the preamble to the prayer, the pastor says these words: "This taking of His yoke upon us means that we are heartily content that He appoint us our place and work, and that He alone be our reward. Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult, some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclination and temporal interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves, in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is assuredly given us in Christ who strengthens us."

As we come to the beginning of a New Year in what ways are we going to renew our commitment to God? What forms will the expression of our love for God take? How are we going to embrace wholeheartedly the work that God has assigned to us? Renewing our covenant with God is a blessed and wonderful spiritual experience. May we be intentional at the beginning of this year so to do.

My family and I wish you a Happy New Year!

Pastor Phil



The Church & Society task force raised \$175 for the Bread for the World program in a fair-trade shopping night at Main Street Exton on Saturday night, Dec. 12. The photo shows two musicians who entertained our shoppers with Fair Trade Carols: Michelle Woods (left) and her friend, Anastasia Bannikova from Kazakhstan. The task force now is considering ways to raise \$325 more for Bread of the World.

Fall Festival and Flea Market revenue totals \$7,600

The 2009 Fall Festival and Flea Market is behind us. It was another wonderful day in the life of the church. The gathering of our gifts and the gifts of ourselves filled Schieck Hall with light on a day that the weather was dreary. When the day was over, we had raised \$7,600 for our church.

As we prepared to present our recommendations for the distribution of our proceeds prior to the December meeting of the Administrative Board, the gravity of the church's financial situation was foremost in our minds. With little hesitation, we offered the "gift" of the Fall Festival revenue to the General Fund to support our basic church needs, after allocating 10% for local missions and a smaller amount to buy a few desperately needed tables for Schieck Hall.

We hope that the financial problems of our church are rectified soon, but in the interim we thought this was the right thing to do.

We thank all who worked so hard on the festival and all who came to support it. Mark your calendars for our next Fall Festival: Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010. And start saving your attic treasures.

Janet Campbell

PARENTS ARE INVITED

Four open-forum sessions with an expert

A. Michael Blanche, licensed social worker who specializes in addiction treatment, will conduct four monthly open-forum sessions for parents in Schieck Hall beginning Jan. 26. The program is sponsored by the church's Drug and Alcohol Referral Team (DART) and the E Chelsea Campbell Memorial Foundation.

The forums will begin at 7 and end at 8:30 on the last Tuesday night of January, February, March and April. All parents currently raising children are invited.

The schedule and discussion topics are:

Jan. 26: Healthy communication.

Feb. 23, Setting boundaries.

March 23: Technology/Internet, including cell phones, texting and social networks.

April 27: Dealing with transition.

For more than 11 years, Mike Blanche has provided clinical counseling for those who are diagnosed with both addiction and another psychological disorder. He is experienced in treatment options available for adults and adolescents who have these dual diagnoses.

Mike has a bachelor's degree in human services from Villanova University and a master's degree in social services from Bryn Mawr College. He provides counseling at Bryn Mawr College, West Chester University, and the Caron Foundation.

Donations needed for mission team to Mexico

The church's mission team is collecting supplies for its trip to Cozumel, Mexico, from Jan. 16 to Jan. 30 to build an all-purpose building for Christian education, after-school programs, and vocational training.

One of the projects is to sew curtains for a church, quilts, and children's clothes. The following items are needed:

- School kits (2 spiral notebooks, 1 ruler, 4 pencils, 1 box of colored pencils, 1 eraser, 1 pencil sharpener, all in a large Ziploc bag).
- Crafts for children, toiletries, tooth brushes and toothpaste.
- Fabric for sewing (also thread, zippers, scissors, needles, pins, elastic, etc.).

Your donations are welcome. There will be a box available in the narthex marked Cozumel Mission. If you have questions, see Nancy Atchison

Those making the trip are Jeff Barger, Dick Rood, Brian Walker, Rick Stoker, Steve Stoker (Rick's brother), Claudia Sharpless, Nancy Atchison, Carol Shaw (Nancy's friend), and Pastor Phil.

MISSIONS MEMO

Your generous gifts are bringing holiday cheer

Thank you for your wonderful response to our Thanksgiving Offering request. We sent \$487 to each of three missions:

- React, coordinated by Mabel Purcell, which works in Tredyffrin-Easttown with the police and the local ministerium to provide food monthly to about 130 families.
- Cookson Hills Mission, where missionary Meri Whitaker serves the native American population in the poorest county in Oklahoma.
- The Youth Empowerment Centre in Nyeri, Kenya, where Paul Kaina, a friend of Janelle Larson, is director. They work to provide life skills to children who otherwise would live on the street.

We delivered Christmas items to three Methodist organizations: the Methodist Home for Children, United Methodist Neighborhood Services, and Mount Zion United Methodist Church on North Eleventh Street.

Nancy Atchison and I went to the Children's Home with a car chock full of toys, games, electronic items and gift cards for mothers. We saw an unbelievable outpouring of gifts collected by us and other churches to provide Christmas for children and families they serve.

I delivered hats, scarves and mittens to Dr. Mary White. She sells these items to families who have very little income, providing them with gifts and also raising some money needed to keep the mission in the black.

We also delivered a carload of toys and other gifts for children and adults living in shelters. These items were collected by the BUMC Nursery School and our Sunday School students. Each year Mount Zion hosts a Christmas party for people in its neighborhood who live in shelters.

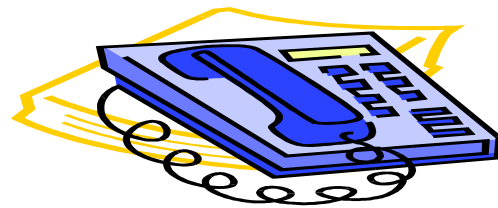
I can't tell you how much your generosity means to all the people you have helped, but I do know that the people who work to provide services to them are very thankful. They can't quite believe what comes out of the trunk when we unloaded the cars. Thank you for everything you donated.

Betsy Newman

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: Jan. 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 Feb. 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.



Church Phone:
610-644-5555

Office E-mail:
officebumc@comcast.net

Church Website:
www.berwynumc.org

Parents' Morning Out

The Evangelism and Nurture Committee is sponsoring "Parents' Morning Out," a new fellowship gathering for parents of young children. Two events have been held, one each in November and December. Childcare has been provided by a great group of volunteers, allowing parents to have time together.

Our goals are to build a sense of community within the church and to provide an opportunity for spiritual growth.

The participants have met on Saturday mornings for breakfast and fellowship. Afterward the parents have a few hours to run errands, schedule appointments, and catch their breath after a busy week, while the kids have fun at church until noon.

The Evangelism and Nurture Committee thinks these events provide both a practical and spiritual solution to the busy schedules faced by families in the church. If you are interested in joining this group or being a childcare volunteer, contact Joy Fuerst.

You can join the ministry of prayer

Do you believe in intercessory prayer? Have you ever felt that someone was praying for you?

Berwyn United Methodist Church offers you the opportunity to participate in a wonderful ministry of prayer. All you have to do to become part of this ministry is contact Ann West at 610-687-0222 or Ruth Rumiano, 610-647-5264.

Prayer requests are sent both electronically and by telephone. More than 20 people are already part of this chain who pray for cares and concerns and for joys and thanksgiving. More than 100 calls for prayer have been passed along this chain during the past year.

Won't you join us? What a wonderful way to start the New Year!

Report from the youth coordinator

First, I want to thank everyone for receiving me so graciously. Though I'm still new to my position as youth coordinator, your support and encouragement have eased the transition.

We've already seen an increase in attendance in both Sunday School and evening Youth Group. I've spent most of my time getting to know the guys and girls, what they like to do, playing (lots of!) games, and having group discussions on topics ranging from "Who We Are in Christ" to "What Is the Purpose of Going to Church Anyway?"

Since we know that spiritual growth often comes through mentoring, I plan to offer individualized mentoring sessions to allow youth to discuss the pressures that they face today. I also have found that parents sometimes ask to meet to discuss how to cultivate their youth's development and spiritual growth. Thus I am opening up time on Sunday afternoons for that purpose. From 1 to 2 p.m. I will be available to meet with youth, and from 2 to 3 p.m. I will be available to meet with parents.

Volunteers continue to be welcome in our Youth Program.

Chris Padot

LENDING A HAND

Worship Assistants

January 3

Acolyte: Harold Craig

Liturgist: John Edinger

Ushers: Mike Benton, Ed Denisevicz,
Molly Denisevicz, Chuck Parvin

Coffee Committee: Sue Denisevicz,
Gina Phelps, Kate Walker

Flower Arranger: Kay

January 10

Acolyte: Victoria Phelps

Liturgist: Gina Phelps

Ushers: Gene Foreman, Jim Spofford,
Doug Fuerst, Scott West

Coffee Committee: Betsy Newman,
Mike Benton, Romaine Rood

Flower Arranger: Claudia Sharpless

January 17

Acolyte: Sarah West

Liturgist: Boy Scouts

Ushers: Claudia Sharpless, Ben Cutler,
Eloise Levitt, Scott Phelps

Coffee Committee: Jamile Toro,
Claudia Gonzalez, Anne and Phil Poncé

Flower Arranger: Sarah Polasky

January 24

Acolyte: Katie Deflavia

Liturgist: John Ku

Ushers: Judy Fisk, Jeremy Borelly,
Alan Hess, Tyler Borelly

Coffee Committee: Cynthia Bushnell,
Jan Polasky, Kelley and Moses Hogan

Flower Arranger: Jan Polasky

January 31

Liturgist: Patti Littlewood

Ushers: Jim Tiede, David Surine,
Kelly Hogan

Flower Arranger: Kay

Thursday Helpers

Jan. 7: Pat White

Jan. 14: Sue Farina

Jan. 21: Barbara Borst

Jan. 28: Sue Farina

Friday Helpers

Dec. 31: Peh-sun and Hui-chen Ku

Jan. 8: Betsy Newman

Jan. 15: May Dickenson

Jan. 22: Barbara Borst

Jan. 29: Peggy Robinson

The Nursery School awaits pupils' return

When school reopens in January, there are many reactions. The mothers are ready for school to start, the children are ready for some structure, and the teachers are ready to start the last part of the year.

We all watch in amazement as the children who have been more reluctant to learn, suddenly take a new interest in their classes and the Game Room. Music picks up also as the children use the confidence they acquired putting on the Christmas Show to standing-room-only crowds.

We choose to have American Education Week in January rather than November. The children are more ready to have their parents visit for an hour. We simply call it Parent Visitation, and it is a very successful week.

We have a story teller and a dentist coming to BUMNS in the next few weeks. Also scheduled are more outreach programs to change the curriculum during the winter months.

Ann Bole

Card of Thanks

We would like to thank everyone for keeping our little Rayna in your thoughts and prayers. We felt the doctors were guided not only by their expertise but by the prayers sent above by all of you. We are truly blessed to have been able go to such an excellent pediatric hospital. We are also blessed to be a part of a loving and caring congregation.

Throughout our days at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, although scary, we had a sense of "everything will be OK" because God and everyone we know was lifting us and supporting us. Thank you for your continued well wishes. Rayna is just about back to herself, and for this we are blessed!

Sincerely,

Brett and Cindy Shallcross

(Mark and Rayna, too)

What's happening at Berwyn United Methodist

Excursion to Washington: The Adult Council and the ETC Adult Sunday Class are planning an excursion on Saturday, Feb. 6, to the Native American Museum in Washington. This all-day trip is open to everyone. There may be a small charge to cover the bus rental. If you are interested in going, please contact Paul Polasky at papolasky@yahoo.com or call 610-341-9151 and leave a message, including how to contact you.

Potluck Supper: The Adult Supper Clubs will have a combined Potluck Supper in Schieck Hall, starting at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13.

Undecorating: Thanks to all the folks who gathered to decorate the church for Christmas. They did a beautiful job for all of us to appreciate, and had fun doing it, eating pizza and singing carols after the work was done. We now invite volunteers on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. to help undecorate and put away the tree and trimmings. Everyone is welcome; the more hands, the quicker it will go.

Human Relations Day: Sunday, Jan. 17, is Human Relations Day, one of the six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of the United Methodist Church. Human Relations Day is celebrated on the Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Men's Fellowship: The agenda at 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, will be a business meeting to decide the direction and program for the rest of the year and into the future. All men of the church are encouraged to come and enjoy a pleasant breakfast and good company. If you have a special request for a breakfast dish, contact Paul Polasky, chair.

United Methodist Women. Lydia Circle will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10, for a light supper in the Parlor. We will hear from Janelle Larson about her work in Kenya. We will also have a short pledge service for 2010. The new Spanish Circle will meet at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15, at Luisa Merino's house, 108 Ivy Court, Upper Darby.

Book Club. The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13. Betsy Lang will host the group, and Sally Robie will lead the discussion of "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck.

TROOP 181

Boy Scouts heading for Ricketts Glen to hike frozen falls

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

In December, we camped at Camp Ware in Chester County, where our boys had great fun at the rifle range, hiking and performing the chores critical to winter camping, such as splitting wood and cooking. In January, we will be ice hiking the frozen water falls at the Ricketts Glen State Park, using crampons.

We also have a morning of service to BUMC. On Wednesday morning, Dec. 30, the troop was scheduled to give back to our sponsoring organization by performing small repairs and maintenance on church buildings.

Our troop is Scout led with the support of dedicated adult leaders. We get the best out of scouting while fostering a relaxed and friendly troop environment. Please check us out on paoli181.com, where you can find up-to-date information including our calendar of activities, monthly newsletters and contact information.