



January 2011

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross



A tree grows at Berwyn UMC

It is with much love and memories of so many people that a tree is now branching out on the sky blue wall outside the Library.

Janet Campbell proposed and designed the tree to display the names of people we have remembered with memorial gifts to the church over the years.

Approval for the tree was given by the Trustees Committee, the Memorial and Evangelism Committee, and the Administrative Board. On the last Saturday of October, the planting took place, and Janet and Sue Denisevicz were encouraging the growth of the huge tree with paintbrushes and color.

The tree has grown to include about 30 engraved leaves.

Now we are striving to acknowledge all of the people for whom the memorial money has been given. The names will soon be written in a journal that will be placed on a table in the shadow of the tree.

With help from Pat White, Rosalie Hart, Jack Campbell, Roger Toro, and Veronica Mosley, the tree is spreading its leafy boughs. Our intention is to identify all the memorial gifts and not miss anyone. It may take some time, but each memory is special. Please bear with us; it takes time for a tree to grow.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The church's approved budget for 2011

This year we had what the Finance Committee views as a very successful Stewardship Campaign. Seventy-seven individuals/families made a pledge this year, which is up from 65 pledges the previous year. Many thanks to everyone who participated in this year's campaign. The Finance Committee greatly appreciates the pledges that have been made, since this makes our planning process go much more smoothly. If you have not yet made your pledge for 2011, there is still plenty of time to do so.

Below is a table summarizing the 2011 budget proposal that has been recommended by Finance Committee and approved by the Administrative Board. While the proposed budget is a deficit budget (projected expenses exceed projected income), it is important to note that we currently have a \$70,000 cash reserve that can be used to offset this potential deficit. In addition, it is also important to note that in each of the past two years, the budget that was approved represented a deficit budget, but by the end of the year, sufficient income had been generated to address the budget shortfall. Based on this past experience, Finance Committee is confident in presenting this budget for the 2011 calendar year.

Notes:

1. Our mortgage payment is indeed decreasing in 2011! Per our mortgage contract, interest rates are re-set every five years. Our rate for the next five years will be approximately 5%, compared to the 6% that it has been for the previous five years. Hence the decrease in mortgage expense.
2. The increase in the Committees budget reflects a request for funding to support the presentation of the Alpha Course, which consists of a series of talks addressing key issues relating to the Christian faith.
3. The increase in the Youth budget is to provide support for a community-wide Christian-based concert to be sponsored by BUMC if alternative fundraising efforts are not successful.

Feel free to contact me or any member of Finance Committee (Sally Bridwell, Brian Dunn, Bob Fisk, Judy Fisk, Rosalie Hart, Janelle Larson, John Paylor, Brian Walker, Jean West) if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Tiede on behalf of the Finance Committee

Berwyn UMC Preliminary 2011 Budget					
	2011 Draft Budget	Estimated 2010 Actual	2010 Budget	2009 Actual	2009 Budget
Total Income	\$440,880	\$450,897	\$386,220	\$462,277	\$413,020
Administration	\$52,224	\$47,531	\$43,188	\$47,964	\$48,005
Committees	\$2,650	\$320	\$350	\$657	\$550
Communications	\$2,800	\$2,175	\$2,200	\$3,902	\$3,200
Connectional Ministries	\$43,566	\$33,760	\$33,760	\$40,372	\$40,375
Education	\$4,050	\$3,032	\$3,600	\$4,029	\$6,850
Facilities Operations	\$105,060	\$110,070	\$96,524	\$113,589	\$100,585
Local Ministries	\$156,874	\$142,202	\$129,941	\$140,474	\$139,185
Membership/ Congregational Care	\$900	\$342	\$200	\$857	\$900
Mortgage Expense	\$63,600	\$69,966	\$70,000	\$69,966	\$70,000
Music	\$29,894	\$26,748	\$23,630	\$27,702	\$29,555
Worship	\$3,570	\$3,180	\$1,950	\$3,159	\$3,350
Youth	\$6,360	\$1,028	\$600	\$1,430	\$2,000
Total Expenses	\$471,548	\$440,352	\$405,943	\$454,101	\$444,555
Net Income	\$ (30,668)	\$10,546	\$ (19,723)	\$8,176	\$ (31,535)

PASTOR'S WORD

We can do great things in the New Year

Happy New Year!

God has surely blessed us in the year that has passed. On a personal level we have been strong and well enough to see another year dawn. As a church we have been blessed by God through the generosity and faithfulness of each and every one of you. As we approach this New Year, I am filled with joy and thanksgiving that I will continue this journey in the Lord with you for another year. I am filled with anticipation as to what the Lord has in store for us as a church.

One of the hymns I sang as a youth had these lyrics as the closing verse: " 'Tis Jesus, the first and the last, whose Spirit shall guide us safe home; we'll praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come." This trust in the Jesus we adore will enable us to do great things to his glory and honor.

One of the things that shall excite us is the vision we have cast to be a growing and dynamic church. The vision we have in accomplishing this will entail each and every one of us being involved in disciple making.

The Administrative Board and the various work areas have bought into the mission of increasing disciples here at Berwyn UMC by ten percent, which will equal forty new members.

So we may ask, "How we are going to do this?" We are planning to offer some training in equipping us in this task. Hopefully that information will be out to you very soon.

Others may ask, "Is this really possible?" If each and every one of us accepts that this is the work God calls us to do, then it is possible, and God gives us the strength to do so. At the Faith Temple church, the one my brother pastors in Avondale, La., the membership grows on an annual basis through the disciple-making efforts of the members. A Saturday evening worship service was recently introduced, and the attendance at this service is now surpassing that at the Sunday services. The reason for the growth is due to the commitment, dedication and efforts of the members who see it as their God-given task to grow their church for the honor and glory of God.

The other exciting aspect of this year will be the commitment of the various work areas as to what their focus out of the Strategic Plan will be for this year.

- The Adult Council will be focusing on reaching out to community organizations;
- The Children's Council will stimulate interest and encourage growth in the Sunday School program;
- Communications will be considering new-media opportunities;
- DART will partner with the youth in trying to get more youth involvement;
- Evangelism will emphasize the "invite a friend" program;
- Finance will provide funding for an additional part-time staff position that would support an alternative worship service;
- Membership and Congregational Care will strengthen the caring ministries;
- The Men's Fellowship will partner with the Trustees in getting work done around the church;
- The Mission Committee will strengthen selected current programs;
- The Trustees will take a more preventative approach in the upkeep of our facility;
- Worship Committee will establish a creative team and begin introducing elements of a blended worship;
- And the Leadership Team will develop an equipping church model through an emphasis on training.

God has much for us to do and has given us the grace to be co-workers and co-partners in a great ministry to our community and the world. Let us proceed with confidence in all the tasks we have undertaken, and let us do all we can in the implementation process of these strategic emphases.

May God bless you and yours during the course of this year and into our future journey with God.

Pastor Phil



Renovating the wall to remove a hazard

On Saturday, Dec. 11, the Men's Fellowship took three feet off the top of the retaining wall along the Schieck Hall sidewalk. This renovation was necessary for safety reasons, to help eliminate water ponding and icing outside the kitchen entrance door and to facilitate snow removal. After the demolition, the men cleaned up the debris and put a smooth new top on the lowered wall.

The day started at 8 with a delicious burrito breakfast prepared by Jan Polasky and Claudia Sharpless. Then the 13 men went to work. They were on the job from about 8:30 until 3, with Jan providing a pizza lunch for those who were still there.

Thanks go to the ladies for the food and to the following men for all their diligent, hard work: Scott Campbell, Roger Toro, Brian Walker, Asa Walker, Dick Rood, Dick Sharpless, Len Dickenson, Steve Cherry, Moses Hogan, Bob Borst, Bob Fisk, John Paylor and Paul Polasky.



The Parent Sessions

Free and open to the public

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Berwyn United Methodist Church

Mission of the event: A Framework for Support in Raising Children

The sessions will present a theoretical framework with practical interventions that will reinforce what has been working within your home along with providing innovative options. Every house has its challenges. By hearing from other parents and learning from professionals, you can develop a healthy perspective and confidence in your parenting skills.

Jan. 26 Effective Communication and Boundary Setting with your children. Communicating with children can be a challenge for any parent. Do you ever feel cut off? Have your conversations become one-sided? What are the “do’s” and “don’t’s”? How do you deal with disrespectful attitudes? This topic will combine theoretical perspective and practical interventions. Hear from other parents as well as professionals as to what has worked and why.

Feb. 23 Technology and the Internet impact greatly the culture in which we live today. Hear about the complexities in managing this new avenue of influence. How do we define terms? What is cyber bullying? How do you deal with impulsivity of the texting generation and the general desensitizing of language? Is communication technology making our kids stupider?

March 23 Transitions from the home into life. How do you define responsible behavior, establish limits, and impose consequences while trying to maintain healthy family relationships? How do you clarify your relationship with your adult children, especially those who want to move home again?

April 27 Impulsivity and Anger can be the fuel that drives many of our children’s decision making. What is the straight talk between developmental, typical challenges and ADHD? What lies under the anger? How do we get underneath the anger to treat the potential depression or anxiety? How can parents deal with their own anger or frustrations?

About the Facilitator

A. Michael Blanche is a licensed clinical social worker specializing in dealing with addiction and dual diagnosis primarily in adolescents for over 13 years. He provides counseling at Bryn Mawr College and West Chester University, and has a private practice in West Chester. www.amichaelblanche.com

To Register

Call the church office at 610-644-5555 and select 0.
Although pre-registration is appreciated, [walk-ins are welcome](#)

For more information

See the church website, www.berwynumc.org
or call Gail Campbell at 610-644-7843

Sponsors

Drug and Alcohol Referral Team (DART)
The E. Chelsea Campbell Memorial Foundation, www.chelseamemorial.org

Lay Leader's Letter: New leadership assignments

January is a time for new beginnings. Here at Berwyn United Methodist Church, we have a number of lay officers beginning a year of service in new positions, and others who are taking a well-deserved break from service or are moving to take on new responsibilities.

Janet Campbell will be joining me as co-lay leader, replacing Nancy Atchison. Nancy, who has completed her three-year term, will trade places with Janet and become chair of the Children's Council.

Gene Williams, who has been filling in as chair of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee, will begin a full year in that position. Betsy Newman will take over as financial secretary, giving the hard-working, long-suffering Brian Dunn a well-deserved rest. Janet Wham began her job as director of our Nursery School at the beginning of the school term.

A large number of church members will fill new positions or return to various jobs as members of one or more of our many committees.

We give thanks to all those who have worked hard for our church and are moving to new positions or taking a rest. We pledge our support to those who are continuing in their vital positions and those others who are joining our staff as committee members or in other positions.

If you have not been asked to serve our church as an elected committee member or official, and have an interest to serve in any particular area, please let Pastor Phil know. There is room for you, and a job waiting that only you can fulfill.

John Paylor

Leaders elected by the Charge Conference

On Dec. 1, the Charge Conference elected the following to *new* church leadership assignments:

Janet Campbell – lay leader.

Betsy Newman – financial secretary.

Nancy Atchison – chair, Children's Council.

Ann West – publicity liaison.

Gene Williams – chair, Staff/Parish Relations Committee (returning for a full term).

Helen Landeck and Ellen Fritz – at-large members of the Administrative Board.

Scott Phelps, Dick Sharpless and Jon Stockler – Trustees.

Rick Stoker and Jeff Barger – Mission and Outreach.

Barbara Mekenney, Jeff Barger and Polly Kimes – Membership and Congregational Care.

Janet Campbell, Keith Fritz, Andrew French and Gina Phelps – Staff/Parish Relations.

Betsy Newman, Ellen Fritz and Asa Walker – Finance.

Ruth Frey, Janet Campbell, Carol Cherry, Judy Fisk and Claudia Sharpless – Lay Leadership.

Troy Fisher – Worship Committee.

Director Janet Wham, Brian Walker, Sally Bridwell and Judy Fisk – Nursery School Board.

Sarah Polasky, Ed Van Dame, Krista Fisher and Gina DeFlavia – Children's Council.

Keith Fritz and Jan Polasky – Youth and Young Adult Council.

Brittany Fritz, Amanda Fritz, Cody Pitz, Jacob Nemetz and Meg Dickinson – Youth Council subcommittee.

Rick Stoker – Adult Council.

Tracey Myers and Mike Benton – Communications.

Ruth Frey, Paul Polasky, Susan Burriss and John Paylor – Church and Society.

Tom Pierce, Andrew French, Linda Shriver and Pattie Littlewood – Evangelism and Nurture.

Jeff Barger and Linda Shriver – Drug/Alcohol Recovery Team.

John Paylor – Endowment.

Janet Campbell, Leadership Advisory Team.

Returning committee chairs and committee members will be listed in the church directory.

NEW LAY LEADER

Janet Campbell, 35 years of service to BUMC

Janet Campbell has yet another new duty at Berwyn United Methodist Church: She succeeds Nancy Atchison as lay leader, sharing with John Paylor the leadership of our congregation.

Janet and her family have been members at BUMC since 1975. She says, "We moved to our wonderful home in Berwyn and met our new neighbors, Liz and Don Young and Bob and Mary Ellen Mittelstaedt, who told us all about their 'great' church."

The year they joined, Wendy was 5 and Cindy was 2.

The Campbell daughters attended the Sunday School classes, were gifted with Guardian Angels from the church family, and were married in our church. Janet says, "All five of our grandchildren have been baptized in our beautiful sanctuary with this wonderful congregation sharing our happiness."

Jack and Janet have always helped out at church whenever and wherever they could. At the request of the *Lighted Cross* editor, Janet listed some of the activities she has been involved in during her 35 years at BUMC:

Member of the Chancel Choir for at least 20 years.

Administrative Board chair.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee chair.

Finance Committee member.

Worship Committee member.

Children's Council chair.

Fall Festival chair. ("I still laugh about how Ruth Yohn asked if I could help her out with the Bake Sale, and suddenly I was in charge! I also became the Apple Pie Baker.")

Nursery School board member since its beginning in 1994, and the current board chair.

A volunteer in the Vacation Bible School for as long as we have had it at our church and when we shared the school with Trinity Presbyterian. ("I have been one of the Bible Story Leaders for as long as I can remember.")

Joy Circle and Lydia Circle, United Methodist Women.

Stephen Ministry.

"And the recipient of the love and prayers, support and care of this wonderful church family."

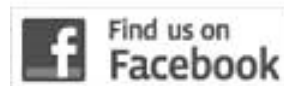
Adult supper groups schedule get-together on Jan. 29

There will be a get-together potluck supper for all the adult supper groups at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, in Schieck Hall. Rick and Penny Stoker will give a presentation on their trip to Nepal. Sign up with Sally Robie at services on Jan. 16 and 23.

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: Jan. 16

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 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 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

Go to a Phillies game. “United Methodist Night at the Phillies” will be July 30 against the Pittsburgh Pirates. Phillies Night provides fellowship among our parishioners, their friends and the people of our communities. For each ticket sold, \$5 comes back for our ministries. The Phillies sold out every home game last year, and with the signing of Cliff Lee, tickets will be equally difficult to get in 2011. Nancy Atchison is trying to determine how many to order for BUMC, so let her know how many you will need: nancy_atchison@verizon.net.

United Methodist Women. Maria Circle and Lydia Circle will meet for lunch at noon Sunday, Jan. 9. Bring something to share. United Methodist Women is a community of women who nurture and encourage one another in their spiritual growth, personal leadership, and transformation: <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw>.

Shared Bible Study Class. On Jan. 2, we will begin a study of *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.

Every Topic Considered (ETC) Class. On Jan. 9, the class will resume a video series titled “Living the Questions 2.0.” Each Sunday, there is a 20-minute video, followed by a discussion. Details are at: <http://www.livingthequestions.com/xcart/home.php?cat=366>.

Help needed. Once again, we will be joining 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 cleanup on the following dates: March 16, 23, and 30, and April 6, 13, and 20. Contact Nancy Atchison: nancy_atchison@verizon.net.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

United Methodist training and retreat programs

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church is sponsoring several training and retreat opportunities in the coming months that you might be interested in attending.

Jan. 29: Central District Tools for Ministry training courses at Haws Avenue UMC in Norristown. The program runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the cost is \$10 per person, which includes lunch. All officers of the church, especially those newly elected, are urged to attend. Let Pastor Phil know if you are interested in going. The registration deadline is Jan. 15.

Feb. 11-12: Conference-Wide Laity Retreat at the National Christian Conference Center, 1485 Valley Forge Road, Phoenixville. More information will be available later. If you are interested in attending, 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. 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. Each church is asked to send a team consisting of the pastor and at least three others, but there is no limit to the number who can attend from any church. This should be a worthwhile program for everyone. It is not necessary to have heard the programs presented at Annual Conference. Let John Paylor or Pastor Phil know if you would like to attend.

NURSERY SCHOOL

Children returning for busy January schedule

We welcome the students back to school on Monday, Jan. 3. January will be a busy month with outreach programs planned for the children.

The five-day classes will be attending chapel time beginning in January. Janet Campbell has arranged for members of the church to meet with the children for lessons related to positive values.

Nursery School alumni who now attend St. Monica's will be returning to our school to read to the three- and five-day classes.

Later in January, the Yello Dyno program will present lessons to the five-day children on personal safety and stranger awareness.

Please take notice of our bulletin board in the hallway upstairs. The photographs depict activities in our school. The photographs will change monthly. Thank you to the Trustees for giving us this space to share with the Boy Scouts.

Janet Wham

BOY SCOUT TROOP 181

Rugged outdoor trips: cold-weather camping, hiking

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 ice-hike the frozen water falls at Glen Onoko Falls Trail in the Poconos using crampons. The boys really look forward to this trip every year.

Our troop will participate in the Sunday services at the church on Feb. 13.

Troop 181 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. Check us out at paoli181.com.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Brian Dunn, 9 years' service as financial secretary

Brian Dunn has announced that he will be stepping down as financial secretary at the end of the 2010 after nine years of service. During this time, Brian has been responsible for preparing the weekly tabulation of offertory contributions, preparing monthly updates on income to the Finance Committee, and generating the quarterly summaries of contributions that we all receive. In addition, Brian has been an active member of the Finance Committee and provided income projections that were critical to the annual budgeting process.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I would like to sincerely thank Brian for his faithful service over this time. His leadership on the Finance Committee will be missed.

In grateful appreciation,
Jim Tiede on behalf of the Finance Committee