



January 2008

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

# The Lighted Cross

## FROM THE PASTOR

# Share our blessings in 2008

I give God thanks for the work that the Evangelism Committee has done over the last few months in working with the results of the Church Vitality Indicator. The CVI provided an insight into what our strengths are here at Berwyn UMC. These strengths gave the committee members a blueprint that enabled them to establish some strategic directions.

The strengths identified through the CVI were Experiential Worship, Evaluation System, Individual Commitment, Care Giving, Mission and Outreach, Welcoming, Inviting, and Visionary Leadership. The committee continues to be fully engaged in mapping out the directions that we would like to take over the years to come that would help us to be a more vibrant, dynamic and growing church, and taking hold of the glorious future that God has for us.

One of the areas that has come under consideration is the growth of the church spiritually and numerically. I was thinking that for 2008 this is something that all of us could be engaged in. I have been with you for two and a half years. I was thinking of those who are in worship regularly. In the time that I have been here, I have not observed too many of us bringing neighbors, friends and relatives with us. I visualized what our church would look like if each of us brought one. In 2008 we could make a tremendous difference in the lives of others, in the life of the church, and in our own lives if we were involved intentionally in being invitational and willing to share with others the blessings we receive weekly through the experiential worship that we have lifted up as our primary strength.

The Bible cautions us about being proud. In this instance, however, I think we can humbly and truly say that we are proud of our music ministry, pulpit ministry, the laity-led children's ministry, the fellowship, the outreach, and the caring that we give and receive on an ongoing basis.

I ask you, friends, why would you not want to share these blessed experiences with others? We have a wonderful and right relationship with God through Christ; why would we be reluctant in helping others have that same relationship with Christ? The pride we have in our church and the ministry we do here is evidenced by our faithfulness, dedication and financial commitments. As the pastor, I rejoice in being here and continually give praise and thanks to God for each of you.

I would invite us in 2008 to be more engaged in Bible study and worship so that we may continue to grow spiritually in God's grace and favor. I would further challenge you to be fully involved in the numerical growth of the Body of Christ. This is a task that each and every one of us would need to be fully engaged in. No one person can do this work by himself or herself. No one committee would have all the answers and the wherewithal to do this excellent and exciting work of introducing others to Christ through the church.

May God bless and strengthen us through 2008 as we engage in the ministry of inviting others to share with us in God's grace that is experienced through the ministry of the church and each of us. Blessings!

Pastor Phil

## REPORT ON STEWARDSHIP

# As the New Year begins, a thank-you

As I write this, we are still in the throes of Christmas Advent preparation and retail frenzy. The sounds of the season are all about. A musical allegory is suggested in a wonderful troupe known as Chanticleer. A close-harmony, a cappella group from San Francisco, Chanticleer consists of 12 men who achieve clarity and precision stunning and unmatched. But don't forget that behind the voices, there are composers, arrangers, and practice by the singers, individually and as an ensemble. Finally, there is the Christmas message that is received by the audience and the singers as well.

The church is similarly multidimensional. The Finance Committee necessarily stares at the numbers and the dollars. But all are aware that finance work is a reflection of all the areas of church life: those who serve as staff persons and those who are volunteers; the work of education, music, maintenance; the time spent in groups preparing and practicing and in worship; and finally the Message: the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, the one whose body the church is.

As 2007 ends and the New Year begins, thanks.

The Consecration Sunday stewardship program conducted in November provided the best response of the last three years by those who returned "estimate of giving" cards. The total was \$374,630, which was 10 percent better than the previous year. This meant that the Finance Committee was able to recommend to the Administrative Board a budget for 2008 that has a challenge gap of 5 percent. The challenge gap is the additional percentage to be raised in order to balance the budget. This year's challenge gap is our lowest in three years.

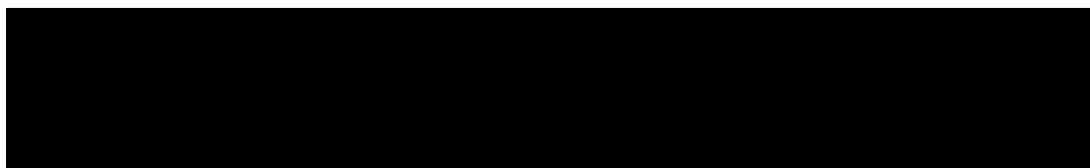
Thanks also to all for the congregation's mission outreach. In 11 months of 2007, about \$21,400 was disbursed for non-budgeted mission projects. This is in addition to the mission efforts supported by the general operating budget. This speaks well of the church's commitment to outreach.

As for our current financial position, 2007 has been a challenge, but end-of-year signs are promising. November was slightly better than previous months. Watch the worship bulletin for "up-to-the-week" reports.

*Steve Cherry*

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*Finance Committee's report for 2007, through November*



## COMING EVENTS

### ‘The Price of Sugar’ to be shown Jan. 12

*The Price of Sugar*, a film about Haitian immigrants working in the sugar-cane fields of the Dominican Republic, will be shown in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12.

Just a few miles inland from the tourist beaches of the Dominican Republic, thousands of dispossessed Haitians toil under armed guard to harvest cane. Much of the sugar made from the cane ends up in U.S. kitchens. They work grueling hours and lack decent housing, clean water, electricity, education or health care.

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Alliance for International Medicine (AIM) team travels to the Dominican Republic twice a year to care for impoverished children while their parents work in the cane fields.

Dr. Rodney Finalle, medical director of AIM, will lead a discussion before and after the film. He will be joined by our congregation's Ruth Frey, who travels to the Dominican Republic each year as an AIM team leader. Refreshments will be served.

The film is the first in a series sponsored by the Church and Society Task Force. Other films in the series:

Feb. 9 – *Days of Wine and Roses*; discussion afterward with DART.

March 8 – *Freedom Writers*.

April 12 – *The Power of Forgiveness*.

May 10 – *King Corn*.

June 14 – *Amazing Grace*.

Check the church website for more details.

### Potluck supper Jan. 5, followed by un-decorating

A potluck supper will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, in Schieck Hall. The event is sponsored by the Adult Council, but the entire congregation is invited.

Join us for a fun evening of sampling items around the potluck table, then stay to help remove decorations from the sanctuary. Dessert will be provided by the Adult Fellowship. Please bring either a salad or a casserole.

### Potluck and praise: Jan. 26

The All-Church Potluck Supper will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, in Schieck Hall.

The program will be an old-fashioned hymn sing led by Judith Lang, our music director. Pick your favorite hymns whether they are in the hymnal or not.

### Super Bowl sale: Feb. 3

Having a Super Bowl Party on Feb. 3? Why not buy some subs and chili from *your* youth and adults and help support their fundraising efforts?

The Youth and Adult Councils are teaming up again this year to bring you this sale. Proceeds will be divided between Appalachian Service Project and Habitat for Humanity.

You will have a choice of Italian, ham or turkey subs at \$4 each. The chili is \$5 a quart.

The youth will be taking orders in church on Jan. 20 and 27, or you can call your orders in to the church office. Orders must be received no later than Jan. 30. Thank you for your continued support.

# Interested in traveling again?

Traveling with a group you know is a real treat. The group that went to England together in September 2006 had a great time. Now we think it is time to consider another trip.

We are thinking about a trip to Italy in October 2008 after the church's Fall Festival is over. The trip that we are thinking about would take in Rome, the Amalfi coast and Sicily. The trip would last about 13 days and would cost about \$3,500 a person.

If you might want to go on such a trip, please contact Rick Stoker so he can get an idea of how many are interested.

## Pastor going on mission to Guatemala

Pastor Phil will go on a mission trip to Mazatanango, Guatemala, Jan. 8-19. He will join a team from the Tennessee Conference of the UMC that will complete a primary school and start some houses for those who are homeless in an area called San Antonio. Enough money was raised by our brothers and sisters in Tennessee to buy a fairly large plot of land and to build several homes for our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Guatemala. Please keep Pastor Phil and the other team members in your prayers.

## Kitchen orientation on Jan. 8

If you're interested in finding out about the operation of the kitchen, you should attend Rick Stoker's orientation session at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, in the kitchen.

Topics will include: an introduction to each piece of equipment in the kitchen, where to find the soaps and sanitizers for the sinks and dishwasher, proper holding temperatures of food, and a briefing on Chester County and Pennsylvania health codes dealing with the operation of a commercial kitchen. Those topics also will be covered in a handbook Rick is preparing for congregation members who use the kitchen.



**Lighted Cross  
Deadline:  
Jan. 15**



The next Lighted Cross will be published on Feb. 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](mailto:gene.foreman@verizon.net)**

by Jan. 15. 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](mailto:officebumc@comcast.net)**

Church website:

**[www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org)**

# The Memorial Garden is approved

The Administrative Board voted Dec. 4 to approve the construction of a Memorial Garden as a consecrated area that will include a scattering garden and a columbarium wall for internment of ashes.

Throughout our lifetime, the church is our spiritual home; hence, a church garden is a suitable resting place for the ashes of our members and their families who choose to be cremated. Churches have historically cared for their grieving families. Providing a memorial at the church makes it possible for members to have their earthly final resting place where they worshipped and served their God.

Cremation is recognized within the United Methodist tradition to be proper and right. In I Corinthians, Chapter 15, St. Paul teaches that in the day of the general resurrection we will be clothed with a new spiritual body.

Following are answers to questions about the Memorial Garden (the information provided is subject to the approval of the attorney for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference):

*Where will the Memorial Garden be located?* A wall containing the niches will be constructed in the grassy area between the entrance driveway and the north window wall of the church. The scattering garden will be placed next to an existing brick wall that is part of the north entrance to the Sanctuary. The garden will be a quiet place for family and friends to visit.

*When will the Memorial Garden be constructed?* We hope we can construct the first phase of the garden in the fall of 2008, but construction will not begin until \$67,000 in donations has been raised. (This garden will be a self-supporting project, not part of the annual church budget.) In the first phase, a section of the wall containing 80 niches will be built. Later, a second section containing 100 niches would be added.

*Who can be interred in the Memorial Garden?* The niches and the scattering garden will be reserved for church members and their families. However, the Memorial Garden Committee may approve internment of other persons who have a relationship to BUMC.

*What will it cost?* For niches: Members/previous members – \$1,500 for a single niche and \$500 for second person prior to Sept. 1, 2008; thereafter, \$2,500 for a single niche and \$500 for second person. Nonmembers with Memorial Garden Committee approval – \$2,500 for single niche and \$500 for second person prior to Sept. 1, 2008; thereafter, \$3,000 for a single niche and 500 for second person. For the scattering garden, with name on a memorial plaque on the wall – \$750 per person. In addition, a one-time donation of \$350 per person will be charged at the time of death. This one-time donation will pay for continuing maintenance of the garden and for engraving the granite face plate of niches or the brass nameplate on the memorial plaque for those whose ashes are scattered.

*What are the church's responsibilities?* The church will assign the niche and arrange for engraving of the face plate on the niche and, in the case of the scattering garden, the engraving of the name plate on the memorial plaque. Precise record-keeping and the perpetual care of the garden will be important responsibilities of the church.

*What are my responsibilities?* You are encouraged to register and make an advance donation for internment space. At that time, you can select your location in the garden and obtain additional information, including the regulations governing the garden. To arrange internment in the garden, the church should be contacted by the family or a funeral director. A committal service in the Sanctuary will precede each internment. Your family is responsible for making the arrangements with the funeral home and for paying the funeral home's fees, including the cost of cremation.

*How can I receive more information?* Contact the church office for more information or to obtain an "Application for Internment." The contractor's rendering of the garden is on display in the narthex. Beginning Jan. 13, members of the Memorial Garden Committee will be available after church services to answer questions. Nancy Atchison is committee chair. Other members are Sally Bridwell, Judy and Bob Fisk, Judy Edinger, Margi MacKenzie, Sally Robie, Claudia Sharpless, and Ann West.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

# Preparing for church membership

One of the sacred tasks of the people of God is the spiritual formation of those who request to be members of the church, which is the Body of Christ. The task of spiritual formation and nurture is an exciting and meaningful one both for those engaged in nurturing and those being nurtured.

Those who so far have said yes to Christ and are willing to be part of the confirmation class are Emily Anderson, Langston Chambers, Ben Cutler, James Emery, Matthew Hoffman, Emily Miccariello, Andres Montaner, Alex O'Donnell, Zachary Phelps, Roger Toro and Asa Walker. We give God thanks for each of them and for the parents who have nurtured and cared for them over the years.



Nancy Atchison, Janelle Larson and Pastor Phil will take on the task of nurturing and spiritually forming these young people through the curriculum "Making Disciples."

Let us keep these young people and the facilitators in our prayers between now and May 11, when they will be confirmed.

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## SCHEDULE FOR LENT

# This year, Easter arrives early: March 23

As mentioned in the last Lighted Cross, Easter comes early in 2008. Easter is March 23, and consequently, Lent begins on Feb. 6. The worship opportunities that will be made available to us for our spiritual growth and Lenten preparations are as follows:

**Ash Wednesday** service with the imposition of ashes at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 6.

**Lenten Lunches** from Wednesday, Feb. 13, through Wednesday, March 19.

**Holy Thursday**, March 20, 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**, March 21, from noon to 3 p.m., the annual ecumenical service at the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church; at 7:30 p.m., a special celebration here at the church: the Tenebrae service with a choir cantata.

**Gloria Saturday**, March 22, a continental breakfast and the Easter Egg Hunt

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

Let us make time and take time to observe Lent so as to be ready for the grand and glorious rejoicing of Easter!

## SAVE THESE DATES

### April 26: Tea party

For the last two years the Adult Council has sponsored an All-Ladies and Girls Afternoon Tea Party, led by Sue Farina and crew.

This year we have scheduled the Tea Party for 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26. However, Sue has decided not to lead the event this year. If you would be interested in taking on this leadership position please talk with Sue as soon as possible so the planning can begin. Sue is willing to lend a hand and give advice.

### Oct. 11: Fall Festival

We will again be joining with the Berwyn BEST group on that Saturday. The other three groups are the Easttown Library, Surrey Club for Seniors, and Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Save your items for our sale. Also think of what you could contribute to the silent auction, which is our main money-maker. More than \$7,000 was raised this past year, one-fifth going to youth-related activities and the rest to the mortgage and to mortgage reduction.

*Editor's Note:* The date for the festival was incorrect in last month's Lighted Cross as a result of the editor's error.

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### ETC Topic: 'Saving Jesus'

The ETC (Every Topic Considered) Adult Sunday School class, which meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Library, is continuing the series titled "Saving Jesus." We will consider Jesus' teachings, "Wisdom Tradition," Jan. 5 and 12, and Jesus' program, "Kingdom of God," Jan. 19 and 26. If you would like to be on the e-mail list for class and receive material ahead of time, write: [perthenia@mac.com](mailto:perthenia@mac.com).

## Card of thanks

Dear Berwyn Family,

We give thanks daily for your good wishes and prayers during this long season of surgery and recovery. Whenever Chuck or I become discouraged, a card, e-mail, or phone call arrives. We feel strengthened and encouraged. It is true that prayer is powerful and we are lifted up on eagle's wings.

The beautiful prayer shawl reminds us that we are loved. It rests on Chuck's knees as he continues to recover. Thank you so much for the gifts of kindness and friendship. We wish you peace, blessings, and joy in this new year. With thanksgiving,

*Elaine Parvin*

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### Spanish class is formed

A Spanish Sunday School class was formed on Oct. 28 for those persons who are attending our church regularly and whose primary language is Spanish.

The Gospel of Mark is the basis of this study. Claudia Gonzales is the facilitator.

Countries represented in the class are Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, and Honduras. The families attending are the Toros, Manceros, Merinos, and the Ecurras. Also attending regularly are Henry Peña, Amparo Peña and Eliza Chumpitaz.

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### Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle (United Methodist Women) expresses appreciation to all who participated in the World Thank Offering. We raised \$521 for missions! Our first meeting of the new year will be at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6, in the Parlor. All women are invited to attend. We are continuing our study of Israel/Palestine.

# Lending a Hand

## *Liturgists*

### **January 6**

Betsy Newman

### **January 13**

Sue Tiede

### **January 20**

Mike Benton

### **January 27**

Jim Tiede

## *Acolytes*

### **January 6**

Emily Miccariello

### **January 13**

Daniel Galvez

### **January 20**

Laura Stockler

### **January 27**

Meghan Dillon

## *Story Time*

## *Volunteers*

### **January 6**

Gina Phelps

### **January 13**

Amy Dodds

### **January 20**

Sondra Wilen (Donadio)

### **January 27**

Debbie Nemetz

## *Ushers*

### **January 6**

Jim Tiede

Jim Spofford

Doug Fuerst

Scott West

### **January 13**

Claudia Sharpless

Sebastien Galvez

Eloise Levitt

Scott Phelps

### **January 20**

Judy Fisk

Hal Craig

Alan Hess

Tyler Borelly

### **January 27**

Gene Foreman

Louise Cortelyou

David Surine

Frank Farina

## MISSION MEMO

You helped make Christmas  
a special day for others

You did a marvelous job!

A full SUV load of gifts was delivered to Mount Zion United Methodist Church on Dec. 7 to share with the four shelters they support at Christmas time. In the SUV were toys, books and games for children; items for babies including everything from a snowsuit to blankets, onesies, and sleepers; slippers and toiletries for women; and warm socks and toiletries for men. Mount Zion's missions chairperson, Cressa, was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Nursery School and Sunday School.

A full SUV load of toys was delivered to Methodist Home for Children on Dec. 11. They were also very pleased to receive our gifts, and especially pleased that we had delivered them on time so the children they serve could receive their gifts for Christmas.

Dr. Mary White had her Christmas shop open when the hats and mittens arrived. She sells these new items at affordable prices to people shopping in the store.

We also delivered to her two carloads of used coats collected by New Eagle Elementary School students. If any of you donated to this drive, I am thanking you for Dr. White. Warm coats are regularly given to people with a voucher from a charitable organization by United Methodist Neighborhood Services. Many people will be warmer this winter thanks to you.

The Missions Committee will hold a Valentine Cookie Sale for the benefit of the Chumpitas family in Peru. We are looking for help baking, and packing bags. We will be calling for volunteers. I hope that you will be able to help us.

*Betsy Newman*

## WHAT'S GOING ON AT B.U.M.C.

### *Nursery School celebrates Christmas with music*

The Nursery School enjoyed a wonderful Christmas presentation this year. Lynne Hockenbury, our music teacher, gave us all a special treat. Accompanying us on the piano was Judith Lang, the church's music director. It was a nice touch to join the church and the nursery school for a special day. Judith received a huge round of applause from the parents .

Now we are slowly returning to our school life with some interesting programs planned for the children and lots of creative ideas from the staff. We are always happy to have church members join us for a morning or a shorter visit. Please call if you would like to see the school in action.

### *Boy Scout Troop 181 going camping Jan. 4-6*

We will be cabin camping at Camp Lavigne near Ricketts Glen. The hike along the many waterfalls there is always spectacular. ... Our annual Scouting for Food collection this year benefited Philabundance, with almost 500 pounds of food collected.

### *Habitat for Humanity seeking volunteers*

Berwyn United Methodist Church members have the opportunity to work at house sites in Norristown on Wednesday, Jan. 23. We are looking for volunteers to work from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. No experience is necessary; all levels of skill are accepted. Call Sue Farina at 610-695-9008 if you are interested. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board as well.

### *This month's Soupy Thursday specials*

You can buy takeouts from 5 to 7 p.m., or you can eat in from 6 to 7:15. This is a good time to have your committee meeting; Rick Stoker will have a table set up for you if you let him know in advance. This month's soups: Jan. 3 – cream of mushroom; Jan. 10 – lentil; Jan. 17 – French onion; Jan. 24 – vegetable; Jan. 31 – chicken noodle.

### *Look for the yellow smiley faces each week*

*From the Membership and Congregational Care Committee:* Near the entry/exit doors, yellow smiley faces are posted each week. On each face is the name of a college student, a person to be remembered, or a person who is ill. On the accompanying 11x17 sheet of paper, write a note or just sign your name to let the person know we are thinking of him or her. The committee will send the sheet to the person.

### *Shopping Night at Exton raises \$450 for charity*

*From the Church and Society Committee :* Our Community Shopping Night at the Main Street Ten Thousand Villages store in Exton on Dec. 14 raised \$450 for Bread for the World. It was a fun night of shopping and helping crafts persons from around the world have a better life. They said they loved having us and hoped we come back again next year!

### *Men's Fellowship to begin a three-meeting theme*

Starting in January, the Men's Fellowship will devote three monthly meetings to the theme of "Faith With Reason, Reason With Faith." The details and speakers are being worked out with the Metanexus Group, an internationally renowned organization whose purpose is to encourage dialogue between the Faith Community and the Scientific Community. The first of the meetings on this theme will be at 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 12.