



June 2012

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross



During an April shower, the Memorial Garden is dedicated by Pastor Phil and three members of the committee: Judy Fisk, Nancy Atchison and Sally Robie.

Dedication of Memorial Garden

The church's Memorial Garden, just outside the north side of the Sanctuary, was dedicated by Pastor Phil at the conclusion of the 10:30 worship service on April 22.

A committee of 11 members of the congregation began researching and planning this project over eight years ago. Although plans were approved in 2008 by the BUMC Administrative Council and the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Council, construction was delayed until sufficient funds were accumulated from sales of niches and donations. No money from the church budget was used to fund the project.

Currently, five congregation members are inured: Bob Atchison, Bill Robie, Brad MacKenzie, Alyce Braun and Stafford Walker.

The plan for the Memorial Garden includes creating a scattering garden with a remembrance plaque and completing Phase 2 of the wall. . For information on purchasing a niche, please contact the church office.



A time of transition at BUMC

June will mark a transition for Berwyn UMC. Phil Poncé is retiring after 39 years in the ministry and seven years as our pastor. He will be succeeded by Gary Jacabella, currently the pastor of Immanuel UMC at Cleona, Lebanon County.

We will honor Phil and Anne with a cake-and-punch reception after the 10:30 service on June 3, adhering to their wishes that the event be a simple one. Phil's actual last service will be June 10, but he wants that Sunday's focus to be entirely on the seven young people who will be confirmed as members of the church at the 10:30 service.

Pastor Gary will be moving into the parsonage with his wife, Bernie, and two teenaged daughters during late June. He will conduct his first services at Berwyn on July 1. The title of his sermon on that day will be "Faith That Asks Questions."



Cindy Shallcross to be the new coordinator of children's ministries

Cindy Campbell Shallcross has been named coordinator of children's ministries, a part-time staff position. Her appointment was recommended by the Staff/Parish Relations Committee and approved by the Administrative Council.

Cindy is a graduate of Conestoga High School and Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania with a degree in early childhood education and elementary education. She has taught at Ithan Elementary School, the Malvern School and the Goddard School. She also has been a receptionist in the Easttown Township municipal office.

Cindy has attended BUMC since she was 2 years old. She and her husband, Brett, were married in the church, and their children Mark, 13, and Rayna, 4, were baptized in the church.

She will direct the Sunday School program, Club Berwyn, Vacation Bible School and other children's activities. She also will work with the Youth on Sunday evenings.

Nancy Atchison, chair of the Children's Council, said: "We are fortunate to have such a well-qualified, energetic and caring person to lead our children's program. Sarah Baker has done a fantastic job as children's coordinator for the past two years. She is loved by children and parents alike. We wish God's blessings on Sarah as she moves to North Carolina to join her husband, Mac."

Cindy said about her appointment: "I am very excited to be given the opportunity to enhance the children's program here at Berwyn United Methodist Church. Following Sarah's talented leadership, I know I have very big shoes to fill! It is my goal to further the Sunday School program and provide fun activities for the children of our congregation to enjoy in fellowship as they continue their faith journey."

WORSHIP THEMES FOR JULY 1-OCT. 7

Encounters with God: What will our response be?

By Gary Jacabella

Sometimes we get the impression that the heroes of our faith, whose stories the Bible tells, were superhuman “saints.” The Sunday School version of their stories that we remember from our childhood were often told in black and white. Deleting the gray areas made the stories G-rated. As adults, we don’t give ourselves much hope of ever ranking up there with the likes of the patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets and apostles.

The apostle Paul remembers things differently: “Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. But God chose what the world considers foolish to shame the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to shame the strong. And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life — what is considered to be nothing — to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing. So no human being can brag in God’s presence” (1 Corinthians 1:26-29, Common English Bible).

At worship services beginning July 1 throughout the summer and into October, we will take a fresh look at some stories of our heroes in the faith, from both the First and New Testaments. Will we discover what Paul found out to be true, “I’ll gladly spend my time bragging about my weaknesses so that Christ’s power can rest on me . . . I’m all right with weaknesses . . . because when I’m weak, then I’m strong” (2 Corinthians 12:9,10, CEB)?



Following is the schedule for these services, including the Scripture reading and the biblical character with whom God had an encounter:

July 1: Genesis 15, Abraham.

July 8: Genesis 21:8-21, Hagar.

July 15: Genesis 28:10-22; 32:3-12, Jacob.

July 22: 1 Samuel 3:1-4:1a, Samuel.

[On July 29, Pastor Gary will be at Camp Gretna Glen.]

Aug. 5: 1 Kings 19:1-24, Elijah.

Aug. 12: Isaiah 6:1-10, Isaiah.

Aug. 19: Matthew 1:18-25, Joseph.

Aug. 26: Mark 5:25-34, Bleeding Woman.

Sept. 2: Mark 7:24-30, Gentile Woman.

Sept. 9: Luke 5:1-11, Peter.

Sept. 16: Luke 5:27-32, Levi.

Sept. 23: John 8:1-11, Accused Woman.

Sept. 30: Acts 9:1-20, Paul.

Oct. 7: Acts 16:16-34, Philippian Jailer.

Beginning Oct. 14, the worship theme will be Stewardship and Giving, as we prepare for Stewardship Sunday on Nov. 11.



Enjoying a light moment while watching “Fam Cam” video at the 30-Hour Famine fundraiser

Raising money — and an awareness of hunger

The Youth of the church raised more than \$1,600 to combat world hunger through World Vision’s 30-Hour Famine. For the nine youth and three adult leaders, the Famine fasting began at noon on Friday, April 27, and continued until 6 p.m. Saturday April 28. During the famine, the youth were divided into three “tribes,” and each person assumed the persona of a child in a county where hunger is prevalent. During the 30 hours, the group learned about the causes of world hunger and possible solutions regarding world hunger. The tribes participated in a series of challenges that helped illustrate what they learned. In the spirit of the popular “Survivor” TV series, a “Fam Cam” room was set aside for the youth to talk in private to a video camera and record their thoughts and experiences.

NEW MEMBER OF THE CHURCH

Jennifer Lang, worker/student

Jennifer Lang, who joined the church on April 29, lives in Essex, Md., in northeastern Baltimore County. Since October 2000 she has been an administrative assistant with Alere Health in Towson, Md. She takes night classes at Towson University, working on a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a concentration in human resources management. When she graduates, she plans to move back to Pennsylvania. In her free time she enjoys photography, music, reading, and spoiling her niece Annabelle and nephew Aidan. Jennifer’s cats, Scooter and Pyewacket, keep her on her toes. Jennifer is the daughter of Ronald and Betsy Lang.



'Operation Overboard' is the Vacation Bible Camp theme

Register children now for five days of fun and Bible study. The camp will take place on the afternoons of June 24-28.



Children from age 4 through fifth grade are invited to attend the BUMC Vacation Bible Camp at the church from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, June 24-28.

This year, the camp theme is "Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep With God." It is both a challenge and an invitation to dive into the water of God's Word and discover what it means to have deep faith. As kids journey farther down toward the ocean floor, Deep Sea Voyage Bible stories introduce people from both the Old Testament and New Testament who show deep faith. In addition to the Bible stories, the camp will offer music, games, science and crafts.

Here is a sneak peak at the themes and Bible stories we will be exploring:

Sunday – Noah Depends on God; Genesis 6:9-13, 22-7:17, 8:13-9:17.

Monday – A Servant Girl Dares to Care; 2 Kings 5.

Tuesday – John Proclaims Jesus; Matthew 3:1-17; Mark 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-22.

Wednesday – The Disciples Choose to Follow Jesus; Luke 5:1-11, John 21:4-24.

Thursday – Paul Delivers Good News; Acts 27.

A light supper will be served each day.

To sign up, fill out a registration form for each child you will be sending to VBC. Return the form to the church office with the fee (\$25 if registered on or before June 10; \$35 after June 10). Registration forms are available at the church. You may also register online at www.berwynumc.org/vbc.

Questions? Contact Nancy Atchison (610-644-2775), Janet Campbell(610-647-8291), or Sarah Baker (610-247-7647), or email the church office at officebumc@comcast.net.

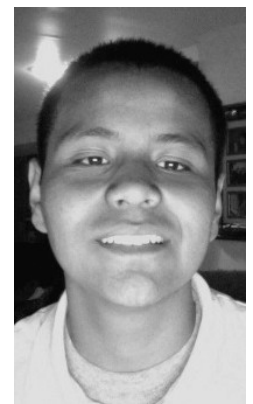
We look forward to seeing you and your children this summer!

Sarah Baker

2012 GRADUATE

Roger Toro Jr., Academy Park High

Roger Toro Jr., son of Roger and Yamile Toro, will graduate in June from Academy Park High School in Sharon Hill. Roger was a member of the school's Art Club and tennis team. His hobbies are drawing and painting. Soon after graduation, Roger will undergo basic training at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., as a member of the Army National Guard. He is looking forward to the opportunity to learn new skills while serving his country. He hopes eventually to enter college and study mechanical engineering.





‘Feed the 5,000’ extends its reach to a village in rural Peru

For the past 15 years during the first four Sundays in Lent, our church has conducted a “Feed the 5,000” food drive. Church members fill grocery bags with enough nonperishable food to feed a family of four for three days. Once the bags are filled, they are taken to the United Methodist Neighborhood Services, where the food is distributed to needy families in Philadelphia.

This year the food distribution project spread to the village of Azpitia, Peru. Azpitia is about 80 miles south of Lima and is home to close to 1,000 people. Eliza Chumpitaz, who immigrated to Berwyn from Azpitia, is a member of our church. She recruited her family to buy beans, rice, sugar, tuna, milk, tea, laundry soap and pasta and to take these bags to the needy people, mainly the elderly and single parents. The project was called “Project Easter: Feed the Hungry” or “Comida para los Necesitados.”

Expressing thanks and invoking blessings on our church, one villager wrote: “Muchas gracias, Eliza, por acordarte de nosotros – muchas bendiciones para tu iglesia.”

These villagers live an economic life far removed from the opportunities that we take for granted. Most work on farms that are no more than an acre. Having a church so far away reach out and touch them helped these people feel the spirit of Easter; they know they are not isolated from God's caring grace.

Ann West

In the photos, members of the Chumpitaz family placed the groceries into bags and then delivered the gifts to villagers, including this couple.

Our second Alpha Course will begin Sept. 12

Berwyn UMC will offer the Alpha Course again this fall, and this time we will offer discussion groups in English and Spanish. If you did not attend the course last fall, you are encouraged to attend this year's course.

We will meet on Wednesday nights (it was earlier reported in error that the course would move to Thursday nights), beginning with an introductory dinner at 6 p.m. on Sept. 12. The course will continue on Wednesday nights with the exception of Halloween and the day before Thanksgiving until Dec. 5. Our weekend session will be on Nov. 3-4. There is no charge for the Alpha Course. Brochures with more information and a registration form are available in the Narthex.

An Alpha evening begins with a dinner, followed by songs and worship, and a video presentation on the topic of the evening. After dessert, we gather in small groups to discuss the topic of the video.

Alpha is a practical introduction to the Christian faith, and was started in an Anglican Church in London. It has since spread around the world. Alpha is more than a course on Christianity, and it has led many to a much deeper spiritual faith. It has been found to be equally meaningful for those who have had no previous introduction to Christianity and for those who are strong in their faith.

Everyone who attended Alpha last year is invited to attend the introductory dinner and to bring a friend or neighbor. For those who attended last year, this will be a celebration dinner for the completed course and an opportunity to introduce friends to the Alpha program.

Put the Wednesday evenings from Sept. 12 to Dec. 5 on your calendar and plan to experience Alpha this fall. If you cannot commit to all the sessions, plan to attend as many as you can. If you are not sure if Alpha is for you, plan to attend the introductory dinner to find out more.

John Paylor

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Buying sewing machines and musical instruments

Thank you for your donations to the ADDA Foundation in Colombia. A total of \$1,480.35 was raised at the February 11 salsa event. The money will be used to buy sewing machines to help mothers learn a trade and to buy instruments for a children's music workshop.

All women are cordially invited to join in a spring brunch at the home of Debbie Nemetz at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 2. After food and fellowship, those interested will travel a short distance to a labyrinth for a walking meditation. For information about labyrinths: <http://labyrinthlocator.com/>.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference's UMW School of Christian Mission will be held July 27-29 at Lancaster Bible College. Attendees can choose to study one of the mission topics for the coming year: Immigration and the Bible, Poverty, and Haiti. We have money to support several women or youth to attend. Please talk to Carol Cherry if interested.

Carol Cherry

LAY LEADER'S LETTER

We need a helping hand, and so do others

It was just a passing remark that Elaine Parvin made in our Sunday School class. I don't even remember the context now. "It has been said that each of us already has one foot in heaven."

Instantly, like the comic-strip character Calvin when Miss Wormwood asks him a question in school, my thoughts are hundreds of miles away. I'm walking a trail in the Appalachian mountains. Large, rounded granite boulders rise on each side of the trail. I put one foot firmly on a boulder, but try as I might, I cannot climb up on the rock. It's too smooth, too steep, too high; there's nothing to grab onto to pull myself up. So there I stand, one foot on the boulder, and the other still on the trail. I must admit that I cannot climb completely from the mire and muck of the trail onto the smooth, clean rock all by myself.

Maybe my daughter, Sarah, has found another way onto the rock, and will reach down and pull me up. Maybe my wife, Lee, who isn't much for climbing on rocks, will give me a push from behind. But without some kind of help, a pull or a push, I am stuck. I'm part way onto the rock, but I will never get all the way up by myself. I must take the offered hand, or yield to the push.

So perhaps this is the way it is with heaven. We are partway there, but we cannot make it all the way by ourselves. We need someone else. And we need to acknowledge to ourselves that we need that help. If someone offers a hand to pull or push us the rest of the way, will we take the offered hand? Will we accept our own limitations and weaknesses, and agree to take the help that is offered?

If we have made it onto the rock, will we look back, and offer a hand to someone else who is still struggling to make the climb? If we are still on the trail, will we look ahead, and give a push to someone who needs our help to move along?

John Paylor

REMEMBER THE FALL FESTIVAL: OCT. 13

Items needed for the Silent Auction and Flea Market

We are looking for *new* ideas for the Silent Auction table. We also would *love* any donations of your time and efforts, such as Thanksgiving pies and yard work. These are always a big hit. The Williams family has graciously agreed to chair this table again. Please make sure you include them on any of the donation ideas.

We are getting ready for Flea Market dropoffs. Beginning June 3, we will open the shed on the first and third Sundays every month, between the first and second worship services and again after the second service. Please contact us if you need assistance transporting items to the church: Stephanie Borelly (610-299-6254) or Cindy Shallcross (610-644-4653).

The Lighted Cross

This is the last issue until September.

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 Sept. 1, and an electronic version will be available earlier on the church website.



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.

News items of interest to members of BUMC

Summer Bible Study: The Women's Summer Community Bible Study will be held at BUMC from 7 to 9 on Tuesday evenings from June 12 through Aug. 7. Please feel free to attend, even if you cannot make all the sessions. The group will study Beth Moore's "James: Mercy Triumphs," on the New Testament book of James. The cost is \$30. More information: call the church office (610-644-5555) or Joanne O'Keefe (610-640-9989), or visit berwynumc.org.

Club Berwyn Finale. All of our pre-K through sixth grade children and families are invited to gather at the church at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 9, for the final Club Berwyn event of the year. We will enjoy a cook-out dinner of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and sides, and ice cream. Contact Sarah Baker if you can bring an item to share: 610-247-7647 or SayreNicole2004@yahoo.com.

Progressive Dinner: All adults are invited to participate in the Progressive Dinner on June 10. Sally Robie will be taking signups at church on June 3, and signups will continue through that week. Those who sign up should specify a dish that they will contribute: appetizer, main course or dessert. Event leaders are also looking for four homes to host courses: one to host the appetizer, one for the dessert, and two for the dinner (we'll be dispersed to three homes, but we have one already).

Goldwater Scholar: Gerry Koons, a sophomore majoring in biomedical engineering at the University of South Carolina, is among 282 students nationwide who have received a Goldwater Scholarship. Gerry works as a research assistant at the university's School of Medicine, focusing on skeletal muscle tissue engineering for use in craniofacial surgery. She was the valedictorian of Radnor High School's Class of 2010. Her parents are Bob and Nancy Koons.

Kidney Transplant Needed: Dick and Claudia Sharpless' granddaughter, Erica Schmidt, age 23, is working with the Transplant Center at the University of Pennsylvania to receive a kidney transplant. Because Erica is so young, the doctors suggest that she needs a live kidney donation; live kidney transplants are more successful. She cannot receive a kidney from a blood relative. Erica's blood type is O negative, but the kidney donor does not have to be O negative. The Transplant Center can set up a kidney swap; this means that if Erica's donor is not a match, the kidney will be given to another patient, and then another donor will give a kidney to Erica. Please spread this request to friends and relatives.

Church Picnic: An annual favorite returns. Mark your calendars: July 8, after the 10:30 service. Be on the lookout for signups in June.

Do a Good Deed: In conjunction with men from Paoli and Valley Forge UMCs, the Men's Fellowship of BUMC is fielding two teams (of two) to help keep the Salem UMC Cemetery neat and tidy. The duty for each team should take a couple of hours every two months or so – less frequently if we could get more volunteers. Contact: John Paylor or Paul Polasky.

SHARE: Remember that SHARE Farm Fresh packages are available once a month throughout the summer. You get \$25 to \$30 of fresh produce, mostly locally grown, for \$15 and two hours of helping your neighbors. Contact: Jan or Paul Polasky.

Spaghetti Dinner Earnings: Rick Stoker reports that BUMC and the Berwyn Fire Company each netted \$1,296 from the April 21 spaghetti dinner in Schieck Hall. Rick noted that one member of our congregation wrote a check for \$448.64 that night to cover most of the food cost. The church's share of the proceeds will support the Appalachia Service Project mission this summer.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Income and expenses continue to run under budget

As we head into summer, our financial status is satisfactory. Although our income is \$22,000 under budget, our expenses are \$33,000 under budget. If we all keep up with our gifts and pledges, there will be sufficient funds to pay our bills. There have been summers in the not too distant past when we were concerned about meeting our expenses.

Our operating budget is close to bare bones – no padding, no frills, no contingency funds. This, in part, is made possible by the volunteer time and effort of so many of you.

One example of this volunteerism is the Trustees' preparation of the Hurd House for rental. The necessary legal counsel and labor of major renovations and repairs were accomplished at no cost, thanks to volunteers from our church family. The house was rented as of March 15, 2012.

This month, the Trustees will lead volunteers in preparing the parsonage for our new pastor and his family. There are numerous other examples, and these necessary activities are not reflected in our budget.

The volunteerism at BUMC is truly outstanding. We have many to thank, and we are thankful for much. Most of all, we are thankful to God. In the words used frequently by Pastor Phil: "To God be the glory."

Rosalie Hart

A fond farewell to Andy and Joellyn Beck

How do we say goodbye to a couple who have been so involved in the life of the church for 27 years? With much love and prayers, and some tears.

Very soon we will be losing two of our members, Joellyn and Andy Beck. Andy retired May 18 after 35 years in the food-service industry, and they will be moving to Smyrna, Del. Joellyn hopes to continue her work as a music therapist with Horizon House's outpatient mental health clinics.

Joellyn remembers visiting our church those many years ago and the kindness of the church nursery people who helped this young couple with their baby, Kristen. The welcome made them feel comfortable enough to make Berwyn United Methodist their church home.

Andy grew up in the East Falls area of Philadelphia. Once he joined BUMC, he quickly found his home working behind the scenes. Helping Rick Stoker in the kitchen has been one of Andy's favorite jobs. He was the set designer for "In Bethlehem Inn" and for "The Last Supper Tableaux." For more than 10 years, he and Dick Rood were the official Christmas tree "setter-uppers." Joellyn describes Andy as "the guy in the kitchen" who supported her in all of her work at church.



Joellyn grew up as an Air Force brat, attending 11 schools in 12 years. Her father was the band director. While at BUMC, Joellyn has worked with 4 choir directors and 11 pastors. She has been in the choir for 26 years and has been involved in almost every musical aspect of the church: handbell choir, clowns, liturgical dance group, youth choir, Evening with Friends, In Bethlehem Inn, Last Supper presentation, and fine arts director.

Ann West

Thanks to Sue Denisevicz for her artistic tribute to Andy and Joellyn



Aidan Lang, 2 years old, did some exploring after the service on April 29 at which he was baptized by Pastor Phil. Aidan was born May 10, 2010, in Seoul. His parents, Fritz and Beth Lang, went to South Korea last year to bring Aidan home. They returned home on Mother's Day 2011, and Aidan celebrated his first birthday two days later. The active toddler loves water, as seen by how he perked up at the baptism when Pastor Phil sprinkled him with water. He is much loved by his parents, grandparents, older sister Annabelle, and his Aunt Goga (Jen Lang).

IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Books examining the Christian faith

3:16 The Numbers of Hope by Max Lucado, c2007. [226.506 Luc]: "A twenty-six-word parade of hope: beginning with God, ending with life, and urging us to do the same. Brief enough to write on a napkin or memorize in a moment, yet solid enough to weather two thousand years of storms and questions. If you know nothing of the Bible, start here. If you know everything in the Bible, return here. We all need the reminder. The heart of the human problem is the heart of the human. And God's treatment is prescribed in John 3:16."

Paul on Trial: The Book of Acts as a Defense of Christianity by John W. Mauck, c2001. [226.607 Mau]: John Mauck, an attorney, presents the book of Acts as a legal defense for Christianity and the Apostle Paul. The author emphasizes considering the total context of Acts as it relates to the culture, time and Roman Law not just as a book of conversion or a description of how the church was established. Readers claim that the legal approach as opposed to the theological approach to Paul's ministry and the book of Acts is very stimulating intellectually.

Marge Smink