



January 2014

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

FEELING A LITTLE SOUPY?

Soupy Thursday will continue throughout January. You may take out soup for \$5/Qt. beginning each Thursday at 5pm. Or beginning at 6pm you can come in and eat with fellow parishioners. There is a free will offering for those eating in.

January 2nd – no soup, January 9th – cream of potato, January 16th – beef vegetable, January 23rd – chili, January 30 – vegetable



SUPER BOWL SUNDAY SUB & CHILI SALE

The Youth of the church will be taking orders for submarine sandwiches and chili for your super bowl party. You can order chili by the Qt. and you can also order subs. You will have a choice of Italian, ham or turkey subs. Each sub will be a 6 incher and you have a choice of provolone or American cheese, onions and tomatoes.

The chili will be \$5/Qt and the subs will be \$5 for each 6 inch sub. Orders must be in by Wed. January 29th. See separate order form in this Lighted Cross.

This fundraiser will benefit the Youth program of our church and their upcoming trip this summer to ASP.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Sat. Feb. 22 – All Supper Club annual Potluck Supper in Schieck Hall

Sat. April 5 – Pasta dinner fundraiser to benefit the Berwyn Fire Co. and the Youth trip to ASP.



State of the Church 2013

Pastor Gary Jacobella



Berwyn UMC's logo expresses the hope that our congregation will welcome diversity at the same time we recognize the One Spirit at work in everyone. We spell out Following the One Lord Jesus with: Welcoming Everyone, Caring for One Another and Serving the World.

I think Berwyn UMC has a reputation for Welcoming Everyone. While we feel that is true, we know that we need to find more ways to take the welcome to people rather than waiting for people to come to us. People who come through the doors of our facility feel welcome but we are aware that many more people will not come through the doors. For some the concept of church and welcoming do not go together.

We are opening more doors through events such as Outdoor Worship, the temporary Labyrinth, the used computer collection, the Jazz Vespers and the upcoming Living with Dying series. Our worship is evolving to include more contemporary expressions of faith and the use of visual media and hymns and songs by living authors.

We need to listen more to the youth about what would help them feel a sense of ownership in worship. Jesus warned against trying to pour new wine into old wineskins but we keep on trying.

Our LAT group (Leadership Advisory Team) is refining their purpose to focus almost exclusively on reaching out to the others who might not come to us or who might have negative ideas about church. We are exploring becoming a Mission Central HUB. We have an ad hoc team working on helping others discover our facilities as useful for a variety of meetings and events. Our Communications Team tried out every door direct mailing. We have a great Web Site and we look for ways to increase our web presence.

Our congregation is not convinced that they can make personal invitations in an effective way. We can welcome people like us who are familiar with our way of doing church but we are not strong on helping people move along from not knowing Jesus to becoming a disciple of Jesus. Most everything we do happens at our church facilities. It's difficult to break that habit because our building and property are beautiful and we still have a mortgage.

We are seeing growth in our children's Sunday School. Our new Youth Coordinator, Ed Moyer, cheerfully and valiantly connects with our Youth even though they often don't attend Youth Meetings.

I think Berwyn UMC is strong on caring for one another. Sometimes guests and new regulars are reluctant to provide information. Once we have information, we need to smooth out getting that information to everyone in the church who needs it. Membership Care (MECCA) is always ready with cards, meals, rides, visits and companionship. Our Prayer Chain covers people inside and outside of the congregation in prayer. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry provides tangible comfort to support our prayers. Many people hold on to Prayer Squares from Berwyn UMC as a way of knowing God's presence. We offered spiritual support for shoppers at our Fall Festival through Prayer Squares and CEB outreach New Testaments. We were surprised with how effective the Baptism Reunion and Renewal Sunday turned out to be.

I am not even going to try to list all the local and global missions that Berwyn UMC supports. Adults have the opportunity to travel outside of the US with a Missions Team every year. Our Youth have the opportunity to travel with a Missions Team inside the US every other year. We are trying to figure out how to include people who need a meal as part of our church suppers and Soupy Thursdays. Becoming a Mission Central HUB would make it possible for us to offer people of all ages opportunities for hands-on Mission Work right in our community that reaches thousands of people around the world.

Our congregation feels the tension of the recent church trial about the issue of homosexual marriage. We have members who are active in advocating for both sides of the issue. I advocate for understanding each other and staying together. I think we can disagree without vilifying the other side. I think differences can help us spur one another on to love and good deeds. We can see each other as loving followers of Jesus without sharing the same opinion. I'm sure there are people who wish that I would take stronger action for one side or the other but for now I am trying to stand in a place where I can be pastor to both opinions.

Coming full circle let's listen to and chew on the passage from 1 Corinthians that raises up our vision for Many Gifts - One Spirit. "There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are different ministries and the same Lord; ⁶and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. ⁷A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good" (Corinthians 12: 4 - 7 CEB). Working for the Common Good does require God working powerfully among us.

LAY LEADER LETTER

So many times we are searching for answers and so often those answers are just beyond our reach. Over the past twenty-five years I have been in the 'finding answer mode' for help with my parents and grandmother. It all began with the aging of my grandmother and the search for a nursing facility. Then suddenly, on July 22, 1994, a fall by my father and an inevitable medical emergency for my mother; and I was thrust into the **I NEED HELP** mode. I was not prepared for any of this and looked for any one who could help. I made phone calls, visited facilities, looked, searched and hunted. One day driving down 252 passing Rosetree Park forgetting which doctor I was visiting for which parent at which hospital, a large deer bolted across the road. I had to pull over as I was so shaken and I prayed.... 'Okay, GOD I am listening and I need help, I do not know what to do please help me do what is right.'

With the guidance of many, I traveled this difficult road. Those who were there with what I needed blessed me with their help. One time a small newspaper article, another a compassionate social worker with the Department of Aging. Lawyers, doctors, nurses, aides, family, friends, our wonderful church family and GOD.

In March, we will be hosting a series entitled **LIVING WITH DYING: "Conversations and Considerations"** to have now within your families whether you are the child, parent, grandparent or spouse. On four Sunday evenings beginning on March 2 at 6:30 p.m. the answers will be here for you. We never know what is around the next corner and the suddenness of what happened to our family caught us totally unprepared. The four part series will address the questions we all will face at no matter what stage of life we are. Begin the **CONVERSATION** with your families by planning to attend this most important series. Carol and Steve Cherry, hospital chaplain Barbara Emery, an attorney, a physician, a hospice representative and Pastor Gary Jacabella will facilitate this valuable journey for us. Please help us reach out to the community to spread the word about this important series and begin the conversation within your family by planning to attend.

Janet Campbell



BUMC United Methodist Women

UMW Annual Pledge to Mission Service

We will meet on Sunday, January 5, 2014, immediately following the 10:30 worship service in the library to discuss our pledge.

Carol Cherry

Many, many thanks to all the Acme Stamp Savers. We stuck 974 stamps into books (as of 12/09/13) and are still going strong. We have already "purchased" three place-settings of each four colors with the books of stamps. The deadline is December 26th, so we could possibly redeem enough stamps for four place-settings of each color. That would be great. Gary is keeping his ear to the Tom Tom to find out what family may be in need and the timing for distribution. We also will advise the Trinity Food Bank in case they have a family in need. THANK YOU EVERYONE. This is a great outreach and hopefully we can help someone in the community.

Carol Williams, MECCA Chair

Advent Fair and Hanging of the Greens!

Sunday December 1st was a busy day for the Sunday school children! The morning started off with a light breakfast of juice, fruit, donuts and bagels. The kids then were introduced to the projects of the day! We had been asked by Sue Denisevich to create ornaments to hang on the large tree in the Narthex this year. Everyone who came began by creating one paper chain together to be wrapped around the tree. Then each child was able to make 2 of each of the three ornaments. One they were able to take home, the other to be hung on the Narthex tree. They had fun following the directions for each project! Our basket of finished ornaments was almost overflowing. Each child took home an Advent devotional booklet with paper chain links to mark each day of the Advent season. The devotions in the booklet, No Crib for a Bed, were an opportunity for each family to share in the excitement as we celebrate Christ's birth!

It was an honor for our kids to make their big mark on the decorations of the church! I hope you enjoyed the beautifully decorated tree this Christmas season!

Cindy Shallcross



Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens was postponed due to the snow storm that invaded on Sunday December 8th. It was held on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30 in the evening! A handful of members came to help decorate the church for Christmas. Hands were joined with scissors, tape and wrapping paper to decorate the doors up and down the hallway. They did a great job making the hallway a festive passageway to the decorated sanctuary! The doors and church were decorated so beautifully for the month of Advent! The children's ornaments were hung on the large tree in the Narthex. Thank you to everyone for making our church shine as we prepare to welcome baby Jesus! Cindy Shallcross

ASP Fundraiser and Club Berwyn Combined!

On December 7th, the Youth Group and ASP members hosted the ASP Babysitting Fundraising Night in Schiek Hall. We had 15 children join in the fun! About 6 were from the community, the others were our own. The ages ranged from 2 ³/₄ to 11 years old. The youngest kids played very happily in the church nursery for a little while. Angel and Laura did a great job keeping the young kids happy and having fun! Boy, was that nursery busy! The older kids, started the night with some reindeer games of bouncing/dribbling balls and Christmas Tag. Ed came up with great holiday games for the kids to play! We went downstairs, to have a well-deserved drink and snack of cupcakes. The kids played with Legos, the toy kitchen, and created some crafts to either take home or to add to our Narthex tree. After this break in the action, we watched The Polar Express on the large wall in Schiek Hall. We enjoyed a snack of goldfish as we snuggled under blankets and pillows to watch the show! Most of the kids were picked up by 9:30, but left with a smile on their faces and a good night sleep in their near future! With the help of Ed, Wilson, Jeremy, Abby, Javier, Laura, Angel, Olivia, Freddy, Charlotte, Darryl and Albert we were able to raise over \$300 from the two ASP Fundraising events for the ASP Mission trip. Cindy Shallcross

SHARED BIBLE STUDY

Dear Friends,

Have you noticed loud voices coming from the Shared Room on Sunday mornings? Our Bible class has such fun fellowshiping and sharing discoveries about our readings! We are studying the Gospel of John and learning so many interesting facts about this author: "The Gospel according to John is unique among the Gospels. Replacing the short pithy teachings of Jesus are long soliloquies about the nature and mission of Jesus. In John there are a myriad of contrasts: light and dark, blind and sighted, flesh and spirit, truth and lies, life and death, Jesus and the world." There is always room for one more at the table. Why not check us out? Contacts: Mike Benton, John Paylor, Elaine Parvin

THE BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE 2013-2014

	<u>Reviewer</u>	<u>Host/Hostess</u>
January 15, 2014	Betsy Lang	Alan & Jeannette Hess 610-430-3679
A Fort of Nine Towers: An Afghan Family Story by Qais Akbar Mar		
February 18, 2014	Barb Mekenney	Barb Mekenney 610-644-2469
Mr Churchill's Secretary by Susan Ella MacNeal		
March 19, 2014	John Edinger	Betsy Lang 610-644-8259
Master of the Mountain: Thomas Jefferson and His Slaves by Henry Wiencek		
April 16, 2014	Nancy Atchison	Ann West 610-687-0222
Defending Jacob by William Landay		
May 21, 2014	Chuck Parvin	TBD
The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis		

Note: Ash Wednesday is Mar 5, 2014 and Easter is April 20, 2014

Betsy Lang

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

Our Endowment Fund produced income (interest, dividends and appreciation) of \$5,966.89 in 2012. Of that amount \$1,287 was kept in the fund to restore the 2011 loss to the amount of invested. The remaining income - \$4,679.89 - was divided in half with \$2,339.95 added to the principal of the fund and \$2,339.94 made available for approved projects at BUMC.

Two requests were received. Both were approved.

They were:

- Request from Finance Committee for hardware and software upgrades to the PC systems at church that are critically needed. Approved cost: \$860
- Request from Trustees to have \$1500 or amount left after covering cost of PC systems upgrades added to the Brick, Panes and Shingles Fund. Approved amount: \$1,479.94

Ending Balance in Fund 9/30/13 \$86,716.49

Portion that is Principal: \$81,135.86

Rosalie Hart, Endowment Committee

B.U.M.C YOUTH NEWS

Greeting Everyone,

To begin this letter i would like to thank both Cindy and the youth for their participation in the recent babysitting event!! Without you the events would not have been such a success! There are many upcoming fun events for the up-coming months so stay tuned. Here are the following events Scheduled for the next few months:

January: (Youth Hoagie and Chili Fundraiser toward A.S.P.)

January 16th: Winter Jam Leaving at 5 P.M from Church.....www.jamtour.com

January 19th Youth Night at Gretna Glenn: Leaving church at 3:45 P.M.

February:

February 2nd Youth Super Bowl Party

March:

Youth Retreat ...March 7-9

April:

April 12th Paintball

April 26th to 27th : 30 Hour Famine

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas. Please don't forget the true meaning of Christmas. Jesus is the reason for this season. Happy New Year & God bless.



Edward (Ed) Moyer Youth Director of B.U.M.C

Are you interested in learning more about the Bible and God's plan for your life?

There is a group of men and women from our community that meets at Berwyn Methodist Church on Tuesday evenings for discussion and fellowship. We will be studying the book of 1 Samuel beginning January 7, 2014. This unique Bible study series may be used by people who know nothing about the Bible, as well as by more knowledgeable believers. Why not give us a try? We meet from 7-8:30 pm. All that is required is your attendance and your Bible. Study books are \$25.00 and can be purchased that evening. Questions? *See Elaine Parvín*

IN MEMORY OF AMY

Many, many thank you's to those of you who donated coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and boots to the 3rd annual "In Memory of Amy Dwyer" drive. The first drive was held in 2011, coordinated by her family and friends in conjunction with onewarmcoat.org, shortly after Amy's death on October 5th, 2011, from Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS).

That first drive collected 624 coats. The next year the number of donation centers increased and 921 coats were donated. The 2013 drive, just completed this past Thanksgiving, collected 1,177 coats plus many gloves, scarves, and hats. These items were gathered by many different groups and individuals and this year were donated to Zion Baptist Church, Trevor's Campaign, Hurricane Sandy Victims, Good Samaritan Shelter and Safe Harbor of Chester County.

All of us who knew Amy feel that collecting warm clothing for the needy is a wonderful tribute to her life. From the time Amy joined BUMC on February 19, 1995, we felt a surge of new energy throughout the church. Her warm smile, infectious laughter and boundless energy extended from the choir loft to every part of our church mission and program. She almost single-handedly maintained our Church and Society programs.

Amy especially tried to make all of us aware of our responsibility to make the world a better place. Her concern for children extended from those she met in her travels in many different countries to those she taught in her computer classes at the EW Montessori School. Her concern for the poor and downtrodden extended from the homeless in Philadelphia to those in the furthest and most remote reaches of the world.

Although Amy died much too young, her life made the world a much better place. What she left for those of us at Berwyn who knew her are memories of her constant good cheer, her very caring heart, and an understanding that each of us is "our brother's keeper." What she left to those needy persons whom she helped in many ways none of us will ever fully know.

Ann West

IT'S ALWAYS HARD TO SAY GOODBYE

Saying "good-bye" to friends is always difficult. From the moment that Paul and Jan Polasky joined Berwyn United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 8th, 1998, they immediately became "old friends." I don't think there is a committee on which the two of them have not served. Jan served a term as our Lay Leader, and Paul has lead our Adult Council and Men's Fellowship. Both of them are good cooks and have helped in our kitchen often. Every Sunday you could listen to the choir and know that Jan, an alto, and Paul, a bass, were there supporting the group. In a particularly magnanimous spirit last Christmas they donated a "much needed and long awaited" baby grand piano to the congregation. On Sunday, December 1st, at the 10:30 worship service, the Polaskys were presented prayer shawls and recognized for their tireless ministry at Berwyn United Methodist Church.

As I write this, Paul and Jan are on the road heading back to their roots in Arizona and a new home in Gilbert, Arizona. They are looking forward to being able to spend more time with Jan's mom and their 4 grandsons. We will miss them; Berwyn church will miss them. One thing we do know is that there is a lucky church in Arizona that receive the Polaskys and soon Paul and Jan will be a vital part of that congregation.

Ann West, Communication's Committee



Baptism: November 24, 2013

November 24 was an exciting day for the families of Stephen and David Fetter and Berwyn United Methodist Church. The cousins, Bryce, age 8, and Bentley, 5 months, were baptized in their fathers' home church.

Bentley Connor Fetter was born June 18th, 2013, at Chester County Hospital weighing 2 pounds and 15 ounces. That meant that he had to stay in the hospital an extra 16 days. His mom describes him as a blue-eyed blond who is always smiling. He especially likes to watch TV. Shows that really seem to catch his attention are Elmo and football. Bentley's mom, Justine, grew up in Erial, New Jersey. His dad, Stephen Fetter, lived for many years on the corner of Midland and Waterloo Avenue and attended BUMC. Bentley has a half brother, Mark, who is 18 years old.

Bryce Fetter, the son of David and Cheryl, was born in Colorado, on April 11, 2005, weighing only 3'11". According to his dad, even though he was small, he was a healthy, alert baby. Currently he is in third grade. According to Bryce's father, he is a really good kid. He loves anything to do with airplanes. Bryce's dad lived in Berwyn and later moved to Downingtown where he attended high school.



Pastor Gary & Bentley

August Jack (Gus) and Arthur Joseph (Archie) McDowell were born in Los Angeles, CA on September 29, 2012. They currently live in La Canada, CA with their parents, Jeremy and Chrissy, and their three-year-old sister Bea. Jeremy grew up at BUMC and is the son of Jane McDowell. Gus and Archie are fraternal twins and, as a result, are completely different in appearance and personality. According to their parents, Archie is the “thinker” and Gus is the “bulldozer”. They and their sister are a constant source of joy to their East Coast family. Beatrice, the very proud big sister, was baptized at BUMC two years ago on November 20, 2011.



Archie, Bea & Gus

FEBRUARY 2, 2014
SUPER BOWL SUNDAY SUBMARINE
SANDWICH & CHILI SALE

6" Hoagies- Italian, Ham, Turkey \$5 each

Includes choice of American or Provolone Cheese
Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions

Chili - \$5.00/Qt

Orders due by Wednesday, Jan. 29th

Subs and Chili will be ready for pick up at 3:00 PM

Proceeds will benefit our ASP Mission trip and Youth Program.

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Chili _____ Qt(s)

Italian _____

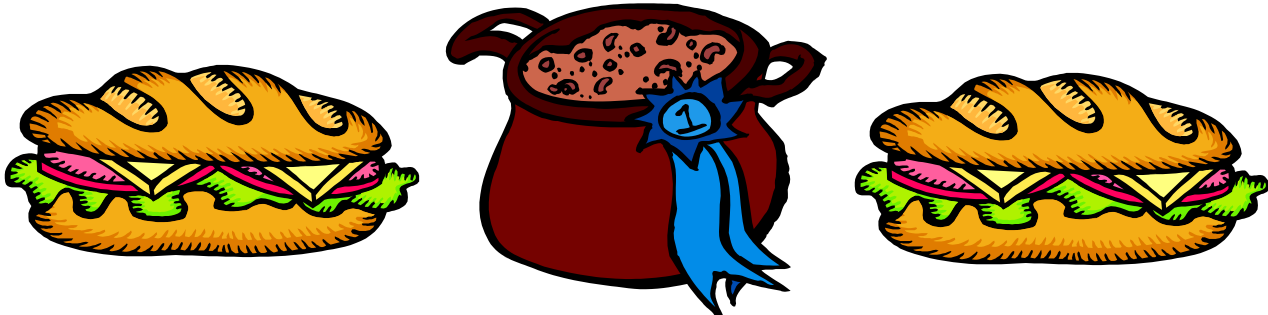
__ American Cheese __ Provolone Cheese __ Lettuce __ Tomatoes __ Onions

Ham _____

__ American Cheese __ Provolone Cheese __ Lettuce __ Tomatoes __ Onions

Turkey _____

__ American Cheese __ Provolone Cheese __ Lettuce __ Tomatoes __ Onions





Our Mission Statement

God calls Berwyn UMC to be a community

Of Christian believers that:

Invites ~ Nurtures ~ Encourages Service

Sunday Morning Worship

8:30 AM	Early Worship
9:15 AM	Sunday School for all Ages
10:30 AM	Worship

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