



March 2009

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

FROM THE PASTOR

Our journey through Lent

THE Lenten, Holy Week and Easter Celebrations are upon us. This is the time when we focus on Christ's great love for us that led him to Calvary to offer redemption and pardon. Just as Jesus prepared himself for the full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice that he made on our behalf, so we too must spend time preparing ourselves to receive his love anew; to be renewed in our faith and to be revitalized in continuing his ministry here on earth.

Our Lenten Journey begins with the imposition of ashes on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25**, with a special service at 7:30 p.m.

The Lenten Lunches in Scheick Hall will begin on **March 4** with the Rev. Jay Wilkins of Trinity Presbyterian Church as our speaker. The other speakers:

March 11: Kristine Adams, lay member, BUMC.

March 18: The Rev. Dick Streeter, retired pastor of Paoli Presbyterian Church.

March 25: Pastor Phil.

April 1: Ann Hatfield, ministerial candidate, Trinity Presbyterian.

April 8: Veronica Mosley, administrative assistant, BUMC.

These Wednesday Lenten Lunches will begin at 12:30 p.m. and end promptly at 1:15 p.m. The free-will offering that we make at these lunches pays for the expenses incurred, and the balance is given to a mission project. The theme for these lunches is "Coming Home to the Lord," from a Lenten booklet by Patricia Fosarelli.

On **Holy Thursday, April 9**, at 7:30 p.m., we will have a service of the Upper Room commemorating the institution of the Supper our Lord gave to us for our spiritual nurture and strength.

On **Good Friday, April 10**, the annual ecumenical service will be held at the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church from noon to 3 p.m. That evening at 7:30 at BUMC, our choir will make a musical offering of "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Theodore DuBois.

On **Gloria Saturday, April 11**, we will have a continental breakfast, a short devotional and the Easter Egg Hunt for the children of our church and community.

With awe and wonder we will worship on **Easter, April 12**, to celebrate the great and glorious truth that Christ is alive and lives for evermore through the mighty power of God.

I am confident that through these services God will bless and sustain us in our journey of faith. May grace and peace be with you throughout the journey of life.

Pastor Phil

Special supplement in this issue (after Page 8):

The program of United Methodist Women

Intentional and thoughtful stewardship

When I offered to write this Finance Committee article, I took some time to reflect on what stewardship means to my family. I asked myself, “Why do we give?” I’ve realized that sometimes it feels as if we’re moving ahead without much thought, like when I’m making coffee, focusing on what and when we give – weekly or annual contributions, giving when asked – and not on why.

When we stop to ask why we give, it forces us to be more intentional, more thoughtful:

- We don’t give to BUMC simply because the Bible tells us to give. If that were the only reason, then we could give to any number of causes outside BUMC.
- We don’t give because we made a promise to do so when we became members of BUMC — although we did make that promise. If that were the only reason, then we might give less frequently or less creatively.
- We don’t give because we feel pressure to give. Surely, there is no pressure to place an envelope in the offering each week: some people pledge to the church and make their contributions monthly or even annually, while others make their contributions electronically, so passing on the offering basket doesn’t suggest someone is not supporting the church.

Instead, it occurs to me that we give because we believe in what we are supporting – the ministry of the church. We also have great faith that those who guide our gifts to their destination will manage our financial contributions prudently, with an eye toward maximizing their impact within or beyond the church (whether staff salaries, offsetting mission costs, or buying materials for the children to make blankets for area shelters). I have had an opportunity to see the Finance Committee at work recently, and I have seen the work of other initiatives here at BUMC. I now realize that the reason we give at BUMC is that we know what we give will reach the right place at the right time.

Author Herb Miller has raised these worthwhile considerations for financial stewardship, or “giving”:

Give Intentionally

Give Proportionately

Give Regularly

Give One-Tenth

Give Generously

Give Sacrificially

Give Without Pride

Give Without Selfish Motives

Give Joyfully

Not surprisingly, when we reflect on why we give, and not just what and when, we hope to find we are giving intentionally, sacrificially, joyfully ... and, dare I say, even creatively. By giving in that manner, we can offer a tremendous benefit wherever there is need and, incidentally, realize a tremendous benefit as well – as a community, as a church, and as individuals.

Please keep an eye out for more thoughts from the Finance Committee on how we can continue to support the ministries of the church through stewardship.

Brian Donadio

MISSION MEMO

How we as a church aided missions in 2008

Pam Benton has prepared a summary of mission giving at BUMC during the year 2008, which I thought should be shared with the entire congregation. Donations in envelopes for various special Sunday collections, such as One Great Hour of Sharing and Peace with Justice, totaled \$698. We donated \$2,197 to various UMCOR projects. We donated \$1,378 to the general missions fund. The Youth of the church raised \$1,372 from the Crop Walk and the 30-hour famine. The Youth also held a dance marathon that raised \$5,040 for the care of Maria Claudia, the Peruvian child stricken with cancer. Additional funds donated for Maria Claudia totaled \$3,300.

Missions Committee projects raised \$865 for the support of the Chumpitas family in Peru. The Penny Jar collections totaled \$865. The Thanksgiving Offering totaled \$620, Christmas totaled \$1,223, and Easter totaled \$1,720. The donations for Christmas meals totaled \$935.

With your donations we have supported the Youth Group's trip to Appalachia (\$1,720), our sister church in El Salvador (\$1,200), the Chumpitas family in Peru (\$900), the cancer treatments for Maria Claudia (\$3,000 to date), Tamara, our child in Africa, and meals for families at Christmas.

The Mission Committee voted in February to donate funds in the Penny Jar not used for the support of Tamara to three organizations: the Methodist Mission at Cookson Hills in Oklahoma (\$300), Interfaith Hospitality Network (\$300) and Paul Maina King'uru's Children and Youth Empowerment Centre (CYEC) in Kenya (\$300).

In addition to the above gifts, you collected at least 80 bags of food for the United Methodist Neighborhood Services, and you gave Christmas toys for the Methodist Home for Children and for the Christmas dinner sponsored by Mount Zion United Methodist Church in North Philadelphia.

Thank you again for all your generosity. You've done a great job!

Betsy Newman

An update on CYEC in Kenya: Paul Maina King'uru visited BUMC on Jan. 11, speaking in the ETC Sunday School class and giving the Children's Message at the 10:30 service. Our Easter Offering last year provided support for the CYEC, a center for street children and youth. Paul thanked the congregation for our support, noting that it provided much-needed assistance after the conflict in Kenya early in 2008.

Penn State University is collaborating with the CYEC to create an eco-village to provide a launch pad and training center for former street youth. The design and building of the eco-village will include low-cost innovative building technology, water harvesting and management methods, clean and renewable energy production techniques, and sustainable waste-handling. Agricultural production and processing will play a central role in both providing food and generating income for the eco-village.

For more information on this project, contact Janelle Larson. Janelle and Paul have been friends since they were both graduate students in Oxford, and Janelle is leading the PSU activities.

BUMC joins Bread for the World Covenant



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

The Administrative Board voted Feb. 10 for BUMC to become a Covenant Church with Bread of the World. Churches across the country have strengthened their hunger ministry by becoming covenant churches. These churches make a commitment to integrate hunger concerns into the life of their congregations. Bread for the World provides opportunities to learn more about hunger, to pray for hungry people, and to take action to end hunger through advocacy. The Church and Society Committee will continue to raise the money through this endeavor.

MEMORIAL SERVICE ON MARCH 7

Jacque Leiser, active member since 1960s

A memorial service will be held at the church at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 7, for Jacque Leiser, who died on Feb. 12 at the age of 79.

The choir will sing at the service. Afterward, there will be a reception in Schieck Hall, with a video show on Jacque's life.

Jacque Burley was born in West Virginia and met her future husband, Richard Leiser, an Army officer, while they both were working at the Pentagon during the 1950s. Richard died years ago.

Jacque came to Berwyn United Methodist Church in the 1960s and has been enthusiastically involved in church life, from helping in the office and the kitchen to acting in the clown patrol. "She wore many hats," said her friend Alice Nicholas, who will be a speaker at the memorial service. Alice also commented that Jacque had "a master's degree in bridge." She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She is survived by a daughter, Meredith Mueller; two sons, Jonathan and Brian Leiser; and five grandchildren, Ned and Schyler Mueller and Alexandra, Natalie and Daniel Leiser.

Mission trip: Preaching in deeds instead of words

Anne and I shared with many Volunteers in Mission (VIM) teams while we worked in St. Vincent and Grenada. We served as hosts to these teams and evidenced the great good that God could do through the willing hands and hearts of others. When we relocated to this country in 1998, we did not think that we would have an opportunity to be involved in VIM again. However, in 1990 Bishop Susan Morrison invited me to be the conference coordinator of VIM, and through that appointment I have been involved in teams ever since. It continues to be a wonderful and blessed opportunity for me to reach out and bless others in the name of the Lord. Through VIM I show, through my hands-on activity, the compassion and love of a blessed Savior. This is a time when I have the opportunity to preach with deeds instead of words. This is something that most, if not all of us, can do.

Recently I had the privilege of joining a team from Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan. We worked on the construction of a new church in El Paraiso, Honduras. The new church was started six years ago through the efforts of Pastor Ramon Lara of La Confradia. The church has grown large enough to have its own pastor. They have had some difficult times of late with their pastor, who has had to leave, and they are now being led by two able lay persons. A two-story building is being constructed. The bottom floor will house the fellowship hall, kitchen and Sunday School rooms. The second floor will house the sanctuary. At present the fellowship hall is used as the place of worship. Throughout 2008 and now in 2009, this church will have priority for mission teams traveling to Honduras. The goal is to have the church completed by the end of this year.

The Church of the Resurrection is a tremendous blessing to the Honduras Mission Churches. They send medical teams, construction teams and leadership teams to teach the Honduran leaders. The COR has a special covenant relationship with the Honduras Mission, not just with a local church. They have been very instrumental in getting many from their jurisdiction to become involved. Teams are coming regularly from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ohio, just to name a few. There have also been teams from New Jersey, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas.

I look forward to the time when we can build a team to go and share in the exciting ministry of planting churches and building new structures in Honduras to the glory and honor of God. Let us keep the key leadership in our prayers: Bishop Galvan, Superintendent Roberto Pena, and VIM Coordinator Ron Davidson. Also pray for the pastor and lay workers who are doing a great work for the Lord.

Pastor Phil

WHAT'S GOING ON AT BERWYN UNITED METHODIST

Movies That Make You Think. We will show *The Visitor* at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7. The children's feature will be *Horton Hears a Who*. Amazon.com's Tom Keogh called *The Visitor* "a simmering drama" about a college professor and recent widower, Walter Vale (longtime character actor Richard Jenkins) and the friendship he forms with a pair of homeless, illegal aliens. Vale finds that "the wheels of injustice in immigration crush all manner of hopes in post-9/11 America."

Getting to Know You. The nametags have been updated. We encourage everyone to wear his or her tag on a regular basis so that we can get to know each other. If you can't find your tag, or if you have any questions, call Ruth Rumiano at 610-647-5264.

Men's Fellowship. The group will hold its regular monthly breakfast at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 14. The speaker will be the Rev. Joe DiPaolo, pastor of Wayne United Methodist Church, who will continue our series on United Methodist history with a discussion of the history of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and its merger with the Methodist Church in 1968. All men of the church and their guests are invited for a delicious hot breakfast and Rev. DiPaolo's presentation.

Baptism. Pulman Percival Watson Vose was baptized during the 10:30 service on Feb. 15. He was born Oct. 25, 2008, the son of Jennifer Lynn Stewart Watson and James Vernon Vose. The grandparents are Robert Bruce Watson, Janet Adams Stewart Watson, and Joseph Harold and Elizabeth Archibald Vose.

Book Club. The club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at a location to be announced. This month's book is *Caspian Rain* by Gina Nahai. The discussion leader will be Betsy Lang.

Fall Festival and Flea Market. Remember the date: Saturday, Oct. 10. Please start putting aside your collectibles, antiques and other salable items. The event benefits our church and our missions. For information, contact Janet Campbell or Kate and Brian Walker.

Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers from our church have been working at house sites in West Chester. They will continue to work with the Habitat crew this winter and spring. If you are interested in joining this very worthwhile mission, call or e-mail Sue Farina, SMFarina@aol.com or 610-695-9008. All levels of experience are welcome. Many thanks to the following people who have been Habitat volunteers this year: Neil Andersen, Judy Fisk, Maynard Krug, Dick Rood and Rick Stoker.

What Is a Christ Servant Minister? Answer: A committed individual dedicated to spreading the Good News of Christ Jesus to the world. The CSM accomplishes this goal in three distinct ways: caring ministries, speaking ministries, and leading ministries. This program formerly was called the lay speaker program, and it included only speaking ministries. A 10-hour basic training course is offered by the conference, and then the candidate may select advanced training in a specific area of service. The candidate must be approved by the local church's Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Charge Conference. For more information, contact Pastor Phil or Nancy Atchison.

Holy Land Tour. Several members of the congregation recently returned from a "Biblical Storyteller" tour of the Holy Land. In a "Biblical Storyteller" tour, the group is accompanied by a guide who tells stories from the Old or New Testament that pertain to the site being visited. Those who made the trip were Rick Stoker, Nancy Atchison, Lynn Fedele, Romaine Rood, Sally Robie, Jan Polasky, Claudia Sharpless, Margi MacKenzie and Elaine Parvin.

Club Berwyn. On Feb 7, five kids joined Jess Simmons to talk about love and how to share it with others. We collected six boxes of household cleaning supplies, paper products and toiletries for the Home of the Sparrow and the Domestic Violence Center. The kids made Valentine's Day goody bags for children at Bridge of Hope in Coatesville. Later, they worked *really* hard to make no-sew blankets for BOH. As a result of their work, 14 children are now feeling warm and very loved.

Vacation Bible School. Volunteers are needed to help staff Camp E.D.G.E. from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. July 13-18. Jess Simmons is looking for people who can decorate, cook, play games and just hang out with kids. If none of those categories suit your fancy, talk to Jess – she will find *something* for you to do! Contact her at jsimmllove@hotmail.com or 610-764-0718.

The Coffee Hour needs more volunteers

Each Sunday, many of us gather in the Parlor to enjoy the coffee and snacks provided by the dedicated members of BUMC's Coffee Committee, a.k.a. the Hospitality Team. These folks make the coffee and provide snacks for both services and clean up after the 10:30 service.

Our Coffee Committee provides a much-appreciated ministry but could greatly benefit from additional volunteers. In fact, many of you may not be aware that the committee members pay for snacks out of their own budgets, not the church budget. (The church pays only for the coffee, supplies and juice.)

Currently, each three-member team on the Coffee Committee commits to about four Sundays between September and early June. If we could enlist more participants, we could reduce that commitment to about three Sundays. Please, consider sharing in this important ministry, especially if you or your children enjoy the Sunday coffee and snack time! Call or e-mail Margie O'Donnell: 610-687-9674 and mat.o@comcast.net.

Celebrating 95 at Berwyn United Methodist

Mabel Williams celebrated her 95th birthday with cake and punch for members of the congregation after the 10:30 service on Feb. 15.

Mabel was born Friday the 13th of February, 1914, during a snowstorm. A little superstitious, she says it always snows on her birthday. (This year the snow came a day late.) Her family moved from Philadelphia to Berwyn when Mabel was 5. Arriving from the city, she was shocked that there were no street lights out here in the country.

She was married to Howard R. (Hap) Williams at the Broomall Methodist Church on Sept. 16, 1939, by the former Berwyn pastor, Robert Walker. Their marriage was kept a secret because both worked at Bell Telephone, which had a non-spouse employment policy at the time.

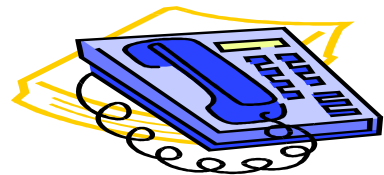
Raised a Baptist, Mabel became a Methodist and a member of the Berwyn Methodist Church on Dec. 22, 1940. She was a member of the Joy Circle of the Methodist Women's Society and active in our church's kitchen whenever she was needed. She and Ruth Yohn were often on the road to the Methodist Children's Home in Philadelphia, helping with fundraising events. She and Hap were also Friday Volunteers for many years. She now enjoys the Widow/Widowers Breakfasts at Patty Mac's.

Today, she lives independently at Berwyn Main-Line Apartments, using Surrey Services, family and friends to help her with transportation. She and her son, Gene, faithfully attend the 8:30 services, then go out for breakfast – a good way to start the week, nourished body and soul.

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: March 22

The Lighted Cross is published monthly (except in July and August) to spread the good news about the activities of Berwyn United Methodist Church. Chairs and members of committees are invited to submit articles to inform the congregation about events and the work of the church. Individuals are invited to submit cards of thanks and brief items of interest about congregation members. Your submissions may have to be edited for length. The next issue will be published April 1, and an electronic version will be available earlier on the church website. Submit your items to gene.foreman@verizon.net or use the mailbox in the office.



Church Phone:
610-644-5555

Office E-mail:
officebumc@comcast.net

Church Website:
www.berwynumc.org

LENDING A HAND

March 1

Acolyte: Andres Montaner

Liturgist: Moses Hogan

Ushers: Brian Dunn, Vic Burris,

Luis Montaner, Rachel Burris

Children's Message: Amy Dodds

Story Time: Holly Dillon

Bulletin Preparation: Pat White

Coffee Committee: Pattie Littlewood,

Eloise Levitt, Margi MacKenzie

Flower Delivery: Jane McDowell

March 8

Acolyte: Asa Walker

Liturgists: Brett Shallcross

Ushers: John Ku, Bob Borst,

Will Bushnell, Carl Bushnell

Children's Message: Anne Poncè

Story Time: Gina DeFlavia

Bulletin Preparation: Sue Farina

Friday Volunteers: Peh-sun Ku,

Hui-chun Ku

Coffee Committee: Claudia Gonzales,

Jamile Toro

Flower Delivery: Margi MacKenzie

March 15

Acolyte: Sara West

Liturgist: Sally Bridwell

Ushers: Jack Campbell, Jon Stockler,

Alice Nicholas, Brett Shallcross

Children's Message: Janelle Larson

Story Time: Janelle Larson

Bulletin Preparation: Barbara Borst

Friday Volunteer: Claudia Sharpless

Coffee Committee: Romaine Rood,

Joanne Lare, Betsy Newman

Flower Delivery: Barbara Borst

March 22

Acolyte: Victoria West

Liturgist: Scott Phelps

Ushers: Don Young, John McDowell,

Peh-sun Ku, Pete Tillett

Children's Message: Janet Campbell

Story Time: Sondra Wilen

Bulletin Preparation: Sue Farina

Friday Volunteer: Peggy Robinson

Coffee Committee: Janelle Larson,

Janet Campbell, Amy Dodds

Flower Delivery: Margie O'Donnell

March 29

Liturgist: Rick Stoker

Ushers: Bob Fisk, Nagle Bridwell,

Judy Dunn, Margie O'Donnell

Children's Message: Nancy Atchison

Story Time: Gina Phelps

Bulletin Preparation: Pat White

Friday Volunteers: Ruth Rumiano,

Rosalie Hart

Coffee Committee: Gina Phelps,

Nancy Koon, Sue Denisevicz

Flower Delivery: Judy Fisk

The nursery school is busy and buzzing

This time of year, we at BUMNS always think it is going to be a quiet time, but then comes the realization that there is a lot that we will be doing.

We have just finished Parent Visitation week. We like to have the parents take as much of a part in our school as possible.

During February, the 5-Day children headed to the Great Valley Nature Center for a lesson on sugar mapling. The 2- and 3-Day classes were visited by a dentist who is also the mother of two of our children. The beginning of March, a storyteller will be visiting our 5-Day classes. Art Goes to School is just getting scheduled, as is a visit to the Wayne Art Center for our 3-Day children.

Conferences are next in line, as we meet with parents over the course of two days. Then there is Donuts With Dads, an event that takes place over three days so that fathers with more than one child in the school will not have to run back and forth between classes.

Now put all that together with getting ready for our big fundraiser, the Mother/Staff Appreciation Dinner held each year at the Saturday Club, and it is evident that this little school is always busy and buzzing. The Management Team is already hard at work planning that evening. They chair all the committees, the largest being the Silent Auction Committee.

Yes, we are very busy at school. And that is the way it should be when you are dealing with little ones and their busy parents.

Ann Bole

Card of Thanks

Thank you for all of your support via prayers / cards / phone calls / visits and inquiries on my behalf during my stay in the hospital. At this time, the wounds on my leg have started to heal properly. The hope is that all of the infection has been removed and I am well on my way to recovery. Thanks again.

Bob Fisk

Responsively yours: Organized for mission

Excerpted from the December 2008 issue of Response magazine and reprinted with permission..

By Harriett Jane Olson

Women's Division Deputy General Secretary

There are wonderful things afoot! Between the work of the Holy Spirit and the community of saints, United Methodist Women members spark each other to tackle issues in their local communities, states and around the world.

Perhaps this is a good time to remind us that we are organized for mission as a way of living out our discipleship. Jesus was able to hear the voice of the blind man at the side of the road, and to offer compassion as well as healing to the woman with the issue of blood when the disciples, and religious and political establishment of his day had learned to ignore their voices and their needs. United Methodist Women members have learned, and are continuing to learn, to hear the needs of the outsider and the voice of Jesus. We are working on ways to be sensitive to the needs of our own members — needs for education, compassion, racial justice and economic opportunities. We listen in deep and compassionate ways to needs around the world.

We organize, speak and act because we are seeking to be faithful to Jesus' call to love others, and to live lives demonstrating we are open to the claims of the Gospel at every level. We are freed by the love of God to have hearts broken for the world. We are compelled by what we learn to take action to stand against oppression. We are hungry for learning because we are concerned about the unintended impact of our own decisions. We want to know more, understand better and listen alertly.

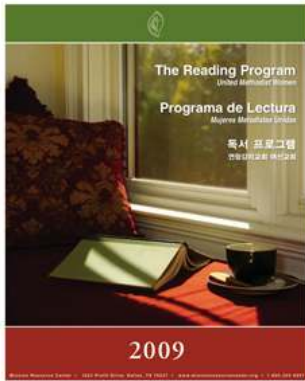
We celebrate the stories you share — stories heard when spending time with United Methodist Women members. We hear about the Reading Program circle in New Jersey that meets in a local public library, bringing new women into the group. We hear about women in Tennessee collecting items for persons in prisons and getting to know the needs of the inmates in the local facility. We hear about women responding to the needs of families left behind after ICE (Immigration Customs and Enforcement) raids in Nebraska and West Virginia. We hear about women publicizing the risks of mercury in vaccines and instigating action across their states to protest the use of this toxic preservative in vaccines distributed in this country or in other places around the globe.

We are also privileged to be in conversation with readers of Response magazine. In the May issue, I wrote in this column that the United States supports U.N. peacekeeping missions with its votes on the security council, but has not paid the related assessments or its dues in full. That comment struck a nerve. One Response reader sent me a copy of her letter to the editor of her local paper on the issue. That is an interesting place to see a groundswell of United Methodist Women action — letters to the editor, letters to legislators. We have ways to make a difference without even leaving the house!

Another United Methodist Women member was so concerned about this that she called the United Nations. Unfortunately, she reached the U.S. information office, and instead of confirming the dollar amounts the office tried to reassure her that all is well because despite our pattern of not paying our dues in full, the United States is still the largest contributor to the United Nations. However, now she knows much more about the U.S. position on the United Nations and is better able to contact legislative leaders in the new Congress to raise the same concern.

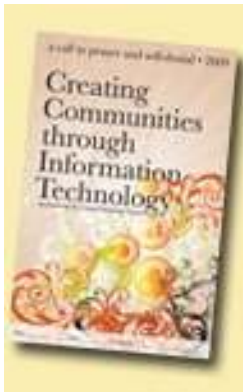
The current financial crisis will have far-reaching impacts. Some of us are experiencing this already. Every one of our community centers and neighborhood outreach programs is dealing with increased numbers of families who need food, fuel, clothes and shelter.

Thanks be to God for the compassionate hearts, open minds and willing hands of UMW members. Together and individually, as we live as disciples of Jesus, we make a difference for women, children and youth who are among the most vulnerable today and every day.



United Methodist Women at Berwyn UMC will revitalize The Reading Program. We will have a subscription of RESPONSE Magazine and the NEW WORLD OUTLOOK in the Library. We will also begin to purchase books suggested by UMW for the Reading Program. We will highlight the offerings in the Lighted Cross. Everyone in the church is welcome to join us in reading about mission work in the church, social action and spiritual growth.

Lydia Circle will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 1. This meeting (light supper included) will highlight the Call to Prayer Offering, which is in addition to our regular pledge to mission. "Prayer and giving have long been vital to the women's organizations in the church. Today the yearly offering for A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial totals nearly one million dollars – with projects funded both nationally and internationally."



2009 Theme: "Creating Communities through Information Technology." Information technology plays a vital role in communication and learning in today's world. Technology sends important information quickly, alerting communities to disaster, violence or other danger. Technology is also a part of education – teaching lessons on math, science, and English-As-A-Second-Language, and sharing information about diseases and treatments.

- **April 5 Meeting.** Mark your calendars. We are going on a field trip to hear the storyteller Tracy Radosevic, who led the trips to Israel/Palestine. She will speak at St. David's Episcopal Church at its 5 p.m. service. More information in April.
- **July 23-25, 2009: School of Christian Mission.** These events are opportunities to study a spiritual growth topic (Together at the Table); a geographic area (The Beauty and Courage of Sudan); and an issue impacting society (Native American Survival). Participants grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context. There are scholarships for first-time attenders of this event.

If you would like to be part of the work of United Methodist Women, you are welcome to join us at our Sunday evening meeting once a month. If you are interested in forming a circle that meets at another time and place, please contact Amy Dwyer, perthenia@mac.com or 610-0789-8118.

You may also like to donate to our pledge to missions. Checks can be made out to Berwyn United Methodist Women and sent to: Pam Smith, 1316 Summerhill Drive, Malvern, PA 19355.