



March 2010

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross



Mission to Mexico

Eight members of Berwyn United Methodist Church were among volunteers (above) from the United States who were in Cozumel, Mexico, from Jan. 16 to Jan. 30. They helped to build an all-purpose structure for a Presbyterian church and to sew quilts, curtains for the local hospital, and children's clothes. Below: Claudia Sharpless with one of the quilts. *A report from Nancy Atchison is on Page 5.*



Schedule of events for Lent. *Page 4.*

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

2010 budget presents challenges for the church

Last month, I highlighted the end of 2009 financial status for BUMC. As I mentioned, this was and continues to be a cause for celebration. Through the generous efforts of a number of members, we were able to end the year with a surplus in the budget.

In spite of the end-of-the-year good news, we are still facing a challenge for 2010. Following the Stewardship campaign, pledges and projected income for 2010 are 15% less for 2010 compared with 2009. As a result, the Finance Committee prepared a 2010 budget that includes a 16% reduction in our Connectional Ministries contributions, a 10% across-the-board cut in salaries for all staff, and reductions (and in some cases elimination) of discretionary spending. A summary of the 2010 budget is below.

The good news is that this does not have to be our final budget for 2010. One of the great things about Stewardship is that it is not a one-time event – it is not just the pledge card given on Stewardship Sunday. Stewardship is that act we perform each and every Sunday when we place our envelopes or contributions on the offertory plate. Stewardship is that contribution we make to special events that arise during the year. It is that response we make when we hear of the needs of the church and respond in a way to enable God's calling for BUMC to become a reality.

As you look at the summary below, I hope you will consider how you can help us return to a "100% Budget" for 2010. Please contact Brian Dunn (BDunn@insconsultants.org, 610-644-6639) or myself (jim.tiede@gmail.com, 610-293-9293) if you would like to reconsider your Stewardship pledge for 2010.

Jim Tiede

	2010 Budget	2009 Actual	% Change 2010 to 2009
Income			
Pledges and Contributions	\$347,500	\$414,410	-16%
Other Income	\$47,720	\$47,867	0%
Total Income	\$395,220	\$462,277	-15%
Expenses			
Administration Expense Including Salaries	\$43,188	\$47,964	-10%
Committee Expense	\$350	\$657	-47%
Communications Expense	\$2,200	\$3,903	-44%
Connectional Ministries & Confer. Support	\$33,760	\$40,372	-16%
Education	\$3,600	\$4,029	-11%
Facilities Operations	\$96,524	\$113,589	-15%
Local Ministries Including Salaries	\$129,941	\$140,474	-7%
Membership & Congregational Care	\$200	\$857	-77%
Music Including Salaries	\$23,630	\$27,702	-15%
Worship	\$1,950	\$3,159	-38%
Youth	\$600	\$1,430	-58%
Total Operating Expenses	\$335,943	\$384,135	-13%
Mortgage	\$70,000	\$69,966	0%
Total Expenses	\$405,943	\$454,101	-11%
Net Income (Shortfall)	\$(10,723)	\$8,176	-231%
Staff Salaries (Note: 2010 salaries include an increase in the Youth Coordinator salary, but is 10% less than the initial salary)	\$136,520	\$146,535	-7%

FROM THE PASTOR

God has called us to be a community

IT IS HELPFUL from time to time to remind ourselves of God's purpose for our existence as Berwyn United Methodist Church. We have summed up our purpose with these words: "God calls Berwyn UMC to be a community of Christian believers that Invites, Nurtures and Encourages Service."

There are several key words in this Mission Statement, and over the next few months I would like us to reflect on them. For me, those key words are *community*, *invites*, *nurtures*, and *encourages service*.

In Luke 4:18, Jesus set out clearly what he saw as his mission to the world. He was to bring good news to the poor and proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind. In studying the life of Jesus, you would note that he concentrated on those key factors, and in so doing he was able to bring hope and healing to many lives.

We feel that God has called us to be a *community*. When we use that word, what are we saying to the others? We are saying that as Christian believers we share a common interest, a common commitment, a common love, and a common value of life in Christ.

There may be those who would ask what is the difference between community here at Berwyn UMC and the other ways in which community is experienced at the club, the football field, the soccer moms' group, the online chat forum, and other myriad ways in which we can experience community. Once upon a time, the churches were the source of community in the village, towns and cities. That has changed with the varied and many offerings that are available to us in today's world.

As the people of God, we have to keep asking ourselves what is that special something that we have as a community that differentiates us from others who also claim to be a community? What is that something that people are longing for that other communities may not be offering?

Meeting the spiritual needs of the individual – that is the serious/critical need we are meeting. As faithful followers of Jesus, we dare not forget that humans are physical and spiritual. Other groups can legitimately claim to offer community that would fulfill the social and physical needs. The uniqueness of the body of Christ is that we take seriously the spiritual and emotional well being of the person.

Our Mission Statement invites us to acknowledge with confidence that we are a people who have something to offer. As we take our own spirituality seriously and we find fulfillment and meaning in life, we will be in mission to others, wanting them to have the same experiences we have been having. This mission to others prompts us to want to reach out to others, and that is where being invitational comes in.

More on what our mission is as we *invite* others. I will take this subject up next month.

Pastor Phil



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

SCHEDULE FOR LENT

Plan to attend these special events of the season

Lenten Lunches. During our journey in Lent, we will have a luncheon program at 12:30 p.m. in Schieck Hall every Wednesday through March 31. The speakers for the lunches in March are as follows:

March 3 — Veronica Mosley.

March 10 — Ann Hatfield.

March 17 — John Paylor.

March 24 — Taylor Kiser.

March 31 — Phil Poncé.

Lunches will be prepared in the church kitchen, and a free-will offering will be received.

Special Readings at Worship Services. Once again there will be special readings during Lent. The readings in March are as follows:

March 7: Mercy, based on Isaiah 55:1-9.

March 14: Faithfulness, based on Joshua 5:9-12.

March 21: Transformation, based on Joshua 5:9-12.

March 28, Christ's Passion, according to Luke.

Holy Week Events. Our journey with Jesus begins on **Palm Sunday**, March 28, with all of the powerful music and drama of that service.

The journey continues to **Maundy Thursday** (also known as Holy Thursday) on April 1, when at 7:30 p.m. a reenactment of The Last Supper will unfold. Imagine the Sanctuary transformed into a room on the second floor of a Jerusalem inn. As we watch, 12 men introduce themselves and tell us about their lives and their relationship with Jesus. We watch Jesus as He tells them of the events about to unfold. We feel their camaraderie as they join together, and their confusion as Jesus talks about the days to come. When they share their last piece of bread and their last cup of wine together, we are a part of the mystery and awe of the moment. The scene freezes, and we have the opportunity to kneel at the rail and take communion in their presence. Make the reverence of the Holy Thursday service a part of your Easter experience (and plan on arriving around 6 p.m. for a soup supper in Schieck Hall with your friends).

On the evening of **Good Friday**, April 2, we follow Jesus to the cross through the moving music of John Stainer's "The Crucifixion."

The triumph of the resurrection is celebrated on **Easter Sunday**, April 4, made far more meaningful by having experienced the events leading up to this glorious day.

A great deal of time and effort by many people has gone into making this Holy Week experience. Invite your friends and neighbors to these unforgettable events.

From Judith Lang: The Good Friday cantata has become an important part of Holy Week at BUMC. In last month's issue of *The Lighted Cross*, I shared all the information about the work we are doing this year and the soloists who will be joining us. Each year I have come to you to request help in order to pay for the special musicians we hire. I need to raise \$700 for Good Friday expenses. If you would like to contribute, please use the Good Friday envelopes in the back of the church. Your name and the person you want to honor or remember will be listed in the Good Friday leaflet. Thank you so very much for considering this request.

Easter Egg Hunt. At 10 a.m. Saturday morning, April 3, there will be a light breakfast, meditation and egg hunt. Please bring a dozen filled eggs.

Building and sewing for the people of Cozumel

It has been my experience that going on a mission trip not only blesses the project and people we visit, but is truly a blessing to me! Our mission trip to Cozumel, Mexico, confirmed this impression.

Discover Service Projects is an ecumenical group, started in the '80s, that chooses a yearly project and sends teams in for several weeks to complete it. They have projects both in the United States and in Central America. The project we worked on was constructing an all-purpose building for a three-year-old Presbyterian church in Cozumel. The building will be used for worship, recreation and Sunday School, and as a hurricane shelter.

Different teams went in for seven weeks between Christmas and Feb. 12. The eight of us from BUMC were joined by 16 others, and we went weeks 4 and 5. With so many people working, the project was completed during the visits of the Discover Service Project teams. We have just learned from the pastor, José Luis Capul, that they even finished the roof, which they had expected to hire local people to complete.

Participants from BUMC were Dick Rood, Rick Stoker, Steve Stoker (Rick's brother), Claudia Sharpless, Carol Shaw (my friend), Brian Walker, Rev. Poncé and me.

We stayed at a motel about a mile from the main harbor. The motel was clean, though lacking reliable water temperature and pressure. I enjoyed living in a neighborhood where the "real" people live – quite a contrast in architecture, a shack next to a beautiful house.

Our days began with hymn singing and devotions by Rev. Poncé, followed by breakfast. The work site was about 10 minutes away by van. When we were there, the tasks were placing the cinder blocks, building forms for concrete, mixing concrete, and pouring concrete into the forms. Of course, there were a lot of behind-the-scene jobs that allowed anyone to help, irrespective of skill level – jobs like straightening rods and rebar, shoveling sand and stone, cutting wire, and cleaning forms for reuse.

As far as the sewing went, Claudia and I worked half a day at the home of the pastor. I thought I would be teaching sewing, but believe me, I was the one who *was* taught – the pastor's wife, Celia, is a professional seamstress. We were joined by several local church members each day, so I got a chance to try out my Spanish. We made things for a local hospital: curtains, hospital gowns, baby blankets and simple patchwork quilts.

We worked hard but enjoyed the 80-degree weather. We spent time on the beach, snorkeled, and toured the island. Three dinners were provided each week (one was a feast prepared by the ladies at the local church), but we were on our own for four meals each week. We found lots of good local restaurants; when you get off the main drag, from where the cruise ships come in, the restaurants are reasonably priced.

I realize how much God has blessed me and that I don't need all the stuff I have to be happy and to be a disciple of Christ.

Nancy Atchison

Soupy Thursday menu selections for March

March 4 – New England clam chowder.

March 11 – chili.

March 18 – tortellini soup.

March 25 – corn chowder.

Soupy Thursday for this year will end on Maundy Thursday, April 1, with chicken noodle.

MISSION MEMO

We need to fill 114 bags with food during Lent

Feed the Five Thousand. A favorite mission project for Lent returns as we Feed the Five Thousand. Please join us as we fill bags with food to feed a family of four for approximately three days. The filled bags will be delivered to United Methodist Neighborhood Services (UMNS) on North Broad Street in Philadelphia. We are setting a high goal this year – 114 bags - to honor of the 114 years that United Methodist Neighborhood Services has served individuals and families in need. Our congregation collected 80 bags last year, so this will be a challenging goal.

How can you help?

- Donate your used brown paper shopping bags with handles from Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, or Shady Maple. Place them in a box in the Narthex. The Missions team will double the bags and attach the list of food to purchase.
- Take one or more bags and purchase the food recommended by UMNS. It includes a box of cold cereal (Cheerios or Total, for example), a 64-ounce plastic bottle of juice (apple, grape, V-8, or orange), a 28-ounce jar of peanut butter, a 1-pound bag of rice, four 14-to-16-ounce cans of fruit packed in juice (peaches, pears, applesauce, oranges), a 1-pound bag of dried beans, a 12-ounce can of tuna, a can of Spam or a 12-ounce can of white chicken, a family-sized macaroni and cheese dinner, a 28-ounce can of pork and beans, four 14-to-16-ounce cans of vegetables (corn, green beans, carrots, tomatoes), a 1-pound box of spaghetti, and a 28-ounce jar or can of meat-flavored spaghetti sauce.
- Return your filled bag to the Narthex by Sunday, March 21. Your filled bag will provide an Easter gift to a struggling family and help us meet our goal of donating 114 bags this year. Thank you.

Peru Fund. Valentine's Day was sweet at BUMC as members flocked to church after a week of record-breaking snow. The sweets came from the best bakers in the church, who brought in their desserts for a bake sale to support the Peru Fund. More than \$400 was raised, with almost \$100 of that given as donations. Thanks to all who baked, bought, and donated money. Barbara Hall chaired the sale.

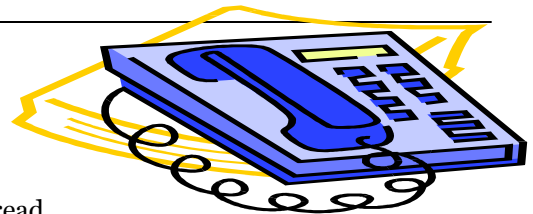
Easter Offering. The special offering at Easter will support our youth on their Appalachian Service Project trip to Kentucky on July 4-10. For decades, teams of youth from our church have repaired homes of low-income families in rural Central Appalachia. The goal of ASP is to make homes warmer, safer and drier, while offering transformational experiences for volunteers and homeowners alike. Show your support for our youth by giving generously to the Easter offering.

Donna Pitz

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: March 15

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

Symposium on race is March 7 at Daylesford Abbey

A Spring Symposium, sponsored by the Upper Main Line Ministerium, will be held at Daylesford Abbey at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 7. The topic is "A Faith-Filled Call: Confronting Race Issues." There will be a panel discussion, experiential exercises, and a time for questions and answers.

The panel will consist of Rachaun Griffin, the Rev. Larry Bergstresser, the Rev. Hannah Bonner and the Rev. Hilda Campbell. This symposium is open to all. The cost of the symposium is borne by the participating churches so that it may be a free event for participants. Daylesford Abbey will offer light refreshments after the presentation.

Open forum for parents continues on March 23

A. Michael Blanche, licensed social worker specializing in dealing with addiction, will conduct the third of four monthly open-forum sessions for parents in Schieck Hall at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 23. The topic will be "Technology and the Internet – Cell Phone Use, Texting, Social Networks." The final session will be held April 27.

All parents currently raising children are invited to these sessions, which are free and sponsored by the church's Drug Alcohol Recovery Team (DART) and the E. Chelsea Campbell Memorial Foundation. Information: Call Gail Campbell at 610-644-7843 or go to church website, www.berwynmc.org.



AT BERWYN
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JUNE 27-JULY 1
4:30-7:30 PM

LENDING A HAND

March 7

Narthex Greeter: Cynthia Bushnell

Acolyte: Harold Craig

Liturgist: Jane McDowell

Ushers: John Ku, Bob Borst,

Will Bushnell, Carl Bushnell

Children's Sermon: Amy Dodds

Story Time: Gina DeFlavia

Coffee Committee: Margi Mackenzie,

Eloise Levitt, Patti Littlewood

Flower Delivery: Cynthia Bushnell

March 14

Narthex Greeter: Maxine Jex

Acolyte: Maria Merino

Liturgist: Jennifer Cutler

Ushers: Jack Campbell, Jon Stockler,

Alice Nicholas, Brett Shallcross

Children's Sermon: Janet Campbell

Story Time: Janelle Larson

Coffee Committee: Sue Denisevicz,

Gina Phelps, Kate Walker

Flower Delivery: Margie Mackenzie

March 21

Narthex Greeter: Jane McDowell

Acolyte: Victoria Phelps

Liturgist: Tom Pierce

Ushers: Don Young, Scott Phelps,

Peh Ku, Zachary Phelps

Children's Sermon: Janelle Larson

Story Time: Kelly Hogan

Coffee Committee: Betsy Newman,

Mike Benton, Romaine Rood

Flower Delivery: Jane McDowell

March 28

Narthex Greeter: Sue Farina

Acolyte: Sarah West

Liturgist: Moses Hogan

Ushers: Bob Fisk, Nagle Bridwell,

Judy Dunn, Margie O'Donnell

Children's Sermon: Sue Tiede

Story Time: Jennifer Cutler

Coffee Committee: Claudia Gonzalez,

Jamile Toro, Anne and Phil Poncé

Flower Delivery: Margie O'Donnell

Thursday Helpers

March 4: Pat White

March 11: Sue Farina

March 18: Barbara Borst

March 25: Sue Farina

The Nursery School

It is hard to realize that Nursery School will be winding down in just three months. Next on our calendar of activities will be Conferences and Clem the Storyteller. We will also fit in Art Goes to School, a program from the Philadelphia Art Museum.

Clem the Storyteller is a gem we discovered last school year. He can adapt to any age group and any topic and still thrill his audiences. Clem also plays a variety of instruments to accompany his stories.

Art Goes to School helps children to see into art rather than just taking a quick look. They find shapes, colors, the story the artist was telling, and the objects that tell about the period of time the artist was portraying.

Conferences are a time of joining with parents and trading information. For the youngest, the emphasis is on the social development within a group. As you get to the children who will be attending kindergarten the following year, the testing has been more thorough and the results more telling in the four areas: physical, intellectual, emotional/social development, and the progression of language skills.

After that, we will be having our Easter Egg Hunt and parties. And maybe even be able to find the playground again!

Ann Bole

Paoli Boy Scout Troop 181

Troop 181 meets at BUMC three Tuesday evenings each month. The troop also has a weekend activity once a month.

Seven Webelos Scouts have committed to joining our troop this year. Our older Scouts will mentor and assist them in setting goals and helping them quickly achieve the rank of Scout and then Tenderfoot.

The camping activity for March is a trip to Washington to hike the Lincoln Pilgrimage Trail with stops at Ford's Theater, the Boy Scout Statue, the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial, among others.

We will be tent camping two nights at Greenbelt National Park in Maryland. Scouts will have opportunities to practice skills that will lead toward advancement in rank as well as completion of merit badges such as Hiking, Camping, Personal Fitness and Citizenship.

What's happening at Berwyn United Methodist

Benefit Pasta Dinner. A benefit pasta dinner will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 10, in Schieck Hall. Proceeds will benefit BUMC and the Berwyn Fire Company. Volunteers from the church and the fire company will put on this event. The menu will include spaghetti with marinara or clam sauce, spinach lasagna, meatballs, Italian sausage with peppers and onions, garlic bread, tossed salad, and assorted desserts. If you are willing to help, contact Rick Stoker.

New member. We welcomed Andrew French to the congregation on Feb. 14. Andrew grew up at Malvern and graduated from West Chester East. He sells men's golf apparel. He is married to Deborah Ann French and has two daughters: Lauren Ashley French and Mirilee Ann VanDame.

Book Club. The club will discuss *A Season of Life: A Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood* by Jeffrey Marx at its meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, at the home of Nancy Atchison. John Edinger will lead the discussion.

Snow Camp. Anthem, the BUMC youth group, will go to a snow camp at Somerset, in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania, leaving at 2 p.m. Friday, March 5, and returning at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 7.

United Methodist Women. Lydia Circle will meet at noon Sunday, March 7, in the Parlor. The topic will be "Prevention of Child Abuse: What Does God Want Us to Do?" Linda Shriver will lead the program. The circle made 50 aid kits for earthquake relief in Haiti. ... Maria Circle will meet at 7 p.m. Friday, March 12, at Luisa Merino's home, 108 Ivy Court, Upper Darby.

Lay Leader's Letter

Wow. When I suggested last month that February could be a depressing month, I had no idea what February 2010 had in store for us. That is one month we will remember for a long time. But along with the inconvenience, hardship, cost and yes, even damage, we will also remember how lovely it was. The beautiful snowflakes drifting silently down, and the white snow capping the evergreens, outlining the bare limbs of trees, and forming a deep carpet on our lawns and roofs, make for a true Christmas Card winter. We are reminded that there is good to be found in everything.

Last month I asked you to make a list of 28 blessings, one for each day of the month, to help get through February. Did you come up with 28? Well, how about 70? We are trying to identify all of the ministry programs that Berwyn United Methodist Church is presently engaged in, and so far we have come up with 70 and still counting. Just by being a part of BUMC, you are a part of 70 ministry programs that are many blessings to many people, from our own members to others worldwide.

So enjoy the good and beauty we have all around us, and continue to enjoy and be blessed by everything that comes with being a member of the BUMC family.

John Paylor

Cards of Thanks

From Kathleen Niles: Bob Niles' family wishes to thank the congregation and the Rev. Phil Poncé for the many forms of tribute that were paid to Bob, both during his long illness and during his viewing and funeral service in January. Your love and support have been exceptional, and Bob certainly loved you. You were his friends until the very end, and you did much to comfort our children and me. Thank you!

From Helen Lee Potter: My family and I wish to thank all of you for your kind expressions of love and care these past few weeks surrounding Doug's death. To be the beneficiary of so many prayers of the saints is indeed the only place to be in times of sorrow. And you brightened our days with flowers and cards. Thank you so very much. In Christian love.