



March 2008

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

LAST WEEKS OF LENT

Looking ahead to Easter

Lenten Lunches. On the Wednesdays noted below, starting at 12:15 p.m., Rick Stoker and his helpers will offer up a nice meal in Schieck Hall, followed by a 20-minute devotional meditation. This program is sponsored jointly by BUMC and Trinity Presbyterian Church. The devotion leaders: March 5 — Anne Hatfield; March 12 — Pastor Phil; March 19— Rev. Jay Wilkens.

One Great Hour of Sharing. On the fourth Sunday in Lent, March 2, United Methodists come together for One Great Hour of Sharing, with a special offering to help UMCOR care for people caught in storms, war, disaster and disease.

Holy Thursday. On March 20, there will be a service of the Upper Room in which we will have a common meal, the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and a Foot Washing ceremony in Schieck Hall.

Good Friday Ecumenical Service. On March 21, the annual ecumenical service will be held from noon to 3 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church.

Good Friday Service at BUMC. At 7:30 p.m. on March 21, the worship service will include a presentation of *The Seven Last Words of Christ* by Theodore DuBois. Judith A. Lang will direct. There will be an enlarged choir, a harpist, a timpanist and two guest soloists. The guest soloists are Brian Meneely, tenor, and Michael Krueger, bass, both of the Wayne Oratorio. Our JoEllyn Beck will sing the soprano solos.

People who would like to help defray the costs of this special service are invited to make a donation in memory or in honor of someone. Donors' names will be printed in the Good Friday service leaflet if the donation is received by Thursday, March 13. You may place your donation in the church offering plate or send it to the church office. Make sure that you indicate that the money is to be used for the Good Friday service. Also, indicate whether the money is being given in honor or in memory of someone.

Gloria Saturday. On March 22, there will be a continental breakfast and the Easter Egg Hunt.

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

REPORT ON STEWARDSHIP

Giving, from the youth perspective

As the youth coordinator, I have been continuously blessed by the ongoing support from the congregation. Every time our youth ask for support through hoagie sales, donations to the CROP walk, ASP, the 30-hour famine or other programs, you respond generously. This specially designated giving keeps the spirit of the youth high, and makes a difference locally and around the world. Upon hearing personal narratives about tragic situations in other parts of our country or the world, we are quick to pull out our checkbooks and offer our support as a reflection of the blessings we have in our own lives.

For me, it is admittedly much harder to write a check week after week to support the general operating budget. Often, we are not able to see the impact of these weekly gifts in tangible ways. Instead, we must practice financial stewardship through faith, knowing that the gifts we offer each week during worship are used to bless the lives of those around us as much – or possibly even more – than the gifts we give during special moments or times of hardship.

We are blessed to be a part of an extremely generous congregation. Please take a minute to review the financial report below, which reflects our financial activity through January. The good news is that our total contributions are equal to those from this time last year. But then, and now, we are somewhat behind budgeted income. The challenge of year 2007 meant that we were playing “catch-up” all year long. Our goal for 2008 is to stay ahead of our budgeted contributions so that we can move forward rather than looking back. Remember to give regularly and be faithful to your pledge so that we can make every week at Berwyn a special moment where we can clearly see the ways God is using our financial gifts to bless the lives of those around us.

Ryan Benton (for the Finance Committee)

January 2008	Actual	Budget	favorable (unfavorable)	% of budget	
INCOME	\$29,376	\$37,375	(\$7,999)	79%	
EXPENSES	\$35,701	\$38,335	\$2,634	93%	
gain(loss)	(\$6,325)	(\$960)			

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 7 - 11

4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

MUSIC, DRAMA, GAMES, CRAFTS

More information to follow

Accepting the resurrection as a mystery

THE MYSTERY of the resurrection of Jesus has been one that faithful followers of Christ and skeptics have tried to unravel over the centuries. There have been times when it has been forgotten that a mystery “is an event or situation that is difficult to fully understand or explain” (Encarta English Dictionary). In our humanness we have not been able to fully understand or explain the resurrection story, and it has been the tendency to dismiss it as a myth or something that we really don’t have to believe. There has been ongoing controversy around this mystery from the very beginning of Christianity.

I would invite us to read 1 Corinthians 15, which gives an account of the earliest resurrection controversy and how Paul dealt with it. There were those who could not understand or accept that there was a resurrection. Paul goes to great lengths to share the evidence that Christ was alive and lives for evermore. He catalogs clearly those who were witnesses to the risen Christ. He was also clear that the scriptures pointed to the reality of Christ’s resurrection. For Paul, who was not part of the original band of disciples, and who was a persecutor of those who believed in

Christ, there was enough evidence — especially adding his own personal experience of the Damascus road when Jesus spoke to him and called him to ministry — that Christ was alive. Paul also emphasized that without belief in the resurrection of Jesus, our preaching and our faith would be in vain (vs.14).



On March 23, as a faith community, we shall be celebrating again that glorious and wonderful reality that Christ was resurrected, that he is alive and lives forevermore. There will continue to be controversy and questions, like the recent claim that the bones of Jesus and his family were found in a burial site in Jerusalem. These should not in any way detract from our faith and preaching. We should learn to live comfortably with the fact that the resurrection is a mystery and that not all mysteries are solved. If accepted as something that we will never be able to fully explain, and that it is a mystery that points to the greatness and power of a Sovereign God, then our faith will be strengthened and we will be able to affirm boldly and unapologetically that we serve a risen Savior who is in the world today to bless us always.

I wish for you and yours a Holy and Blessed Easter!

Pastor Phil

MISSION MEMO

Mount Zion and BUMC partner to help homeless

To the good people at Berwyn UMC,

Words are not enough to convey the joy our friends from the neighborhood shelters, Mary Jane Enrichment Center and St. Barnabas, experienced at our annual Christmas party when you blessed them with so many, many wonderful gifts. There were so many gifts that we were able to take gifts to other shelters: People's Emergency Center and Philadelphia Committee to End Homelessness.

May God richly bless you, Berwyn UMC, as you reach out to those in need.

Cressa Morris

Cressa is the missions chair for Mount Zion United Methodist Church at 1530-38 North 11th Street in the Temple University area. She sent us this letter in December after we delivered an SUV-load of toys, clothing and toiletries that had been gathered by BUMC's Sunday School and Nursery School children. The gifts were distributed at the Christmas party that Mount Zion hosts for the homeless.

With our friends at Mount Zion, we are exploring other ways that we can partner in outreach efforts. Our Missions Committee has asked them to let us know how we might help. We also hope the two congregations can join with each other in activities like music programs and Bible school. We see this as an opportunity for the two churches to engage in mutual support.

There are two opportunities in the immediate future:

Mount Zion conducts Easter parties for Mary Jane Enrichment Center, the People's Emergency Center in West Philadelphia, Trevor's House, and the Salvation Army. They collect wrapped candies so that mothers in the shelters can make baskets for their own children. Cressa thought perhaps that we could help with that project.

Mount Zion has an after-school education program that is partially funded by the United Jewish Appeal. Temple professors have generously given lots of books for the children to use. Six to eight junior high school students in the program need to be able to access the Internet to do their homework. The pastor is lending his computer, but other computers are needed. We suggested that we might be able to find a gently used computer for them. So, if you have replaced your computer with a new, fancy model, and would like to donate the older one, let us know.

We supported Mount Zion and the Methodist Home for Children during the 2007 holiday season, after we decided to end program in which we shipped gifts to children in foreign countries. Each Christmas, we sent shoeboxes full of toys and candy. We found that the price of shipping, which had grown over the years to \$7.50 a box, was making that program inefficient. The last year we were in this program, we shipped about 70 boxes. The idea of spending more than \$500 just on shipping made us decide to focus our outreach efforts closer to home.

Mount Zion gave us a list of what was needed for its Christmas parties, and our Sunday School and Nursery School children went to work to provide the gifts.

We will keep you informed on our discussions with our friends at Mount Zion.

Betsy Newman

FEED THE 5000: A service project for Lent

The New Testament tells us a parable of Jesus feeding 5000 people. In this parable Jesus is quick to see the spiritual hunger of a throng of people before him. Viewing the people “as sheep having no shepherd,” Jesus spends the day teaching them about God’s way. Later, when Jesus realizes the physical hunger of the people before him, he takes the disciples’ five loaves of bread and two fishes to feed all 5000 people.

In a similar way, Berwyn United Methodist Church has continually met the spiritual and physical needs of people in our community. **FEED THE 5000** invites you to provide a full bag of groceries for a needy family. Each bag will help feed a family of four for at least three days. The bags will be distributed by United Methodist Neighborhood Services in Philadelphia. You may take as many bags as you can fill! The filled bags should be returned to the church sanctuary on or before Palm Sunday, March 16. We thank you!

Put the groceries listed below in the paper bag we have provided and supply an outer plastic bag to add strength and to aid in carrying the filled bag. Please do not add extra items to the bags, because most people walk or take public transportation to United Methodist Neighborhood Services.

Please call Betsy Newman at 610-647-0643 for more information. Receipts for tax purposes are available.

GROCERIES TO BE PLACED IN THE BAG

- 1 box of cold cereal – Cheerios or Total, for example
- 1 46 oz. plastic bottle of juice – apple, grape, V-8 or orange
- 1 28 oz. jar of peanut butter
- 1 1 lb. bag of rice
- 4 14-16 oz. cans of fruit packed in juice –peaches, pears, applesauce, oranges
- 1 1 lb. bag of dried beans
- 1 12 oz. can of tuna
- 1 can of Spam or 12 oz. of white chicken
- 1 family-size macaroni-and-cheese dinner
- 1 28 oz can of pork and beans
- 4 14-16 oz. cans of vegetables: corn, green beans, carrots, tomatoes
- 1 1 lb. box of spaghetti

CARDS OF THANKS

Dear BUMC Family and Friends,

Thanks so much for your generous donations of clothing, blankets and toiletries! You would not believe the massive pile we have collected. We will be taking five trips down to D.C. this semester to distribute the clothing, and it would not be possible without all of your donations.

Christine Nemetz

Gettysburg College Class of 2008

At Gettysburg College, Christine is a project coordinator of D.C. Outfitters, a student-run program that distributes clothing to the homeless in Washington.

Dear BUMC,

Thank you for all your prayers and sympathy cards for the passing of my father, Daniel Olshefskie. I feel the arms of my church family around me, and I appreciate your care.

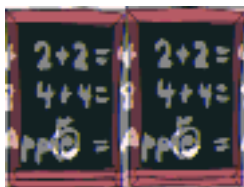
God bless you all.

Dottie Brennan

CHURCH AND SOCIETY TASK FORCE

Film and photo exhibit will focus on education

In March, the Church and Society Task Force of BUMC is focusing on a cause supported by the United Methodist Church's Eastern Pennsylvania Conference: education reform in the state of Pennsylvania.



The movie chosen for our monthly “Movies That Make You Think” series is *Freedom Writers*, based on a book by teacher Erin Gruwell of Long Beach, Calif. This teacher inspired her students, most of whom were considered to be “unteachable, at-risk” students, to transform their lives through journal writing.

Please join us at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, to watch this movie, in which Hilary Swank stars. You can read more about the movie at www.freedomwriters.com. A discussion will follow the showing.

In addition, look for the *Critical Exposure* photography exhibit that will be on display at BUMC in March.

This poignant exhibit has been put together by the nonprofit organizations Critical Exposure (www.criticalexposure.org) and Good Schools Pennsylvania, which includes several United Methodist bishops among its founders (www.goodschoolspa.org).

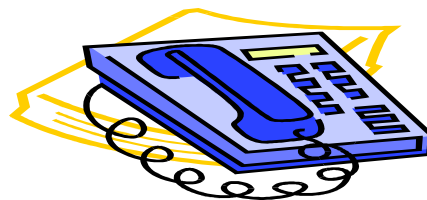
The exhibit highlights, through photographs taken by local students, the struggles of students in schools that are insufficiently funded. You can preview this exhibit at our website, www.berwynumc.org.

The Lighted Cross

Next Deadline: March 17

The Lighted Cross is published monthly (except in 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. Please submit your items by March 17 to gene.foreman@verizon.net. There also is a mailbox in the church office.



Church Phone:

610-644-5555

Office E-mail:

officebumc@comcast.net

Church Website:

www.berwynumc.org

EASTER LILY ORDERS & LANDSCAPE FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

Orders are now being taken for lilies to beautify the church sanctuary for Easter morning services of resurrection.

Contributions may also be made to the landscape fund for beautification of the church grounds.



Please use the appropriate order form(s). Make checks payable to BUMC. Indicate on your check whether it is for Easter lilies or the Landscape Fund.

Send or bring your order to the church office.

The deadline for ordering lilies is Sunday, March 16

ORDER FORM FOR LILIES (5 – 6 Blooms)

I / We wish to purchase _____ lilies \$9.00 each. Check Total \$ _____

Name _____

In Memory/ Honor/ Celebration of _____

Please pick up your lilies after the Easter Sunday Service.

LANDSCAPE FUND CONTRIBUTIONS



I / We wish to contribute \$ _____ to the Landscape Fund.

Name _____

In Memory / Honor / Celebration of _____

Please contact Judy Edinger 810.687.4526 if you have any questions or would like more information on plant selection.

Lending a Hand

March 2

Liturgist: Brett Shallcross.

Ushers: John Ku, Bob Borst, Will Bushnell, Carl Bushnell.

Acolyte: Emily Miccariello.

Coffee Committee: Jamile Toro, Claudia Gonzales.

March 9

Liturgist: Peggi Robinson.

Ushers: Jacque Leiser, Jack Campbell, Jon Stockler, Alice Nicholas.

Acolyte: Andres Montaner.

Coffee Committee: Margie O'Donnell, Barbara Hall, Darlene Spofford.

March 16

Liturgist: Sally Bridwell.

Ushers: Don Young, John McDowell, Peh Ku, Pete Tillett.

Acolyte: Laura Stockler.

Coffee Committee: Betsy Newman, Joanne Lare, Romaine Rood.

March 23

Liturgist: Tom O'Donnell.

Ushers: Bob Fisk, Nagle Bridwell, Judy Dunn, Margie O'Donnell.

Acolyte: Zachary Phelps.

Coffee Committee: Amy Dodds, Janelle Larson, Janet Campbell.

March 30

Liturgist: Youth.

Ushers: Youth.

Acolyte: Victoria Phelps.

Coffee Committee: Sue Denisevicz, Gina Phelps, Nancy Koons.

COMING EVENTS IN THE AREA

March 2: Interfaith gathering

Donald B. Kraybill of Elizabethtown College will speak on the theme of forgiveness at a meeting at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 2, at Paoli United Methodist Church.

Dr. Kraybill is the coauthor of *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy*.

The meeting is sponsored by the Upper Main Line Ministerium. It will conclude with a light supper and conversation with the author. The event is free, and the public is invited.

March 3: For parents of teens

Thom Strecher, a nationally recognized leader in parent training, will moderate an event from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, March 3, at Conestoga High School.

Topics to be discussed are: (1) stress and mental health, (2) drug and alcohol use, abuse, and addiction, (3) at-risk sexual conduct and sexual harassment. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Conestoga's Student Services at 610-240-1045 or e-mail HALLT@TESD.net. Walk-ins are welcome.

For more information, call Student Services or Gail Campbell at 610-644-7843.

April 25-26: Middle East conference

Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, former Palestinian minister of higher education, will deliver the keynote address at the Philadelphia area Sabeel Conference April 25-26 at the Connelly Center at Villanova University.

The conference is titled "In Search of a Homeland: The Quest for Place and Peace in the Middle East." Sabeel (Arabic for "the way") is a Palestinian liberation theology center in Jerusalem. Friends of Sabeel North America sponsor regional conferences in the United States.

The conference begins at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 25, and concludes at 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. Registration fees are \$125 (\$135 after April 11) and \$50 for students. Villanova students will be admitted free. One-day registration, for either day, is \$75. For information, call David Yeaworth at 610-525-2776 or e-mail him at D.Yeaworth@worldnet.att.net.

What's going on at Berwyn United Methodist Church

Nursery School: February brought lots of wonderful decorations and parties. The children are always ready for parties, and with Valentine's Day conveniently placed during this cold, bleak month, they were especially welcome. Our classes enjoyed a visit from one of our mothers who is a dentist. The 5-Day classes visited the Great Valley Nature Center for a lesson on sugar mapling and also toured the Helicopter Museum.

Conferences are scheduled for the beginning of March. The teachers have been evaluating social and academic skills in preparation for the talks with the parents. The evaluations are good for some one-on-one time with each child, and the conferences are a fine tool for exchanging information with the parents.

Ann Bole

Habitat for Humanity: Volunteers from BUMC have been working at new house sites in Norristown. Judy Fisk, Maynard Krug and Dick Rood worked in January. Volunteers are especially needed on weekdays, but if weekends work best for you, there are opportunities on those days also.

Our church will be preparing lunches on Thursday, March 20, for college students volunteering at the Habitat house sites. If you would like to be a part of the Habitat for Humanity cause, either on site or behind the scenes, please call Sue Farina at 610-695-9008.

Soupy Thursdays: Here are the soups for March's Soupy Thursdays: March 6 — chili; March 13 — corn chowder; March 20 (the last week) — vegetable beef. Takeouts are available from 5 to 7 p.m. for \$5 a quart. Or you can eat in from 6 to 7:15 p.m. for \$3 a person. Remember to let Rick Stoker know if you schedule a meeting for soup night, so that a table can be set up for you.

Baptism: Matthew Thomas Keane, who was born Oct. 2, 2007, in Columbia, Md., was baptized in our church on Feb. 17. He is the son of Kelly Brennan Keane and Brian Keane. The grandparents are James Keane, Janice Keane, David Brennan and Dottie Brennan. The godparents are Adam Miller and Jean Brennan Miller. The Keane family resides at 9605 Hawk Court, Elliot City, Md. 21042-1765.

Men's Group: Dr. Peter Dodson, professor of anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, will speak at the breakfast meeting at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 8. He is the third in a series of speakers on the subject of "Faith With Reason, Reason With Faith."

Be a Greeter: There is nothing better than to see people smile as you wish them a good morning and welcome them to our church. We have many open dates, so we can accommodate your busy schedule. Sign up now on the bulletin board in the church lobby. If everyone would do one Sunday, we would have the whole year filled.

Fall Festival, Oct. 11: As you do your spring cleaning, please think of the Fall Festival. We need your oldies (but goodies).

Flower Show: We are planning a trip together on Friday, March 7. Meet at the Berwyn train station by 9:30 a.m. to take the 9:34 train.

Tea canceled: The Ladies/Girls Afternoon Tea Party on April 26 has been canceled.

Lydia Circle (United Methodist Women): We will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 2, for a light supper, fellowship and study. Our topic continues to be Israel/Palestine. Please join us.

Church and Society task force: We will meet at 5:30 p.m. March 6 (Soupy Thursday).

Smiley Faces: Look for these posters in the foyer at church services. We are all so busy trying to squeeze in activities and fulfill obligations, but here's one thing you can do to make yourself feel great and make someone else smile.