



May 2010

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

10:30 SERVICE ON MAY 23

12 to be confirmed On Pentecost Sunday

At the 10:30 service on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, twelve confirmands will take vows to become members of Berwyn United Methodist Church.

They have been attending classes since February to discern whether they are ready for membership. Church membership, joining God's team, is an individual decision that each young person has to make on his or her own.

Topics we studied included God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, worship, the Bible, saints and gifts, ministry, Baptism, Holy Communion, spiritual life, life in the church, and the continuing faith journey.

They have also participated in a Bible Study of the Gospel of Luke; participated in a service project at Share, a food distribution center in Philadelphia; attended a worship service at Tindley Temple United Methodist Church; and participated in a special confirmation program at historic St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia.



Please pray for these young people as they take this important step in their lives.

Nancy Atchison

Meet the confirmands:

Pages 4, 5 and 6

VOICES FROM THE FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

A meditation on a family's decisions about tithing

Do you unwaveringly believe in God 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? There are times I feel the presence of God and his mighty power. There are other times I think God is a figment of man's imagination, a means to explain the unknown and establish a set of rules so we can live in society. I wonder how we are expected to believe when Jesus' 12 disciples seemed to be clueless during his life and for 40 days after his death. Do we really know the purpose of life and what we have to do in this life to enter the kingdom of God?

I doubt you can buy your way into heaven, although as the financial secretary of BUMC, I don't want to discourage anyone from trying. The opposite is more likely to be true.

We buy insurance to protect against adverse financial risks. I have a homeowner policy, auto policy, umbrella policy, term-life policy, medical coverage and (maybe) Social Security. I, my parents and my employers have paid millions of dollars to insure me against events that have never occurred in my life. What is the minimum acceptable dollars we should contribute to the church to ensure we get into heaven?

Although I know there are members of our congregation who do, tithing 10 percent of gross income before taxes and before subtracting deferred retirement funds seems unattainable at this time in my life. The Biblical tithe was 10 percent of wealth plus an additional 10 percent for the Levites once every three years. But there was no separation of church and state, so was this a tax or free-will offering to God? We pay over 30 percent in income, sales and real estate taxes – a lot more than 13.3%. Need we give more?

In each of the past two years, I have taken pay cuts. My wife and I discussed our expenses and where we could cut. We concluded God may not be happy if we said, "Sorry, God, that was your share; if you want it back, give me a raise." So we kept our contributions the same.

During our discussions, our daughter asked how much we contribute to BUMC. After being told, she said, "That is a lot of money." Is it enough, just right or too much? At the end of each year, we are out of money, so in order to contribute more to BUMC, we need to spend less somewhere else. Are we making the correct financial decisions? Are we giving enough to get into heaven?

Maybe there is no God, maybe no heaven, maybe no financial benchmark we need to make. I am not willing to take that risk. Are you?

Brian Dunn, Financial Secretary

Making a contribution

If you would like to make a financial contribution to BUMC, please go to our web site www.berwynumc.org, move your mouse to *Resources*, click *Electronic Giving*, then *Click Here to Donate*. Or, drop a check in the mail. Better yet, come visit us.

Financial results through March 31

Contributions are higher because of a generous response to our appeals for help. Expenses are higher because of the restoration of salaries to 2009 levels, snow removal, and numerous breakdowns of the boiler.

March 31, 2010	Actual	3/12th of Original Budget	Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percentage Of Budget
Contribution Income	\$99,623	\$86,875	\$12,748	115%
Other Income	12,938	11,930	1,008	108%
Expenses	115,347	101,486	(13,861)	114%
Gain (Loss)	(\$2,786)	(\$2,681)	(\$105)	

PASTOR'S WORD

Nurturing was vital to Jesus' ministry

I FIND IT EXCITING to contemplate that God placed a claim upon the lives of our forebearers since 1887 and upon ours in this 21st century. To state boldly that God has called us and placed us in this part of Berwyn, and to contemplate that we have been faithful for one hundred and twenty-three years, is a cause for celebration and joy.

The Holy Spirit has enabled this church and its leadership to foster growth and development, identify leaders, train leaders, and pass the mantle of leadership from one generation to the other. This has enabled this church to be a living and vital witness to this community and the world.

Being a nurturing church has been a vital part of our DNA, ensuring our longevity. That is why in our mission statement we can boldly state that God has called us to...NURTURE...those who are part of our fellowship.

When I reflect on the life and work of Jesus, I note that he spent much time feeding and protecting those who followed him. He gave support, encouragement and training to the disciples, preparing them for the ministry that was to follow.

Jesus realized that the growth and development of his followers were as vital as anything else he did if his life, work and sacrifice were not to be in vain. Jesus nurtured his followers individually and collectively, helping each to discover the strength and potential within and all that they had to offer to the ministry that was in place at the Ascension.

The teaching ministry of Jesus and that which he taught comprises a large part of the Gospel stories written by the followers of Jesus. This indicates to me that nurture was vital to Jesus and to those who wrote about the life and work of Jesus.

Nurture continues to be an essential focus of the church in this age as it has been in the past. There is a move to use new vocabulary to discuss the concept of nurture. Bishop Robert Schnase, in his book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, describes nurture as "intentional faith development." This phrase sums up well what nurture is all about. It helps us to understand why we offer Bible Study, Sunday School, fellowship opportunities, youth and children's work, worship and preaching.

If ever there is a time when we need to be intentional in feeding ourselves spiritually, it is today. The same intentionality we have in caring for our physical health is the same intentionality that we need to bring to our spiritual nurture and development. Regrettably, we can lose this intentionality in faith development when we are pressed for time. Hopefully, we never forget that our mission as a church is to nurture ourselves and others in the faith, and to be intentional in that faith development.

May God continue to bless and strengthen the work of nurture at this church. Let us remember with gratitude those who nurtured us on our faith journey – our Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, pastors and leaders. May we resolve to be nurturers ourselves, advancing the work of Kingdom building to the honor and glory of God.

Blessings!

Pastor Phil

2010 Confirmation Class



Jefferson



Jack



Sarah



Laura

2010 Confirmation Class



Meghan



Katie



Charlotte



Tracey

2010 Confirmation Class



Mark



Hannah



Emily



Victoria

MISSION MEMO

What one telephone call has led to . . .

Who could have guessed the impact that one phone call would make in the lives of Kenyan street children, Penn State students and professors, and an expanding number of BUMC members.

Worried about political turmoil in Kenya, church member Janelle Larson decided she had to know if her former Oxford classmate and Kenyan native Paul Maina was safe. He was, and that phone call renewed a friendship latent for 15 years and led to 36 Penn State students traveling to Kenya in spring 2009. The students worked with an organization Paul founded, the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre (CYEC), which provides educational and social services for former street children.

Our church has generously supported the CYEC over the last two years, and now our members are offering their professional expertise to help the centre.

Susan Burriss, a veteran medical volunteer to numerous countries, is traveling to Kenya in mid-May to help set up a database that will improve services as the centre's clinic expands to become a community clinic. Susan's enthusiasm about the project has persuaded two former Wyeth colleagues, a spouse, and Susan's son Brandon to join her in this much needed work.

Former BUMC member Tom Heil (whose rich voice and weekly singing of the chorus of *Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place* is still missed) is going to CYEC in early May. Tom will help them develop business plans and conduct market analysis as the CYEC seeks to expand its food-production businesses.

BUMC member Claudia Genuardi has provided the legal services to enable our group to create a U.S.-based nonprofit to support the work of the CYEC.

You can help. Susan is collecting flip-flops and toothbrushes for the children of CYEC. There is a box in the narthex for your donations. Flip-flops can be for children ranging in age from 4 to 18. We are hoping she will be able to take 200 pairs of flip-flops and 200 toothbrushes.

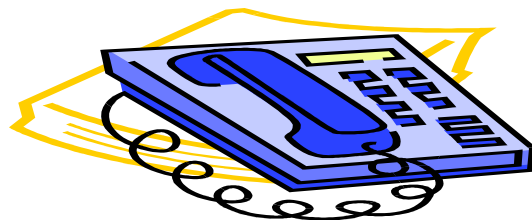
Feed the Five Thousand. By March 21, the narthex was overflowing with bags of food for United Methodist Neighborhood Services – to be exact, 77 very full and very heavy bags. Special thanks to the Peggy Robinson for coordinating the project; to Peggy, Asa Walker, Gail Campbell and Andy French for loading the bags into the vans; and to Gail Campbell and Donna Pitz for delivering the bags to Philadelphia. While Neighborhood Services knew we were coming, they had to do some quick rearranging of their storage area to accommodate your generous donations.

Donna Pitz

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: May 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 June 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

May 2

Narthex Greeter: Jack Campbell
Acolyte: Laura Stockler
Liturgist: Sally Bridwell
Ushers: Jim Tiede, Andres Montaner,
David Surine, Kelley Hogan
Coffee Committee: Sally Robie,
Sue Farina, Stephanie Borelly
Flower Delivery: Barbara Borst

May 9

Narthex Greeter: Marsha Williams
Acolyte: Mateo Merino
Liturgist: Sarah Polasky
Ushers: Larry Dodds, Tom O'Donnell,
Don Kirkland, Brian Donadio
Coffee Committee: Amy Dodds,
Janet Campbell, Janelle Larson
Flower Delivery: Judy Fisk

May 16

Narthex Greeter: Sue Farina
Acolyte: Harold Craig
Liturgist: Alice Nicholas
Ushers: Dick Sharpless, Moses Hogan,
John Edinger, Maxine Jex
Coffee Committee: Margi Mackenzie,
Eloise Levitt, Patti Littlewood
Flower Delivery: Margie O'Donnell

May 23

Narthex Greeter: Marsha Williams
Acolyte: Maria Merino
Liturgist: Barbara Stockler
Ushers: Hal Craig, John Taylor,
Holly Dillon, Gene Williams
Coffee Committee: Sue Denisevicz,
Gina Phelps, Kate Walker
Flower Delivery: Judy Fisk

May 30

Narthex Greeter: Marsha Williams
Acolyte: Victoria Phelps
Liturgist: Tom O'Donnell
Ushers: Brian Dunn, Vic Burriss,
Luis Montaner, Rachel Burriss
Coffee Committee: Betsy Newman,
Mike Benton, Romaine Rood
Flower Delivery: Margi Mackenzie

Thursday Helpers

May 6: Pat White
May 13: Sue Farina
May 20: Barbara Borst
May 27: Sue Farina

NURSERY SCHOOL

A series of special events as the year nears an end

Here comes the last month of school! We have lots of activities planned before the doors close for another school year.

Donuts with Dads is one of our best activities. The children are used to their mothers being at the school, but to capture Dad for an hour is a dream. It is always a wonderful experience, and many dads have said they wish they could have stayed for the entire day.

We also have had the 2-Day and the 3-Day classes go to the Great Valley Nature Center for spring programs designed just for their age groups. The 5-Day children will head to the Waterloo Mills Nature Preserve for a special day and picnic. The Preserve is managed by one of our families.

Clem the Storyteller will return for his third visit to tell the 3-Day classes some fine tales and play some of his very unusual instruments. The 5-Day Mothers will be treated to a special Musicale and Brunch for Mother's Day. Pajama Day is also a special day in May. Yes, the children arrive in pajamas with a special nighttime stuffed friend. Breakfast is served, and all the activities of the day are geared to the theme.

By the end of May, we are having our final class picnic days before Camp Fun, which is scheduled to begin the day after Memorial Day.

Meet our new school director

Those last days will be special for me because they are my last, after founding the school 16 years ago. I will miss the children and the families, but I will be busy traveling, going to some baseball games, and doing all that reading I often put off. And maybe I will finally get all those pictures in albums.

The new director is Janet Wham. Janet has been with the school for 16 years and has taught each of the different age levels. She has also been the assistant director for the past seven years. She has lots of new and exciting ideas, and I know she is going to enjoy her new job as much as I did.

A special thank-you to all the very special people of the church who made my job easier and so enjoyable. You welcomed me when I arrived and supported the school and made all of us feel so comfortable. I treasure and appreciate those friendships.

Ann Bole

ASP fund-raisers in May will support our team's trip



Berwyn United Methodist Church will send 12 youth and adult leaders to rural Central Appalachia to participate in the Appalachia Service Project (ASP). This program brings youth volunteers from around the country to repair homes for low-income families. The goal is to make homes “warmer, safer and drier” for needy families in the region where Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia come together. The trip is scheduled for the week of July 4.

ASP is more than a building program, because when kids change the lives of others, they themselves are changed. After a few days of hard work repairing homes with ASP, hands grow a little tougher and arms a little stronger. The volunteers return home with a passion for service, a renewed compassion for other people, and a fresh appreciation for their place and purpose in this world.

The members of the ASP team pay their own room and board and raise the funds for transportation and building supplies. We are looking to raise \$3,200 to make the trip possible. The following fund-raising activities are planned:

Sunday, May 2: Build-a-Cabin fund-raiser at BUMC.

Saturday, May 8: Car Wash fund-raiser at Devon Liberty Gas Station, 9 to 3.

Saturday, May 22: Car Wash fund-raiser at Devon Liberty Gas Station, 9 to 3.

Mike Benton

Lay Leader's Letter: Join one of the 'little churches'

They've been called little churches within the church. John Wesley used them to provide spiritual support and nurture for early Methodists. Some view them as absolutely essential to the mission of a church and its spiritual and community development. And Berwyn UMC has many of them.

I'm talking about small groups. They come in many forms and with many purposes. Some are primarily for study, such as our Wednesday Bible Study, our Sunday School classes and the Book Club. Some are primarily for fellowship, like our Supper Club, Men's Fellowship, and Widows' and Widowers' Breakfast. Some are primarily for work, like the Fall Festival Task Force and our various commissions and committees. Some have more than one primary function, like United Methodist Women and Youth Fellowship. But they all provide opportunities to form close relationships with our fellow church members and build trust and mutual support.

Is there a small group at Berwyn that you would like to join? I remember that for several years I saw notices about our Supper Club and even pleas to join, and I was interested, but I never joined until Sally Robie asked me. If you would like to join a small group, don't hold back as I did. Speak to someone in the group or to someone you know who could put you in contact with the group.

Are you now in a small group from which you receive support and find meaning? Do what Sally Robie did. Ask others to join and receive the benefits you experience.

John Paylor

Cards of Thanks

From Alyce Braun: Thanks to everyone who so kindly sent cards and notes. They were appreciated.

From Eloise and Fred Levitt: Our warmest and sincere thanks to all at BUMC who prayed and offered get-well wishes for Annette Freeman (Eloise's mother) after her knee-replacement surgery, and for Mariah, who had ACL reconstruction surgery on her knee. Both are making steady progress with their physical therapy and asked that we convey their gratitude to you all.

What's going on at Berwyn United Methodist

Baseball tickets. The Men's Group and the Adult Council are jointly sponsoring an outing to the Methodist Night at the Phillies on Saturday, July 10. Nancy Atchison reserved 50 tickets for BUMC. The United Methodist Men will receive \$6 for every ticket purchased. Contact Nancy Atchison to see if any tickets are available.

Book Club. The final program of the year will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, at Sally Robie's home (610-644-6631). Pastor Phil will discuss *Under the Banner of Heaven* by Jon Krakauer.

Pasta Dinner. The event on April 10 was a big hit, with delicious food and great camaraderie. This was a benefit shared by the church and the Berwyn Fire Company. The folks from the fire company were impressed with our facilities. About 180 people of all ages came and enjoyed the evening. Several suggested that we make this an annual event. Kudos to the crews that worked to make this event a success, especially to Rick Stoker for planning, purchasing, cooking and overseeing all the details.

Shared Bible Study. The class is now studying the New Testament's Book of Hebrews. If you are concerned today about the possible irreversible dangers of global warming, destruction that could be caused by worldwide bio-terror and nuclear attacks, and the pressures of being peacemakers in a violent world, there is much to learn from Hebrews. All are welcome to join us as we read and discuss Hebrews. We meet at 9:15 a.m. Sundays in the shared room next to the Pastor's Study.

Fall Festival. Saturday, October 9, is only a little over 5 months away. We are looking forward to working with all of you again and looking forward to another beautiful day in October. Yes, we know we must first traverse another hot summer – but we have volunteered again to chair the event and hope you all can join us and share once again your great hearts and talents. —*Kate and Brian Walker & Janet and Jack Campbell.*

Men's Group. The next meeting is 8 a.m. Saturday, May 8. After a quick breakfast, the Group intends to tackle renovating the large aluminum cross on the street-side of the Music Room building. All men are invited to attend. At the meeting on April 10, the attendees enjoyed delicious baked blueberry french toast prepared by Rick Stoker. At that meeting, the group finished its vision statement and discussed ways to increase participation in the group's meetings and projects.

Our neighbor. Gina Larson, a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church who has attended events at BUMC, invites us to participate in Trinity's 5K run/walk on May 22. This event will begin the observance of Trinity's 150th anniversary in 2013. Registration is \$25, which entitles a person to participate in the run/walk and to receive a t-shirt, a gift bag and a pancake breakfast at Trinity after the 5K. If you are interested, go to www.trinityberwyn.com and click on the links for the 5K.

Donations needed. Judy Fisk, lay leader to the Annual Conference of the Eastern Pennsylvania United Methodist Church in Lancaster on May 20-22, is suggesting donations to two church organizations. Donation boxes are in the narthex. Lumina, of Lancaster, provides a nutrition and basic life skills education; it needs non-perishable foods including canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, instant pudding, dry noodles, rice, spaghetti with tomato sauce, and tuna, and the following kitchen items: baking pans and cookie sheets, cutting boards, dry and wet measuring cups, measuring spoons, spatulas, mixing spoons, pot holders and tea towels. United Methodist Neighborhood Services serves 50 to 75 low-income adults and children in Philadelphia; it needs baby food, bread, juice, milk, diapers, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, school supplies, razors and socks.

Wesley film at Reading. "Wesley, the Movie," a true story based on the private journals of John and Charles Wesley, will be shown in the Goggle Works Theatre, Goggle Works Center for the Arts, 201 Washington Street in Reading, on May 8, 15 and 22. There will be only one showing, at noon, each day. Go to www.goggleworks.org or call 610-374-4600 for ticket information. You may watch a trailer of the movie at <http://wesleythemovie.com/content/pages/trailer.php>. If you would like to carpool to a show, call the church office.

Your three-minute ‘best story’ is invited

Last month, the Evangelism and Nurture Committee invited members of the congregation to share in a letter to a “friend” about what inspires you to be involved at Berwyn. We want to expand our appeal to offer other ways that members can share.

Now, we are soliciting members to offer “Best Stories” to be shared orally at worship services from time to time. The idea is for individuals to tell a three-minute story of their faith journeys. These can relate the simple and everyday ways that we have seen God touching our lives, or they can tell how our spiritual paths were redirected in a fundamental way.

The important thing is that we speak to each other, either by the written word or the spoken word. Everyone has a story to tell as God touches us daily in so many ways. We hope to hear yours. This will start on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. To share, talk to Mike, Pastor Phil, or any of the E&N Committee.

Mike Benton



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

Registration forms for the “Hero Headquarters” Vacation Bible School are available in the narthex and in the church office. The fee is \$35 per child, not to exceed \$70 per family. After June 1, the fee increases to \$45 per child, not to exceed \$90 per family. The minimum age is 4 years; the maximum is completion of the fifth grade this spring.