



May 2011

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

Vacation Bible Camp 2011

For children 4 years of age through Grade 5

Sunday, July 24 – Thursday, July 28



This year, we have adopted the culinary theme “Shake it Up.” Jesus calls us to shake up our lives and become His followers. The Bible gives us the recipe: be ready for God’s call, give happily to God and to others, believe fully in Jesus, remember Jesus’ life and teachings, and celebrate God forever.

Shake it Up Café introduces your children to stories of Biblical festivals that reveal these ingredients and link the Old Testament and the New Testament to our lives today. Here are the themes and Bible stories we will be exploring:

Sunday: Israelites Celebrate Passover – Be Ready for God (Exodus 13:3-10).

Monday: Festival Celebrations for the Israelites – Give Happily to God (Leviticus 23).

Tuesday: Jesus Celebrates the Festival of Booths – Believe Fully in Jesus (John 7:37-44).

Wednesday: Jesus Celebrates Passover – Remember Jesus Often (Luke 22:8-20).

Thursday: Celebrating the Festival of Weeks and Pentecost – Celebrate God Forever (Acts 2).

Each day’s session is 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. A light supper is included.

Registration forms are on pages 5 and 6 of The Lighted Cross. To sign up, fill out a registration form for each child you will be sending to VBC. Return the form to the church office. You may also register online at www.berwynumc.org/vbc. Space is limited, so be sure to register by our deadline of July 1.

T&E Care, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide financial and other material assistance to persons in need in and around Tredyffrin and Easttown, has requested scholarships for our Vacation Bible Camp. The Children's Council has approved 10 scholarships. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, send a check to the church office marked "Vacation Bible Camp Scholarships."

Volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible Camp. Anyone who has a heart for working with children can volunteer; we need help with decorating, crafts, food, games, music and counselors. Contact Sarah Polasky or Nancy Atchison.

LAY LEADER'S LETTER

Helping others find their own path to God

"I am not a religious person." We have all heard this statement. We recently even heard it in our own church when Pastor Phil related a story of a gentleman who climbed under a truck to escape a tornado bearing down on his town. When he emerged relatively unscathed, the first words he said to reporters were "I am not a religious person" – but he acknowledged that something had saved him.

Just after that sermon, I was reading a Reader's Digest article about two young men who were on a mountain hike and met up with a bear. Suddenly the bear attacked one of the young men, mauling him seriously, and then just as suddenly released him and fled. After the two made it down the mountain, the article quoted the man as saying, "I am not a religious person" – but he knew something had made that bear let him go.

The third time I heard this statement had me thinking. Our daughter, Cindy, had sent out an e-mail asking our own church prayer chain to offer prayers for her son Mark. In addition, Cindy had sent an e-mail to family and friends informing them of the medical situation and asking for prayers for Mark and guidance for the doctors as they searched for a diagnosis and treatment of Mark's heart problem.

One of the responses was from a cousin who sent us an e-mail saying, "I am not a religious person" – but the cousin had sent Cindy's e-mail to friends asking them to pray for Mark, the family and his doctors.

Prayers were answered in all of these situations. The man from the truck survived when others did not. The young man who was mauled, lived to tell his story. Our grandson Mark is doing well.

Is this a statement generated by people who have no faith? By people who do not believe they are worthy of knowing God? Or by people who are only searching for a denomination? I truly believe that these people *do* have a faith in God. They are reaching out to God but are not sure how to do it. Have you known people who are looking for their path to God's word? Invite them to journey with you.

Janet K. Campbell

Adult Council donates to two mission organizations

Do you ever wonder how we spend the money earned from Soupy Thursday, Harvest dinners and Christmas brunch? Well, every year the Adult Council pools the money from these events and disburses it to various missions. This year, with funds collected in 2010, we donated \$1,100 to Discovery Service Projects and \$1,000 to the Habitat for Humanities Builders Competition.

Discovery Service Projects is a not-for-profit organization based in Pipersville, Pa., that works to enable missionaries, schools and churches in other countries to better meet the needs of our less fortunate neighbors. Several BUMC members have participated in Discovery's projects in Mexico and Jamaica.

The 2011 Builders Competition will benefit Habitat for Humanity in Chester County, Philadelphia and Camden. More than 100 carpenters and other volunteers in 10 teams compete for the Devon Builders Cup. These teams will produce 10 framing packages for new homes that will be built this spring and summer.

Rick Stoker

Calling all graduates:

If you or a loved one is graduating from high school or college this year, please inform Kristine Adams at kristineadamspc@verizon.net. We would like to honor all of our graduates at the 10:30 service on June 12. Send Kristine the following information on the graduate: name, school, postgraduation plans, and school activities or honors. We also will recognize the graduates in the June issue of The Lighted Cross. Help us make the list complete by sending the information to Kristine promptly. Thanks.

PASTOR'S WORD

Ordination, a commitment to sacred ministry

MAY IS A MONTH in United Methodism when Deacons are consecrated, Provisional Elders (Probationers) are commissioned, and Elders are accepted into Full Connection and are ordained. All of this is done in the context of the Annual Conference meeting.

The lives of many families are impacted by the decisions made at the Annual Conference. The process described above is not only true of the U.S.A., but it is also true for Methodists worldwide. In my association with the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, I became a Probationer in May 1973 and was ordained Elder in May of 1976. Once a person has been ordained as a Methodist Elder, that ordination is accepted in the other Methodist Conferences worldwide.

You may be wondering about the term Probationer or Provisional Elder. This is the time when a candidate has finished college and seminary and has been assigned to a church as the pastor. The Conference, through the Board of Ordained Ministry, monitors the progress of the Probationer to see if indeed that person has been called by God to sacred ministry. One of the tasks assigned to the church is to make sure of God call and Christ's claim on the life of the individual. This is a time when every aspect of the candidate's ministry is examined by the church to ensure that the person does indeed have the gifts and graces for ministry. This is also important to the future of the church, for once the candidate is voted into Full Connection, that person is guaranteed an appointment by the bishop.

The time of preparation and discernment of any United Methodist pastor is long and arduous. By the time ordination comes around, the candidate would have had, at a minimum, four years of college, three years of seminary, and three years as a Probationer. For some of us, ordination is considered another graduation. The Book of Discipline makes it clear that it is more than that, for it says: "In ordination, the church affirms and continues the apostolic ministry through persons empowered by the Holy Spirit. As such, those who are ordained make a commitment to conscious living of the whole gospel and to the proclamation of that gospel to the end that the world may be saved."

The Elder is ordained to Word, Sacrament and Order. The life work of that individual will center on teaching and preaching the Word of God, administering the sacraments, ordering the Church for its mission and service, and administering the Discipline of the Church. The covenant and the commitment of the ordained are for a lifetime and are required to "dedicate their whole lives to the personal and spiritual disciplines it requires."

The ordinand, as part of the service, commits and covenants to live and work as an Elder, confesses publicly the faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, declares that the Old and New Testament contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, and that they are the unique and authoritative standard for the church's faith and life. The candidate also commits to a life of prayer, study and the rekindling of God's gifts and graces, being a steadfast disciple of Christ, fashioning life by the gospel and being a faithful example for all God's people. The person also covenants to be loyal to Christ through the United Methodist Church, accepting its order, liturgy, doctrine and discipline, defending it against all doctrines contrary to God's Holy Word, and accepting the authority of those who are appointed as supervisors.

When these covenant and commitments are made, the candidate kneels, hands are laid on his or her head, the invocation of the Holy Spirit is made for the office and work of an elder, and a Bible is given to the candidate with these words: "Take authority as an elder in the Church to preach the Word of God and to administer the Holy Sacraments."

For many years now, Berwyn UMC has not recommended a candidate for ordination. My prayer is that the time is coming soon when we can recommend someone for Local Pastor, Deacon and/or Elder. God has called us. Christ has made claims on our lives. How shall we respond? Hopefully, like Isaiah when he said: "Here I am, send me."

Pastor Phil



Dr. Clinton Ohlers (above) spoke to youth about how they can increase their chances of getting into a better college, and how they should prepare for careers. Chris Padot (right) emceed the concert.

Connekt makes Schieck Hall a stage venue

Berwyn UMC hosted Connekt, a youth outreach event on Saturday, April 9. Schieck Hall was converted into a stage venue featuring The Shackletons, a semi-pro rock band; Zorro Gato, a Philadelphia area band; and AfroEpidemic, a Tredyffrin band. Before the concert, the youth heard a motivational speaker. The goal of the event was to engage the youth in the local area. The organizing and promotion team met weekly in February and March to plan the event. Volunteers included Ann West, Linda Shriver, Jacob Nemetz, Meg Dickinson, Amanda Fritz, Gail Campbell, Jeff Barger, Nancy Atchison, Mike Benton, Liz Young, Andres Montaner, Keith Fritz, Andrew French, Roger Toro, Jefferson Toro, Donna Pitz, Ellen Fritz, Eliza Chumpitaz, Janet Campbell, Jan Polasky, Sarah Polasky, Brett Shallcross, Scott Campbell and Debbie Nemetz. Chris Padot arranged for the talent and the support staff, which consisted of a professional sound crew from Evangel Church in Scotch Plains, N.J., and an event-coordination staff from Crossthreadz.



BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

JULY 24 - 28, 2011

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete both sides of form and submit with payment.

Student's Name _____
(age 4 through 5th grade only)

Birth Date _____ Entering Grade _____
(Used to group pre-school children)

Parent Name(s) _____

Student's Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____
(Used for program e-mail only)

Phone No. (1) _____ (circle) Cell Home Work

(2) _____ (circle) Cell Home Work

(3) _____ (circle) Cell Home Work

Who is authorized to pick up this child from VBC, other than the parents listed above?

I give permission for my child's pictures to be used in a VBC slideshow
(for Berwyn UMC only).

(circle) YES / NO

Can you help with VBC?

(circle) YES / NO / MAYBE

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Registration Forms

Deliver or mail the completed registration forms and fee to the church office (140 Waterloo Avenue, Berwyn, PA 19312). Additional registration forms are available at www.berwynumc.org/vbc

REGISTRATION FEE

BEFORE July 1 - \$35
AFTER July 1 - \$45
Checks should be made payable to Berwyn UMC.

Please complete the reverse side.

**BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
VACATION BIBLE CAMP**

MEDICAL INFORMATION AND AUTHORIZATION FORM

1. Any allergies of medical concern?

(circle) YES / NO

If yes, detail the allergies and the extent of the allergies below.

NOTE: If this student has any food allergies, you may be required to provide the daily meal. (Water will be provided.)

2. Any other medical conditions, behavioral issues or special needs that we should be aware of? Include any medications this student is currently taking.

Emergency Contact

Name _____ Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date _____

Release of Liability

I release Berwyn Methodist Church and its ministers, leaders and volunteers from any claim that my child or I may have against them as a result of injury or illness incurred during the course of participation in the activities. This release of liability shall include (without limitation) any claims of negligence or breach or warranty. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless Berwyn Methodist Church and its minister, leaders and volunteers from any and all claims arising from my child's participation in these activities, or as a result of injury or illness of my child during such activities.

First Aid and Emergency Medical Treatment

I recognize that there may be occasions where the child named above may be in need of first aid or emergency medical treatment as a result of an accident, illness, or other health condition or injury. I do hereby give permission for agents of Berwyn United Methodist Church to seek and secure any needed medical attention or treatment for the child named above, including hospitalization, if in the agent's opinion such need arises. In doing so I agree to pay all fees and costs arising from this action to obtain medical treatment.

I give permission for attending physician(s) and other medical personnel to administer any needed medical treatment.

I represent that I am the parent/guardian of _____

I give permission for the child named above to participate in the Vacation Bible Camp of Berwyn United Methodist Church. I hereby consent to the Release of Liability and Emergency Medical Treatment above, on behalf of the child, and agree that this form shall be binding upon me.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

THE D.A.R.T. BOARD



News from our Drug and
Alcohol Recovery Team

The next Parent Webinar offered to the Tredyffrin and Easttown community via ARCH (Area Residents Caring and Helping) is 8 to 9 p.m. Monday, May 2. The topic is "Healthy Sleep Strategies and Stress Reduction." Request free registration via ARCH-cares@gmail.com Registration allows you to watch online afterward as well.

•

The final Parent Session at BUMC is 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 27. The topic is "Impulsivity and Anger." Often it is impulsiveness and anger that can be the fuel that drives many of our children's decision making. What lies under the anger and impulsive behavior? How do we get underneath that anger to treat the potential depression or anxiety? How can parents deal with their own anger or frustrations? The discussion will be led by A. Michael Blanche, licensed clinical social worker. This series has been sponsored by DART and the E. Chelsea Campbell memorial Foundation.

What's going on at BUMC

Progressive Supper. This annual event will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, June 12. Join us as we progress from house to house for great food and great fellowship. Host houses are needed; contact Sally Robie if you are willing to host one of the courses. Signups will be held the two Sundays prior to the event.

Shared Bible Study. On May 1 our Sunday School class will begin sharing *An Invitation to Psalms*, a Disciple Study by Michael Jenkins. In the Psalms, God's people struggle to make sense of who God is and who they are. The Psalms are prayers, poetry, and expressions of faith. Join us as we view this beautiful literature through different interpretations. Study books are being ordered and will be available to all.

United Methodist Women. Lydia and Maria Circles will meet at noon Sunday, May 1, in the Library. Claudia Sharpless will show slides from her mission trips to Mexico and Jamaica. A light lunch will be served. Everyone is welcome.

Bus Trip Canceled. The Adult Council had to cancel the mystery bus trip on April 30 due to the lack of participants. In case you are wondering what we were going to do – we were going to spend the day in Annapolis with a tour of the Naval Academy, a seafood buffet lunch at Buddy's, and a cruise on the Severn River. Maybe we will try another trip later.

The Nursery School. The school had a busy month. The fathers came for their annual visit, as each class hosted "Donuts with Dads." The school participated in two outreach programs: BUMC's "Feed the 5,000" campaign, in which food staples were donated to families in need, and the Audubon Society's "Pennies for the Planet," in which pennies were donated to help preserve animal habitats. At the annual Silent Auction and Dinner on April 7, the school families enjoyed socializing and making new friends. The money raised directly benefits the children of the school.

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: May 20

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 is scheduled to be delivered by postal mail by 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 church office.



Church Phone:
610-644-5555

Office E-mail:
officebumc@comcast.net

Church Website:
berwynumc.org

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

International mission trip set for January 2012

In January 2012, members of BUMC will join Discovery Service Projects and travel to Playa del Carmen, Mexico, to work on "A Home With Love." We will help build two cottages for "at risk" children. Each cottage will house eight boys or girls and house parents.

The total project will last about six weeks, and you can participate in as little as one week – or stay the full six weeks if you want to see the whole project through to completion. The project will begin right after Christmas and will extend through early February.

Keep reading *The Lighted Cross*, and as soon as we get the details, we will let you know.

If you want more information about Discovery Service Projects, talk with one of our past participants: Dick and Claudia Sharpless, Nancy Atchison, Pastor Phil, Brian Walker, Dick Rood or Rick Stoker. Or go to discoveryserviceprojects.org

Cards of Thanks

From Mabel Williams: Thank you for my lovely 97th birthday celebration. Carol, Gene and Marsha gave me a wonderful birthday. My gifts were many, and I had a lovely celebration. It included the congregation as well. My sincere thanks for the many cards I received. My flowers were very pretty. It was a birthday I will long remember. Again, I extend my thanks to everyone.

From Tom and Kay Pierce: Many thanks for the cards and prayers we received during Tom's recent hospitalization and recuperation. Our sincerest thanks to each and every one of you.

We are archiving photographs of church activities

The Communications Committee is trying to build the church's archives of photographs of church events and activities. These photographs could be used in *The Lighted Cross*, the website, directories and other publications. If you would like to submit photographs for the archives, please e-mail digital images to officebumc@comcast.net or deliver prints to the office. If you happen to be photographed and do not want your image disseminated, please let the church office know.



imagine malaria.org

Every 45 seconds, a child in Africa dies of malaria. Millions of lives, needlessly lost each year. A continent. Entire nations slipping away. Slipping through life's precious net. Unless you hear the buzzing inside you.

It's time we all join hands with Africa | On a personal mission to heal | Imagine no malaria | Then make it real. | Over a million lives, we're gonna save | But only if you get involved today. | The bednets have been cast | But people can't slip through | Listen to the buzz inside of you.

The bite of malaria doesn't have to kill. But only if you stop it. Join us as we work with families in Africa to end millions of needless deaths from this disease.