



May 2008

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

# The Lighted Cross

## Confirmation Class Of 2008



- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Emily Andersen</i>  | <i>Emily Miccariello</i> |
| <i>Jeremy Borelly</i>  | <i>Andres Montaner</i>   |
| <i>Andrew Cutler</i>   | <i>Alex O'Donnell</i>    |
| <i>Ben Cutler</i>      | <i>Zachary Phelps</i>    |
| <i>James Emery</i>     | <i>Roger Toro</i>        |
| <i>Matthew Hoffman</i> | <i>Asa Walker</i>        |

These twelve young people will join the church at the 10:30 service on May 11.

They have been preparing for confirmation by attending weekly classes since January. In addition to the classes, they have participated in a service project at SHARE, a food distribution organization in Philadelphia; visited Old St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia to learn about church history; and attended worship at Tindley Temple UMC in Philadelphia.

They have just returned from a weekend Confirmation Camp at Gretna Glen, where they were among more than 100 confirmands from churches all over the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

A picnic lunch will be held after the 10:30 service on May 4 to honor the confirmation class.

We are hoping for good weather because we are planning a barbecue featuring beef spiedi, marinated chicken breasts and hamburgers. And, of course, all the normal picnic stuff along with it. We will take up a free-will offering on the day of the barbecue to defray the expenses.

**VOICES FROM THE FINANCE  
AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

# First of all, stewardship is helpfulness

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the confessing German theologian who died in a Nazi concentration camp, remains a leading voice for what it is to be a faithful disciple. In his book *Life Together*, he described the nature of Christian fellowship and what it is to be in community with the faithful. In it, he describes the simplicity of service:

*“The service that one should perform for another in a Christian Community is that of active helpfulness. This means, initially, simple assistance in trifling, external matters.”*

In a sense, stewardship is nothing more than helpfulness, targeted at the interests and mission of the community. The Berwyn Church, for example, is engaged in projects and mission efforts that reflect its deep commitments to outreach. It is also interested in being faithful to its life together and all related responsibilities. It requires nothing less than an interest by all constituents to be, quite simply, helpful.

From the report below, you’ll notice that you as church people are responding wonderfully so far, through the first quarter of 2008. We are approximately \$20,000 ahead in revenue, compared to where we were at the same time last year. Expenses remain slightly over income, but all are to be commended for the strong showing in the new year in our “life together.”

Something different this month is how the report below differentiates between contribution income and other income.

Steve Cherry

March 2008	Actual	Budget	favorable (unfavorable)	% of budget
Contribution Income	\$92,749	\$100,333	(\$7,584)	92%
Other Income	\$14,054	\$11,814	\$2,240	119%
Expense	\$114,880	\$114,988	\$108	100%
gain(loss)	(\$8,077)	(\$2,841)	(\$5,236)	

## COMING EVENTS

**Adult Fellowship.** We will hold a progressive supper on Sunday, May 18, from 4 to 8 p.m. We will meet at the Stokers’ for appetizers, then go to another home for the main course and salad, and finally on to dessert at another home. Sign up after church on May 4 and May 11 to bring an appetizer, main course, salad or dessert. *All adults are welcome.* Contact Nancy Atchison or Sally Robie if you have questions.

**Book Club.** We will meet on Wednesday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Romaine Rood (610-647-3534). The book for the month is an old favorite, *Call of the Wild* by Jack London. Ann West will lead the discussion. Please respond to the hostess if you plan to attend. Contact Marge Smink (610-359-5445) for additional information.

**Men’s Group.** We will meet for breakfast in Schieck Hall on Saturday, May 10, at 8 a.m. The topic will be “The Old Testament as Literature.” Al Froy will lead the discussion.

**Fall Festival on Oct. 11.** There are only 163 days until the festival. Please save items for the flea market and books/jewelry/collectibles. The storage area will be available after Sept. 1.

## FROM THE PASTOR

# Community, confidence, and courage

**P**ENTECOST is described as the birthday of the Christian Church. Jesus had instructed the disciples to go and wait in Jerusalem for the arrival and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. As obedient followers of the Risen Christ, they waited — sharing in fellowship with one another and being of “one heart and mind.” Exactly fifty days after the resurrection, those who faithfully waited experienced a supernatural event. They did not know what to expect and may have been taken by surprise. The supernatural experience changed their lives forever, for they were able to do things that they would never have imagined and become people that they did not know they had the potential to be.

Through the Holy Spirit in their lives, they were able to build *community* by overcoming the selfishness that is basic to human nature. They learned to share, pooling all their resources and having them in common. They discovered a *confidence* in themselves that was second to none. Up to this point in time, they had been in hiding. With the power of the Spirit flowing through them, they went out boldly to proclaim Jesus crucified and resurrected. They challenged and held accountable those who continued to spurn the love and goodness of Christ. They willingly put their lives on the line for Christ. Fear was no longer a factor in their lives. Through this supernatural experience, they had the *courage* to go into remote parts of the “then-known world” to proclaim the gospel. They had a passion to reach out to others regardless of their race and ethnicity. They wanted others to have what they had. They had fervor and courage to give this supernatural power away to all who would receive it. On Pentecost Day, 3,000 people willingly received the word and were added to the church that day.

Does any of this resonate with us today? Are we challenged to overcome our innate selfishness, lose our fear and become confident and courageous people?

We are reminded on this Pentecost Sunday, which is May 11, that we continue to have available to us this supernatural power. We still need to build *community*, to have *confidence* in ourselves and in the faith we claim in Christ’s name, and the *courage* to continue to share what we have with others. The Holy Spirit works in subtle ways. For one person the supernatural experience can be exuberant, for another it can be quiet and peaceful. Jesus promised that the Spirit would be in us and around us always. May this be our experience always, and may this supernatural power propel us to heights that we have never imagined.

Be blessed as you are a blessing to others now and always.

Pastor Phil

# \$1,300 raised for children and youth in Kenya

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Our church raised more than \$1,300 for the Children and Youth Empowerment Center in Nyeri, Kenya, through the Easter Offering. The CYEC and an affiliated drop-in center provide care for more 150 street children in Nyeri, north of Nairobi.

The funds we sent were used in four areas:

**Operating expenses.** Some funds were used to pay for day-to-day expenses such as food, medical care, and utilities. Because of the conflict in Kenya, the number of children in care has increased and local financial support has diminished.

**The purchase of seeds.** Food is one of the main expenses for the CYEC, so producing their own food helps them hold costs down. As you might have noticed, global food costs have increased recently. In addition, there are forecasts of drought in central Kenya, which will exacerbate food shortages and increase costs. Our funds enabled the CYEC to purchase a new variety of high-yield, drought-resistant cassava seeds.

**The purchase of school uniforms for new children.** Uniforms are not required to attend school, but as most of the local children wear them, having the uniforms helps the children from the CYEC integrate comfortably with the other children.

**Upgrading the medical clinic.** The local neighborhood does not currently have a clinic, so expanding the CYEC clinic will enable them to serve the broader community. In addition, once the CYEC medical clinic is designated as an official community clinic, it will be eligible for lower-cost medicines.

The director of the CYEC (a friend of Janelle Larson's), Paul King'uru, expressed great appreciation for the support of our church. The following is an excerpt from an e-mail Paul sent:

*"I have been reflecting on the relationship between the Berwyn Church congregation and our center in Nyeri, and marveling at just how village-like the world has become. Yet it is not just that the world has become 'smaller' owing to ease of communication; the kind of concern that the Berwyn Church community has shown for the Nyeri initiative reveals an empathetic closeness that I find most comforting.*

*"Naturally, I feel extremely fortunate that this relationship should have happened, and especially that it should have happened at the time it did during a very difficult period in the history of our country and when our center was faced with very difficult choices. I find the timing of your intervention most noteworthy because it is, I believe, testament of the hidden hand that guides all our lives, great and small, towards the fulfillment of personal and collective purposes.*

*"Anyone involved in the kind of work that is going on at the Nyeri center is faced, sooner or later, with the need to take a close look at the real import of his or her work. It is not that everybody – as parent, teacher, doctor, businessperson etc. – does not have this need; rather, it is that the center's kind of work throws the deep challenges of our personal and collective lives into especially sharp relief.*

*"Looking closely at the center's work enables me to see more clearly the broader process of life that we are all involved in, consciously or otherwise, that is ultimately about the perennial struggle to uplift and ennoble life, often against insurmountable seeming odds but with faith about ultimate success. Your kind action is to me an affirmation of the position that though we should work as though nothing but our own actions count, at the same time we should know – as a matter of deep faith – that there is a hand of infinite grace and wisdom that guides our ways, in the fullness of time to fit all our efforts into a faultlessly conceived plan of sublime beauty and power."*

If you're interested in providing additional support, please contact Janelle Larson at 610-688-6014 or [JBL6@psu.edu](mailto:JBL6@psu.edu).

## MOVIES THAT MAKE YOU THINK

### Double-feature film fare and dinner on May 10

We will meet at 6 p.m. Saturday, May 10, to share a locally grown dinner and watch two “movies that make you think.” We are fortunate, in this fertile mid-Atlantic region, to have choices in our food purchases, especially during the summer and fall. Join us as our in-house chefs prepare a nutritious local main course. You can add to our 100-mile meal by bringing a dish made mostly from ingredients grown within 100 miles of Berwyn. Please come for all or any part of the evening’s program!

Remember those carefree days of supermarket shopping before concerns about pesticides, antibiotics, food miles, and carbon emissions made every food choice an ethical dilemma? Our film features this month, *King Corn* and *My Father’s Garden*, raise difficult questions about conventional agricultural practices and the effect those practices have on the eaters, the land, and the economy.

***My Father’s Garden*** is an engrossing, emotionally charged documentary about the use and misuse of technology on the American farm. In less than 50 years the face of agriculture has been utterly transformed by synthetic chemicals, whose power to control the forces of nature is rivaled only by that of the atomic bomb. These chemicals have also changed the farmers who have used them. This film tells the story of two such lives, different in all details, yet united by their common goal of producing good food.

***King Corn*** is a feature documentary about two friends, one acre of corn, and the subsidized crop that drives our fast-food nation. In *King Corn*, two best friends from college on the East Coast move to the heartland to learn where their food comes from. With the help of friendly neighbors, genetically modified seeds, nitrogen fertilizers, and powerful herbicides, they plant and grow a bumper crop of America’s most-productive, most subsidized grain on one acre of Iowa soil. But when they try to follow their pile of corn into the food system, what they find raises troubling questions about how we eat – and how we farm.

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### Workshop on May 4 to discuss drug and alcohol abuse

The Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team (DART) will conduct a workshop in Schieck Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, May 4, for parents and students in grades 9 - 12. Two groups will discuss drug and alcohol abuse. A session for parents will be led by Michelle Kindt, and a session for teenagers will be led by Chris Willson. Michelle and Chris are psychologists with practices in Devon and have extensive experience in working in these fields. Pizza and soda will be served. Please feel free to invite friends and neighbors.

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### ETC Class to discuss ‘Five Practices of Faithful Congregations’

The ETC Class, which meets at 9:15, will spend May and June discussing *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, a new book by United Methodist Bishop Robert Schnase. The book describes “five foundational practices to help congregations be fruitful in ministry to their members and in service to the world.” Bishop Schnase’s five practices are: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. Copies of the book will be available at the class meetings. The price is \$12.

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### Central District Cabinet approves BUMC Memorial Garden

The Central District superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Gary George, has advised us that the BUMC Memorial Garden was approved by the Cabinet. This approval allows us to go ahead with a campaign to raise the money needed to start construction by selling niches to interested members. (The Administrative Board voted on Dec. 4 to approve the construction of a Memorial Garden as a consecrated area that will include a scattering garden and a columbarium wall for interment of ashes.) Details can be found in the January and February issues of *The Lighted Cross*, available at [www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org) under “newsletters.”

## Dear Church Family,

Please know how appreciative I've been of all your many cards, prayers and other gestures of caring during my journey with breast cancer. I was the recipient of two extraordinary gestures of healing ministry for which I'm most grateful. First – the opportunity to take the choir with me into the operating room by way of recording two very special anthems that became part of my personal “music therapy.” My son Kent had recorded the choir plus several hours of music on his iPod that kept me focused and calm prior to, during and after surgery. Second – the lovely prayer shawl made by Nancy Atchison and blessed by the Shawl Ministry team. It not only kept me warm in the cold hospital room but wrapped me in love and prayers. Steve and I realized a powerful witness of the shawl when the anesthesiologist, after reviewing all the particulars of the surgery, laid his hand on the shawl on my arm and said, “Who made this for you?” When I answered that it was a prayer shawl made by my church, he said, “I thought so, and I want you to know I'll be praying for you during surgery as well.” The shawl allowed a connection to be made between doctor and patient – how could I be afraid? There were plenty of other caregivers, including my surgeon, who recognized how meaningful the music and shawl were to me. I am deeply thankful for the part you played in my healing.

With love and gratitude,

*Carol Cherry*

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### '30-hour famine' raises \$4,057.97 for children

The youth would like to send a huge thank-you to everyone who supported our efforts to fight hunger through the World Vision 30-Hour Famine in February. We raised an astounding **\$4,057.97**. World Vision has received a grant to multiply the funds raised by four, which means we were able to sponsor 45 children for an entire year. During the famine, which took place on February 22-23, 18 of our youth and friends did not eat for 30 hours in order to better understand the problem of hunger and raise money to make a difference.

#### *Schedule of youth events*

All events are at 5:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

May 4 – DART stress discussion with Chris Willson, 6 p.m.

May 11 – Wacky Game Night – come ready to get messy!

May 18 – Bowling at Devon Lanes. The cost is \$10 and includes bowling and food.

May 25 – No youth meeting.

June 1 – Youth Group picnic at church (last regular meeting).

June 7 – MercyMe Concert at Six Flags Great Adventure. Leave at the church at 9 a.m. and return around 11:15 p.m. The cost is \$25 for park admission and the concert. Register by May 25.

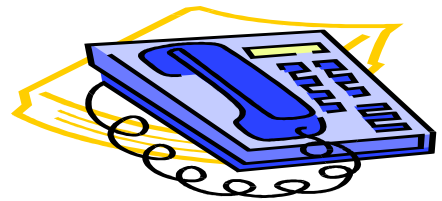
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## *The Lighted Cross*

### Next Deadline: May 15

*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 June 1. Please submit your items by May 15 to [gene.foreman@verizon.net](mailto:gene.foreman@verizon.net). There also is a mailbox in the church office.



Church Phone:

**610-644-5555**

Office E-mail:

**[officebumc@comcast.net](mailto:officebumc@comcast.net)**

Church Website:

**[www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org)**

# Lending a Hand

## May 4

*Liturgist:* Carl Linsenbach.

*Ushers:* Jim Tiede, Louise Cortelyou, David Surine, Frank Farina.

*Acolyte:* Kari Peterson.

*Coffee Committee:* Margi Mackenzie, Patti Littlewood, Eloise Levitt.

*Flower Delivery:* Jane McDowell.

## May 11

*Liturgists:* Jennifer, Benjamin, Andrew and Elizabeth Cutler.

*Ushers:* Larry Dodds, Tom O'Donnell, Don Kirkland, Brian Donadio.

*Acolyte:* Jeremy Borelly.

*Coffee Committee:* Jamile Toro, Claudia Gonzales.

*Flower Delivery:* Judy Fisk.

## May 18

*Liturgist:* Kay Krause.

*Ushers:* Dick Sharpless, Ryan Benton, Ted Jex.

*Acolyte:* Andres Montaner.

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

*Flower Delivery:* Jane McDowell.

## May 25

*Liturgist:* Nancy Atchison.

*Ushers:* Bob Niles, Al Froy, Holly Dillon, Gene Williams.

*Acolyte:* Kari Peterson.

*Coffee Committee:* Betsy Newman, Romaine Rood.

*Flower Delivery:* Margi Mackenzie.

## FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

### The Good Friday service

I express my gratitude to all of you who contributed so much to the success of our Good Friday service. It was a truly moving worship experience. Blessings to the Chancel Choir and guests who had worked so diligently since Christmas to learn the music for *The Seven Last Words* by DuBois and who sang it so beautifully.

Special thanks go to Pastor Phil, who trusted me with this endeavor; to Andres Montaner, who acolyted with such dignity; to JoEllyn Beck, for her beautiful solo singing and flute playing; to Sue Denisevich, for creating such poignant ambiance; to Veronica Mosley, for the service leaflets; and to Bob Fisk, for the lighting. Thanks to the excellent work of Ann West and her team, the publicity for this service was widespread and resulted in an attendance of 214.

I especially extend my heartfelt thanks to the following Worship Sponsors whose generous support helped to make this beautiful service possible:

Anonymous  
JoEllyn and Andy Beck  
Sally and Nagle Bridwell  
Gail Campbell  
Jack and Janet Campbell  
Steve and Carol Cherry  
Dorothy Cooper  
Sue and Frank Farina  
Rosalie Hart  
Maxine and Ted Jex  
Carl and Helen Landeck  
Betsy Lang  
Betsy Newman  
Lee Paylor  
Paul and Jan Polasky  
Doug Potter  
Sally and Bill Robie  
Ruth Rumiano  
Jim Tiede  
Ann West  
Carol Williams  
Liz and Don Young  
BUMC Choir

The total amount raised was over \$1,000.  
That is amazing!

God moved in a mighty way to bless BUMC and those who came from the community to worship with us this Holy Week and Easter.

*Judy Lang*

# Vacation Bible School blasts off on July 7

On July 7, we will blast off to Cosmic City for our 2008 Vacation Bible School. We will team with families to help children grow in the confidence and understanding of the love of God. Few places inspire the awe and wonder of God more naturally than the heavens he created. So we are launching our voyagers into space, where they'll experience the awe and wonder for themselves. After a successful VBS last summer, this year we're creating a fun and fanciful floating space city where they can delight in discovering who God is. The program includes a light supper, games, crafts, music



and drama, and more surprises that you'll have to come to see for yourself.

Vacation Bible School will run from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 7, through Friday, July 11.

For those who register before June 15, the fee is \$30. After June 15, the fee is \$40.

For each child you will be sending to VBS, please fill out a registration form and a medical information and authorization form. These forms appear at the bottom of this page and on the next page. You also can download extra forms from our website, [www.berwynumc.org/vbs](http://www.berwynumc.org/vbs). Or, if you prefer, you may register online. Forms should be returned to the church office, attention VBS. Don't forget to include the fee. Please note that registration is required. Space is limited, so please register as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Atchison (610-644-2775), Ryan Benton (610-308-4309), or Janet Campbell (610-647-8291), or e-mail [officebumc@comcast.net](mailto:officebumc@comcast.net).

## Vacation Bible School Registration Form

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

*(age 4 through entering 5th grade only)*

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ *(Used to group pre-elementary school children)* Entering Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ *(Used for program e-mail only)*

Phone No. 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child's pictures to be used in a VBS slideshow (for Berwyn UMC only). YES / NO

Can you help with VBS? YES / NO / MAYBE (please circle)

# Vacation Bible School

## Medical Information and Authorization Form

1. Any allergies of medical concern? YES / NO (please circle) If yes, please detail allergies below.

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

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

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### **Emergency Contact**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Cell / Work \_\_\_\_\_

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 of 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 School 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.

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Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_