



November 2008

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross



Decorating faces and pumpkins

At the children's fair that was a part of the Fall Festival on Oct. 11, kids participated in games, made some crafts, and got their faces painted. At top, Mariana Mancera and Maria Merino show off their butterfly faces.

Club Berwyn, our new program for grades 3 through 6, had its first event on Oct. 17: pumpkin decorations and cookie baking. At left, Laura Stockler puts the finishing touches on a pumpkin face. In background, other artists are Mariana Mancera and Sophie Dunn.

A need for confidence to reverse the downturn

“A lack of confidence.” This is a key factor, we’re told, that has driven the stock market. The “Fall” of 2008, October in particular, will be remembered as an incredulous time for the national and world economy. There is, for sure, ample reason for a lack of confidence. But it is clear that to find our way forward, a strong measure of confidence in how all can pull in the same direction, is required. For these are new days with new economic realities.

The Finance Stewards of Berwyn Church have studied long and hard the financial picture of our shared mission and ministry. Readers of *The Lighted Cross* have been informed in detail through the year. Summer and early fall were “downturn” times for congregation giving. I’m not sure that the nation’s economic picture is the direct cause, or the only cause, of the congregation’s financial picture. We suspect many causes. But the fix has something to do with “confidence.”

Whether there is money to pay, is not what determines God’s movement in history (and in Berwyn). Just the same, our confidence is in the expectation that all will respond to the financial challenges in order that mission not be limited.

The beauty of the life of faith is its call to look beyond the confines of our usual categories. An economic downturn is difficult, but does not determine our fate. Confidence increases when one recalls God’s faithfulness, the resourcefulness of his children, the creativity of thinking, and the inclination and willingness to share. This is stewardship talk.

You are, of course, urged to pay close attention to where we are, remembering that we have two months left in 2008 in which to fully fund the mission and ministry as promised.

A comparison of the first nine months of 2008 and the same period of 2007:

September 2008	Actual	Budget	favorable (unfavorable)	% of bu
Contribution Income	\$258,160	\$294,840	(\$36,680)	
Contrib - Mortgage fund	\$9,643	\$6,151	\$3,492	
Other Income	\$33,190	\$31,498	\$1,692	
Expense	\$333,718	\$339,274	\$5,556	
gain(loss)	(\$32,725)	(\$6,785)	(\$25,940)	

September 2007	Actual	Budget	favorable (unfavorable)	% of budget
Contribution Income	\$259,786	\$287,429	(\$27,643)	90%
Contrib - Mortgage fund	\$6,020	\$11,250	(\$5,230)	54%
Other Income	\$32,102	\$32,788	(\$686)	98%
Expense	\$320,155	\$339,269	\$19,114	94%
gain(loss)	(\$22,247)	(\$7,802)	(\$14,445)	

- Contribution giving lags further behind budget today, compared to this point in '07.
- The good news is strong participation in mortgage fund giving in '08.
- Expenses have been higher in '08, related to necessary property and repair spending.

Steve Cherry

FROM THE PASTOR

The worship service as a sacred offering to God

ONE of the most important parts of our spiritual journey is the worship of God. It is important not only because of its sacredness and solemnity, but because through it we make an offering of our total selves to God. All of worship is an offering!

When the acolyte brings the light in, we are proclaiming by that act that the Light of the World has come into our midst. That is why we follow the light into the sanctuary, declaring that an important person is with us.

When we rise to sing, we are offering our gift of song to the Lord. We offer our prayers to God in and through the name of Jesus the Christ.

When the choir sings, they are making on our behalf an offering of praise to the Most High.

When the scriptures are read, the word of the Lord is offered to us for guidance, inspiration and sustenance.

When the sermon is preached, a prophetic word from the Immanuel is offered for the living of life in the world today.

Worship is an experience of give and take. When we make an offering of our gifts, we express our gratitude for all that God has done for us. When in communion we are offered the bread and the wine, God through Jesus offers God-self to us to strengthen our bonds with God and our relationship of love with Jesus.

I hope you noted how many times the word *offering* or *offer* has been used. Hence the claim that all of worship is a sacred offering to the God we worship and adore through the *offering* of our time, our talents and our tithes.

We celebrated recently with the people who have worshipped God in this place for over 50 years. What a joy and delight that experience was for me, as I am sure it was to the Membership and Congregational Committee, which organized it. As those members were honored by us that day, I was filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory at the fact that a good portion of their lives was spent in offering their worship to God. They have set a good example of faithfulness and dedication in the total offering of themselves to God in worship. May we continue that great and wonderful tradition of service to God.

May we be blessed always as we seek ways and means of offering our worship to God on a daily basis, as that is what stewardship is all about. May God's grace strengthen and sustain you as you offer your lives to God in service for the sake of the kingdom of God.

Blessings!

Pastor Phil

MISSION MEMO

Calling for gifts to spread Christmas joy

The Christmas Mission projects are under way.

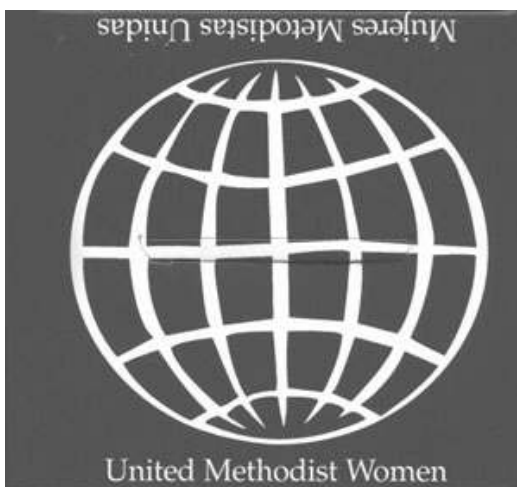
Last year we helped Mount Zion United Methodist Church, 1530-1538 North 11th Street, Philadelphia, collect new unwrapped gifts to be used at a Christmas dinner as presents for the invited guests. The guests included people who live in shelters or The People's Emergency Center, and other homeless people in the church's area. The project was such a success that we will be doing that again this year. The Nursery School and Sunday School children will bring in new small toys, books and gifts for children and their moms who live in shelters in downtown Philadelphia. The moms love a new piece of jewelry or some perfume, or perhaps a "one size fits all" item, since we do not have any idea of the sizes needed. We also need items for babies who live at the People's Emergency Center. Children may also bring toiletries and personal items for men using a shelter at 802 North Broad Street, operated by the Committee to End Homelessness. Please do not send electronic games or toys. We are delighted that our Nursery School will participate again in this project.

You, the congregation, will be part of the family of churches providing gifts for the children served by the Methodist Home for Children. A list of gift ideas is in the narthex near the Christmas tree, which will be lighted in mid-November. Methodist Home for Children serves over 2,500 children in the greater Philadelphia area and provides each child with a Christmas gift, which sometimes is the only gift the child receives. Suggested gifts include items for infants and toddlers, pre-school children aged 3-5, elementary school children aged 6-10, middle school children aged 11-14, and high school children aged 15-18. These gifts will be delivered to Methodist Home for Children on Dec. 7 between 1:30 and 5:30 p.m. Please place your unwrapped gift under the Christmas tree. You can help decorate the tree with hats, scarves, and mittens for United Methodist Neighborhood Services at 804 North Broad Street. Dr. Mary White, the director, provides used clothing and food to the needy. During the Christmas season she operates a store where neighbors may purchase new items for Christmas at prices they can afford. Our mittens, hats and scarves are sold in the Christmas store, as well as being provided to those who come in for warm items during the winter. They will also be delivered the week of Dec. 7.

You may wish to contribute to the Christmas meals fund that provides funds for meals to those in our congregation who need our help. An envelope will be provided for your donations closer to Christmas.

Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered to be a Guardian Angel. We have at least 14 students assigned to Angels and are waiting for a few more addresses of students so that they may also have Angels.

Betsy Newman



World Thank Offering Month: Look for the little blue boxes

November is World Thank Offering month.

United Methodist Women will have the little blue boxes out during the month of November. They are a wonderful way to show thanks for all the blessings we have. The little blue boxes will be collected at worship on Nov. 23.

We hope you will join us in supporting missions through this special offering.

Amy Dwyer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Movie Night. The Church & Society Task Force and the Missions Committee will sponsor “Movies That Make You Think” at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1. We will show *The Pursuit of Happiness*, starring Will Smith and his son. Glide Memorial United Methodist Church has a cameo appearance in this movie as the church that helps the homeless. We will highlight the work that we do through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Our next time to host is the week of Nov. 2.

Lydia Circle (United Methodist Women). Join us for a program led by Claudia Sharpless and Janet Campbell at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2. We are always interested in having new people join us. We have a light supper in the parlor.

Men’s Group. The monthly meetings will resume with breakfast and a program at 8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 8.

Harvest Dinner. Join your church family for the annual Harvest Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 9, immediately after the 10:30 service. The menu will feature roast turkey, baked ham, mashed potatoes, dressing and all the trimmings. Prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-10, and free for children under 5. See Sally Robie to sign up on Sunday, Nov. 2.

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service. This service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26, at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Devon. A combined choir will perform music by Rutter. The Rev. Dr. Jay Wilkens will be the preacher, with other pastors participating in various aspects of the service. There will be fellowship with refreshments afterward. Everyone is invited.

Hanging of the Greens. From 3 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, we will decorate, eat and make music. There will be lots of things to do for adults, youth and children. A signup sheet will be in the narthex closer to the date. To ask questions or volunteer to help organize, please call Sue Denisevich at 610-296-9529.

Christmas Brunch. After the choir performs a cantata featuring organ and harp at the 10:30 service on Sunday, Dec. 14, proceed to Schieck Hall to feast at our Christmas Brunch. Prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-10, free for children under 5. Signups will be held at both services on Nov. 30 and Dec. 7.

Fall Festival net income may be more than \$8,400

As *The Lighted Cross* goes to press, the final net income of the 2008 Fall Festival has not been determined. The gross income is over \$8,700. When expenses of \$200 to \$300 have been paid, our net income could exceed \$8,400.

We had great booth chairmen and workers from Wednesday noon through Sunday noon. Janet, Kate, Brian and I thank them and the congregation for their support. Our customers were great. Many have said that it was the best festival in the fall.

So — with that said, let’s rest up and save up our “stuff,” as we look forward to the fall of 2009.

Judy Fisk

Memorial Garden deadline extended to end of year

It was pointed out at the Administrative Board meeting that this may be a difficult financial time for interested persons to withdraw money from their savings. Thus, we are extending the pre-construction prices until the end of 2008.

Questions and answers about the Memorial Garden appeared in the June issue of *The Lighted Cross*. You can read this feature by going to www.berwynumc.org, choosing Resources and then choosing June 2008. The article is on Page 10.

Prayer Shawl Ministry observes 2nd anniversary

“Can you do me a favor?” That’s how the conversation started a couple of weeks ago, as Pat White and Ann West sat in a room at the church making plans for a prayer shawl meeting. The person asking the question was asking for a Bible to refresh her memory of the 23rd Psalm. The night before, she had tried to remember it so she could quote it to her dying father. She was upset both about her father’s illness and the fact that she couldn’t remember her favorite psalm. By the time the woman left, not only did she have a Bible, but she had a prayer shawl, made by one of the women of the church, wrapped around her shoulders.

That’s how it’s been ever since the prayer shawl ministry started two years ago. More than 60 prayer shawls have been placed prayerfully around the shoulders of men, women and children.

In addition to those given to members and friends of the church, shawls are being sent to people in distant places. One was sent to a Katrina relief worker in New Orleans; another was taken to a doctor in Peru who is caring for a child with a malignant tumor on her spine.

Right now, the 60th prayer shawl is in the mail. It is being sent by Marge Smink to Inetta Mullins of Clintwood, Va. Mrs. Mullins’ house and property were repaired by a team of six youth and adults as a part of the Appalachia Service Project outreach ministry in July. Her home on Bear Pen Creek in southwest Virginia had suffered severe water damage over the years. By giving Inetta the gift of this shawl, Berwyn Church became a partner in the celebration of Inetta Mullins and her life of loving, caring and giving.

Ann West

Sponsors needed to aid students in El Salvador

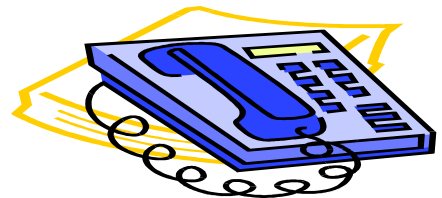
Pastor Josè at Roca Eterna United Methodist Church, our sister church in El Salvador, has sent us a list of students who need financial aid in order to continue their education. Annual costs range from \$350 for elementary to high school students to \$720 for university students. You may sponsor a student on your own or share the cost with another family. We are in the process of contacting members who have sponsored a student in the past, but we already know that we will need more donors. Since we need to know by December, please contact Gail Campbell or Nancy Atchison if you are interested or need more information.

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: Nov. 16

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 Dec. 1. Please submit your items by Nov. 16 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

LENDING A HAND

November 2

Liturgist: Scott West

Ushers: Jim Tiede, Judy Kim,

David Surine, Frank Farina

Acolyte: Laura Stockler

Coffee Committee: Janelle Larson,

Janet Campbell, Amy Dodds

Story Time: Holly Dillon

Flower Delivery: Jane McDowell

November 9

Liturgist: Maxime Jex

Ushers: Larry Dodds, Tom O'Donnell,

Don Kirkland, Brian Donadio

Acolyte: Asa Walker

Coffee Committee: Gina Phelps,

Nancy Koon, Sue Denisevich

Story Time: Gina DeFlavia

Flower Delivery: Margi MacKenzie

November 16

Liturgist: Janelle Larson

Ushers: Dick Sharpless, Ted Jex,

Ryan Benton, John Edinger

Acolyte: Sarah West

Coffee Committee: Margie O'Donnell,

Barbara Hall, Darlene Spofford

Story Time: Kathleen West

Flower Delivery: Cynthia Bushnell

November 23

Liturgist: Ruth Rumiano

Ushers: Hal Craig, John Paylor,

Holly Dillon, Gene Williams

Acolyte: Victoria Phelps

Coffee Committee: Sue Farina,

Pam Benton, Pam Smith

Story Time: Janelle Larson

Flower Delivery: Jane McDowell

November 30

Liturgist: John Paylor

Ushers: Brian Dunn, Vic Burris,

Luis Montaner, Rachel Burris

Acolyte: Jeremy Borelly

Coffee Committee: Marjorie Smink,

Donna Pitz, Amy Dwyer

Story Time: Sondra Wilen

Flower Delivery: Barbara Borst

Fire trucks pay a visit to the Nursery School

The fire engines from Berwyn Fire Company recently paid a visit to the Nursery School. With them came a group of volunteer firefighters who were so patient and so interesting to our younger children. In a week, the 5-Day children will walk to the firehouse. We like to get out and into the surrounding community when we can.

All the children have visits to farms scheduled. We visit Sugartown Pumpkins with our very youngest class. Some of the other young children go to Varner's Farm, while our 3-Day children visit Milky Way Farm. The 5-Day classes will go to Highland Orchards. These farms always welcome our classes warmly and make sure the adventure is fun and interesting.

I have been conducting tours of the school prior to our registration in November. We register the In House and Church Members on Nov. 5 and 6. The public will register on Nov. 12.

I am happy to say that BUMNS is so settled already. Those first weeks of anxiety have been long gone, and it is rare to ever see tears. There just comes a time when you realize that the days are humming along and the parents are telling us that the children can hardly wait to get up and get to school. That means our goal is well on the way to being accomplished. It is a good feeling!

Ann Bole

BAPTISM

Rayna Kate Shallcross

Rayna Kate Shallcross was baptized on Sunday, Oct. 12. She is the daughter of Cindy and Brett Shallcross, the little sister of Mark, and the granddaughter of Jack and Janet Campbell and Larry and Karen Shallcross.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

For Adults

The Freedom Writers Diary by The Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell (305.235 Fre)

Erin Gruwell, an idealistic first-year high school English teacher in Long Beach, Calif., faced a room of unruly, “atrisk” students. One day she intercepted a note with an ugly racial drawing and angrily announced that this sort of behavior led to the Holocaust. The class did not understand what the term Holocaust meant. So Erin and her students began a journey to learn about historical intolerance and misunderstanding. The class named themselves the Freedom Writers out of respect for the civil rights activists, the Freedom Riders. Read the powerful entries from the students’ diaries and witness the inspirational example of hard work, courage and determination that changed the lives of these students and their teacher.

Calm and Compassionate Children: a Handbook by Susan Usha Dermond (372.019 Der)

The author provides a powerful guide to show that kindness and gentleness can be taught to children. Building on inherent feelings of openheartedness and trust, she teaches that parents and teachers can help children develop integrity and empathy as they mature. Children who have developed such qualities are better able to meet challenges with a positive attitude and thrive in later life with inner strength and determination. Practical guidance to help adults model behavior is enhanced with many examples of activities to stimulate children’s concentration, joy and kindness.

For Children

The Cave of Reconciliation by Pecki Sherman Witonsky (J 222.11002 Wit) Primary, Junior

In the Southern Judea region, 3,050 feet above sea level, lies a city known as Hebron or Al-Khalil. In this city is a cave with three names: the Tomb of the Patriarchs, Ma'arat Ha'Machpelah, and al-Haram al-Ibrahimi. The cave is said to house the remains of a man and his family. The name can be pronounced Abraham, Avraham, or Ibrahim, but the man is the same. *The Cave of Reconciliation* is a book with two sides. Read from one end, it tells the story of Abraham and his son Isaac from the Jewish perspective. Flip the book, and it recounts the tale of Ibrahim and Ismail from the Muslim perspective. Told and illustrated in a simple style, *The Cave of Reconciliation* reimagines the origins of one of the most complex conflicts of our time. Supplementary material includes maps, family trees, and a glossary of names.

Endorsed as tool for interfaith dialogue, *The Cave of Reconciliation* is recommended by Jewish, Christian and Muslim clergy. At a time when world events point to an ever-deepening rift between Judeo-Christian and Islamic societies, this book offers a reminder of our commonalities and examines the source of our differences. Intended to promote dialogue and thoughtful questions, *The Cave of Reconciliation* binds together two stories for one world. This book is suitable to be read aloud to younger children and/or enjoyed by children who are advanced readers.

Marjorie Smink

Food to be collected on four Sundays in November

We will gather food for the Trinity Presbyterian Food Bank on Nov. 2, 9, 16 and 23. There will be baskets for the food as you go into the sanctuary. Foods needed: peanut butter, canned soup, rice, dried beans, macaroni and noodles, coffee, tea, Spam, tomato sauce, tuna, Tang, Bisquick, flour and sugar (5-pound bags), canned beans, jelly, toothpaste, canned tomato sauce and fruit.

ETC Class (9:12 a.m.) will focus on health care issues

Every Topic Considered, the Adult Sunday School class that meets in the Library from 9:12 to 10 a.m., will be taking on the topic of health care. At the United Methodist General Conference in April, one of the ministry focus areas was global health issues.

Dance marathon to benefit ill child in Peru

At first glance, Maria Claudia appears to be a normal 22-month-old toddler crawling across the floor of her small home in a barrio outside Lima, Peru. However, Maria Claudia is not so lucky; this summer she was diagnosed with a rare tumor that originates from the nerves in her back.

If she doesn't receive the surgery she needs, she will eventually be paralyzed and possibly die. Maria Claudia's family works hard every day, but health care for a child with cancer is beyond their limited wages.

In response to this, the youth of BUMC are planning a special fund-raiser for Maria Claudia to pay for her surgery and radiation therapy. The fundraiser is a dance marathon from 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, to 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 15.

There are many ways to support this event: sponsoring a youth dancer, providing refreshments throughout the evening, and chaperoning for just three hours. Your donations or a few hours of your volunteer time will go a long way in providing hope to Maria Claudia and her family.

If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact: Rachel Burriss, raburriss@gmail.com or 610 299 1307, or Ryan Benton, rpbenton@gmail.com.



A Wesleyan tradition of aiding health care worldwide

The people of the United Methodist Church have a powerful record of joining together to develop a commanding response to issues of need. We are a denomination that has played a significant role in abolishing slavery and advocating for child labor laws, women's suffrage and civil rights. Our prevailing message is that we have the hope, the people and the power to facilitate change.

John Wesley understood the deeply intertwined relationship between poverty and poor health. Wesley's practical theology set high standards for disciples seeking to live in the example of Jesus Christ, who reached out to those on the margins of society, healed them and sent them back into their community for a greater good. As a faithful response to our discipleship, the United Methodist Church provides health care and aid in more than 27 countries through hospitals, clinic work, parish nursing programs and other volunteer opportunities.

Unfortunately, many of the health issues of Wesley's time are still a part of the 21st century landscape. Many people and communities throughout Africa, in particular, lack access to the basic rights of nutritious food, clean water, adequate shelter and essential medicines. Through drilling boreholes, building water-purification systems, and developing agricultural resources and adequate housing, the people of the United Methodist Church work tirelessly to help provide a better quality of life for others around the world.

In addition, the General Board of Global Ministries and its Division on Health and Welfare Ministries, United Methodist Committee on Relief and Women's Division have been active for decades in galvanizing people and resources to respond to three particularly devastating diseases of poverty: malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. This work has made health care accessible to more people regardless of age, race, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation or religion.