



November 2009

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

# The Lighted Cross

## Jack Abel to deliver Recovery Sunday sermons on Nov. 15

*DART is sponsoring visit  
by Caron Foundation pastor*



Jack Abel, director of pastoral services for the Caron Foundation, will deliver a sermon, "A Biblical Family Tale," at the 8:30 and 10:30 Recovery Sunday worship services on Nov. 15.

His visit is sponsored by the church's Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team (DART), which also is providing educational programs for youth and adults during the Sunday School hour starting at 9:15.

The Caron Foundation, based in Wernersville, Pa., is a not-for-profit, internationally recognized treatment provider with more than 50 years' experience. Caron offers assessments and treatment programs, as well as programs for families affected by drug and alcohol addiction.

Pastor Abel joined Caron in January 2008. He integrates spiritual care with the other disciplines involved in treatment. His areas of expertise include 12-Step recovery, Christian theology, ritual studies and pastoral care.

He received his master of divinity degree *summa cum laude* from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., in 1998. He also has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass., and a master of business administration degree from Wilmington College in Delaware. He is an accomplished jazz pianist.

## Stewardship Sunday is Nov. 8, followed by the Harvest Dinner

At both worship services on Nov. 8, everyone will be invited to complete an Estimate of Giving Card. This will enable the Finance/Stewardship Committee to complete its stewardship planning for the church for 2010. The theme of this year's campaign is "Empowered by God — Responding by Grace." [Article on page 11.]

At noon Nov. 8, we will have our annual Harvest Dinner in Schieck Hall. The traditional turkey dinner will also feature baked ham, mashed potatoes, dressing and all the rest of the trimmings. Reservations for the dinner can be made after church services Nov. 1 or by calling the church office by Nov. 4. The price is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under, and free for children under 5.

## VOICES FROM THE FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### Unusual expenses result in a budget shortfall

The third quarter of 2009 has ended, and the Finance/Stewardship Committee wants to report on where things stand as we complete the rest of this year.

As always, there is good news and bad news. The good news is that, despite the difficult economic times we all are experiencing, total contributions, although \$10,000 under budget, still are reasonably close. The bad news is that expenses have exceeded budget by more than \$40,000, meaning we are in an overall position of being almost \$52,000 in the hole for the first three quarters of 2009.

There are many reasons for this situation. Fundamentally, the problem is that, as hard as we all have tried to control expenses, there have been several items that just are beyond that control. For example, the winter of 2008-09 was particularly harsh from a snow- and ice-removal standpoint, which resulted in our spending almost \$6,000 more for those services than we had budgeted. In the same vein, our energy costs continue to escalate, and have increased almost 20% over 2008, despite the conservation efforts we all are making. When we add the significant amounts we had to spend on necessary maintenance for the parsonage, Hurd house, and the church building itself, we find ourselves with this significant budget shortfall.

So, what to do?

First, let's keep our fingers crossed that the remaining months of 2009 do not have the harsh weather conditions we experienced earlier in the year, and let's hope our extraordinary maintenance and repair items are over for the year, or at least can be deferred into 2010.

The second thing we all can do, as difficult as it may be, is to try to be as generous as we can in our contributions for the remainder of this year. The Finance Committee appreciates that times are difficult for everyone, and not just BUMC. Having said that, this is a wonderful church in a wonderful community, and BUMC is a beacon of light to us all. We owe it to BUMC, and to each other, to keep that beacon burning bright. We therefore ask that you all think very hard about BUMC's current financial plight, and do whatever you can to alleviate it over the next three months.

The Finance/Stewardship Committee, along with the BUMC community at large, thanks you all.

*Bob Koons*

September 2009	Actual	Budget	favorable (unfavorable)	% of budget		
Contribution Income	\$259,183	\$267,750	(\$8,567)	97%		
Contrib - Mortgage fund	\$7,088	\$6,151	\$937	115%		
Other Income	\$32,301	\$34,770	(\$2,469)	93%		
Expense	\$350,298	\$342,336	(\$7,962)	102%		
gain(loss)	(\$51,726)	(\$33,665)	(\$18,061)			

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### Help hang the greens at church on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 6

We will gather at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, for our annual Hanging of the Greens and dinner with Carol Sing. It will be a wonderful time to decorate our church for the Advent/Christmas season and enjoy each other's company as we sing some good, old-fashioned Christmas carols. All volunteers are appreciated. Contact Kristine or David Adams if you can help that day.

## FROM THE PASTOR

# Building a ministry of Christian leadership

**L**AST MONTH, I referenced the four areas to which all United Methodists have been asked to give focused attention over the next four years. I highlighted the work that we at Berwyn UMC have done in addressing poverty and that which is still left for us to do. This month, I would like to share some thoughts on another of the four focus areas — developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.

The development of principled Christian leaders was something that Jesus spent much time on. We have the accounts of how Jesus took his disciples away from the hustle and bustle of life to train them in the values of the kingdom. We read of those times Jesus gave them hands-on experiences by sending them out two by two to do the work of kingdom building. Jesus equipped and enabled his disciples to discover their strengths and to use them to the honor and glory of God.

Over the centuries, the Christian Church continued to equip and train followers of Jesus in the sacred tasks of kingdom building. Very often, the concentration was on the preparation of clergy. That is still a vital part of developing principled Christian leaders and one on which the church spends much time, energy and resources.

Over the last 50 years or so, the church has come to realize and accept the valuable contributions that the Laity makes to the work of kingdom building. Energy and effort is now being put into equipping the Laity for ministry, as we do believe in the priesthood of all believers. To this end, every January or February, our district offers Toolkit. This is training for all those that were elected by the Charge Conference for ministry in the local churches. Toolkit will be on Feb. 27 at a place to be determined. I invite you to place this date on your calendars from now so that we may have a large number of our leaders going for this training.

As a local church, we are also thinking of working on becoming an equipping church. This is where the pastoral and lay leadership will be offering opportunities for training in areas like spiritual growth, leadership in worship, pastoral care and visitation, effectiveness in mission and ministry, and strengthening the cadre of volunteers that are willing to serve Christ through service in the church through boards and committees.

Paul, in writing to the Ephesians, said we have the sacred task of “equipping the saints for ministry.” We are delighted that we can share with the national church in this exciting and sacred ministry.

Our Lord spent much time and energy equipping and preparing his followers for the work of kingdom building, enabling them to develop as principled Christian leaders to the church and the world. My prayer is that we will continue in this sacred task of “equipping the saints for ministry.”



*Pastor Phil*

# Photo directory: An extra day for shooting portraits

We are in the midst of taking portraits of church members for our new pictorial directory. The Olan Mills photographer was scheduled to visit the weekend of Oct. 24-25 to shoot most of the pictures. Another round of photography is scheduled for 3 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Thanks to everyone who has made an appointment for a portrait! Your response to this project has been so great that we have added a fourth day of shooting: Tuesday, Dec. 15, from 3 to 9:30 p.m.

If you have not scheduled an appointment, please call the Olan Mills Appointment Center at 1-866-2263 anytime, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

If you are unable to get to church for a portrait, and would like a church member to come to your home to take your photograph, call the church office. Alternatively, you may mail a photograph of yourself or your family to the church.

Our directory will also feature pictures of church activities, such as Sunday School classes, youth and children's activities, church dinners and service projects, committee meetings, and any other events. If you have pictures of such activities that you think might be suitable, please submit them either as prints dropped off or mailed to the church office, or as a JPEG attachment to an e-mail addressed to [officebumc@comcast.net](mailto:officebumc@comcast.net). Please indicate if you would like any prints to be returned.

*John Paylor*

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# Dr. Mark Morgan to speak at Lydia Circle meeting

Lydia Circle welcomes Dr. Mark Morgan, chief of gynecologic oncology at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. Dr. Morgan will discuss his volunteer work in Africa, in which he performs surgeries on women and girls suffering from obstetric fistula.

Obstetric fistula is a birth injury that afflicts more than 2 million women and girls in poor nations worldwide. Most of these experience prolonged labor without access to emergency medical care. Their babies are stillborn, and the mothers are left with fistulas, or holes, in the birth canal. Without treatment, victims lead lives of enormous discomfort, social isolation, and emotional pain.

Dr. Morgan's presentation will help us prepare to participate in Operation Healing Hope, an initiative sponsored by the General Board of Church and Society and funded by the United Nations Foundation. The yearlong campaign is aimed at inspiring advocacy to help eradicate obstetric fistula.

Part of Operation Healing Hope is an Advent Bible study and quilt project. "Advent Visions" is a four-part study that connects the realities of those living with obstetric fistula with Biblical stories of healing and hope. "Advent Visions" also has its own craft project in the form of a baby quilt. Each study group is supplied with a "Baby Quilt Starter Kit" and invited to create a 30-by-35-inch baby quilt during the four weeks of Advent.



The hope is that Advent Visions baby quilts will be completed by Christmas. In the New Year, plans call for the baby quilts to be sent to Camphor United Methodist Mission in Liberia, where traditional birth assistants are being trained in methods of preventing obstetric fistula.

*Carol Cherry*

# A new and improved Vision Action Plan

Recently we received some excellent feedback regarding our Vision Statement and Strategic Mission Action Plan (MAP). As a result, the Leadership Advisory Team has taken a fresh look at the work that the Visioning Committee completed last year.

Three particular areas of importance became clear as we reflected on the feedback we were given.

First was the realization that while throughout the committee's discussions, God was at the center of all of what we were doing, we did not do justice in communicating this underlying principle in the documents we prepared.

Second, it was suggested that while we did a very good job of emphasizing our internal ministries and activities, our vision statement would be stronger and more encompassing if we included an outward focus as well. This revision would reflect our efforts in evangelism and external ministries.

Finally, it was noted that the action plans proposed for the various committees and teams within BUMC tended to be very task-oriented and, again, did not do a good job of showing how the committee's activities were being directed toward achieving God's mission for us as a community of faith.

At its last meeting, the Administrative Board adopted the Revised Vision Statement (see below; changes are in ***bold italics***).

The Administrative Board also approved the Leadership Action Team's recommendation that all committees and teams would be asked to rewrite their individual Ministry Action Plans in light of the feedback we received and in light of the revised Vision Statement. Committees and teams were also encouraged to begin with a "blank sheet of paper" rather than the draft action plans that were previously sent to the committees. Once all of the individual Ministry Action Plans are revised, an updated Strategic MAP will be issued.

*Jim Tiede*

## Berwyn United Methodist Church Revised Vision Statement

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will strive to be a caring and transforming community of faith that ***seeks out and*** embraces sojourners at all points of their journey ***of faith***.

We will provide opportunities ***for church members and the community at large*** to discover and use our gifts to serve Christ.

We will focus on spiritual development and growth ***through Christ***.

We will ***seek out and accept*** a range of theological diversity through a variety of means including multidimensional worship experiences, and diverse opportunities for fellowship, education, sharing and outreach.

We will be advocates for peace and justice ***in obedience of God's requirements***.

# MISSIONS MEMO

## We can help the less fortunate at Christmas

This year, Christmas may be very difficult for many families, and the Missions Committee hopes to help in many ways.

We are working with the Nursery School children and their families, and our Sunday School families, to provide new, unwrapped gifts for children, women and men in shelters in Philadelphia. This will be the third year for this project. Cressa Morris, the missions chair at Mount Zion United Methodist Church, was thrilled to hear that we would like to help them again with their project. We need new items, such as toiletries for men and women; new, warm clothes, including underwear and socks; and other items for winter. We need new items for babies whose mothers are at People's Emergency Center. We need toys, books and games for children. Toys should not be huge, as children in shelters do not have a lot of space. Mount Zion also works to provide these items as well as cooking the dinner for the Christmas party. These gifts will be delivered the week of Dec. 6. Your gifts can be left in the Sunday School area.

We will support the work of the Methodist Home for Children, which needs toys for the 1,500 children and teenagers the agency serves. Also needed are new, unwrapped toys, games, books and gift cards in denominations of \$10 and \$20. A complete list of suggestions will be in the narthex. These gifts should be brought to the church to be placed under the Christmas tree. The gifts will be delivered to the Methodist Home for Children on Sunday, Dec. 13.

We will support the work of Dr. Mary White at United Methodist Neighborhood Services by decorating the Christmas tree with new, unwrapped, warm hats, mittens, and scarves. Dr. White uses them in the Christmas shop she opens in December. Parents may buy these items at very reasonable prices.

We will be collecting cash or check donations to provide Christmas meals for members of our congregation. Donations can be given in the collection plate and should be in an envelope labeled Christmas meals. Donations can be accepted until Dec. 13. If you know of someone in need, contact Pastor Poncé confidentially.

The gift items do not have to be expensive to be appreciated by the people we are trying to help. Thank you for giving so generously in the past, and for your generosity Christmas 2009.

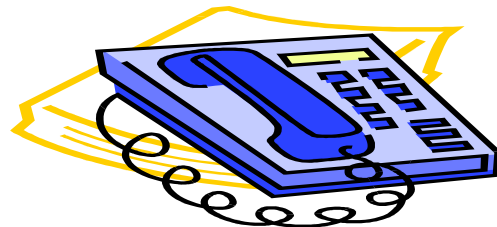
Betsy Newman

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## *The Lighted Cross*

**Next deadline: Nov. 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 Dec. 1, and an electronic version will be available earlier on the church website. Submit your items to [gene.foreman@verizon.net](mailto: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**

## NEXT YEAR'S DATE: OCT. 9

### Your *gifts, gifts, gifts* made the festival a success

Saturday morning, Oct. 10, dawned a bit cloudy with a threat of rain, but in Schieck Hall it was a bright and promising day. As we opened the BUMC Fall Festival and Flea Market, we were surrounded by the *gifts* of our congregation:

Piles of treasures from attics and basements were displayed in the flea market.

Often-read books found their way to new readers at the book nook.

Little-used collectibles from our china buffets were offered for others to treasure.

Jewelry once worn and once bedazzling filled the jewelry tables to adorn other outfits (or to complete a Halloween costume).

Our welcome table from the Evangelism and Nurture Committee provided fair participants with an overview of our church home.

Vacation homes, a beautiful quilt, blankets, gardening services, baked goods, catering, professional services, family portraits – *gifts* from our church family and community – were offered for bidding at the silent auction.

The bake table was brimming with delicious goodies, and by the end of the day those *gifts* from our kitchens had disappeared.

Games for the children, while Mom and Dad shopped, were a little soggy, but enjoyed by all.

Fair-trade coffee was available to purchase, a delicious lunch beckoned, and pumpkins and guards were ready to carry home to decorate homes for the holidays, a *gift* of the Reiter family.

Schieck Hall was a beautiful place to be that Saturday morning. From the welcoming signs heralding our event to the pumpkins and pies painted on the windows and doors, the *gifts* of our church family were evident everywhere. We have been blessed for another year.

We thank all for their *gifts* of time and talents. We thank all for the support our church family and home. The money numbers are still being tabulated at this writing. Our proposal for the distribution of the proceeds from the day will be presented at the next Administrative Board meeting.

The tentative date for the next Fall Festival and Flea Market will be Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010. Start readying your *gifts*, and we'll see you then.

*Janet Campbell*

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## Status report on the Memorial Garden project

Although plans for construction of a Memorial Garden next to the sanctuary have been completed, construction will not begin until the remaining \$36,000 for the initial phase is raised. As you will recall, the Memorial Garden will be a self-sustaining project, not a part of the annual church budget. Five or six more niches must be purchased before we can start building.

The prices of niches for church/former members are \$2,500 for a single person, \$500 for the second person. For non-members (with approval of the Memorial Garden Committee), the prices are \$3,000 for a single person, \$500 for second person. For the scattering garden with name on plaque, the price is \$750 per person. To obtain an "Application for Inurnment," call the church office.

Contact Nancy Atchison, Judy Fisk or Sally Robie if you have any questions.

# Take these steps to keep yourself safe from flu

The mandate for Christian congregations is to spread the Good News. But congregations are also wonderful places to spread virus, and are not isolated from the well-publicized spread of the H1N1 virus (as distinct from the regular, annual “seasonal” flu), effectively global in scope. So, what about BUMC? And where is accurate information available?

This is a great time to acquaint (or re-acquaint) oneself with public health resources. The County Health Department coordinates local response to widely communicable disease. Thus, take note of the contacts:

Chester County Health Department: 610-344-6225, [www.dsf.chesco.org](http://www.dsf.chesco.org) Departments tab / Health Department.

[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) (linked to the above) provides a self-test if you are concerned about symptoms.

Your doctor. She or he will recommend whether or not you should receive a flu vaccine. And if you or a family member suspect infection, your doctor will direct your treatment.

*And* the standard precautionary measures continue to be critical:

- Wash your hands – *repeatedly*.
- Use alcohol-based hand cleaner, if washing is not possible (there are hand-cleaner bottles found about the church).
- When you need to sneeze or cough, do so into your sleeve.
- If you are sick, stay home.
- Call your doctor if you think you may have the flu.
- If you’re sick, “don’t pass the flu with the peace” at church.

Steven Cherry

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## Prayer shawls for Pastor Phil and Anne Poncé

*Dear Lord,  
May your grace be upon these shawls . . .  
Warming, comforting, and enfolding  
May these mantles be safe havens, sacred places of security and well-being,  
Sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.  
May your servants, Phil and Anne, be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace  
and wrapped in love.*

This was the prayer spoken by Marge Smink at the 10:30 worship service on Oct. 11 as Eliza Chumpitaz and Pat White placed prayer shawls on the shoulders of Pastor Phil and Anne.

The prayer-shawl ministry of Berwyn United Methodist Church started three years ago. Since the beginning meeting in October 2006, more than 80 shawls have been wrapped around men and women who are celebrating, giving thanks, suffering, or grieving.

Nineteen women have participated in the knitting and crocheting of these shawls. Others have participated in the ministry by donating yarn or money.

The ministry always needs more knitters. If you feel encouraged to become a part of this ministry, just call the church office. If you don't knit or crochet, please include the people who are the knitters and the people who receive the shawls in your prayers.

Ann West

# LENDING A HAND

## November 1

*Greeters:* Maxine Jex, Tom O'Donnell,  
Jane McDowell

*Acolyte:* Harold Craig

*Liturgist:* Kristine Adams

*Ushers:* Jim Tiede, Judy Kim,  
David Surine, Kelly Hogan

*Children's Message:* Anne Poncé

*Story Time:* Jennifer Cutler

*Coffee Committee:* Betsy Newman,  
Mike Benton, Romaine Rood

*Flower Delivery:* Jane McDowell

## November 8

*Greeter:* Maxine Jex

*Acolyte:* Victoria Phelps

*Liturgist:* Larry Dodds

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

*Children's Message:* Luis Montaner

*Story Time:* Gina Deflavia

*Coffee Committee:* Claudia Gonzales,  
Jamile Toro, Anne and Phil Poncé

*Flower Delivery:* Margie O'Donnell

## November 15

*Acolyte:* Sarah West

*Liturgist:* Joy Fuerst

*Ushers:* Richard Sharpless, Moses Hogan,  
John Edinger, Andy Cutler

*Children's Message:* Janelle Larson

*Story Time:* Janelle Larson

*Coffee Committee:* Cynthia Bushnell,  
Jan Polasky, Kelley and Moses Hogan

*Flower Delivery:* Jane McDowell

## November 22

*Acolyte:* Katie Deflavia

*Liturgist:* Eloise Levitt

*Ushers:* Hal Craig, John Paylor,  
Holly Dillon, Gene Williams

*Children's Message:* Amy Dodds

*Story Time:* Kristine Adams

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

*Flower Delivery:* Judy Fisk

## November 29

*Acolyte:* Sophie Dunn

*Liturgist:* Ruth Rumiano

*Ushers:* Brian Dunn, Vic Burriss,  
Luis Montaner, Rachel Burriss

*Children's Message:* Judith Lang

*Coffee Committee:* Pam Benton,  
Gina Deflavia, Sue Farina

*Flower Delivery:* Judy Fisk

## Nursery School teachers and pupils pick up the pace with games and field trips

The preschool pace has picked up a notch again. The children are very comfortable in their classes and with their teachers. The parents have also become comfortable after the round of Parent Coffees in the first weeks of school. Each class has an individual coffee. This is especially helpful for the new parents in the school.

A game-room presentation was given the end of September for parents who have signed up to help the classes in that particular room. The room is a pre-math, pre-reading room of manipulatives. It is the academic center of the school and is a wonderful collection of many higher-level thinking-skill "games." Visitors are always welcome.

The classes have been out into the surrounding communities for farm trips. We are looking forward to the arrival of the Berwyn Fire Company truck for the 2- and 3-Day classes. The 5-Day classes walk to the Berwyn Fire House for a visit. The 5-Day classes are also scheduled to visit the Great Valley Nature Center for the Lenape Indian Village display. The children will learn about the life of Indian children and their families.

On Oct. 9 the staff had an in-service day. There was a presentation and discussion concerning Asperger's Syndrome.

The Berwyn United Methodist Nursery School was represented at a Preschool Expo at the Easttown Library. A display of pictures and art work was set up on a table along with informational brochures and other materials about the school. People asked if we were the BUMNS school, since they have heard of us in those terms in the community.

Tours have begun for the 2010-11 school year. In-house and church members may register Nov. 4 and 5. The public will be invited to register on Nov. 11. Call the school at 610-296-2246 to schedule a visit.

*Ann Bole*

# What's happening at Berwyn United Methodist

**Guest speaker:** Jack Brooks, executive director of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula (EPP) United Methodist Foundation, will speak at worship services Sunday, Nov. 22. EPP Foundation is supported by both the Eastern Pennsylvania and Peninsula Delaware Conferences. The foundation helps churches achieve a strong financial future. It offers independent and objective consultation, transparent fees, quality investments, and asset management in accordance with the social principles outlined in the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

**Men's Fellowship:** Do you know that BUMC sponsors Boy Scout Troop 181? Do you know what this troop is doing? Come to the Men's Fellowship breakfast in Schieck Hall at 8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, to find out more about Berwyn's own Boy Scout troop. Our program will be a presentation about Scouting at BUMC, featuring Scott Wilson, scoutmaster of Troop 181. In addition, enjoy a delicious hot breakfast prepared by our own Fellowship members. Men's Fellowship will continue to meet for breakfast and a program every second Saturday into the spring. All men and boys are welcome.

**Book Club:** The next meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, at Claudia Sharpless' home. Claudia also will lead the discussion of *Poet of Baghdad: A True Story of Love and Defiance* by Jo Tatchell.

**Food Drive:** The leaves are changing from green to orange, red, yellow and brown. Autumn is here which brings a time of thanks. Once again the Worship Committee will be conducting a Food Drive beginning Nov. 8. We will donate the food to our neighbors at Trinity Presbyterian Church for its community food bank. Please remember our neighbors who need a little extra help this holiday season. Besides collecting food, you can also help out by volunteering to deliver the food to the Food Bank once our collection is completed. Contact Sue Denisevicz if you can help.

**Calling for musicians:** The Worship Committee is exploring the idea of adding a blended/multi-sensory church service. One big aspect of this type of service is the music. If you are interested in being part of the music team for this service, contact Kristine or David Adams. We are looking for vocalists and instrumentalists.

**Soupy Thursdays:** Soupy Thursday will return Dec. 3 and run through Maundy Thursday. As in the past, you can pick up your soup and take it home for \$5 a quart, or you can dine with others in Schieck Hall for \$3 a person. This project is a service of the Adult Council, but, because of the number of weeks Soupy Thursday goes on, we could use some extra help. We hope some volunteers might prepare the soup one of the weeks to give the kitchen regulars a day off. Or: You could shop for supplies, cut up vegetables early on Thursday afternoon, serve the soup, clean up, or deliver soup to shut-ins on Friday. If you can help in any of these areas, call Rick Stoker.

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## Cards of Thanks

**From Jane McDowell and Family:** Although our hearts are filled with sadness since Jack's passing, we are finding comfort in the kind words and deeds of people like you. Many thanks to Judy Fisk for delivering the beautiful flowers during his illness and to Pat White for delivering the exquisite prayer shawl. He wore it often during the chilly days and nights of his illness and joked that he looked like an "old lady" with it wrapped around his shoulders. To all of you who sent your lovely cards with such poignant messages, we thank you for thinking of us. To Judith, Veronica and Roger for sharing their time and talents to make Jack's service and luncheon so personal and lovely, we are truly grateful. And, finally, to Rev. Poncé for his visits, phone calls, and helping all of us to move through this horrible fate, we will be eternally thankful. His words of remembrance truly inspired us, and many people who attended the service commented on how perfectly he captured Jack's essence as he coped with his illness. Again, thank you so much for your comfort and caring.

**From Romaine and Dick Rood:** We extend our thanks to Pastor Phil and the congregation for their love, support, cards, thoughts and prayers during the illness and death of Romaine's mother and Dick's brother and sister-in-law.

## “EMPOWERED BY GOD — RESPONDING BY GRACE”

# The BUMC Stewardship Campaign for 2010

*“Now as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you – so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.” (II Corinthians 8:7)*

We are entering into our annual stewardship emphasis entitled “Empowered by God – Responding by Grace.” During this time, we will consider how God has empowered us and how our response, by grace through faith, can be used by God, especially in the ministry here at Berwyn United Methodist Church.

Just what does it mean to be empowered by God? Jesus said that His disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1 :8). That not only happened as He said it would, but we, too, receive God’s power by His grace through our faith in Christ as the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. The words of a contemporary anthem by David Clydesdale and Claire Cloninger express this truth clearly:

*“Empower me! Like a rushing river flowing to the sea, Lord, send Your Holy Spirit flowing now thru me. ’Til I’m living as your child, victorious and free. Send the power of Your love; empower me!” (© 1984 John T. Benson Publishing Co.)*

When we experience God’s power through faith in Christ, hearts respond. Our response begins with the realization that God owns everything. As Edwin Frizen stated, “. . . Scripture is full of evidence that all that we have comes from God.” God is our Source. God is the Creator and Sustainer of life. God is the Provider of all that we have, whether it be life itself, the air we breathe, water which sustains us, or financial resources through which we obtain the necessities of life. On a daily basis, God demonstrates again and again His abundant power as He “richly provides us with everything” (I Timothy 6: 17).

So, what should be our response to God’s provision for us? According to II Corinthians 8:7, we respond by *faith*, implicitly trusting God to provide all that we need. We respond by *speech*, sharing the good news of the Gospel with others. We respond by *knowledge* through the study of God’s Word. We respond in *complete earnestness*, that is, through a demonstration of the sincerity of our love for the Lord. And we respond by excelling in the *grace of giving*.

By example, the Apostle Paul points to the Christians at Macedonia. These were poor people – dirt poor, poor as the proverbial church mice – who were commended by Paul for giving beyond their ability to give. How could they do that? The answer is found in II Corinthians 8:5 – “. . . they gave themselves first to the Lord.” Giving does not begin with the movement of the hand to the wallet, purse or pocket-book. Giving begins in the heart.

In fact, this principle goes back to God’s instruction to Moses in Exodus 25:2, “. . . from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me.” This principle is still in operation today. As we give our time, talents and treasure to the Lord, we do so by God’s grace because we have already given our hearts to Him.

“Empowered by God – Responding by Grace.” That was true of the Macedonian Christians. May it also be true of us here at Berwyn United Methodist Church.