



November 2010

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

The Lighted Cross

A SIMPLE QUESTION:

“I’m going to church . . .
would you like to go?”

Religion, politics, and money are the three things we are encouraged to avoid talking about if we don’t want an argument to ensue. The upside of this is a peaceful though unenlightened relationship. The downside might be that your friend may be in search of a spiritual home, and you’ll never know because of this lack of communication.

No one likes to be told what to do or where to worship. Most people will generally be receptive to and listen to your experiences with your church versus your opinion of church. To offer someone a peace that goes deeper than just the absence of conflict is an unbelievable gift. Sometimes, we need to pray for the courage to share our experiences with our place of worship before we begin the invitation process. What a great opportunity to be in conversation with the Lord.

Is there any better way to express your friendship than to invite a friend to visit a place that offers you such peace and comfort? I remember watching a report in which people were asked, “What did you get for Christmas last year?” The people posed this question could not remember the gifts. The same people then were asked, “Where did you go on vacation last year?” Everyone had a response. The point is that people remember where you take them in life, not what you bought them. I encourage you to bring your friends to church, and they will remember you and the experience.

You might consider offering to pick them up and drive them with you. To go to church with your friends rather than merely agreeing for them to meet you at church might bring forth the result you seek. It really says I want you to be a “part of” my church experience rather than a “visitor to” what I truly value in my life.

Remember, we all are of different makeup. Some will be more comfortable at the smaller, more intimate 8:30 service. Others will be enhanced by the 10:30 service, which has a larger attendance. I might have to consider changing the service I prefer to accommodate my guest’s comfort level.

One thing we do know is that if we don’t ask, we don’t get. Try: “Hey friend, I’m going to church on Sunday ... would you like to go?” This simple question might deliver you a positive answer that you were not expecting. I never knew how much I liked broccoli until I tried it

Andrew French

For the Evangelism and Nurture Committee

VOICES FROM THE FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

A season to give thanks for our church

The rustling of the fallen leaves; the color of the orange pumpkins and golden chrysanthemums; the shortened hours of the daylight; the onset of cooler weather – these are the signs that tell us that the delightful season of autumn is upon us. During this season, we have a special holiday that we will enjoy sharing with our family and friends...Thanksgiving. The purpose of this holiday is to enjoy good food with family and friends together under one happy roof in remembrance of days long ago when the American Indians and the Pilgrims shared a harvest spread in fellowship and thanks.

In our church, we offer thanks for many reasons: our beautiful church, our delightful choir, our dedicated pastor, our gorgeous landscaping, our thoughtful staff, our caring volunteers, our friendly congregation, and all the blessings that we receive. We give thanks for the youth, for they are the future of our church.

As you are well aware, there are financial responsibilities that accompany the blessings of church membership. These responsibilities fall on the membership in good times and bad. We must continue to offer our contributions as pledged and provide as we have previously. Given the current state of this country's economy, it may be more difficult for our members to contribute to the church at levels established in the past. We are so fortunate that despite these hard times, our prayers for our church have been answered with so many blessings. Through discussions at the last Finance Committee meeting in the church, we fully realized the many members who have contributed so kindly, and one of our committee members said in a low, soft voice, "We are so blessed." Yes, our church is so blessed by our members in numerous ways, and we must remember the countless blessings that the church returns to us.

So, in this time of Thanksgiving, let us all offer our heartfelt thanks in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Sally Bridwell

Finance Committee's draft budget for 2011

	2011 Draft Budget	Estimated 2010 Actual	2010 Budget	2009 Budget
Total Income		\$450,897	\$420,483	\$413,020
Administration.....	\$52,224	\$47,531	\$46,255	\$48,005
Committees	\$2,800	\$320	\$350	\$550
Communications	\$2,700	\$2,175	\$2,200	\$3,200
Connectional Ministries	\$43,566	\$33,760	\$33,760	\$40,375
Education	\$4,050	\$3,032	\$3,600	\$6,850
Facilities Operations	\$111,060	\$110,070	\$99,550	\$100,585
Local Ministries	\$156,223	\$142,202	\$139,454	\$139,185
Membership/Congrational Care ...	\$900	\$342	\$200	\$900
Mortgage Expense	\$70,000	\$69,966	\$70,000	\$70,000
Music	\$29,594	\$26,748	\$26,255	\$29,555
Worship	\$2,550	\$3,180	\$1,950	\$3,350
Youth	\$2,860	\$1,028	\$600	\$2,000
Total Expenses	\$478,527	\$440,352	\$424,174	\$444,555

Increase compared to 2010

budget: 12%

Increase compared to estimated

2010 actual expense: 8%

PASTOR'S WORD

RECENTLY, Anne and I worshipped at a sister church. They were in the throes of their stewardship campaign. As the basis of their campaign, they used Bishop Robert Schnase's concept of "Extravagant Generosity" that came from his book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*.

For a few weeks prior to Stewardship Sunday, the congregation had written on Post-it notes what they liked about their church. Some identified the music program, the youth ministry, the children's ministry, outreach to the community, feeding and sheltering the homeless, being a church open to the gay community (the Sunday we worshipped, the baby of a gay couple was baptized), and mission to the world.

The Sunday we were there, the question that the congregation was invited to answer was, "Who in the church has had an impact on your life?" During the service a member who had just recently joined shared that about a year and a half prior to joining she had been suicidal, and had turned the gas on in her apartment to end it all. She shared how a friend who was a member of that particular church came by to visit just at that time, saving her life and helping her to realize that suicide was not the solution to her cares and concerns but rather a permanent and extreme fix to temporary problems. She was recommended to the different ministries that this church offered, and her friend walked side by side with her through the journey. She further shared that not only did she experience the healing that God offers through Jesus Christ, but found her husband at the church and now has become very engaged in the ministry of healing and helping others.

As I read the notes posted throughout the church, I could not help but think of Berwyn UMC and realize that the same extravagant generosity is evident in the various ministries that our church offers. Right here at Berwyn UMC is the extravagant generosity of time, talent and ability for our ministries. Our committed and faithful laity cares for these too! I thought of how our ministries impact our community, the Philadelphia community, the Appalachian community, and the Ahuachapán, El Salvador, community. I believe that many of us would identify some of the same ministries identified by this sister church as ministries that cause us to want to be supportive and committed. I identified the fact that we too at Berwyn UMC continue to have a strong music ministry, youth and children ministries, and outreach to local, national, and international communities.

I hope that as you continue in ministry here at BUMC, you will realize the impact that your ministry has on individual lives. Sometimes we may lose focus of that reality. The hours you spend here at the church being engaged in ministry are making a difference. It would be so good if during this month we could affirm that someone who has blessed us through their ministry. It was such a powerful moment when the person who spoke in the church service affirmed her husband and the friend who had been there for her. The warmth and the care were evident.

Pick up your phone and make that phone call and affirm and bless someone. Better yet, if you wish to affirm this church and/or individuals, just let me know and I will arrange for just such an opportunity. Any of these will do great wonders, and it is all part of the extravagant generosity to which we are called.

As a church family you have been most generous during the course of this year, and I am grateful to God and to you for that generosity that enabled us to do ministry. I am confident that the extravagant generosity that has been evident for the last five years will continue to flow in the years to come, so that lives may be transformed for the transformation of the world.

Blessings to you and yours!

Pastor Phil

Marge Smink to lead national library association



Marge Smink, who has been chair of our church's library for nearly 20 years, is the new president of the Church and Synagogue Library Association (CSLA).

CSLA is a national not-for-profit organization that provides educational guidance and support in the establishment and management of library services in religious congregations. The association was founded in Philadelphia in 1967 as an outgrowth of workshops provided to church and synagogue librarians by Drexel University's School of Library and Information Science. Currently this organization has 23 chapters and more than 800 members across the United States.

The association holds an annual conference each year. In 2007, Marge co-chaired the conference held at the Hilton Valley Forge in King of Prussia. The Embassy Row Hilton in Washington, D.C., will be the headquarters hotel for the July 2011 conference.

Marge previously served CSLA as vice president, chapters coordinator, and chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee. During her two years as chapter coordinator, she supported and mentored other chapters of the association. Her expertise as a professional librarian has been particularly useful to other churches. In addition to her work at our church and the CSLA, she is treasurer of the Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

She joined CSLA after inheriting the job of BUMC librarian from Ruth Vanderlinde in 1991. In addition to overseeing our library, she is organizing the BUMC archives. She chairs the church's Book Club and is a member of the Communications Committee.

Marge was honored at worship service on Oct. 8 in recognition of her election as president of CSLA. In tribute, Lay Leader Nancy Atchison said: "BUMC is blessed to have such a dedicated member who uses her organizational gifts to serve the church."

Harvest Dinner and Stewardship Sunday: Nov. 14

Don't forget to sign up for the Harvest Dinner to be held on Nov. 14 after the 10:30 worship service, at which we observe Stewardship Sunday and make our pledges for 2011. The menu will feature roast turkey, baked ham, and all the traditional Thanksgiving fare.

Signups will be taken at church on two Sundays: Oct. 31 and Nov. 7. You can also reserve by phoning the church office by Wednesday, Nov. 10. The prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-10, and free for children 5 and under.

If you would like to volunteer to wash dishes after the meal, let Rick Stoker know.

MISSIONS MEMO

Opportunities for outreach during the holidays

November and December are the months when Methodists give generously to support programs and activities that allow us to engage in God's work and the goals of BUMC. Our Missions Outreach supports local, national, and international initiatives ranging from education to emergency relief.

Here is a rundown of opportunities within our church to help those in need.

THANKSGIVING

Our Thanksgiving offering will be split among three programs that we have supported for years:

- React, which works closely with Tredyffrin and Easttown police departments and the local ministerium to provide food monthly to about 130 families.
- Cookson Hills Center in Cookson, Okla.. where missionary Meri Whitaker serves the Native American population in the poorest county in Oklahoma.
- Children and Youth Empowerment Centre in Nyeri, Kenya, which provides residential and educational programs for former street children.

CHRISTMAS

Our support for three Methodist organizations in Philadelphia continues. If only all in our church could see the gratitude in the eyes of the people who receive these gifts and the workers and volunteers who provide services in these organizations. We will collect:

- Toys, games, and books for children, as well as gift cards for their mothers, for the Methodist Home for Children.
- Hats, scarves, and mittens, to be given to the United Methodist Neighborhood Services and sold at a low price to families with little income. The profit in turn helps UMNS stay afloat.
- Toys for children and toiletries for adults, to be delivered to Mount Zion United Methodist Church, which hosts a Christmas party for people in their neighborhood who live in shelters. These gifts are collected by our Sunday School students and also by the Berwyn United Methodist Nursery School families.

Our Christmas offering will be given to Roca Eterna Methodist Church in Ahuachapán, El Salvador, our sister church since 2006. More about Roca Eterna will be in the December issue of *The Lighted Cross*.

B.U.M.C. ALTERNATIVE GIFT PROGRAM

This new program allows you to support special needs of the mission programs we give to throughout the year. The gifts will range from \$5 to \$500. Your tax-free donation given through BUMC to one of ten programs chosen by the Missions Committee can be given as a gift to someone or can be given as a special donation in your name. Donations given in the name of a family member, teacher, employee, or friend is an alternative to a "store-bought" gift and emphasizes the true meaning of giving. You will receive a gift card that describes your gift and the mission project it supports.

Your choice of donations this year will support the Heifer Project, Volunteers in Mission Scholarships, Peru Fund, Interfaith hospitality Network, Chelsea Fund, Children and Youth Empowerment Centre, React, Methodist Home for Children, Cookson Hills Center, and Appalachia Service Project

This program will be available every Sunday during Advent in the Narthex.

Donna Pitz



Anthem members at AIDS benefit event

Members of Berwyn United Methodist's youth group, Anthem, and their adult leaders were in Philadelphia early on Sunday morning, Oct. 17, to participate in AIDS Walk/Run Philly.

NURSERY SCHOOL

A busy month: Parents' coffees and field trips

There were many events at the Nursery School during October. Each class hosted a coffee to welcome new and returning parents. The coffees were well attended. Many parents volunteer – in the Game Room, with fundraisers, or with field trips. The coffee is a way both to thank the parents and to let them know about volunteer opportunities.

Two classes went on field trips. The 2-Day children visited Sugartown Pumpkins. They enjoyed a hayride and pumpkin picking. The 5-Day children ventured to Highland Orchards. The children enjoyed a hayride, made scarecrows, and picked apples. Both the parents and children agreed that nothing tastes better than freshly picked apples.

October brought Fire Prevention Month. The 5-Day classes walked to the Berwyn Fire Company's station for a tour and lesson on fire safety. The 2- and 3-Day children were treated to a visit from the Berwyn fire trucks. The children practiced fire drills at school.

On our in-service day, the entire Nursery School staff became CPR certified.

Janet Wham

Consider gifts to the new BUMC Endowment Fund

Late last year, BUMC created an Endowment Fund for the present and future benefit of our church. The purpose of the Fund is to provide a vehicle for members and friends of the congregation to make gifts that will become an endowment to support the mission and ministries of the church.

The Endowment Fund exists under the authority of our Charge Conference, and is administered by an Endowment Committee, which exists under the auspices of our Board of Trustees.

As an initial contribution to the Endowment Fund, the Finance Committee authorized use of a portion of the money held in our Memorial Fund. This initial amount of \$50,000 was invested in December 2009 in the United Methodist Foundation Pool Account administered by Fulton Financial Advisors for the benefit of the Eastern Pennsylvania-Peninsula United Methodist Conference. As of Sept. 30, the Endowment Fund investment has grown to \$52,515.27.

The policies of the Endowment Committee provide that half of the annual increase in value of the Endowment Fund will be made available to our church for approved programs, ministries, training experiences, mission projects, capital improvements, and/or maintenance projects. These expenditures are recommended by the Endowment Committee and approved by the Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, and the Administrative Board.

The other half of the annual increase in value is reinvested in the Endowment Fund to help grow the Fund's principal.

The Endowment Committee also hopes to grow the principal of the Endowment Fund through future contributions made "in memoriam" and/or "in honor of" persons or events designated by our members. The Endowment Committee invites our members to consider contributions of this kind.

Bob Koons For the Endowment Committee

Memorial Garden update

The Memorial Garden wall is closer to reality. We only need to have three more people sign up for niches to have the money we need to begin construction. The Memorial Garden Committee is in the process of compiling a cost comparison of a full-service burial versus cremation at BUMC Memorial Garden. This is an important decision that all families and individuals need to make in planning their estates. Please see one of the committee members for a copy or for more information.

Sally Robie, Judy Fisk and Nancy Atchison

The Lighted Cross

Next deadline: Nov. 17

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 Dec. 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.

FALL FESTIVAL AND FLEA MARKET

Thanks to all who made October 9 such a nice day

What a beautiful October day we had for our annual Fall Festival and Flea Market. Schieck Hall was once again transformed into a warm and inviting place. The final numbers are not quite tweaked yet, but we will know soon. It was a “FUN”draiser day!

It was nice to have our church-sponsored Boy Scout troop as part of our day, not only selling popcorn and recruiting boys interesting in scouting, but also in bringing their own families to patronize our wares.

Berwyn United Methodist Church Nursery School had a table set up to offer information to all our visitors. And many Nursery School families came to shop and find a treasure or two.

The Reiter family brought their pumpkins, gourds, and harvest decorating to our special day once again. It is always fun to welcome Becky, Darryl, Abby, Albert, Adrianna and Alias (and one chicken—entertaining many by laying an egg!). Many of us walked away with that special pumpkin for our Halloween jack-o-lantern.

The Evangelism and Nurture Committee did a wonderful job. Committee members greeted visitors, distributed information, signed people up with numbers for the Silent Auction bidding, and handed out wonderful Berwyn United Methodist tote bags.

The CYEC (Children and Youth Empowerment Centre) had a table set up to benefit both Peru outreach and the disadvantaged children and youth of Nyeri, Kenya. We thank Sue Burriss, Janelle Larson and Bobbi Heil for supporting these missions and staffing this table.

Sarah Polasky and Chris Padot and the youth had children’s games and treats and a moon-bounce not only for the children of our church but for all of the children whose moms and dads came to shop. Smiles and painted faces were seen all day.

Cannot forget to thank the publicity group that worked hard to generate the traffic that we had. Thank you to Ann West and Gene Foreman.

The Flea Market items flew out the door. The Second Mile Center will be able to use the leftovers to help others. The Jewelry table was a huge success, the Collectibles were once again a popular table. Half of the 3,000 books at the Book Nook found their way to new homes, with the remainder picked up to benefit others. The Silent Auction offered a chance to bid on the generous donations of our church and community. The Bake Sale table was a grand display of yummys and treats – and sold out as always. The Lunch setup smelled so good and is always a must for those who come for a day with friends and lunch, too.

Thank you to all the chairpersons, to all the volunteers, to all the donators of flea market items, silent auction gifts, books, bake sale and treats, jewelry, collectibles, to all the “movers,” “set-uppers” and “take-downers,” and especially to Roger Toro, who helped in so many ways.

Thank you, one and all, for another grand day! It is a wonderful day in the life of our church, and we have been honored to be a part of this for the last few years. We are looking forward to next year’s fundraiser to benefit our church and community outreach. We need chairpersons as well as individual booth chair-people. Enter the date on your 2011 calendar: Saturday, October 8.

Kate & Brian Walker and Janet & Jack Campbell

Lay Leader's Letter: What makes us into a church

What is a church? Carl Linsenbach likes to startle listeners by stating that a church is a building, easily recognizable by its distinctive steeple and cross. But he doesn't say a church is "just" a building, and that is his point.

Neither is a church "just" its pastor, or its ecclesiastical hierarchy of Bishops, Superintendents, General Agencies, and Conferences. No, we all know that a church is us, gathered together in a community.

But, what is a church? What makes a community into a church? What makes the community that is Berwyn United Methodist Church into a church?

John Wesley has said that a church is a community of believers who have experienced salvation in Jesus Christ. Others have described the church as the visible sign of God's presence in the world. Still others say the church is both human and divine.

It's easy, but it isn't. We all know it when we see it, but what, exactly, makes us a church?

It's what we believe. We believe in a living, creating God, revealed to us through Holy Scripture, who loves us and desires to be in communion with us, and is the provider of all good gifts. We believe we are to love and worship him, and to love all persons as he loves them. We believe we are to be in communion and fellowship with one another that his will may be done in our lives and in all the world.

It's whom we follow. We follow the example and teaching of Jesus Christ, who was sent to us by God, and who, through his life, teaching, and atoning death and resurrection, shows us the one way fully to love God and each other, and find true reconciliation with God.

It's what we do. We gather in community to worship God, to strengthen each other in faith and in times of need, and to provide the means for expressing the love of God to all persons. We strive to fulfill our Mission Statement: "God calls Berwyn UMC to be a community of Christian believers that Invites ~ Nurtures ~ Encourages Service."

It's what we dream. The stated mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We dare to dream of a time when all persons have become disciples of Jesus Christ, when all mortals live together in peace and God dwells with them, and the world is transformed into a place where death and mourning and crying and pain are no more.

That's what makes us a church.

John Paylor

About the church's new weekly e-newsletter . . .

Since Sept. 9, the Communications Committee has been sending an e-newsletter each Friday to everyone on the church's list of e-mail addresses.

This newsletter highlights the plans for worship services and other church events that Sunday. It also includes a prayer list, a calendar of events, and various announcements. The names of Sunday worship assistants now appear in the newsletter rather than in *The Lighted Cross*.

The purpose of the newsletter is to keep members informed between issues of the monthly *Lighted Cross*. It replaces the announcements that accompanied the daily eDevotionals received by many members of the congregation.

If you are not receiving the weekly e-newsletter, please send a message to officebumc@comcast.net asking to be placed on the mailing list. You can enroll in the daily eDevotionals (Scripture reading, meditation, and prayer) by e-mailing barbarahall@edevotionals.org.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Men's Group. Men of BUMC are invited to breakfast from 8 to 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 13. Male friends and associates are also welcome. Bob DeFilippo, a member of the Philadelphia chapter of Engineers Without Borders, will speak about his organization and its projects. The organization has 12,000 members helping with more than 350 projects in 45 developing countries around the world. These engineers help create a more stable and prosperous world by responding to human necessities like clean water, electrical power, sanitation, and education.

Christmas Brunch. This annual event will be held Sunday, Dec. 19, after the Chancel Choir's special music program at the 10:30 worship service. Rick Stoker has not decided on the menu yet, but rest assured that he will come up with some real goodies. Signups will be held on Dec. 5 and 12. The prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-10, and free for children 5 and under. Come, hear the choir, and then feast with your church family.

No Soupy Thursdays. Rick Stoker reports that we will not have Soupy Thursdays this year. Because of a shortage of kitchen helpers and the downturn in attendance last year, we have decided to take a break. If you really enjoyed Soupy Thursday and hope to see it return next year, volunteer yourself and a friend to help out. And, most important, if Soupy Thursdays do return next year, come and eat, or take out your soup to enjoy at home.

Harvest Food Drive. Once again the Worship Committee will host a Harvest Food Drive for Trinity Presbyterian Church. Collection boxes will be in the Narthex on Nov. 7. We will be collecting non-perishable food items only.

Advent Readings. Advent arrives on Nov. 8, which also is United Methodist Student Day. Volunteers are needed for the special Advent readings. This is a great opportunity for families, friends, and individuals to share in the excitement and anticipation of Christ's birth. Volunteers are needed for Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Dec. 26. We also need three volunteers for Christmas Eve to light the Christ Candle during services at 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 11 p.m. Contact Kristine Adams.

Decorating for Advent. We invite you to help decorate the church during the annual Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, Dec. 5, starting at 3 p.m. We will provide dinner, drinks, and a dessert.

United Methodist Women. Maria and Lydia Circles will meet together for lunch at noon Sunday, Nov. 7, and then divide into Spanish and English groups. We will be discussing the World Thank Offering, which is Nov. 21.

Fundraiser: There will be a fundraiser for the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre at the home of Claudia and Joe Genuardi on Saturday, Nov. 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, contact Janelle Larson at 610-688-6014 or jnblarson@gmail.com.

CYEC Director Visits. Paul Maina, director of the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre in Kenya, will be at our church Sunday, Nov. 7. He will meet with the adult Sunday School classes at 9:15 and will deliver a brief "Message From the Heart" at the 8:30 and 10:30 worship services.

Chester County Habitat for Humanity. The organization is working on a new home site in Coatesville. Anyone 16 years or older may volunteer. All volunteers must schedule their days in advance, because a number of volunteers are already scheduled for certain days. If you are interested in working at the Coatesville site on any days Wednesdays through Saturdays, contact Sue Farina, SMFarina@aol.com or 610-695-9008. Sue can arrange for a group or individuals to find a suitable day. You can check out the new Coatesville project: www.hfhcc.org.

CARDS OF THANKS

Dear Janet, Jack, and everyone at the Berwyn United Methodist Church –

I wanted to let you know that I and my two-year-old son, Travis, thoroughly enjoyed the Autumn Festival. Travis enjoyed his cupcake and helping me find some treasures at the flea market. Travis loved the moonbounce, and we bought some pumpkins.

When we went to our car to leave, however, I locked my keys in the car – with Travis! Members of BUMC were nearby when it happened, and they stuck by me for over 30 minutes until we got Travis out. First, they helped me try to cajole Travis into opening the door; they gave me the church address when I called 911; they stayed by and offered suggestions when the police arrived to try to open the car; they offered to give me a ride to get spare keys (alas – my car and my house both were locked with the keys in the car); and when the fire company arrived and broke out my car window so we could get Travis, they stood respectfully by as I held Travis and I cried, asking me if I was okay when I could not speak.

Once the paramedics checked out Travis and declared him OK, and all the police, firemen and paramedics left, there was a mess of car-window glass in the parking lot – ultimately cleaned up by members of BUMC.

I really cannot thank you enough. I thank God for the caring and empathy shown by all involved. I hope the church will accept my family's check as an expression of our gratitude and support for your mission.

Sincerely,
Sharon Humble, Berwyn

Dear Members of BUMC and Pastor Phil,

It is difficult to find words to express our gratitude for all the prayers, cards, donations, gifts, flowers, and the loving concern for Bill and me, and our family, during his illness and after his death. The church always meant a great deal to Bill, and he so appreciated all the things people did for him.

And the beautiful memorial service: Thanks to Judith Lang, JoEllyn Beck and the choir that Bill loved so much. Thanks to Veronica Mosley, our church secretary, for all she did for our family. Thanks to Rick Stoker and his remarkable, hard-working crew for the lovely luncheon after the service.

Our church is a very caring church. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Love,
Sally Robie and Family

Dear BUMC Friends,

What a delight to come home from visiting my husband in the hospital to find a beautiful bouquet of your altar flowers. I am touched at your reaching out to me this way, and I appreciate your being the kind of neighbors that Christ intends us to be. As the Stokers' neighbors, we have gotten to know many of you and to respect the ministry we have in our neighborhood and throughout the world.

Thank you, and God bless you.
Cathie Russell, Berwyn