



October 2010

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

# The Lighted Cross

## Fall Festival and Flea Market: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9

Only a few more days until our annual Fall Festival and Flea Market.

Only a few more days to gather up your fleas and get them to church for the Flea Market.

Only a few more days to get the flour and the sugar and your recipe to make your Bake Sale contribution.

Only a few more days to look into your bookcases and lighten the shelves to bring your donations to the Book Sale.

Are you preparing for autumn decorating? The pumpkins and the gourds are coming.

Do you need a special gift for someone? Maybe you will find it at the Silent Auction.

The jewelry is being polished and ready for that perfect outfit (or a Halloween costume).

So, put the date on your calendar, set your alarm to wake up early, grab a friend or two or more, and come to the Fall Festival and Flea Market.

The children will have fun on the Moon Bounce, you can eat lunch with friends, and you may find something you have been looking for.

We guarantee you will enjoy the day. See you at the Fall Festival and Flea Market on Oct. 9.



*Kate & Brian Walker  
Janet & Jack Campbell*

## VOICES FROM THE FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

# An encouraging report on 2010 finances so far

I am very happy to provide an update on our financial status. As you can see in the summary table below, through August of this year, our expenses were only \$528 greater than the income that has come into the church. This is particularly good news, since our original budget was a deficit budget that would have required us to take up to \$34,614 out of our General Fund (savings) in order to pay for expenses. This is definitely a time to give thanks and praise for our many blessings!

It is also important to mention that our budget is “bare bones.” As shown in the table below, our 2010 budget is considerably less than that for 2009. Salaries for our outstanding staff remain unchanged for the past three years; all of our committees have a significantly decreased budget and many of them have been paying for costs by the committee members (be sure to thank Jack Campbell and Asa Walker, who have been cutting the grass all year on their own time so we would not have to pay for a lawn service); and our Apportionment payment had been reduced by 20 percent over the amount that the Central District asked us to provide. It is important that contributions continue at the same rate for the remainder of the year so we can continue to meet our financial commitments.

I continue to be so grateful for the wonderful generosity of BUMC, especially during these continued challenging times, and thank each of you for your ongoing support. We truly are a blessed community of faith.

*Jim Tiede*, Finance Chair

	2010		2009
	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug
<b>Income</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Planned</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Contributions	\$257,795	\$221,043	\$233,235
Contributions - Mortgage Fund	\$4,638	\$4,675	\$6,507
Facility Income	\$30,328	\$26,805	\$26,298
Other Income	\$7,838	\$2,575	\$2,992
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$300,599</b>	<b>\$255,098</b>	<b>\$269,032</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration	\$32,026	\$29,782	\$31,214
Committees	\$280	\$100	\$92
Communications	\$1,450	\$1,274	\$2,448
Connectional Ministries	\$25,915	\$27,016	\$32,298
Education	\$2,178	\$2,919	\$3,182
Facilities	\$75,136	\$67,485	\$76,796
Local Ministries	\$96,492	\$95,146	\$99,078
Membership & Congregational Care	\$228	\$104	\$402
Mortgage	\$46,644	\$46,784	\$46,644
Music	\$17,996	\$17,501	\$17,966
Worship	\$2,119	\$1,201	\$2,088
Youth	\$663	\$400	\$705
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$301,127</b>	<b>\$289,712</b>	<b>\$312,913</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(\$528)</b>	<b>(\$34,614)</b>	

## Three special events at BUMC in October

**W**ORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY will be celebrated on Oct. 3. On that day a special offering will be taken for our brothers and sisters in Pakistan. The guest speaker at the 10:30 service will be the Rev. Salim Khan. Rev. Khan is from Pakistan, and before being ordained in 1993 as an Elder in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, he worked in social services. He served Faith UMC in Stroudsburg for several years and retired in 2004. He is married to Ellen Khan.

Laity Sunday will be celebrated on Oct. 17. John Paylor will be the speaker for both services that day. Nancy Atchison will be the liturgist. Laity Sunday is the day when we remind ourselves that by virtue of our baptism we are all ministers. It is also a time to remember that one of the things we teach as United Methodists is the priesthood of all believers. John and Nancy will symbolize that as they lead God's people before the throne of grace that day.

The Annual Charge Conference will be held on Oct. 24. The Rev. Dr. William Gary George, the district superintendent of the Central District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, will be the guest speaker at the 10:30 a.m. service. Dr. George candidated for the ministry from Tindley Temple UMC. He received his training from Drew School of Theology, Ref. Episcopal Seminary, and Eastern (Palmer) Seminary. He also received training at the University of Pennsylvania in marital/family counseling. For most of his ministry he has served in the urban areas of Philadelphia and Reading. He is married to Portia George.

Charge Conference is an important occasion in the life and work of any local church. It is a time when as the people of God we celebrated those great things that God has done for us. It is also a time when history is written. We can't help but notice all the paper we generate for the Charge Conference. Every piece of paper in the booklet is a little piece of the history of BUMC. Charge Conference is also a time of accountability. It is a time when our district superintendent holds us accountable for making disciples for the transformation of the world and for making sure that we have a strategic emphasis and that pastor and congregation are working well as partners in Christ in the task of kingdom building.

Please let us keep these speakers in our prayers, and let us support them with our presence.

*Pastor Phil*

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## The church calendar now can be viewed on the Web

The church calendar now is available for viewing on the World Wide Web. It can be accessed by going to the church's website ([berwynumc.org](http://berwynumc.org)), left-clicking on Resources, and then left-clicking on Church Calendar. (This will produce the calendar and a URL that can be bookmarked for direct access in the future.)

The calendar can be viewed by day, week, or month.

If you left-click on an event listed in the calendar, details of the event will be displayed. For example, if you are interested in a yoga class, clicking on a calendar listing for yoga will produce the contact information for the yoga instructor.

The online calendar is read-only. To create a listing, notify church secretary Veronica Mosley at 610-644-5555 or [officebumc@comcast.net](mailto:officebumc@comcast.net). If you need to cancel or modify a listing, let Veronica know as soon as possible; make a telephone call if the event is in the current week, or send an e-mail if the event is in the following week or later.

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS OCT. 24

# We're setting challenging goals for 2011

*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”*

– 1 Peter 4:10

We have all been blessed by God with many gifts. As we learned last year, each of us has been blessed with spiritual gifts; special gifts that enable each and every one to bring God's vision to all those around us in a very real and tangible way. We all also possess talents and skills that make us unique as individuals; each of us is a star in our family's eyes and in God's eyes as well. Combined together, these spiritual gifts and our individual talents have created and continue to grow a wonderful community of faith that we call Berwyn United Methodist Church – a community that continually reaches out in so many ways to serve one another as Paul encourages us to do.

God has blessed us with financial gifts as well. What can we do to “serve one another” with our financial blessing?

Oct. 24 will mark the official beginning of our 2011 Stewardship Campaign. It will culminate on Sunday, Nov. 14, when we celebrate Stewardship Sunday by making our stewardship pledges for 2011. The stewardship campaign provides all of us with yet another opportunity to “serve one another” through the giving of our financial gifts and, in the process, to take further steps on our goal of “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.”

On page 2 of this issue of *The Lighted Cross*, I provided an update on our financial status. As I mentioned there, we have been very blessed this year with income that has enabled us to pay our expenses without having to draw money from our savings as we originally thought we would have to do. But it is also a limited budget in which very little money was available for supporting many of our programs and activities.

As you begin thinking about your pledge for 2011, I would like to share some of the goals the Finance Committee has set for 2011, goals that need your continued support:

- Provide salary increases for our outstanding staff, who all have been at the same salary for the past three years.
- Provide for a 100 percent Apportionment contribution to the District; we had to decrease this by 20 percent in 2010.
- Provide funding for necessary repair and maintenance of our facility, such as the repair of the retaining wall outside the Schieck Hall entrance and repairs to the parsonage.
- Provide funding for programs such as the Children, Youth and Music programs whose budgets were cut from 50 percent to as much as 100 percent in the past year.

You will receive more specific information on our overall target for 2011 in the coming weeks.

We realize we have set some challenging goals for 2011. But we also know that Berwyn United Methodist Church is an amazing community of faith that generously responded in the past to Paul's message by giving of its gifts to serve one another. We now have a wonderful opportunity to build on that legacy so we can continue to be true stewards of the many gifts that God has given to us.

*Jim Tiede*, Finance Chair



*Members of the BUMC Book Club at Sally Robie's home at their last meeting in the spring.*

## Let's talk books ... a different one every month

If you like to read books — fiction or nonfiction, in print or on an electronic tablet — the BUMC Book Club offers an opportunity to share your impressions with your friends.

The club meets monthly from September through November and from January through May. At the September meeting, John Edinger conducted a lively discussion of John Grisham's *Ford County: Stories* with 15 other club members at Marjorie Smink's home. Marjorie coordinates the book club's selections and the meeting schedule.

The next meeting is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20. Ann West will conduct a discussion of Kathryn Stockett's best-selling *The Help*. The meeting will be hosted by Polly Kimes (610-788-2121). Everyone is welcome to the club's meetings; just phone the host in advance.

Members of the BUMC Book Club have been invited to attend Lisa's Big Book Club Party on Oct. 3. In addition to lunch, the afternoon will include a talk by Lisa, book signings, a tour of the author's home, and the opportunity to pre-order her new book, *My Next Isn't Empty, It Just Has More Closet Space*. Lisa is the best-selling author of 17 novels, a columnist for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and a teacher at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, her alma mater.

## Harvest Dinner will be after services on Nov. 14

The Annual Harvest Dinner will be held on Sunday, Nov. 14, after the 10:30 worship service. The meal will feature turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes and the rest of the traditional Thanksgiving fare. Reservations will be taken at the services on Oct. 31 and Nov. 7, or you may call in your reservation to the church office no later than Nov. 10. The price will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 5-10, and free for children under 5.

If you would like to help in the preparation, serving or cleanup, contact Rick Stoker.

## Anthem youth group meets each Sunday evening

I'm really pumped about Anthem and the great things we plan to do this year.

Youth of all ages meet from 5:45 to 8 p.m. each Sunday. Arrive at the church around 5:45 and hang out in Scheick Hall with your friends. Shoot some hoops or just talk about your week. At 6, everyone will gather in the Youth Room for announcements and a discussion, a short lesson, games, and a prayer.

**Summer Review:** Though I was unable to go, I understand the Appalachia Service Project was not only an eye-opening, experience but also a lot of fun. Stories have poured forth, from both the youth and the adults, of the unforgettable time they spent serving the disadvantaged in Johnson County, Tenn.

Anthem's summer paintball trip to Thornton was loads of fun as youth and adults broke into teams and fired gelatin capsules filled with a water-soluble marking dye. The goal was to take the other team out with the paintballs before being taken out yourself.

**For Parents:** Youth group meetings this year include dinner. We need dinner for Oct. 3, 10, 17 and 31. A schedule will be circulated for signups. Thank you for feeding hungry youth!

**Birthday:** Helen Squitieri, Oct. 2.

*Chris Padot*, Youth Ministries Coordinator

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## Children's Sunday School is launched at Rally Day

On Sept. 12, we started our Sunday School year with the annual Rally Day celebration. We began with Sunday School registration, a light breakfast of bagels and fruit, and fun activities and games. After the 10:30 service, we had a great turnout for our First Annual Rally Day Potluck Lunch. We feasted on a wonderful variety of foods; heard more about our programs from Chris Padot, youth ministries coordinator, and Sarah Polasky, children's ministries coordinator; and children of all ages enjoyed our moon bounce and piñata.

We have had wonderful attendance in all of our classes. The children are enjoying the lessons and activities, and we thank all of our teachers for making Sunday School a *success*.

We are still looking for adult helpers for our Sunday School classes to meet the Safe Sanctuary Policy requirements for the presence of multiple adults in the classrooms. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Polasky, 610-247-7647 or [SayreNicole2004@yahoo.com](mailto:SayreNicole2004@yahoo.com).

*Sarah Polasky*, Children's Ministries Coordinator

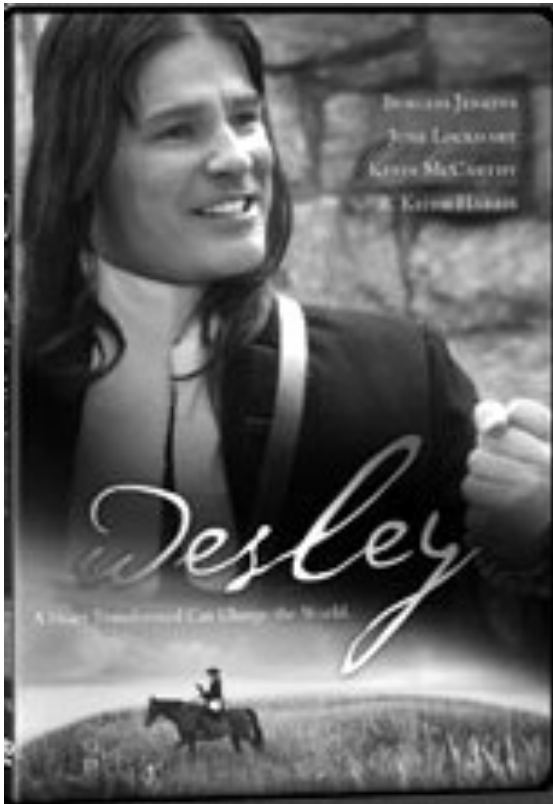
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## Nursery School begins a new year with a warm welcome

The Nursery School open house on Sept. 13 was well attended. Thank you to Janet Campbell for her warm welcoming speech to the families of our school. Thank you also to Janelle Larson for speaking to the school families about her work with the children in Africa. Janelle thanked our families for participating in the "flip-flop mission" last year and provided a collage of pictures depicting the children wearing the donated flip-flops. The Nursery School children have enjoyed looking at the pictures.

I always take pleasure watching the children return to school in the fall. The oldest children are excited to reconnect with friends while the youngest are often teary. By the end of the first week, the children have adjusted to the routine and the tears have dried. Even the youngest children are in the swing of things and participating in school activities.

*Janet Wham*, Director



## ‘A Heart Transformed Can Change the World’: The true story of John and Charles Wesley

*See the film at church  
at 7:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22*

Church & Society will show the film *Wesley: A Heart Transformed Can Change the World* at 7:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22. This is a resumption of the “Movies That Make You Think” series.

The film is based on the private journals of John and Charles Wesley. In it, we glimpse the private struggles of one man who would go on to found the Methodist movement – and another who would become one of the most prolific and beloved hymn writers of history. Together, they would transform the face of England with revolutionary ministries to the poor and downtrodden, creating a movement that laid the groundwork for the eventual abolition of slavery.

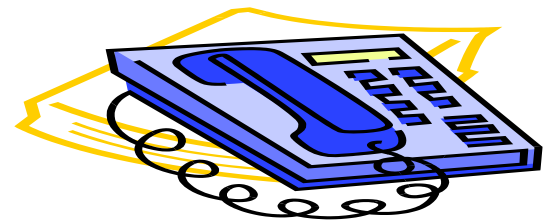
This is a 2010 film from the Academy Award-winning director John Jackman. More information: <http://www.wesleythemovie.com/content/index.php>.

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## *The Lighted Cross*

**Next deadline: Oct. 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 is scheduled to be delivered by postal mail by Nov. 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:  
**berwynumc.org**

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

## MISSIONS MEMO

# BUMC members help in hosting homeless families

For many years BUMC's Missions Committee has participated in Interfaith Hospitality Network at St. Thomas of Villanova. We assist the church once every few months by providing volunteers and food for the families who are guests of St. Thomas of Villanova.

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line (IHN) provides a caring and positive environment for homeless mothers and their children while they design and carry out a plan to break the cycle of homelessness in their lives.

IHN invites three to four families, up to 14 people, to be its guests for 45 to 90 days. During the day, families are based at the IHN Day Center in Norristown, where they are offered one-to-one counseling and mentoring in such areas as education (GED or college), budgeting, employment, housing search, and parenting skills, to name a few.

Each evening an IHN van takes families to the host congregation (St. Thomas is one of 12 congregations participating), where volunteers await with home-cooked meals and a compassionate heart. Volunteers from the host congregation stay overnight with the families and provide activities for the children and a kind ear for the parents. Each Sunday the families move to another host congregation for the coming week.

A typical week includes Sunday volunteers from the host congregation setting up aerobeds, setting out bedding, and making sure that supplies are in place and the bedrooms are set up. The IHN families arrive at the host congregation's church and move in.

**Dinner (5–7 p.m.):** At least two volunteers greet the guests when they arrive around 5, provide dinner, prepare it at the church kitchen with the guests helping, stay and eat dinner with the guests, and organize kitchen cleanup with the guests helping.

**Evening (6:30 – 9 p.m.):** At least two volunteers play with the children, visit with the mothers, help children with homework, and generally make the guests feel at home.

**Overnight (8:30 p.m. – 7 a.m. Sun-Thu; 9 p.m. - 8:30 a.m. Fri-Sat):** One man and one woman stay overnight, visit with families if they are still up, make themselves available if needed, and organize breakfast if desired. The van arrives at 6:45 a.m., and the guests leave for the IHN Center in Norristown.

**Sunday Breakdown and Transport (10:30 - 11:30 a.m.):** Several volunteers take down aerobeds, put away supplies, set up rooms for Sunday church activities, and transport the aerobeds to the next host congregation.

BUMC members assist St. Thomas five times a year by providing the meals and spending the night. Scott and Gayle Campbell and Betsy Newman coordinate our volunteers. Our next date to assist is Oct. 4. Sign up in the Narthex or phone Scott, Gayle, or Betsy.

*Donna Pitz*, Missions Chair

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## Update on the Memorial Garden: It's closer to reality

At the Sept. 14 meeting of the Administrative Board, Chair Nancy Atchison announced that the Memorial Garden is close to becoming a reality. When we pre-sell four more niches, we will have the money we need to begin construction. As announced earlier, the project cannot begin until the cost of construction of the initial phase has been raised. Details will follow in the November issue of *The Lighted Cross*.

# Lay Leader's Letter: Appreciating the faces in the crowd

When I lived in Cleveland, I worked in the Terminal Tower, which was both an office tower and a rail commuter station. But I commuted by bus, and had to cross the street to the bus stop. This meant that each evening, I had to walk against a great crowd of train commuters rushing to the terminal. While waiting for the light to change, the crowd would swirl and spread, then would surge forward, filling the entire crosswalk, seeming to deny passage to the solitary bus commuter trudging the other way. Oh, how I came to hate that crowd!

Then one day, I began to look into the faces of the persons in that crowd. As I looked at each face, I thought, "God loves this person." I saw a young man, perhaps anxious to get home to his family. I saw a woman, maybe worrying about her children. I saw an old man, tired, just wanting the rest awaiting at his favorite chair at home. I saw a businessman, still troubled by the events of the day.

I said a little prayer for each as I gazed into his face: "God, bless this person." Suddenly I no longer confronted a faceless crowd, but a group of individuals, each just like me in many ways.

The crowd seemed to change. No longer was it a monolithic force seeming to push me out of its way and deny me passage in crossing the street. Instead, the crowd, now consisting of individuals into whose faces I gazed and for whom I prayed, opened to let me through.

Had there been any actual change in the crowd? No. The change had been in me. As my anger drained away, and I saw the crowd as individuals, each a person worthy of God's love, I was able to find a place among them to pass through to my own home and family.

I found that it's hard to be angry with someone if you are saying a prayer for him.

*John Paylor*

## Endowment Committee will administer memorial gifts

On June 1, the Administrative Board voted to designate the Endowment Committee as the group responsible for oversight of all memorial funds. The committee hopes to facilitate the use of undesignated funds, improve communication with the families of those honored by memorial gifts to the church, and provide a system to recognize those being memorialized. The Endowment Committee will also receive all requests for funds and make recommendations to the Administrative Board.

We are asking for your help in the following two ways:

1. If you have ideas or requests for the use of memorial funds, please give them to a member of the Endowment Committee. It would be helpful to have them in writing.
2. As we launch a recognition system this fall, we are concerned about inadvertently missing someone. When you see our list, please let us know if anyone has been omitted.

*Rosalie Hart*, Chair: 610-647-5264

## Volunteers invited for our special Advent readings

Fall is officially here and before you know it, the holidays will be right around the corner. It is never too early to plan for the holidays, and the Worship Committee is planning for Advent. If you would like to participate in our special Advent readings this year, contact Kristine Adams at [kristineadams@verizon.net](mailto:kristineadams@verizon.net). This is a great opportunity for friends, families, Sunday school classes, small groups or anyone who wants to share in the Good News of Christ's impending birth.

We still need Greeters for the 10:30 a.m. services from now till the end of the year. Please check the signup sheet in the Narthex and pick a Sunday or two when you can greet your fellow members with a cheerful "Good Morning!" Any questions on that, contact Kristine Adams as well.

Thank you so much for your support. We look forward to worshipping with you.

*Kristine Adams*, Worship Co-Chair

# Prayer shawls also celebrate the joys in life

Prayer shawls are not just given to people who are experiencing illness, death of loved ones, or some other difficult time. They also celebrate the joyous, happy times.

Since the prayer shawl ministry started four years ago this fall, more than 100 shawls have been given. This summer, shawls were presented to girls from our church who were graduating from high school, to a granddaughter who was getting ready to go to college, and to a granddaughter who was celebrating a 16th birthday.

In the past, shawls have been used to celebrate the wonderful ministry of Pastor Poncé and his wife, Anne; the adoption of a baby; and the celebration of milestone birthdays.

To all these recipients, it was written: "When you wrap yourself in this shawl, know that the Holy Spirit is resting upon your shoulder waiting to go with you as you continue your wonderful, exciting life's journey."



What makes a prayer shawl unique? It's the hundreds of prayers that are knit or crocheted into every stitch plus the "laying on of hands" blessing that each shawl is given before it reaches its recipient.

If you crochet or knit, join this exciting ministry. Our next meeting is in the church parlor at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25. We need you!

*Ann West*

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## WHAT'S GOING ON AT BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Christmas With the Choir.** If you would like to join the Choir just for the Christmas season, you are most welcome. You will sing with the Choir Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 19, and the 11 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. We will begin Christmas rehearsals with a Choir Retreat on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 1 to 5 p.m. This rehearsal is necessary for the learning process. On Thursdays from Oct. 21 through Dec. 16, we will meet from 7 to 8 p.m. to rehearse. If this sounds interesting to you, let Judith Lang know.

**Shared Bible Study Class.** This adult Sunday School class will complete its study of the Book of Hebrews in October and then select its next course of study. The class meets at 9:20 a.m. in the shared room next door to the Pastor's Study.

**ETC Class.** The class is continuing its video series titled "Living the Questions 2.0." Each Sunday, there is a 20-minute video, followed by a discussion. Details are at: <http://www.livingthequestions.com/xcart/home.php?cat=366>.

**United Methodist Women.** On Sunday, Oct. 3, the Lydia and Maria Circles will have lunch together and then have separate meetings.

**Men's Group.** The breakfast meetings will resume Nov. 13 and will continue every second Saturday until May. We meet at 8 a.m. for good food, fellowship, education, and occasional project involvement. In November, a speaker from Engineers Without Borders will talk to us about their work in other countries. All you guys are welcome! Send Paul Polasky an e-mail ([papolasky@yahoo.com](mailto:papolasky@yahoo.com)) if you plan to attend, so he can arrange for setup and food.