



September 2010

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
INVITING NURTURING AND ENCOURAGING SERVICE

# The Lighted Cross



## How we spent our summer vacation

These members of BUMC were busy helping others: Members of the Appalachian Service Project hammered nails to build an addition for a family's home in eastern Tennessee; *see page 5*. In Kenya, Janelle Larson read to children at the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre, where she, Susan Burriss and former BUMC member Tom Heil worked; *see page 6*.



## VOICES FROM THE FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

### ‘Giving’ in many ways, financial and otherwise

When members of Finance Committee are assigned a month to write something for The Lighted Cross, we know the “something” should encourage giving. From personal experience I can tell you that our congregation already knows a great deal about that subject.

When Ruth had a stroke, I was overwhelmed and afraid I’d never be able to cope with all that needed to be done. But I was very blessed to be part of a giving, caring, loving church family. More than 100 of you stepped forward to provide transportation, food, company for my mother, phone calls and notes of encouragements, as well as visits, flowers, and hundreds of cards that kept Ruth’s spirit nourished.

You truly carried me through those difficult weeks and continued giving support all of these months. That adds up to a lot of giving.

There are many aspects to giving, and of course the aspect of financial giving is the main focus of the Finance Committee. I personally believe that financial giving is important to each of us. It is a way to respond to a God who has given so much to us. And, yes, BUMC needs the funds to carry out its mission and ministry. Although we may disagree on many things, I think we are united in the goal to have our church grow and thrive. The giving nature of this church, including our financial giving, helps us reach that goal.

*Rosalie Hart*

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### Sign up for Sunday School on Rally Day, Sept. 12

Please join us for Rally Day on Sept. 12. We will kick off our Sunday School Year by gathering in Schieck Hall at 9:15 a.m. for a light breakfast and Sunday School registration. We will introduce the teachers for this year, and then the teachers will guide their groups to the classrooms for games and activities.

After the 10:30 service, we will have our first annual potluck lunch, and *all* are invited to join. We ask that you bring a dish to share: If your last name begins with a letter between A and H, bring an appetizer; I and P, a salad or main dish; Q and Z, a dessert.

Let’s begin a new Sunday School year with good food, good fun, and *great* fellowship.

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### Join us at the annual steak-fry on Sept. 18

The annual BUMC steak-fry will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18. The Adult Fellowship Committee and Men’s Fellowship Group jointly welcome all newcomers and old-timers to come enjoy a good meal and a fun social get-together. The meal will be appetizers, choice of steak or chicken, potatoes, a vegetable, green salad, a dessert and drinks.

There will be signup rosters in the narthex on Sundays, Sept. 5 and 12.

The cost is \$10 a person. It will be collected at time of signup, or you can e-mail your reservation to Veronica at the church office and pay the tab on or before the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Anyone willing to have a hand in making this event happen (set-up, cooking, clean-up, games) should contact Paul Polasky at 610-341-9151 or papolasky@yahoo.com.

## PASTOR'S WORD

# In our spiritual journey, we have come far

**O**VER THE SUMMER I have been reflecting on the five years that I have been your pastor here at Berwyn United Methodist Church. I was filled with thanksgiving and gratitude to God and to the faithful members as I counted our blessings, naming them one by one. I thought of how far we have come spiritually and emotionally. On my arrival it appeared that we were in turmoil and distress; polarized with an “us/them” syndrome; attendance had dropped considerably, and the fire and enthusiasm for ministry among the laity had dimmed if not gone out altogether. I rejoice at the healing and restoration to wholeness that have taken place over the years; of our ability to work together for the common good; the strength and vitality of our laity; and the sincere desire to see our church grow from strength to strength so as to ensure a bright future.

Like many of you, I reflected on the many deaths we have had over the years, especially this year. Over the five years that I have been with you we have had 34 deaths, 5 transfers to other United Methodist churches, 3 transfers to other denominations, and 8 withdrawals. These were cause for concern, and I could have gotten stuck there and developed a sense of loss and hopelessness. However, when I looked at the other side of the coin, I realized that thanksgiving and rejoicing were in order. We have received over the five years 22 new members by Confession of Faith, 17 by transfers from other United Methodist churches, 5 from other denominations, and 35 by Confirmation. We have added 25 through Baptism to the preparatory rolls. God has taken many of our loved ones on to glory, but God has also provided many others to assist us with the ongoing ministry of kingdom building. I praise and thank God for being a faithful God to us over these years.

When I first came to you, I cast a vision of our working together to ensure that BUMC was one of the outstanding and excellent churches on the Main Line where traditional worship was concerned; that it be a laity-led church where permission giving was the norm and where each member was aware of their God-given gifts; that we develop a strategic map, for as the people of God we need to know where God is leading us; that we strengthen our outreach ministry to include international outreach; and that we strengthen the compassionate and caring ministry of our church.

We have accomplished some of these to some extent, and others we are still working on, as it takes some time to turn a large, cumbersome ship around. We have been patient with each other and the work continues toward perfecting what we have done. There is cause for rejoicing, as the feedback that I get most regularly from those joining our church is how outstanding the worship, music and welcoming ministries of our church are! Jim Tiede led us in discovering our God-given gifts; Mike Benton led us through the strategic planning process; and the Leadership Advisory Team continues work in perfecting the document; the laity continue to strengthen their ministry skills and lead the programs of our church with courage and tenacity. We have expanded our mission outreach to include El Salvador and Mexico, with a willingness to include Jamaica next year. Expanding and strengthening our caring ministry is still a work in progress.

The five years that I have been with you have been blessed years for me. I praise God for you and for the exceptional ways in which we have worked together to enable excellent ministry. I am confident that God will continue to bless us with courage and strength to face the future unafraid. May God lead us faithfully as we go into that future with confidence and grace.

Peace!

*Pastor Phil*

# 3,000 books sent to the troops in Operation Paperback

Troops in Afghanistan and Iraq are receiving more than 3,000 books for their leisure reading, thanks to a community effort led by Jacob Nemetz, a member of BUMC and Boy Scout Troop 50 of Devon.

Jake was at a barbecue at a friend's house several months ago when he heard about Operation Paperback, a nonprofit organization that arranges for volunteers to send books to service personnel abroad. The friend had been involved in an Operation Paperback project at St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia. Inspired by what he heard, Jake went home and told his family. That led the Nemetz family to fill one box with books and send it to a service member whose name and address were provided by Operation Paperback. "It was easy to follow the directions," Jake said. "And we felt good about it."

Jake now was thinking big. He aspires to be an Eagle Scout, and the idea of sending more books – *many* more books – appealed to him as the way to fulfill the community service requirement of Scouting's highest rank.

In May, Jake got approval from the Boy Scouts for a plan to gather, sort and ship 200 boxes of books to the combat zone. He spread the word through the community and among the BUMC congregation. He was asking for books, for used boxes, and for contributions to cover the postage of about \$5 per box.

He enlisted the help of others, and he estimates that 45 people – family, friends, fellow Scouts, and volunteer firefighters of the Berwyn Fire Company – donated a total of 220 hours.

The Easttown and Tredyffrin Libraries donated books that had been donated to them for their periodic book sales. Although these were leftovers, Jake said, the books were good. Other books were contributed by BUMC members, families of Boy Scout Troop 50 and Cub Scout Pack 81, and the fire company.

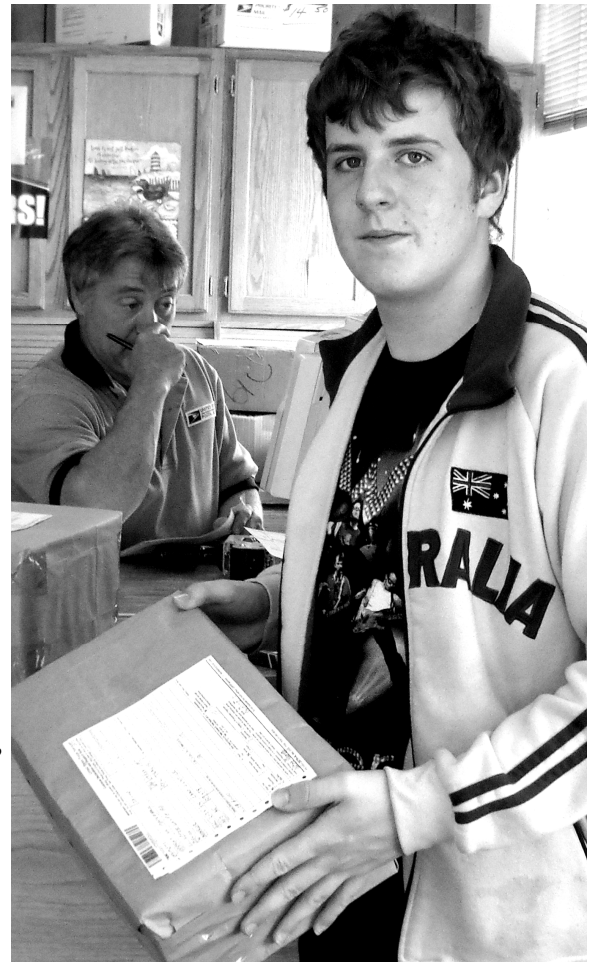
When contributions for postage exceeded the \$1,000 goal, Jake and his friends simply expanded the scale of their project. When the project was over in early August, he had mailed 230 boxes of books to individual service men and women, and 16 boxes to libraries at military bases. The individual troops' boxes contained 10 to 12 books, and the libraries' boxes contained 20 to 40 books. Each box contained a personal greeting.

Individual service members apply to Operation Paperback and list the genres of books they are interested in. Volunteers like Jake Nemetz go to the organization's website to match their inventory of books to the preferences of service personnel whose are listed. The site provides the mailing addresses

More than 50 troops have already sent thank-you notes to Jake. Here is a sample:

"Greeting from Iraq: I received the box of books you sent today through Operation Paperback and I wanted to thank you. My Soldiers love receiving new books to read and you sure made their day. What you do has truly made a difference in the life of my Soldiers. Reading has provided a great escape from this place and helps pass the time. Again thank you very much and God Bless you." – *Sergeant First Class Jason A. MacArthur.*

Jake is 17 and a senior this fall at Conestoga High School. He is continuing to work on the Eagle rank requirements, which include earning a number of merit badges. He is writing a report on the Operation Paperback project, which will be evaluated by a Boy Scout board of review.



Jake Nemetz mails a box at Devon post office

The team from Berwyn takes a break with Alice, her sons, and a canine friend.

Other photos on the church website.



## Berwyn youth help two families in eastern Tennessee

Berwyn United Methodist sent 14 volunteers on July 2-11 to Johnson County, in eastern Tennessee near the North Carolina border. The population of Johnson County is 18,000. The demographics are dire: only 64% have graduated from high school; only 8% have a college degree; 23% have income below the poverty level, and the unemployment rate is 13%. We divided our group into two teams, each assigned to a task of improving a family home.

One team was assigned to repair the mobile home near Mountain City, Tenn., occupied by Alice, a sweet lady in her 70s, and her two sons. Alice's husband died in 2005. One of Alice's sons is finishing classes at Eastern Tennessee State University and starts student teaching in September. The other has been laid off from his job at a furniture factory. The three survive on Alice's Social Security pension.

Alice's house had several problems. Water damage had rotted the studs and joists in the outside wall and floor in the living room. The floor had broken through in one place. Roofed porches at the front and the back were deteriorating. Alice had fallen through the back porch in one place and had seriously injured her leg. Previous ASP teams had performed structural repairs on the mobile home floor and wall. New floor joists, wall studs, and a new window had been installed. The subfloor had been laid. Our team's task was to complete the drywall and interior work, paint and install trim, and prepare for new carpet. Outside, we removed the old rear porch and built a new one. Alice's sons joined our work team.

The second ASP team worked on an addition for a family that has four children and also takes in foster children. The family used to run a moving company, but the trucks and other equipment recently were repossessed. The addition will relieve overcrowding. The Berwyn youth, working with a team from another church, put the floor and walls on the newly laid foundation. The children of the family enjoyed playing with our youth, and the mother was eager to help in any way she could. When it was time to leave, she asked if we could stay the rest of the summer. With regret, we had to say we couldn't.

The ASP mission was able to offer selfless love and help to those in need who were strangers but became friends. Those we helped showed their love and appreciation by sharing food and fellowship. Everyone came away with a renewed sense of Christian fellowship.

*Mike Benton and Scott Campbell*

# Luncheon on Sept. 26: Report on mission trip for children in Kenya

In the photo:  
Susan Burriss and Tom Heil  
at the centre in Kenya.



This past summer, two members and a former member of Berwyn United Methodist Church shared their professional expertise with a program for street children in Kenya. On Sunday, Sept. 26, Janelle Larson, Susan Burriss and Tom Heil will speak about their work with the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre (CEYC) at a potluck luncheon after the 10:30 service. The three also will discuss their experiences at the adult Sunday School classes at 9:15 that morning. To reserve for the luncheon, please sign up in the Narthex or contact the church office.

The CYEC is an innovative residential and educational program for street-dwelling children and other highly vulnerable young people in Kenya, currently serving 120 children. The center focuses on comprehensive development of these young people, including life skills and entrepreneurship training, to enable them to lead fulfilling lives and contribute to the well-being of their communities. The CYEC is collaborating with universities, local NGOs (nongovernmental organizations), and the private sector to identify and develop models for program sustainability and program exit that can then be replicated at other centers in Kenya and beyond.

Berwyn United Methodist Church has provided financial support for the CYEC since 2008 through Janelle's personal and professional engagement with the center. Janelle, an associate professor of agricultural economics at Penn State University, helps coordinate a PSU interdisciplinary initiative with the CYEC. The center's founder and director is a friend and colleague of Janelle's from graduate school.

In the spring of 2010, Janelle co-taught a course, Agricultural Systems in East Africa, with a colleague in soil science. The primary focus of this interdisciplinary course was to develop a plan for the creation of an eco-village in a semi-arid region of the Rift Valley. This eco-village will facilitate program exit, providing a place for youth to live, work and further their skills when immediate employment is not available. During the semester, students in the course conducted background research for the development of the eco-village and compiled curricular materials for the agricultural training program at the CYEC. They then spent three weeks in Kenya to complete the research and plan.

Susan Burriss built on her experience as a medical volunteer in Central America to help design and implement an electronic database that the CYEC's medical clinic will use to track health indicators for children at the CYEC and in the larger community. The database will help the center and public health agencies track and monitor health indicators (such as children's growth rates and immunizations) and infectious diseases (such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS). Susan also coordinated the collection of toothbrushes and sandals for the CYEC at the Berwyn United Methodist Nursery School and BUMC.

Tom Heil, a former member of BUMC, spent nearly two months at the CYEC overseeing the creation of a medical laboratory and providing advice on business development. The lab will enable the center to provide vital medical testing services to the local community as they expand their clinical care locally. Tom also provided business consultancy services to the CYEC on various income-generating activities.

## *Lay Leader's Letter: Ready to start a new year*

Why isn't September 1 observed as New Year's Day? That's when everything really starts new. Days are cooling off, and everyone is invigorated and ready to start new things. Just let us have one last fling for Labor Day.

Vacation times are mostly behind us, and we are refreshed and renewed from our summer break. It's like a fresh Monday morning. On a Monday, just after a Sabbath day's rest, we are ready for a new week. That may be part of God's plan in giving us a Sabbath day of rest. It's not just to recover from a hard week, but to prepare us for a new week.

After a "summer Sabbath," we are ready to start a new year in September. Everyone seems to be ready to plunge into new things with enthusiasm and resolve. School children are ready for their new grade. College students are enthusiastic to begin a new term. The SEPTA parking lots are full again. The World Series is just ahead.

Here at Berwyn UMC, we feel this excitement. We are ready for new challenges. It all gets started with Rally Day, September 12. Look through this issue of *The Lighted Cross* for many other programs that will be starting or renewing this month. I am hoping you are ready, after a refreshing "summer Sabbath," to join in many of these activities. They collectively demonstrate how Berwyn UMC heeds God's call to be a community of Christian believers that Invites, Nurtures and Encourages Service, as our Mission Statement proclaims.

May this new year, beginning in September, be, with your help, the best that Berwyn UMC has ever known.

*John Paylor*

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## *Nursery School prepares to open for its 17th year*

The Nursery School is beginning its 17<sup>th</sup> year. Our incoming children will have many wonderful experiences and opportunities to learn and grow in the months ahead. The first month of school allows the children and staff to become acquainted with one another. Creating community is a large part of the beginning of a new school year.

Our staff was sad to learn of Bill Robie's passing. Bill was instrumental in helping build our nursery school from the beginning. His wonderful sense of humor and guidance will be missed at the Nursery School board meetings.

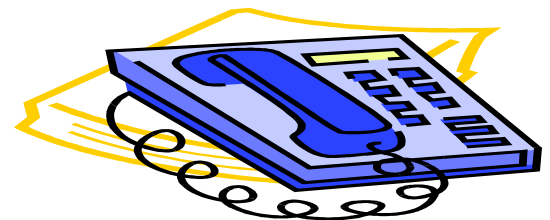
*Janet Wham*, Director

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## *The Lighted Cross*

**Next deadline: Sept. 19**

*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 Oct. 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**

# It won't be long till Fall Festival, so get ready

It is almost that time again – time for our fabulous, fun, fantastic fundraiser, our annual Fall Festival and Flea Market from 9 to 2 on Saturday, Oct. 9.

Put the dates on your calendars, open those basement storage doors, and climb up into those hot attics (or you can wait a week or two for that job). Gather up your “don't need anymore,” and bring it all to church. Schieck Hall will be open on Sunday mornings for your stuff, or call one of us to meet you there at other times.

Books are welcome. Look into your cookbooks and get the ingredients for that cake or pie or any sweets you have been wanting to make and not keep in the house to tempt you. (Then come to the bake sale table and we will tempt you there.) Jewelry boxes need straightening? We need those little or never worn baubles. That special vase from Auntie Maude you have not used for years? The Collectibles Table is waiting for you.

Then look into your hearts and your imagination to contribute to our Silent Auction. Last year we had everything from vacation homes to Phillies and Eagles blankets; full-course meals to Thanksgiving pies. Do you have a desire to weed a garden? Clean a house? Be a personal shopper? Prepare a will? Tutor? Then you have a Silent Auction contribution. The possibilities are endless.

Our committee chairs, at this writing: Kate and Brian Walker, Flea Market; Donna Pitz and Jan Polasky and crew, Lunch; Stephanie Borelly and Cindy Shallcross, Jewelry; Judy Fisk, Collectibles; Marge Smink, Books; Janet Campbell, Bake Table; Kristine Adams and Carol Williams, Silent Auction; Amy Dwyer, Fair Trade Coffee; the Reiter family, Pumpkins and Gourds; Sarah Polasky and Chris Padot, Games for Kids; Evangelism Committee, “Welcome to BUMC”; Susan Burris and Janelle Larson, CYEC Benefit; Communications Committee, Publicity. We are hoping Sue Denis-evicz will paint her wonderful designs on our windows to welcome one and all.

We need your *stuff*, we need your *talents*, we need your *smiling faces*, and we need **you**. Please call us with any questions and to volunteer. There is a spot for you.

*Janet and Jack Campbell, 610-647-8291, [jack.campbell@verizon.net](mailto:jack.campbell@verizon.net)*

*Kate and Brian Walker, 610-644-1357, [pestohead@aol.com](mailto:pestohead@aol.com)*

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## At Vacation Bible Camp, learning to be a hero

During the week of June 27-July 1, nineteen children from Berwyn United Methodist Church and the community played, laughed, created, and learned about God's love during our annual Vacation Bible Camp.

This year's theme was “Hero Headquarters,” and we learned about what it means to be a *real* hero through Bible stories in which ordinary people took extraordinary actions to help others. Each afternoon, we explored each story by listening to the story, creating a story-related craft, playing story-related games, and learning three new songs about heroes. We also enjoyed a delicious meal, prepared with loving hands by our Hero Café staff, and we had *lots* of fellowship.

As part of learning what it means to be a real hero, the children raised almost \$300 toward the purchase of a cow and other animals through the Heifer Project. Through Heifer International, individuals may purchase food-producing animals for families in need in an effort to help end hunger. We will be continuing to collect money throughout this year in Sunday School, as our children really are excited about raising enough money to buy a cow.

“Hero Headquarters” wouldn't have been such an amazing success without the help of our wonderful volunteers. Thank you so much for all of your hard work and input.

*Sarah Polasky*

# Coming this month: a weekly e-newsletter

*At the same time, eDevotionals will focus on spirituality*

For more than five years, dozens of members and friends of Berwyn United Methodist Church have been receiving a daily e-mail that begins with a Scripture reading, a short mediation, and a prayer.

This “eDevotional” is prepared by Richard J. Beckmen, a Lutheran pastor who writes frequently about prayer and spirituality, and is distributed nationally by Applied Media Group of San Jose, Calif. Pastor Beckmen is the author of *A Beginners’ Guide to Prayer* and *Praying for Wholeness and Healing*. The Scripture reading in the eDevotional is from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Although Applied Media Group makes it possible to add church announcements to the daily e-mail message, our experience has shown that the syndicate’s computer program is not user-friendly. It is difficult to organize these announcements, and the process takes an inordinate length of time.

For this reason – and because we have reached the conclusion that the spiritual message should be the eDevotionals’ sole focus – the Communications Committee will discontinue using the announcement feature.

We realize there is a need to deliver announcements to the congregation between the monthly issues of *The Lighted Cross*, but a more logical interval is weekly rather than daily. A weekly cycle matches the weekly routine of the church schedule, starting with (and highlighting) the Sunday services.

In addition, using Microsoft Word, a conventional, uncomplicated computer program, will make it easier to compile the weekly announcements.

*We therefore plan to begin delivering a weekly e-newsletter to everyone on the church’s list of e-mail addresses on Fridays beginning Sept. 10. We will discontinue adding announcements to the eDevotionals on Labor Day, Sept. 6.*

Barbara Hall, a member of the Communications Committee, has been compiling the daily announcements for the eDevotionals. She has agreed to continue to manage the distribution of the eDevotionals to any congregation member or friend who would like to receive them. If you are not now receiving eDevotionals and would like to be included, please message Barbara at [barbarahall@edevotionals.org](mailto:barbarahall@edevotionals.org).

As the committee chair, I will serve as interim editor of the weekly e-newsletter as well as editor of *The Lighted Cross*. Please send your announcements to me at [gene.foreman@verizon.net](mailto:gene.foreman@verizon.net). You can expect the format of the e-newsletter to evolve over the coming weeks.

The weekly e-newsletter, we think, fits nicely into the variety of methods that the Communications Committee uses to keep the congregation informed and to spread the Good News of Berwyn United Methodist Church to the larger community. In review, these are the main components of our communications plan:

- The website, [berwynumc.org](http://berwynumc.org), managed by Mike Benton.
- The Lighted Cross, arriving by postal mail in members’ homes by the first of each month.
- The weekly e-newsletter.
- The phone tree, managed by Veronica Mosley of the church office.
- Announcements in the Sunday worship bulletin, managed by Veronica.
- Announcements on bulletin boards at church, managed by Amy Dwyer.
- The sign on the church lawn, managed by Kate Walker.

The goal of our committee is to keep *everybody* informed. That is why we use multiple communications vehicles – if you miss an announcement in one place, we intend that you’ll find it in another.

We appreciate the help of all in the congregation who contribute to this effort by sending us their announcements. Keep them coming.

*Gene Foreman*, Chair, Communications Committee

# Bill Robie memorial service is at 11 a.m. Sept. 18

Family and friends of William Hinckley (Bill) Robie are invited to share in the celebration of his life at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, at Berwyn United Methodist Church, where he was a leader for decades.

Bill died on July 19 at the age of 83.

He was a World War II veteran of the Navy and a graduate of the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y. He had a successful career in sales and marketing management for American Viscose and the FMC Corporation. More recently, he worked for the Library Services Group.

Bill was the loving husband of Sally (nee Brown) for 60 years and the devoted father of six children: David (Ginni) of Madrid, Maine; Mark (Judy) of West Chicago, Ill.; Kevin (Nancy) of Dayton, Ohio; Anne Murray (Morris) of Defiance, Ohio; John (Judy) of Devon; and Bob (Kris) of Paoli. He and Sally have 29 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

On March 4, 2007, when Bill was ill, the church's Prayer Shawl Committee presented him with a shawl. Marge Smink, who made his shawl, wrote a poem on that occasion:

*Dear Bill,*

*This shawl was made just for you  
To enfold you and bring comfort,  
To celebrate your joys,  
And all your accomplishments,  
To envelop you in the memories you hold dear,  
To thank you for all your leadership and service to our congregation,  
And to tell you that you are loved and supported  
By your Berwyn United Methodist Church family.*

*Its purple color signifies  
Truth, spirituality, wisdom and justice —  
All qualities that you exemplify.*

*This shawl is a mantle of caring  
To remind you of God's love  
When you are chilly or weary,  
When you need to feel wholeness and protection.*

*This shawl was knitted for you  
With Blessings  
With Love  
And with Prayers.*

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Berwyn United Methodist Church Memorial Garden. Please specify "Memorial Garden" in the memo line of your check.

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## Wednesday Morning Bible Study will resume Sept. 15

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study group will study the books of Daniel and Revelation, beginning Sept. 15 and ending May 11 with breaks for the holidays. The weekly study begins at 11:30 a.m., with a bag lunch and fellowship afterward. We would love to have you with us. We are sure that you would bring much to our fellowship.

*Pastor Phil*

# You're invited to share a 'Story From the Heart'

In the spring, the Evangelism and Nurture Committee invited members of the congregation to share "Stories from the Heart" at worship services. This is a special opportunity for individuals to offer a three-minute story relating to their faith journeys.

These can be relating the simple and everyday ways of how we have seen God touching our lives every day or they can be how our spiritual paths were redirected in a fundamental way. We were thinking of an instance of God's hand working in your life. It could be some event or situation where you felt spiritual guidance, something where being part of BUMC had a special impact, or a more theological focus of faith in general. The idea is to start having more frank and open expressions of our faith experiences and to nurture and encourage the faith of others through sharing.

We are trying to open up a little in an honest and personal way. The important thing is that we speak to each other regarding our individual faith journeys. Everyone has a story to tell, as God touches us daily in so many ways. We hope to hear yours. Talk with Pastor Phil, Mike Benton or any E&N Committee member.

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## Help the church by being a greeter at worship service

Air is getting cooler (it was one hot summer, wasn't it?), leaves will be changing colors soon, and kids are back to school. After we have enjoyed our summer vacations and day trips, life gets back to normal.

On behalf of the Worship Committee, I invite each and every one of you to attend our 8:30 or 10:30 Sunday morning services, get involved with choir, attend a Sunday School class, or join us on a committee. There are so many exciting things that will be happening this year at Berwyn United Methodist Church.

Earlier this year, the Worship Committee spent time reexamining our goals and mission within the church. We agreed that the following is our Mission Statement: *Our mission is to help people have an encounter with God through prayer, music, welcoming, community, fellowship, heart-warming and emotional experiences, acknowledging that everyone has different experiences and different gifts to offer.*

One of our objectives is to make everyone who enters our church feel welcomed. In order to do this, we need to have greeters each and every Sunday at our 10:30 service. Will you or your family or friends sign up for a Sunday or two between now and the end of the year to greet your church brothers and sisters and guests to our church home? Isn't it nice to see a smiling face at the door of our sanctuary, someone to say hello and good morning to? You can be that person.

So let's start off this church year with lots of smiles and good mornings. You can sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We look forward to worshipping with you this season.

*Kristine Adams*, co-chair, Worship Committee

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## Recent baptisms and new members

### **Baptisms:**

- Thomas Edward Robinson, born April 8, 2008, and Charlie Ralph Robinson, born Dec. 21, 2009. They are the sons of Kristen and Tom Robinson and the grandsons of Peggy and Jack Robinson and JoLynn and Richard Rose.
- Eleanor Rose Fisher, born March 28, 2010, daughter of Christa and Troy Fisher and granddaughter of Sandy and Lee Fisher and Peggy and David Cherelli.

### **New members:**

- Keith and Ellen Fritz and their daughters Amanda and Brittany. (Also, daughter Charlotte was a member of the Confirmation Class this year.)
- Troy and Christa Fisher.

# Book Club begins its new year with Grisham

The BUMC Book Club will begin its new year with John Grisham's *Ford County: Stories*. John Edinger will lead the discussion, and Marge Smink (610-359-5445) will be the hostess.

Everyone is invited to the Book Club meetings; just rsvp to the host or hostess.

Other meeting dates, along with the book, the discussion leader, and the host or hostess:

Oct. 20: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett; Ann West, leader; Polly Kimes (610-788-2121), hostess.

Nov. 17: *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay; Claudia Sharpless, leader; Nancy Atchison (610-644-2775), hostess.

Jan. 19: *Hellhound on His Trail: The Stalking of Martin Luther King Jr. and the International Hunt for His Assassin* by Hampton Sides; Betsy Lang, leader; Ann West (687-687-0222), hostess.

Feb. 16: *The Master* by Colm Toibin; Chuck Parvin, leader; Betsy Lang (610-644-8259), hostess.

March 16: *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway; Nancy Atchison, leader; Margi Mackenzie (610-647-4091), hostess.

April 20: *Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime* by John Heilemann and Mark Halperin; Gene Foreman, leader; Claudia Sharpless (610-644-8928), hostess.

May 18: *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell, Phil Poncé, leader; Sally Robie (610-644-6631), hostess.

Contact Marge Smink at 610-359-5445, 610-613-9797, or [sminkm@comcast.net](mailto:sminkm@comcast.net) for additional information.

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## Lay Delegate's Report on the Annual Conference

The 224<sup>th</sup> session of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church was held May 20-22 at the Lancaster Conference Center.

On Thursday morning the Clergy and Laity met in separate sessions. At the Laity session, the emphasis was on what to expect during the holy conferencing and the workshops held during lunch. Bishop Peggy A. Johnson led a worship service and communion before holy conferencing began. After dinner, we heard the first of three sessions by the Rev. Adam Hamilton of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection of Leawood, Kan. Twenty-five years ago he started the church in suburban Kansas City, meeting in a funeral home, and the church now has 8,200 members and a staff of 240. Their numbers are impressive, but so are their outreach and programs. (I have talked to a few groups about his talks and would like to chat with anyone about what I heard. He has books sold at Cokesbury. Since conference I have read that Hopewell UMC will have a session with one of this church's staff members this fall. I will keep you informed about registration and the date.)

Friday and Saturday had two more sessions with Adam Hamilton, holy conferencing, and workshops.

Next year, the Annual Conference will be at the Expo Center in Oaks, only nine miles from BUMC. There may be sessions that you will be able to attend. More on that later.

It was a pleasure to serve as your Conference Lay Delegate.

*Judy Fisk*

# Annual golf fundraiser for Chelsea Foundation

The Scott family invites everyone to support the E. Chelsea Campbell Memorial Foundation by participating in the charity's annual fundraiser, a golf tournament on Labor Day, Sept. 6, at Kimberton Golf Club.

The foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, founded in 2008 in memory of Gail and Scott's daughter Chelsea. The foundation provides financial support for adolescents and young adults seeking treatment for substance abuse. In the last two years, Chelsea's Foundation has provided scholarship funding for six people who otherwise would not have been able to afford treatment. The foundation has also sponsored prevention seminars to help parents of teenagers understand this disease. The foundation's success has been remarkable, and letters from the scholarship recipients are a cherished legacy for Chelsea.



There are several ways you can help:

- Play golf (amount includes lunch, dinner and prizes): \$100 per player.
- Enjoy dinner and the celebration: \$50.
- Sponsor a hole: \$100. (The church's Missions Committee is sponsoring a hole.)
- Buy a foursome *and* sponsor a hole (\$500 is most popular).
- Be an event sponsor, at one of several levels – from \$250 to \$5,000.
- Or make a donation of whatever you can.

You can sign up for golf, dinner, or sponsorships online at Chelsea's website: [http://chelseamemorial.org/golf\\_registration.html](http://chelseamemorial.org/golf_registration.html)

You can find more information and see who has signed up so far on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=3109&id=100001261544598#!/event.php?eid=130383100314631&ref=ts>

Or you can make a donation at: <http://chelseamemorial.org/donate.html>

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## Volunteer opportunities at Berwyn United Methodist

**Musicians:** Do you play an instrument? Do you like to sing? The Worship Committee has been working this year on expanding our worship opportunities and is considering a third service that would be a blended/multi-sensory service. We would like to have a Praise Band for this service. If you are interested, please talk to any member of the Worship Committee or co-chairs David and Kristine Adams. You can call Dave and Kristine at 610-889-7520 or e-mail [kristineadamspc@verizon.net](mailto:kristineadamspc@verizon.net).

**Friday Volunteers:** We need workers to help prepare the sanctuary for Sunday services. While the group is called the Friday Volunteers, the job can be done any day of the week when the church is open. Generally less than an hour is required. Bring a friend to help. Call Betsy Newman at 610-647-0643 if you are interested.

**Flower Arrangers:** Flowers for the Sunday services can't happen without volunteers. We need people to spend about an hour one Saturday a month to select flowers from local businesses and to arrange them in two vases provided by the church. Contact Sarah Polasky at 610-247-7647 or [SayreNicole2004@yahoo.com](mailto:SayreNicole2004@yahoo.com).

## LENDING A HAND

### Worship Assistants

#### **Sept. 5**

*Ushers:* John Ku, Bob Borst,  
Will and Carl Bushnell

*Flower Arranger:* Claudia  
Sharpless

*Flower Delivery:* Barbara Borst

#### **Sept. 12**

*Liturgist:* Kristine Adams

*Ushers:* Jack Campbell, Jon  
Stockler, Alice Nicholas,  
Brett Shallcross

*Children's Sermon:* Amy Dodds

*Flower Arranger:* Sarah Polasky

*Flower Delivery:* Judy Fisk

#### **Sept. 19**

*Liturgist:* Kay Pierce

*Ushers:* Don Young, Scott Phelps,  
Peh Ku, Zachary Phelps

*Children's Sermon:* Janet  
Campbell

*Flower Arranger:* Kay Pierce

*Flower Delivery:* Sue Farina

#### **Sept. 26**

*Liturgist:* Gene Foreman

*Ushers:* Bob Fisk, Nagle Bridwell,  
Judy Dunn, Margie O'Donnell

*Children's Sermon:* Janelle  
Larson

*Flower Arranger:* Jan Polasky

*Flower Delivery:* Jane McDowell

### **Thursday Helpers**

Sept. 2: Pat White

Sept. 9: Sue Farina

Sept. 16: Barbara Borst

Sept. 23: Sue Farina

Sept. 30: Pat White

### **Friday Volunteers**

Sept. 17: Barbara Borst

Sept. 24: Claudia Sharpless

## BERWYN PEOPLE AND EVENTS

**ETC Class.** The class will study a video series titled "Living the Questions 2.0." Thirty-five scholars, theologians and other experts will explore an open, inclusive, broad-minded Christianity. Among those featured in the LTQ2 series are Diana Butler Bass, Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, John Dominic Crossan, Brian McLaren and Helen Prejean. Each Sunday, there will be 20 minutes of video, followed by a discussion. Details are at: <http://www.livingthequestions.com/xcart/home.php?cat=366>

**Chancel Choir.** Rehearsals begin Thursday, Sept. 9. Join us in the Music Room from 7:30 to 9 for a wonderful mix of music, fellowship, and worship. We have an exciting year of beautiful and uplifting music ahead of us. All voice parts are needed, but especially sopranos. Some musical skills are helpful, but you can learn as you go. The only requirements are a joyful heart that delights in praising God through song, and a sense of humor! All ages are welcome. If you have any questions, please speak to Judith Lang.

**Shared Bible Study Class.** Are you looking for a friendly Bible Study? The SBS (Shared Bible Study) Class reads the Bible to seek God's Word, deepen faith, and rebuild spiritual confidence. We will be reviewing the New Testament Book of Hebrews. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 19, in the Shared Room next door to the Pastor's Study.

**Studying abroad.** Andreana Stoker left for Beijing on Aug. 8 to study law for a semester at the Center for Law and Economics. She is in her third year of law school at Syracuse University. In China, she will study differences between U.S. and Chinese business law.

**Charge Conference.** The annual Charge Conference will be held Oct. 24 after worship services.

**Lydia Circle.** At a meeting at noon Oct. 3 in the Parlor, the group will plan the new year.

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### Card of Thanks

To Berwyn UMC Friends,

Our sincere thanks to all our friends who prayed and offered get-well wishes. Bill is getting stronger now, and we appreciated the visits and gifts from all.

*Jean and Bill Brownfield*