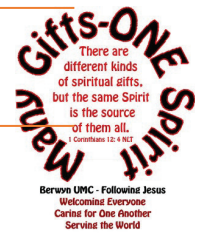


THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



December 2014

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Save the Date!

Dec 1—Advent Fair

Dec 4—Soupy

Thursday

Dec 6—1pm Hanging of
the Greens

Dec 10—Lighted Cross
Deadline

Dec 14—Christmas
Silent Auction

Dec 14 Christmas Can-
tata & Brunch

Dec 25 Christmas Eve
Services: 5:30pm, 7pm
& 11

COME, REJOICE

with Berwyn United Methodist Church
140 Waterloo Avenue in Berwyn PA

The Berwyn UMC Choir Presents
Sunday December 14 - 10:30 am

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

by Hal H. Hopson

For choir, handbells, organ & congregation

Childcare Available - Handicap Accessible

8:30 am - Service of Worship

Carols Familiar and New

www.berwynumc.org - 610-644-5555

COME, REJOICE

with Berwyn United Methodist Church
140 Waterloo Avenue in Berwyn PA

Christmas Eve Candlelight

5:30 pm

Children's Christmas Play and Worship

7 pm - Carol Sing Prelude

Bring your instruments and your voices

Followed by the Service of Worship - 7:30 pm

11 pm

Welcome Christmas Morning

Childcare Available - Handicap Accessible

www.berwynumc.org - 610-644-5555

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH on Dec. 14

Our annual Christmas brunch will be held on Sun. Dec. 14th in Schieck Hall immediately following the Choir's cantata. The meal will feature a selection of both breakfast and dinner items. This year we have decided to do the food presentation by having stations set around Schieck Hall where you can help yourself.

The cost of the meal is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 6-10 and free for children 5 and under. This meal is by reservation only - reservations will be taken at services on Sun Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 or please call into the church office by noon on Wed. the 10th.

FOOD BAGS FOR THE NEEDY

IN COSTA RICA

Dick Rood and Rick Stoker will be traveling to Costa Rica in late January to help build a Sunday school building for a new United Methodist church in Palmares, Costa Rica. While there part of our mission will also be to deliver food to the needy in the Palmares region. You can help! The food for each bag costs \$12.00 and will feed a family of 5 for 1 week. Contents in the bag include: rice, beans, corn meal and dry milk. We will have bags available in church for you to purchase. We ask you to decorate and personalize each bag and then Dick and Rick will help deliver them. Rick and Dick will also take them down with them when they go. Thanks for helping out, if you have any questions see Dick or Rick.

SOUPY THURSDAY BEGINS DEC 4

Save the date folks! Thursdays beginning Dec. 4 will be the return of our ever popular Soupy Thursday. Each week we will feature a different home made soup for you to enjoy, and don't forget the home baked bread too.

Starting at 5pm you can come with your own container and take soup and bread home with you. The soup is \$5.00/Qt. and the bread is \$3.00/loaf. Or if you prefer you can come to Schieck Hall and eat with family and friends. For a free will donation you get soup, bread, dessert and a beverage, you can't beat that. Eat in is available from 6-7pm. Come eat and then take some home for a quick meal on the weekend.

We could still use a little help so if you think you might be able to help out please give Rick Stoker a ring. We could especially use some help doing dishes at the end of the night.

Dec 4—Cream of Potato Dec 11 - Butternut Squash Soup Dec 18 - Chicken Noodle

Charge Conference State of the Church 2014

Berwyn United Methodist Church gives thanks for all the ways the Holy Spirit has guided us and enabled us to follow Jesus and to glorify God.

The goals set by our 2013 Covenant between SPRC & Clergy have all been met and are ongoing.

We are grateful for the establishment of a Mission Central HUB in Berwyn. Hundreds of relief kits have already begun to flow out from our area to the world in need. This is in addition to the way Berwyn UMC reached out in mission in 2014 to Costa Rica, El Salvador, Kenya, Zambia Philadelphia, Oklahoma, Appalachia and our local area. Two Mission Teams went out from our congregation, a team of youth and adults with Appalachian Service Project and a team of Adults with Discovery Service Projects and Rice and Beans Ministry. We also had youth and adults involved for the first time with a Good Works work day.

Establishing the HUB helped us accomplish a second goal of increasing active participation in our worship experience. HUB Sunday was amazing! We could feel the energy in our Worship building as we blessed items for School Kits and Health Kits and assembled Health Kits in worship so we could present them at the Lord's Table as an offering. It was especially wonderful to see youth coming awake in worship as well adults and children working together. *Continued on page 3*



"The Joy of Giving"

"Give the wonder of Christmas to a child at one of the Methodist Services listed below. Your donation of a new, unwrapped toy or gift card will make it possible for each child to have a gift to open on Christmas.

United Methodist Neighborhood Services - Dr. White is asking for new toys this year. They will be delivered the first week of December.

Methodist Home For Children - Toys for children and gifts for mothers

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church – Toys for children. Toiletries, new socks and, slightly used clothing for homeless men.

In case you are wondering, the Christmas tree is up early to remind people that we need to deliver toy donations the first week of December to United Methodist Neighborhood Services.

Lastly, through December the **Alternative Gift Program** is available again this year if you would like to give a gift in someone's name to one of these several worthy causes:

- Discovery Service Project
- TE Cares
- Methodist Home for children
- Cookson Hills Center
- Children and Youth Empowerment Center

The Missions Committee thanks you for your generosity.



The **Adult Bible Class** will interrupt its study of Revelation during the Advent season for a special Advent Bible Study, *Advent Dreams*. This is a four-week, video-based study, just developed by the pastoral staff at Hopewell UMC, exploring the four dream sequences in Matthew that comprise the entirety of Jesus' infancy in Matthew's Gospel. Our study will start on Sunday, November 30 and run for the four weeks of Advent, ending on Sunday, December 21. Come join us in the Library at 9:20 on Sunday mornings for this very exciting, short-time, study, produced by the local talent at Hopewell.

EMPTY SEATS

David Adams

As we are thinking about the holidays, we're also looking forward to seeing friends and family. This time together wouldn't be possible if we didn't send out an invitation and place a seat at the table for those invited. Without this, no one would know that our door was open and that we were standing there with open, loving arms and we'd be left with empty seats.

I would like to encourage everyone that as we get together as a church family, ask if you're setting an empty seat and what that can mean to you. Find a way for your committee or small group to share an invitation to a friend, neighbor or colleague. There are many reasons in our lives why we end up with an empty seat. Berwyn UMC is indeed a welcoming place. Let's make sure the areas where we live know that we have a standing invitation to serve in His name. As you plan church activities and gatherings, take a moment to ask if you've set an empty seat and how you can send an invitation.




BUMNS will be buzzing with activity during the month of December.

Festive decorations adorn the halls. The children have been busy practicing for our annual Holiday Show, under the direction of BUMNS music teacher, Laura Hui. Judith Lang will be our guest pianist. The show will be held on Dec. 15th and 16th at 9:30. Church members are invited to the show.

BUMNS families donated toys, personal supplies and clothing to the outreach missions the church is supporting. We wish the church families all the blessings of the holiday.

School will not be in session from December 17th through January 5th.



SAVE THE DATE:

Sat. Feb 14 at 6pm will be the **All Supper Club** get together and since it is on Valentine's Day we are planning something extra special.



Continued from pg 2

The same experience of energy building in worship happened during our Good Friday Tenebrae Service. Everyone was involved in filling the house with candle light. Youth were involved in carry the cross forward and helping participants drive nails into the cross attached to messages describing things each worshiper wanted to turn over to Jesus. The youth inspired us by the earnest way they carried out their role.

The dedication of our new "Worship and Rejoice" Hymnals demonstrated to us that we can sing new hymns that express our faith in the language of today while at the same keep on singing familiar Hymns in the cherished language of yester-years.

Our "Living with Dying" Series was a good step in meeting another goal of developing programs to invite the wider community to that explore spiritual issues. The discussions were full of loving support and there were even some inspiring and touching testimonies.

Another way we experimented with meeting spiritual needs in our community was with the Blessing and Prayer Square table we set up at our Fall Festival. People seemed to approach the table cautiously but their need for a blessing overcame their hesitancy and they allowed us to hold their hands with the Prayer Square and pray blessings over them and their loved ones. Each person seemed to receive more from God than they expected. It was exciting.

At the same time that we rejoice for the ways we are moving forward following Jesus, we also cry out to God for help in the ways we are struggling.

Continue next column

This year it has been difficult to lose more active members than we are gaining. Thankfully it's not because we have had a lot of funerals. Instead people move because of jobs and retirement. Our core group of dedicated people is solid but it has grown smaller. We are increasing our outreach but it still looks like we will need to reorganize so we can do the new things God is inspiring us to do without burning out our faithful workers.

We are also on the edge financially and will have to find new ways to raise funds. This year we are not able to increase our budget. The way Berwyn raises funds is a little difficult for me and I think it stresses out our Finance Committee. Instead of having a Stewardship Campaign and possibly an additional Capital Campaign to cover what's needed, Berwyn has a lot of little funds that we keep asking people to donate to throughout the year. Now that we are running short, we are in danger of becoming what people often complain about, a church that never stops asking for money. We need transformation in the area of finances.

The goals in our 2014 Covenant between SPRC & Clergy are as follows:

Develop our HUB ministry so that community groups or community people are involved in two projects before June 1, 2015

Conduct an "We All Know How to Pray" worship series beginning in January 2015 and nurture a small group in prayer so that we will have a trained healing prayer team made up of at least 4 people in addition to the Pastor by May 1, 2015

As a result of developing our prayer life together we will begin to discern the spiritual needs of our community so we have at least one new strategy planned by June 1, 2015 to implement in the Fall of 2015.



Many thanks for ministering to me during my shoulder surgery. I appreciate all your prayers, cards, food, rides, calls and encouragement. I know that all your support has helped speed recovery. Blessings, , Nancy

CHRISTMAS SILENT AUCTION

The Fall Festival Committee will have a Silent Auction at the Church from 8AM until after the Christmas Brunch on December 14th. Please come and do some Christmas shopping for yourself or others on uour gift list. If you did not get an item ready to donate for the Fall Festival Silent Auction and would like to donate it now, please contact Judy Fisk 610-644-2269, Stephanie Borelly @ 610=948-4389 or Cindy Shallcross @610-644-4653.



CONFERENCE & DISTRICT NEWS *Judy Fisk*

Our district conference not to be confused with Annual Conference will be 3-5 PM on April 12, 2015. The place has not been set.

Upcoming Training Workshops

February 7, 2015 SPRC at Messiah UMC with Our District Superintendent Dr. Powell as the facilitator

February 21, 2015 Lay leaders with the District Lay Leaders as facilitators

March 7, 2015 Tools for Ministry Workshops

April 11, 2015 Church Council

April 25, 2015 Finance

May 9, 2015 Trustees

The last four are in the planning stage. More information is forth coming

Long Range Plans July 10-15 2016 The Eastern PA conference will host the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in Lancaster, PA. Our District will host one of the days.



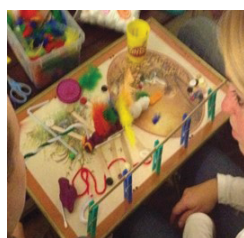
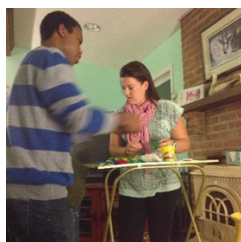
Thank you for putting Miles on your prayer chain and for your kind note. Miles was discharged from the NICU and is happy at home with his parents. He is a strong, feisty little guy and should do well. Thank you for your prayers and concern. We all appreciate it. Sincerely, Debbie Senior

BUMC YOUTH GROUP/YOUNG ADULT NEWS

Ed Moyer, Youth Director

Winter is fast approaching,

Christmas will be coming soon enough can you believe it. To begin there is a new ministry starting for the young adults. We combined our young adults here in Berwyn and combined Paoli U.M.C to start a young adult bible study. So far it has been epic!! We meet every other week at a home from a Berwyn U.M.C. resident and switching using a home at Paoli U.M.C. resident. We are currently studying the book **Practicing the ways of Jesus :Life together in the kingdom of love by : Mark Scandrette**. The first meeting was a huge success with 10 people showing up. We got to get to know each other and engage in a few group activities. The best part about this bible study is that the young adults are not afraid to be brutally honest about the topics discussed and I love it!!



Our second young adult meeting was seeing a missionary from Brazil talking about human traffic and what they are doing to share the love of God to both teens and adults in prostitution. We got to hear about what the missionaries are doing to get women out of prostitution, get them to know Jesus, and get a job trade. What an amazing time. It was heartfelt and challenging. Feel free to check out the missionary's web-site: <http://www.shoresofgrace.org>

The youth at Berwyn got the chance to rock climbing at Philadelphia rock gym this past November. The youth got to see they had the strength to climb up parts of the wall they thought they could not climb. It was great to see all the teamwork helping build people up to get youth up to the top of the rock wall. We even had competitions to see whom could climb up a part of the rock wall first.

That is all for this month. Thanks for all the prayers and support that each and every one of you have given the youth and young adults over the past few months. Please continue to talk to the youth and young adults and engage with them. Also continue to keep both the youth and young adults and even myself in prayer. May God bless you and use you in powerful ways this season.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM &

CLUB BERWYN

Cindy Shallcross

Halloween Club Berwyn was Ghoulishly Fun!

A fun time was had by all the costumed children who came out to the Halloween Club Berwyn Friday October 24th! They made adorable pumpkins out of, what else, toilet paper rolls, crepe paper, green construction paper and fall stickers! If you attended the Harvest Dinner, you may have noticed the centerpieces and wondered what they were made of. Believe it or not, the centerpieces were toilet paper rolls! Since their creation, the pumpkins have been used to adorn the refreshment tables during the Bell Choir Concert. Soon they will be passed on in their "pumpkin-ness", to Trinity Food Bank to brighten the Thanksgiving tables of families in need. The kids had fun making them and adding some festive fun to the season. The fun continued with the kids playing a pumpkin relay race and a game of Halloween Bingo. They showed their moves as they danced to Halloween music! They enjoyed a yummy snack of cookies and juice before heading into the night and off to bed!

Dates to Remember:

Advent Fair! December 1 from 9:15-10:15 during Sunday School Hour-We were asked again to create ornaments for the Children's Tree in the Narthex! So please come out to the Advent Fair ready to create that one-of-a-kind ornament or 2 or 3 to hang on our tree!

December 6th- at 1:00-Hanging of the Greens! Everyone is invited to help Christmas-tize the church for the season of Advent! Families come out to help decorate the Children's Christmas Tree!

Children's Christmas Play at 5:30 Christmas Eve! The Children's Sunday School classes will be practicing for the Children's Christmas Play in Sunday School during the month of December

Recordings of Sunday Services are available.

Contact Jon Stockler at

610-348-3385 or

JStockler@aol.com

Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Gary Jacobella

Children's Coordinator: Cynthia Shallcross

Lay Leaders: Janet Campbell & David Adams

Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley

Youth Coordinator: Ed Moyer

Organist/Director of Music: Judith Lang

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

REMEMBER THOSE ACME STAMPS FROM LAST YEAR???

MECCA finally found a source for all those ACME stamps everyone collected last year: The PA Home of the Sparrow, a transitional housing, support and counseling center for women and their children. Pastor Gary, Bernie (who was our camera person), and several members of MECCA visited the Sparrow offices in Exton on November 11th to hand over 16 place settings of Rachel Ray dishes. We had a tour of the office facilities and heard about the missions of the Sparrow by their CEO, Pat McLennan, CPA. We learned a great deal about what they do for the families (senior citizens, too) in Chester County. Pat was very excited to get our dishes as they were about to transition four families into housing.



We mentioned we were collecting ACME stamps for Cuisinart pots and pans and Pat expressed real hope that we might consider them. KEEP COLLECTING THOSE ACME STAMPS.



BOOK / MEDIA SUMMARIES FROM CHURCH LIBRARY *Marjorie Smink*

ADULT

Never Give Up: Relentless Determination to Overcome Life's Challenges by Joyce Meyer, c2009, published by Faith Words. [248.4 Mey]

The author wants you to think of this book as a manual to use as you pursue the best in every area of your life. It is designed to give the inspiration you need to keep plugging on even when weariness sets in and life looks grim. It will help to give you strength to soar above life's tests and trials, increase determination and learn how to turn adversity into opportunity. It will empower perseverance and confidence in God's ability to see you through to the achievement of the goals He has given you. It will strengthen your faith in His desire to fulfill the dreams he has put in your heart.



Thank you very much to everyone who attended the Praise Ringers Hand Bell Concert last month.

Thank you to everyone who contributed food and drinks for refreshments. Big thanks also to those who hosted and greeted all our guests. It was a wonderful, meaningful night of music and voices. I look forward to more bell ringing at Berwyn United Methodist Church.

Judith Lang



Did you know BUMC is on Facebook? We are! Each week upcoming events, fun facts and photos are uploaded. When you log into Facebook go into the search box and type in **Berwyn UMC**. There we are! Like us and you will be notified of all updates. Once you like us, invite friends and family to like us too. The more the merrier. Social media and technology in general is becoming more and more relevant in the Church. It is a great way to stay connected when you are away from home and it certainly helps our young people stay involved. Spread the word—Berwyn UMC is on Facebook!

Also be sure to check out our church's website **www.berwynumc.org** Did you know you can get electronic versions of The Lighted Cross? Bookmark www.berwynumc.org so you have easy access or better yet make it your home page on your personal computer.



Church Phone:

610-644-5555

Office E-mail:

officebumc@comcast.net

Church Website:

berwynumc.org

Next deadline: December 10, 2014

Our mission is 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. Submit items to

kristineadamspc@verizon.net by the end of the day **Dec 10**. The next issue is scheduled to be delivered by postal mail by Jan 1, and an electronic version will be available earlier on the church website.



Our Mission Statement

God calls Berwyn UMC to be a community

Of Christian believers that:

Invites ~ Nurtures ~ Encourages Service

Sunday Morning Worship

8:30 AM	Early Worship
9:15 AM	Sunday School for all Ages
10:30 AM	Traditional Worship

Email: office@berwynumc.com

Fax: 610-644-7890

Church Office: 610-644-5555

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 701
SOUTHEASTERN PA

Berwyn United Methodist Church
140 Waterloo Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19312