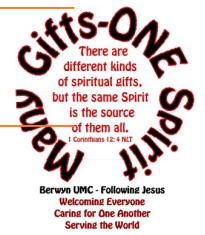


THE LIGHTED CROSS

BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



January 2015

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Save the Date!

Jan 4—Epiphany Sun.

Jan 17—Used Computer & Medical Supplies Collection

Feb 14—Supper Club Valentine's Day Dinner

Feb 18—Ash Wed.

Feb 22—Kit Building Service

Feb 22—Lent begins

March 29—Palm Sunday

United Methodist Women Reach Out to Bless the World—Carol Cherry

As a gift of gratitude for God's abundance our BUMC congregation contributed \$459.00 for the World Thank Offering on November 23. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission in the United States and around the world carried out through the United Methodist Women's national office. A display of fabrics from many countries and candles we lit provided us the chance to remember the needs of others throughout the world and imagine Christ's light reaching everyone.



In the spirit of Advent, members of several Western Main Line ConneXion UMW units and other guests joined us at BUMC on December 6 to prepare birthing kits. Twenty-one women joined hands and hearts to make 60 kits. These will be sent via Mission Central to UMCOR for use throughout the world. Birthing kits provide the essential items to promote a safe, clean delivery and to encourage good aftercare. As we worked we thought of the connection between those young, poor women who will receive the kits and Mary, mother of Jesus. She also was a poor teenage pregnant girl who gave birth in a not-so-clean place. A special thank you to all who participated and provided kit items.



Pastor's Thoughts—

Gary Jacabella

As I write these thoughts it is a snowy day in Advent. You should receive these thoughts during Christmas which goes on for twelve days beginning with December 25 all the way to Epiphany Day.

Epiphany Day means a lot to me because it is the day we celebrate the coming of the Magi to worship the child Jesus.

Each year before Christmas, my home church staged a splendid pageant of the Christmas Story which combined both Luke and Matthew's accounts. Every year I was singing in one of the choirs from cherub to children's to youth. And every year my Dad played the part of one of the Magi.

My home church, like so many churches in America, imagined three Magi coming from different places around the world. Our Christmas Pageant had one white Magi, one black Magi and one in between Magi. My Dad was the in between Magi. Since he was Italian, he was too dark to be white and too light to be black but perfect for the third Magi. The white Magi and the Black Magi were both tall men, so my Dad was the short one. The costume was made for my Dad. I doubt that anyone else wears it now that my Dad has died. It's probably hanging up in a closet somewhere in the church building. *(continued on page 3)*

Save the Date!

There will be another kit-building service on February 22, 2015. Details of what items will be needed will be announced in the New Year. Thank you for your continued and generous support of this mission!



LAY LEADER LETTER -

Janet K Campbell

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2015!!

We are about to begin a new year, very hard to believe we are fifteen years into the mysteries of the year 2000 and beyond!

Have you walked around our church lately? Have you seen all of the activities going on? **BUMNS**, our wonderful nursery school is full of laughing and leaping children eager to learn all that is offered. On Monday evenings **The American Heritage Girls** are busy in our Schieck Hall. When I visited last, they were weaving potholders for a badge project. **Boy Scout Troop 181** meets on Tuesday evenings with a lively bunch of boys. The flag ceremony to end each meeting is special to behold. The Boy Scout Troop recently patched and painted the cabin on our property!

Cub Scout Troop 113 meets on Thursday evenings and you will find the young boys working on becoming Boy Scouts. The **children of our church** meet Cindy and our teachers for Sunday school on Sunday mornings after their 'choir' rehearsal with Judith in the choir room. Do you know there are bulletin boards outside of Schieck Hall which share pictures of some of the fun? Come on down and see the wonderful display!

Come into the church any time of the day and you will see busy children and teachers and so many others. Come into the church any evening and you will see our building ablaze with light as both community meetings and our own church committees are gathering. Yoga on Saturday mornings in Schieck Hall, community meetings held in the parlor on Saturday afternoons. On Thursday at 7:30, the choir is in rehearsal to help bring the message to our Sunday services. Rick Stoker and his crew just finished Soupy Thursdays which helped warm some very cold evenings. We have room for more!

(Continued on page 3)



The children were busy practicing for BUMNS annual Holiday Show. The show, under the direction of Laura Hui, was presented on Tuesday, December 16th at 9:30. Judith Lang was the piano accompanist for the program. Church members are always invited to this annual event. It was a very enjoyable morning.

Families of BUMNS donated toys for Berwyn Methodist Church's mission project. The children enjoyed the gift of giving to others. In January, the children will be participating in an Outreach supporting the HUB mission of the church.

The preschool will reopen on January 5, 2015. We wish the church family a joyous holiday. May all the blessings of Christmas be with you.



Soupy Thursday continues in January

Take out is available each Thursday beginning at 5pm. Soup is \$5/Qt. and home baked bread is \$3/loaf. Join others and eat in Schieck Hall from 6p-715p. A free will offering is taken. Soup, bread, beverage and dessert is available each evening.

Jan. 1 – no soup, Jan. 8 – lentil, Jan. 15 – cream of broccoli,

Jan. 22 – vegetable beef, Jan. 29 – TBA.



Valentines Day Dinner, All Supper Club Event

Our annual all supper club event this year will be a Valentines Day Dinner. The men of the church will prepare and serve a prime rib dinner to all attendees. This event is open to the whole church. It will be held on Sat. Feb. 14th beginning at 6pm in Schieck Hall. Please see February's Lighted Cross for all the details.



(Pastor's Thoughts continued)

While I was growing up, the costume would come to our house every year and my Mom would make sure it was in perfect shape for the Christmas Pageant. She was an expert seamstress, able to make my boyhood winter dress coat out of fine Scottish wool with a lining that shimmered and went down into the sleeves so my arms easily slid into warmth the winter winds could not penetrate. It was my Mom who spearheaded making our cherub choir gowns. I remember how hard she worked figuring out how to sew the bows so that the ends would lay flat.

When my Dad put on his Magi costume, he would start out making it something of a joke. He had his impish ways that especially tickled the children who would gape in awe of the regal appearance of the Magi during rehearsals. My Dad couldn't help connecting with the children. He was childlike himself. He would make the most of looking a little bit scary but then the twinkle in his eye would reassure the children that it's just Mr. Jacobella, the guy you know who is a school teacher, the short Magi who never hesitates to sit with the children and tell them stories.

I guess that's what made my Dad such a wonderful Magi. He was a storyteller. Even though the characters in the Christmas Pageant had no spoken lines, even though my Dad would start out joking around, on the night of the Pageant, he was the third Magi. There was no pretending. My Dad had that storyteller's heart, full of love for children, a heart full of magic. He could make magic happen. When he came forward to lay his gift before the baby Jesus the jokes were over, he was not acting, this was worship.

Nothing could be better for my Dad than for God to come as a child. He devoted his life to serving children. He devoted his life to the student in his class who struggled the most. He was the scout master who must have told stories around more than a thousand camp fires. He had a unique connection with the boy who came from God to live as one of the least.

"Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to your perfect light."

My Dad's favorite Christmas Carol just happened to have been written by another Italian, Christina Rossetti. I don't think my Dad knew who wrote the poem. The last verse of that carol is one I memorized, not to sing but to recite, at a children's Sunday School Christmas program.

"What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what can I give him: give my heart."

It didn't matter that every year my Dad brought an empty container to lay before Jesus in the manger. There was no pretending. Every year he gave his heart.

Happy Epiphany!



(Lay Leader continued from page 2) We have reached out to the surrounding area to tell them our wonderful facility is available to them for use for birthday parties, meetings, events, weddings, funerals, reunions and day long retreats. A brochure has been sent out and pricing and rental information is available through the office from Veronica. We have a wonderful church and a beautiful space to share. Let's get the word out. We have many blessings, let's share them!



BUMC Book Club 2014-15: 7:00pm, 3rd Wed. of the month

Jan 21st, Book: *Inferno* by Dan Brown, Presenter: Alan Hess, Host: Alan & Jeannette Hess. The Book Club is open to anyone interested in the book(s) they are reading. Come to one or all of the meetings. We are always looking for new members. We do ask anyone planning to attend a meeting to notify the host prior to the meeting.

Mission Update—Jeff Barger

The Mission Committee would like to thank the members and friends of BUMC for their generous and wonderful donations during the holiday season. The gifts of toys, clothes, gift cards and toiletries bring such joy to those who are less fortunate than we are.

Children International has recently contacted me about our sponsored child Evaness in Zambia. Her family has unexpectedly moved out of the sponsorship area and can't be located. We now have a new sponsored child, her name is Florence Lukelo, age 11. Our penny jar donations help Florence with medical care, educational support, clothing and shoes. Through our generosity we're able to bring real and lasting change to needy children and give Florence hope for a brighter future.



Used Computer and Medical Supply Collection Jim Tiede

On Saturday January 17, 2015, the Community Action Team (CAT) will be sponsoring a used computer and medical supply collection day. The used computer collection will be similar to the event we have held in the past. Computer equipment of any type (PCs, laptops, modems, monitors, etc, etc) will be accepted. Please, no TVs. In addition, we will also be collecting new or gently used medical equipment and unopened medical supplies in support of Project C.U.R.E., another outreach of Mission Central, "delivering health and hope to the world". Examples of items we are collecting are wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, splints, BP cuffs, and braces. No medications or opened needles please. Feel free to circulate this information among your family, friends and places of work. In addition, we would greatly appreciate the help off some volunteers on January 17. Please let us know if you could spend an hour or so that day greeting people who are dropping items of and helping to organize them in the Scout Cabin. Contact Jim Tiede (610-716-6599; jim.tiede@gmail.com).

BUMC YOUTH GROUP/ YOUNG ADULT NEWS

Ed Moyer, Youth Director

Advent is here and with that comes the awesome birth of Christ!!! Never forget that Christ is the reason for Christmas. The young adults of BUMC are doing great things. We might only meet every other week, but when we meet there is much to be learned. During our past lesson I challenged the young adults to pray in silence for 20 minutes a day. For all of them this was a hard task, but each person learned something great from this experience. In the upcoming month we will be feeding the elderly and homeless. Who knows what the young adults will suggest to be the hands and feet of Christ to others....Stay tuned for next month to see what we are doing.

Youth News:

Dec 28th Christmas Party @2 P.M Berwyn U.M.C

January 17th Winter Jam leaving at 5 P.M at Berwyn U.M.C
<http://2015.jamtour.com/>

February 1st Super bowl..Location TBA

March 6th-8th: Young Adult retreat at Gretna Glen

March 15h Lasertag at grand Slam
<http://www.grandslammalvern.com/>

April 24th : 30 Hour Famine

May 9th : Good Works Service Project

Jesus is the gift that keeps on forgiving.
May God bless and use you in powerful ways this season.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM & CLUB BERWYN

Cindy Shallcross

Advent Fair was all a flurry with activity! The kids loved making the various ornament crafts for our Children's Christmas tree. Some of the ornaments tested the skills of the parents on hand. Thank you parents! There was a lot of glue used, and left to dry after we were finished. We also created about 6 feet of paper chains to use as garland for our tree, too.

On Saturday December 6th, many families and members came out to Christmas-tize the church. This is when the Children's Christmas tree was formally decorated. Then during the 10:30 church service on December 7, the kids were busy participating. Pastor Gary shared the meanings behind the symbols of Christmas such as holly, mistletoe, evergreens, wreaths, etc. The kids took turns presenting each symbol on the altar. During the service there was a time where everyone was asked to write their Christmas wish on a strip of red or green paper. The kids passed out and collected the wish papers, then diligently made paper chains with them. The kids worked together to then hang the Christmas Wish Paper Chain Garland on the Children's Christmas tree!

Christmas Pageant

Carols were sung and the Christmas story was presented by the children of the church. The kids performed the story of "This is God's Son" by Daphna Flegal. Isabel Adams and Owen Renneisen were our narrators. They told how ordinary people were asked to do the extraordinary in the story of Jesus' birth. Mary was played by Olivia Jarrin; and Joseph was played by Tanner Wolov. Cadence Gaiski, Mackenzie Hogan and Heidi Renneisen were our angels. Henry Fuerst, Sofia Montaner, and AJ Zerby were our shepherds. Our various animals were played by Jake Hogan (head Sheep), Beckett Gaiski, Ethan Green, Mason Green, Ellie Fisher, Spencer Zurby, and Rayna Shallcross. The children also helped throughout the service during the offering, and communion.

I thank all of my kids for the work they did to make this extraordinary story come alive. I couldn't be more proud of them!



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

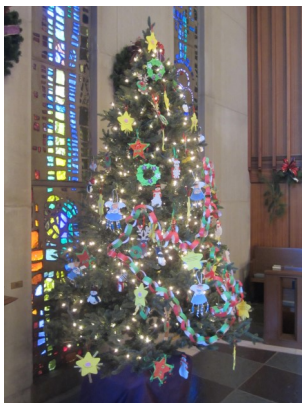
Youth Coordinator: Ed Moyer

Organist/Director of Music: Judith Lang

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz



BUMC is blessed to have many talented people who use their gifts to make our church beautiful year round, but especially at Christmas time. Thank you to Sue D., the children and all the volunteers who decorated our church home this year.



**BOOK / MEDIA
SUMMARIES FROM CHURCH
LIBRARY**
Marjorie Smink

Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity by Adam Hamilton, c2012, published by Abingdon Press. [241.68 Ham]
Enough is an invitation to rediscover the Bible's wisdom when it comes to prudent financial practices. In these pages are found the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity. This book could change your life, by changing your relationship with money. Hamilton hopes to offer "an invitation for you to rediscover truths previous generations knew - wisdom that was drawn from pages of Scripture. It is meant to be a guide and a source of encouragement and inspiration." The book is a concise 4 chapter read that addresses the challenge of how to live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ in our consumer driven world.

The Power of Praying Together by Stormie Omartian with Jack Hayford, c2003, published by Harvest House Publishers. [248.32 Oma]
Stormie Omartian and her longtime pastor, Jack Hayford, look at the benefits and power of praying with others. Readers will discover how to find a prayer partner create a prayer group tap into the power of a praying church, unite in prayer as a nation and cover the world in prayer. More than just a "how to" book, ***The Power of Praying Together*** helps readers discover that when they are willing to link their hearts with others before God, they open themselves up to a wider, more interactive world of prayer.

Conference & District News

Our district's next Tools for Ministry workshop will be held March 7, 2015 at Christ United Methodist Church in Lansdale. Christ UMC is located at 1020 VF Road Lansdale, PA. The day starts with breakfast from 7:45am—8:30am and the workshop is from 8:30am—3:30pm. Mark your calendar, Annual Conference will be held May 14-16 in Oaks.



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: January 14, 2015

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 **Jan 14**. The next issue is scheduled to be delivered by postal mail by Feb 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

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