



BERN REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NOVEMBER 2011

**Our worship time on Sunday is 10:30 am
Sunday school is at 9 am.
Pastor Dalious is in the office
Tuesday thru Thursday from
9:30 am to 11:00 am**



*From the
Pastor's
Desk*

I would like to begin by sharing the Confirmation Class with you. The students this year are: Ethan Heck, Kayla LaFaver, and Emily Tobias. With them, we have an opportunity to share in the reaffirmation of the vows they or their parents' accepted at their baptisms. These are the promises of the congregation, too, as we pledge our help and nurture to the baptized as well as those charged with their care. So how do we step up and do this?

We can begin by adding these three travelers of the faith to our prayers. They will need the touch of the Spirit to fully make this giant step of commitment. We can humbly ask the Lord for this gift and to grant it to this class throughout this study year and into their new lives as maturing disciples of Christ. We can also be open to their questions about the faith, the Bible, the church, the sacraments, the institutional life of the church and its mission, etc., as they meet the challenges of their studies. Be honest and committed to grow with them. If asked something you don't know, offer to search for the answer and find out together! Let them also know of your struggles with life and the faith as well as the resources that help you survive, so they can be prepared for their difficult times too. And above all, let them know of your love for the Lord and through him, your love for them and what they are committing to do; love and respect all God's children. We have not made the confirmation decision and experience a 'big (enough) deal' and we need to! It is not an ending or graduation from Sunday School or Christian Education, but a choice to begin a life of love and service to others in Christ's name and way. In other words, it is a commitment to give life and love to Christ's call to tend and feed the lambs and the sheep for another generation. Let's cheer them on in every way possible. The world needs Christ's love and these three are offering their hands, feet, eyes, ears, hearts, and lives to God's plan of salvation, in and through Christ's love. That IS a VERY BIG DEAL!!! Let 'em know that you, and all the saints that have gone before us, are with them!

Thanks in advance.

One in Christ,

Rev. Bruce E. Dalious



“Spiritual Entrepreneurship”

By merging the words spiritual and entrepreneur, the definition might be; a person that manages any spiritual enterprise, especially a community of faith, usually with considerable initiative and risk.,

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Fall meeting of the Heidelberg Association Committee on Ministry. I would like to share some of the comments from the guest speaker, Bishop Dwayne Royster, of “Living Waters UCC”, Philadelphia. The title listed above was the theme of his discussion. I’m going to paraphrase his comments as best I can. “We should all strive to become a spiritual entrepreneur; take risks out of our comfort zone (be provocative), step out for Jesus. We need to renew ourselves and re-think church. The American model of family is not the biblical model”.

The church as well as the community is hurting. The world is changing around us and we need to renew and refresh ourselves. What does our faith say to people who have their backs against the wall?

What are the needs of our neighbors and what keeps them from sleeping at night? Where can we provide healing? Where are you hurting? How can we build relationships? **If the church closed tomorrow, would anyone in the community care?**

What excites you about your relationship with God? What excites you about your church? We can change the dynamics of communities of faith to change the world by being:

- Relevant
- Revolutionary
- Redemptive
- Restorative
- Renewing
- Refreshing

The outcome will be new souls gathering for the sake of growing in their spiritual journey.

Keep the Faith,
Ron Boyer, President



Modern technology has come to Bern. We now have two classrooms that house computers with internet capabilities. This allows teachers to access curriculum, worksheets, and resource material for their classes. It also offers interactive opportunities for teachers & youth.

The Little Lamb, class will be learning about Abraham this month.

The Church Mice, will be learning about Prayer. This class will also decorate the Sunday School hall bulletin board for Fall. Be sure to check out their art work.

The Young Prophets, continue their lessons on building trust in God.

Teen Mission I, as their newly named classroom suggests, will be focusing on mission, in addition to their various scripture based discussions. The rotation of teachers is working well, as each share their teaching techniques and ideas to our youth.

Children's Church Time Ministry will be following the life and teachings of Moses.

A \$220.00 profit was realized through our Friends Helping Friends shopping passes. All proceeds will go to CE.

Please note: There will be no Children's Church Time ministry on November 13th.

Nancy Boyer & Loretta Dickinson, Co-Directors of CE



Nov. 6 - "First Sunday Old Fashioned" - "Return of the *Vorleser*"

Nov. 13 - Bob Howell on Remembering the Holidays with Bern Church*

Nov. 20 - Ineavelle Ruiz from Reading Hispanic Center

***Nov. 27 - Open? Another "Religion in the news"?**



Help our kids' schools....

A collection box is set up in the Narthex for Education Box Tops and Campbell's Labels for Education for our local schools. Lots of products have Box Tops or Labels (some may surprise you!). A complete list of products can be found in the Narthex. We will periodically split any Box Tops or Campbell's Labels among the schools that our Sunday School children attend (Tulpehocken, Schuylkill Valley, Gov. Mifflin). If you purchase any of the participating items, just bring in the labels or Box Top and put them in the collection box. Thank you for all of your help.



The 10 people that went to Ronald McDonald House to prepare a meal on Saturday, October 15th, had a good time. It was very rewarding to be able to make a meal for families who are going thru a stressful and difficult time. Claude Ohlinger was our chief chef and kept the rest of us busy and in line.



Let us help with your holiday dinners. Buy your potato filling from us. Please order by November 6th for \$5.00 a quart. Please call Nancy Fisher @ 610-488-1967 or Sylvia Herman @ 610-926-8069 and Barbara Reed 610-678-2890. Pick-up will be Saturday November 19th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday after Church.

Order Your Potato Filling



Don't Forget
About Script Cards
For the Holidays

We will be selling the script cards for your Holiday shopping so start thinking about those gifts now. Orders and check needs to be given to Corey Wolf by November 27th and delivery is 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Thank you for all your support in Fund Raiser events.



**WORSHIP
ASSISTANTS**

Our worship assistants for this month:

November 6 — 10:30 AM All Saints Sunday

Selections: Matthew 14:13-21

Reader: TBA

Greeters: Gerald Knorr and George Seifrit

Acolyte: Krissy Wolf

Ushers: Don. Dickinson Mike and Kim Whittemore, Gail Pettit

Altar: Betty Riegel

November 13 — 10:30 AM Stewardship Sunday

Selections: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Reader: TBA

Greeters: Glenn and Elaine Noecker

Acolyte: David Smith

Ushers: Glenn Noecker, Janet Mogel, Jim Beidler, Stacey

Altar: Kim W.

November 20 — 10:30 AM

Selections: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Matthew 25:31-46

Reader: Karen Braucher

Greeters: Kayla LaFaver and Emily Tobias

Acolyte: Caitlin Haws

Ushers: Ken Noecker, Mike and Kim Whittemore, Lacey Boyer

Altar: Nancy Fisher

November 27 — 10:30 AM First Sunday of Advent *Communion*

Selections: Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

Reader: Ron Boyer

Greeters: Sam and Gail Petit

Acolyte: Tom Heiser

Ushers: Linda and Larry Benevit, Iva, Doug Wentzel, Gail Pettit

Altar: Pam Schonour and Dina Schuck

Announcement person this month is Glenn Noecker

Elder for hospital visitation is



The Stewardship Campaign slogan for this year is “You can all be a Star at Bern Church”. The first point of the star is for ‘giving’. And the Capital Campaign sure has brought out the ‘stars’ for ‘giving’.

We are inching ever closer to a milestone (\$300,00.00) in giving and by the time you receive this newsletter we may very well have reached that milestone. Kirby/Smith, the professional company that we use, estimated that we would only raise \$300,00.00 in three years. We are not quite finished with our second year and we have reached that goal.

Keep the faith and keep on praying for the success of our campaign. We are doing a fantastic job and with all of us working together, we can do great things with our campaign. Thanks for all you are doing.



Financial update

While working through the financials and reports to simplify reporting throughout the year, the accruals have been eliminated from the report.

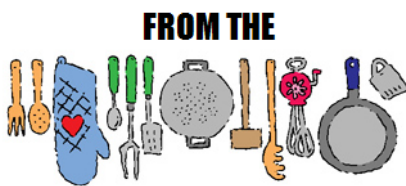
The year-to-date cash deficit through September 30th is \$13,152.14. There remain some significant quarterly expenses for the year as well as property insurance to be paid.

OCWM Commitment—\$11, 660.25 has been paid for the year toward the total amount budgeted of \$14, 600.00. Please also think of the church's wider mission and Capital Campaign in your giving.

A special thanks to Fern Blatt for her years of service to the Church as Accounts Analyst and also for her assistance in the transition.

Sincerely,

Corey S. Wolfe, Accounts Analyst



FROM THE

The Committee Concerns Cooking Crew will be making chicken corn noodle soup and their famous bread pudding on Tuesday,

November 22, starting at 5:30 p.m. They will need chicken broth, canned or frozen corn, noodles, milk, butter, sugar and raisins or cranberries, Help is always welcomed.

Community Concern Cooking Crew

The food pantry continues to need additional groceries like cereal, peanut butter, jams, jellies, crackers, canned fruit and veggies, soups, pasta and baking items. They need paper products and grocery bags to take the items home in.

Continue to save those Redner tapes. Questions or comments?? Call Betty Reigel @ 610-488-1680 or Iva Trumbore @ 610-373-8516.

Thanks to everyone for all of your many donations.

From the
Church
Secretary



Hi. My name is Jodi Avanzato and I am happy to be here at Bern Church as your new Church Secretary. I will be in the Church Office on Monday-Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. I would like to meet you, so please feel free to come into the Office during those times to say 'hi'. I have met several members so far, and everyone has been very welcoming. Thank you. Hope to meet you soon!



Office Equipment
Donations Needed

There are a few items that are needed to be updated in the Church Office that would make the office run more smoothly and efficiently. If you have any of these items and would like to donate them, please let us know. They would be greatly appreciated!

Computer desk

Adjustable Desk Chair



Office
Help
Wanted!

If you, or anyone you know, would like to help me in the Church Office getting the Bulletins collated and folded, or help with the Monthly Newsletter collating, folding, labeling and organizing it to be mailed out, I would greatly appreciate it. I would like to form a list of volunteers that may like to help out with this. We will have baked goods and coffee and/or tea to help us get through the job, along with lots of fun just being able to hang out with your friends and possibly make some new ones. Please call me in the Office on Monday through Thursday from 9am-3:30pm, to let me know if you would like to help out. Thank you so much.

Jodi



Bern Reformed UCC
 3196 Bernville Rd., Rt. 183
 Leesport, PA 19533
 Phone: 610.926-1161

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage P A I D
 Reading, PA 19612
 P I #41

Prepared for...

WWW.BERNREFORMEDUCC.ORG

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

November

CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH



November Birthday

- 1 Herbert Heck
- 3 Sterling Lamb
- 4 Arlene Reed
- Suzanne Vituszynski
- 5 Judy Whitmoyer
- 8 Brenda Wentzel
- 10 Michelle Neiswender
- 11 Morton Heim
- Michelle Bulles

- 15 Thomas M. Ulrich
- 16 Betty Luckenbill
- 19 Michael M. Kerber
- 21 Marie Ohlinger
- 22 Adam Moerder
- Stan McCarty
- 23 Patrick Kirn
- 25 Dawn Ryder
- 27 Mary Degler
- Karen Howell
- 29 Roy F. Ziegler
- Iva Trumbore
- 30 Pamela Wagner

Our Special "Youth" Birthdays

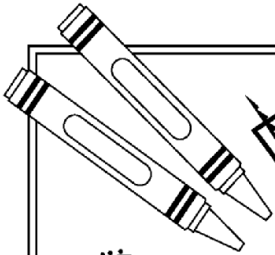
- 14 Justin Ulrich
- 20 Andrew Fleek
- 28 Dimitrois Aletras
- 30 Maxwell Himmelberger

~~oops!~~

From a worship bulletin in Baltimore, Maryland:

CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM THE STAFF
 Peach on earth, goodwill toward all.
 Blessings in the New Year!

Wishing everyone a peachy, *peace*-filled Christmas!



PUZZLE

Give Praise

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, underline the word that doesn't belong. Then write the underlined words on the lines below.

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Give
Take
Grab | 2. peanut
praise
pear | 3. temple
house
LORD | 4. proclaim
past
present | 5. name
boy
lad | 6. ruin
destroy
make |
| 7. pine
acorn
known | 8. train
nations
bus | 9. done
donut
muffin | 10. Sing
Sleep
Yawn | 11. she
him
girl | 12. sun
praise
moon |
| 13. tell
fast
slow | 14. red
all
blue | 15. horrible
dreadful
wonderful | 16. acts
sisters
aunts | | |

" _____ to the _____ , _____ his _____ ;
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____ .
 _____ to _____ , sing _____ to him; _____ of _____ his
 _____ ." PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answers: 1. Give, 2. praise, 3. LORD, 4. proclaim, 5. name, 6. make, 7. known, 8. nations, 9. done, 10. Sing, 11. him, 12. praise, 13. tell, 14. all, 15. wonderful, 16. acts.
 Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. (Psalm 105:1-2, NIV)



"I'd prefer turkey nuggets."

SIGN OF THANKFULNESS

Create this festive sign, which will serve as a yearlong reminder to be grateful.

What you need:

- Hole punch
- Large piece of cardboard or cardstock
- Twine
- Twigs
- Glue
- Acorns, leaves (real or silk) and raffia

What you do:

1. Punch two holes in the top of the cardboard.
2. Thread twine through the holes and tie it in a knot (for hanging).
3. Using twigs, spell out "Be Thankful," "Thank God" or a similar phrase about gratitude. Glue the twigs onto the cardboard.
4. Decorate the sign by gluing on acorns, leaves and raffia.
5. Hang up your sign. Whenever you see it, think of something for which you're grateful to God.



