

The MESSENGER

Published by
**Baptist Church of
West Chester**

November/December 2010

Pastor's Notes

WOW!

What a fall we've had. I recall saying something about the summer not slowing down and we would slip right into fall. Boy, was I the innocent one. It has been like a whirlwind, with all of our activities, emphases, special programs and general excitement. If you haven't been to Worship services lately, you are missing out.

The Chancel Choir is off to a rousing start to the New Year and looking forward to the Christmas Cantata. The Praise Team has re-gearred and is leading us in exciting, thrilling music each Sunday. Attendance is up. Youth Sunday was a blast. The Ministries Expo opened a lot of eyes to possibilities of service here at BCWC. And the Missions Fair exposed many of the outreach programs we support throughout the area. Both were extremely well attended, and lunch added a special time of fellowship to our Worship.

Can you believe Thanksgiving is upon us, and the Advent Season is beginning? What blessings does God have in store for us in the days ahead? I can hardly wait to see. Have you met several of the new families and individuals who have been worshipping with us recently? Many are new in the area and would probably welcome offers of orientation and information about their new home.

The Pastoral Search Committee was appointed and has begun their search process in earnest. The church promised to pray for them regularly, as they were commissioned during Worship in September. They will be making regular reports to the congregation as they work, and sharing as much information as they can as they progress under God's leading. Pray also for the person God is leading to them and you. What blessings God has in store for your future.

Thank you for your favorable response to the new appearance of The Messenger. Those who are able to receive it electronically are helping reduce the expenses, and this allows us to publish it more frequently, every two months rather than three. This will keep information fresher and more complete as you plan your schedules.

Thank you for your prayers and concern regarding my recent surgery. Six months ago I didn't know they did total shoulder replacements; now I have one. It was not an injury that brought this about, simply wear and tear over many years of active living and athletics (mostly softball).

Let me go back to the Search Process for your new pastor and clarify a few things for everyone. First, while I am honored to hear your comments about how long you would like me to stay as your interim, and that you hope the Committee will take a long time, that is not a healthy attitude for the church. *(continued on page 8)*

For more BCWC information
visit us at
www.bcwc.org



Thanksgiving Eve
Worship Service
November 24, 7 p.m.

St. Agnes Roman
Catholic Church
233 W. Gay St., West Chester

Preview of what's inside:

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*Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner**

**November 13
Lowry Hall
5:30 p.m.**

**Come learn more about the members of your church family!
Attending? Sign up at the information table in Lowry Hall.**

**There will be sharing, singing, and a devotional thought from
Vica Shaffer, our Director of Children and Family Ministries.**

**"Your ticket:" Bring a food item (list available soon)
for the West Chester Food Cupboard.**

Menu

prepared by BCWC Chef Bob Pyle

turkey breast
potatoes & gravy
relish tray

peas & carrots
cranberry sauce
rolls & butter

**Dessert: separate sign-up sheet at the information table
for those who want to make a homemade pie**

Invite a friend to meet our wonderful BCWC family!

** Sponsored by the Men's Fellowship*

There will be a free-will offering to cover the cost of the dinner.

In December



Christmas Decorations

Following worship on
Sunday, November 28...

Preparation of decorations
Saturday, November 27
1-4 p.m.



West Chester Old Fashioned Christmas Parade

Parade Date
Friday, December 3
6:45 p.m.
(Rain date 12/4)

Once again this year, we will have a float in the Old Fashioned Christmas Parade. Come out to see our Living Nativity float, complete with Christmas music, sheep (costumed children), and costumed adults walking along the parade route, wishing folks a Merry Christmas. If you want to be part of the "cast," please contact Diane Heald at 610-696-4409 or nubble2@verizon.net.



Giving Tree

Sunday, December 5

Our Giving Tree for
Bridge of Hope
Lancaster & Chester Counties

*Ending homelessness one
church, one family at a time*

Bridge of Hope's goal is to end and prevent homelessness for single mothers and their children. During a 12- to 18-month program, women receive support while attaining financial stability, healthy relationships, and holistic growth. **Over 80% of the women entering the program graduate successfully.**

Needed: Gift cards of \$25 each for Target, Giant, Kmart or Sears to purchase Christmas gifts for children. The cards will be given to the mothers the first two weeks of December and will brighten the holiday season for their families.

Please bring your gift card – or money toward the purchase of cards – on BCWC Giving Tree Sunday, December 5.

Blessing Tree

December 12

Each year we decorate the Blessing Tree with cards expressing our thanks for all the ways God has blessed the BCWC family in 2010. Thanks to Dot Pyle for again preparing the cards.



Women's Christmas Coffee

Saturday, December 11
10 a.m., Lowry Hall

Come, learn the history of your favorite Christmas Carols.



Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 19
10:45 a.m.

"Ceremony of Candles"

Come to hear our Christmas Cantata, featuring the Chancel Choir under the direction of Jennifer Force, during the worship hour.



Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24

Family Service, 7 p.m.
Candlelight Service, 10 p.m.

From the Diaconate

Two new small groups have formed for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship. Currently meeting once a month on Friday evening, both groups are using Max Lucado's 3:16.

If you are interested in knowing more, or joining one of these small groups, contact either of these group contact persons:

Mary Helen Barnett 610-692-3357
jhbmimi@yahoo.com or
Paul Banyacski 610-692-7774
banyacskipa@msn.com

Looking ahead to Advent

- **Hanging of the Greens** – Under the capable direction of Bob and Mary Pyle

Decoration Preparation –
Saturday, November 27, 1-4 p.m.
Hanging of the Greens –
Sunday, November 28 following worship

- **Old Fashioned Christmas Parade** –
Friday, December 3, 7:30 p.m..
(Inclement weather date is the next day,
December 4.)

Bob Wilson and Bill Moyer will facilitate the float
Diane Heald will coordinate costumes for the Living Nativity on the float. Refreshments for BCWC folks and float participants will be served back at the church following the parade.

- Our choir will present a **Christmas Cantata** on Sunday, December 19, during the worship hour. A special **Advent Fellowship Hour** will follow in Lowry Hall.
- The Diaconate is working with Pastor Dan on plans for Christmas Eve Service(s). More information soon.

Earnestly pray for our Pastoral Search Committee as they undertake the task of finding the person God has prepared to serve as pastor of BCWC.

The Apostle Paul urges members of the church to *...live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort*

to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-6

Your Hands Are Needed!

For more than 34 years, the doors of our church building have opened each Saturday morning with breakfast for those who are homeless or at risk in our community. Praise God! This outreach ministry began with the commitment of BCWC men in 1976 and now continues with both men and women in the kitchen.

The rewards? Comments from those who come that they feel welcomed and are treated with respect. "Thank you's" are abundant.

This is an SOS call. We need some extra hands.

The work is not hard –

- giving a smile and "good morning" to those who come
- setting tables for 60
- pouring juice and making coffee
- helping with clean-up

If you can give one or two Saturdays a month, coming in at 7 a.m., contact Bill Moyer (bmoyer@pfninc.net or 610-304-3595), or Fran Homer (fran.homer@comcast.net or 610-431-7947).



Happy Pumpkin Days!

Being a good person is like being a pumpkin that becomes a happy-faced Jack-O-Lantern. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside, and scoops out all of the yucky stuff -- including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a bright new smiling face and puts His light inside to shine for all the world to see.

Women's Ministries

"Women's Work"

That's the term my oldest son used to get me angry, but he learned his lesson later, that women's work is very important. With that in mind, I would like to tell you some of what BCWC women do and how you can help.

The Central Union Association, which includes American Baptist churches in most of Chester County, and some others to the east but not including Philadelphia, started our church in 1834. Almost immediately, the women of the church started the Mission Society, which lasted until 1960, when we changed the name to American Baptist Women. Now we are American Baptist Women's Ministries, because so much is included in the work we do.

Every year the Central Union Association women pick a local project. These have been Parkesburg Point, a Christian "hang-out" and tutorial help for kids instead of them being on the street; money toward Safe Harbor; money for the Women's Resource Center in Jeffersonville; and others.

Every year we also support a national project, which recently was "Break the Chains," making people aware of and helping the appalling number of women and girls who are sold into slavery and prostitution in the world, some right in our back yard.

Women of American Baptist Churches of Pa/Del raised \$40,211.70, which was \$10,000.00 over our goal. Nationally, American Baptist women gave \$402,235.00. This will be an on-going fund.

BCWC women support missionaries and their work with cards, gifts, and White Cross, which provides specific requests for things like clothing, doctor's supplies, school supplies and others. We sent 75 hygiene kits to Haiti after the earthquake, and a total of 400 kits went from Central Union Churches.

In the past we have raised the money through projects like the rummage sales, selling "little churches," cards, individuals donations, and in 2008 we "raffled" off a quilt that was donated.

-- Diane Heald

COMING EVENTS – Mark your calendar and plan to come.

Saturday, November 6 – Central Union Women's Association Meeting at Upper Merion church near the King of Prussia Mall. *ALL women are invited.* Registration is at 9:30 a.m., the meeting starts at 10:00, lunch is at 12:00. (Note: there will be time for you to check out the mall on your way home.) Please sign up in Lowry Hall and let us know if you would like a ride. Or contact Fran Homer – fran.homer@comcast.net or 610-696-7947

November 22 – Women's Circle Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Lowry Hall. All women are welcome!

Saturday, December 10 – Intergenerational Women's Christmas Coffee at 10 a.m. in Lowry Hall. All women and girls are warmly invited. Come and bring a friend to rejoice in the most precious Gift of all.

Board of Missions

50 Churches/50 Children Campaign

During the four Sundays in November (National Adoption Month), our church has been invited to join other churches in the tri-state area in praying for 50 orphaned children.

Some children are available for adoption through the U.S. state foster care system, while others from around the world are waiting in orphanages for a “forever family.” The Mid-Atlantic Orphan Care Coalition has partnered with Bethany Christian Services to share the children’s stories.

BCWC has received the following children for our specific prayers during this time. Please check the Lowry Hall Information Table for their stories and add them to your prayer list.



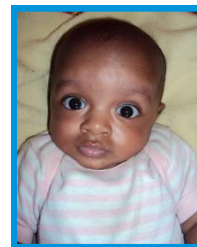
Joe, 12
Pennsylvania



Dominick, 13
Pennsylvania



Viktoriya, 8
Eastern Europe



Getayawkal & Biruktawit
twins (3 months), Africa



Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering



remember with LOVE

give with GRATITUDE

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) provides a way for American Baptist congregations to say thank you in a tangible way to our denomination’s retired ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses.

The RMMO provides:

- Emergency and other financial assistance, based on financial need
- “Thank You” checks, based on 15 or more years of ABC service

Those who receive these gifts express gratitude, not only for the financial assistance, but for evidence of God’s providential care, encouragement, hope and assurance that they have not been forgotten by their ABC family.

Our 2010 Christmas Offering will be sent through the RMMO to honor retired ministers and missionaries.

Outreach Team

The team continues to meet monthly to discuss how we can reach more families, follow up with visitors, and help plan monthly events. Please consider joining the team (see needs below) or more importantly, pray for people to attend and connect to BCWC. We hope we can encourage everyone at BCWC to be more inviting to our neighbors, friends, and community. People need the Lord!

- **Monthly events:**

- The team is still encouraging monthly events to bring in new families. Please be inviting to those that need a church home.
- Saturday, November 13 at 5:30 will be the next monthly family event. It will be a dinner with a mission/outreach to our community. "Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner." The men, led by Jim Layton, have graciously agreed to host this event. Mike Coles will find out from the WC Food Cupboard if we can sponsor 5-10 families within 3-5 blocks of our church to give a Thanksgiving meal. People who attend the dinner can donate food, especially turkeys. Stay tuned for more details.

- **Coordinators of the Outreach Team are:**

- Recruiting: Sue Stuart
- Publicity: Fran Homer
 - Dena will help with signs,
 - Marianne Koval will help with brochures/flyers
- Follow-up: Elberta Clinton

- **Still needed:**

- Technology coordinator and people willing to work with the website and email blasts.
- People's information into our computer system (or updated). Please keep our office updated on visitors or any changes of emails and addresses you may have.
- People to be inviting, so we can have more families attend and develop their relationships with God.

How can you help our church grow? Please pray about it and see the amazing things God can do!

Serving the Lord with joy! ☺

Caron Cramer
Outreach Team Director

ABCOPAD News

American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD) has a new design for ministry. Come learn more about the new design that takes effect 2011 and hear the Region pastoral staff share their excitement of what the future holds as we partner together in ministry. **Saturday, December 11 at the Baptist Church of Phoenixville, 248 Church St., Phoenixville.** Pastor Dan and Sue will be attending.

Young at Heart - November 16 – 10 a.m. in Lowry Hall
Panel discussion on latest Social Security and Medicare changes.

Young at Heart meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. for coffee and fellowship, followed by lunch and program.

Youth News

A HUGE thank you to all who helped, brought food, and/or stayed for the Mission Trip Presentation and Potluck Lunch on October 3! What a great time to hear the youth talk about the trip, see photos, and just spend time together as a church family. Thank you! God is good!

Weekly Schedule:

Christian Education (CE) hour for youth grades 6-12: 9:30-10:30 a.m. each Sunday. (Church house office)

Worship: 10:45-12 noon each Sunday morning.

Youth Group:

All youth grades 8-12 are always welcome to join the fun. Friends are always welcome, too! Group will meet on the dates below, 5:30-8 p.m., dinner included. (Youth Room). Youth and families are welcome to participate in the monthly family events. (See website or monthly fliers for dates and times.)

Schedule for Youth Group:

Nov. 21: Youth Group (YG) 5:30-8 p.m., dinner included. (Youth room)

Dec. 12: YG

Monthly Events Coming Up:

November 5-6: (Fri.-Sat.) "Ozzy Fest" at Ozzy's Family Fun Center in Leesport, PA. Leave BCWC parking lot at 9:45 p.m. Friday and return Saturday at 6 a.m. \$30 per person includes laser tag, adventure challenge, roller skating, rock climbing, ultimate frisbee, go carts, mini golf, and more.

December 3: (Fri.) Old Fashioned Christmas & Parade

December 29: Annual bowling event (time TBA)

For questions or rides, contact Caron Cramer 610-873-8535 (home) or webcramers@verizon.net. Visit our website at www.bcwc.org for more information and photos.

Serving the Lord with joy! ☺ *Caron*

Board of Trustees

Unlocked Doors:

A Matter of Serious Concern

On four occasions recently, at least one door to the church building was found unlocked. Obviously this is a matter of serious concern. When you leave following a church meeting, please check the church doors to be sure they are locked. *One easy reminder: If you open a door, be sure to lock it when you leave.*

Missing Items

A large picture is missing from one of the rooms. Please do not take or throw out anything from the church rooms or closets without first checking with the Trustees.

Thank you for your cooperation in these two important matters. The Trustees

Pastor's Notes *(continued from page 1)*

You don't want to be accused of seeking a seventy-three-year-old pastor for BCWC. That would not bode well for your future.

Secondly, while Sue and I are greatly enjoying our stay with you, there are things being left undone during the Interim period. Despite the best efforts of your boards, committees, officers and interim, many things fall through the cracks without a fulltime pastor on board. Please don't put inappropriate pressure on the Search Committee by well intended but misguided comments about the speed of their functioning.

Meanwhile, let's enjoy the special grace God has granted us for these days, and commit to following the leading of His Holy Spirit so together we can be about His work and His will for all the lives He allows us to touch and influence for His Glory. In the name of our loving Savior and Lord, Jesus the Christ, our Guide and Friend.

Pastor Dan



BCWC Holiday Calendar

“Hanging of the Greens,” First Sunday in Advent, November 28, 12 noon

Decorating of the Sanctuary and Lowry Hall

Preparation of Decorations is Saturday, November 27, 1-4 p.m.

Living Nativity Float, Friday, December 3

Part of West Chester’s Old Fashioned Christmas Parade, 7:30 p.m.

Warm up with cookies and hot cider in Lowry Hall after the parade.

The Giving Tree, Sunday, December 5

Gifts for Bridge of Hope, Lancaster/Chester Counties

Intergenerational Women’s Christmas Coffee, Saturday, December 11, 10 a.m.

Lowry Hall

The Blessing Tree

Sunday, December 12

Christmas Cantata, Sunday, December 19, 10:45 a.m.

“Ceremony of Candles”

Special Advent Fellowship Hour following worship

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Family Service, 7 p.m.

Candlelight Service, 10 p.m.

Be sure to put these special dates on your holiday calendar

Invite your family and friends to all of these special events



November

Sandy Clinton	1
Charlotte Parsons	3
Mie Mie Chit	4
Tom Esposito	5
Emma Burns	7
Sandra Hunter	8
Diane Webster	11
Makhi Kennedy	12
Makayda Kennedy	12
Janet Speer	12
Jim Barnett	17
Frank Sanders	18
Jill Joseph	19
Carl Fisher	22
Neil Carpenter	23
Dot Pyle	24
Katherine Fisher	25
Richard Parsons	25
Paul Norris, Jr.	27
Sandra Hunter	28
Mary Ellen Fisher	29

December

Gayle Campbell	5
Brian Hixson	6
Mildred Pyle	6
Sarah Vanderlip	6
Jasmin Molina	7
Diane Heald	9
Jennifer Hixson	12
Jean Barnett	13
Ada Husten	19
Sharon Ryan	27
George Claghorn	29
Craig Snyder	29

THANK YOU!
 THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Anita and friends at Baptist Church, Thank you so much your assistance with our energy bill. Our family appreciates your kindness, understanding and generosity in our time of need.

Your support, together with The Salvation Army and the First Presbyterian Church, enabled us to pay off the remainder of our balance and bring our account up-to-date.

Sincerely,
 Eric, Anna Marie and Higan

**Clean, Gently Used
 Clothing Needed**

Girl's clothing needed in sizes 7-8 and 10-12. If you are able to donate clothing, please contact the office at 610-696-7466 or secretary@bcwc.org.



Please contact the office with updates to birthdays, home and email addresses, and phone numbers

Dan and Betty Faccioli continue to reside at the Harrison House in Coatesville but have new phone numbers: Dan's is 610-380-3662 and Betty's is 610-380-3661.

Be sure to regularly visit our website (www.bcwc.org). It's loaded with information, offers access to video clips, and will soon have a calendar of meetings and events.





ORDER YOUR **Poinsettias**

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Deadline for ordering your Christmas Poinsettia is

November 28, 2010!

The cost is **\$9.00 per plant**. The plant(s) may be given in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The Pocopson Home and Genesis Elder Care, Brandywine Hall, will accept poinsettias for their patients (check the individual home to see what the rules are) and we will deliver them. We will also deliver to a specific person (**LOCAL ADDRESSES ONLY, PLEASE**) if you wish. Please indicate the delivery address when placing your order. Otherwise, you are responsible for taking your plant(s) after the conclusion of worship Sunday, December 26.

If paying by check, write check to: The Baptist Church Poinsettia Fund, and mail or give to: Beryl Bradley, 1768 Shadyside Road, Downingtown, PA 19335.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Pyle at 610-812-5568 or Beryl Bradley at 610-486-0784.

Your Name _____

Check enclosed \$ _____ for (qty.) _____ Poinsettia Plant(s)

In memory or in honor of:

_____ I will pick the plant(s) up after the December 26 service.

_____ I will leave the plant(s) for distribution to those who are sick or shut-in.

_____ Please deliver my plant(s) to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS (Local addresses only please)

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____