



News=Line



*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania April, 2006*

Don't Miss Our Second Annual Chili Supper and Talent Show

From Becky Chadwick

Do you have a talent? Can you sing, read to children, play an instrument, read poetry, or act?

Share your talent with the people at Lincoln Park UMC! **Saturday, April 29**, at 5:30 pm, we'll be serving white chili, red chili, salad, hot dogs, dessert and beverages. The talent show will start at 6:30. Tickets will be \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under; children under 3 are free.

Proceeds will benefit the Leadership Development Fund. Please contact **Cory Laity**, 610-777-1750, if you'd like to participate in the show, and **Becky Chadwick**, 610-927-2207, if you'd like to help with the dinner.



Share the Joy of Easter in Music

From Bev Perella

The beauty of Easter Sunday will be echoed in the music of the day. Please plan to arrive at 10:30 am to hear the preludes and the proclamation **CHRIST IS RISEN** in the blessed music of the season. Tenor John Perella will sing "I Know My Redeemer Liveth" from Handel's *Messiah*. The choir will be joined by trumpeters Andrew Fister and Sam Tate. The somber Lenten music will end and the joyous sounds of Easter will be sung and played.

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WORSHIP IN APRIL

From Pastor Larry Carl



Sunday, April 2 – Fifth Sunday in Lent – HOLY COMMUNION – The sermon will be entitled “Let Us See!” based on John 12:21, *They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’*

Sunday, April 9 – PASSION/PALM SUNDAY – The sermon will be “Lost in a Crowd!” based on Mark 15:11-13, *But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, ‘Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?’ They shouted back, ‘Crucify him!’”*

Friday, April 14 – GOOD FRIDAY – TENEBRAE (Service of Darkness) The sermon will be entitled “Skimming the Headlines!” based on Isaiah 53:3, *He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.*

Sunday, April 16 – EASTER SUNDAY – The sermon, “A Live Option!” will be based on Mark 16:6, *But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.’*

Sunday, April 23 – Second Sunday of Easter – HERITAGE SUNDAY – The sermon will be entitled “It’s Personal!” based on John 20:24-25, *But Thomas (who is called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe!’*

Sunday, April 30 – Third Sunday of Easter – The sermon will be “A Tough Call!” based on Acts 3:14-15, *But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead.*

Lection Readings for April

April 2 – Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33; Psalter: Psalm 51:1-12

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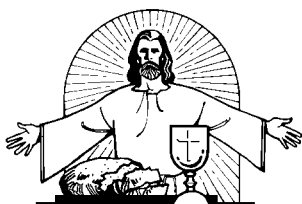
April 9 – Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 15:1-39; Psalter: Psalm 31:9-16

April 14 – Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42; Psalter: Psalm 22

April 16 – Acts 10:34-43; I Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18 (or Mark 16:1-8)
Psalter: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

April 23 – Acts 4:32-35; I John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31; Psalter: Psalm 133

April 30 – Acts 3:12-19; I John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48; Psalter: Psalm 4



Understanding Communion Workshop: A Time to Remember Jesus

From Dorris McCoy

All children in 3rd grade and above and their families are invited to LP's annual UNDERSTANDING COMMUNION WORKSHOP, **Sunday, April 2**, 3:30 pm, in the sanctuary. Pastor Larry will lead as we explore why we remember Jesus with this special meal. He will take us on a hands-on walk-through of the many ways Christians drink the cup and eat the bread of remembrance. Since the United Methodist Church sets no automatic age at which children are to receive this central Christian sacrament, we offer practical guidance to help families and children make this important, personal decision. Following the workshop, families and children are invited to sup together in the Social Hall. Children and their families will then be invited to commune together at the Maundy Thursday worship service, April 13. Any questions and decisions to attend may be directed to either **Pastor Larry** or **Dorris McCoy**.

Welcome Newcomers!

We invite you to any meetings or activities you read about here. Please call the church office, 610-777-1422, for names, phone numbers, information, or to speak with our pastor. If you'd like to receive *News-Linc* in the mail, just notify our secretary. Please join in at Lincoln Park!



From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor Larry Carl

I had just been at the church for about six months. They were preparing for the celebration of a significant anniversary. Additionally, they had voted to participate in a conference-wide emphasis on church growth.

Part of the participation in the conference-wide emphasis was surveying the congregation relative to their attitudes and perceived needs around the issue of growth. One question on the survey dealt with the participants' perception of what was most needed in the church to help in its ministry and foster growth. Three respondents indicated that what they felt was most needed was a new pastor!

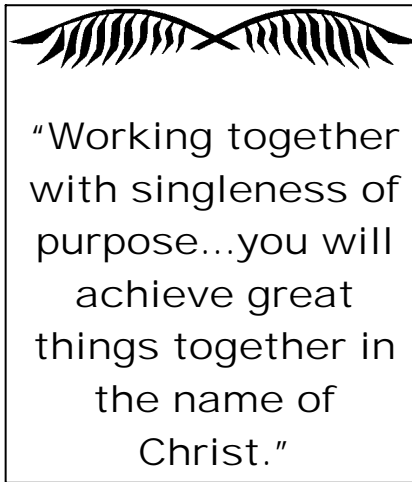
Though not devastated by this response, I certainly was troubled. After all, I had been at the church for only a short time, and already some people had decided that they could not work with me or didn't want to work with me. I felt unfairly judged. I wondered why they were unwilling to give me some time to prove that I could be a good pastor, that I wasn't all that bad a person. Now, these three people were anything but anonymous. In

many ways they left their dissatisfaction known – to me and to the congregation's leaders. But all they really accomplished was to hurt the church's ministry and witness within their circle of influence.

I am aware that change is difficult – more so for some than others. I realize that I brought a different perspective on ministry, that I was a different person with a different personality than their previous pastor. And, yes, such changes can be difficult. It is difficult not knowing what is going to happen in our life together as a church family. We worry about programs and events that we have come to cherish in the church's life, about style of ministry, and relationships that are defined by the way we have been the church in the past. I understand all that quite well.

But – and this is an important *but* – what I don't understand is an unwillingness on the part of individuals who claim to love the church and the Lord of the church to make a commitment to work together – people and pastor – for the good of the church. Whenever we refuse

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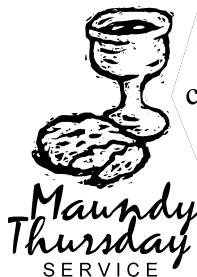
to make such an effort within the community of faith, we do damage to the witness and mission of Christ's church. I am not saying that we will always agree on everything, but, rather, that we ought to make an effort, for the sake of Christ's kingdom, to be a community of faithful disciples in spite of our areas of disagreement. Even the disciples did not always agree, but perhaps with one notable exception, they were committed to the ministry to which Christ called them.

As you anticipate the arrival of your new pastor, I hope that you will be committed to the ministry of Christ and that your attitude and perspective will be similar to what the apostle Paul counseled the people in Philippi, ***Only live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ . . . standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.*** (Philippians 1:27) Working together with singleness of purpose for the sake of the gospel and the church, you will achieve great things together in the name of Christ.

Pastor Larry

Join Us for Maundy Thursday Service, April 13

From Becky Chadwick



We will celebrate the Lord's Supper with the children receiving their First Communion! A dramatic rendition of the first supper with musical interludes will be presented. We will have solo appearances of congregation members and a special praise choir. Please plan to join us at 7 pm in the Social Hall.

Stewardship Thoughts

From Pastor Larry Carl



“I’m not trying to order you around against your will. But by bringing in the Macedonian’s enthusiasm as a stimulus to your love, I am hoping to bring the best out of you. You are familiar with the generosity of our Master, Jesus Christ. Rich as he was, he gave it all away for us – in one stroke he became poor and we became rich.

So here’s what I think: The best thing you can do right now is to finish what you started last year and not let those good intentions grow stale. Your heart’s been in the right place all along. You’ve got what it takes to finish it up, so go to it. Once the commitment is clear, you do what you can, not what you can’t. The heart regulates the hands. This isn’t so others can take it easy while you sweat it out. No, you’re shoulder to shoulder with them all the way, your surplus matching their deficit, their surplus matching your deficit. In the end you come out even. As it is written,

Nothing left over to the one with the most,
Nothing lacking to the one with the least.”

---Paul the Apostle
II Corinthians 8:8-16, *The Message*



Graduates Wanted

Is someone you know graduating this year from high school, college or technical school?

We want to honor your graduate. Please forward his or her name to the church office so that he or she may be included in the church’s acknowledgment of this achievement.

PAIRS AND SPARES PLAN SPRING FLING

From Jan Ferree

PAIRS AND SPARES will host a spring get-together on **Friday, April 21**, at 6 pm, in the Social Hall. After a covered dish dinner, the Myerstown Women's Club will present a program, *Celebrating the Season*. Some of you will remember this energetic group as they have entertained us several times.



Mark your calendar and join us for an evening of fun. Everyone is welcome. Please call **Elaine Meckes**, 610-670-2015, or **Jan Ferree**, 610-670-2476, for more details. See you there!!!

Imagine It: Summer Camp

From Barbara Wenger



Do you remember those hot and lazy summer days when you were a kid? Want to learn what you can do this summer to enjoy some fun and sun? To explore what summer camps have to offer, call **Gretchen Garrity**, 610-670-0930, or **Dorris McCoy**, Director of Christian Education, 610-777-1422.

Camp is an exciting, rewarding way to spend summertime away from home. There are opportunities to learn new skills and meet new friends.

Our Missions Committee has created a summer camp scholarship for those would like to go to camp. This would be a golden opportunity to go! Summer camp is a ministry of the Eastern PA Conference of the United Methodist Church.

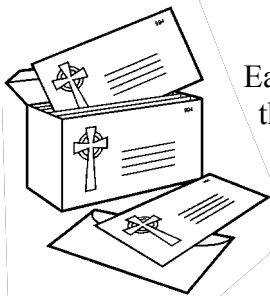
Hope to see you there!

**Big
Thank
You!**

... from the Jr. Youth for your support of their Spaghetti Lunch! The youth really enjoyed serving you, and they earned over \$400 toward their retreat in June. Thank you for your donations and your ticket purchases!

EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA - READ ALL ABOUT IT

From Jerry Manhart



Each month during 2005, **EXTRA** envelopes were placed in the packet you received in the mail. These envelopes gave you the opportunity to make contributions above and beyond the 2005 Budget to the Building Fund, Missions Designated Fund, and Endowment Fund.

Your contributions of \$3,950 in the Building Fund Envelopes were used to directly reduce the loan principal. Overall, our outstanding bank loan was reduced by \$22,586.10 last year, from \$182,278.59 to \$159,692.49.

Mission Designated Fund envelopes contained \$7,474, which was used for various mission projects selected by the Missions Committee. These projects included Habitat for Humanity, Greater Berks Food Bank, Iglesia National Metodista Church, Red Bird Mission, Opportunity House, Thomas Sligh Charity, Central Park UMC, Berks Women in Crisis and mission trip materials and books.

On some Sundays, **EXTRA** envelopes were placed in your bulletin. You responded to the Special Sunday envelopes as follows:

- ▶ UMCOR Asian Tsunami Relief - \$2,927
- ▶ One Great Hour of Sharing - \$460
- ▶ Native American Sunday - \$51
- ▶ Golden Cross Sunday - \$250
- ▶ Peace with Justice - \$20
- ▶ Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief - \$4,748
- ▶ World Wide Communion - \$45
- ▶ UMCOR Pakistan Relief - \$445



EXTRA contributions were also given to the Endowment Fund and the Memorial Fund. In addition, contributions were made to other church fundraisers.

Thank you for all your gifts to LPUMC and above and beyond.

Annual Flea Market Is Our Biggest Fundraiser

Saturday, May 20, 7 am—3 pm

Here's your chance to support an event that's brought \$\$\$\$ to LP's annual budget plus fun and fellowship to the volunteers who make it possible. Join us to make this year's Flea Market a successful fundraiser and a lively "funraiser."



Both George and Beverly need help from church members to make this fundraiser possible, so please volunteer your time to the Flea Market effort and also donate those nice fleas that are collecting dust in your attic.

Here's how to be part of the fun:

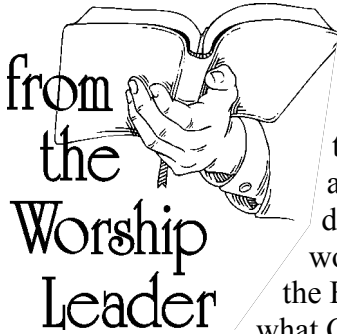
- ☺ Clean out your closets, basements, attics and bring your books, collectibles, dishes, antiques, and any garage-sale type items good enough to sell to church.
- ☺ Sign up to help by preparing for the sale, working at the sale, and donating food items or baked goods.
- ☺ Attend and support your church at this fun and profitable event!

Barb Wenger (Chair), **Bev Ruffner**, and **George Weikel** will be coordinating the 2006 Annual Flea Market. They'll be responsible for coordinating activities up to and including the day of the Flea Market. George will be responsible for coordinating storage of fleas before the flea market set up, the final cleanup of the Social Hall and Christian Education Building, and dissemination of the unsold fleas.

- \$ Fleas may be dropped off **starting now** and placed in Room 200 in the basement of the church office. The last day donations will be accepted is Friday, May 12.
- \$ When donating fleas, omit glasses and mugs with logos. When donating books, omit encyclopedias, textbooks, and magazines. Computer system components (CPU's monitors, printers, etc.) will not be accepted.
- \$ Please bring fleas in cartons, NOT BAGS, so items can be priced and stored in the same cartons.

A date will be announced in the near future for where and when coats, hats, suits, clothes, purses and shoes may be dropped off.

Any questions or concerns, please call **Barb Wenger**, 610-777-0952, **Bev Ruffner**, 610-777-0785, or **George Weikel**, 610-777-3678.



Worship Leader Minute for April

From Becky Chadwick

How do you define worship? If you're like most people in this country, you define worship by what you experienced as a child and the traditions you follow. Very few people can define worship in its biblical context. What does GOD say worship is? Our reference for God's definition of worship is the Bible, so we need to start by looking there if we want to see what God wants in worship.

It is very clear that God commands us to worship Him. Psalm 29:2 says *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord...*, Psalm 96:9 says *Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness...*, and Matthew 4:10 says, *You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve*. God created us to worship him, all the time, in everything we do, and with all our heart, mind and soul.

Worship is to honor God and it is directed towards God. It is not meant for us. When we begin to believe that worship is for us, we have forgotten the purpose of worship. Worship honors God, is directed towards God, and involves the worshiper. There are several verses that help to make this case:

- 2 Chronicles 20:18 *...all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.*
- Nehemiah 8:6, *And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.*
- Psalm 95:6, *Oh come, let us worship and bow down.*
- Matthew 28:9, *And they came up and took hold of his (Jesus) feet and worshiped him.*
- Romans 12:1 *...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

Each scriptural reference honors God, is directed toward God, and involves the worshiper. There is no doubt that God intends for us to praise God, show respect for God, and demonstrate our devotion to God. God made us for worship! Over the next several months, we will explore the meaning of worship in its biblical context. I hope that you enjoy this exploration with me. Until next month...think about your definition of worship? Is it in line with God's?

Grace Notes

From Lin Umstead

And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. (Luke 24:2)

*The resurrection morn has come,
Christ has arisen from the tomb;
Has scattered back its night of gloom,
And leads the way to heaven and home.*

*O death, where is thy venom sting?
O grave, where is thy victory?
The Lord to both now holds the key,
While happy saints their homage bring.*



As Christ arose victorious, He demonstrated to living saints that He was God, their Savior. Under the power of that resurrection, and under the new faith and hope begotten that day, the apostolic saints pressed their way through fire and flood for their risen Lord, counting no cost too great and no service too strenuous.

How could they refrain from singing? And, how can we?

If you're able to lend your voice during this special time of celebration, please come to chancel choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings from 7- 8:30 pm, or see **Bev Perella**.

If you'd like to participate in an anthem to be sung at the Maundy Thursday service, please come to the brief rehearsals after the Contemporary Service (about 10:20 am) or see **Lin Umstead**.

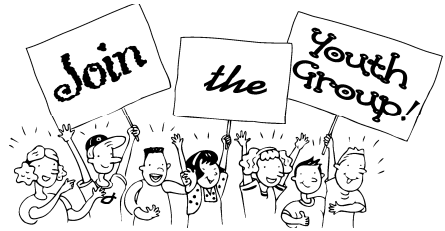
*Let the chorus echo, shout your glad refrain,
Christ was dead, but liveth: soon He'll come again:
Doors of hope are opened, death has lost its gloom,
There is One who leads us on beyond the tomb.*

Poem by R.E. Neighbour, D.D.

YOUTH-LINK

UMYF HAPPENINGS!

From Linda Hope



March 19 - April 16, UMYF will be collecting items from the OPPORTUNITY HOUSE WISH LIST. Please see flyer on p. 13 for items needed. All donations will be delivered when the church prepares and serves supper on Tuesday, May 2.

Saturday, April 8 - 9:30-11:30 am; UMYF volunteers will help with the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.


Saturday, April 15 - 12:30 pm; UMYF will gather to set up Easter Flowers in the church. We'll then meet at LASER QUEST, at 1:30 pm, for some fun! RSVP to the **Villecco** family, 610-777-4312, for Laser Quest.

Saturday, May 6 - UMYF will help with the annual church yard clean-up. Afterward we'll head to Schell's for food and miniature golfing. Times to be determined.

Thursday, May 18 - 7:30 pm; UMYF Planning Meeting. Please mark this on your calendar! Parents and youth are invited!

WANTED:

If you like spending time with youth and doing fun activities, please consider becoming active with our UMYF. We're looking for several men and women of any age interested in accompanying our youth on activities. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know our youth and for them to build relationships with adults in our congregation. The time commitment is your own...you can attend as many or as few events as you are able. If you're interested...please contact **Linda Hope**, 610-670-9731, or lslhope@aol.com.



The talent in our church never seems to end! Come and see 9th grader **Josh Lee** dance and sing in Twin Valley High School's production of *Oklahoma* on Friday, April 7, and Saturday, April 8, at 7:30 pm. Organist **Bev Perella** is Producer and Choral Director. See both of them for tickets.

Opportunity House

Wish List

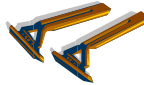
The UMYF will be collecting donations as a community service project starting Sunday, March 19 through Sunday, April 16 for Opportunity House.

The following is a wish list describing their needs. Please help the youth collect the items listed below which will be delivered to Opportunity House on Tuesday, May 2. Please drop off all items in the Social Hall or Wagner Room box marked OPPORTUNITY HOUSE DONATIONS.

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS



- Toothbrushes (childrens/adults)
- Toothpaste (childrens/adults)
(small tubes work best)
- Deodorants (mens/womens)
- Soap
- Razors/Shavers (mens/womens)
- Shaving Cream
- Q Tips
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Tissues
- New and Used Towels/Washcloths
- Lotion
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Combs, Picks, Brushes
- Women's Sanitary Items



INFANTS & CHILDRENS

- Diapers (all sizes, especially large)
- Pull Ups
- Wipes
- Baby Bottles
- Baby Powder
- Crib Sheets/Blankets/
Bumper Pads
- Socks
- Children's Underwear



ADULT NEEDS

- Socks (mens/womens)
- Underwear (mens/womens)
- Mens/Womens Work Boots
- New/Used (Clean) Blankets
- Twin Sheets/Pillow Cases



MEDICAL NEEDS

- Aspirin
- Tylenol
- Antacids
- Colds & Flu Meds
- Rubbing Alcohol
 - Band Aids
 - Peroxide





Calling All Children for Our Easter Egg Hunt Celebration

From Raylin Ritenour

Come to church Saturday, April 8, for our annual Easter Egg Hunt Celebration, 10 to 11:30 am. Egg hunt times and locations are as follows:

Age 2 and under	10:15	Wagner Room
Ages 3-4	10:30	Choir Room
Ages 5-6	10:45	Front Lawn
Ages 7-10	11:00	Side of Education building

Other fun activities for your child include decorating a cookie, playing Easter games, or making a craft while they wait for their egg hunt or after they find their eggs. All these activities will take place in the Social Hall and Nursery.

Don't forget your cameras to have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny or our special Easter photo boards.

Light refreshments will be served in the Social Hall. Be sure your child enters their tickets for the raffles, too! Good luck! Answers to your questions or if you want to lend a helping hand, call **Raylin Ritenour**, 610-406-0117, or **Tracy Goldsborough**, 610-777-6991.

Missions Committee Reaches Out

From Barbara Wenger

After a prayer from Lee Riley asking for God's help in spending our monies where the need was, we made decisions to donate to others in the following ways:

First Baptist Church	\$100
Opportunity House	\$100
Berks Women in Crisis	\$100
African University	\$100
Habitat for Humanity	\$100
Greater Berks Food Bank	\$100
Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center	\$100
Scholarship for Norma Jeanette Vasquez (Balance)	\$160
Continuing work of New Jerusalem Church, El Salvador	\$100

(January 10-22, 2006 Mission Trip)

Our next meeting will be April 4.



Two LP Members Make Mission Trips

From Betty Frederickson and Barbara Wenger



From Betty J. Frederickson

The trip to Ethiopia was a time of learning for our team of 19 — eight doctors, four nurses, two pharmacists, one pharmacy student, three logistics persons, and one pastor. We gathered at Dulles Airport in Washington DC, boarded an Ethiopian Airway flight, and arrived 15 1/2 hours later at Bole Airport in Addis Ababa.

Customs clearance provided us with opportunities to practice two of the five qualifications for a team member — flexibility and sense of humor. We had more chances to practice these during our two-week stay and also the other three qualifications (flexibility, flexibility, and flexibility.) We were allowed a few hours to go to the Hotel Bihon in Addis Ababa to wash and rest. In the morning we went back to the airport where “negations” went on until 7 pm with the final release of our medical supplies.

After traveling five to six hours into the

night, we arrived safely at our hotel and were blessed with a few hours rest. The Lord is good and you at home were praying. Thank you very much!

In Awassa, our ultimate destination, there are few autos; most people walk day and night. The local taxi is a two person, horse-drawn cart. We saw herds of goats, and heavily loaded flat-bed carts drawn by small donkeys. At the hotel we were entertained by large black and white monkeys, brown monkeys, and wonderful birds of all sizes and colors.

This area has very little grass or water; the result is dust. The smallest movement caused clouds of dust!

The “Health Clinic of Awassa” is an established full-time clinic where people come for medical treatment at the cost of five Birr (75 cents) per visit (a high price for many of these people!)

The medical help offered there includes general medical, family planning, some emergency care, labor/delivery, a pharmacy, and psychiatry. Our team offered extra help in these areas, plus dentistry, a portable ultrasound, additional medicines, and spiritual guidance. We gave free care and medicine to the people but had to pay the government for each patient we treated or saw. On our final day, the minister of health demanded we leave

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all unused medicine behind.

Many people were treated daily and most were grateful. The desperate needs of the hundreds waiting in line frequently caused them to stampede, causing injuries and eventually the closing of the clinic.

Our team began and ended the day with prayer and thanksgiving to the Lord for His mercies and for you our prayer partners at home. Every day more and more people came to the spiritual tent. They were prayed with and given the Lord's message of hope and salvation. Many accepted Him into their hearts; some returned the next day to help others accept His promises. Members of the local Methodist Church came to help interpret. What a blessing to see those crowds grow. There is assurance that there will be follow-up for the new Christians.

By the end of our service at the clinic, some of the local clinic staff and hotel staff told us that their own hearts had been changed as they observed the team serving and praying, but expecting nothing in return. That was a precious reassurance of His presence in the time spent there.

About 2,500 to 3,000 patients were treated. Most of us felt it had been a successful adventure for the Lord.

Our fun times included walks about Awassa as a group and a sunset boat ride on Lake Awassa (eight miles long, three miles wide, and 30 feet deep). A sturdy

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Ethiopia: Some Background

Ethiopia — officially the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia — is located in northeast Africa, bordered by Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, and Sudan. It has a transitional government, a population of 55,980,000, and covers an area two times the size of Texas. It's capital, Addis Ababa, is the largest city with several million people.

The population is mainly rural and about half are Muslim; a third belong to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

About 90% of the people are poor farmers. Much of the area we drove through and worked in was mostly high desert, of barely sustainable farms with cattle and minimal water.

Many of the people look more Egyptian than Negroid; their language is Semitic — the spoken word sounds Arabic. Their main exports are grains, vegetable oil and wonderful coffee. There is one good north/south highway, but no port for shipping.

In all of Africa there is a workforce of over 200,000,000 and an almost inexhaustible source of raw materials. However, they lack the basics of clean water, simple disease protection, education for all, and a non-corrupt government!

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young man (who brought two containers for keeping us afloat!) did the rowing. It was peaceful and beautiful.

Some of us visited the Coptic Christian Church, shopping along the way; some went to an internet café; others sat in the hotel courtyard reading.

Our morning and evening meals were taken at the hotel. The food was good though selections didn't change much day to day. At lunch we gathered in the dental clinic (away from the crowds) for peanut butter and jelly, cookies, soda, or bottled water.

The faces, young and old, were beautiful: some fresh, others crafted from years of living. They were wrapped securely against the weather. (85-90 degrees daytime, 60-70 at night.)

Why do I feel the Lord encouraged my going to Ethiopia? What did I learn?

The trip was difficult for me. I have not experienced the active presence of Satan and his influence for a long time. I reminded myself to go to the Bible to find answers, reassurance of God's presence, and encouragement. When I did search, there were answers everywhere. He had known what we would face, what we would need. The Bible is filled with these assurances, reminders, promises: Psalms, Proverbs, 1 Timothy, 1 and 1 Corinthians, Matthew...

I thank the Lord for loving even me and challenging me to grow in His Word and His Service to others.

Helping Out in Mississippi

From Barbara Wenger



When our Northeastern Mission Group met on February 20, we were surprised by the presence of the Superintendent, the Rev. Christopher Kurien, who prayed with us before our departure, and by reporters from Channel 69 who had come to interview us.

Our destination was Ocean Springs, Mississippi, where painting a house damaged by Hurricane Katrina would be our project. Our home base was on the grounds of St Paul UM Church (17 acres): 20 white and green tents, reminding us of the TV show *MASH*.

The brick rancher we painted had taken five feet of water in the storm and the old walls were ripped out. It had been cleaned and walls replaced and was ready for our painting. We worked for seven days on the project. We were told that over 300 houses had been similarly cleaned and sanitized by Christians organized for relief efforts as of last fall.

One terrible sight was a dilapidated grade school in St Martin. Winds and a strong water surge had done incredible damage. Demolition crews took the school down while we were there, and I hope the school will be rebuilt later.

We returned safely March 4, thankful for the support of our congregations at home.

COME CELEBRATE FIESTA VBS

From Dorris McCoy

FIESTA VBS is a week-long celebration where kids, youth and adults are fired up about Jesus through

- ☀ *maraca* munchies
- ☀ sing & play *ole*
- ☀ Chadder's Desert Drive-In Theater
- ☀ cactus crafts & missions
- ☀ hot Bible adventures
- ☀ *grande* games
- ☀ *fiesta* finale



We have heard that one of our VBS planners has been scouting for flamenco dancers and a mariachi band! Can anyone help her (Dorris will admit to this one) on this search? Do you have jalapeno lights or pinatas in your attic?

Daily challenges get kids all fired up about Jesus at home too! **FIESTA VBS** is offered for 3 year olds through 5th graders, Monday-Friday, **9 am-noon, June 19-23**, right here at LP. Tell a neighbor and bring a friend. Older youth in 6th grade and above are invited to serve as Crew Leaders. Offers of leadership and decorating assistance will be gladly accepted by Fiesta Coordinator, **Karen Osika**, 610-670-4726, or DCE, **Dorris McCoy**.

Women's Book Club

From Nancy Dettra

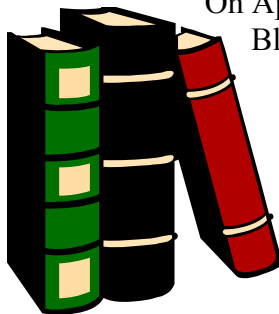
On April 27 we'll meet for discussion at my home, 407 Harvard Blvd, Lincoln Park, at 7 pm. You are welcome to join us.

There will be two books this month:

◦ *The Education of Little Tree* by Forrest Carter

This story has entranced readers of all ages since it was first published 25 years ago. It's about a boy orphaned very young who's adopted by his Cherokee grandmother and half Cherokee grandfather in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee during the Great Depression.

- *Night* by Elie Wiesel is the terrifying record of Wiesel's memories of the death of his family and death of his own innocence and his despair as a deeply observant Jew confronting the absolute will of man.





Sunday Morning Church School Calls All Ages Every Week

From Dorris McCoy

Christian Education is offered for all ages every Sunday morning at different times, using a variety of topics and approaches. Visitors may ask ushers for directions and details.

9:30 am:

- Church School is available to 3 year olds through 3rd graders in a Preschool Class and an Early Elementary Class, following the Children's Message at Contemporary Worship.
- **Norm and Nancy Dettra** teach an Adult Lectionary Class in the Church Library, focusing on the Bible readings upon which Sunday worship is based. *If you attend regularly for three years, you'll read the major stories of the Bible.* During this Lenten and Easter season, come and gain a new perspective on the familiar messages heard on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday celebrations.

10:45 am:

- Elementary Classes for 3 year olds through 6th graders in Rooms 101, 102, and 104. Kids' sessions begin with singing and biblical introductions in the Choir Room/Lounge.
- Youth meet in Room 103 to discuss contemporary issues and explore how the Bible message relates.
- The Adult Gospel Study Class, led by **Earl Hope**, meets in the Church Li-

brary to learn from a variety of video presenters the depth of Jesus' ministry. Here you'll gain understanding of his acts, passions, death, and resurrection.

Both Children's Classes at the 9:30 and 10:45 hours will read familiar Gospel lessons to learn how God is worthy of our worship, praise, and service.

- Teachers and kids read how Jesus notices the widow's giving (Mark 12:41-44) to challenge all to give wholeheartedly to please God.
- On Palm Sunday, sessions explore Mark 11:1-11, showing how the people rejoiced as Jesus entered Jerusalem and how our praise, too, honors Jesus.
- On Easter Sunday, classes celebrate that Jesus lives, reading how Jesus rose from the dead (Mark 16:1-8).
- Following Easter, we hear in John 20:19-31 of the times when Jesus appeared before his disciples. We're challenged to reinforce our own belief that Jesus is Lord.

Driving-Home-the-Point pages are sent home with children weekly, encouraging families to continue the discussion begun in classes. Parents, ask your children to share these colorful, contemporary helps for family growth.



Jr. Youth Events

(4th, 5th, 6th Graders)

From Tracy Goldsborough

Our fun/mission project for April is to run the games and egg hunt for the Easter Party at church on **Saturday, April 8**. A special egg hunt is scheduled for volunteers after the Easter Party. Please call **Tracy Goldsborough**, 610-777-6991, ASAP if you can help.

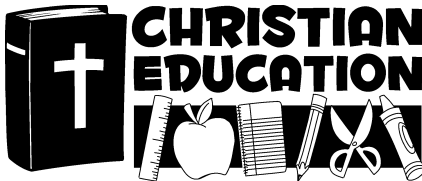
Other activities coming up:

May 20 - Car Wash during the Flea Market.

Rain date is May 21.

June 9-11 - Camp Innabah weekend.

Information will be sent soon.



Busy Christian Ed Leaders Are Making a Difference

From Dorris McCoy

Children, youth and adults in LP's Christian Education classes and programs come not only for the creative curriculum used or the fun fellowship or issues presented but also for the love and caring that is modeled each week! God blesses all our programs and leaders for their joyful, serving hearts. You too can make this kind of difference and plant good seeds of faith right here at LP! You CAN BE a Christ-like influence by working on the CE team to help us all know, love, and follow Jesus! How? You can join the team by calling **Linda Hope**, CE Chair, 610-670-9731, or **Dorris McCoy**, DCE, 610-777-1422, or 777-6128.



SUMMER THEATER: IT'S GOOD! Coming Soon to Lincoln Park

From Dorris McCoy

Something new is coming to LP's summer outreach activities! An intergenerational, summer community theater experience for children, youth, parents, and other adults is coming to the LP stage. Performance date is **Friday, August 11**. Putting it all together takes place Sunday through Thursday evenings, August 6 - 10, from 6-8:30 pm.

Summer Theater will present **IT'S GOOD** by Kathleen Hart Brumm, under the production eye of **Bev Perella** and talented Student Directors, with some assistance by Christian Ed leaders, **Linda Hope** and **Dorris McCoy**. The Genesis story of the Creation, **IT'S GOOD**, is told through this delightful musical suited for many ages.

NEEDED:

- ♪ singers for angel, cosmic and animal choirs
- ♪ bell ringers
- ♪ speakers
- ♪ dancers (hint: *Salzburg Stomp*)
- ♪ set builders
- ♪ poster/flyer makers
- ♪ prop gatherers
- ♪ costume coordinators (think angels, halos, animals, Adam, Eve)

Cooks, bakers, food shoppers...

and servers are encouraged to share *lovin' from the oven* at the next supper preparation and serving at OPPORTUNITY HOUSE, Tuesday, **May 2**, between 4 (to prepare in the church kitchen) and 7:30 pm. (when we finish serving). Extra helpers while Jerry recuperates are welcomed and much appreciated! Please leave a message at the **Evaul** residence, 610-927-1692.



Our Church Welcomes New Members

From Nancy Dettra

Sharon D. Berry

1610 Hancock Blvd, Kenhorst 19607
610-777-5026

Sharon was born in Paterson NJ, raised in Kenhorst, and attended Governor Mifflin School District. She studied medical technology at the University of Delaware and accounting at Northeastern University in Boston.

She has two grown daughters and works at Governor Mifflin Community Library.

She joined by letter of transfer from Taylor's Chapel United Methodist Church.



Polly Stark

2000 Cambridge Ave
#286 The Highlands
Wyomissing PA 19610
610-775-4599

Polly was born in Bloomsburg and attended business school in Williamsport. She is retired now but worked as a secretary at Harrisburg State Capital, Judicial Department, and Bucknell University.

Polly has two grown daughters and enjoys reading, decorating, and walking.

She joined by letter of transfer from Wesley UMC, Bloomsburg.

New Church Office Hours Announced

Monday & Wednesday: 9 am - 3 pm

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday - 8:15 am—2:15 pm

The Staff Parish Committee has adjusted our church secretary's hours due to a family responsibility. The same number of working hours still apply, but the office will close at 2:15 pm Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday until mid-June. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Baptized

Nathan John Lamm, son of **Robert** and **Sally**, on March 19.

Tyler Michael Smith, son of **Keith** and **Lori**, on March 26. May God bless Nathan and Tyler as they grow in Christian love.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*April
12
for our
May issue*

Change of Address

Charles Kantner
2000 Cambridge Ave Apt 220
Reading PA 19610-2734

John Garraway
5224 Lake Adventure
Milford PA 18337-9660

Peter Flickinger
Nate Flickinger
221 Bradley Ave
Sinking Spring PA 19608-1710

Tara Flickinger
3607 Wyoming Dr S
Sinking Spring PA 19608

Joan Novak
2301 Reading Ave Apt W23
Reading PA 19609-1931
610-670-6739

John Novak
1645 E Thistle Dr
Wyomissing PA 19610-1271

Pat Park
1 Reading Dr Apt 51
Wernersville PA 19565
610-927-8640

News-Linc, monthly publication of Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church, hopes to link you to your church with information about its programs, plans, and people. Your comments and suggestions are welcome and may be left in the newsletter mailbox by the church office.

Our staff-

Editor: Cheri Fallon , 610-678-8735

Assistant Editor: Debbie Harvey

Staff: Nancy Artz, Bunny Carlson, Ginny Freyling, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, Elaine Meckes, Suzanne Romig, Doris Schucker, and Barbara Wenger



From our mailbox

Dear Lincoln Park Members,

Thank you all very much for all your donations to our ministry. Central Park UMC appreciates all you do! God Bless.
Coordinator, Central Park Food Ministry



Birthdays in April (age 1 to 10 years)

Mason Raimo	2 years old
Lucy Maack	3 years old
Emmerson Piacine	3 years old
Ryan Chadwick	6 years old
Megan Stone	7 years old
Alyssa Gehris	8 years old
Lexie Gartner	10 years old
Billy Levan	10 years old



BEHOLD, CHRIST HAS RISEN!

Worship with us: 8:15 & 10:45 am (Traditional Worship)
9:15 am (Contemporary Worship in Social Hall)

Office hours 9 am-3 pm Mon, Wed Pastor: Larry Carl, 610-670-1022
8:15 am-2:15 pm Tues, Thurs, Fr

Office phone 610-777-1422 Dir of Education: Dorris McCoy, 610-777-6128
Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35; Dir of Music: Linda Umstead
Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39 Secretary: Sandy Bressi
Fax line 610-777-4309 Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735
Voice mail Pastor Larry 44, Sandy Bressi 21, cherfallon@comcast.net, debharv3@verizon.net
Linda Umstead 26, Dorris McCoy 24, Nursery:Gabi Antunes/Amy Krebs/Holly Newman
Nancy Brown 29 Worship Leader: Becky Chadwick
Bookkeeper: Nancy Brown
Custodian: Mark Bisignaro

Web: www.lpcumc.org

E-mail: lpumc@verizon.net (church), lpumcpastor@verizon.net (Pastor Carl),
dmccoy2@verizon.net (Dorris McCoy), musicdir@verizon.net (Lin Umstead),
lpumcbkpr@verizon.net (Nancy Brown)
(For urgent messages, use voice mail, please.)

NEWS-LINC

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1 Carlisle Avenue
Reading, PA 19609

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