

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania

January, 2007

Soup Kitchen Volunteers Are Active at LP

From Susie Romig



For many years, Lincoln Park Church has supported both the Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry at Central Park UMC.

Two teams of workers each go once a month to serve at the Soup Kitchen. They would welcome your help, if only on a substitute basis.

There is a food box in our kitchen for your food donations 365 days a year. Just a can of veggies or a box of pasta will help. You may donate some used baggies for people to carry things from the food pantry, but please don't bring bags without a food donation too!

A team of retired ladies gathers together several times a year to make soup or a casserole for the Soup Kitchen. We each donate ingredients for the meal we prepare. We gather at 10 am on a desig-

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Leadership Training Announced

From Pastor Jerry
McGrath

Ministry Chairs, Staff and Committee Members will meet Saturday, **January 20**, beginning with coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 am, in Memorial Hall. LPCUMC will offer LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEE TRAINING. All Committee members (not only new members, veterans as well) are asked to attend. We will cover role descriptions, discuss our Spiritual gifts and Spiritual makeup of the church, and explore our vision for the future. Our session will end at 12 noon. For further information, please contact **Pastor Jerry McGrath** or **Pastor Dorris McCoy**.

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WORSHIP IN JANUARY

From Pastor Jerry McGrath



MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, January 7 - EPIPHANY SUNDAY - *Where Christmas Reaches to the Ends of the Earth*; Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12.

Sunday, January 14 - FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY - *A Light in the Darkness*; Isaiah 9:2-7, Matthew 5:14-16.

Sunday, January 21 - SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY - *Tracing in God's Footsteps*; Galatians 6:1-5, Philippians 3:12-16.

Sunday, January 28 - THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY - *Where Are We Going?*; Exodus 14:1-4, Ephesians 2:4-8.

Church School Resumes Winter Schedule

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Coinciding with the return to the winter worship schedule, Church School sessions resumed the dual schedule following a holiday break. Children ages 3 through 3rd grades and adults meet at 9:30 am. Sessions for children, youth and adults are offered at 10:30 am.

For details and suggestions of topics, please contact **Pastor Dorris** in the Church Office or Christian Ed Chair, **Linda Hope**, at 610-670-9731. Leadership volunteers for teaching, scheduling staff, and technology development are also always welcomed.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Thank you to all who decorated, made flyers, planned events, baked, led programs, worked so diligently behind the scenes, and participated in fellowship gatherings and worship services. The Lord's work requires many hands in many places--your willingness to share your gifts in LP's holiday ministries and programs brought God's word of Christ's birth to our church community and beyond.

New Year's Prayer

Submitted by Barbara Wenger

A whole new year is mine today...
May I be wiser, Lord, I pray!

I'd strengthen friendships, old and true,
And learn to cherish new ones, too;
To keep on learning and to grow
A little better as I go.

To cast aside each grudge and grief,
And hold fast to a firm belief
That life is joyous, gracious, good,
When lived in terms of brotherhood!

To welcome fun, and play a while,
To lighten work with happy smile!
To thank the Lord and every day
Remember Him and kneel to pray
In gratitude for strength and health
And blessings which are all my wealth!

This year's gift from God to me
To spend, or use, or set me free...

A whole new year is mine today...
May I be wiser, Lord, I pray!

★ Thank You! ★
THANK YOU! ★

A Heartfelt Thanks To All the Angels

From Lee Riley

Our four Angel Tree families had an overwhelmingly wonderful Christmas thanks to your compassionate and generous spirit. Not only were their specific wishes met, but they also each received a \$100 gift certificate to Giant, a \$100 gift certificate to Wal-Mart, and a \$50 gift certificate to Boscov's. What a spectacular hand up from homelessness! May all four families recognize God's blessings in your loving gifts. Peace and thanks to all of you.

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 Jerry McGrath

...and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' Exodus 17:3c

So you want to go back to Egypt? In this Exodus passage the Jews had just left their homes in Egypt, a place of oppression, slavery, and torture, for the *Promised Land*; a place that was foreign to them with some discomfort, and yet they desired to go back to Egypt. The *Promised Land*, Israel, was a better place for the Jews to live, yet because they were not familiar with it they yearned to go back to the horrid conditions in Egypt. Why do we have a fear of the unknown? What is it about our uneasiness towards change that would have us choose familiarity, even though it is not beneficial, over new beginnings? In many ways our stories are similar to the Jews. We cling to the things in our lives that we are used to, that appear safe, despite them being destructive.

We begin a new year, a time that has us sometimes wishing for the wonderful experiences from last year and yet looking forward with some timidness to new beginnings. We are torn. We want to grow, but when we encounter new adventures that seem difficult there is a tendency to want to retreat to what is familiar. Can

we go back to Egypt? Can we go back home to the place or places in our lives that are familiar to us?

I remember that when I was much younger, when I faced horrible situations, particularly rough times at school, I would run home and hide in my bedroom. When I grew older and moved away, my father always said I could come home. When I did return home for the first time for a visit, it was just that, a visit. My bedroom and my home were not the same anymore. I realized through time we can always visit home, but never truly “come home.” We cannot go back to Egypt, we can only visit. However, one thing is certain; we can always go back to God, for God is where our true “home” is.

2006 has come and gone. We can always cherish in our hearts the memories, but we cannot go back and stay. With God leading us, 2007 is a new year with incredible possibilities that await us. If we build our lives on God with our past year's experiences, this new year promises to be wonderfully life-changing. May God bless us this new year.



YOUTH-LINK

UMYF Happenings

From Linda Hope



LASER QUEST - Sunday, **January 14** from 6:00 pm - 12:00 midnight. Young Adults and parent chaperones are needed.

YOUTH/PARENT PLANNING MEETING - Sunday, **January 28** at 12:00 noon in Memorial Hall. Lunch will be served. Please come ready with ideas!

READING ROCKS - Sunday, **February 11** from 4:00 - 7:00 pm.

Please use the UMYF HAPPENING BOARDS in both worship areas to sign-up/RSVP for these activities. Thank you and hope to see you there! Questions? Please contact **Linda Hope** at 610-670-9731 or lsllhope@aol.com.

Operation Christmas Child Your Gifts Traveled Many Miles

From Alice Kase

You filled your shoe box with gifts and returned it to church. It was taken to the Ephrata collection center along with 109 other boxes. Volunteers processed the boxes to ensure they contained appropriate items and had a label for age and gender. A check or cash was collected from your envelope.

The boxes were shipped to North Carolina. Eventually, Sea Freight or giant cargo planes carried them to Africa, South America, or maybe Armenia. Children in over 90 countries received a gift box and Gospel material explaining about Jesus Christ in their own language. Wherever your gift went, you can be sure that it brought a smile to a child's face and glory to God.





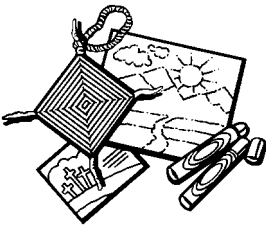
Mission Committee Plans New Venture for 2007

From Barbara Wenger, Mission Chair

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL, our new mission opportunity for 2007, has been a successful approach to ending hunger and poverty in 125 countries. Since 1944, HEIFER INTERNATIONAL has sent food and income-producing animals and training to millions of families. The livestock helps families lift themselves out of poverty by providing benefits of food and income for education, clothing, health care and better housing.

Cost for donation of a whole heifer is \$500; to share in part, \$50. A water buffalo is \$250; to share in part, \$25. Are you able to help? Please contact **Barb Wenger**, 610-777-0952.

We thank you all for your generous donations to our many projects. We welcome new members to our committee. Please join us for our next meeting January 8, 7 pm.



Craft Group Continues "Crafting"

From Genevieve Matthews

Craft Group is busy making craft kits for 50 youngsters who attend the After-School Program at First Baptist Church in Reading. If you can cut, count, color or chat, we need you!

Meetings are held the second and fourth Thursday of each month, in Room 101 in the Education Building. We start at 1 pm and are usually finished at 3 pm. Come join us. With questions, call **Genevieve Matthews** at 610-760-9711.

New Membership Class Forming

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

Lincoln Park UMC will be offering a new membership class on Sunday, **January 21** at 12:15 pm. Lunch will be provided. Anyone interested, please contact the office at 610-777-1422 or **Pastor McGrath** at 610-670-1022.

2007 Stewardship Campaign Final Report

From Derek Ritenour

The results of the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Campaign have been finalized and through God's blessings it was a RESOUNDING success. As a result of everyone's efforts and spiritual commitment to God's work, we increased our total pledge dollars for 2007 by over 11%. Also, an additional 43 individuals and/or families made a commitment to support the church in 2007....that is a 21% increase over 2006!

The NCS team personally would like to thank everyone who has made a commitment to financially support the church in 2007. We look forward to furthering the mission of Lincoln Park Church.....Seeking and Sharing Christ!

Total Pledges Received	144
Pledges with increase (including New Pledges)	102
Same Pledge	33
Decreases	9
Declared No Pledge	12
New Pledges	43
Total Pledged for 2007	\$286,013
Total Pledged for 2006	\$256,468
Increase	\$ 29,545 (11.5%)

Calling for Office Volunteers

From Sandy Bressi, Church Secretary



In January, we would like to try something new in the office. We're looking for volunteers, men or women, who may be interested in helping with the busy phones and some light office work. Coverage is needed for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 9 am - 12 pm. Why not become a good steward? You may volunteer as little or as often as you wish. We'd like to add your name to a rotating schedule. If you would like more details, please contact Office Coordinator, **Genevieve Matthews** at 610-670-9711.

LP Wishes Fulfilled

From Your Trustees



Once again, some of our members responded to our appeal for help. The following is an update about the response to our 2006 Wish List.

◆PEW CUSHIONS - Donations have been received from **Mary Harman**, in memory of her husband, and from **Jo Ann Ross**. Along with the contribution received from the **Villecco** Family, we have approximately 1/4 of the amount needed to cushion all the pews in the Sanctuary. We thank Mary and Jo Ann for their generous response. **Nancy Lape** heads this effort to receive bids and estimates. We will proceed on a "pay as we go" basis. We feel that once everyone sees the difference in the appearance and experiences the comfort of these pads, we can complete the project in a timely manner. If you have comments or questions, please call Nancy at 610-777-0821.

◆PULPIT- for reading the scriptures - is being donated by **Betty and James Garraway** in memory of their son, **John**. This item was added to the Wish List by Pastor Larry prior to his retirement.

◆PIANO- for the Choir Room. A variety of funds was used, including the balances from the **Kegerise** and **Rodruan** Memorials that were designated for the Music Programs, the General Fund, as well as a generous donation from the BERKS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION. This anonymous gift arrived just in time to pay the invoice. Our prayers were answered once again!

◆OAK TABLE for the Wagner Room - This table was delivered by the **Bressi** Family and put to immediate use, and has been used ever since! We thank you, Sandy!

We will issue a new Wish List this spring. If you are aware of any special needs of the church, please call Nancy at the phone # above, or the church office and give Sandy your observation. It will be considered at a Trustees meeting and, if accepted, will be included in the 2007 Trustees' Wish List.

A happy and healthy 2007 to all!

The Mission Committee Says a Big Thank You...

...to all who supported our Annual Food Drive, and especially to **Anna Mae Owens** for her years of support and help with our project. LP is truly grateful for our members and leaders!



2007 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

From Jerry Manhart

The Church Council has adopted a budget of \$374,930 for the year 2007. Because of the \$30,000 increase in pledged giving during the Commitment Campaign, spending increases were possible for programs, maintenance and repair of our facilities, staff salaries, and mission giving.

Some of the highlights of the budget are:

- A balanced budget (\$374,930) with no money used from savings
- Income from the Autumn Auction and Flea Market will be capped at \$2,500 and \$4,000 respectively, with any extra amount raised to be used for committee recommended projects or missions
- Increases for the UM Youth Fellowship (66%) and Junior Youth programs (43%)
- Increases for Intergenerational events (81%) and Summer Educational Ministry (25%)
- Increases for Connectional Ministries (13%), World Service Fund (24%), and General Church Fund (21%)
- Increase for the Reading-Berks Conference of Churches (\$500)
- All staff received a raise in salary (3.5%)
- Increases for maintenance and repair of the church, education building and parsonage (14%)
- Money for lawn care and snow removal (\$4,000)
- Money for the long term repair fund (\$2,500)

Thanks to all who felt God's blessings and made these increases possible. The goal of Christian stewardship is the faithful management of all that God gives so that God can use our gifts to transform us spiritually and to extend Christ's transforming love to others.

Second Chance for UMYF *What's Cooking!* Cookbooks

Thank you for the wonderful support you gave to our recent cookbook, *What's Cooking!* We sold all 100 copies of the first printing! Therefore, UMYF is taking orders for anyone wanting copies. Please sign the order sheets in the Church Office or in both worship areas on the UMYF WHAT'S HAPPENING board. A second printing will occur in January as soon as all orders are received, so hurry and sign up! Cookbooks are \$10 each. Questions? Contact **Linda Hope** at 610-670-9731 or lslhope@aol.com.

From our mailbox



♥ The Meckes family would like to thank all of our church family for their ongoing support and love shown to our Mother during her five month illness. We were overwhelmed by your daily cards, letters, pictures, and your many visits. She loved and appreciated every one of them. We realize now how many lives she touched by her smiles, her hugs, and her many tears of joy. We celebrated her life here as she joined our Father in heaven. Thanks again.

Love,
Elaine, Bruce and Family

♥ Thanks to the children for the caroling and cookies and calendar. All the residents thought it was special.

Love to you all,
Alice Ulrich

♥ Dear Friends,
Thank you for the many assorted groceries you brought to us. Your donations helped us offer a greater variety of items to our pantry clients. We are always grateful for special people like you. May God continue to bless you.

Anna Marie Wallace
Soup Kitchen Coordinator,
Central Park UMC

♥ To Lincoln Park Kids,
Many thanks to all of you very caring children. I have your heart up front of my Christmas tree and am sending you my heartfelt thanks for a wonderful gift.

Keeping all of you in my prayers,
Always, much love,
Vera M. Wennell



"Our Christmas cookie sale was a huge success..."

From Raylin Ritenour

...and I hope everyone enjoyed the new cookies added to our selection. Thank you to all who donated items, helped mix, bake, pack and bought cookies. Our success would not be possible without everyone's help and cooperation.

We packed 270 pounds of cookies, raising over \$1300. These funds will go towards a new microwave for the kitchen and some new kitchen utensils necessary to continue this fabulous fundraiser. The remaining money will be divided between Christian Education and the Mission Committee.

Fun was had by all. I hope next year you will join us again in our Christmas cookie project."



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



January
for our
February issue

Change of Address

Erika Garrity
4421 Garrison St NW
Washington DC 20016-4055

Kathryn (KC) McFadden
New phone: 610-404-1566

Anna Mae Owens
Country Meadows
1802 Tulpehocken Rd
Bldg#2, Rm#240
Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-374-4341

Mrs. Margaret Campbell
5129 Bong Ct, Unit B
Andrews Air F, MD 29762-5818

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, 610-775-3041
Staff: Nancy Artz, Bunny Carlson, Ginny Freyling, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, Elaine Meckes, Suzanne Romig, Doris Schucker, and Barbara Wenger



...the Panase and Gruel families for the loss of John Gruel on November 27;
...the family of Don Cutting who passed away on December 25;
...the family of June Kirschman who passed away on January 2.
We extend our Christian love and sympathy.

Transfer of membership...
Susan Lape Stone, to First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA.

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nated date, prepare the food, then enjoy a brown-bag lunch together. The next day I deliver the food to the Soup Kitchen. If you'd like to be included with the *soup ladies*, give me, **Susie Romig**, a call at 610-372-2711, and I will be happy to notify you of our next date.

We have so much, it behooves us to share with those who have so little.



EPIPHANY

Worship with us: 8:00 & 10:45 am (Traditional Worship)
9:15 am (Contemporary Worship in Memorial Hall)

Office hours 9 am-3 pm Mon-Fri. Pastor: Jerry McGrath, 610-670-1022
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Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35; Dir of Music: Linda Umstead
Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39 Secretary: Sandy Bressi
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Nancy Brown 29 Worship Leader: Becky Chadwick
Bookkeeper: Nancy Brown

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lpcumcbkpr@verizon.net (Nancy Brown)
(For urgent messages, use voice mail, please.)

NEWS-LINC

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