

# News-Line

*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter*  
*Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania* *April, 2007*

## Let's Make LP's Annual Flea Market a Lively Fun(d)-Raiser!

From Barbara Wenger

**O**ur biggest church fundraiser is coming up on **Saturday, May 19**, 7 am - 3 pm. This is your chance to support an event that has brought \$\$\$\$ to LP's annual budget, plus fun and fellowship to our many volunteers. Here's how you can help:

- Clean out your closets, basements and attics.
- Bring in your collectibles and fleas.
- Sign up to help before and/or during the sale.
- Donate foods/baked goods.
- Attend/support the sale on May 19.



We cannot accept computer system components (CPU's, monitors, printers). Also we cannot accept large items, such as washers, dryers or exercise equipment.

-Please bring your fleas in cartons rather than bags. This way the items can be priced, then easily stored in the cartons.

-Please hold clothing, coats, hats, shoes and purses until we announce a date in the near future when we will begin to accept these items.

With questions, contact co-chairs **Barbara Wenger**, 610-777-0952, or **Beverly Ruffner**, 610-777-0785.

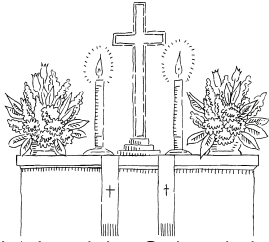
These are a few guidelines:

-Fleas and books can be dropped off in Room 200 (church office basement), starting immediately. Drop off times are 9 am - 2 pm. Last day donations will be accepted is Friday, May 11.

-Please, do not bring glasses or mugs with logos. We accept all books except encyclopedias, textbooks and magazines.

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Worship Schedule

# WORSHIP IN APRIL

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

## Sunday, April 1: PALM SUNDAY

8:00, 9:15 and 10:45 am - "Christ on Trial: Mary Magdalene"  
- Isaiah 53:10-12, Mark 15:33-41; *There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.* Mark 15:40-41

## Thursday, April 5: MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 pm - Christian Seder in Memorial Hall

## Friday, April 6: GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 pm - Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

## Sunday, April 8: EASTER SUNDAY

8:00, 9:15 and 10:45 am - "Christ is Risen: Mary Magdalene Returns!!" - Isaiah 25:6-9, John 20:1-18; *Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.* John 20:18

## Sunday, April 15: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00, 9:15 and 10:45 am - "Easter by Numbers" - Psalm 150, 1 Corinthians 15:5-8; *Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.* 1 Corinthians 15:6

## Sunday, April 22: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00, 9:15 and 10:45 am - "Victory" - 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Luke 24:36b-38; *Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win.* 1 Corinthians 9:24

## Sunday, April 29: UNITY CELEBRATION SUNDAY

### ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 am - "Utilizing the Gifts of All God's People" - Psalm 1, Romans 12:3-6a, Ephesians. Spaghetti lunch and program following the service.

## Leadership Seminar Was A Great Learning Opportunity!

By Jerry Pawlikowski

Val Hastings, a professional certified coach and ordained United Methodist pastor (at [www.coaching4clergy.com](http://www.coaching4clergy.com)), recently led a large group of Lincoln Park UMC leaders and others at a seminar at church.



Val provided his perspective on coaching tied to equipping and empowering church laity for ministry. Two of my takeaways included:

- Coaching requires a lot of listening, and that questions, when asked in the right way, can really empower individuals to consider what is right for them.
- We can coach each other to develop more clarity among us about the vision for the future of our church, affirming that we are on this journey together.

We learned what professional coaching is and how it is different from therapy, consulting, mentoring, training and athletic coaching. We also learned the ‘five-step coaching process,’ skills such as listening, evoking, responding, clarifying, discussing, brainstorming, and accountability. And we learned that these coaching skills have broad application, improving our communications and relationships not only with others at church, but also at home and work. Val told us the story of a homemaker he worked with who only wanted to learn coaching skills so she could be the best mother for her children!

Our time together was time well spent. I am looking forward to future training opportunities at Lincoln Park UMC tied to equipping and empowering church laity for ministry.

### 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 no one puts new wine into old wineskins. The old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine must be stored in new wineskins. That way both the wine and the wineskins are preserved. Matthew 9:17*

**S**cott Peck wrote: *Families, churches, business, and governments become sick by refusing to face painful realities.* He could have added individuals to the list. In psychological terms, we are talking about denial: that ability to ignore the facts that are staring us in the face. It is a normal part of the human condition to deny. We would all prefer to avoid the painful realities that often face us.

Within family systems thinking, there is a theory called 'homeostasis,' which describes the fact that any system remains in balance. Any individual, family, group, church, business develops a balance in its behavior. We would observe that as the way they do things. Each of us has developed a process for getting dressed. It is a pattern we have developed and it is right for us. Families develop a process for doing chores that is right for them. Someone buys groceries, takes out the trash, etc. What we know is that whenever that 'homeostasis,' that balance, is upset, people get upset, react, get scared and struggle to find a new balance. We all know

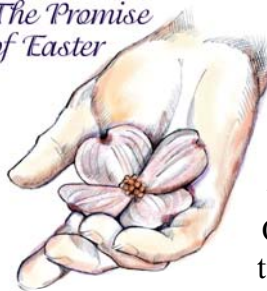
there is nothing worse than having our patterns disrupted. Whenever anything disrupts our well-established patterns, we have conflict, stress, and crisis.

One major problem facing the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is that our patterns, our balance, our 'homeostasis,' are being severely disrupted. The world around us has changed in ways that we never imagined 20 years ago. People, attitudes, everything is in turmoil. In the midst of all this, churches are caught up in trying to understand where we are going. Our natural tendency is to instinctively hold on to the patterns we know. We want to return to the familiar. We end up getting sick when we fail to recognize painful realities that lie around us. For example, one of the painful realities of the mainline church is that our numbers are declining. To try to hang on to our old balance, our old patterns, is only to get more sick.

As people of God, we are called to let go of those old patterns and move into a new land. God always calls his people to view a new way of life. The Biblical

*(Continued on page 5)*

*The Promise  
of Easter*



(Continued from page 4)

story is about God's people journeying into a new time. The hard part for them, and for us, is to trust that God will not abandon us as we change our well established pattern. The promise of Easter is that God can be trusted even in the hardest changes we can imagine. If Jesus can go from death to life, we have the assurance that we can go from married to widowed, employed to unemployed, young to old, without God leaving us. We can change how we live, think, and act without God abandoning us. We can change what we believe without God deserting us. The God who loves us is not a God of old, dead patterns, but a God of living, renewing change.

Peace,

Pastor Jerry

## "KIDS ARE WELCOME" Bags: Coming Soon

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



Watch for new KIDS ARE WELCOME Bags at entrances to worship areas. Christian Education and SPRC are working

together to create colorful bags filled with kid-friendly supplies and activities for children in worship. These brightly decorated canvas bags are provided to engage our children in creative fun while also welcoming them into the fellowship, learning and worship life of the LP congregation. Anyone wishing to donate items or assist with filling bags is encouraged to contact **Jeanette Erskine**, SPRC Chair, or to call **Pastor Dorris**.

## Join Us After Church

From Pastor Dorris  
McCoy



Following the UNITY  
WORSHIP CELEBRATION

on **April 29**, all are invited to a Spaghetti Lunch prepared by **Penny Snook** & helpers. Cost is by donation---just sign up via worship area posters. Speaking on "Drinking and Driving: Its Effects on Two Families," will be Ken Walter and his mother, Cyndy. Ken, 20 years old and a Wilson HS grad, will share the moving story of a senior weekend shore trip which still affects his life and the lives of others because he did drink and drive. This is a message for drivers of all ages. Check upcoming Sunday worship bulletins for more details; also call **Pastor Dorris** to help serve.



# LPUMC GARDEN TOUR

From Jean Weikel



This year's LPUMC GARDEN TOUR will be held on **Sunday, June 10**. Put this date on your calendar and plan to come and have a great time. If you're interested in entering your garden as part of the tour, please see or call **Jean Weikel**, 610-777-3678. More information about the tour will be published in the May *News-Linc* and in the Church Bulletin.



## LP Kids Going **HOG WILD**

From Cori Rigato

### Pennies for Pigs...

...is the mission project the Sunday School children will be involved with this spring. Starting **April 1**, the children will take home their own piggy banks to fill with loose change, with hopes of raising enough money to purchase a real pig through the Heifer Project. The Heifer Project purchases animals for struggling families in the United States and overseas. The gift of a pig is a blessing for a family living in poverty. Pigs produce never-ending sources of organic fertilizer, while boosting the family's income and nutrition. A sow can give birth to about 16 piglets each year. These offspring are then passed on throughout the community.

How can you get involved? There are medium-sized piggy banks placed outside worship areas, where you will be able to donate your loose change throughout the month of April. A large piggy bank can be found in the Education Building for additional loose change donations.

Let's go **Hog Wild** in supporting our children's mission ministry!

## Lincoln Park Jr. Youth Won 1st Place...

again for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row at Mary's Shelter Bowl-A-Thon. With 24 bowlers, we raised \$1410 for Mary's Shelter/Home (a non-profit, non-denominational shelter to support young, unwed, pregnant girls in the Reading area). The prize this year was a \$250 Visa card. We plan to use the Visa card toward other mission projects our group will do in the future. Thank you everyone for donating so generously to the Shelter and for supporting Lincoln Park's Jr. Youth.



## MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



We welcome these people, who were accepted into membership at Lincoln Park UMC on Sunday, March 18.

**Tim McHale:** 108 Montgomery Avenue, Reading, PA 19606; 484-769-1535; **(After 4/28/07):** 1422 New Holland Road, Kenhorst, PA 19607.

Tim is the fiancé of Staci Schulz and works as a Financial Services Consultant for Diamond Credit Union. His hobbies include watching hockey and going out to eat! Tim and Staci are planning to be married this coming April 28.

**Staci Schulz:** (After 4/28/07): Staci McHale, 1422 New Holland Road, Kenhorst, PA 19607; 610-603-0999.

Staci is engaged to be married to Tim McHale this April. She works as an OB-GYN physician at Reading Hospital. Her hobbies include reading, traveling, home improvement and attending the Reading Royals hockey games! Staci has some church experience working with youth groups.

**David Piller:** 4712 Ryan Court, Reading, PA 1960; 610-370-2422.

The husband of Carol Piller and father of Corina, who is in 7th grade, Dave is employed as an Environmental Specialist/Chemist for Exelon Generation. He has some experience working with youth groups and serving on church council.

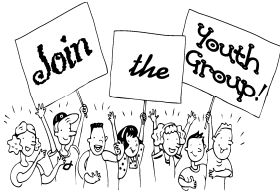
**Carol Piller:** Carol is married to David Piller and is the mother of Corina, who is in 7th grade. She is employed as a Dental Hygienist for Kathy Gurski, DDS. Her interests include gardening, and like her husband David, she has experience working with church youth groups.

**Abby Moore Steinmeyer:** 27 Cambridge Avenue, West Lawn, PA 19609; 610-796-2710.

Abby is married to Mark Steinmeyer and has two children, Sophia, who is in 2nd grade, and Anthony, who is in kindergarten. She works for the Reading School District as a third grade teacher at Northwest Elementary School. Her hobbies include gardening, bargain hunting, cooking, tanning, decorating, and fishing.

**Mark Steinmeyer:** The husband of Abby, and father of Sophia and Anthony, Mark works as a fifth grade teacher for the Reading School District. A former, three-time, All American Running Back for Kutztown State University, Mark's interests include hunting and fishing, continuing to play football and baseball, and coaching children's T-ball and softball.

# YOUTH-LINK



## UMYF Happenings

From Linda Hope

Check the UMYF Happenings board in both worship areas for updates! Friends welcome! Questions, contact **Linda Hope**, 610-670-9731, or [lsllhope@aol.com](mailto:lsllhope@aol.com).

### **Sunday, April 15 - Youth Group Kick-Off**

...with a potluck dinner, games and brainstorming. All youth and their parents are invited. More details will follow.

### **Sunday, April 29 - 4 to 8 pm - Game Night**

...at the **Hope's**....Food, Fun and Fellowship!

### **Friday, May 11 through Saturday, May 12 - Camp Out**

...at the **Lee's** with movie and bonfire, then travel to French Creek on Saturday to play frisbee golf. **Beth Blank** and **Linda Lee** will organize.

### **June - Reading Phillies Night at the Ballpark**

Date to be determined. **Beth Blank** will coordinate.

### **July (7/6-7/8 or 7/13-7/15) - Weekend Beach Retreat**

- looking at alternative options. The Lewes, Delaware trip is not available. Any ideas?? Contact **Linda Hope** or **Pastor Jerry**.

### **Sunday, August 5 - 3 to 7 pm - Pool Party**

...at the **Hope's** for UMYF and their families.

## **Worship and Service Opportunities for Youth**

### **Saturday, April 7 - time to be determined**

Set up Easter Flowers in both worship areas. Contact **Linda Lee**.

### **Sunday, April 29- 10 am - Unity Sunday**

Youth Praise Band to participate. To participate contact **Pastor Dorris** or **Linda Hope**.

### **Monday, June 18 - Friday, June 22 - 8:30 am - Noon - Vacation Bible School**

Youth are needed for crew leaders. Please contact **Linda Hope**, **Pastor Dorris** or **Karen Osika** if you can help!

### **Sunday, July 29 - Friday, August 3**

### **Summer Theater - Intergenerational Drama/Musical**

Evening practices throughout the week with performance at end of the week. We may do an encore performance for the congregation on Sunday, August 5. Auditions/tryouts in early summer. Contact **Linda Hope**, **Pastor Dorris** or **Beverly Perella**.





## **Jr. Youth Events 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**

From Tracy Goldsborough

### **April 20 - 21 - LOCK-IN AT LP CHURCH**

What goes on in LP Church at night?? That night for sure will be fun, fun, fun with a lesson snuck in. The TENTATIVE plan is to meet Friday at church at 6 pm and conclude back at church on Saturday at 2 pm. Horseback riding is at noon Saturday at Skyline Stables. RSVP with a \$15 non-refundable deposit (due to stable's guarantee RSVP policy) and will be needed no later than April 8. Information/reservation forms will be sent to you shortly.

### **May 19 - FLEA MARKET CAR WASH**

This is an important fundraiser for the Jr. Youth, if the weather cooperates. Fundraisers are necessary to continue activities at a reasonable cost. Adults, adults, & more adults are an absolute need. The plan is to wash from 11 am to 3 pm. It is a shine-only event, with a possible rain date of May 20 after church.

### **June 3 - PICNIC AT MOHNTON POOL**

If weather doesn't cooperate, we'll meet at the **Goldsborough's**.

POSSIBLE OTHER FUNDRAISERS are in the works due to the low attendance at our pancake lunch and the risk we take for good weather at the car wash. Options being considered are:

- ☺ along with the Missions Committee, sell soup and sandwiches to-go after all three services
- ☺ serve at another lunch the end of April. Pastor Dorris has the lunch setup already, but we need a server coordinator (I'm out of town) and, of course, some servers. This will be discussed with you as you are contacted about other events mentioned above.



# Ride In To AVALANCHE RANCH

From Karen Osika

Come to **Avalanche Ranch**, a wild ride through God's Word! Get ready for an exciting celebration of God's love, filled with stampeding cattle, yapping cattle dogs, soaring eagles, and a whole herd of friends. You'll enjoy Bible Point Crafts and exciting games, experience thrilling Bible stories, sample tasty snacks, and hear unforgettable music.

Round up will begin **June 18-22** at 9 am. If you're interested in corralling some exciting memories, contact **Karen Osika** or **Pastor Dorris McCoy**, 610-777-1422. It's an experience you don't want to miss.

## Christian Seder Planned

From Becky Chadwick

We will be celebrating a Christian Seder dinner and a reenactment of the Last Supper on MAUNDY THURSDAY, **April 5**, at 6:30 pm.

Please join us for a wonderful learning experience for all ages! Children who are receiving their first communion will participate in this service.



Seder Meal

A free will offering will be taken.

## Interpretive Dance Group: Soles Movin' Souls

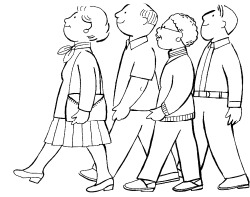
From Pastor Dorris McCoy



Our Hebrew ancestors danced before the Lord and so now can we as we interpret God's Word through the movements of our bodies! No experience is necessary and all ages are welcomed--- just bring a willing heart and comfy clothing! **K.C. Buchanan-McFadden** says she can move our souls by moving our soles. She seeks persons willing to learn a few basic steps and directions. Come and learn what it's all about at organizational practices, **Sundays, April 15 & 22**, noon, in the upstairs Sanctuary. The Interpretive Dance Group will lead a moving interpretation of the Lord's Prayer during the Unity Sunday Celebration, April 29. With questions, contact K.C. at [kcb1014@yahoo.com](mailto:kcb1014@yahoo.com) or 610-404-1566.

## Retreats for Seniors Offered

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



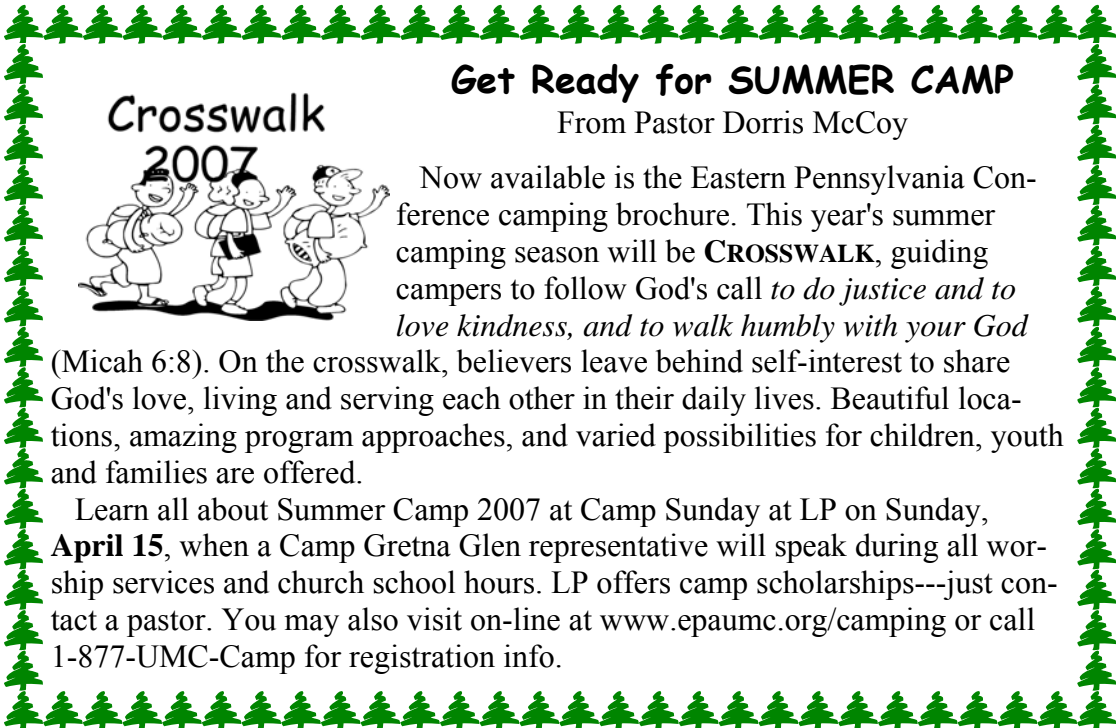
### Keeping the Sabbath When Life is a Whirl of Activities: A Day-Long Spiritual Experience for Older Adults

This retreat will be held on Thursday, **April 19**, at the National Christian Conference Center in Valley Forge. The retreat is sponsored by The Older Adult Ministries Committee of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Registration is \$35. *Calling All Seniors!*

### Designing & Enhancing an Older Adult Ministry

Scheduled for Wednesday, **May 2**, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, this topic is designed for clergy, lay volunteers, adult Sunday school teachers, and others with an interest in older adult issues. This program is sponsored by Cornwall Manor. Registration is \$25 for the first registrant and \$10 for each registrant from the same church.

For more information on either of these retreats, visit Cornwall Manor's web site at [www.cornwallmanor.org](http://www.cornwallmanor.org). Scroll down to the Highlights section and click the links to view the brochures in PDF format.



## Crosswalk

2007



## Get Ready for SUMMER CAMP



From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Now available is the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference camping brochure. This year's summer camping season will be **CROSSWALK**, guiding campers to follow God's call *to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God*

(Micah 6:8). On the crosswalk, believers leave behind self-interest to share God's love, living and serving each other in their daily lives. Beautiful locations, amazing program approaches, and varied possibilities for children, youth and families are offered.


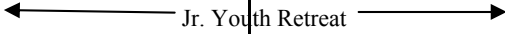
Learn all about Summer Camp 2007 at Camp Sunday at LP on Sunday, **April 15**, when a Camp Gretna Glen representative will speak during all worship services and church school hours. LP offers camp scholarships---just contact a pastor. You may also visit on-line at [www.epaumc.org/camping](http://www.epaumc.org/camping) or call 1-877-UMC-Camp for registration info.

# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>1</p>  <p>Confirmation Class 5pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Mission Committee 7pm</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Chancel Choir 7pm</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>3 services- 8, 9:15, 10:30am</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Agape 12pm</p> <p>Finance 7pm</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Chancel Choir 7pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p><b>CAMP SUNDAY</b></p> <p>B/P screening</p> <p>Interpretive Dance 12 pm</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>UMYF Kickoff/Potluck</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bible Study 10:30am</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Music Committee 7pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Chancel Choir 7pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Interpretive Dance 12pm</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Book Club 7pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Chancel Choir 7pm</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Unity Service @ 10 am</p> <p>Lunch &amp; Learn 11am</p> <p>Youth Game Night 4pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Bible Study 10:30am</p>		<p><b>Looking at</b></p> <p>5/7 St</p> <p>5/11-</p> <p>5/12 Conf</p> <p>5/19 Annu</p> <p>5/27</p>

# 2007



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7:30pm	5 Maundy Thursday Seder 6:30pm Praise Team 8pm	6 Tenebrae Service 7pm 	7 Women's Bible Study 9am UMYF set up Easter flowers
7:30pm	12 Craft Group 1pm Praise Team 8pm	13	14 Women's Bible Study 9am
7:30pm	19 Praise Team 8pm	20	21 Women's Bible Study 9am Chili Supper/Talent Show 6pm
7:30pm	26 Craft Group 1pm Praise Team 8pm	27 	28 Women's Bible Study 9am Family Game night/Potluck 4-8pm
<b>head to next month...</b>			
	4/6 Music Sunday Staff-Parish Committee 5-12 UMYF Camping Confirmation trip to Baltimore 5/14 Agape Annual Flea Market/Car Wash Confirmation Sunday		



# Grace Notes

From Lin Umstead and Beverly Perella

I'd like to thank those who helped make the Reading Philharmonic Orchestra concert last month a success. Whether you attended or helped behind the scenes, your participation was greatly appreciated. The freewill donations were split between the Orchestra and LPUMC; our portion of the proceeds will benefit the concert fund.

We have many special musical offerings this month:

**Sunday, April 1** - PALM SUNDAY: The children will sing at the commencement of the 10:45 service.

**Thursday, April 5** - MAUNDY THURSDAY: Passover Seder meal and drama in Memorial Hall

**Friday, April 6** - GOOD FRIDAY: Tenebrae service in Sanctuary

**Sunday, April 8** - EASTER SUNDAY: 8 am Traditional Service with harp and organ selections; 9:15 Contemporary Service with Praise Ringers Bell Choir, 10:45 Traditional Service with tenor soloist, **John Perella**, trumpets, organ and chancel choir, with prelude beginning at 10:30 am.

**Sunday, April 22** - Member pianist, **Debbie Pyle**, at the 8 and 10:45 am Traditional Services.

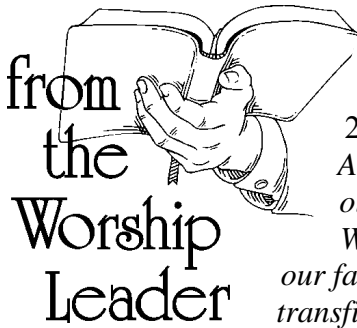
**Sunday, April 29** - A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY: one service, beginning at 10 am.

And looking ahead to next month...

**Sunday, May 6** - MUSIC SUNDAY: An opportunity to honor individuals who have contributed to the music and Christian Education ministries of Lincoln Park UMC.

*The heart is as insatiable as the grave till Jesus enters it,  
and then it is a cup full to overflowing.*

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)



## Worship Leader Minute for April

From Becky Chadwick

2 Corinthians 3: 17 - 18

*And when God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognized as obsolete.*

*We're free of it! All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.*

I love to read “Guidepost.” I love the stories of salvation and redemption. I love the profound moments of seeing God and the transformation of lives. But the truth is most of us don’t have dramatic and sensational encounters with God. In the book *Experiential Worship*, author Bob Rognlien addresses the need to provide people with opportunities for authentic encounters with God. Encounters with God must be real and ongoing. In order for life-long change to occur, our encounters with God must provide us with a step-by-step process that involves change over time.

The change that Paul describes in the 2 Corinthians passage is a change that is permanent and ongoing. It is the life-altering change that continues on as we walk our path toward perfection. The experience of God does not have to be flashes of light, thunder in the sky, or a ground swell of emotion that picks us up and sweeps us into a world of bliss. Authentic encounters with God can be soft, quiet, and can go unnoticed if we’re not looking for them. You see, according to Rognlien, the real question is not whether God is present to us, but are we present to God?

Most people think it would be great to have profound life-changing moments in their lives, but in truth those are not moments that change us for long. Those are brief moments that change our behavior or attitudes for a short period of time, but then we go back to our old ways. Positive, sustained life change takes time and work. The question is, are you willing to do the work to make change? As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians, once there is nothing between us and God, our lives will change; our worship will grow and we will show our change in all we do. We won’t need the extreme moments because we will be centered in God, shining the light of his glory.

## STEWARDSHIP NUGGETS 9 – Herb Miller

Submitted by Jerry Manhart

### Trusting God with Your Money

“Our conversations with . . . members about tithing almost inevitably included clarification about trust in God. To them, tithing carries with it a conviction that once you have incorporated the practice into your life, a reciprocal relationship of trust has been established. God will not let you down; you will be blessed and cared for in ways you do not expect and that transcend rational calculation. Tithing is a sign that ‘you have your priorities right’—and if you do, you will be taken care of.” [*Money Matters*, Dean R. Hoge, Charles E. Zech, Patrick H. McNamara, Michael J. Donahue]

### Stopping a Robbery

We find these words in the book of Malachi: *Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In your tithes and offerings! . . . Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.* (Malachi 3:8-10).

Malachi tells us that when we rob God we also rob ourselves. Each Sunday morning, we have the opportunity to worship God with our offerings. That act of worship also gives us a chance to stop the spiritual robbery that keeps God from pouring out overflowing blessings on us. Count on it. When you put God at the top of your life priority list, God returns that attention.

### Givers Receive

The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus said, *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.* (Luke 6:39).

We do not give in order to get something back from God. That would be a form of spiritual selfishness likely to damage us more than help us. Yet, the Bible is clear—in both the Old Testament and the New Testament—that we will receive in the same measure that we give. Our offerings each week in worship do more than help with God’s work. They also give God a chance to deliver on that promise from Scripture.

*(Continued on page 17)*



## Church School is for Life!

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



Church school adds strength and growth to life and questions of faith. If you ever wonder what it means to "seek and share

Christ" (LP's mission), Church School is the place to raise that question with fellow seekers.

A variety of options are offered during the 9:30 and 10:45 am hours. For details and to offer suggestions for curriculum topics, please contact **Linda Hope**, Christian Education Chair, 610-670-9731, or **Pastor Dorris**, 610-777-1422, ext. 24.

*(Continued from page 16)*

### Breaking Out of Bondage

"God's Word to us about money is not painful. To the contrary, it is good news. The god of money seeks to dominate and destroy our lives. Many of us live in bondage to money, even as we think we are enjoying the good life. Money is constantly on our minds. However, as we understand God's truth about money and possessions, we are set free from this devastating force. ." [*Partners With God*, Bobby L. Eklund and Terry Austin]

Our offerings to God's work make a difference in the lives of other people, but they also help us break out of bondage and connect our lives to matters that matter.

### Quality Control

Someone said that God looks not for the quantity of the gift but for the quality of the giver. We gain an additional benefit when we put money into God's offering plate each week. We exercise spiritual muscles that help us "let go" of something that Jesus tells us again and again can reduce the quality of our lives.

## Trustees' Report

From Nancy Madeira

The Trustees approved the estimates for the following repairs:

- corridor door facing Jefferson Ave
- posts at driveway entrance
- new roof over Music Director's office with a 30 year guarantee.

Arthur Funk was contacted to look at the steeple, which is in need of repair.

The speakers are not anchored properly, and the wooden supports are rotted, which could collapse, causing roof damage. A water leak also must be repaired.

Approval also was given to replace the existing humidifier at 50 E Court Blvd.

Locks on all doors were checked and are working properly.

# “Opportunity” Awaits You

by Jerry Pawlikowski



I arrived at church that Tuesday afternoon around 4:30. The sweet smell of tomato sauce greeted me as I opened the church door. I walked down to the kitchen and saw dinner being prepared for some 130 people. Meatballs were already simmering in sauce. A big pot of water on the stove was starting to boil. Cut rolls and other breads were spread out on cookie sheets to be made into garlic bread. We left church at 7 pm with 20 pounds of cooked spaghetti in meatballs and sauce along with garlic bread and salad (well, at least we thought we had it!).

The one hour we spent at the Opportunity House serving the meal we had prepared...it is difficult to put into words. You have to be there to experience it for yourself. What I can tell you is this - the need and hunger in their eyes, the grati-

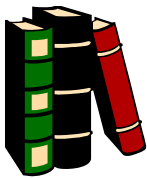
tude in their smiles, the men coming back for seconds, the rave reviews from the women - it all seemed to pass by in a flash! And just like before when I had helped serve food, it didn't start sinking in until the drive back to church...we are all God's children...we did more than just provide physical nourishment, we also fed their souls with a smile, a kind hello, or words of encouragement....we modeled Christ for them.... we had fed them, but I felt they had fed us as well. We got back to church at 8:15, and my brief respite was completed.

You may not think you have much time to spare with your busy schedule, but God calls us to serve Him by serving others. A team of us from Lincoln Park UMC cooks and feeds over 100 homeless men and women at the OPPORTUNITY HOUSE in Reading (at [www.rbes.org](http://www.rbes.org)). I invite YOU to join us in May when once again we serve those in need at the OPPORTUNITY HOUSE.

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## Women's Book Club

From Nancy Dettra



*The Honk and Holler Opening Soon*, by Billie Letts, is about four misfits who work together in a rundown cafe. They all have unique personalities that change each other and their surroundings. *Filled with humor and fascinating twists and turns, you'll be thinking of these people long after you've finished the last page.* Join us on **Monday, April 23**, at 7 pm, at the Dettras' home, 407 Harvard Blvd, Lincoln Park, for a lively discussion. Newcomers are always welcome.

# Introducing Our New Youth Ministry and Leader

From Linda Hope

Lincoln Park announces a new youth ministry program for UMYF. The goals of this program are to:

- ◆ create a strategy where youth can take ownership of their youth ministry program
- ◆ provide opportunities for these young adults to participate in LP's weekly worship services
- ◆ be involved in mission work in the community
- ◆ explore their personal relationships with God
- ◆ enjoy fellowship with other youth and mentors.

The program's model includes a Youth Leadership Team, where each grade level is represented. The Team will meet once a month to discuss activities, present ideas and concerns from their specific age level, and make decisions on matters brought before them from other members and/or teams from LP.

UMYF will meet at least twice a month to participate in various activities. The group will be led by the UMYF Ministry Team Leader, with assistance from other lay persons who have a passion to work with youth. This will provide an environment for youth to develop relationships with each other as well as other adults in our congregation. Because our church



community encompasses multiple school districts, this is an important step in growing, building and strengthening this group.

## New UMYF Ministry

The youth and parents look forward to welcoming **Cori Pasquale Rigato** in her new role as the UMYF Ministry Team Leader. Cori brings a true passion for guiding and encouraging children and teens to explore their personal relationships with God. She thrives on small group interaction and creating an environment where teens feel comfortable to express their views and questions. Cori believes there is a way to combine physical activity, creativeness and laughter to teach the lessons our teens need to know. Cori has learned more about God, the Bible and her own faith through working with the youth. She feels that God has called her to work with the youth at LP, and she is very excited about the opportunity.

Please consider giving this new opportunity a try! The group's first meeting is **Sunday, April 15** (time to be determined). All parents and youth are invited to a potluck supper in Memorial Hall for a kick off, to create a youth "Dream Team," and to play games and brainstorm. Please watch for details in Sunday bulletins or the UMYF Happening board. We look forward to seeing you!

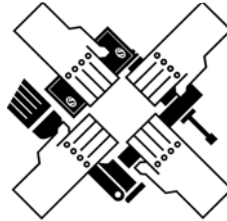
# NEWS FROM NEW ORLEANS

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

**LP** recently received updates from St. Matthew's UCC in New Orleans, the church supported by LP's children and youth fundraisers last spring and summer.

Ellen Bentz, St. Matthew's Council President writes:

"Greetings from St. Matthew's. I thought you might like to read about some of the goings on at the church. We have 'weathered' the recent tornadoes with many broken windows and some roof damage but are counting our blessings that it was not worse. We are housing a FEMA disaster unit for our area and are grateful to be able to help the community in this way. We continue to worship and work with our sister church, Central UCC. Both congregations are inspired by this partnership. I hope that all is well with you. Thank you for your love and support. We keep you in our prayers. Blessings."



**New Orleans  
Relief Update**

Central UCC, the partnering church of St. Matthew's in New Orleans, was a small, struggling congregation whose facilities were severely damaged and who now share space and many worship services and programs. Also in the newsletter were personal testimonies from persons who participated in nine work camp groups hosted by and at the church in January and February, from PA, CA, Maine, Ohio and Vermont.

Church members themselves plan upcoming work projects similar to recovery teams' efforts. A Justice and Witness Ministries center will be housed in the church to address justice needs of New Orleans' residents in their plans for returning home. The church also will host an upcoming workshop on UNOP, the city-wide hurricane re-building plan being reviewed by officials to meet requirements for federal recovery funding. Anyone interested in reading details,

## **Church Receives Special Endowment Gift**

From Harold Perkins

From the estate of Dorothy M. Haas, former Lincoln Park resident, a gift of \$5000 to our Stewardship Fund was received in February. Although she was not a member of our church, through her friendship with **Rich** and **Beth Auman**, and **Norman** and **Nancy Dettra**, she had contributed to the acquisition of bells in the past and generously remembered us in her will.



# MISSIONS

From Barbara Wenger, Mission Chair

Our March 5 meeting began with prayer offered by Pastor Dorris. The Committee welcomed new member, **Cori Rigato**, who will be the Heifer International liaison between youth and the Mission Committee.

Jan Worrtdall, executive member of Habitat for Humanity, spoke about housing for low income families.

The following donations were approved:

- Habitat for Humanity \$500
- Red Bird Mission \$100
- Women in Crisis \$100
- Rdg-Berks Conf. of Churches \$250
- Mercy Community Center \$100
- Mary's Shelter \$243.41

Donations to Heifer International include:

- 1 whole sheep \$120
- 1 whole pig \$120
- 1 whole goat \$120
- 2 flocks of chicks \$40
- 2 flocks of duck & geese \$40
- 2 hives of bees \$60

The Committee made Easter cards for the Manor Care Nursing Home in Spring Township.

Next Mission Committee meeting is April 2, 7 pm, in the Library. Everyone is invited to participate.



## Come For the Chili...Stay For the Talent

From Becky Chadwick

We are busy preparing for our third annual Chili Supper and Talent Show, to be held on **Saturday, April 21**, at 6 pm, in Memorial Hall.

Do you have a talent to share? We welcome any dramatic reading, singing, acting, instrumental performance, reading to children, or any other talent. Please contact **Cory Laity**, 610)777-1750, to sign up.

People are needed to assist with cooking, set up, and clean up. If you are interested, please contact **Becky Chadwick**, 610-927-2207.

Tickets will go on sale April 1. Cost will be \$8 per adult, \$4 per child 5 – 10, and children under 5 are free. Childcare will be available. The menu includes red chili, white chili, hot dogs, salad, dessert and drink.

**From our  
mailbox**



♥ Thank you to our friends and church family for the prayers and cards following the death of my father. I wish more of you would have known him. He was truly a gentleman and will be missed by many. Thank you again for your spiritual love and prayers.

-Lou and Jerry Manhart

♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for your kind donations of groceries...The Lord continues to bless us every day with friends who remember our needs... May God bless your kindness.

-Ann Marie Wallace, Soup Kitchen Mgr,  
Central Park UMC



### **From Your Trustees...**

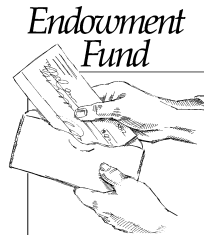
It has come to the attention of the Trustees that many unauthorized people have master keys to the church and office complex.

If you are not a committee chairperson or an authorized holder, please return your key to the church office. Keys will be made available on a daily basis.

These keys cannot be duplicated, and it is a lengthy process to have new keys made. Thank you.

## **Endowment Fund Opportunity**

From Don Schlosser,  
Endowment Committee



Do you have a potential capital gain from appreciated securities that you don't want to capitalize on because of tax implications? If so, you can derive tax advantages by

transferring ownership of these securities to the Eastern PA-Peninsula United Methodist Foundation (EPUMF). The EPUMF would sell these securities and send the proceeds to Lincoln Park Church. By designating that the proceeds from the sale of the appreciated securities be given to the LPUMC Endowment Fund, you can make a gift that will continue to generate income on an annual basis to support new initiatives that are not funded by our annual budget.

By donating appreciated securities to the LPUMC Endowment Fund, you can help to assure that your church will continue its mission of "Seeking and Sharing Christ," because a gift to the Endowment Fund becomes a gift that continues to give beyond your lifetime.

Before making this type of donation, you may wish to consult with your financial advisor and/or Stacy Martin, Executive Director of the EPUMF.



# Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*April 12  
for our  
May issue*

## Change of Address

Richard B Bohn Jr  
1234 Robeson St  
Reading PA 19604-2147

Mr & Mrs Glenn Engle  
27 Westview Ter  
Womelsdorf, PA 19567-9754

Mrs Melissa Hassel  
126 Snowberry Way  
Dillon CO 80435-8353

Mr & Mrs John Mazzacca  
2000 Cambridge Ave  
The Highlands, Apt 117  
Wyomissing PA 19610

Evelyn Shindlbeck  
Berks Heim, Unit B-2, Rm 220-1  
PO Box 1495  
Reading, PA 19603

## Our Sympathy to...

We extend our deepest sympathies to **Dennis and Gabi Antunes** on the loss of their brother-in-law on March 25.. May God surround you and your family with his love and care.

*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



Baptized  
into the  
**Faith**

...**Noelle Bruce Long**,  
daughter of **Jamie** and  
**Jonathan Long**,  
granddaughter of

**Richard and Carol Bashore**,

on February 18. We extend our Christian love and welcome. Noelle and her parents reside in Scottsdale, AZ.



## April Birthdays

Mason Raimo	4/2/2004
Lucy Maack	4/4/2003
Emmerson Piacine	4/5/2003
Alyssa Gehris	4/6/1998
Ryan Chadwick	4/7/2000
Tanner Lee	4/19/1998

Happy Belated Birthday to Marguerite  
"Mei Mei" McGrath 3/15/2005



**HE IS RISEN!**

Worship with us:	8:00 and 10:45 am (Traditional Worship) 9:15 am (Contemporary Worship in Social Hall)	
Office hours	9 am-3 pm Mon-Fri	Pastor: Jerry McGrath, 610-670-1022
Office phone	610-777-1422	Pastor of C. Ed: Dorris McCoy, 610-777-6128
	Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35; Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39	Dir of Music: Linda Umstead
Fax line	610-777-4309	Secretary: Sandy Bressi
Voice mail	Pastor Jerry 44, Sandy Bressi 21, Linda Umstead 26, Pastor Dorris 24, Nancy Brown 29	Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735 cherfallon@comcast.net, debharv3@verizon.net
Web:	www.lpcumc.org	Nursery: Gabi Antunes/Amy Krebs/Holly Newman
E-mail:	lpcumc@verizon.net (church), lpumcpastor@verizon.net (Pastor McGrath), dmccoy2@verizon.net (Pastor McCoy), musicdir@verizon.net (Lin Umstead), lpcumcbkpr@verizon.net (Nancy Brown)	Worship Leader: Becky Chadwick
	(For urgent messages, use voice mail, please.)	Bookkeeper: Nancy Brown

## ***NEWS-LINC***

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church  
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Reading, PA 19609

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