

# News-Line

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*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter*  
*Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania* *July-August, 2007*

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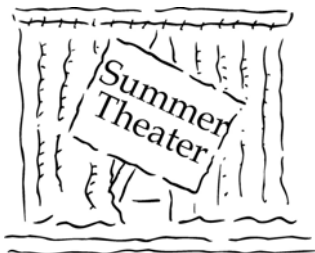
## ***FISH TALES:***

### **Coming To Lincoln Park in August**

From Jenna Hope

**J**oin us this August in LP's second SUMMER DINNER THEATER program. This year's production of *Fish Tales*, written by Kathie Hill, shares several stories of Jesus Christ's work with the help of clever, catchy tunes! Rehearsals will run Sunday-Thursday from 6-8 pm at the church, beginning Sunday, July 29.

The production staff of *Fish Tales* welcomes members and non-members, as well as the Lincoln Park community, to join in on the fun! Set-construction and clean up help is greatly appreciated, in addition to performers. There are also opportunities to help out behind the scenes, both before and during the performance. This year's production staff includes the musical talents of **Beverly Perella**, and student directors **Jenna Hope**, **Lindsey Villecco**, and **Tanner McIntosh**.



The performance will be held **Friday, August 3**, at 7 pm, in the Sanctuary, following a light supper in Memorial Hall at 6 pm. An encore show will be presented during the 10 am service on **Sunday, August 5**.

Remember to invite your friends and family to join us and share the stories of Jesus Christ through *Fish Tales*!

Please see the sign up sheet on p. 11 of this issue and make plans to be part of a fun event!

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# WORSHIP IN JULY-AUGUST

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP - 10:30 am**

(Music Prelude 10:15 am)

**Sunday, July 1 - INDEPENDENCE SUNDAY**

“God's Freedom Bell” - Deuteronomy 10:17-21, Hebrews 11:8-16.

**Sunday, July 8 - SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

“Open My Eyes” - Psalm 123, Matthew 9:9-13.

**Sunday, July 15 - SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

“Nothing But the Blood” - John 20:1-9, Ephesians 2:13-17.

**Sunday, July 22 - EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

“Legalism vs. Grace” - Luke 9:57-62, Philippians 3:1-16.

**Sunday, July 29 - NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

“The Cost of Success” - Matthew 13:44-46, John 2:17.

**Sunday, August 5 - CELEBRATION SUNDAY - 10 am**

The Summer Musical - *Fish Tales*

**Sunday, August 12 - ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

“What Matters” - 2Samuel 7:4, 8-16, Luke 1:26-38.

**Sunday, August 19 - TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

“Not Your Hallmark Type of Love” - Deuteronomy 6:4, 1Corinthians 13.

**Sunday, August 26 - THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

“Finding Our Own Voice” - Deuteronomy 15:7-11, Mark 14:1-9.

**INFORMAL/CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP - 9 am**

The Informal/Contemporary Worship Service will do a summer series based on the music of U2

**Sunday, July 1 - INDEPENDENCE SUNDAY**

“God's Freedom Bell” - Deuteronomy 10:17-21, Hebrews 11: 8-16.

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**Sunday, July 8**

*When I Look at the World; Sunday, Bloody Sunday*

Psalm 123, John 20:1-9, Ephesians 2:13-17.

**Sunday, July 15**

*When Love Comes to Town; I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For*

John 15:12, Philippians 3:1-16.

**Sunday, July 22**

*God Part 2* - Deuteronomy 6:13-16, Matthew 4:1-11.

**Sunday, July 29**

*Gone* - Matthew 13:44-46, John 2:17.

**Sunday, August 5 - CELEBRATION SUNDAY - 10 am**

*The Summer Musical - Fish Tales*

**Sunday, August 12**

*The Playboy Mansion* - 2Samuel 7:4, 8-16; Luke 1:26-38.

**Sunday, August 19**

*One* - 1Corinthians 13.

**Sunday, August 26**

*I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For* - Mark 14:1-9.

**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

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:18-19*

In his book, *Leading Change in the Congregation*, Gil Rendle writes, "Two essential fears face our congregations: the fear of too much change and the fear of too little change." Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church stands on the edge of great change. No one knows how much is needed. No one knows what is too much or what is too little.

I grew up in a church system in which power rested in the hands of the church elders, who were all males with white hair, dark suits, white shirts, and ties. I remember when it was a big thing to have women in any sort of leadership position. Then youth were included in those leadership positions. Suddenly the quiet meetings of powerful men in the dark back rooms of churches became public discussions that included everyone. Lots of the family secrets became more public.

Yet there is still a general reluctance within churches to talk about painful, awkward subjects. We tend to hope problems will go away, get better on their

own, or disappear if we ignore them long enough. In the recovery world, people talk about the *elephant in the living room*. That refers to the addiction, or some other inappropriate behavior in the family that is never discussed. No one talks about it because it may cause hurt feelings. The problem is that when we learn to ignore the *elephant in the living room* we also learn to ignore the zebra, the cow, the horse, pony, cat, and dog. Soon, we're not talking about anything but the weather outside the living room.



Change is difficult for all of us. Human beings like things that are settled and reliable. That makes life easier. But we live in a world of change and we are part of a church that is changing. Probably the most significant thing that needs to change in most 'pastor dependent' churches is the cloud of silence and secrecy that pervades the church. The most significant thing that needs to happen is for everyone to start talking about what they think and feel; to disagree with the leadership; to share ideas and thoughts about what is being

*(Continued on page 5)*

## WHAT IS A TITHE?

From Pastor Jerry McGrath



In Deuteronomy 14:22, God says, *Be sure to set aside a*

*tenth of all that your fields produce each year.* The tithe is a tenth of what we make each year to be given to the Lord. It is interesting that God does not suggest this; He tells us *Be sure to set aside a tenth...*

Considering that the government requires close to 40% of what we make each year, and we are generous when it comes to tipping 15% to 20%, ten per cent is not that bad. God says we can keep 90%. Something to think about, pray about.

## Trustees Report on Projects

From Nancy Lape

Trustees are working on two projects from the WISH LIST:

- Pew cushions for the sanctuary
- Enlarged illuminated outdoor sign

Some members have expressed an interest in having pew cushions, which cost approximately \$10,000. Currently, \$2,160 has been donated for this project.

The existing portable sign on the corner of Jefferson and Cambridge will be replaced with a lighted one, with additional space for information. We're in the process of getting estimates, as Cumru Township has given us the green light!

If you're interested in helping with either project, please call **Nancy Lape**, 610-777-0821. Thank you.

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done, could be done, should be done. That is a scary proposition because it means that we have to risk being wrong, possibly hurting someone's feelings, or being responsible for some new direction the church might take. It is easier not to say anything and ignore the elephant, and all the other animals, that take up the whole living room.

The liberating thing that occurs, however, is that when we start talking about all the animals in our living room we can begin to make plans to deal with them. Suddenly, the living room becomes much bigger and we feel more confident. Suddenly there is more room for the grace of God, because there is more room for the spirit to work.

## Farewell To Our Music Director

Jeanette Erskine, Chair, Staff Parish

The Staff Parish Committee accepted with regret a letter of resignation from our Director of Music, **Linda Umstead**, effective July 1, 2007.

Lin has brought beautiful music to Lincoln Park UMC for over three years. She's been a joy to all who worked with her and will be missed by both staff and members.

Lin has accepted a position in another church and is looking forward to a new ministry. We pray that God will continue to bless Lin as she uses her gifts in His service.



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## Five Beautiful Gardens Enjoyed

From Jean Weikel



Thanks to all who helped to make the 2007 Garden Tour a wonderful day. Thirty-one people attended and toured five gardens. Each garden was different and very beautiful.

### Garden Tour

We not only toured homes with wonderful flower gardens, beautiful landscapes, and even a garden train, but we also enjoyed delicious food and drink, graciously supplied by the hosts, and the sincere fellowship that comes when we all get together. We all look forward to next year's garden tour and hope that additional members come along on the tour and/or can show us their gardens.

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## OPPORTUNITY HOUSE PICNIC SUPPER

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July by preparing and serving an early holiday picnic supper for the homeless men, women and children at OPPORTUNITY HOUSE on **Tuesday, July 3**. Preparations begin in the church kitchen at 5 pm, and we leave for OPPORTUNITY HOUSE at 6:30 pm to serve our fixins'. Donations of \$\$\$, fresh fruits/veggies, or time are eagerly welcomed. Please contact **Pastor Dorris** for details and/or to volunteer to be permanent head chef for the fall and winter seasons.





## ... Summer Meetings and Events

### JULY

- 7/4 Office Closed
- 7/9 Finance Committee
- 7/15 UMYF/Family - Reading Phillies
- 7/29 - 8/2 Summer Musical Rehearsal
- 8/3 Musical Performance/Picnic
- 7/29 UMYF Meeting

### AUGUST

- 8/5: 10 am Service/Musical performance
- 8/5 UMYF Pool Party
- 8/13 Finance Meeting
- 8/20 Worship Meeting
- 8/24-8/26 UMYF Beach Retreat

→Look for the **Church Calendar** coming again with the September *News-Linc!*

## Church Survey Results Available July 1

From Rich Auman

Church members may pick up results of the congregational survey beginning **July 1**. Results will be available during both worship services.



Presentations of the survey results by **Jerry Pawlikowski**, Lay Leader, are scheduled for the following dates:

- Sunday, July 8, at Contemporary Worship
- Sunday, July 15, at Traditional Worship

A Congregational Meeting for all church members is planned on **Sunday, August 5**, following the single 10 am service. At this time there will be discussion regarding the direction of our church with both contemporary and traditional services. Please plan to attend.

## Mission Update

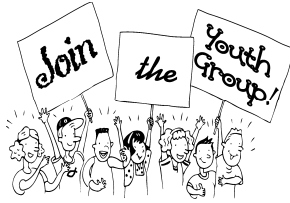
From Barbara Wenger

Our May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting opened with a prayer from **Lee Riley**. The following allocations were approved:

Greater Berks Food Bank	\$100
Methodist Services for Children	\$100
UMCOR for Kansas (Greensburg) Recovery	\$200

The committee will meet again in the fall.

# YOUTH-LINK



## UMYF SUMMER EVENTS

From Cori Rigato  
610-568-0691

**Save these dates in your busy summer schedule:**

**July 15** - Youth Leadership Team Meeting, 10-11am  
AND

Reading Phillies Game - Youth Sponsored Family Event, 12 pm- ?

**July 29** - Youth Group Meeting, 6-8 pm; Helping with the upcoming musical.

**August 5** - Pool Party at the **Hopes**, 3-7 pm. All youth entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade and their families are invited. There will be an informal parent meeting with **Cori** from 4-5 pm.

**August 24 – 26** - Beach Retreat with **Cori & Jerry** to Lewes, Delaware.

The first Youth Leadership meeting went well with a number of ideas discussed:

- ☀ offering a free service to the members of the congregation
- ☀ having a youth worship service once a month on Sunday evenings
- ☀ creating the youth ministry page on LPUMC's website.

It is wonderful to see the commitment of these teens to the future of Lincoln Park's Youth Ministry. I apologize for not mentioning in the last *News-Linc*, two additional youth who've joined the team: **Kevin Villecco** and **Danielle Pasquale**. As always, anyone is welcome to join this exciting group!

Have a safe & fun summer!

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## Calling All Girls!

From Tracy Goldsborough

All girls, 6<sup>th</sup> grade & up: Plan to join us November 2 & 3 for the

## REVOLVE TOUR

now being held at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia. Check out the speakers and singers on the web at [revolvetour.com](http://revolvetour.com). We need to get tickets soon so please contact **Tracy Goldsborough** or **Cori Rigato** as soon as possible if you're interested. More details will follow when we know the size of our group.



# Meet Cori Rigato

From Dennis Antunes

From Dennis Antunes

Lincoln Park has a new Youth Group Leader, and I'd like to introduce her.

Cori was baptized Protestant and began her Christian education in a New Jersey church and then upstate New York (she asked that you don't hold that against her). Her family was active in church until she was a sophomore in high school when they moved to England for three years and did not become active again for 20 years.

Back in the US, a friend who was also the Christian Ed Director at her parent's church in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, asked if she could "help out" one Sunday with the children. And that was that. One Sunday turned into 10 wonderful years teaching the difficult classes—the pre-teen and teenager classes—the ones no one else wanted to teach.

Cori's personal relationship with God was forged while preparing for and teaching these classes. She says it was not easy—keeping youth interested and awake seems impossible at times. But the occasions where God's message got through and conversations were animated and full of life fueled her with purpose, making her realize that she was fulfilling God's plan.

Cori also served on the Christian Education Committee and was instrumental in changing Sunday School classes from a traditional format to a progressive one. Her church became known as the "kid-friendly" church, and church registration exploded to over 130 children.

Cori has a wonderful daughter, **Danielle Pasquale**, who's in high school and also plays an important role in Cori's spiritual growth. They have shared many difficult

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

From Tracy Goldsborough

Mark your calendars now:

**SEPTEMBER 16 - NOON - LASER TAG**

Parents & children are invited for pizza at church so we can do some planning, and then off to Laser tag.

More details later.

# Congratulations to More of Our Graduates!

From Cheri Fallon

## Travis Celmer...

son of **Ted** and **Kim**, and grandson of the late **Shirley Super**, graduated from Conrad Weiser HS recently. Travis is an avid bowler and is very successful at it. He was the County Champ this year. Last year he was the State Champ, coming in a close second this year. His mom says "He lives and dies for bowling. I think he'd like to be a pro bowler."

Travis will attend Penn State Berks in the fall. "Travis goes to a lot of tournaments on the weekends and wins scholarship money for college," says Kim. Meanwhile, this summer Travis will be working with his mom at the family-run D & J Sandwich Shop.

*Harry Potter* is his favorite book; he is waiting for the last one to come out!

## Carolyn Lessig...

recently graduated from the 21st Century Cyber Charter School, a public school where all coursework is laid out online. Carolyn, daughter of **Kevin** and **Barbara**, switched to cyber school in the middle of her 11th grade year at Wilson. "Cyber school was the best choice for me!" she says.

Carolyn is an independent worker who enjoys reading and writing. "I do a lot of creative writing. I like fantasy and fiction



and usually write short stories. I am also working on a book, a fantasy adventure."

Carolyn hopes to start at Penn State Berks next year as a business major. "I want to have my own book store so the business major just makes sense for me," she says.

"I love *Harry Potter*," says Carolyn, "I've read all the *Harry Potter* books."

## Elisa Knutsen...

daughter of former members **Carl** and **Bonnie Knutsen**, Elisa recently graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She won the prize in orthopedics and will continue at Maryland as a resident in orthopedics.

Lots of good wishes to all  
our graduates!

# Lincoln Park's UMC Summer Intergenerational Theater



Participants:

(include those who wish to do things behind the scenes)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if child): \_\_\_\_\_

Talent/Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if child): \_\_\_\_\_

Talent/Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if child): \_\_\_\_\_

Talent/Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if child): \_\_\_\_\_

Talent/Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to LPCUMC, 1 Carlisle Avenue, Reading, PA 19609**

**TALENT/INTEREST:** Please indicate from the following list or specify  
other specifically:

Singers, speakers, set builders/designers, prop gatherers, costume coordinators,  
sound & lighting techs, make-up, snack coordinator, etc.



## LABYRINTH: A Journey In Prayer

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

All are invited to journey with friends of Christ, to be in quiet and prayer through a labyrinth experience here in Lincoln Park's Memorial Hall. The labyrinth will be offered to members and friends of all ages during the hours of 5-8 pm,

**Wednesday, August 22.** Drop by, walk through, linger, pray, and stay as long as you choose.

A Labyrinth Walk leads one through a period of prayer and spiritual renewal. Labyrinths have appeared in cathedrals in many forms for centuries and continue to invite us to meditate and contemplate on God's will for our lives. The labyrinth path asks us to quiet ourselves and move from the world's hurried pace to its center, focusing in peace as we rest and then walk out with a renewed commitment to our faith in the divine.

Bon Voyage with fellow pilgrims, joining on this journey to the center of the labyrinth to be transformed and renewed. Connect with Christians throughout the centuries who have walked labyrinths as a ritual of faith. Come! Go deeper with God!

Anyone interested in helping to create and provide the labyrinth experience at Lincoln Park is asked to contact **Pastor Dorris**. All prayers and support are deeply appreciated as we let the Holy Spirit guide us in bringing the Labyrinth Walk to Memorial Hall.

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times and have grown in faith together.

In Connecticut, Cori received financial aid through her church and was able to take the college courses needed to become eligible for a masters program. She also met and married Tony, and moved to Colorado where she worked as a church Youth Coordinator. Although she stayed in Colorado for less than a year before moving to Pennsylvania, she created some great relationships with teens in the church and still keeps in touch with them.

Cori is happy to have found her church family in Lincoln Park and enjoys working with the youth and congregation. She plans on some day becoming a youth pastor.

Cori feels a sense of peace when teaching and spending time with children and youth. She knows she is right where God wants her to be—doing His work.

Those of us directly involved with the Youth Group are excited in having Cori as our new Youth Group Leader. Please give her a big welcoming hug next time you see her.

## COMING UP → SEE YA IN SEPTEMBER

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



Fall Church School schedule resumes on **Sunday, September 9.**

Mark your calendar - time yet to be determined. Watch Sunday bulletins for details.

Also coming in September will be a life-changing series based on the popular book *The Purpose-Driven Life*, by Pastor Rick Warren. The book challenges people to wrestle with the question, *What on earth am I here for?* Help us prepare for this experience by praying for our church and the series' design team. Come together to grow spiritually and reach out to our community, uniting *to serve God's purpose in our generation.* (Acts 13:36) To assist the design team, please contact **Pastor Dorris.**

Watch for details on a **MINISTRY FAIR, Sunday, September 30,** in Memorial Hall, following worship. All committees and ministries are invited to tell their stories and invite new involvement.

## Volunteers Needed for Community Survey

From Tracy Goldsborough

**Monday - Wednesday, August 6, 7, & 8:**

**LINCOLN PARK & MONTROSE MANOR COMMUNITY SURVEY.**

We need lots of volunteers to go out early evening on any or all of those days for any length of time to talk to neighbors in Lincoln Park and Montrose Manor and ask some key questions. **Pastor Jerry** will design the questions. For safety reasons, we do not want anyone to survey alone, so please contact me with your schedule.

The purpose of the survey is so we at Lincoln Park Church, their community church, can find out what the local community needs and how we can help. If you have any interest in helping, please contact **Tracy Goldsborough**, 610-777-6991. There will be a sign up sheet shortly at each service. Remember, if you can't help physically, we can always use your help to cover this new endeavor in prayer.

A decorative border consisting of a continuous line of musical notes, resembling a treble clef staff, framing the entire page content.

# Grace Notes

From Lin Umstead

## SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend. The musical prelude to the service begins at 10:15, with our Traditional Worship Service starting at 10:30. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Concert Fund to allow these and other musical guests to continue to share their gifts with us.

**July 1** - Patriotic Hymn Sing with tenor soloist, John Perella

**July 8** - Senior Choir Sunday

**July 15** - Member Pianist, **Debbie Pyle**

**July 22** - James Spangler, Trumpeter

**July 29** - Hymn Sing

**August 5** - *Fish Tales* will be presented during the worship service (single 10 am combined service followed by a congregational meeting)

**August 12** - Keith and Peggy Ruch, Vocal Duo

**August 19** - Member Pianist, **Dorinne Bilger**

**August 29** - Music by Bronwyn Graeff

**September 2** - Patriotic Hymn Sing

This month I will begin serving at another church. I will miss so many of you and keep you in my prayers. In leaving, I would like to share a favorite poem, found on page 15, that has been a source of inspiration to me.



## *Life's* *Lesson*

I learn as the years roll onward and I leave the past behind,  
That much I had counted sorrow but proves that God is kind;  
That many a flower I'd longed for had hidden a thorn of pain,  
And many a rugged by-path led to a field of ripened grain.

The clouds that cover the sunshine, they cannot banish the sun,  
And the earth shines out the brighter when the weary rain is done.

We must stand in the deepest shadow to see the clearest light;  
And often through Wrong's own darkness comes the weary strength of Right.

The sweetest rest is at even, after a wearisome day,  
When the heavy burden of labor has been borne from our hearts away;  
And those who have never known sorrow cannot know the infinite peace  
That falls on troubled spirit when it sees a last release.

We must live through the dreary Winter if we would value the Spring;  
And the woods must be cold and silent before the robins sing.  
The flowers must be buried in darkness before they can bud and bloom,  
And the sweetest warmest sunshine comes after the storm and gloom.

-Author Unknown

May God bless you all!  
Lin Umstead

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**"In summer, the song sings itself."**

**—W. Carlos Williams**

## Working Together: Souper Bowl & UMCOR

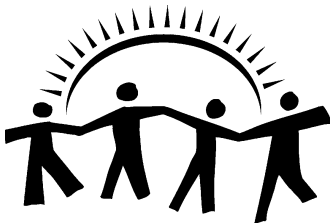
From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Souper Bowl and UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) headquarters report that UM children and youth from 2,700 congregations across the US raised over \$900,000. The charities helped feed hungry people through the 2007 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING last February.

Thank you to all Lincoln Park members who helped our children's participation in this outreach make a difference in the lives of hungry and hurting neighbors right here in Reading. Your support helped our young people be the hands and feet of Jesus through their simple acts of love.

This is also part of over \$8 million raised by almost 15,000 groups throughout the United States. With these dollars, one million hungry families in the US could have food for a week. THANK YOU for helping every dollar count!

Mark your calendar for February 3, 2008, for next year's Souper Bowl on Super Bowl Sunday!



## Summer Church School for LP's Youngsters

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



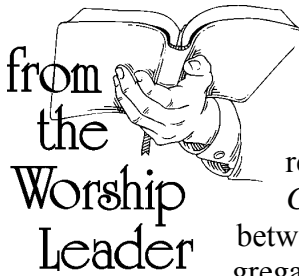
Christian Education follows worship in taking an abbreviated

schedule on Sunday mornings during the summer months. A Bible Story Time & Activity will be offered for 3 year olds through third graders following the Children's Message at the 9 am Contemporary Service only.

If you'd like to lead either the Pre-school or Early Elementary group on remaining summer Sundays, please see or call **Pastor Dorris** for suggested resource. There's also a sign-up board in Memorial Hall to reserve dates when you're available.

And...it's never too early to think of our fall schedule and where you might attend or lead sessions for children, youth, and adults. Share your ideas and leadership possibilities by calling **Linda Hope** or **Pastor Dorris**. And don't forget to browse for new ventures as you visit churches during your summer vacations---we'd love to hear about them!





## Worship Leader Minute for July/August

From Becky Chadwick

In the most recent “Religious Products News” (May 2007), I read a great article entitled, *Growth Strategies Maximizing Your Congregation Slogan or Niche?* The focus was on the difference between having a slogan and really defining the people that a congregation wants to reach. The problem with most congregations is they have good slogans, but they don’t have a defined idea about who they are trying to reach and how to reach them. The competition among mainline Protestant churches for new members is fierce! People born after 1960, in general, believe that they have the right to make decisions that will shape their future. Their parents (in general), and in many cases their grandparents, maintained institutional loyalties. Those loyalties included a specific religion, companies, political parties, department stores, and choice of spouse. With this in mind we have to shift our thinking from denominations to congregations. What does our congregation offer to people who are looking for congregations that meet their individual needs?

There are some things that we know make a difference when trying to attract new members. This list is not a check off. A congregation doesn’t have to have all six points, but each of the points works together to make up a growing congregation:

1. **PASSION:** The leadership (NOT just the Pastor!) is driven by a passion for evangelism.
2. **NEW:** The congregation has been worshipping at the same address for fewer than 30 years. The focus is on creating the new, not on perpetuating the old.
3. **RELEVANCE:** “The ministries here speak to me where I am at on my personal and/or faith journey.”
4. **QUALITY:** Quality is highly valued! This applies to “everything to preaching to parking, from equipping believers to be engaged in doing ministry to transforming inquirers into fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.”
5. **CHOICES:** Worship offers attractive and meaningful choices. Choices in learning and meeting and making new friends are important. Doing ministry and one’s own personal and spiritual growth are priorities.
6. **NICHE:** “The reason I came back a second time and I’m still here is this place is filled with people like me.”

(Continued on page 18)



## Women Talking to Women!

From Becky Chadwick

The Women's Bible Study has been meeting regularly every Saturday since October, 2006. We've had a diverse group of women get together, talk, and learn from two great studies. We've also learned from each other about what it means to be a woman who loves God.

The group is made up of singles and married people; we have people in their 30's through their 50's; women with children and women with cats! Our common goal is to understand and build our relationship with God and with each other.

We're taking the summer off, but we'll be getting together again beginning **Saturday, September 8**. We meet in the library from 9 - 10:30 am. Coffee and tea are hot and ready to drink! All women are welcome, so bring a friend! Please consider joining us!

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*(Continued from page 17)*

(Growth Strategies Maximizing Your Congregation Slogan or Niche?, "Religious Products News," May 2007, p.14)

With 80% of all congregations experiencing a decline or a plateau in size, and some people wanting to blame the culture in general and younger generations in particular for the decline, we need to take a hard look at what we are doing. What is our niche? Not what we say our niche is, but what is it really? How do we respond to the needs of the people outside our church? As a congregation we need to "be sure your (our) self-described identity or role or niche or distinctive ministry is consistent with what you (we) offer." (p. 17). In corporate worship and in our own personal worship we need to add this to our list of daily topics to discuss with God. We cannot move forward without doing what God wants us to do!



family and friends of **Galen Spohn**, 96, who died on June 4. We will keep you in our prayers.

## Weddings



Congratulations to **Amy Lynn McFeaters** and Jeffery Edward Neher, who were united in marriage at Lincoln Park Church on June 9. Amy is the daughter of

**Robert and Karen McFeaters.**

Best wishes and congratulations to **Amy Louise Manhart** and Drew Happ, who were married on June 16. Amy is the daughter of **Jerry and Lou Manhart**, and sister to **Lisa.**

May God bless these couples as they begin their life together.

## Births



Congratulations to **Lisa (Manhart)** and Kevin **Keopenick**, on the birth of their daughter, **Eva**

**Marie**, on June 10, weighing 6 lb, 6 oz. Proud grandparents are **Jerry and Lou Manhart.**

...and to **Eric and Melissa (Ferree) Hassel** on the birth of their son, **Owen Mark**, on May 3, weighing 8lb, 13 oz. The Hassels live in Dillon, CO. Note: apologies for the incorrect announcement regarding Owen Mark's birth in the June *News-Linc.*

...also to **Linda and Keith Woll** whose son, **Dylan Richard**, joined the family on June 14. Dylan weighed 6lb, 13oz, and is welcomed also by sister **Olyvia.**

May God bless these families with His love and care.

## Making Disciples Workshops This Summer

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



Lincoln Park leaders and staff are encouraged to take advantage of the Eastern PA Annual Conference *Making Disciples* Workshops. This Conference initiative focuses on increasing our outreach and effectiveness in Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. Summer workshops will be offered July 21, 1-3:30 pm on "Vibrant and Transformative Worship" and on August 18, for a Webcast Training on "Ways to Increase Your Church Attendance." To attend, contact **Pastor Jerry** or **Pastor Dorris.**

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### Courage or Foolishness?

It takes a lot of courage  
To put things in God's hands,  
To give ourselves completely —  
Our lives, our hopes, our plans,  
To follow where he leads us  
And make his will our own.  
But all it takes is foolishness  
To go the way alone!

Author Unknown

## **STEWARDSHIP NUGGETS 12 – Herb Miller**

Submitted by Jerry Manhart

### **Controlling Your Addiction**

“A friend of mine taught me about addictions when he discovered that he was not just a compulsive eater, but a foodaholic. He had an uncontrollable addiction to food and was unable to break the addiction.

“That kind of addiction is not like an addiction to heroin or alcohol, though it is equally fatal. Food is something one cannot simply say no to! Saying no to food leads to death. One can neither walk away from food entirely nor give in to the addiction and let it control one’s life. The task of living is to try to find a way between the extremes. My friend tells me of a conversation he had with an alcoholic who had been successful in staying dry. The alcoholic said, ‘Compared to you, I am lucky. I can put my tiger under lock and key and never let him out. You have to let your tiger out three times a day.’ Every time that compulsive eater has a meal, he has to control his addiction, his tiger. No easy answers, here . . . .

“We who are haunted by an addiction to things, to wealth, to money have that tiger of addiction sitting on our laps every time we watch television. When we pay our bills. When we go to a restaurant. When we sign a mortgage. When we try to figure how much to tip a taxi driver. When we think about our retirement plan. When the church asks us for a donation. It is all around us all the time. It never goes away, and it never lets go of us. And we never seem fully to tame it.

“In our world, we must learn to live with the tiger without letting the tiger destroy us.

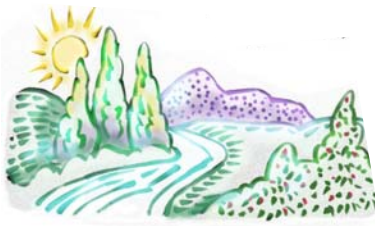
“Because we and our world are so obsessed with this particular addiction to money, the church must help us learn how to live with it - to work through the inherent tensions we feel about our wealth.” [Financial Meltdown in the Mainline?, Loren B. Mead]

In addition to helping God accomplish numerous ministries, that is a benefit of our offerings. They help us to keep the tiger of addiction to money on a short leash.

### **Money Is a Measure of Devotion**

“For the first time in history, a few societies, including the United States, find most of their members with money beyond what is needed for their personal basic needs.

*(Continued on page 21)*



“Always keep your eyes open for the little task, because it is the little task that is important to Jesus Christ. The future of the Kingdom of God does not depend on the enthusiasm of this or that powerful person; those great ones are necessary too, but it is equally necessary to have a great number of little people who will do a little thing in the service of Christ.

The great flowing rivers represent only a small part of all the water that is necessary to nourish and sustain the earth. Beside the flowing river there is the water in the earth — the subterranean water — and there are the little streams which continually enter the river and feed it and prevent it from sinking into the earth. Without these other waters — the silent hidden subterranean waters and the trickling streams — the great river could no longer flow. Thus it is with the little tasks to be fulfilled by us all.”

—Albert Schweitzer

*(Continued from page 20)*

‘Discretionary income’ is a reality for most of the population. And advertising agencies very intentionally have targeted that income; turning ‘wants into needs.’

“To increase in affluence becomes significant to the degree that the Bible suggests that money has a spiritual component. For example, in Matthew 6:24 Jesus tells his followers, ‘You cannot serve both God and Money.’

French philosopher Jacques Ellul points out that in this text, Jesus personifies mammon ‘as a sort of god,’ a force that is competing with God for our souls. Ellul suggests that Jesus’ choice of words ‘reveals something exceptional about money, for Jesus did not usually use deifications and personifications. What Jesus is revealing is that money is a power.’

“In Matthew 6:21 Jesus also describes another aspect of money that is an important indicator of our heart’s condition: ‘For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’ Money is a measure of devotion, the way we spend it indicating something about us—sort of like a spiritual thermometer—according to Jesus. In a consumer society, such as the United States, it may be the most intentional measurement available.” [Behind the Stained Glass Windows, John and Sylvia Ronsvalle]

“I have had many things in my hands and I have lost them all, but whatever I have placed in God’s hand I still possess.” [Martin Luther]

## From our mailbox



♥ Dear LPCUMC Family,

We would like to express our thanks to you for the cards, gifts, and warm wishes to mark the recent addition to our family. We are so happy that we are able to raise our children surrounded by good and caring people like you.

Thank you,

Scott and Luci Schaeffer

♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the three bags of groceries. Your service and sharing have certainly been a blessing to us. We are glad to know that God has given us good friends like you. May God continue to bless you as you serve others.

Ann Marie Wallace

Soup Kitchen Manager

♥ Your many loving thoughts, prayers, flowers, and cards have sustained me through the long search for answers to my medical problems. After being diagnosed with Parkinson Disease, I am still trying to cope with its many life-changing effects. Your caring means more than you'll ever know.

Alice Kase

♥ Just a note of thanks to the ladies of your church who supply all the crafts for the homework study program at First Baptist Church in Reading. A simple thank you doesn't seem adequate for all the time and effort the women put into this project. They supply us with everything we need to do the craft and a finished one so we will know how to construct it.

This is a special part of our homework study program, and the kids love the things they have gotten to make. Our homework center is in operation two days a week, Monday and Wednesday. Wednesday is always craft day, and as soon as the children arrive they ask, "Will there be crafts today?"

The children don't get to go to the craft room until their homework is finished and they have read either from their school reading book or from books we have at the center. Crafts is an incentive for the children to finish their homework and reading so they can make the craft.

This year we had 60 children (1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade) coming to our homework study program. For many years the ladies from your church have been dedicated to being a part of our program, and we want to take this time to let them know how much we have appreciated their hard work and look forward to many more years of this worthwhile partnership.

Sylvia Krallis,

Volunteer Director



# Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*August  
12  
for our  
September  
issue*

## **Change of Address**

Betty Cooper  
Country Meadows of Wyomissing  
1802 Tulpehocken Rd  
Rm 311 - "In the Meadows"  
Wyomissing PA 19610  
(Important mailing still goes to John Cooper)

Thelma Moyer  
Laurel Center  
325 B 1  
125 Holly Rd  
Hamburg PA 19526

Dustin Zachmann  
717 Eastwick Dr  
Reading PA 19606-9155

Bob Miller  
522 Lenore Place  
West Lawn PA 19609  
610-678-2771

*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

## **New Phone Number**

Kathy & Steve Hagee  
610-775-3348



## **July/August Birthdays**

Gabriel Chelius	7/2/2000
Devin Krick	7/4/2001
Jordan Krick	7/4/2001
Camryn Hubric	7/7/2001
Courtney Hubric	7/7/2001
Collin Hassel	7/20/2004
Ryan Gallagher	7/24/1997
Claire Chelius	7/30/2003
Quinn Dickinson	8/4/2000
Daniel Antunes	8/5/2004
Brendan Gallagher	8/8/2000
Caitlyn Christopher	8/24/2000
Adrianna Swinehart	8/28/1997
Brennan Reazor	8/28/2002

### **For Sale:**

Twin Extra Long 80" Leisure-Pedic Electric Adjustable bed. Includes mattress, frame, hand-held control for head and foot elevation. Heat and massage feature also included. Perfect condition. For details, call 610-670-2015.

Worship with us:           9 am (Contemporary Worship in Memorial Hall)  
                                  10:30 am (Traditional Worship)

Office hours     9 am-2 pm Mon-Thur

Office phone    610-777-1422

Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35;

Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39

Fax line 610-777-4309

Voice mail    Pastor Jerry 44, Sandy Bressi 21,

Dorris McCoy 24, Nancy Brown 29,

Cori Rigato 31

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Worship Leader: Becky Chadwick

Bookkeeper: Nancy Brown

UMYF Leader: Cori Rigato, 610-775-1110

Web:   www.lpcumc.org

E-mail: lpcumc@verizon.net (church), lpumcpastor@verizon.net (Pastor McGrath),

dmccoy2@verizon.net (Dorris McCoy), nbrown@lpcumc.org (Nancy Brown)

(For urgent messages, use voice mail, please.)

## ***NEWS-LINC***

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Reading, PA 19609

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