




News=Line



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



Something for Everyone at our Church Picnic/Community Fest

From Pastor Jerry McGrath



A combined Church Picnic and Community Fest is set for **Sunday, September 9**, following the last worship service, from noon to 3:30 pm. This is an excellent way for our church to share its gifts with our community. It gives us an opportunity to discuss the needs and issues of our neighbors, and how Lincoln Park could partner with the community in addressing these needs and issues.

We'll provide free food, games, and activities for all ages, as well as live entertainment. There will be:

- ☀ moon bounce
- ☀ pony rides
- ☀ face painting
- ☀ Bingo
- ☀ sack races
- ☀ Captain Jerry's Duck Pond

We'll be joined by the fire company, Humane Society, and police department, who will offer finger printing.

We are all one body, with many parts...

and those many parts are much needed to make this event work well and be enjoyable for all. There are opportunities to share any gift or talent you have—greeting people, helping prepare food, face painting, staffing the moon bounce, and setting and cleaning up. Everyone can play a part in making this picnic fun and welcoming for the whole community. Please see **Pastor Jerry, Rebecca Chelius, or Tracy Goldsborough** for further details.



Inside this issue

Worship	p. 2
From Pastor McGrath	p. 4
Ministry Fair	p. 3
Opportunity House	p. 6
Youth	p. 8, 9
Grace Notes	p. 16
Worship Leader	p. 17

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

From Pastor Jerry McGrath



Sunday, September 2 - LABOR SUNDAY

Final Summer Worship

9:00 am: Contemporary Worship

“Return of Jerry Letterman”

10:15 am: Musical Prelude to Traditional Worship

10:30 am: Traditional Worship

“A Tribute to Our Calling”

Psalm 90, 1Corinthians 3:9-17.

Sunday, September 9 - RALLY SUNDAY

Beginning of New Fall Worship Schedule

9:00 am: Contemporary Worship in Memorial Hall

11:00 am: Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

“Where Everybody Knows Your Name”

Ephesians 2:11-22, Acts 2:38-47.

Sunday, September 16 - SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN KINGDOMTIDE

9:00 am: Contemporary Worship

11:00 am: Traditional Worship

“Breaking Through the Barriers”

1Corinthians 9:19-23, John 20:19-23.

Sunday, September 23 - ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

9:00 am: Contemporary Worship

11:00 am: Traditional Worship

Special Guest Preacher: **The Rev. Jack Buttmer**, former pastor here at Lincoln Park, returns from New York state to share his message.

Sunday, September 30

10:00 am One Worship Service, featuring **The Dave Stahl Sacred Orchestra**.



MINISTRY FAIR Celebrates Opportunities To Serve

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

All members are invited to Memorial Hall following the Dave Stahl worship experience on Sunday, **September 30**, at 11:15 am. At our MINISTRY FAIR you'll discover many possibilities for involvement at Lincoln Park Church.

Our committees and ministry programs will be represented with booths, displays, and information about how members' gifts might be matched for purposeful involvement in service and ministry. Committee chairs and/or members will answer questions, and staff members will be present to explore and birth new ministry suggestions for our church and community.

Check out some of the possibilities and people available for you:

- Worship involvement such as greeting/ushering/lector/communion

- steward/worship committee
- Drama
- Fellowship/hospitality
- Church School teaching
- Special Christian Educational events such as International Christmas Celebration, VBS, Summer Theater
- Office volunteers
- UMYF, JR Group
- Choirs and Instrumental Music
- Nurture & Witness
- Stewardship
- Missions
- Agape
- Trustees

All this is designed to put purpose in your possibilities for serving Christ! Come---celebrate and experience the potential! Enjoy coffee, conversation and connections in ministry!! Questions? Please see **Pastor Dorris**.

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

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.' Jeremiah 29:11-13

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church is at a crossroad at this time in history. With any crossroad in life, we encounter transformation and with any transformation we experience anxiousness and fear. We've come to a place where the possibility for incredible, successful ministries exists. Yes, we have some dilemmas, but these are wonderful challenges we are faced with: physical space, visioning, leadership direction. This is a time for us to come together as "One Body" in Jesus Christ.

We need to remember in Jeremiah, that God does have a plan for all of us; plans to *prosper and not harm*. The problem is, how do we know God's will and direction for our lives and the church? Unfortunately, God does not literally send down a map from heaven with detailed descriptions of our life, including our future careers, spouses, and where to live. If that were the case, life would be much simpler.

God does have plans for us and this church and guides us, but we have choices to think and respond freely.

How do we know what God has in store for us? Knowing what plans God has for us and our church first requires us to know God through Jesus Christ more intimately. If we don't know much about God and Jesus, how will we know God's plan? We must take the time to pray and read the Bible. Jesus said, *If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.* (John 8:31b-32). We must bathe in God, continually searching to be in God's presence.

Knowing God's will for our lives involves knowing God, but it also involves knowing ourselves. God has created each of us as a special person whom He loves very much. God has given us very special gifts, and when we draw close to

(Continued on page 5)

For surely
I KNOW THE
plans
I have for
YOU,
says (the)
Lord ...
TO GIVE YOU A
future
WITH
Hope.
Jeremiah 29:11, NRSV

(Continued from page 4)

God, He enables us to realize those precious gifts. What is it that we excel at in life? Some may have the gifts to teach, to build, to computerize, to talk, to listen, to care, to comfort, to heal, to dream, to bring joy, to eat (that's my gift). God's plan is to take our very special gifts, our unique qualities, and use them for the glory of God and service to humanity.

If all this hype about change in the church has gotten you a little perplexed, remember God has a wonderful plan for your life in Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church. It is found in knowing Him and discovering and using the gifts He has given you.

Next *Making Disciples* Workshop Planned

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

The yearlong Eastern PA Conference of the UMC initiative, MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD, continues Saturday, **September**

8, with the Rev. Carol Krau, of the General Board of Discipleship, presenting "Christian Education and Spiritual Formation." The Rev. Krau

is a dynamo, and knowledgeable on current trends and resources in Christian Education. Anyone interested in attending, newcomers or experienced education leaders/teachers, please contact **Pastors Jerry** or **Dorris** by September 3.



Making Disciples

The remaining three sessions focus on evangelism, stewardship and small group ministries, on October 13, November 14, and December 13 - all pertinent, faith-provoking input offering helpful direction for LP's visioning process.



Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ira Mohler... who recently celebrated 75 years of marriage. We extend our best wishes as they celebrate this milestone wedding anniversary.

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE NEWS

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



Beginning September 4, **Penny Snook** will serve as our coordinator for LP's suppers at OPPORTUNITY HOUSE. She will supervise the menu planning, cooking and transporting. Thanks to our interim guest "chefs" we didn't miss a meal! Please call Penny, 610-781-7704, to offer your time, desserts, fresh fruits/veggies, or \$\$\$ donations for main course selections and to discuss cooking time details.

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE is a multi-service organization located at 430 North Second Street in Reading. It seeks to improve the quality of life for children, adults, and families who face obstacles, and supports their efforts to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. Volunteers play important day-to-day roles as they:

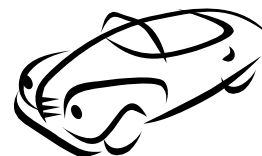
- ◆ serve homeless shelter meals
- ◆ help in the 24/7 day care setting
- ◆ assist with special events
- ◆ plant flowers in transitional housing gardens
- ◆ stock food pantry shelves
- ◆ conduct fundraising events
- ◆ perform maintenance and office tasks

As we are blessed, let us share our blessings, and be a blessing to others.

Driver Safety Program Coming to LP

From Bruce Meckes

The AARP Driver Safety Program will be offered at our church on



Monday and Tuesday, **September 24 and 25**, 10 am - 2:30 pm. The instructor is Ronald "Ron" Brendle. Cost is \$10 and registration is required. Look for registration forms and brochures on the Information Stations at the rear of both worship areas.

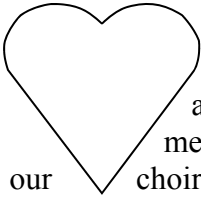
Updated class information includes aggressive drivers, anti-lock brakes, car phones, and more. Learn defensive driving techniques, how to adjust for age-related changes, and then receive an auto insurance discount.

Contact **Bruce or Elaine Meckes**, 610-670-2015, for more information.

Who Am I?

For answer, see p. 14.

From Suzanne Romig



Romance in our LP Choir? Yes! This sweet and hard-working church member met her husband in our choir and has been singing ever since! “We have a soft spot for the choir,” she admits.

For the last 31 years this lady has quietly been part of Lincoln Park Church, sometimes working behind the scenes, sometimes being chair of an important committee.

She was born and raised in a small town near Gettysburg, graduating from Gettysburg High School. From there she pursued her education at Albright College, earning a Bachelor’s degree in Nursing.

After graduation she began a nursing career with a job at St. Joseph’s Hospital in med-surgery. Her interest has always been in women’s health, so from there she moved on to working with Planned Parenthood where she knew she could help in passing on to women important information about their health. She stayed there for seven years, the last three as Clinical Director. (If she were working there today she would find herself offering advice to men as well as women!)

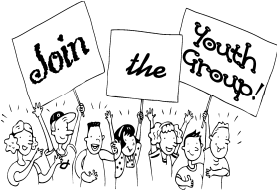
Moving on to nursing in the OB-GYN field, she took a position with Dr. Massengale’s office. That position took a back seat to marriage in 1980 and to the birth of a son. That young man graduated from college this year Magna Cum Laude and with a Phi Beta Kappa key. What parents wouldn’t burst with pride at that accomplishment! He is going on to graduate work in chemistry. And his mom eventually went back to nursing part-time with Dr. Frederika Heller’s office, recently retiring after 18 years there.

At Lincoln Park Church, she’s participated in many committees — Staff-Parish, Children’s Ministry, as Chair of Worship. She has helped with Bible School, Sunday School, church dinners, you name it. She has also put in many volunteer hours helping in the church office and editing and laying out the *News-Linc*.

Her hope for the future of Lincoln Park Church is that we’ll find a way to be a more unified church again—a church in which both young and old work together, being responsive to people’s needs, serving others..

With her recent retirement, she’s enjoying her family and travels with her husband.

YOUTH-LINK



UMYF Happenings

From Cori Rigato, 610-568-0691

All Youth always welcome: Mark your calendar now!

Sunday, September 9: 12-4 pm

Church Picnic. Youth (with Cori's help) provide games for children.

Friday-Sunday, September 14-16: Cori will be out of town.

Sunday, September 23: UMYF Leadership Team Meeting: 11 am-12 pm

Focus will be on worship. **Cory Laity** and **Becky Chadwick** will be present.

UMYF Meeting 6-8 pm.

Sunday, September 30: 10 am

Single Worship Service, followed by Ministry Fair. UMYF Booth-details TBD

Sunday, October 14: UMYF Meeting 6-8 pm

Sunday, October 28: UMYF Meeting 6-8 pm

Wednesday, October 31

Safe Halloween for our community's children. Times TBD

Friday-Saturday, November 2-3

Revolve Tour (A combined event for the Junior & UMYF females)

Sunday, November 4: UMYF Meeting 6-8 pm

Sunday, November 11: Youth Sunday (both services)

Friday, November 30: Hanging of the Greens. Times TBD

Wednesday, December 2: UMYF Catacombs 6-8:30 pm

Sunday, December 16: UMYF Youth Meeting 6-8 pm

Due to strong interest to meet every Sunday evening, a vote will be taken at our beach retreat. I'll announce the decision after we return.

Youth Meetings start with preparing, eating and cleaning up dinner, continue with Bible study, and end with games. The Bible study for fall will center around Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

We're blessed with a large number of adults who volunteer to join us for these meetings. Anyone who'd like to get to know our youth is always welcome to join us!



Jr. Youth Events 4th, 5th and 6th Graders

From Tracy Goldsborough

**Sunday, September 16 - Noon
LAZER TAG**

Parents and children are invited for pizza at church to do some planning before heading off for Lazer Tag.



Congratulations to Another LP Grad...

Krystin Brobst...

daughter of **Dale** and **Rene**, graduated summa cum laude from West Chester University on May 12, with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She also minored in Math and received a math award for maintaining a 4.00 GPA for her four years of college. She belongs to the Tau Beta Sigma service sorority.

Krystin's interests include bowling, reading, music, and watching her brother, **Ryan**, play baseball. She's been a playground leader for 8-13 year old children for the past four years. She hopes to find a teaching position in an elementary school and is busy planning her wedding for June 20, 2009.

Her favorite books are the Harry Potter series.

Marrage

On their 50th wedding anniversary, a couple summed up the reasons for their long and happy marriage.

"I never try to be selfish," the husband said, "After all, the word *marriage* has no "I" in it."

"For my part," the wife said, "I never correct my husband's spelling."

The Speaker's Digest

Sunday Church School Resumes At New Time!

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



Fall Sunday Church School resumes for all ages on RALLY DAY, Sunday, **September 9**, at the new time, **10:10-10:55 am**, between

the two worship services.

Graded classes for Preschool (ages 3, 4, 5), Beginners (Grades 1, 2, 3), and Juniors (Grades 4, 5, 6) will use Group's *Faith Weaver Friends* curriculum. These resources are biblically-based and offer fun, engaging activities for learning about God and His Word.

The Youth Class will re-group with new options and opportunities, led by **Cori Rigato** and **Penny Snook**. We are currently reviewing a new curriculum, *The 3V Bible Studies*. This series challenges students to investigate the Bible and their personal relationships with God. The basis are three questions: *What is the Text?* *What is the Context?* and *What's Next?* For those concerned about the changes in this class, there will be clips from movies and discussion as it pertains to the Bible study. It promises to be interactive and fun as well as a learning experience.

Adults are encouraged to grab a cup of coffee and choose from three adult growth possibilities:

- Lectionary Bible Study with **Norm** and **Nancy Dettra** using "Keeping Holy Time," to help members celebrate themes of the Christian life and faith while discussing a brief exegesis of four weekly Scripture readings.
- "Yes, Lord, I Have Sinned" video study series with **Earl Hope**, and **Pastor McGrath** assisting. Writer James W. Moore, claims that people often give excuses for arrogance, dishonesty, and hostility. With moving dialogue, he humorously challenges participants to recognize these sins and grow beyond them.
- WOMEN OF FAITH small group Bible study with **Becky Chadwick**. Women of all ages are invited to join in the study *Discovering God's Will for Your Life*. Come and explore God's desires for you; support one another in our unique faith journey as women.

Another way to GROW is to TEACH. That's right, TEACH. Church School teachers over the years have reported that they learned so much about the Bible and their own beliefs as they prepared their class plans. Find out how you might GROW and be involved in teaching, leading, organizing, or planning a class or educational event by seeing **Pastor**

(Continued on page 11)



YOUR PLEDGE

IS YOUR GIVING UP TO DATE?

From Jerry Manhart

As I write this, our Lincoln Park UMC expenses for 2007 have exceeded our giving by over \$23,000. Your first thought might be: Don't spend so much. But this is not the problem. The problem is that some of our members are not up to date on the commitment they made.

Each year we set a church budget with expenses based upon what members pledged to give for the year. During the summer, members take vacations and attendance is down for services. However, expenses such as salaries and utilities continue.

Your giving should be 3/4 of what you pledged by the end of September. Thank you in advance to those who will keep their commitment.

♪ LP Welcomes New Director of Music ♪

From Jeanette Erskine, Staff Parish

It is my pleasure to announce that **Beverly Perella** has accepted the position of Director of Music for Lincoln Park, effective September 1. Bev has served as our Organist and Choir Director since 2005.



Her educational background includes a B.S. in Secondary Education from Kutztown State College - German and Russian; Certification in English from Alvernia College; Graduate work at the University of Rhode Island and Penn State University, Berks Campus. Beverly studied at the University of Bremen, Germany, the summer of 1988, for which she was awarded a fellowship.

Bev retired this year from Twin Valley High School where she had taught German and Russian since 1979.



Welcome, Bev! We look forward to enjoying your gifts.

(Continued from page 10)

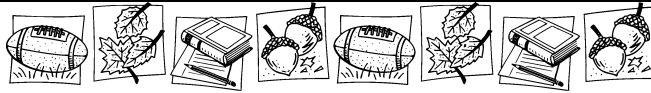
Dorris or CED Chair, **Linda Hope**. The possibilities are limited only by your faith and imagination! MAKE A DIFFERENCE for yourself and others. Be involved in learning and growing in your faith!



SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Church Office closed</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Opportunity House 5pm</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>9</p> <p>RALLY DAY</p> <p>Church School resumes 10am</p> <p>Fall Worship 9 & 11am</p> <p>Community Fest 12pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Mission Comm 7pm</p>	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>Chancel Choir 1</p> <p>at the Erskine</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Blood Pressure checks</p> <p>Jr Youth-Lazer Tag 12pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Bible Study 10:30am</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Chancel Choir 7</p>
<p>23</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY</p> <p>UMYF 11-12 & 6-8</p> <p>10am-Dave Stahl</p> <p>11:15am-Ministry Fair</p> <p>30</p>	<p>24</p> <p>← AARP Driver Course →</p> <p>Bible Study 10:30am</p> <p>Book Club 7pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Music Comm 7pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Chancel Choir 7</p>

BER 2007



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1
	6 Praise Team 8pm	7	8
Picnic 6:30pm at Kinnes	13 Praise Team 8pm	14	15 Adult Bell Choir Brunch 11am at Bev Perella's
7:30pm	20 Praise Team 8pm	21	22
7:30pm	27 Praise Team 8pm	28	<div data-bbox="626 1117 1132 1383" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Looking ahead to October...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10/1 Staff Parish 10/6 Charge Conference 10/8 Finance 10/21 NCS Team 10/28 Consecration Sunday (tentative) 10/31 UMYF Safe Halloween event </div>

A Whale of a Tale!

From Lindsey Villecco

We had a whale of a time!



I want to send a big *Thank You* to everyone who helped out, participated in, and came to see Lincoln Park's summer inter-generational theater production of "Fish Tales" by Kathie Hill. The show was musically directed by **Beverly Perella**, and co-directed by three students: **Lindsey Villecco, Jennifer Hope**, and Tanner McIntosh (stage producer). The show could not have happened without the help of all of our production assistants, including Lin-

coln Park's UMYF.

For those of you who missed it, this three-act musical shares the many stories of Jesus and emphasizes how we should all go and be "fishers of men." Our first performance was on Friday, August 3. A second performance followed on Sunday, August 5. The cast and crew had a very fun, yet challenging time learning all the fun songs and choreography in only a week's rehearsal time. But everyone worked very hard with smiles all around, and the show pulled-together marvelously!

The cast and crew enjoyed spending time in fellowship together. As members of the cast put it:

- ♪ Thanks be to God for bringing this group of people together.
- ♪ I am thankful for this church and this play...it's something I never thought I'd do.

This year's performance and meal proceeds benefit UMCOR and the 2008 summer theater fund.

Answer to the *Who Am I?* column: **Debbie Harvey**

Editor's Note: I can't say enough about Debbie's willingness to give her time and expertise to laying out our *News-Linc* every month. She puts many hours into her work on the computer and does a great job!

National Children's Workshop Offered

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Children's Ministry Magazine offers COME TO JESUS: THE CREATE-A-PLACE-WHERE-KIDS-WANT-TO-BE workshop on Saturdays, **September 15** in Red Lion, or **October 20** in Downingtown. These nationally promoted workshops present training to discover how today's kids are wired and how to best reach them for Jesus.

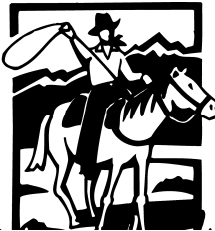
Sessions also share powerful tools that dramatically increase church school teaching impact and leave you with 16 NO-FAIL secrets for making discipline challenges evaporate! AND grow and be renewed in your own relationship with Jesus! To register, please contact **Pastor Dorris**. More details are available at www.group.com/cmml.

 * **Births** *
 * Blessings be upon the *
 * family of **Sandy and** *
 * **Ralph Weise**, who *
 * welcomed two grand- *
 * children to their family: *
 * † **Kaylee Elizabeth-Ann Cipolla**, 6 *
 * lbs-15 oz, was born to **Peter** and *
 * **Sara Weise-Cipolla**, on June 28. *
 * † **Braden Everett Weise**, 8 lbs-15 *
 * oz, was born to **Bryan** and **Heather** *
 * **Crist-Weise** on July 2. *
 * *****



VBS Rounds Up Record Number of Cowpokes

From Karen Osika



Avalanche Ranch was a rip-roaring success. We rounded up more cowpokes than ever. We had a record 70 children (20 more than last year), 20 youth helpers, and 20 adult helpers.

There was a lot of 'wah hoo'ing going on while children sang, danced, made crafts, played games, listened to Bible stories, and ate yummy snacks.

During the week, a good will offering was taken. We were able to purchase, through Heifer International, five flocks of chickens. Each flock has 60 chickens, which means we raised enough money for 300 chickens. The children were very excited at the end of the week to hear the news.

Pastor Dorris and I would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's VBS a success. We're already looking forward to next year. Keep your eyes open for upcoming information and clear your calendar for the end of June so your family can attend.



Grace Notes

From Beverly Perella

Fall Music Opportunities

♪ THE DAVE STAHL SACRED ORCHESTRA, featuring Lincoln Park's own **K.C. McFadden** will present the morning worship service on Sunday, **September 30**, at 10 am. Join us for the return of this popular and moving worship experience.

♪ Chancel Choir rehearsals begin with a covered dish picnic on Wednesday, **September 12**, 6:30 pm at the **Erskine** residence. Weekly rehearsals begin September 19, at 7:30 pm, in the Choir Room.

♪ Members of the Adult Bell Choir are invited to a brunch at 11 am on Saturday, **September 15** at **Beverly Perella's** home (see her for directions). Rehearsal times and performance dates will be discussed.

♪ Do you like more contemporary music? The Praise Band is always looking for new members, both vocalists and instrumentalists. See **Becky Chadwick** or **Cory Laity**. Praise Band rehearses Thursdays at 8 pm.

♪ Do you find yourself thinking, *I love music, but I really can't read it and I have a choir voice, not a solo voice, or, I really can't sing, but I have hands and can pick up bells?* There is a place for you here at LP. What can you expect? We will welcome you, find a place for you, and teach you. All we ask from you is dedication, a willingness to laugh, and a desire to praise God.

♪ New news: We'll form a Children's Choir, which will sing at both services. Rehearsals will be Sundays, about 10:15 am, during Contemporary Service.

♪ Watch for information about our Church Orchestra. We'll begin rehearsing in October to prepare for the Christmas season. Start dusting off those instruments! Young children, youth and adults will join together to praise God with "timbrel and harp."

Worship Leader Minute for September

From Becky Chadwick



Over the past several years I've taken this opportunity to share with you about worship and its importance in our lives. This month I'd like to look at our need to build our relationship with a living Jesus Christ.

In a study done at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill researchers interviewed 3000 teenagers about their religious beliefs. They summed up their findings this way:

- A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
- God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and most world religions.
- The central goal of life is to be happy and feel good about oneself.
- God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
- Good people go to heaven when they die.

Commenting on the study, Gene Edward Veith writes "Even these secular researchers recognized that this creed is a far cry from Christianity, with no place for sin, judgments, salvation or Christ. Instead, most teenagers believe in a combination of works, righteousness, religion as psychological well being, and a distant, non-interfering god."

I would venture to guess that this is not just the belief of today's teenagers. My bet is that many of us believe on some level that this is the truth. People want to think that all I have to do is be pretty enough, perfect enough, have enough money, do enough of the right things and I will feel complete. I will earn my way into heaven and I will feel good about it.

But the reality is it doesn't work that way. You can have everything you need to be "happy" here on earth and be very empty inside. Yet we want to distance ourselves from Christ because it scares us or it overwhelms us. We realize that if we begin a relationship with a living Christ then we have to do something beyond the easy. We have to step outside our comfort zone. We want to feel fulfilled and secure without having to do anything that requires more of us. *I put in my hours every week at work, I spend time with my children or grandchildren, I take care of my home, I*

(Continued on page 19)



CALLING OUR MEMBERS TO MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

From Barbara Wenger, Mission Chair

Mission Committee will meet again on Monday, **September 10**. Many thanks for past donations. Please keep in mind the following outreach opportunities in the coming months.

Winter Clothing Collection

Bring your clean, gently used winter coats, gloves, hats and scarves to our drop-off boxes during September and October. This joint venture of Church School and Mission Committee will help keep Reading's needy, young and old, warm this winter.

School Days

Sept 23 - Oct 14

First Baptist Church in Reading has asked for help with providing supplies for their homework study program. Donations of these items are appreciated:

- ◆ Pencils
- ◆ Erasers
- ◆ Colored markers
- ◆ Tacky Glue
- ◆ White unlined paper

- ◆ Scotch tape
- ◆ Staplers & staples
- ◆ Games (Parchesi, Trouble, Mancala)
- ◆ Puzzles (25-75 pieces)

Please bring items to church and help our friends at First Baptist.

Food Drive

During October and November we'll collect dry and canned foods to stock Central Park Food Ministry. There's a never-ending need for donations of staples for the pantry.

Operation Christmas Child

December, 2007

We'll participate again in this program to provide a Christmas gift for children around the world.

Salvation Army

December, 2007

This is our opportunity to help several families in the Reading area with gifts and food for the Christmas holiday.

No matter the storm, when you are with God,
there's always a rainbow waiting.

Submitted by
Barbara Wenger, author unknown



(Continued from page 17)

do the laundry, and I even volunteer at the church and I am not going to do anything more! The problem is Christ demands something different from us.

A relationship with Christ can't and won't happen if we don't bring ourselves to the table. The empty feeling will remain until we accept that it is not the things of earth that make us complete or make us worthy. Nothing that we can do ourselves, without Christ, will fill that hollowness we feel inside. We must work to have a relationship with Christ in order to fill the missing part of us. We have a desire to be loved and to be known. We want to know that God knows our name. How do we get that peace and that feeling of security? We study the Bible, we come into relationship with other believers, we worship together and we pray. A relationship with Christ can only grow if we do all of those things.

Lincoln Park is offering you a new opportunity this fall. With a dedicated Sunday School hour, you can come to learn, grow and build your relationship with Christ and with other believers. Pick a class and come early! It will be worth it!

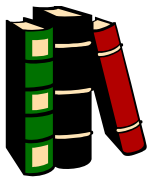


“... the crowds were amazed
at his teaching ... as one
who had authority.”

Matthew 7:28-29

Women's Book Club

From Nancy Dettra



Our September Book Club selection is *Mrs. Kimble*, by Jennifer Haigh. The story revolves around the lives of three wives of Mr. Kimble, a self-centered chameleon who manages to fool three women into thinking he is worthy of their love. It's these women who are wonderful to watch as their own secrets are revealed. In the end they overcome hardships and survive being married to such a man.

We'll meet on Monday, September 24, at 7 pm, at the Dettra home, 407 Harvard Blvd, Lincoln Park. Please join us!

STEWARDSHIP NUGGETS 13 – Herb Miller

Submitted by Jerry Manhart

Some Neighbors Are Far Away

Special Offering for Missions or Evangelism: “When Jesus was asked to define neighbor, he picked the most extreme case possible. The Jews and Samaritans were close to one another geographically. They shared some religious beliefs. They probably had some blood ties. But they hated one another with a fierce hatred. Yet it was the Samaritan who stopped and helped the man on the road. The lesson is plain. No other consideration is as important as the need of a fellow human being. And when we add to the story that Jesus died for both Jew and Samaritan, we have a special reason for asking Christians to help people.

“ . . . The church recognized from the first that it is under orders from Jesus to take the gospel to all people.

“The mission outreach is not an extra, it is a must. So there should be no apologies, no hesitation when we make an appeal for money for evangelism, for mission work. When, in the Middle Ages, an effort was made to capture the sacred sites in Palestine through a crusade, people cried out, ‘God wills it!’ Today we may have our doubts about what part God played in that effort. But there is no doubt about the mission program in the church. We can say with complete confidence, ‘God wills it.’ We are under orders from our Lord, and Christians can be asked to make sacrifices so that others may learn about Jesus Christ.” [*How to Talk to Christians About Money*, W.A. Poovey]

This offering gives us that opportunity to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to other people. Through this money, we can go where our feet will never walk, do what we could not personally do, extend a helping hand to people we will never see.

Tithing Is Not Outdated

“Tithing—a dirty word? An outmoded word? Oh, well, we say, the text is from Deuteronomy (Deuteronomy 14:22-29), and that’s in the Old Testament, so that doesn’t really bind us anymore today. Right? Wrong!

“ . . . We have gone far beyond the limits of an agricultural society such as Israel was when these laws were handed down to the people. And yet—the basic reasons for these requirements remain valid even in our highly industrialized and computerized society.

(Continued on page 21)

Baptisms

We welcome these infants, recently baptized into the faith at Lincoln Park:

† **Abigail Jessica**, on July 8, daughter of **Scott** and **Luci Schaeffer**.

† **Cole Michael** and **Megan Anne**, on July 29, infant twins of **Ron** and **Janelle Salamone**.

The water of baptism is a reminder of God's gift of love and grace in accepting us all into His household of faith.



...**Cindy** and **Dave Kercher**, and the family of **Henry Harbster**, who passed away July 30. May God's love give

you peace.

...and to **Evelyn Davidheiser** upon the passing of her beloved husband, **Harvey**, on July 15.

... also to **Amy Krebs Katzenmoyer**, our nursery attendant, and her family, upon the death of Amy's grandfather on June 28. God bless.

(Continued from page 20)

“ . . . the Lord God is well aware of our very human limitations and reactions. Given anything at all, our first impulse is to keep it—every last speck of it! ‘But,’ says God, ‘that’s not fair. What about those who don’t own land, who are crippled or blind or weak and unable to fend for themselves?’ And, of course, they are part of our responsibility too.

“In the original context of this requirement to tithe, the idea was that, since God is the real owner of the land, it’s only fair that He be given a percentage of the produce. Well, that sounds logical enough. And, in addition, the Law given in Deuteronomy states very clearly the religious purposes of the tithe—to care for the Levites, so that they may put all their energies and time to serving in the sanctuary.

“But—and it’s a very big BUT indeed—this wasn’t the chief purpose of the tithe. The chief purpose was to teach the people the proper way to show reverence to the Lord. This wasn’t to be a grudging, ‘well-if-I-have-to-I-have-to’ sort of giving, but a joyous giving, a giving of all that we have, all that we are, in gratitude to God for the things that He has given so freely to us.” [*Select Stewardship Sermons*, Esther Lense]

No, tithing is not outdated, and it is not likely to become outdated in the future, unless human beings stop needing to express gratitude for God’s great gifts to them.

From our mailbox



♥ Dear Pastor Jerry, Staff and Congregation,

I would like to thank you for your parting words of kindness and gift certificate for J.O.Y. Bookstore. I am using it towards the purchase of a beautiful Cambridge leather Bible. I will cherish this Bible and the memories of my time at Lincoln Park UMC.

Thank You and God Bless,
Lin Umstead

♥ I want to personally thank my LPCUMC Family for your cards, flowers, and phone calls during my recovery. What a shock to me as well as everyone else!!!! The good Lord has given me a second chance on life but with some major changes. All is well and I'm progressing along very smoothly. It is such a blessing to be part of the congregation at LPUMC. May God bless all of you.

-Mark Bisignaro

♥ To Everyone involved in VBS,

Thank you for another enjoyable week. My girls look forward to participating every year and so do I. You all do an amazing job and it certainly shows. Look at the numbers of children who continue to come each year and the new children who have had the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful program. Thank you again.

-Ruth, Molly, Meredith, Meghan

♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the meal and assorted groceries. Ham and string beans is one of our favorite meals so you know it was a day when clients were asking for more. May God continue to bless you for your kindness.

-Ann Marie Wallace, Soup Kitchen Mgr

♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the two bags of groceries you donated to our pantry. Donations like yours help us offer greater variety to the 100 families we serve each week. God has given us many special friends and we count you among them.

-Ann Marie Wallace, Soup Kitchen Mgr

♥ Dave and I would like to thank all of you who sent cards and attended the service for my Dad, Henry Harbster. The true value of a church community is made evident in times such as this. If people only knew what they were missing by not attending church...it is so comforting to have the support of all of you.

Gratefully yours,
Cindy Kercher

♥ My family and I want to say a big, heartfelt *Thank You* to everyone for their kindness and generosity during and after Dylan's birth. We appreciated all the cards, meals, gifts, carpooling for Olyvia, visitation and especially prayers. We are blessed to be a part of such a loving church family.

-The Woll Family



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



September
14
for our
October issue

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

Change of Address

Erika (Garrity) Pied
804 Intarakhree Road
Mae Sot TAK 63110
Thailand
Blogsite: aaronanderikainthai-land.blogspot.com (no spaces)

Mrs. Thelma Moyer
Green Hills Manor Assisted Living
10 Tranquility Lane Rm 209
Reading PA 19607-9684

Sarah White
779 Scarsdale Circle
Lancaster PA 17603-2325

Mr. Scott Meckes
6001 Tundra Lane
Fuquay Varina NC 27526

Sara (Weise) Cipolla
501 Crest Cir
Mohnton PA 19540-1417

Timothy & Staci McHale
1422 New Holland Rd
Reading PA 19607-2150

Mrs Evelyn M Davidheiser
St Joseph Assisted Living Center Suite 109
2900 Lawn Terrace
Reading PA 19605

Change of Address (cont.)

Nicole and Janelle Mann
2101 Orchard View Road
Reading PA 19606-4414

Jeff and Amy (McFeaters) Neher
7373 Ridge Ave Apt 117
Philadelphia PA 19128

Weddings



Congratulations to **Sharon Berry and Bruce Kleckner**, who were united in marriage

July 15 in our sanctuary by Pastor Jerry McGrath. May God bless them as they begin their life together.

We rejoice in the marriage of **Amy Krebs** to **Steven Katzenmoyer** on June 30. May God's love surround and richly bless them.



WORSHIP  WITH US!

Worship with us: 9:00 am (Contemporary Worship in Memorial Hall)
11:00 am (Traditional Worship)

Office hours 9 am-3 pm Mon-Fri Pastor: Jerry McGrath, 610-670-1022
Office phone 610-777-1422 Pastor of CE: Dorris McCoy, 610-777-6128
Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35; Music Director: Beverly Perella
Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39 Secretary: Sandy Bressi
Fax line 610-777-4309 Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735
Voice mail Pastor Jerry 44, Sandy Bressi 21, cherfallon@comcast.net, debharv3@verizon.net
Dorris McCoy 24, Nancy Brown 29, Nursery: Gabi Antunes/Amy Krebs Katzenmoyer/
Cori Rigato 31 Holly Newman
Worship Leader: Becky Chadwick
Bookkeeper: Nancy Brown
UMYF Leader: Cori Rigato, 610-775-1110

Web: www.lpcumc.org
E-mail: lpumc@verizon.net (secretary and 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

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church
1 Carlisle Avenue
Reading, PA 19609

Change service requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reading, PA
Permit No. 233