


News=Line



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



International Christmas Fest: Kenya Believe It's Christmas?

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



This year's **INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS FEST** focuses on how Africa celebrates Christmas. Our evening begins Tuesday, **December 11**, 6-8 pm, in Memorial Hall, with an international covered dish supper. Members and friends are asked to bring main dishes celebrating their heritage and traditions. Those who wish to bring dishes of African origin are invited to contact **Sandi Rosencrans**, 610-376-2176, or stop in the Church Office where recipes will be available. Desserts and beverage will be provided.

So that parents can linger in uninterrupted conversation, children will be invited to Room 101 for special African holiday crafts, games, and songs directed by **Rebecca Chelius** and **Lisa Laity**. Children, youth, and adults will view a short video on Africa University, sponsored by the United Methodist Church.

After dinner, we're invited to special musical activities including an intergenerational, participatory experience, "Kenya Believe It's Christmas?" We'll be led by the Percussion Ensemble of Kutztown University in the sanctuary. **Pastor Jerry** and the ensemble will lead an upbeat, closing worship, and a special offering will be taken to support the work of Africa University. Child care will be offered in the Church Nursery for infants

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WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

From Pastor Jerry McGrath and Beverly Perella



FLAMES OF THE FAITHFUL is an Advent worship series based on the traditional designations for the Advent Candles:

- The Prophecy (Hope) Candle bids us to listen to God's Word and act upon it.
- The Bethlehem (Peace) Candle calls us to prepare our homes and hearts for the presence of Christ.
- The Shepherd (Love) Candle urges us to behold the salvation of God, coming to us in the person of God's Son.
- The Angel (Joy) Candle invites us to join the heavenly host in living lives of rejoicing.

Worship at 9 & 11 am:

Sunday, December 2 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Flames of the Faithful: Prophecy" - Deuteronomy 18:15-18, Luke 1:5-25.

Sunday, December 9 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Flames of the Faithful: Bethlehem" - Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:67-79.

At 11 am, the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir will present a concert with excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* and additional seasonal music. Guest soloists will be tenor John Perella, soprano Pat Ruch, and bass Keith Ruch.

Sunday, December 16 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Flames of the Faithful: Shepherds" - Ezekiel 34:11-16, Luke 1:26-38.

At 11 am, students of Debbie Pyle will offer their music during the service.

Sunday, December 23 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Flames of the Faithful: Angels" - Isaiah 6:1-8, Luke 2:8-14.

At 7 pm, the Praise Band will rejoice in the birth of the Christ Child with a contemporary Christmas music concert.

Monday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

6 pm - Children's Musical, *The Mystery of the Manger*. This 1/2 hour-long musical will delight God's children of all ages with its spirited music and Gospel readings. A candle lighting ceremony with the singing of "Silent Night" will close the service.

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8 pm - Family Candlelight Service of carols and readings.

Pastor Jerry will explore the meaning of the favorite symbols of Christmas: the star, the manger, the shepherd's staff, and the stable in a family-oriented homily.

Musical preludes will begin at **7:45 pm**.

11 pm - Candlelight Communion - Traditional communion and Candlelight Service. Trumpets and voices will herald our Savior's birth with carols, anthems and readings. In his message, "The Christmas Scenery," Pastor Jerry will fill our senses with the imagery of Jesus' birth. - Psalm 96, Luke 2:1-20.



Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 30 - FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

One worship service at 10 am - "Agape Service," or "love feast," will be offered for all ages. Pastor Jerry will ask us to share our favorite Christmas passages from the Bible, and a hymn sing will give us the opportunity to select our favorite carols. Everyone will also enjoy cake (with or without sugar) and hot chocolate.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

Advent

The church year begins with the Advent, which means *coming*. The great proclamation, *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us*, (John 1:14), assures us that God has entered into human history through the incarnation of the Son. Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness - past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us - people who wait for the second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away.

The Advent season includes the four Sundays preceding Christmas. Traditionally, purple, and more recently blue, are the colors for Advent. These colors symbolize our need for the searching of our hearts and changing of our lives as we consider the need which brought Jesus to dwell among people. Purple/blue are also the colors of royalty, suggesting the second aspect of Advent, that is, the righteous rule of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords.

From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

When the angels went away from them and into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in the manger. Luke 2:15-17

Something wonderful is about to happen. Do YOU believe it?

About this time every year I feel compelled to ask the question, "Are you ready for Christmas?" It's one of those conversation starters I find myself asking and being asked. How do most of us respond? With a groan? With a recital of all things we have yet to do? With an honest, "No!" Do we really believe something wonderful is about to happen?

There are countless additional demands on our time and energy, adding more stress to our already chaotic, busy lives. Christmas festivities are fun: the food, the family, the presents, the tree, the sense of expectancy. They are great fun, but if that is all there is, then Christmas is empty. December passes and we're left with a messy house, leftovers, bills, and a cranky disposition.

Yet, something wonderful is about to happen, if we let it. Something special is about to break forth into our world bringing us peace, joy, and full life, not just

once a year, but forever, if our hearts and spirits are open.

How much time and energy do we spend getting ready for Christ's mass, the birth of the child who is the heart of it all? How do we prepare ourselves for that child who comes to us and stays with us, through the parties and the pain, through our everyday lives? Something wonderful is about to happen. What does that mean? It means that God almighty is preparing to step into our lives once again, offering a chance for our world to be transformed, to be redeemed and to be given new full life. There is the opportunity Christmas presents to us; to be ready for that, "something wonderful to happen," that something wonderful coming in the re-birth of Jesus in our lives once again.

This Christmas, may we turn our hearts from holiday hassles and realize with great joy that something wonderful is about to happen.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Jerry

**HE WILL
BE CALLED**
Wonderful Counselor,
MIGHTY GOD
Everlasting Father,
PRINCE OF PEACE.

Isaiah 9:6

The Angel Trees Await You

From Lee Riley, Missions Committee



There is an Angel Tree both upstairs and downstairs with wishes and needs to be fulfilled by your loving generosity. Each family is in dire straits due to their circumstances. Let's give them a Blessed Christmas.

When you return your gifts, please put them in the box with the number that matches the gift tag. It is important that the tags be on the packages and the packages in the correct box, or the recipient will miss out on their gift.

All gifts must be returned to the church and placed in the proper box by **Sunday, December 16.**

Thank you for your help with this special project.

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and toddlers under age three.

Anyone with African artifacts to share is encouraged to contact **Pastor Dorris** so they may be displayed to enhance our appreciation for this vast continent and its varied customs.

To make reservations, watch the bulletin and information stations for the appropriate flyer, then drop in the boxes at the rear of both worship areas.

Contemporary Christmas Celebration

From Becky Chadwick

Join us as The Praise Team presents a Contemporary Christmas Celebration Sunday, **December 23,** at 7 pm. All new music and drama will be shared! Childcare will be available.

Enhance your holiday with this Lincoln Park Contemporary tradition.



A Christmas wish for you is this...not only a day, but a year of bliss: not only the joy of gifts and giving, but also the gift of the joy of living.

—Unknown

Advent Labyrinth: Prepare for Christ's Birth

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

The Labyrinth Planning Team invites all ages to prayerfully journey to the manger and prepare to take the light of Christ out into the world by walking the Advent Labyrinth.

Two opportunities to experience the Advent Prayer Walk will be available. Join us in Lincoln Park's Memorial Hall on Wednesday, **December 5**, at either of these times:

→ 11:30 am - 1 pm over the lunch hour

→ 5 -- 8 pm

Please begin the labyrinth by following the luminaries on Jefferson Blvd into the lower entrance.

Labyrinth walkers are encouraged to bring a gift of a non-perishable food item to be left at the manger. These items will be shared with the less fortunate through our Angel Tree outreach effort.

Away from the busy-ness of malls and holiday shopping, the beginning labyrinth prayer stations invite us to reflect

on the familiar stories of

- the angels and Mary
- the shepherds
- the gifts of the three kings and the star that guided them.



CARRY
THE LIGHT

After receiving the gift of the Christ child and leaving our own gifts in response, we examine our hearts and ask ourselves, as we reflect on familiar traditions, how we can be moved to take the light of Christ out to all.

The evening concludes with hot chocolate and cookies with **Pastor Jerry** in the Youth Room for those who wish to

linger.

Come - be removed from the commercialization of this special day - be in quiet and prayer - hear, feel, and smell the Christmas story. Enter our Advent pilgrimage and walk to the sacred place of the Nativity. Leave to bring peace, joy and hope to the world!



**“Strong and gentle God,
Stop me soon enough and quiet me long enough
that my awareness of you may flow into rivers of
gratitude and streams of praise.”**

—Larry Peacock



Unique Opportunity for Endowment Fund Gift

From Rolland Ackelson

Until December 31, 2007, donors who are age 70½ have a unique opportunity to make gifts from a traditional IRA or Roth IRA.

IRA donors may give all or portions of their mandatory IRA withdrawals (up to \$100,000 in 2007) directly to charity. While there is no income tax deduction, donors who make gifts directly from their IRA will not increase their adjusted gross income, and can avoid the higher level of taxation.

If you must make mandatory withdrawals from these types of plans and have accumulated more than you need in retirement, this gift option in favor of Lincoln Park United Methodist Church Endowment Fund could be the one for you.

We recommend that you consult your financial advisor before making any significant charitable gift decision.



former members Bonnie and Carl Knutsen, on the recent loss of Bonnie's mother.



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-Line* in the mail, just notify our secretary. Please join in at Lincoln Park!



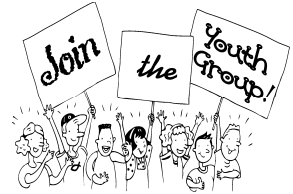
UMYF Happenings

From Cori Rigato, 610-568-0691

December 2 - Youth Group, 6-8 pm

December 16 - Youth Leadership Team Meeting,
11-12 pm

- Caroling at The Highlands, 3-5 pm
- Dinner & Christmas Party, 5-7 pm



January 6 - Dinner & Catacombs (rescheduled from December), 5-8 pm. A fun and faith-building game based on the persecution of the early Christians by the Romans. Adults play the Roman soldiers; youth are the early Christians who search for items for their worship service. Other youth will be invited from local churches to join in the game. Adults are needed...Save the date!

January 20 - Youth Leadership Team Meeting, 11-12 pm
- Youth Group Meeting, 6-8 pm

Youth Mission News

UMYF Mission: 2008 God Creation Calendars are for sale for \$8 each as a fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip during summer, 2008. Buy a couple to support our youth. They make great Christmas gifts!! There will be more information about this mission trip in months to follow.

Bring a dollar to church every Sunday to help UMYF sponsor two needy children. These children are from Third World countries, who desperately need our help. The youth have committed to bringing \$1 per week to help make a difference in their lives. Help the youth with their first mission endeavor. Envelopes are located in the Youth Room for your donations.

As always, call **Cori** with any questions or suggestions: 610-568-0691.

Lincoln Park Youth “Shine” on Youth Sunday, November 11

From Cheri Fallon

If you worshipped at Lincoln Park this November Sunday, you probably went home—like I did—feeling uplifted and invigorated. Both services were produced and presented by our youth, and they did an amazing job.

Under the direction of two Cori(y)s, **Cori Rigato**, our Youth Leader, and **Cory Laity**, Praise Band Leader, the enthusiastic cast included: **Kevin Villecco, Matt Hope, Jordan Bartal, Jonathan Chadwick, Katie Osika, Danielle Pasquale, Bronwyn Graeffe, Ross McKently, Heather Hope, Becky Perry, Dylan DeHart, Megan Osika, and Ashley Loeb.**

As the drama played out, I assumed the script was purchased from outside our church, only to discover afterward that it had been written by **Cori Rigato**. Worship Leader **Becky Chadwick** had picked out the Bible verses to be used, primarily Romans 12:9-19, and as Cori says, “the youth absolutely loved them.” The verses came from *The Message* version, which I was unfamiliar with, but enjoyed very much.

After the youth decided to do a drama, their leaders asked them to look for music to go with the verses, appropriate for a church service. “They came back with the

music the very next week,” says Cori.

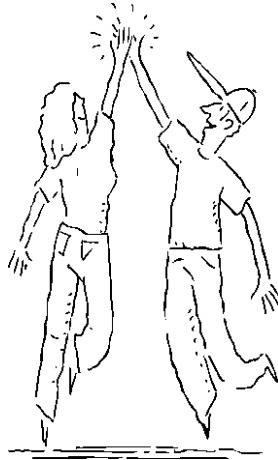
Incidentally, the scriptures and music lyrics were displayed on a large screen in front of the sanctuary (as regularly happens for our Contemporary Service.) Although I usually attend the Traditional Service, I found these aspects of contemporary worship appealing. Cori says the youth are very much into the idea that, even though we may worship differently at each service, we all have in common that we worship and love God.

Cory Laity “got every single youth involved in the music. Kids who don’t like to sing that much were singing,” says Cori.

The lyrics of all the songs were very meaningful (From *Dig* by Incubus: “Dig me up from under what is covering the better part of me,” or from *Our Lives* by The Calling: “Cause these are the days worth living, these are the years we’re given, and these are the moments. These are the times...Let’s make the best out of our lives.”)

The idea for the plot came in part from Cori’s interest in the TV show, *Survivor*, and is based on the premise that adults and youth should “tryout” to become

(Continued on page 14)





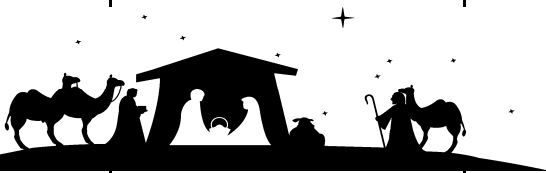
DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p><i>Hope, Peace,</i></p>			
<p>1 2 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT UMYF 6-8pm</p>	<p>3 Bible Study 10:30 am</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Advent Labyrinth Adult Bell Choir Chancel Choir 7:</p>
<p>9 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Chancel Choir Christmas Program 11am</p>	<p>10 Bible Study 10:30am Agape 12pm Finance 7pm</p>	<p>11 Intr'n'l Christmas Fest 6pm</p>	<p>12 Adult Bell Choir Chancel Choir 7:</p>
<p>16 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Blood Pressure checks UMYF Leadership 11-12pm UMYF Caroling 3-5pm UMYF Xmas Party 5-7pm Angel Tree gifts returned</p>	<p>17 Bible Study 10:30am Church Council 7pm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Adult Bell Choir Chancel Choir 7:</p>
<p>23 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Contemporary Christmas Celebration 7pm Agape Service 10am 30</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Services: 6-8-11pm New Year's Eve 31</p>	<p>25</p> <div data-bbox="844 1182 1095 1463" style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p>26</p>

BER 2007



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Love, Joy</i></p>			<p>1 Holiday Fellowship at the Pyles 6 pm</p>
<p>11:30-1, 5-8 7pm 4:54pm</p>	<p>6 Craft Group 1pm Praise Team 8pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>7pm 4:45 pm</p>	<p>13 Praise Team 8pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>7pm 4:5pm</p>	<p>20 Praise Team 8pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Looking ahead to January... 1/8 Worship Committee 1/21 Church Council 1/22 Music Committee 1/26 EPAC Leadership Training</p> </div>
	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>





Sandy Bressi, Church Secretary

From Doris Schucker, SPRC

Sandy was born in Winston Salem, NC to Maryann and Floyd Doxie on April 8, 1958. She relocated to Reading in 1963 and graduated from the Wilson School District. Always a secretary, Sandy served as secretary of the senior class and editor in chief of the Wilson yearbook. She graduated from Kutztown State University with a BS in Art Education, certified to teach K-12, with a concentration in Aesthetic Education and crafts.

Sandy married her high school sweetheart, Joe Bressi, and moved to Arizona. There she taught in the Tuscan School District and worked for Trans Art Company in sales and interior design. In 1988, Sandy and Joe moved to California, and there she earned her license as an insurance agent to work as CSR with Nationwide Insurance. Sandy accepted the position of San Diego office manager for California and Calco Insurance brokers and agents until 1990.

On July 23, 1990, Sandy gave birth to her son, Joseph Anthony. She also attended Palomar college in San Marcos, CA. During her evenings she earned 15 credits in ceramic/pottery. In 1992, she started her own pottery business, SLB Productions.

Sandy relocated back east to Gaithersburg, MD, in 1993. On May 1, 1995, Maranda Lea was born. Sandy was a *stay-at-home mom* for both children. In 1996, they relocated to a new home in Frederick, MD. Sandy became an active volunteer in the school and later a helper at Maranda's day care. Sandy also assisted with Boy Scouts and Daisy and Brownie Scouts. During this time she joined the New Market Garden Club, became a chair person, and taught flower design. In December, 2004, her husband lost his CEO position with MCT Federal Credit Union.

Most of us will feel tired just reading about Sandy's travel and work schedule, but there is still more!

On May 1, 2005, Sandy was hired by LPUMC. In July of that year, Sandy and her family moved to Reading from Maryland. On August 1, Sandy was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and had surgery to remove the tumor. From that September to February, she received chemotherapy treatments. Sandy has worked for two years at LP Church, organizing the front office, creating a better work flow of operations, with attention paid to details and important record keeping. We are all happy to have you, Sandy! We wish you health and happiness at LP.



CHURCH SCHOOL IN DECEMBER

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Each Sunday a children's Bible Story and Song Time is offered following the Children's Message at Contemporary Worship. A unified Children's Choir practice for ages 3 through 6th grade is held in Room 101. Preschoolers then meet in Room 104 and Beginners (Grades 1, 2, 3) remain in Room 101.

Spiritual growth and learning are offered for all ages at the Church School time, 10:10-10:55 am, throughout the LP facility.

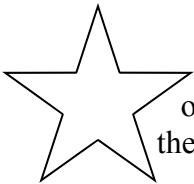
- ♦ Children use Group's Faith Weaver curriculum to move through Advent and prepare to celebrate Christ's birth.
- ♦ Youth engage in biblical reflection under the direction of Youth Team Leader, **Cori Rigato**.

Adults have three options:

- ♦ Lectionary Study with **Norm** and **Nancy Dettra**.
- ♦ Women of Faith Study series with **Becky Chadwick**.
- ♦ A video and discussion series led by **Earl Hope**.

Come - be involved - grow in your faith journey - be challenged to help others grow too!

There will be NO Church School on Sunday, December 30; children and their families are encouraged to participate in the special Agape Feast at a **single 10 am** worship service.



Children, youth and adults are also invited to contact **Beverly Perella** or **Pastor Dorris** to join the cast of the Christmas Musical to be shared at the 6 pm Children's Service on Christmas Eve.



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

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church members, including applications, interviews, knowledge of scripture. The scary part is that anyone might be eliminated from the competition! There's a lot of humor in it," says Cori, but "there's a lot of truth in humor."

Beverly Perella helped fine tune the production, **Dennis Antunes** was "our tech guy," and, of course, **Pastor Jerry** brought his expertise to the production.

The congregation was invited to dance and sing with the cast at the end (if you didn't dance, you must have wanted to). I left worship that Sunday inspired, about the upbeat message the youth gave us and also in the knowledge that LP's youth program is thriving and ex-

ploding with enthusiasm.

"Our youth are amazing ...their goals, their vision!" says Cori. "I've just given them the outlet to speak." **Heather Hope** and **Becky Perry** are now youth members of Church Council and have presented some of the ideas and vision of our youth to the Council. One goal of LP youth is to present a Sunday night youth worship service once a month.

So, to our youth and their leaders I say "YES!" and thank you for such a lively, meaningful worship experience. As Cori says of our youth group, "The excitement is there!"

EPACUMC Offers Workshops & Training

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Final Making Disciples Workshop

The concluding Eastern PA Annual Conference's *MAKING DISCIPLES FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD* workshop will provide training for lay and clergy so that congregations can more faithfully fulfill their missions. This session will be offered Saturday, **December 8**, 12:30-3:30 pm, at Bethany UMC, Allentown. Steve Manskar, Director of Accountable Discipleship at the United Methodist Board of Discipleship, presents on "Accountable Discipleship: The Power of Small Group Ministry." Please contact **Pastor Jerry** or **Pastor Dorris** to attend, by December 5.

Tools for Ministry

Eastern PA Conference will offer training for committee chairs and church leaders, including Finance, Trustees, SPRC, Church Council, Lay Leader/Member, Safe Sanctuaries, Young Peoples' Ministry, and Children's Ministries. This seminar will be held Saturday, **January 26**; contact **Pastor Jerry** for times and locations.

STEWARDSHIP NUGGETS 17 – Herb Miller

Submitted by Jerry Manhart

Money Talks . . . about Our Inner Attitude



Special Offering: “Gratitude is the stethoscope that monitors the strength of our spiritual heart. We are not to give as a grudging obligation but as a joyous cooperation with the Lord. He delights in cheerful givers. They emulate His own heart. To enable our giving, He has all the power to provide abounding blessings so we will have an abundance for good works. Those good works include introducing people to Christ, feeding the hungry, caring for the poor, and participating in projects to expand the kingdom in the world. We give our tithes to churches and ministries involved in these good works, and the exciting thing is that the Lord provides beyond this for giving to special challenges to meet the needs of people.

“Indeed, money talks. Sometimes its message is about the false security we’ve placed in it. But it can also say that we’ve decided not to miss the blessing of blessing others.” [*Silent Strength*, Lloyd John Ogilvie]

Money Can Last Forever

“A three-year-old girl said to her father on his way to the grocery store. ‘Daddy, bring me something that will last forever.’ The girl’s request is a fine definition of stewardship. The giving of money, time, and talent brings a sense of meaning, purpose, and spiritual relatedness to God that lasts forever.” [*The Vital Congregation*, Herb Miller]

Giving Builds Soul

“Philanthropic leaders of the past took issue with emphasizing the distribution of assets after death rather than during one’s lifetime. Josiah Strong warned his hearers that it was easy to accumulate wealth with the intention of later sharing it. *That is the pit in which many have perished. If a man is growing large in wealth, nothing but constant and generous giving can save him from growing small in soul.*” [*Behind the Stained Glass Windows*, John and Sylvia Ronsvalle]

That is one of the principle benefits of offering a portion of our money to God. Building strong stewardship habits also builds strong souls.



MISSIONS

From Barbara Wenger, Mission Chair

The final Missions Committee meeting



for 2007 opened with prayer, on November 15. The Committee made the following decisions as to how to disperse monies where needed:

- Operation Enduring Freedom-\$500
- Methodist Home for Children-\$200
- Greater Berks Food Bank-\$200
- Samaritan's Purse (to help build a missionary hospital)-\$200
- General Board of Global Ministries-\$200

It was reported that three families from the Reading area will be recipients of our gifts from LP's Angel Tree project through the Salvation Army.

Congratulations to...

Norma Jeanette Vasquez Castaneda, a student from El Salvador, whom the Missions Committee has sponsored for several years. In November, she graduated from college as a teacher. She continues to work as part-time secretary at the Volunteers In Mission office in Ahuachapan, El Salvador.

Norma Jeanette expresses her thanks for our support during her four years of college.

It Takes Many Hands

Appreciation is expressed to the following Committee members for their leadership with these Missions projects:

- Kathy Avedissian** - Coats For Kids
- Marian Longenecker** - Food Pantry at Central Park UMC
- Alice Kase** and **Shirley Cline** - Operation Christmas Child
- Lee Riley** - Angel Tree



...LP will NOT serve supper at OPPORTUNITY HOUSE on New Year's Day; another church has requested and received this date. The NEXT Lincoln Park date for preparing and serving supper for the homeless at OPPORTUNITY HOUSE will be Tuesday, **March 4**. To offer time, food or financing, please contact Supper Coordinator, **Penny Snook**, 610-781-7704.

Planning Ahead...

The Best

Submitted by Barbara Wenger

The best is never over, there is always something new,
Another start, another chance, another road for you.
Another mountain top to climb, though hopeless it may seem,
A fresh adventure beckoning, another dream to dream.

The best is never buried with the ashes of the past.
The best is where you look for it. No happiness can last.
But other joys are granted if you press on faithfully,
Believing in the promises that “the best is yet to be.”

-Patience Strong,
from *Inspirational Collections of Verse to Touch the Heart*.

Happy Holidays

From Barbara Wenger

I'm sitting at my desk with thoughts of Christmas on my mind. Sometimes we remember past Christmas celebrations, ones that made a special impression in our childhood. Sometimes we remember a family member who was present in those favorite times. As we mature, we can always hold fast to happy memories of wonderful Christmastimes in our past.

Also, at Christmas, we can think like a child when we accept Jesus into our hearts again. Can you hear those church bells ringing? Don't forget to catch the real meaning of Christmas.



Editor's note: When you gather at the table with family and friends this Christmas, ask each one to recall a special Christmas memory. After reading Barbara's article, I tried this "conversation starter" at our Thanksgiving table and it brought some sweet results.

From our mailbox



♥ Dear Members of Lincoln Park Church,

Thank you for the altar flowers for Craig's death. They were greatly appreciated and I still have them. Also want to thank Barbara for delivering them.

Will remember all of you in my prayers.

Sincerely,

Vera M Wennell

♥ Dear Friends,

I can't begin to tell you how much you have helped me during the last six months. Your many, many cards, prayers, visits, and also my birthday cards and gifts were very much appreciated.

Thank you also for cooking and baking for Ron. He enjoyed all of his pies.

Thanks to Pastor Jerry for all of his prayers and visits, and Bev Perella and our two choirs for their beautiful basket of flowers.

I hope to see you all in a month or two before I go back to the hospital.

Members of Lincoln Park Church are very special.

Doris Schucker

♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the fresh salads and assorted groceries. We are glad to know God has given us good friends who help us in our ministry. May God con-

tinue to bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace,
Soup Kitchen Manager

♥ The Missions Committee would like to thank all those who donated food items for the food pantry at Central Park UM Church. Three boxes were delivered and the folks served are very appreciative.

Marian Longenecker,
Missions Committee

♥ I'd like to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers, and tasty treats during my recovery from knee replacement surgery this past summer. Also appreciated were the calls, visits, and especially the prayers.

Loreen Miller

Baptisms

Kaylee Elizabeth-Ann Cipolla, daughter of **Peter** and **Sara**, was baptized at Lincoln Park on November 25. Kaylee was born June 28 and is the granddaughter of **Ralph** and **Sandy Weise**. God bless Kaylee!

“First keep the peace within yourself, then you can also bring peace to others.”

—Thomas A'Kempis



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*December 28
for our shortened
mid-January issue*

Change of Address

Bunny & Tom Carlson
2000 Cambridge Ave, Apt 213
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Mrs Donald K Buck, Sandra M Shurr
855 N Park Rd, Apt J201
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Mr & Mrs Jason Kantner
616 Jefferson Blvd
Lincoln Park, PA 19609

Matthew Thomas Brown
1206 N Vernon St
Arlington, VA 22201-4832

Norman & Nancy Dettra
9 Reading Dr, Apt 201
Wernersville, PA 19565
610-927-8649

Nelson, Cindy, Ashley Loeb
1560B Memorial Hwy
Oley, PA 19547-8956

Winter address:
Mary Griffiths
655 W Lake Jasmine Circle, Apt 103
Vero Beach, FL 32962

Kathy Szczerbicki (After Dec 26)
50 Starfish Dr, #413
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
843-785-6550

Corrected zip code:
Humberto & Liliana Lozoya - 19608

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December Birthdays:

- John Pierdomenico 12/4/1999
- Kara Brown 12/12/2003
- Phillip Antunes 12/15/2000
- Ella Hubric 12/20/2003
- David Goshert 12/21/1998
- Emily Bohn 12/30/2004
- Valerie Kerschner 12/30/2004
- Emma Chandler 12/31/2003

Oops...

We inadvertently missed the birthday of **Dylan Pence**, 11/8/2005. We're sorry for the omission and wish him belated good wishes!

Congratulations to **Jason Stewart Kantner**, and Kasey Brynn Geissler, who were married on September 29, at Alsace Lutheran Church, Muhlenberg. May God richly bless this couple.





Worship with us:	9:00 am (Contemporary Worship in Memorial Hall)	
	10:10 am (Christian Education)	
	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
		Deb Harvey, 610-775-3041
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, 610-568-0691
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

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Reading, PA 19609

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