



News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *January, 2008*

SAFE HAVEN LIGHTHOUSE NEEDS U TO SHINE

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



SAFE HAVEN LIGHTHOUSE (SHL), a joint venture with West Lawn United Methodist Church and Advent Lutheran Church in West Lawn, provides a nurturing,

Christian, supervised, after-school child care program for our community's elementary aged children.

SHL began at Lincoln Park on Tuesday, January 8, and will be offered through Memorial Day week. We will follow the Wilson School District closings for holiday and early dismissal/snow day schedule.

In order to provide safe and varied activities, SHL needs many volunteers to serve in these ways:

- ☉ tutors
- ☉ snack servers
- ☉ storytellers
- ☉ craft and recreation leaders

To help or to register your child(ren), please call **Mark and Abby Steinmeyer**, 610-777-3513.

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WORSHIP IN JANUARY

From Pastor Jerry McGrath



WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, January 13

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Purpose Driven Life; What On Earth Am I Here For?”
Jeremiah 20:18, Micah 6:6-8.

Sunday, January 20

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Purpose Driven Life; “You Were Planned for God's Pleasure”
Psalm 19:1-4, Romans 6:12-14.

Sunday, January 27

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Purpose Driven Life; “You Were Formed for God's Family”
1 Corinthians 12:18-20, Colossians 3:12-17.

Angel Tree Project Overflows with Love

From Lee Riley



Thanks to your kind and generous spirits, our adopted families must have felt like they were surrounded by angels on Christmas morning. The boxes taken away from church by the Salvation Army were filled to overflowing with wonderful gifts and much needed items. In addition, each family received \$150 in Giant gift

cards and at least \$50 in Wal-Mart gift cards. The family that had a fire received an additional \$30 Wal-Mart gift card to make up for all they lost.

My heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of you for choosing to share the Christmas spirit and shower these people with your love.

Grace Notes

From Beverly Perella

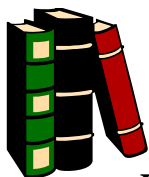
“Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains...” Well, we were actually singing in the church, not over the plains, but they indeed had angelic voices. From the children and parents in *The Mystery of the Manger*, to the teenagers and young adults who sang so beautifully at the 8 pm service, to the Chancel Choir, soloists, and instrumentalists at the late service, we were truly blessed with angels on Christmas Eve. During this most hectic season of the year, these local angels gave graciously of their time and talents to provide us with glorious music to highlight our Savior’s birth. As they filled us with peace, joy and hope with this gift of song, we wish them God’s peace and grace in the New Year.

Special Advent Music Thanks To:

- the Chancel Choir and soloists for their beautiful concert at the beginning of the Advent season.
- the children for their uplifting enthusiasm for the Christ Child's birth as shown with songs and instruments.
- the Praise Team and youth for their inspiring service of word and song which ushered in the Christmas season.
- the Bell Choir for providing us with an additional lovely, melodic way to offer praises to God.

For the joy these groups bring to us, we say "Thanks be to God."

Book Club



LP's Book Club meets monthly for lively reviews of current literature on a whole host of topics and issues. The next gathering of Book Club will be **Monday, January 28**, 7 pm, at **Connie Pawlikowski's** home, 35 Mellowbrook Drive, Sinking Spring. The discussion will focus on the subject of grieving, based on Lollie Winston's novel, *Good Grief*. With questions, contact Connie, 610-678-3600; to carpool from the LP area, you may call **Pastor Dorris**.

From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

Lift up your eyes, Northward, Southward, Westward, and Eastward...

Deuteronomy 3:27

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness...

Matthew 6:33

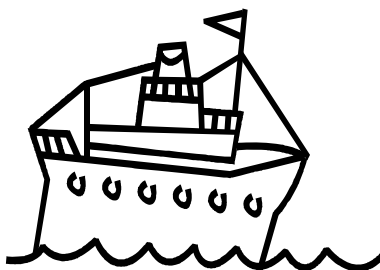
Well, it's a New Year. This is a time when many of us may reflect on the past year, its memories, and its moments. For Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church these include The Purpose Driven Life Bible Study, community picnic, ministry fair, community musical, Vacation Bible School, the Autumn Auction, congregational meeting, a new music director, and a new youth director. A new year causes us to ponder future goals and dreams, and ask: *What does God have planned for me this year?*

What is God's vision for Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church for 2008?

Recently I saw a "Peanuts" cartoon in an old newspaper. It pictured Charlie Brown and Lucy on a cruise ship. As they stand on deck, Lucy says, *Life is like this cruise ship. Some people take their deck chairs to the front of the ship so they can see where they are going. Other people take their deck chairs to the back of the ship so they can see where they've*

been. Which kind of person are you, Charlie Brown?" He answers, *I'm the kind of person who can't get my deck chair open.*

Lucy was right. Some people are past-oriented, focusing on the experiences of yesterday. The problem with this is sometimes we get stuck in the past and never move on with life. If we focus too much on the past, we miss life opportunities that God has blessed us with now.



Some people are future oriented, focusing on the possibilities of tomorrow.

If we obsess too much about the future, we forget about life learning experiences from the past, and we continue to make similar mistakes.

Some people are like Charlie Brown. They never seem to look in either direction. By never looking in any direction, people stay put and are caught in a time-less zone with no meaning.

What kind of person are you? We need to be like what Sue Monk Kidd writes in

(Continued on page 5)

Another Successful Operation Christmas Child

From Alice Kase



Through your generous response, 62 boxes will be received by children who have suffered from the sorrows of war, poverty, disease and natural disaster. Your shoe box will give them hope and remind them they have not been abandoned or forgotten. Wherever your gift goes, you can be sure that it will bring a smile to a child's face and glory to God. Thank you.

COATS FOR KIDS Report

From Kathy Avedissian

THANK YOU! The Missions Committee would like to thank all who donated coats and other outerwear to the Salvation Army's **COATS FOR KIDS DRIVE**. Our church collected a grand total of:

- 56 coats
- 55 hats
- 27 scarves
- 24 pairs of gloves and mittens

May it warm your hearts in the cold months ahead knowing that many needy children and adults in our area are staying warmer this winter because of your compassion and generosity.

(Continued from page 4)

her response to the "Peanuts" cartoon. We need to have our deck chairs on top of the ship. This offers a vision of the entire horizon of life. The top of the ship is where we can see where we've been and where we are going. It is the best view of all. This year, why not get our deck chairs open, and take them to the top of the ship for a glimpse of the whole horizon?



Leadership Training at LP

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

Reminder to all Ministry Chairs, Staff and Committee members:

We will meet on Saturday, **January 12**, beginning with coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 am, in Memorial Hall for Leadership and Committee Training. Topics to be covered include:

- Role descriptions
- Spiritual gifts
- Spiritual make-up of the church
- Vision for the future

Our session will end at noon. Please contact **Pastor Jerry McGrath** for additional information.



...**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** on Super Bowl Sunday, **February 3**, to mobilize children and youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. Watch for our soup-pot holding children and be moved to give generously to inspire their fun outreach to those in need.

...A **LENTEN LABYRINTH** will be offered during the Lenten Season, preparing all to journey toward a closer relationship with God. LP's labyrinths offer quiet time for personal prayer and reflection via a labyrinth prayer path painted by LP's Labyrinth Team. Eleven stations on the labyrinth prayer walk in Memorial Hall offer all the opportunity to step back and consider ways in which we put distance between ourselves and God and how, through Christ, we are offered forgiveness and reunion with God. Stay tuned for details in February's *Linc*.

CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES WINTER SCHEDULE

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

After a brief interlude for the Agape Feast Family Service, the ongoing Christian Education schedule resumed this month.

At 9:15 am, a Children's Bible Story & Song Time is offered following the Children's Message at Contemporary Worship. A Unified Children's Choir Practice is led by **Beverly Perella**, for preschoolers through 6th grade, in Room 101. Following Choir Practice, a Bible Story Time is provided in Rooms 101 and 104. Please contact **Tricia Pence**, who coordinates leadership, at 610-404-8574, to offer your assistance on a rotating basis.

Christian Education is also offered for all ages, including children, youth and adults, at the 10:10 am Church School period.



- ◆ **Earl Hope** meets in Memorial Hall to dialogue on James W. Moore's video series, *Lord, I Have Sinned But Have Several Excellent Excuses*.
- ◆ A Women of Faith study book series is led by **Becky Chadwick** in Room 103.
- ◆ A Lectionary Bible Reading series is led by **Norm** and **Nancy Dettra** in the Church Library.
- ◆ Youth meet with **Cori Rigato** and **Dennis Antunes** in the newly refurbished Youth Room in the Education Building.
- ◆ Preschoolers and elementary ages meet in Rooms 101, 102 and 104, using Group's Faith Weaver curriculum.

With questions and/or to volunteer your leadership gifts, please see **Pastor Dorris** or contact LP's new Christian Education Chair, **Kim DeHart**, 610-775-8835.

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!



2008 Budget Adopted

From Jerry Manhart

During December, the Finance Committee and Church Council adopted a 2008 Budget of \$359,660. The 2008 requests from committees and staff had totaled \$392,860, but the results of the Stewardship Campaign did not support that amount. The 2007 Budget had been \$374,930.

INCOME

Envelopes	\$322,500
Plate	\$6,000
Special Envelopes	\$11,000
Other	\$20,160
Total Income	\$359,660

EXPENSES

Ministries of Administration	\$25,497
Program Ministries	\$50,903
Staff Parish	\$175,529
Board of Trustees	\$107,731
Total Expenses	\$359,660



On the calendar for the remainder of January...

1/14 Finance Committee	7pm
1/15 Confirmation Class	7pm
1/21 Church Council	7pm
1/22 Music Committee	7pm
1/26 EPAC Leadership Training	
1/28 Book Club	7pm

I am pasting some art here

2008 Stewardship Campaign Final Report

From Derek Ritenour

The results of the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Campaign have been finalized and are listed below. A total of 134 commitment cards have been completed and returned to church with an additional 16 individuals and/or families making a commitment to support the church in 2008.

The NCS team would like to personally thank everyone who has made a commitment to financially support the church in 2008, and we look forward to furthering the mission of Lincoln Park Church.....Seeking and Sharing Christ!

Total Pledges Received	134
Pledges with increase (including New Pledges)	62
Same Pledge	42
Decreases	14
Declared No Pledge	14
New Pledges	16
Total Pledged for 2008	\$264,229

“The act of giving is, for me, nearly magical. It fills me with joy. And when the recipient responds with gratitude, I find satisfaction — we both win. That makes me want to give more, not only to the people I love, but also to my community and my world.”

— Mary Hunt, in *Woman’s Day*

From our mailbox



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the assorted groceries, casseroles and hand towels. We are always glad to know that God has given us good friends like you. Your monthly donations help us to continue to serve the many families who depend on us. May God continue to bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace
Soup Kitchen Manager

♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the flowers, cards, and visits during my recovery from back surgery these past months. They were all very much appreciated.

Walter Artz

♥ My sincere thanks go out to the entire congregation for the staff gift I received, as well as for all the help that volunteers and members contributed to the office during the 2007 year. God's peace and love to all.

Sandy Bressi

The Art of Living

Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, "How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or 10 years from now?"

There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step — what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.



The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go.

Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.

—Henri Nouwen in
Bread for the Journey



UMYF Happenings

From Cori Rigato, 610-568-0691

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



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board

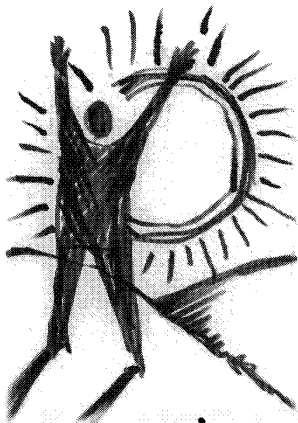


January
14
for our
February issue

Change of Address

Henry Taylor
2000 Cambridge Ave
The Highlands, SN 302
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Transfer of membership:
David & Barbara Wenger to West Lawn
UMC



Arise, shine,
for your light has come,
and the glory of the
LORD rises upon you.
Isaiah 60:1

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, and Doris Schucker

A Prayer for the New Year



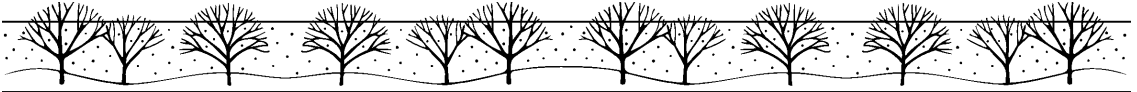
On the edge of a new year, Lord, teach us again to order our priorities and number our days and hours. And teach us to trust — life, history, one another, You.

So that even in the gray and gloomy days, when the ceiling is low, we may trust the star that enabled wise men of old to live in hope and proclaim the divine promises which call us on in Jesus Christ. Amen.

—Deryl Fleming

**"Joy is the
gigantic secret
of the Christian."**

—G.K. Chesterton



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
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	Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39	Secretary: Sandy Bressi
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	Cori Rigato 31	Worship Leader: Becky Chadwick
		Bookkeeper: Nancy Brown
		UMYF Leader: Cori Rigato, 610-568-0691
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	(For urgent messages, use voice mail, please.)	

NEWS-LINC

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