


News-Line

*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania
December, 2009*

Join Us For An English Christmas

From Linda Woll, Nurture & Witness Committee

 Our annual International Christmas Festival will be held Friday, **December 4**, at 7 pm, in Memorial Hall. We invite everyone – members, friends, neighbors, and family – for an unforgettable evening in England.

Our entertainment will be an inspirational, thought-provoking story read by our own **Sandi Rosencranz**, and we'll conclude with traditional English Christmas carols.

We'll enjoy roast beef and horseradish, **Linda Hope's** shepherd's pie, roast turkey, tea sandwiches, vegetables, side dishes, soup, and more. After dinner, sit back and enjoy the entertainment! Our dessert table will feature teas, coffee, shortbread cookies, and homemade desserts. There will also be a tea table for the children and a simple craft.



If you can help us prepare for this festival, we could use help with set up and clean up, side dishes, and preparing tea sandwiches on Thursday evening, December 3, in the Church Kitchen. Please contact **Becky Chadwick**, 610-927-2207. And, check the Wagner Room for our sign-up sheet with more details and recipe ideas.

Cheerio!

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WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

Sunday, December 6

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

“The Purpose of Christmas: A Celebration”

Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 2:8-11

Sunday, December 13

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

“The Purpose of Christmas: Salvation”

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 2:8-11

Sunday, December 20

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

“The Purpose of Christmas: Reconciliation”

Zephaniah 3:14-17, Luke 2:13-14

Thursday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

6 pm - (Preludes at 5:45 pm) - A Contemporary Celebration of Christmas, with participation by Lincoln Park's children

8 pm - (Preludes at 7:45 pm) - Family Candlelight Christmas, *The Gifts of Christmas*

10 pm - (Camerata String Quartet plays 9:30-10 pm) - Candlelight Communion Christmas, *Standing on the Promises of Christmas*

Sunday, December 27

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

ONE SERVICE at 10 am

Agape Christmas, Favorite Christmas Hymns and Favorite Christmas Scripture
Where have you seen signs of Christ this Christmas season?



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!

LP Joins West Lawn for a Labyrinth Walk and Worship

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

You're invited to join LP's Labyrinth Team as they take the LP Labyrinth and its message of prayer and peace on the road. Prepare for Advent by walking the Advent Labyrinth during Saturday Night Worship at West Lawn United Methodist Church, at 6 pm, **December 5**.

This prayer walk takes us through the narrative of Jesus' birth, from John the Baptist to the shepherds' visit. Each labyrinth stop offers opportunity to connect the events of Christ's birth, reflect, pray, and



move out at the end of the labyrinth, to be the light of Christ, joining God's movement into the world.

Come - be led to the manger. Leave the fast pace of the malls - be still - prepare - await the Savior's birth!

Food Drive Adds to Food Bank

From Marian Longenecker

The Mission Committee thanks all those who donated food items to the Food Bank at New Journey UMC. We collected nearly 200 items, which were, as always, much appreciated by those in need.

Thanks
for your
participation

Our Angel Tree Is UP!

From Jim Eckert, Missions Committee

In what has become a tradition at Lincoln Park Church, we are



sponsoring local families this Christmas season for the

Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program. The families are carefully selected by the Army. This year we have three families in unfortunate circumstances. One moved here from Philadelphia after their home burned down and their mother was killed. In another family, the children deal with severe autism, eczema, and Aspergers. The third family is a single mother with four children and an incarcerated mother.

The past support of our people at Lincoln Park has brightened Christmas seasons for families whose holidays had looked grim. Please help again this season by finding "angels" attached to the trees in the Wagner Room, and buying gifts for our families.

All gifts should be returned with tags to the church by Sunday, **December 20**. *Please do not wrap gifts.* Placing them in a gift bag is OK.

Please know that folks at the Salvation Army have been appreciative of our past efforts here at LP church. We have acquired a reputation for being especially supportive and dependable.

From the Pastor's Desk

At Advent all roads lead to Bethlehem. The promise of Gabriel announcing the coming. The preparations of John the Baptist prophesying the coming. The angels singing in the dark night of his coming and Jesus came. The shepherds and the wise men coming, each on their own road to Bethlehem.

Faith began in a manger, the coming of an infant, God with us.

This is the soul of the story, deepening the mystery of God with us and the mystery of our own identity, relationship, and responsibility. It invites us to think for ourselves, to feel our faith ourselves. Christianity found its origins in the telling and retelling of a story of God's coming. The birth narratives are meant for telling, whether chanted in the quiet dark of the sanctuary or beside a fire on a cold evening, told with wonder and awe.

In Luke, we see Mary, the stable, the shepherds, angels, and the baby. The genealogy of Jesus goes back to Adam, the father of both Jews and Gentiles, and the prophets of Israel. In Matthew, we see the wise men, the palace, and Herod and the baby, whose forefathers are Abraham, David, and the kings of Israel, but in both stories always the baby, for that is

the meaning, the good news of the story.

The world is different today than it was 2,000 years ago, but our inward life is the same, and so this story of human quest with its trials and transitions from infancy to maturity, the story of Jesus, is the story of spiritual questioning and faith. Faith is being immersed in the sacred story of God putting on human flesh, being born to show us how to love,

even on a cross,
“immersed” in trust, belief, not “sprinkled” with a few facts.

We come each Christmas to hear the Nativity story, to see it in our faith imagination, to enact it in

our daily lives. First, there is the hearing Paul wrote in Romans 10:

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?

So we tell and hear the story, but the willingness to come is sometimes a risk. When we come and believe, we are called to return to proclaim the story, for that is the role of the hearer. This is the coming, leaping for joy, as we make our way to Bethlehem.



Calling Holiday Decorators

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



There are numerous teams of church mice who scurry through closets and hallways during the Advent season to put up holiday decorations. They are inside and outside all our church buildings, creating a festive, inspiring atmosphere to welcome visitors and members to worship, learning, and fellowship events.

➡ To join any team -- for putting up sanctuary swags, for hanging outside boughs, for decorating the Christmas tree -- please contact **Pastor Dorris, Marian Longenecker, George Pyle, or Michelle Ringler.**

A note about

Altar Flowers

From Jan Ferree

I'd like to thank members of our church family at Lincoln Park for the privilege of scheduling altar flowers over the last years. It's been my pleasure to speak with many of you. Thank you all for your cooperation. **Marian Longenecker** is taking over this pleasant duty. Thank you, Marian. I hope you will enjoy this assignment as much as I have.

We need Christmas Eve Story Teller Helpers

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



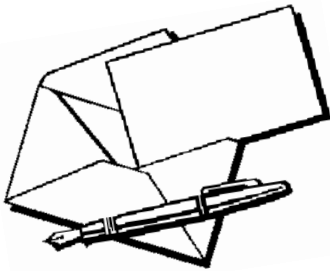
This year at the 6 pm Christmas Eve worship, we plan to tell the Christmas story a bit differently, though still inviting the participation of our children. We are, however, seeking to include more of God's children, members of all ages in the entire church family, by creating pre-staged, costumed digital photo shots of the story's scenes, and then sequencing them into a power-point presentation.

So....anyone with staging, directing, technology or costuming experience is encouraged to contact **Pastor Dorris** or **Beverly Perella** to put it all together.



From Kathy Avedissian

The Missions Committee thanks everyone who contributed to the Coats For Kids Drive. Once again, the generosity of our congregation was evident: 58 coats, as well as numerous hats, scarves, and gloves, were collected. These donations were taken to local dry cleaners to be cleaned and then distributed to local needy families. Thank you for helping struggling families get through the cold winter months.



*Dear Friends & Members of
Lincoln Park Community UMC,*

**Greetings in the Name of the One who connects us
in Christian Love...** I am remembering 25 years ago,
July 4th weekend, when I was appointed to be one of
your pastors.

I still carry you in my heart as I continue in Minis-
try. We shared many Sacred Moments and life events.

I was blessed to companion with you on the Sacred Journey called Life. Of course
none of us has aged ...but I realize that the first babies I baptized at Lincoln Park
are now 25 years old!

Although I haven't seen many of you since the last time I came to celebrate one
of Lincoln Park's Anniversary Sundays, I always feel a special connection with
you. My heart is full with your care and Christian Love.

My life continues to be full and blessed, with times of joy and times of struggle...
the fullness of life...I continue to be blessed in the Ministry of Spiritual Direction
and leading retreats, as I am now in my 18th year of my appointment as Founder
and Executive Director of Spiritual Renewal Ministries, Inc.

My parents live in Arizona close to my younger sister, brother-in-law, and two
nephews, (the oldest just started college at SMU, and the youngest is 11), and my
older sister and brother-in-law are in Texas. I've been living in Downingtown for
over nine years, (570 N. Guthriesville Rd, Downingtown, PA 19335.) My husband,
Tom, serves as pastor of Thorndale UMC and we are blessed to live close to our
three wonderful grandsons (ages 5, 2½, and 3 months).

I just wanted to let you know that I'm thinking of you, as I remember and cele-
brate coming to Lincoln Park 25 years ago and sharing five years of ministry, to,
for, and with you. I regularly pray for you and the ministry of Lincoln Park Com-
munity UMC to continue the "good work" of spiritual growth, insight, and nourish-
ment. During this Holy Season may you each be aware of how much God loves
you.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Sara (Davis-Shappell)

Grace Notes

From Beverly Perella, Director of Music

The **CHANCEL CHOIR CONCERT** will be held Sunday, December 13, during the 11 am service. Vocal and instrumental music of the Advent and Christmas seasons will be performed by Lincoln Park's talented musicians and by guests John Perella, tenor, and James Spangler, trumpet.



WANTED/NEEDED: Instrumentalists for the 8 pm service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals will be on Saturdays, December 5, 12, and 19, in the sanctuary, at 10 am, and on December 24, at 10 am. Please see me for more details. Here are questions I usually get, "What if I can't make all rehearsals?" "What if my trumpet isn't shiny any more?" See me for the answers!

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WANTED FOR ALL MUSICAL GROUPS WITHIN THE CHURCH. No one's talent is too small!

A SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS

From Jan Ferree

The GFWC Berks County Federation of Women's Clubs is sponsoring an afternoon to benefit Opportunity House. The money raised will be used to purchase blankets, pillows, towels, and more for people who come to Opportunity House for help.

On Sunday, **December 13**, at 3 pm, the Reading Community Players at 11th and Buttonwood Streets will present the play, *Miracle on 34th Street*. The afternoon will include music, refreshments, raffles, and a visit with merry old St. Nicholas. Tickets are \$10 each. Parking can be found on the lot of the 10th and Green Elementary School or on nearby streets.

Wouldn't this be a nice way to spend a relaxing Sunday afternoon with your family before Christmas and at the same time benefit Opportunity House? You might buy tickets for those special people on your Christmas shopping list. For tickets, please call **Jan Ferree**, 610-670-2476.

Thank you for giving a helping hand to Opportunity House.






December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p>It's a busy month: for general cleaning and carpet cleaning, contact Jim Perry, 610-678-0687. He is a member and soloist of the Praise Team and, perhaps, will sing carols as he works.</p>		<p>1 Safe Haven 3pm</p>	<p>2 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>6 Children's Choir Rehearsal 10am UMYF 5-8</p>	<p>7 Bible Study 10:30am Trustees 7pm</p>	<p>8 Safe Haven 3pm Finance 7 pm</p>	<p>9 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>13 Children's Choir 10am Christmas Cantata 11am Sermon Roundtable 12pm</p>	<p>14 Bible Study 10:30am Agape Christmas Party Church Council 7pm</p>	<p>15 Safe Haven 3pm</p>	<p>16 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>20 Chldrn's Chr sings 9 am Contemporary Christmas Concert 6pm UMYF 5-8</p>	<p>21 Bible Study 10:30am</p>	<p>22 Safe Haven 3pm</p>	<p>23 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>27 No Sunday School One Worship Service 10am (Agape)</p>	<p>28 Bible Study 10:30am</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 No Choir Rehearsal</p>

er 2009



ed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30pm r 7:45pm	3 Crafts 1pm Youth Praise Band 6:30pm Praise Team 8pm	4 International Christmas - "Great Britain" 6pm	5 Band Rehearsal 10am LP Labyrinth Walk/ Worship at West Lawn UMC 6 pm
30pm r 7:45pm	10 Youth Praise Band 6:30pm Praise Team 8pm	11 UMYF Nightwatch in NYC	12 Band Rehearsal 10am Cantata Rehearsal 10am
30pm r 7:45pm	17 Crafts 1pm Youth Praise Band 6:30pm Praise Team 8pm	18 For help, repairs, gutter cleaning, call handyman Jon Rhodes , Praise Team member, soloist, and Worship Committee Chairman, at 610-406-3348.	19 Poinsettia set-up Band Rehearsal 10am
30pm r 7:45pm	24 Band Rehearsal 10am 6pm, 8pm a 10 pm  Christmas Eve Worship	25  Merry Christmas	26
Rehearsals	31  NEW YEAR'S EVE	1/4 Trustees 1/11 Finance 1/12 Nurture & Witness 1/18 Church Council	

YOUTH-LEADERS
INITIATION
YOUTH-LEADERS

UMYF Happenings

From Cori Pasquale, 610-568-0691



**Join the
Youth Group**

Sunday, December 6: Youth Group Meetings

5 pm: Jr UMYF - Grades 6-8

6 pm: UMYF Dinner - Grades 6-12

6:30 pm: Sr UMYF - Grades 9-12

December 11-12: Sr UMYF Trip to St John the Divine in New York City

Saturday, December 19: Youth decorate sanctuary; time TBD

Sunday, December 20 : 5 pm - Jr UMYF Meeting

6 pm - UMYF Dinner

6:30 pm - Sr UMYF Meeting

8 pm Sr UMYF Leadership Team Meeting

Youth Mission Trip Summer 2010 : Appalachian Mountains



Fifteen youth and three adults will travel to Logan, West Virginia, in June, 2010, to participate in a week-long mission trip. Our youth will work on people's homes and create and implement a children's program.

Logan is in the southern part of the state—less than one hour from Charleston—and has a population of 1,630 people.

Today, jobs are scarce and over 20 % of the population lives below the poverty line, including nearly 30 % of those under age 18. Because of the terrain, many homes and trailers need repair due to flooding.

Our youth will be raising money for this trip, and you all can help by supporting their efforts. Some fund-raising events for 2010 will be:

- a dinner, followed by a worship service designed and led by our teens
- selling hoagies and soup for Super Bowl Sunday
- a car wash
- bake sales.

We'll also be selling shares to our congregation for which you'll receive a postcard from a youth and be invited to the appreciation luncheon. These short-term mission trips have transformed our teens, making them aware of the challenges in our world, while giving them the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. Please prayerfully consider financially supporting our youth on this endeavor. Thank you!

Calling All Disciples for Study and Growth on Sunday Mornings

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



Every Sunday LP offers study and interaction for our Christian journeys. All ages of disciples are invited to deepen their faith connections and broaden their understanding and knowledge.

The youngest set enjoys multi-age learning following the Children's Message at Contemporary Worship.

- At 10:20 am there are choices for adults, ranging from
- *Living the Questions* with **Earl Hope**, in Memorial Hall
 - Lectionary Bible Study in the Library
 - a return to a study of Henri Nouwen's *Beloved*, in Room 103.

Concurrent with adult study are classes for children, youth and young adults. Plus...there's child care for infants and toddlers in the church nursery.

And...if you have a need or topic of interest, share it with CED Chair, **Kim DeHart**, and let's see what new possibilities we can get up and running! If you'd like to make a difference in a fellow disciple's life (kids, youth or adults) and have the gift of sharing God's love and Word, then give **Kim**, 610-775-8835, or **Pastor Dorris** a call, to join the educational team.

Family Game Night Is Back!

From Linda Woll, Nurture & Witness Committee

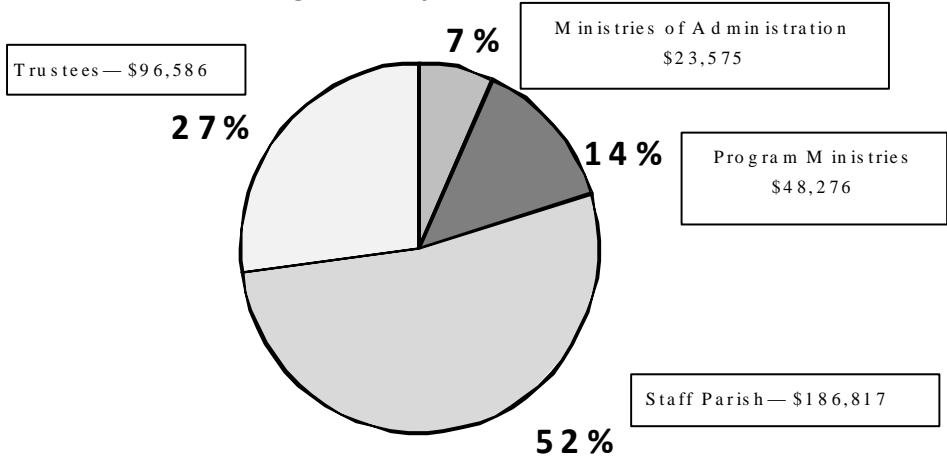


Join us Saturday, **February 13**, at 6 pm, in Memorial Hall, for our second FAMILY GAME NIGHT. Since the date is Valentine's Day weekend, our theme will be *Love Is In the Air*.

We're planning some **LOVELY** games – The **LOVE** Connection, BINGO, Wii, a toddler room, and much more! If you're interested in helping plan this **HEARTFELT** evening, or being a contestant in The **LOVE** Connection game, contact **Linda Woll**, 610-781-8046, or Lmwoll@aol.com.

Nurture & Witness will have a planning meeting Tuesday, January 12, at 7 pm, in the Library (weather permitting). We would **LOVE** your fun-**LOVING** games, recipes, decorations, and ideas!

Lincoln Park Community U M C Budget Request 2010



	ACTUAL 2009	2009 BUDGET	2010 BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
EXPENSES	10 MONTH		REQUEST	
CHURCH COUNCIL				
Ministries of Administration	\$ 18,153.26	\$ 24,113.85	\$ 23,575.00	\$ (538.85)
Program Ministries	\$ 41,820.38	\$ 48,626.00	\$ 48,276.00	\$ (350.00)
STAFF PARISH	\$ 152,172.63	\$ 189,684.15	\$ 186,817.26	\$ (2,866.89)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	\$ 75,766.65	\$ 95,136.00	\$ 96,586.00	\$ 1,450.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 287,912.92	\$ 357,560.00	\$ 355,254.26	\$ (2,305.74)
INCOME				
Envelopes	\$ 244,362.25	\$ 316,500.00	\$ 281,000.00	\$ (35,500.00)
Plate	\$ 3,514.05	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,300.00	\$ (1,700.00)
Special Envelopes	\$ 4,239.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 7,925.00	\$ (1,575.00)
Other	\$ 19,273.37	\$ 25,560.00	\$ 18,832.00	\$ (6,728.00)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 271,388.67	\$ 357,560.00	\$ 312,057.00	\$ (45,503.00)
INCOME MINUS EXPENSES	\$ (16,524.25)	\$ -	\$ (43,197.26)	

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Holiday Advice from Proverbs, John's Gospel, Martin Luther, (and Jane)

Editor's Note: I love finding red and green envelopes in my mailbox filled with news of friends. My college friend, Jane Parks Charles, sends heartfelt notes that seem like good old talks between roommates. Last year she included what she had written for her church's Advent Devotional. Here it is:

THINK more grateful thoughts, less anxious ones.

Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts. Proverbs 4:23

SPEAK more positively, less critically.

Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit. Proverbs 15:4

GIVE charitable gifts of money and time.

Be generous, and you will be prosperous.

Help others, and you will be helped. Proverbs 11:25

GIVE your home a holiday look.

TAKE advantage of church and community Christmas programs.

For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Proverbs 2:10

GIVE attention to your Christmas cards.

What a joy it is to find just the right word for the right occasion!
Proverbs 15:23

TAKE a walk in your neighborhood to see the lights at night.

COOK and eat responsibly.

Too much honey is bad for you... Proverbs 25:27

COOK for friends and family.

SING Christmas carols heartily -- at church, in the car, at home, to your children and grandchildren.

Music is a fair and glorious gift of God...Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry, and smile through their troubles in song...Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. Martin Luther

PRAY for patience. There's a lot to do in December.

...patience brings peace. Proverbs 15:18

REJOICE and enjoy the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

CHRISTMAS CARDS



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board

*December 29
for our
abbreviated
mid-January issue*

Change of Address

Jennifer Erskine-Cashen
801 Tuckers Ln
Hingham MA 02043-1587

Grace R. Blakely
139 E 13th St Apt 1-B
New York NY 10003-536

From our mailbox



♥ To All Our Members:

We were so encouraged by your outpouring of love and kindness during my hospitalization and recovery from my September 1 accident. We thank all of you for the cards, flowers, gifts, visits, calls, and delicious food (manna from heaven).

Our gratitude to Pastor Jerry and Pastor Dorris for their encouragement and Communion visits. Most of all, thank you all for your faithful prayers which kept us afloat in our time of need.

With Love,

Loreen and Dave Miller

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

Birth

Congratulations to **Dr. Jaime Bashore Long** and her husband Jon on the birth of their daughter Carly Alicia on September 23. Carly arrived a month early in Charlotte, NC. She has a big sister, Ellie, and is the granddaughter of **Richard and Carol Bashore**. Best wishes to the entire family!

Weddings

KC Buchanan, daughter of **Betsy and Alan**, and Jay Dianna were married on October 17 ...in the midst of *two* Nor-easters, in Stone Harbor, NJ. They live at 1426 N 14th St, Reading 19604. Best wishes as you begin your life together!

Tina Brown and Fred Eckart were married in Reading on November 14. Tina is the mother of **Matthew and Michael**. LP's former pastor, the Rev. Sara Davis-Shappell officiated, along with Fred's brother-in-law, a UM pastor. Congratulations and much happiness!

NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization
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Change service requested



Worship with us: 9 am - Contemporary Worship on Sunday
 11am - Traditional Worship on Sunday
 9:15 & 10:20 am - Christian Education

Office hours 9 am-3 pm Mon-Fri
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 Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35;
 Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39
Fax line 610-777-4309

Voice mail Pastor Jerry 44, Church Office 21,
 Dorris McCoy 24, Beverly Perella 26,
 Nancy Brown 29, Cori Pasquale 31

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