

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania March, 2010



LP Offers Two Lenten Study Choices

24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

THREE SIMPLE RULES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

During Lent we're encouraged to step up our daily disciplines. This year we offer two different times and two different study sessions to encourage spiritual growth and transformation.

Registration flyers are available in the Wagner Room, or contact **Pastor Dorris** to attend either one or both opportunities to learn and grow. Copies of books and devotional materials for each series are also available from her office.

Please see p. 3 and 8 for more information about these Lenten offerings.

Youth Invite YOU for Dinner & Worship

From Cori Pasquale



Don't forget to come for Differ a delicious, home-cooked spaghetti dinner hosted by the SR UMYF on Sunday, March 7, from 5-7 pm, in Memorial Hall. After the meal, stay for a worship service entitled, *Got Time?* A love donation will be taken at the door, with all proceeds going to the SR UMYF Summer Mission trip to the Appalachian Mountains.

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WORSHIP IN MARCH

From Pastor Jerry McGrath



Sunday, March 7 THIRD WEEK OF LENT

"By His Stripes, Healing Wounded Relationships: Withdrawal" 2Samuel 11:26-12:13, Matthew 26:69-75

Sunday, March 14

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

"By His Stripes, Healing Wounded Relationships: Unrealistic Expectation" Isaiah 53:1-12, Luke 23:32-34

Sunday, March 21

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

"By His Stripes, Healing Wounded Relationships: Forgiveness and Absolution" Genesis 45:1-15, Luke 23:39-43

Sunday, March 28 PALM SUNDAY

Preacher: Pastor Dorris McCov

"Enter to Praise"

Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-20

Palm Sunday worship invites us to throw open the gates of praise of God's steadfast love for us and to celebrate God's presence with us, knowing God's Son is coming to save us!



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!

24 Hours That Changed the World— Subject of a Church-wide Study



From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Walk with Jesus on his final day. Sit beside him at the Last Supper. Pray with him in Gethsemane. Follow him to the cross. Desert him. Deny him.

Experience the Resurrection.

Continuing March 14, 21, and 28, our church will offer a seven-week study you won't want to miss. In *24 Hours That Changed the World*, Adam Hamilton will

guide you through the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. The study is designed to help you experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you never have before.

Whether you are a long-time Christian or curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, you're invited to join us on this inspiring journey. The study includes:

- † 24 Hours That Changed the World, a book by Adam Hamilton
- † 24 Hours That Changed the World: 40 Days of Reflection, a book of reflections
- † 24 Hours That Changed the World: Video Journey, a DVD with sessions filmed in the Holy Land

The study is based on a sermon series of the same name featuring Adam Hamilton, founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. During the original series, the Church of the Resurrection dramatically increased the number of people attending worship.

As part of this event, we'll make an extra effort to invite members of the community to participate. "Since the final 24 hours of Jesus' life are so central to our faith, we're asking you to invite people in the community to join us," stated **Earl Hope**, Lay Leader and series co-facilitator. Let's welcome new guests to our church, by inviting our neighbors and friends.

For more information about this special event and how you can participate, please contact **Earl Hope**, 610-670-9731, ejhope@aol.com, or **Pastor Dorris**, 610-777-1422, dmccoy2@verizon.net.

From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker, who rightly handles the word of truth. 2Timothy 2:15

hroughout my career as a pastor I have heard many interesting comments about both preaching in general, and my own preaching. There were times when I felt I presented a pow-

erful, spiritual message only to hear people say, *It was okay*. On other occasions I felt I bombed in a message, but the responses were: *Really powerful; You made my day; Wow, that really challenged me*. Often a sermon or message will transform some people, but do nothing for others.

Everyone seems to have an or her own idea about what makes a good sermon:

- ► Keep it short
- ► Entertain me
- ► Have plenty of Scripture
- ► Make me feel I have to respond by doing something good when I leave worship.

So, what makes a good sermon?

In *THE CHURCH HERALD*, Jackie Smallbones wrote an article, *Pulpit and Pew: Sermons that Satisfy*. She says some people think the preacher is responsible for the sermon being good. If listeners are to

get the most from sermons, preachers are totally responsible. Good preparation is crucial. Preachers have the awesome responsibility of delivering God's message to His people.

Other people think listeners are responsible for getting the most out of the sermon. The listener can't blame the preacher. Listeners are responsible for concentrated attention to the preacher

Ultimately, Smallbones concludes that getting the most from the sermon is neither the responsibility of the preacher nor listener. It is all up to the Holy Spirit, a gift of God's

grace. When both preacher and listeners are open to God, submissive to the indwelling Spirit, God speaks, and sermons are effective. While preachers should prepare and then preach their hearts out, and listeners should pay keen attention, ultimately our task is to let the Holy Spirit guide us. Then, and only then, will sermons be effective and our lives changed.



The trustees are in the process of seeking bids/ estimates for these projects:

- summer grass mowing
- tree trimming
- driveway repair at the parsonage
- installing flooring for the stage and landings of Memorial Hall
- installing flooring in the hall outside the ORIGINAL ladies' rest room

The heat/air conditioning project in the Library in the Education Building will soon be finished.

Thanks to Jim and Roe Gehman, Neko Mulally, Pat Owens, Elizabeth Stoud, Lou Manhart, and Bill, Jonathan, Parker, Ryan, Christopher and Sam Chadwick for helping remove snow in February.

Thank you to **Linda Woll** for the donation of a chest freezer to be used in the church kitchen.

Coming Up in April...

Mark your calendar and plan to walk our HOLY WEEK LABYRINTH - open meditation and reflection, in Memorial Hall, following worship in the sanctuary on:

- † Maundy Thursday, April 1
- † Good Friday, April 2



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TO AID YOUR LENTEN DISCIPLINES...

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

You're invited to take advantage of LP's resources, *The Upper Room* and *Alive Now*, using them in your Lenten devotional and prayer time.

These are available in entranceway and Wagner Room displays for a \$1 suggested donation, to defray costs to the church's group rate. Go ahead - grab the time - be nourished - fill your soul with a sacred way of living and leading!

Calling All Men!

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

The men of Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church will gather on Friday, **March 5**, for dinner and fellowship at TAILGATERS RESTAURANT. We'll meet at church, at 7 pm, to travel together. For more information, please see **Pastor Jerry**.



Christian Ed Is for Everyone



From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Whether you come for Contemporary Worship and

stay afterward for Sunday Church School, or come to Church School before Traditional Worship, the opportunity is there for you and your family to grow in your faith journey. Throughout the morning, options are offered for multi-age spiritual growth and learning.

Opportunities begin with the youngest children's activity at **9:15 am**, following the Children's Message in Contemporary Worship.

At 9:45 am, Bob Robertson leads lively discussions of the Lectionary Bible Readings and Study in the Church Library.

At 10:20 am, children (age 3 & up), youth, and adults meet throughout our facilities using a wide variety of resources. Adult options include Nouwen's *Beloved*, with Loreen Miller and Becky Chadwick facilitating, or *Living the Question Pt II*, with Earl Hope as facilitator.

Come...you are welcome. Be nurtured and grow your relationship with God!

THANKS FROM LP'S KIDS

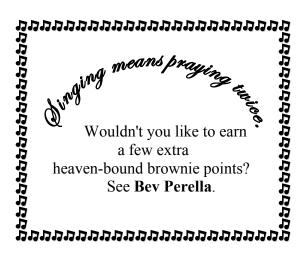
From Pastor Dorris McCoy

LP's Church School kids say THANK YOU! to all who made donations to their recent participation in SOUPER BOWL. Thanks to your generosity, our church sent almost \$300 to the food ministries at New Journey UMC, Reading.

And---the kids worked hard and had fun making candy in their HEARTS FOR HAITI effort, sharing with United Methodist relief programs in earthquake-stricken Haiti.

Their project came about because a Lincoln Park 6-year-old wanted to help other kids in need!

Thank you to all who so generously support and encourage LP's youngest to reach out to share God's love in our local community and beyond!!



Three Simple Rules for Christian Living A Daytime Lenten Study

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

A mid-week, daytime group option has been added for Wednesdays at noon in the Church Library. This is a six-week study of *Three Simple Rules for Christian Living* based on the book and DVD presentations by Rueben P. Job, *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*.

These materials examine
John Wesley's blueprint
for ways of living which mark our corporate and individual lives as Christians. The series invites us to a radical change of direction by practicing these simples rules which have the power to

change the world:

- 1. Do no harm by any word or deed.
- 2. Do good wherever there is need.
- 3. Remain attentive to God's Word; stay in love with God.

These three rules, simple and easy to understand, are not always easy to practice. But there's support and encouragement from fellow travelers on this faith jour-

ney every Wednesday at noon, continuing through March 31. Bring your lunch - coffee/tea provided! Come. Let three simple rules into your daily life and beyond!

EPAUMC TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Study Series

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

All LP members are invited to dialogue with leaders of the Eastern PA Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church at Town Hall meetings held in each district this spring. LP is a member of the Central District which will meet **Thursday, March 4**, at 7 pm, at St. Matthew's UMC, in Malvern. Please contact **Pastor Jerry** or **Pastor Dorris** to attend this informal gathering and learn about our Conference's programs and ministries.



To **Kim**, **Jon**, and **Dylan DeHart**, on the loss of Kim's sister, Colleen Kerschner. We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	W
	1 Bible Study 10:30am Trustees 7pm	2 Opportunity House 4:30pm	3 Simple Rule Bell Choir 6:3 Chancel Choi Youth Praise
7 UMYF Spaghetti Dinner & Worship 5pm Chird	8 Bible Study 10:30am Agape 12pm Finance 7pm	9	10 3 Simple I Bell Choir 6:3 Chancel Choi Youth Praise Nurture & Wi
14 Lenten Supper/ Study 5pm UMYF 5-8pm SUNDAY N LENT	15 Bible Study 10:30am Church Council 7pm	16	3 Simple Rule Bell Choir 6:3 Chancel Choi Youth Praise
21 Mary's Shelter Bowling, 12:30pm; Communion Workshop 4pm; Lenten Supper/ Study 5pm	22 Bible Study 10:30am Book Club 7pm	23 Stewardship 7pm	3 Simple Rule Bell Choir 6:3 Chancel Choi Youth Praise
Lenten Supper/Study 5pm UMYF 5-8pm Youth Leadership 8pm	29 Bible Study 10:30am	30	31 3 Simple Rule NO Bell Choi Chancel Choi Youth Praise

n 2010 Compactor actions

ed	Thu	Fri	Sat
s 12pm 30pm r 7:45pm Team 7pm	4 EPAUMC Town Hall 7pm Praise Team 8pm	5 World Day of Prayer Men's Night Out 7pm	6
Rules 12pm 30pm r 7:45pm Team 7pm tness 7pm	11 Crafts 1 pm Praise Team 8pm	12	Remember to change your clocks tonight!
s 12pm 80pm r 7:45pm Team 7pm	18 Praise Team 8pm	19	20 Youth Service Project @ GM Food Pantry, 8:45am
s 12pm 80pm r 7:45pm Team 7pm		Looking ahead to Apr Holy Thursday Good Friday	27 Easter Party 10-12
s 12pm r r 7:45pm Team 7pm	4/2 4/5 4/1	4 Easter Sunday 5 Trustees 7pm 12 Finance 7 pm 17 Chili Supper	

Our Endowment Fund Grows and Benefits LP Ministries Statement of the Fund from 1982 to Present

From the Endowment Fund Committee: Rolland Ackelson, Allen Buchanan, Shirley Cline, Nelson Freyling, Ira Mohler, Harold Perkins, Donald Schlosser, Pamela Shenk

		TOTAL	INCOME	INCOME
	CONTRIBUTIONS	PRINCIPAL	<u>EARNED</u>	DISBURSED *
1982	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 72	
1983 - 87	1,573	4,573	2,027	-
1988 - 92	4,385	8,958	2,188	\$ 2,154
1993 - 97	9,204	18,162	2,657	4,127
1998 - 02	29,191	47,353	9,133	7,350
2003 - 07	39,469	86,822	10,794	9,797
2008 - 09	29,666	116,488**	<u>7,288</u>	<u>6,776</u>
TOTAL	\$116,488		\$34,159	\$30,204

^{**} In addition, the fund will receive proceeds of a \$10,000 irrevocable Charitable Gift Annuity upon death of husband and wife.

SOURCES OF CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE 1982 Bequests Gifts in Honor and Memory Gifts (ranging from \$10 - \$5,000) Annual transfers from income (10%) TOTAL	\$40,528 24,061 49,169 <u>2,730</u> \$116,488
BENEFITS TO OUR MINISTRIES IN GOD'S SERVICE For Ministry of Christian Education (teacher training, special programs, teaching materials and equipment)	\$6,019
For Ministry of Music For Ministry of Missions	1,850 1,850
(support of volunteers, travel, special designations) For Family Programs	400
For 50 th Anniversary Program For Consultation Study	170 2,000
For Task Force on Church Adaptation For Nurture and Witness	2,550 1,500
For Contemporary Service For Church Improvements Outside Budget For Stewardship Program	5,300 4,500 800
For Endowment Fund Expenses For 10% Annual Transfer of Interest to Principal TOTAL	535 2,730 \$30,204
TOTAL	ψ30,20-r

Our Endowment Fund is a strength of LP church, especially for its future, to the Glory of God. The purpose of this statement is to give you an understanding of its history, ways of giving to it, and numerous benefits derived from it.

During 2009, the principal in the Fund grew 8.5% from \$98,450 to \$116,448. As this year began, an additional generous gift of \$10,000 from a loyal member has enriched the principal still further. Thanks to all who have contributed to the Fund over its 28 years.



Calling All Bowlers to a FUNd-Raiser!

From Tracy Goldsborough



Communion Workshop

BOWLING - FOOD - PRIZES

March 21, 12:30 to 2:30 pm Colonial Hills-Berks Lanes

Cost: Collect donations or make a donation (no minimum or maximum)

Ages: 0 to 150 (should cover everyone)

Team: LPCUMC (but we need something more creative) **Team Captain**: **Tracy Goldsborough**, 610-507-8165, or

tracy.goldsborough@alvernia.edu

Experience: None

of Team Players to Date: 1 (the Captain needs a team - HELP!)
Goal: Have fun and raise money for Mary's Shelter (marysshelter.org)

Deadline to Join: March 10

Please see, email, or call me as soon as possible to RSVP and pick up your collection sheets. We'll put our efforts together as a team. If we win a BIG prize, we'll decide as a team what to do with it. Go to marysshelter.org to find out the awesome things they're doing to help young, pregnant women and, most importantly, their babies.

Learn About the Sacrament of Communion

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Each spring LP offers children in 3rd grade and above, and their families, the opportunity to gather and ask questions about the sacrament of Holy Communion. This year LP's COMMUNION WORK-SHOP will be offered with **Pastor Jerry**'s leadership on **Sunday, March 21**, at 4 pm, in the Church Sanctuary. Bring your questions! Bring a friend! Following the workshop, children and families are invited to participate in the celebration of Holy Communion at the Maundy Thursday Worship Service on April 1. Questions may be directed to either **Pastor Jerry** or **Pastor Dorris**.

UMYF Happenings

From Cori Pasquale, 610-568-0691

Youth Praise Band & Worship Planning... meets Wednesdays, from 7-8 pm, in Memorial Hall. Any teen in Grades 9-12 is invited to join this great group of youth and adults. If you like to sing or play an instrument, join us!



Youth Service Project

Youth in Grades 6-12 have been volunteering at the Governor Mifflin Food Pantry. We help the third Saturday of every month by assisting set-up and aiding clients in their food selection. We meet at church at 8:45 am. Plan to join us on March 20, April 17, and May 15.

Youth Group Meetings, Sunday Evenings,

March 14 and 28, April 11 and 25

JR UMYF is a group of teens in Grades 6-8. We meet at 5 pm, in the Youth Room for Bible study, faith exploration, and games. We then join the SR UMYF in the Kitchen, at 6 pm, to prepare and eat dinner until 6:30 pm.

SR UMYF is a group of teens in Grades 9-12. We meet at 6 pm, in the Kitchen, preparing and eating dinner with the JR UMYF. We then participate in faith exploration, Bible study, and games until 8 pm.

Friends are always welcome!

Card Tables Needed!!!!!

The SR UMYF needs your card tables for our Spaghetti Dinner and Worship event on March 7. Please drop these off in Memorial Hall on Sunday morning, March 7, with your name on them. They can be picked up that night after 7 pm worship. Call **Cori** with questions, 610-568-0691.

...FROM THE SR UMYF

Our annual **Soup, Hoagie & Bake Sale** was a HUGE success, raising over \$750 for our summer mission trip. THANK YOU to **Becky Chadwick** and **Elizabeth Stoud**



for organizing orders and helping to create the hoagies. The soup ladies again made delicious soup for us to sell. The meat was provided by Sprecher's Meats, 2277 Reading Ave, West Wyomissing. The owner, Dennis, opened that snowy Saturday morning, just for our youth group! Thanks to all!

Please join us for an

Easter Party

Saturday, March 27, 10 am Egg hunt, games, & prizes! Please contact Tracy Goldsborough, 610-507-8165.

to volunteer or donate.



Habitat for Humanity Workday

From Jim Eckert

Be on the lookout to sign up for another workday at a home in our Reading area. It's scheduled for April 24 - a Saturday, from 9 to 2. More information later - Questions - Jim Eckert 610-373-1064.





Coming at our Flea Market: A Silent Auction

From Beverly Perella

We're looking for donations of services or special items, to be advertised in advance of the Flea Market on May 15. Here's an example: 10 piano lessons for a beginner, adult or child, to the highest bidder. You could volunteer services for gardening, baby-sitting, painting, or house-cleaning, and more. Or, you may donate a precious object. To help, see Michelle Ringler, Carol Bashore, or Bev Perella.

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE: FOOD AND MORE ARE NEEDED

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



This month when LP's supper team heads to OPPORTUNITY HOUSE, they hope to fill another whole car (or two) with blankets (new or gently used), clean linens, pillows, women's personal care items, and diapers (large or extra-large). Please leave these items in the blue bin in the Wagner Room or bring them to the Church Kitchen between 5-6 pm, on **Tuesday, March 2**.

You're also invited to help prepare and serve supper that Tuesday. We gather in the kitchen about 4:30 pm to cook and leave by 6:30 to serve our fixin's. To add to a most welcomed donation of 60 pounds of pork, **Penny Snook** is hoping for gifts of dried or canned small white navy or baked beans, tossed salad ingredients, and fresh fruits (the kids especially love when we bring bananas). To let her know what you might bring, call **Penny**, 610-781-7704, or e-mail, rsnook6819@aol.com.

Missions Committee Reports Successes

From Jim Eckert

Our Christmas ministries were a success thanks to your support. About 50 shoe boxes for children -- from several of over 130 countries -- were prepared by you and sent through the **SAMARITAN'S PURSE - OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** ministry, led by Franklin Graham (son of Billy). This ministry also helps children hear the Gospel.

Through the SALVATION ARMY'S ADOPT-A- FAMILY program, we provided gifts for three families. All gift tags were taken and presumably all gifts obtained, although the last collection Sunday services (December 20) were cancelled due to snow. Many gifts were brought to the Church Office the following week and eventually got to their des-

tinations. Funds of \$320 given into Missions Designated Of-



fering Account were used for \$50 gift cards to Redners - two for each family, with \$20 going for one of the gifts.

Note that about 70 families were served in 2008, so that, assuming the number was similar this season, our serving of three families represents a high percentage of total service for any single organization. The Salvation Army has acknowledged us as one of their most faithful supporters for this ministry over the years.

Thanks to those who "went the extra mile(s)" quite literally to make sure the gifts got to the church on time.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



March 12 for our April issue

From our mailbox

Our family would like to extend a heartfelt note of thanks to Pastor Dorris and Pastor Jerry for comforting and guiding us through the difficult loss of my sister Colleen. We would also like to thank our LP church family for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, messages, hugs, and offers of support extended to our family.

Kim, Jon, and Dylan DeHart

I can't begin to thank all my church family for their cards, phone calls, and especially prayers at the time of my surgery. Thanks to Pastor Jerry for his hospital visits and phone calls, and especially to my Agape sisters for their continued support and visits. Their prayers were felt daily. My "welcome home" bouquet (and teddy bear with bandaged knee) brought smiles to everyone.

I am well on my way to recovery and looking forward to spring (no snow) so I can resume all activities.

With Christian love,

Elaine Meckes

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

I want to express my thanks to all of you at LPCUMC for the thoughts, prayers, and beautiful cards you sent while I was in the hospital and afterwards. I am grateful for your love.

Pat Park

♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the chicken rice soup and groceries. We are glad for each donation to help us feed a few more people. May God bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace, Soup Kitchen Manager, New Journey UMC

Women's Book Club

From Jane Reitz Join us to discuss this interesting book!



March 22 - The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Refreshments: Sharon Ackelson

New members always welcome!

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



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

Office phone 610-777-1422

Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35;

Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39

Fax line 610-777-4309

Voice mail Pastor Jerry 44, Church Office 21,

Dorris McCoy 24, Beverly Perella 26,

Nancy Brown 29, Cori Pasquale 31

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

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