

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *October, 2010*

Go Deeper Into Your Faith

A New Small Group Journey

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

We offer time to think, pray, journal, reflect, and examine Scripture -- to discover its wisdom and integrate its insights and encouragement into our daily lives.

Where and when? Join us for **GOING DEEPER**, Tuesdays in October and November, 6:30-7:30 pm, in Room 103. This small group will be dedicated to guiding each other on the journey of life and faith, encouraging:

- deeper awareness
- deeper creativity
- deeper energy
- and deeper passion and commitment to things that matter to God.

GOING DEEPER will use the book, *40-Day Journey With Parker J. Palmer*, a

powerful spiritual tool for the disciple's path to growth and wholeness. Palmer is a highly regarded seminary teacher, consultant, writer, speaker, and social activist who invites us to listen intentionally and intently to the Holy Spirit's inner nudging.

Listen
Hear
Understand
Grow

Come and *Go Deeper* into faith! For details or interest in starting other small

groups for prayer and spiritual support, please see **Pastor Dorris**.

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WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

Sunday, October 3

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

“Passing on the Stories and the Bread”

Ruth 1:6-18, Galatians 3:23-29

Sunday, October 10

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN KINGDOMTIDE

“We’re Gonna Be Alright”

Romans 8:28-30, John 10:7-10

Sunday, October 17

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN KINGDOMTIDE

“I Want It Now”

Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, October 24

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN KINGDOMTIDE

“Are You Striving for Excellence?”

Isaiah 43:16-2, 1Philippians 3:8-14

Sunday, October 31

LAITY SUNDAY

Earl Hope will lead the service.

The celebration continues with fellowship and pot-luck lunch
in Memorial Hall at 11:15 am.



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!

First Sundays With Staff **Come for Answers and Lunch**

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Have you ever wondered why we sing a song a certain way? Or what an introit is? How sermon topics and preaching styles are chosen? Have a specific question about a certain sermon? Do they still teach the Bible in Sunday School? What curriculum is used? Why we don't offer certain programs? Why do we need....you fill in the blank?



You ask the question, and the program and pastoral staff will help us learn from each other and strengthen communications between ministries. How and when will this all happen? Come to **FIRST SUNDAYS WITH STAFF**, beginning the first Sunday of October, the 3rd, at 12:30 pm, at Chef Alan's, West Reading. Future informal **FIRST SUNDAY** gatherings will include other church leaders and ministry chairs. Questions and interest in attending may be directed to **Pastor Jerry** or **Pastor Dorris**.

Directory Update!



It's that time of year again...please check the 2010 directory and make sure the Church Office has your current address, phone number, and e-mail address. A new revised directory should be available in December.

BUDGET 2010 UPDATE

August Income:	\$29,890.50	Year-to-Date Income:	\$215,504.71
August Expenses:	\$32,396.96	Year-to-Date Expenses:	\$232,395.86

From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

We do not live to ourselves and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Romans 14:7-9

It was late one Saturday evening when my wife and I returned home from a night out. I listened to the messages on my answering machine. One made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up.

Bob had called with an emergency. His 22-year old son, Ryan, had died unexpectedly.

I had been involved with similar situations over the years, concerning young and untimely deaths. These deaths are the most difficult a pastor must deal with.

What can you say to provide any comfort or relief from pain? For most people, death is already uncomfortable, but when someone young dies, nothing makes sense; there are no comforting words or answers. Ryan's death and others like his are not supposed to happen. The normal course of life is that you are born, grow up, get older, and then you die at a right-ful age. When death steals one of our young people, it is just not fair.

In times like these, questions are left unanswered. I don't know why God allows tragic events to happen. They make no sense and seem so unfair.

What I do know is this: God loves us. He does not promise that if we follow him, life will be full of roses without thorns. But God does promise that we will never be alone because He will never abandon us. Through Christ, death is not permanent. We will someday be together again with our loved ones who have gone before us.



As Christians, we serve a God of the living, not of the dead, who has called us to *raise the spiritually dead*. We are to have full life in Christ, here in this world, and in heaven after God calls us home. I know that God desires to bless us in good times and in bad. Yes, life is hard; it hurts and is unfair. But, I know God is there to comfort us and help us endure. May God continue to bless us at all times.

 "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion,"
for GOD loves a cheerful giver."

The Parable of the Rice Field

From Parish Publications, submitted by Nancy Villecco

There is a parable told in India about the selfish man who inherited a rice field. The first year, the man irrigated the field and it was fruitful. The water, in fact, flowed onto his neighbor's field and this too produced a bountiful harvest.

But, the next year, the selfish man decided: Why should I let this water flow through my field into his? Water is precious and I must keep it. So he built a dam. This prevented the water from flowing into his neighbor's field; but, it proved disastrous to his own crop as well. Irrigation water nourished the field only if it flowed. When it did not move, because of the dam, the water became stagnant and the field a swamp.

We own no rice fields. Still, the parable is clear. Think of what we have inherited from God; think of all He has given us. If we are selfish and keep it all for ourselves, our lives become stagnant, a dismal swamp of mere existence. But if we give back to God by giving to others, both the giver and the receiver share in the fruits of God's love.

Family Movie Night Provides An Inspiring Voyage

From Linda Woll



Our church lawn was flooded with laughter one July evening as we enjoyed the movie *Evan Almighty*. Steve Carell portrayed Noah in this modern tale about Noah's Ark. He relocated his family after accepting an important political appointment. God was portrayed by Morgan Freeman (Pastor Jerry liked his character--especially the deep powerful voice!) God provided *Noah* with all the necessary tools and wood to build the ark. It was a truly enjoyable voyage watching the transformation from disbelief to total trust in God as the entire family worked together to fulfill God's prophecy. As Christians, we are reminded to put our trust in God as we go through life's uncharted waters, He will always be our compass to lead us where we're meant to be.

An interesting note: Morgan Freeman pointed out that ARK = Acts of **R**andom **K**indness.

As Requested... A Review of Study Bibles

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



In recent conversations, questions were raised concerning Bibles, interpretations, translations, and study helps available. Since suggested resources were helpful to individuals and to me personally in my training and study, perhaps the following review from notes in these two study Bibles will help others in their spiritual discipline and faith formation as well.

The Wesley Study Bible provides three kinds of resources to help understand the biblical roots of our faith and its significance for our daily lives:

- Wesleyan-Methodist scholars follow the flow of the text and highlight issues important to the Wesleyan heritage.
- Related doctrines, key terms and beliefs rooted in the Wesleyan tradition are explored, i.e., works of mercy, prevenient grace, baptism, and lay leadership.
- Key pastors have provided notes to help readers live out their Wesleyan

faith as followers of Jesus whose daily lives are marked by holy love and faithful living.

The Interpreter's Study Bible, predecessor to an excellent five-volume *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, is designed to make biblical and theological scholarship readily available for contemporary understanding of the Bible. The NISB includes

- explanations of terms
- references to related texts and ideas
- analyses of literature and its historical development and chronologies
- maps
- a glossary of terms
- introductory commentaries on each book
- extended treatment on particular topics

All are offered to illuminate the Bible's significance for ancient communities and for Christian and interfaith communities today.

Please Note: MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will resume Monday, October 11, 10:30 am, in the Church Library, with **Pastor Jerry** facilitating a study of the Book of Romans. Thank you for your patience in the starting date to give Pastor Jerry recuperation time.

Workshop Scheduled

From Pastor Dorris
McCoy



PLANTING SEEDS EVENT, a learning and sharing event designed for ministry growth and empowering local congregations, Saturday, November 6, 2:30-6:15 pm, at Hopewell UMC, Downingtown. Attend and learn some of the best practices today for leading congregations in outreach and hospitality, informed Bible study, caring for God's creation, deepening our spiritual walks, and providing new, effective forms of corporate worship.

The workshop ends with a Worship and Prayer Rally led by Pastor Steve Morton and the Hopewell Praise Team. To register, contact **Pastor Dorris**.

Stewardship Campaign Update!

From Linda Hope

Thank you to all who participated in Commitment Sunday! To date, 67 giving units have pledged \$179,152 toward the 2011 budget.

If you have not returned your commitment card, please place it in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office as soon as possible. The Finance Committee will present a balanced budget on Monday, October 11, so it is important for the committee to know what the expected income will be for 2011.

Commitment cards are available in the office or in the Wagner Room.



*Ladies' Luncheon
and
Premier Jewelry Party*

Sunday, October 10, Noon

Good food and beautiful jewelry!
Proceeds will benefit the Stone Soup Fund and Concert Fund



October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
3 World Communion; 1 st Sunday w/ Staff 12:30, Chef Alan's Jr/Sr UMYF 6pm	4 Trustees 7pm	5 Going Deeper 6:30pm Budget Sub-Comm. 7pm	6 Bell Choir 6:30 Youth Praise Chancel Choir
10 Ladies Luncheon/Jewelry Party 12pm	11 Bible Study 10:30am Agape Noon Finance 7pm	12 Nurture & Witness 6:30pm Going Deeper 6:30pm <i>News-Linc Deadline</i>	13 Bell Choir 6:30 Youth Praise Chancel Choir
17 Dinner & Youth-led Worship, 5pm	18 Bible Study 10:30am Church Council 7 pm	19 Going Deeper 6:30pm	20 Bell Choir 6:30 Youth Praise Chancel Choir
24	25 Bible Study 10:30am Book Club 7pm	26 Going Deeper 6:30pm	27 Bell Choir 6:30 Youth Praise Chancel Choir
31 Laity Sunday 10 am Pot-Luck Lunch 11:15 am			

er 2010

ed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2
30pm Praise Team 7pm r 7:45pm	7 Praise Team 8pm	8 Ladies Night In 6:30pm McCoy's	9
30pm Praise Team 7pm r 7:45pm	14 Craft Group 1 pm Praise Team 8pm	15	16
30pm Praise Team 7pm r 7:45pm	21 Praise Team 8pm	22	23
0 pm Praise Team 7pm r 7:45pm	28 Craft Group 1pm Praise Team 8pm	29	30
		<div data-bbox="626 1219 1131 1503" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Looking ahead to November...</p> <p>11/1 Trustees 7 pm</p> <p>11/2 Opportunity House 4:30 pm</p> <p>11/9 Praise Team Planning 7 pm</p> <p>11/15 Church Council 7 pm</p> <p>11/28 <i>Messiah</i> Sing-In 3 pm</p> <p>11/31 Study/ Supper Series begins 5 pm</p> </div>	

Trustees News

From Jerry Manhart

Good weather prevailed for our August Trustee Workday. With a great turnout, all planned outside projects were finished. Two frames on basement windows were painted and gutter guards were installed on the Education Building and back vestibule of the church. Also, top soil was used to cover tree roots on the front lawn, and grass seed was sown.

Thanks to **Donald Beamesderfer, Todd Beamesderfer, Bill Chadwick, John Chadwick, Parker Chadwick, Bill Lape, Carl Madeira, Paula Mazurkiewicz, Jerry McGrath, George Pyle, Ron Schucker, Chris Seville, Jerry Shaeffer, Joan Shaeffer, Ron Woessner, and Nancy Villecco** for all their help.

The donation of the paint, grass seed, and hose for watering was appreciated.

Thanks also to **Jim Gehman** for repairing the cement sidewalk and steps in front of the church.



Do You Speak Italian? International Christmas Festival Friday, December 3

From Linda Woll

Pasta, pizza, garlic bread, sauce, fresh mozzarella, olives, cannoli, tiramisu and more. Can you guess which country we'll feature at this year's International Christmas Festival?

Nurture & Witness Committee invites anyone to join us for our next meeting, Tuesday, October 12, at 6:30 pm, in the Church Library. We'll discuss our *ITALIAN* Christmas and we welcome you. We're looking for an accordion player and possibly someone who speaks Italian who could teach us a few words and songs. If you can help in any way, please contact **Michelle Ringler**, 610-775-1339, or **Linda Woll**, 610-781-8046, or email Lmwoll@aol.com.

Sunday Study & Supper Fall Series Begins Oct 31

Please join us for this 4-week experience (with child care).

Based on Bill Hybel's

THE POWER OF A WHISPER: Hearing God, Having the Guts to Respond
Sundays, Oct 31, Nov 7, 14, & 21, 5 pm

JOYFUL NOISE Joins LIVE B.I.G.

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Something new and exciting has entered the LIVE B.I.G. (Believe In God) children's activities that follow the Children's Message at Contemporary Worship. It's called JOYFUL NOISE.

The JOYFUL NOISE theme in-



ites children age three and up to *make a joyful noise, all you girls and boys; make a joyful noise unto the Lord.*

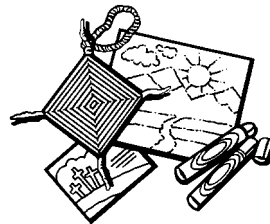
The LP church mouse told me what a great time the kids had singing a wonderful variety of old and new favorite songs, dancing, and moving to music with scarves. To assist with fun LIVE B.I.G. lessons, please contact **Tricia Pence**. You may e-mail **Julie Stites**, juliannastites@aol.com, to offer song suggestions.

Craft Group Continues!

From JoAnn Ross

New members are welcome!

Join our little group as we prepare simple craft kits for the after



school program at the First Baptist Church in Reading. We are a fun group, meeting two Thursday afternoons each month. No talent needed!

For more information, call **Bernie Ackelson**, 610-372-3472, or **JoAnn Ross**, 610-775-7966.



Join us Sunday mornings or check our calendar for a wide range of learning & growing opportunities for you!



Women's Book Club

From Jane Reitz

October 25

A 1000 Splendid Suns, by Khaled Hosseini,

Refreshments: Debbie Ackelson

Come and share comments, critiques, and fellowship in the **Ackleson's** living room, 1719 Garfield Ave, Wyomissing, at 7 pm, on Monday evening. Please join us!



Grace Notes

From Beverly Perella

WE ARE GROWING!

God has whispered "Sing" and four people have heard Him. We have increased the size of the Chancel Choir from nine to 13! No, this doesn't mean you don't have to listen to God's voice urging you to use His talent for music. We have room for many more musicians in our musical groups.

Here's more good news. The Adult Praise Team will add two women. One is a freshman at Albright College who found out about us on-line; the other is one of our own who just entered her senior year at Wilson High School.

The Bell Choir, too, would like a few more "ring-a lings." And we've not forgotten the children. **Pastor Dorris** and **Julie Stites**, a music therapist, have started a music program for children on Sunday mornings. Rainbow-colored bells are on the horizon for our little ones.

Lincoln Park Church has never buried its talents for music. Are you burying yours? Listen to God's whisper!

MESSIAH SING-IN

This year it's our turn to sponsor the MESSIAH SING-IN on Sunday afternoon, November 28, at 3pm. Mark you calendars for this opportunity to sing along with or listen to the magnificent Christmas portion of Handel's *MESSIAH*.

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

Bell Choir - Wednesday, 6:30 pm
Chancel Choir - Wednesday, 7:45 pm
Youth Praise Team - Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm
Praise Team - Thursday, 8 pm

Christian Education: Join the *Walk* at Lincoln Park on Sunday Mornings

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

You're invited to
Walk in the Park
with fellow grow-
ing disciples each
Sunday:



From the Pastor of
**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

- to learn more about God's life-changing, enriching Word
- to search for its meaning and truth
- to receive encouragement for living and sharing the Gospel's Good News everyday, everywhere.

Check out the schedule and join in the journey! And if something's missing, contact **Kim DeHart**, Christian Ed Chair, or see **Pastor Dorris** to help make it happen!

Sunday Church School options include:
9:45 am

- † LIVE B.I.G. & JOYFUL NOISE for PreSchoolers & Early Elementary, Room 101
- † ADULT LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY with **Bob Robertson** in the Church Library
11 am
- † Graded classes for Children, Youth & Adults
- † *Upper Room Reflections* with **Loreen Miller & Becky Chadwick**
- † *Issues of Faith* with **Earl & Linda Hope**

UMYF Happenings

October 3, 6 pm
Combined JR & SR
UMYF meeting with **Pas-
tor Jerry**, begins with
youth-prepared supper.



**Join the
Youth Group**

October 17
Sunday Dinner & Youth-
led worship in Memorial Hall, beginning
at 5 pm. Proceeds benefit the 2011 Youth
Mission Trip.

Mark Villecco and **Danielle Pasquale**
are working with the Youth Praise Band
and Youth Worship planning, Wednes-
days, 7 pm, in Memorial Hall.



We're having a ladies night "in" at
Dorris McCoy's home on Friday,
October 8, at 6:30 pm.

Cry, laugh, pray, chat, relax for as
long as you wish.

Feel free to bring friends.

See **Pastor Dorris** for more infor-
mation.

From our mailbox

♥ A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who helped during my recent illness (staph infection in eye). I felt calm and wrapped in God's love and peace continually. My children were taken care of by friends; we received delicious home cooked "meals on wheels" from our church family; the prayer chain; several beautiful cards and visits; and even help with yard work after I was feeling better. I believe life is about helping others, and LPCUMC certainly exemplifies this! I am blessed.

Linda Woll

♥ Thank you to everyone for my cards and prayers after I broke my arm. I am feeling better, and I can't wait to make art projects and ride my bike again!

Love, Olyvia Woll

♥ I would like to thank the congregation for your prayers and support during my recent eye surgery. I truly felt your prayers especially when I had to remain still for a week. The time of recovery has been extremely difficult, but I have felt God's Spirit carrying me, through your prayers. Thank you so much for your compassion and patience during a time of healing

which seems so long.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Jerry

♥ I was able to visit Lincoln Park Church this past Sunday and was uplifted by the number of folks who asked about my mother, Polly. She is doing well and continues to be in a happy spirit. Cards and well wishes may be sent to:

Pauline Madeira

The Gardens

3152 Glassboro-Cross Keys Rd

Glassboro, NJ 08028

Love,

Alice Madeira Frecon

♥ I want to send thanks to you for inviting me to visit and present at your worship service. On behalf of everyone at Opportunity House, please share our appreciation for all that your church does to help our clients. It is noticed and means the world to so many people. Stay well.

Sincerely,

Lorri G. Oziri,

Vice President for Development

♥ Thank you for the groceries and money you donated to our food ministry. It's good to know we have friends who help us feed the hungry. May God bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace

Soup Kitchen Mgr.

New Journey UMC



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



October 12
For our
November issue

Change of Address

Nathan & Cynthia Brown
1115 Lilac Ln
Sinking Spring PA 19608

Editor's Note: I saw this framed in a gift shop at the beach, signed by "Jarett." I don't know if that's the poet, artist, or both. If you know, call or email me!

Peace, joy, happiness
Success, love
None are born out of perfection,
But blossom through the growth.
Clouds hover,
The ground gets wet,
Muddy petals reach to
An opening sky, and
Oh, the bloom...
The beautiful, messy,
Struggling, stretching, courageous,
Glorious bloom of our imperfect lives.
Welcome to the garden.

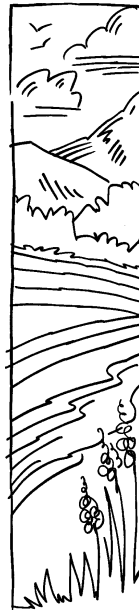
--Jarett ?

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.

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Staff: Nancy Artz, Bunny Carlson, Ginny Freyling, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, Elaine Meckes, Suzanne Romig, and Doris Schucker



We extend our deepest sympathy to family and friends of **Robert Gottschall**.



And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God....

Romans 8:28

NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

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Reading, PA

Permit No. 233

Change service requested



Worship with us: 9:30 am - Contemporary Worship
 11 am - Traditional Worship
 9:45 & 11 am - Christian Education

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