

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



#### Operation Christmas Child The Power of a Simple Gift

From Jim Eckert

It's time to fill a shoe box! Since 2002, generous participants at our church have filled some 750 boxes with small gifts for children, many of whom have never before received a gift. Check the Wagner Room for brochures explaining the ministry, suggested gifts, and instructions for preparing the box. Even non-shoppers like myself have found this to be fun and rewarding. If you can't find a shoe box, now's a good time to go out and buy a pair! Some boxes may be provided in the Wagner Room as well.



This is a ministry that not only provides smiles and gifts, but reading materials and follow-up (by Samaritan's Purse ministry) to introduce children to Jesus Christ - in over 120 countries! An online feature allows you to trace where your box is going.

Place gift boxes in the Wagner Room by Sunday, **November 21**. Remember to include \$7 (check) for shipping. If shipping cost is a problem for any particular box, Missions Committee can cover that.

For more articles about Missions at Lincoln Park, see p. 5 and 6.

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#### **WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER**

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

#### Sunday, November 7

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY "Spiritual Amnesia" - 1 Peter 3:8-16, Matthew 13:10-15

#### Sunday, November 14

TWENTYFIFTH SUNDAY OF KINGDOMTIDE "The Grace of Giving" - Isaiah 30:18, 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

#### Sunday, November 21

PRAYER AND PRAISE SUNDAY

Scripture, Prayer, and Music based on Confession (forgiveness), Need (our dependence on one God), and Praise National Bible Sunday: Bibles Presented to Third Graders Ephesians 1:3-10, Psalm 121, 1Chronicles 16:23-27

#### Sunday, November 28

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

"Baby Jesus, Come to Save Us" - Isaiah 64:1-2, Matthew 24:36-44

## All Saints Sunday Recognized on November 7 at Both Worship Services

If you've had a loved one pass on this year, please submit a photo to the office so we can recognize and celebrate his or her life in worship.



#### 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!

# Supper & Study Continues in November Sunday Supper Series Update

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

All are welcome to join our Fall Sunday Supper Series -- November 7, 14, 21, and 28, beginning with a light supper at 5 pm.



### Sunday Supper & Study

At 6 pm, we'll gather to utilize Bill Hybel's, *The Power of A Whisper*. It encourages us to examine, "WHAT WILL YOUR LIFE BECOME WHEN YOU SAY 'GOD I'M LISTENING'?"

This video series invites us to tune our ears to the voice of God that is still and small, listen like never before, be challenged to respond, and see the lifechanging power of that whisper.

Bill Hybels is the founding and senior pastor of the growing, multi-site Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, IL.

For details and to sign-up, check out the registration form on the Visitor Table.



## Also In November:

Every Tuesday, 6:30 pm, in Room 102, *Going Deeper*, uses 40 Day Journey with Parker J. Palmer

to search more deeply within and make connections with God and each other.

- LP's Charge Conference, Sat, November 6, 9:30 am, in the Sanctuary, with District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Gary George, presiding and affirming LP's charge for ministry in the coming year. All members and leaders are welcome.
- Planting Seeds for Ministry
  Growth, Sat, November 6, 2:306:15 pm, offered by Hopewell
  UMC, Downingtown, as a learning
  event to empower local congregations. Keynote is Debi Nixon, on
  staff at UMC of the Resurrection
  in Leawood, KA (I heard her speak
  in Nashville and give her a thumbs
  up!) Workshops include: teaching
  the Bible, alternative styles of worship, stewardship of the earth, and
  personal spirituality. See Pastor
  Dorris to attend.
- Fall Session of EPAUMC Conference, November 13, clergy and laity gather to set Conference budget and review resolutions and ministry focus areas.

#### From the Pastor's Desk

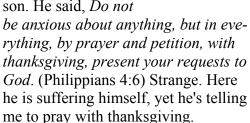
From Pastor Jerry McGrath

've heard a lot of prayers in my life. Hey, I've prayed a lot of them, too.

- Prayers of desperation -- God, you've got to help me!
- Prayers of self-pity -- God, things are so awful.
- Prayers of resignation -- God, if you want to leave me unemployed, then I can't stop you.

But I'm learning how to pray a differ-

ent kind of prayer -prayer said with
thanksgiving. I
learned it from Paul
who, writing from
prison, taught me a
most powerful lesson. He said, *Do not* 



Thanksgiving is the seasoning that makes our prayers edible to God. After all, who wants to hear people whine all the time? I've learned that you can't whine and give thanks in the same breath. Self-pity and thankfulness don't mix any better than oil and water.

In fact, mixing thanks with prayer somehow changes it. When we remember what God has done for us in the past and think about who he is in the present -- and express that in thankfulness -- our prayers become more gentle, more trusting somehow. Thankful prayers are offered with faith. And faith is an essential ingredient for prayers that God chooses to answer.

We remember the Pilgrims on

Thanksgiving Day, not so much for their turkey dinner, but for the sheer faith that inspired them to give thanks in a year that saw nearly half their number die of sick-

ness. Yet they prayed with thanksgiving.

When your annual day of feasting is over, you may be moan your extra helpings of dressing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. But if you can hang on to the "thanks" part of Thanksgiving, you'll be a different person. Because when you learn to talk to God about your needs -- mixed with a healthy dose of heartfelt thanks -- then you have crossed the divide from whining at God to real prayer.

Happy Thanksgiving!

#### WANTED: COATS of All Sizes...

From Kathy Avedissian

...as well as gently used hats, scarves, and gloves. As we enter into this season of Thanksgiving COAT DRIVE and offer our thanks to God for His many blessings, let us not forget our needy and less fortunate neighbors.

Once again, Lincoln Park Church, together with the Salvation Army and local cleaners, is collecting outerwear for the area's needy children. Please help by bringing your gently used outerwear to church and placing the items in the designated containers either in the back of the sanctuary or by the Cambridge Avenue entrance. Outerwear will be collected through November 14. Donated items will be cleaned and then distributed in the Reading area.

Call **Kathy Avedissian** with questions, 610-372-1735. Thank you for your help!

#### Congrats VBS Kids & LP Family!

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

The final count is in and on the way to Pastor Nick Camacho, Army Chaplain in Kabul! YES!!! We collected 80 pounds of school supplies during VBS and the few weeks afterwards! These materials joined other

EPAUMC efforts to support Pastor Camacho's J-9 Operation Winning Afghanistan, a charity that now supports five orphanages, two day care centers, the Afghan National Army Hospital, a school of more than 3,200 students, Kabul Children's Hospital (the only such facility in Afghanistan), and the rebuilding of a mosque. All of this is done after the Rev. Camacho works to build relationships with local communities and involves them in assessing and meeting needs. Thank you for sharing God's love in such a tangible way with God's children far around the world!

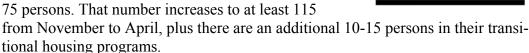
**CONFIRMATION CLASS** will start this year on November 7, at 4 pm. Confirmation involves a year long study of our denomination and faith history. There are fun, informative classes and field trips to other Christian churches, a Jewish Synagogue, Islamic Mosque, and historical

United Methodist sites. If you or someone you know is in the seventh grade or above and would like to become part of the confirmation class, please see **Pastor Jerry**.

#### Join the Opportunity House Supper Team

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE provides a wide range of assistance to needy and homeless, with bed space for 75 persons. That number increases to at least 115



LP's Supper Team cooks and serves supper six times a year on alternate 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays, beginning in January. You are invited to join the team for their next outreach, Tuesday, November 2. Come to the Church Kitchen at 4:30 pm if you can help cook, or stop to join the serving team which leaves the church at 6:15 pm to journey to Opportunity House. Call **Penny Snook**, Head Chef, 610-781-7704, to let her know how you want to help, whether cooking/serving time, funding donations, or sharing fresh veggies, fruits, or homemade desserts. The residents and staff are always welcoming to LP volunteers and appreciate the time, energy, and funds LP puts into making a pleasant, nutritious meal for them!!

# Salvation Army ADOPT A FAMILY PROGRAM ANGEL TREE

From Jim Eckert

not be doing this program this Christmas season due to the retirement of the person in charge. It may be taken up again in future years.

Therefore THERE WILL BE NO ANGEL TREE GIFTS COLLECTED at our church this Christmas season. The Missions Committee is exploring other options for giving for this season.



From Marian Longenecker, Missions Committee

From now until No-

**HOUSE** 

vember 7, the Missions Committee will collect donations for the Food Pantry at New Journey United Methodist Church.

Non-perishable items include cereal, cans of fruit, vegetables, tuna, peanut butter, and soup.

Look for the **BLUE BUCKET** in the Wagner Room, and thank you for your generous donations.

#### Youth Ministry Team Offers Opportunities

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



Do you have a heart for God and teens mixed with a healthy dose of fun and flexibility? If so, you are just the person LP's youth need

to work with them in their ministries and outreach. The umbrella of Youth Ministry involves

- ♦ JR & SR High church school classes
- ♦ JR & SR High UMYF (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) meetings
- ♦ Youth Praise Band
- ♦ Youth Worship Team
- ♦ Fundraising
- ♦ Monthly outreach to the Food Pantry
- ♦ Annual Youth Mission Trip

No one person needs to do it all, but helpers are welcome to give **Mark Villeco** and **Danielle Pasqualle** a hand to support their leadership efforts and encourage youth leaders as well. LP is blessed with a strong, faithful, dedicated group of teens so let's all step to the plate and help them hit a youth ministry home run by providing coaches (adult leaders) and prayerful encouragement!!

To offer your commitment to serve with our youth, please contact **Pastor Jerry**, **Pastor Dorris**, or **Rich Auman**, SPRC Chair.

#### STEWARDSHIP IS...

From Parish Publications Submitted by Nancy Villecco

- a little bit of you
- a forward path
- a privilege
- a way
- a choice
- a pleasure
- a helping hand
  - a promise
- a connection
  - a right
- a responsibility
- a thank you
- an awareness
- a commitment
- a gift
- a crossroad decision
- a connection to each other
- a little bit of you for God

#### From Betsy Buchanan



You can help decorate our church for Christmas! Please order poinsettias by November 28. Order forms will be in

church bulletins November 14 and 21. Please contact me, 610-777-2501, or **KC Dianna**, 484-955-9402.





# Novemb

Sun	Mon	Tue	W
	1 Bible Study 10:30am Trustees 7pm	2 Opportunity House 4:30pm Going Deeper 6:30pm Stewardship 7pm ELECTION DAY	3 Bell Choir 6:3 Youth Praise Chancel Choi
7 Confirmation Class 4pm Sunday Supper Series 5pm	8 Bible Study 10:30am Agape Noon Finance 7 pm	9 Going Deeper 6:30pm Praise Team Planning 7pm	10 Bell Choir 6:3 Youth Praise Chancel Choi
14 Sunday Supper Series 5pm	15 Bible Study 10:30am Church Council 7pm	16 Going Deeper 6:30pm	17 Bell Choir 6:3 Youth Praise Chancel Choi
21 National Bible Sunday Bible Presentation Sunday Deadline: Operation Xmas Child Sunday Supper Series 5pm	22 Bible Study 10:30am	23 Going Deeper 6:30pm	24 Bell Choir 6:3 Youth Praise Chancel Choi
28 Messiah Sing-In 3pm Sunday Study Series 5:45pm	29 Bible Study 10:30am	30 Going Deeper 6:30pm	



12 12 12	Fri	Sat
Craft Group 1pm Team 7pm r 7:45pm  Praise Team 8pm  18 Praise Team 8pm  19  30pm Team 7pm r 7:45pm  25  Thanksgiving r 7:45pm  26  12  13  14  15  15  16  17  18  19  19  10  10  10  10  11  11  11  11		Charge Conference 9:30am  Daylighte- Saving Teme Ends
Praise Team 8pm  Team 7pm r 7:45pm  25  Thanksgiving Team 7pm r 7:45pm  12  12	-Linc ine	13 Fall Session, EPAUMC Conference
80pm Team 7pm r 7:45pm	Grateful to	20
	_	noir Cantata as Party

#### Stewardship/Finance Update

#### From Linda Hope

THANK YOU to all who have participated in the 2011 Stewardship Campaign. The Campaign continues so if you have not had the opportunity to pledge, please consider completing an "Estimate of Giving" card which can be found in the CHURCH OFFICE or the WAGNER ROOM.

#### To date:

- 89 giving units have pledged \$209,876 (21 of these are new for 2011)
- 15 giving units have pledged \$0 (3 of these were pledges in 2010 totaling \$9,740)
- 20 giving units who pledged in 2010 have not responded
- 72 giving units contributed in 2010 with no pledge
- 31 giving units who contributed in 2009 have not contributed in 2010

The Finance Committee reviewed data for the past five years which showed the following trends:

- Total contributions in 2006 were over \$358,000, but in 2009 reached only \$298,000
- Average Sunday attendance in 2006 peaked at 211, and is now running at 147
- Total giving units have decreased from 288 in 2006 to 185 in 2010

Unfortunately, at this point our projected income still falls short of the projected expenses which will result in additional programming and staffing cuts within the current proposed budget if additional income is not anticipated.

The Budgeted Income and Expense comparison:

	2010	2011	2011
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET
		REQUEST	ADJUSTMENTS
INCOME			
Envelopes*	\$316,500.00	\$300,000.00	\$ 262,000.00
Plate	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 4,100.00
Special Envelopes	\$ 7,925.00	\$ 7,330.00	\$ 7,530.00
Other	\$ 26,532.00	\$ 17,561.00	\$ 17,570.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$355,257.00	\$328,991.00	\$ 291,200.00
EXPENSES			
CHURCH COUNCIL			
Ministries of Administration	\$ 23,575.00	\$ 22,200.00	\$ 20,400.00
Program Ministries	\$ 48,276.00	\$ 47,336.00	\$ 41,775.00
STAFF PARISH	\$189,809.92	\$191,920.68	\$ 190,506.54
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	\$ 96,586.00	\$ 99,780.00	\$ 93,530.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$358,246.92	\$361,236.68	\$ 346,211.54
INCOME MINUS EXPENSES	\$ (2,989.92)	\$ (32,245.68)	\$ (55,011.54)

The Finance Committee also reviewed the 2010 budget status and has encouraged committees in all areas of ministries to be mindful of spending in light of the current \$16,900 deficit. This is an attempt to close the gap in the deficit by the end of the year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Alex Ross or Linda Hope. Please refer all questions about staffing budget to Rich Auman, Staff Parish Relations.

#### \*NOTES

#### **ENVELOPE BUDGETED INCOME:**

Envelopes budgeted income is equal to total dollar amount pledged, plus the amount of speculative contributions expected by those giving units who do not pledge. This amount is based on past giving trends of the individuals. The trend over the past few years has been that this number of giving units has increased, so a larger portion of the budgeted envelope income line item has been estimated. Last year this number was 24% of the budget.

#### **BUDGET REQUEST:**

Income = estimated amounts from previous budget and current trends Expenses = amounts requested from committee based on projected spending for the next year

#### **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS:**

Budget Adjustments are changes made to the budget request in an attempt to balance the budget by reducing costs across the board, as well as increases in costs beyond our control...utilities, insurance, pension, health, etc.

"There are three kinds of giving: grudge-giving, duty-giving, and thanks-giving. Grudge-giving says 'I have to;' duty-giving says 'I ought to;' and thanks-giving says 'I want to.'

The latter comes from a full heart.

Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God."
--Robert N. Rodenmayer

#### Adults' Sunday Morning in the Park

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Three options to strengthen Christian growth are available for adults at LP each Sunday morning. Additional options and leadership are also always encouraged!

- † The Lectionary Class follows the Revised Common Lectionary for a systematic study of the Bible's major stories and themes in a 3-year cycle, using the resource *Keeping Holy Time*. This group is facilitated by **Bob Robertson** and meets at 9:45 am in the Church Library.
- † Quiet time, reflection, prayer, and sharing (based on the devotional readings in *The Upper Room*) are the focus of STONE SOUP sessions led by **Loreen Miller** and **Becky Chadwick**, in Room 103, at 11 am. Watch the Wagner Room for opportunities to help with STONE SOUP cooking days by bringing in requested soup supplies; soup is shared throughout the LP family and wider community where needed.
- Also at 11 am, in Memorial Hall, **Earl Hope** coordinates: *Religion & Science: Pathways To Truth*, a video series hosted by Francis S. Collins, Director of The Human Genome Project, along with input from more than a dozen scientists and theologians. These sessions ask the question: *Can you be a Christian and take science seriously?* and searches for ways to live in today's world as scientifically informed believers!

#### And the rest of the Walk in the Park...

- † At 9 am in the Library, before worship and education begin, there gathers a small -- but strong in prayer -- group to bathe LP's ministries, staff, leaders, needs, and future in prayer.
- † At 9:45 am, children 3 through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade leave Contemporary Worship for LIVE B.I.G. Church School activities and JOYFUL NOISE music fun. **Tricia Pence** and **Julie Stites** coordinate these fun, spirit-filled learning experiences.
- † At 11 am, graded sessions for children use ROCK SOLID curriculum and youth use BL4Y (Bible Lessons For Youth) not only to teach the Bible message but also to apply its truth to everyday life!

#### A Lesson From Our Children

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Late in August as we scurried to prepare rooms for Rally Day and wondered whether we'd have sufficient teachers and funds to replenish supplies, I was moved by this poem, the outcome of one of our summer sessions. It illustrated for me how our teachers strive to pass the faith forward and how our children view their relationships within their families and the larger church family. Let's listen in on their growing wisdom about our communal life.

#### A TOGETHER POEM

We work together in every weather.
With families and friends, even strangers.
We clean the yard and worship God together.
Together we mow the lawn, we save the seas,
we work together like family.
When someone falls, we help them up;
we spend time with our mommies having fun,
planting flowers in the garden.

Together we work together as one big family.
Why? "For we are all God's servants, working together."
(based on 1 Corinthians 3:9)



# New Books -- written by Mike Troutman and wife Amy -- available in Church Library



Mike Troutman, son of **Mary** and **Louie Troutman**, has written a critique about the prosperity gospel. His wife Amy Blumenshine has written

a guide for churches in helping veterans and their families in the aftermath of war. Copies of Mike's thesis, *The Almighty Dollar: In Which God Do We Trust?* and Amy's book, Welcome Them Home --Help Them Heal: Pastoral Care and Ministry with Service Members Returning from War, can be found in our library.

Mike is on the staff of Bread for the World, which addresses US government policies that impact on world and domestic hunger. He grew up in the church during the 60's and was part of

(Continued on page 14)

# From our mailbox

♥ We received the following note after a visit to Tyson-Schoener Elementary School in Reading, to deliver the Box Tops for Education that we collect. This time, box tops from Lincoln Park UMC and First Baptist Church in Reading totaled 815, worth \$81.15. This is just part of the total we've contributed, since we've deposited more at other times of the year. -Sylvia Ross

Thank you once again for taking the time to collect box tops for Tyson-Schoener. The money the school receives from the collection is used in so many ways. Last year our total was about \$861. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for your continuous support of helping Tyson-Schoener.
Lori Flamm-Eckel
Coordinator at Tyson-Schoener

#### **♥** Dear Friends,

Thank you for the groceries donated to our Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. We're glad for friends like you who help us feed the hungry. May God bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace Soup Kitchen Manager

#### Italian Christmas Festival

From Linda Woll
You've been hearing about it for
months: our annual International Christmas Festival,
Friday, December 3, at 6
pm, in Memorial Hall.

Enjoy live accordion music from guest musician Bill Minnich; hear about life in Sicily from guest speaker Joanne Vitelli. See our display of Nativity Scenes (please consider lending us yours- sign up sheet in Wagner Room).

Several recipes are available and other items are needed to prepare for our feast. Our children will make a special craft with pasta (we need two craft helpers). And, we're asking everyone to wear red or green that evening to make it more festive.

There will be extra aprons! CIAO!

(Continued from page 13)

the Youth Fellowship mission trip to Biloxi in 1970, doing repairs in the aftermath of Hurricane Camille.

Both Mike and Amy recently received a Masters in Religion and Theology from United Theological Seminary, in the Minnesota Twin Cities. They were consecrated as Diaconal Ministers for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Mike and Amy have resided in Minneapolis since 1981. They are the parents of two children, Rebecca and Nathan.



### Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



November 12 for our December issue

Please include news for the 1<sup>st</sup> 10 days of January.

#### **Change of Address**

Grant Garrity 3972 Jewell St Apt S 304 San Diego, CA 92109

Robert & Marian Longenecker 8 Gaelsong Ln Wyomissing PA 19610



Our deepest sympathy is extended to **Jeanne** and the Perkins family upon the death of

Harold Perkins, Sunday, October 10. And to Nancy Artz and daughters, Donna and Debbie and families, on the passing of Walter on Saturday, October 16. You are in our prayers.

Editor's Note: What a sad October at LP Church, with the loss of these two long-time members. Both were treasures to their families, community, and congregation. Their service to our church -- with the Endowment Fund, Trustees, and more -- has been a blessing. Let's keep their work and vision going!

*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

Thanks to **Ron Schucker** for helping Carl with repairs, painting, and climbing into the sanctuary ceiling to change burnt-out light

bulbs. Also, thanks to **Todd Beamesderfer** for repairing an electrical outlet and helping with land-

scaping.

WISH LIST

From Jerry Manhart

Last winter, in order to save money, the Trustees and friends did all the snow blowing and shoveling. Workers brought their own equipment. With funds being low again and winter approaching, it would be a big help to have a dependable snow blower kept at the church for the Trustees to use. If you're looking for an extra tax deduction, perhaps you'd like to help contribute toward the \$600 cost

### 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: 9:30 am - Contemporary Worship

11 am - Traditional Worship

9:45 & 11 am - Christian Education

Office hours 9 am-3 pm Mon-Fri Pastor: Jerry McGrath, 610-670-1022

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Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39 Secretary: Marilyn Seiders

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dmccoy2@verizon.net (Pastor Dorris McCoy) (For urgent messages, use voice mail, please.)