



# News-Line



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

*December, 2010*



## Music Brings Joy to the Season

From Music Director, Beverly Perella

The Chancel Choir will present a **CHRISTMAS CANTATA** on **Sunday, December 12**, at 11am, entitled *Winter's Grace*, by Joseph M. Martin, with piano, trumpet, and percussion accompaniment.

On **CHRISTMAS EVE**, let your hearts be stirred by special music and worship:

**6 pm:** Music by the Praise Band and Children's Choir; preludes start at 5:45

**8 pm:** Lincoln Park Orchestra, vocal and musical selections; preludes begin at 7:45

**10 pm:** Chancel Choir, vocalists and instrumentalists; preludes begin at 9:30

### WANTED /NEEDED/ EXPECTED:

Musicians for the 8 pm Orchestra on Christmas Eve. Please call **Bev Perella** to offer your gift of music, 610-603-0150, or at church, 610-777-1422, Ext. 26.

## Old-Fashioned But Never Out-of-Style

From Beverly Perella

Our Youth Group will go Christmas caroling in Lincoln Park on Sunday, December 19, at 5 pm. *Everyone* (from baby to 100+) is invited to come along! Bring a flashlight and plan to return to the church for refreshments.

In preparation, the youth will bake cookies at noon on Sunday, December 12. These cookies will be packaged and presented to our LP neighbors when we are caroling. Each member of the youth group is asked to bring at least one batch of cookie dough on Sunday, December 12. Any questions, call **Pastor Jerry**, **Bev Perella** or **Mark Villecco**.



# WORSHIP IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

**Sunday, December 5**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“A Beam of Light; Mary’s Faith and Ours”

Isaiah 7:10-17, Luke 1:26-38

**Sunday, December 12**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“In Praise of Joseph” - Jeremiah 33:14-22, Matthew 1:18-25

**Sunday, December 19**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Where Christmas Begins: Among the Shepherds” - Psalm 23, John 10:11-18

**Friday, December 24**

CHRISTMAS EVE

Contemporary Children’s Worship with Praise Band, 6 pm

Candlelight Worship “The Wonders of Christmas,” 8 pm

Candlelight/Communion Worship, “O Holy Night,” 10 pm

**Sunday, December 26, *One Service Only at 10 am***

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

“United Methodist/Moravian Christmas Agape Service”

**Sunday, January 2**

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

“Where Christmas Reaches the Ends of the Earth” - Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

**Sunday, January 9**

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“The Lord Leading by Strange Paths” - Exodus 14:5-14, Isaiah 42:8-9



## 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!

## Thank You From The Missions Committee...

From Kathy Avedissian

...to everyone who contributed to this year's Coats For Kids Drive. The compassion of Lincoln Park Church was again clearly evident as 69 coats and 59 hats, scarves, and gloves were donated to this worthy cause. Over the past six years, our church has collected more than 335 coats along with many outerwear accessories! All donations were cleaned by local dry cleaners and then distributed to local needy families by the Salvation Army.

Many are warmer this winter because of your generosity.



## Join Us for A Night At the Pyle's

From Linda Hope

On Saturday, December 11, from 4:30-9 pm, **George and Debbie Pyle** will open their home for an evening of fun, food and fellowship. This event is held each year to raise additional funds for the budget and to give all of Lincoln Park a chance to celebrate and spend time together during the holiday season.

If you're interested in attending, please contact the Church Office by December 6 with the names of attendees. A minimum of \$15 per person is requested at the time of your reservation. Come share in the spirit of the Christmas season!



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## BE JOYFUL

From Parish Publications

Submitted by Nancy Villecco

Giving is a time for each one of us to be joyful and thankful to God for all He has given and daily gives to us.

We receive from Him in order to give. Jesus said, "Give and it shall be given to you."

Joy is a state of happiness. Everybody is hungry for happiness. The secret to joy is giving! Giving is where the joy is.

When we give ourselves to God, we experience joy and peace of soul. When we give our time and money for the love of God to help our needy neighbor, we have the joy of being more Christ-like.

# From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

**F**ear not! Do not be afraid! The angel spoke these words to Zachariah, to Mary, to Joseph, and finally to a group of shepherds on a hillside near Bethlehem.

*Do not be afraid; for behold I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.* Luke 2:10-12

Fear has a way of tying our stomachs in knots, paralyzing our thinking, inducing panic. Fear, and its cousin -- worry -- can capture our hearts when we see ourselves caught in a vortex of disasters beyond our control.

This Christmas the world is caught in the grip of an economic down-spiral: houses being foreclosed, people losing jobs, factories closing. Food costs in some countries have risen 25%. More and more we glimpse fear in people's eyes. *Will I lose my house? My job? What will become of us if this recession deepens into a depression? How will I feed my family?*

On the first Christmas, the world was in desperate times, too. A census was be-

ing conducted to raise already high taxes. Murderous, paranoid Herod the Great is king of the Jews. It was winter on Bethlehem's hillsides -- and cold. Inside a cave in the town sat a poverty-stricken carpenter and his young wife -- far from home, chilled to the bone. She was in labor. Her child would be born in a stable, of all places.

She may have wondered: *Why is it like this?* and then recalled an echo of the angel's words to her, *Do not be afraid, Mary....Fear not.*

The shepherds' fear turned to joy as they heard news that a Savior is born. The

Messiah himself! In Bethlehem, the city of David! They ran down the hills into town and hurried from stable to stable until they found the Child in the manger, just as they had been told. Wrapped in swaddling clothes against the cold, was the Savior himself.

A Savior comes to rescue people in danger, preserve those threatened by harm, and protect his people from the troubles that surround them. That's what saviors do! That's what Jesus came to do for us. Do not be afraid because God has



*(Continued on page 5)*

## **A New Resource: The Common English Bible**

From Pastor Dorris McCoy



Presented as *a fresh translation to touch the heart and mind*, the Common English Bible is now available with its New Testament portion; the Old Testament becomes available in 2011. The CEB came out of an alliance of denominational publishers. It seeks to make the Bible more readable and understandable without compromising scholarship. More than 100 biblical scholars from 22 faith traditions participated in this new translation. It is not just an update. Seventy-seven reading groups offered input.

Perhaps there's someone special on your Christmas list who'd enjoy the CEB's impetus towards welcoming language, relevance, readability, and reliability! CEB companion study pieces, *Immersion Bible Studies*, begin with the Gospels in January 2011, with future studies coming in the spring! Discover details for yourself by visiting [www.CommonEnglishBible.com](http://www.CommonEnglishBible.com) where free downloads, translation comparisons, editor information, and updates are listed.

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*(Continued from page 4)*

sent a Savior to us -- Jesus Christ the Lord. He is the One who will never leave us or forsake us. He supplies all our needs according to his riches in glory. He will add to us all the things we need as we seek him and his Kingdom. Our world doesn't know. They think Christmas is about gifts under a tree and a spirit of good cheer, with Christmas dinner and family around the table. But as good as all that may be, it isn't nearly as good as the Real Christmas.

The Real Christmas message is this: God has sent a Savior for you, to save you from your sins and to help you in this life -- to lift your burden and ease your fears. That's it! A Savior who is Christ the Lord -- God himself! The world is gripped by fear. But fear's hold has been broken in those of us who believe the angel's words:

*Fear not ... for a Savior is born to you - Christ the Lord!*






**“That, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses.”**

--Taylor Caldwell





# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p><i>"Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store." --Theodor Geisel</i></p>			<p>1 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir Youth Wii Game 7pm</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>2ND SUNDAY @ Advent</p>	<p>6 Bible Study 10:30am Trustees 7pm</p>	<p>7 Church Council 7pm</p>	<p>8 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir Youth Group</p>
<p>12 Choir Cantata 11am Youth Cookie Bake 12pm</p>  <p>3RD SUNDAY @ Advent</p> <p>Sweet St Fundraiser</p>	<p>13 Bible Study 10:30am Agape Xmas Party Finance 7pm</p>	<p>14 Praise Band Planning 7pm Decorate Sanctuary Tree 7pm</p>	<p>15 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir Youth Group</p>
<p>19 Christmas Caroling 5pm</p>  <p>4TH SUNDAY @ Advent</p>	<p>20 Bible Study 10:30am Planting Seeds Task Force Mtg 1pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>26 Agape Service, 10am One Service Only No Sunday School</p>	<p>27 Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 News Deacons</p>

# er 2010



ed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30pm r 7:45pm ame Night,	2 Craft Group 1pm Praise Band 8pm	3 Italian Christmas Festival, 6pm	4
30pm r 7:45pm 7pm	9 Praise Band 8pm	10	11 Sweet St Fundraiser Holiday Fellowship at the Pyle's 4:30pm
30pm r 7:45pm 7pm	16 Craft Group 1pm Praise Band 8pm	17	18
30pm r 7:45pm	23	24  Services at 6, 8, 10pm <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 
-Line Line	30 Praise Band 8pm	31 <div data-bbox="588 1295 1185 1526" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Looking ahead to January...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jan 4 Opportunity House Supper</li> <li>Jan 9 Opportunity House Tour</li> <li>Jan 13 Worship Committee</li> <li>Jan 30 One Service 10am, Celebrating Black History, Soloist Brian Gibson</li> </ul> </div>	

## A Wise Discipline for Christmas

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Perhaps you already have your daily spiritual discipline guide in place...but...if you don't, may we point you to the *UPPER ROOM* and *ALIVE NOW* and offer you their words of encouragement and hope. These daily readings contain

- stories of personal witness to the power of faith
- scripture to open God's Word from a variety of perspectives
- prayer focus
- meditative questions

These elements combine to support us in listening to God and preparing us for the birth of Christ and perhaps *buy less and give more*.

Both of these resources of inspiration and devotion are available for a nominal suggested donation (\$1 bi-monthly) and are available from displays located at church entrances and in the church office. Go ahead...stop and pick one up...give yourself an early Christmas gift!

## The Ongoing Sunday Walk in the Park

From Pastor Dorris  
McCoy

Prepare for the holiness of the Christmas season and grow in your own faith journeys by joining LP's **SUNDAY WALK IN THE PARK**. Every Sunday we offer study and discussion on a wide variety of faith issues, biblical searching, servant opportunities, and connections with fellow Christians. There's something for everybody and for all ages...one adult class is even exploring the Christmas message in a vintage holiday movie!!!

For details, check the weekly worship bulletin or contact **Pastor Dorris**. Plus...there's room for new ideas and new possibilities; just let us know what thoughts you have!!

**PS.** No Church School on Sunday, December 26---all families are encouraged to worship together at LP's annual Agape Meal and Celebration.



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**“Great little One! whose all-embracing birth  
Lifts Earth to Heaven, stoops Heaven to Earth.”**

--Richard Crashaw



## Offering Envelope Update: Changes Begin January 1

From Linda Hope



In an effort to save money in our 2011 budget, the Finance Committee has changed the current offering envelope system. Instead of monthly offering envelopes being sent directly to each contributor, an entire booklet for the year will be distributed in late December. Each booklet will contain the same type of mailable envelopes which can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the Church Office. The booklets will also be numbered differently than the current envelopes; therefore, everyone will be assigned new envelope numbers as of January 1, 2011.

This new process will save the church over \$1,000 for 2011.

## Do You Have Bonus Points To Share?

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Perhaps you've received enough bonus card reward points from area grocers for a free holiday turkey or ham and now find yourself unable to use these items. Now there are two opportunities for you to share them with ministries in Lincoln Park Church. The cooks with the OPPORTUNITY HOUSE supper program and the Stone Soup Class's meal outreach would welcome your donations toward these efforts. Simply see or contact **Becky Chadwick, Loreen Miller, Penny Snook, or Pastor Dorris** to arrange for church freezer drop-off. Thank you for sharing so that others may receive LP's gift of God's love and hope by offering a simple meal.



## Come & Tour Opportunity House

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Many of us have been serving suppers at OPPORTUNITY HOUSE for years. During this time, programs have been added and changed.

So, we're going on a road trip on a non-supper serving day for a guided tour and update of the programs and facility at OPPORTUNITY HOUSE'S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street residential and learning center location. Jot down your questions! Mark your calendar for Sunday, **January 9**, at 3 pm. We'll leave from church at 2:30 with those who want to carpool (parking is limited)! Questions? Please contact **Pastor Dorris**.



**Coming In January...**  
**OPPORTUNITY HOUSE SUPPER**  
From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Though the temperature's in the 60's as this note is being written, it will surely drop and increase the number of people needing a hot meal in winter's chill! Homelessness knows no weather break or snow day!



You're invited to join LP's faithful supper prep-and-serve crew on **Tuesday, January 4**, beginning with prep in the Church Kitchen and leaving to serve at 6:15 pm at the shelter. With donations of food (desserts, fresh veggies or fruit), \$\$\$, or time, please contact Head Chef, **Penny Snook**, 610-781-7704.

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# YOUTH-LINC



From Mark Villecco

**Wednesday, December 1**  
Wii Game Night, 7–8:30 pm  
**Wednesday, December 8 & 15**  
Youth Group, 7-8:30 pm  
**Sunday, December 12**  
Christmas Cookie Bakin', 12 pm  
**Sunday, December 19**  
Christmas Caroling, 5 pm

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## **Praise Band Practice**

Thursdays, December 2,9,16,30 at 8 pm

## **Praise Band Planning Meeting**

Tuesday, December 14, 7 pm, Memorial Hall



# Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



December 29  
for our  
January issue

From our mailbox



*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

♥ Many, many thanks to all of you who served as lectors this past year. Your willingness to serve made my job of scheduling so very easy. I am grateful to each and every one who gave of yourself in the service of the Lord. Bless you.

Shirley Cline

♥ Our heartfelt thanks for the support of our church family during Walter's recent illness and death. Thanks so much for the many visits made by Pastor Jerry and Pastor Dorris, cards, phone calls, flowers, visits, and ladies who helped with the luncheon. Walter will be missed by us all but our wonderful memories and faith will carry us through this difficult time.

In Christian love,  
Nancy (Artz) and Family

♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the assorted groceries you donated to our food pantry. You are a blessing to our food ministry. With your help we are able to serve our clients each month. May God bless you.

Ann Marie Wallace  
Soup Kitchen Manager  
New Journey UMC

The Mission Committee gives a special thank you to all who donated food items to the food bank at New Journey UMC. We collected nearly 100 items, much appreciated by those in need.

Thank you,  
Marian Longenecker



**CARRY**  
**THE LIGHT**

# NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization  
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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

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

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