

News=Line

*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania
February, 2011*

Leadership Training Planned at LP

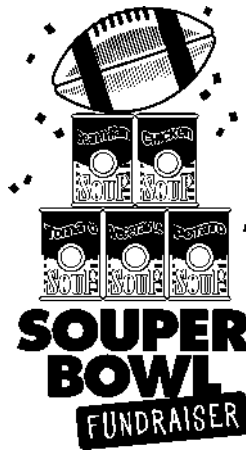
From Pastor Dorris McCoy

All LP ministry servants and leaders -- including committee chairs and members, teachers, ministry organizers, and "wanna be" leaders -- are invited to LP's annual **LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT, Sunday, February 20**, 4-8 pm, in Memorial Hall, including a light supper.

This and ongoing sessions will be based on Peter Steinke's excellent book and DVD-based resource, *Leading Change*, which explores strategies for advancing the church's mission of making disciples and promoting effective ministries. Specific committee descriptions and ministry information will also be distributed.

Dr. Steinke, an internationally respected congregational systems consultant, parish pastor, educator, and therapist for clergy, teaches and mentors local church leaders to face what he says is the #1 reason churches fail to have successful ministries: people's resistance to change.

(Continued on page 6)



Tackle Hunger on February 6

From
Pastor Dorris McCoy

LP's children will participate again in the **2011 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**, a nationwide movement uniting schools, congregations, community organizations,

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WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

From Pastor Jerry McGrath



Sunday, February 6

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Who Do You Say that I Am?”

Isaiah 50:4-10, Mark 8:27-29

Sunday, February 13

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Do You Want to Be Made Well?”

John 5:1-9, 2Chronicles 7:12-14

Sunday, February 20

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Do You Love Me?”

John 21,9-19, Acts 9:1-20

Sunday, February 27

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

“Where Are You Going?”

Colossians 3:12-14, Luke 24:36-49

Video Series Offered Sunday Mornings, 11 am

Adam Hamilton's *When Christian's Get It Wrong*

From Earl Hope

A growing number of young adults have opted out of Christianity and the church today because they see condemning attitudes and actions coming from those who claim to be Christian. Outsiders increasingly see Christians as people who judge others, condemn those of different faiths, reject science, and mix politics and faith, as well as being anti-homosexual.

For Adam Hamilton, following Jesus is more about open doors than locked gateways. In this book, Hamilton shows a way of understanding the critical issues keeping people from Christianity, and helps you develop strategies for being a compassionate, committed voice for the Gospel of Christ! Please join us for this video series, in Memorial Hall, Sunday mornings through February .

Sunday Learnings in the Park

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Each Sunday LP offers opportunities to grow in our faith walk through life. Bible study, group discussion, and individual questioning -- in classes for all ages -- invite us to see the world through new eyes: the eyes of Christ!

We challenge one another to see God at work, experience God for ourselves, and live the gospel message daily. Think about this: If none of us wears the same shoe size we did in childhood or drives the same car we did at 16, why would we be content with the same faith size?

So---let God interrupt your life to point you and your children away from the hectic world to a Sunday morning opportunity of learning and growing.

- Children at our 9:30 Contemporary Worship Service leave after Children's Message for a multi-age experience, rotating between *LIVE B.I.G.*, coordinated by **Tricia Pence**, and *JOYFUL NOISE*, music and movement, coordinated by **Julie Stites**.
- Our Lectionary Bible Study meets at 9:45 a.m. in the Library, under **Bob Robertson's** direction.
- Children, youth and adults use a variety of resources for sessions offered at 11 am.
- Adults at 11 am have two options: one led by **Earl Hope**, in Memorial Hall, (see p. 2) and Stone Soup, in Room 103, a reflection and outreach-focused group, facilitated by **Becky Chadwick** and **Loreen Miller**.

New ideas and leaders are always welcome; in fact, we need assistance in some children's classes this spring. To offer help, please contact **Kim DeHart**, CE Chair, 610-775-8835, or **Pastor Dorris**, 610-777-1422.



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!

From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor Jerry McGrath

Ever wonder what motivates people to attend church? Fear? Guilt? Those are motivators sometimes, but not ones to impress God much, not a God whose core oozes love. Love is on a different plane from fear and guilt.

People attend for the most human of reasons. Family history has its place. But let me talk about what I see most.

Hurt is way up there on the list. We may find ourselves reeling from the most painful wounds imaginable. Estrangement of a spouse or lover. Loss of a loved one to death, loss of family, a job, of innocence, of health, of hope. We're on the ropes, we're down for the count.

It's only natural to seek healing in God, and it's amazing how God uses his dear people to be channels of God's healing in hope-filled, non-judgmental love. I can't count the times I've seen people's hurts healed within the context of a healthy congregation.

Our **children** bring us back to church. We feel the awesome responsibility of molding and shaping their young lives to

be happy and productive for the future, and sense instinctively that this requires faith and a knowledge of God. We know they won't develop a strong moral core from the society around them.

And so we bring them to God's house, and come along with them, sometimes for the first time since our own childhood.

Friendship brings us to church, too. Sometimes, we're invited by friends and come with them. But often it's the *desire* for friends -- good, caring friends who share our values -- that brings us to church in hope. God knows that loneliness can eat at our sense of well-being. Be-

ing new in a community often accentuates that longing to love and be loved. And this is as it should be. God *means* for the church to be a place to build long-term caring relationships, to be a *community* in every sense of the word.

Personal growth is a factor. We move beyond childish resentments at having to attend church. We learn about ourselves, we grow up, and we're freed

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“There’s a God
-shaped vacuum
in every man that
only God can
fill.”

--Blaise Pascal

once again to include God in our personal exploration.

The **need for significance** is a strong motivator, too. Something inside us wants to make a difference, to do something meaningful, lasting, to be part of a cause bigger than ourselves. Church is a perfect context for this type of fulfillment, since, at their best, churches change communities for good --one person at a time. Believe it or not, there *are* people asking, "What do I have to *give* here?" rather than "What can I *get*?" Refreshing, isn't it!

Finally, people attend church in order **to know God**, to honor Him through worship, and by their very presence in His house. The French philosopher Blaise Pascal put it, "There's a God-shaped vacuum in every man that only God can fill." You and I have felt that emptiness. We've wondered at times if we've lost forever that most important link of faith that shapes who we are and who we can become. People come to church because they are searching, and they find they can search for God in this

context better than others. "Our hearts are restless," said Augustine, "until we find our rest in You."

That's pretty much the list. Some motives are better, some worse, but in one sense it doesn't matter much what your motivation.

For years I spent two weeks each summer as a leader at Christian youth camps in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. Teenagers came for predictable reasons: wanting to get away from home, wanting to find a boyfriend or a girlfriend. I saw lots of romances wax and wane in the space of a week. But time after time I saw those young people encounter *God* at camp. Decisions were made to affect a lifetime. Transformations came about not because these kids came for perfect motives, *but because they came! And God met them there.*

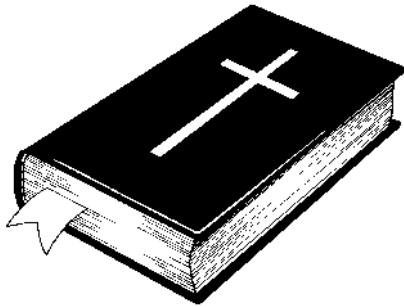
So I invite you to attend worship on Sunday. For whatever reason: come. It just may be God will meet you, too.



Concert Fund Makes Special Music Possible

From Beverly Perella

Once a year we ask for contributions for our Concert Fund so we can offer a variety of great musical programs and artists. Our Summer Mini-Concert Series, guest soloists, and musical groups are all paid for by this fund. If you'd like to contribute, please send a check to the church or place it in the offering plate with the special notation, *Concert Fund*.



Small Group Resumes Tuesdays *Going Deeper*

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Going Deeper, a small group time for prayer, Bible reading, and shared reflection, has resumed after a holiday break. The group meets Tuesdays, at 6:30 pm, in January-February-March (off for April, back May-June-July) in Room 103 in LP's Education Building.

Come--relax--rest in prayerful encouragement. For more info, please contact **Loreen Miller**, 610-777-8185, or **Pastor Dorris**.

(Continued from page 1)

Come--hear Dr. Steinke's insights -- and share your suggestions and ideas! With questions and to sign-up, give Pastor Jerry or Pastor Dorris a call!

Shopping Makes a Difference

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES, a ministry of the Mennonite Central Committee, offers sales, events, and gifts that make a difference, by selling handcrafted treasures made round the world and paying fair wages to artisan families. Some possibilities are: flood relief for rug artisans in Pakistan or Valentine jewelry from Peru. You can celebrate International Women's Day on March 8 by buying shea butter soap made in Ghana, attend an African drumming workshop, or an Earth Day Celebration

Check out Friday Night Music in The Cafe, or have lunch and fair trade tea or coffee in The Cafe any day. For details, visit ephraata.tenthousandvillages.com or call 717-721-8400.

(Continued from page 1)

and compassionate individuals in fighting hunger. Since Souper Bowl began on Football's Super Bowl Sunday in 1990, **these groups have collected more than \$71 million for hunger-relief charities across America.**

The 2011 Souper Bowl of Caring offers us the opportunity to contribute on Sunday, February 6, as we leave worship. LP's children stand at church exits with soup pots, ready to accept our donations.

Our collection will be directed to the Soup Kitchen Ministry at New Journey UMC, Reading. Thank you for helping our young people learn what it's like to make a difference in the world, sharing God's love with those in need!

LP Members Tour Opportunity House

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

It was enlightening and heartwarming last month when nine LP members toured Opportunity House. They learned about the varied services provided there to improve the quality of life for Berks County children, adults, and families who face obstacles hampering their self-sufficiency and well-being.

The group also received a list of "constant needs" necessary for residents' care and program success.

For more info or to volunteer at their Second Street Learning Center, please contact Opportunity House staff, 610-374-4696, or come to LP's Missions Committee meeting to learn more ways to get involved!

Constant Needs

- personal care & hygiene products for all ages
- diapers (L and XL) and baby lotion, soap and shampoo
- adult and children socks, underwear, and undershirts
- household items (new or used) like cleaning products, utensils, dishes, linens, wash cloths
- paper products
- small appliances (alarm clocks, hair dryers, etc.)

And---mark your calendar for **Tuesday, March 1**, to join the supper prep and serve team.

From their Fact Sheet: \$3000 can provide shelter and supportive services for 10 men for 25 nights.

Heart Prayer

From Parish Publications
Submitted by Nancy Villecco




God, please give me a heart that can hold all the good things in life:
a heart with compassion and kindness, with gentleness and patience,
and a heart open to spontaneity and joy.

Please form in me a heart that listens to your messages of love; one that trusts,
always looking for the goodness in others; one that will readily share the gifts you
have given, and one that can hope beyond difficulties.

Grant me a peaceful heart that holds on to the real values in life so I can respond
with assurance to what's important; give me a heart grounded in love rather than
fear; one that is open to the needs of others and will reach out with sincerity.

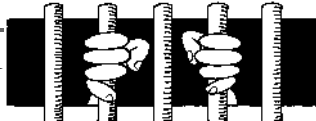
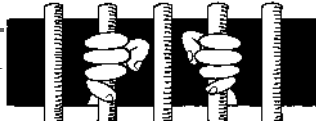


February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
		1 <i>Going Deeper</i> 6:30pm	2 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir Confirmation UMYF 7pm
6 	7 Trustees 7 pm	8 <i>Going Deeper</i> 6:30pm	9 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir Confirmation UMYF 7pm
13 News-LJnc Deadline	14 Finance 7 pm	15 <i>Going Deeper</i> 6:30pm	16 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir Confirmation UMYF 7pm
20 LEADERSHIP TRAINING 4-8pm	21 	22 <i>Going Deeper</i> 6:30pm	23 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir Confirmation UMYF 7pm
27	28 Loos March 1: Opportunity House Supper March 4: World Day of Prayer March 7: Trustees 7pm March 9: Ash Wednesday Worship, Labyrinth Walk afterward		

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ed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30pm r 7:30pm 6pm	3 Craft Group 1pm Praise Band 8 pm	4 	5
30pm r 7:30pm 6pm	10 Praise Band 8 pm	11  UMYF 7pm - 10 am	12 LOCK-IN
30pm r 7:30pm 6pm	17 Craft Group 1pm Praise Band 8 pm	18	19
30pm r 7:30pm 6pm	24 Praise Band 8 pm	25	26 Coffee House-Open Mic 6:30-8 pm

2010 Year End Budget Summary

From The Finance Committee

TOTAL INCOME: \$328,649.30 (93% of budgeted \$355,257.00)

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$328,890.97 (92% of budgeted \$357,249.92)
- \$241.67

- The Total Income figure includes \$10,200 funded from reserves.
- Our bookkeeper position was eliminated in August.
- Our Youth Ministry Leader resigned in September.
- The Finance Committee has curtailed all discretionary spending.

2011 Budget Planning is still progressing. The current budget for ministry leaders' discretionary spending is based on 70% of what was spent out of their 2010 budget. The Finance Committee continues to work on balancing the 2011 budget and will send a new budget to Church Council in March. Expenses are being revamped to fall in line with projected income level. If you have any questions regarding the budget, please see **Alex Ross** or **Linda Hope**.

What's Going on in One of the Fastest Growing Churches in the US?

Leaders to Speak at Conference Session: You're Invited

From Pastor Dorris McCoy

Inspiring speakers and trainers from The Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas, will come to all districts in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference this spring. They will lead follow-up sessions to their Senior Pastor, The Rev. Adam Hamilton's 2010 Annual Conference presentation, *Leading Beyond the Walls*. To view his presentations, go to the Conference website, www.epaumc.org and click appropriate prompts.

Each congregation, including LP, is invited to send a team of at least three to hear the staff and leaders of one of the fastest growing, most highly visible, and influential churches in the country. LP is to attend the combined Central and Southeast Districts session on March 11-12 (Day One: 5:30-9 pm, Day Two: 8 am-5 pm) at Paoli UMC. Stay tuned for more registration details and contact Pastor Jerry or Pastor Dorris to attend.

Hearts for Haiti: Sweet Treats for Your Sweet Hearts!

From Rebecca Chelius



Please watch for our special *Hearts for Haiti* table -- featuring extra-special, yummy treats for your Valentine -- in the Wagner Room, on **Sunday, February 13**. All proceeds will benefit UMCOR for Haiti Relief.

As we approach the one year anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti, little has changed. Ninety percent of the quake devastation remains. UMCOR has been working hard to distribute clean water kits, health kits, school kits, blankets, and food.

Please support our *Hearts for Haiti Sweet Treats Sale*, which, in turn, helps UMCOR. Many young members of LPUMC were affected by the Haitian tragedy and were moved to find a way to help. Last year we raised about \$300, and we hope to meet or exceed that amount.

Please visit new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/ to see your donation in action. Contact **Rebecca Chelius** with questions for concerns, 610-775-4651.

It's Open Mic Night : LP's Coffee House

From Linda Woll, Nurture & Witness Committee

Come out and join us on Saturday, February 26, from 6:30-8:30 pm, in Memorial Hall. Anyone is welcome to perform. Please consider sharing your talents with us.

We also need baked goods. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Wagner Room, or contact Linda Woll, 610-781-8046, or lmwoll@aol.com.



On Having Grandchildren

From Cheri Fallon

I love these little people; and it is not a slight thing when they, who are so fresh from God, love us.

--Dickens

I am a teenager in love again. My heart beats fast when I see them, I pine away when we're apart, I hang on every word when we're together. Our grandkids light up my life.

"Grandma always made you feel she had been waiting to see *just you* all day and now the day was complete," wrote Marcy, De-Maree, 20th century American writer. The

grandkids' arrival at our home is always the best event of the day -- or month.

Our first grandchild, Jonathan Oscar (JO) Fallon, now 7, lived in Richmond his first few years. When we drove down there, my husband claims I'd open the door before he stopped the car.

My girlfriend says of her grandkids: "It's been a long time since anyone's been that glad to see me." Once, I arrived at a party where our only granddaughter, Katie Grace Fallon, (then a toddler) saw

me through the crowd. Our eyes met and she came running to me! Love!

This little lady has been known to say to me, "What are you going to wear?" and "Let's go up to your closet and look at your shoes."

I hang on their every word and tell boring stories about what they say or do. Amazingly, they seem to be interested in my stories: about their dad, aunt, and uncles when they were small, or about their own births or first words.

They especially like the story of my visit to the pediatrician's office with their aunt and uncle. Christy and Andy sat on the doctor's table together

in their underwear chanting "naked, naked!" throughout the exam. (I've found that most kids love a story with the word "naked" in it.)

Once, I was standing in the kitchen eating a sandwich when Jonathan said "tell us a story!" I started in, but JO said, "Wait a minute!" He ran to get a little chair and set it up in front of me to listen! An entertainer himself, JO used to do Bon Jovi shows for us.

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Please Sign Our Attendance Books. Why?

From Linda Hope

In an effort to keep records as accurate as possible, please sign the "Attendance Sheet" books when you attend worship services.

This record alerts the pastors to those members who may not be attending and allows us to reach out to those members to see if we can help in any way.

Also, the Conference is challenging all of us to invite more people into a relationship with Jesus Christ throughout Eastern PA and is monitoring our efforts by requesting monthly attendance updates.

If anyone is interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Marilyn Seiders in the Church Office. Individuals are needed to review data and make visits or phone calls when necessary.



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Our third grandchild, Jack LuXin (loo shin) Fallon made my best birthday ever. This long-awaited child was adopted from China when he was almost three. On his "Gotcha Day," (the day they first "got" Jack) his parents -- Jeff and Chelsea -- emailed from China a photo of Jeff and Jack holding a sign: "Happy Birthday, Grandma!"

Jack has learned English rapidly and goes to kindergarten in Virginia. An energetic, fun-loving child, he can ride a two-wheeler for miles! Here's a "Jack" story: You know how hard it is to get a child to go to the bathroom before you head out of the house? Jack says, "You

mean 'Go early?'"

His parents say that God has played a trick on two introverted people: giving them such a talkative child! "The universe has a way of knowing when people belong together," says a Hallmark card for adoption.

Our youngest grandchild is Luke Daniel Fallon (20 months). Having older siblings gives a guy an advantage, so, of course, he's brilliant -- according to Grandma -- and adorable, swaggering around in his "buutts! (boots)." More to come about this grandson.

Ah, Love! These little ones are wonderful gifts from God!

Assistant Editor Needed!

From Cheri Fallon

Since 2002, **Deb Harvey** has helped me monthly with the *News-Linc*. Unfortunately, she has recently retired.

Debbie's been an efficient, organized assistant and wonderful to work with. I am so thankful for her help laying out and "decorating" many, many pages. Occasionally she did a whole issue herself!

Former member **Bonnie Knutsen** was assistant editor before Deb. She brought many gifts to the job, wrote clever, interesting *Church Mouse* columns, and came up with name: *News-Linc*!

I started doing the *News-Linc* more than 20 years ago. My first issue started with Pastor Jack Buttimer's first month at Lincoln Park.

I don't want to quit. It's a perfect job

for me at church and a blessing to help out in a way that's satisfying for me. People at Lincoln Park Church are so supportive and encouraging!

I hope I'm making it sound like worthwhile, fun work, as I am in need of another volunteer. I can help you get started. Some computer skills would be helpful, and we could help you get acquainted with Microsoft Publisher. I also need a good proofreader.

If you're interested, please call or email me: 610-678-8735, or cherfallon@comcast.net. I would be happy to work with a youth, also.

Think about it!

And many thanks to **Debbie Harvey** and **Bonnie Knutsen** !



From Jerry Manhart

The church snow team has been on duty -- cleaning walks, steps, and the driveway from January snows. Thanks go to **Bill, Jon, Parker, Ryan, and Samantha Chadwick, Jim and Roe Gehman, Carl Madeira, Lou Manhart, Pat Owens, and Elizabeth Stoud**. If you'd like to join the team, please contact **Jerry Manhart**, 610-777-2347.

Worry looks around, Sorry looks back, Faith looks up.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



February 13
for our
March 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
Staff: Nancy Artz, Bunny Carlson, Ginny Freyling, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, Elaine Meckes, Suzanne Romig, and Doris Schucker

♥ My heartfelt thanks to one and all for helping me through my difficult knee replacement. Your prayers, cards, calls, visits, drives to therapy, and yummy food were so important to me. They helped keep my lagging spirits up. A special thank you to **Dorris McCoy** for bringing communion to me. It was a special blessing when I truly needed it. I am so thankful for my wonderful church family. Lee Riley

♥ Thank you for your generosity in donating the remaining Italian Night dinner packages to the Mifflin community Food Ministry. On December 18, we served more than 80 families and helped them get ready for Christmas with food, beverages, gifts, mittens, hats, and scarves.

We use all gifts of time, money, food, paper products, and more to serve God and families in need in our area, through this ministry. The Food Ministry is open the third Saturday of every month, from 9-11am.

May you have a blessed new year!
Janet Reese, Secretary

♥ Thank you for letting us be part of another Bible School. We had a wonderful time and enjoy our time sharing Bible stories and listening to all the children. The Gavin Girls

♥ Dear Friends,
Thank you for the groceries and money. We are glad for every donation, which adds to the whole of what we can offer our clients. Your help allows us to continue to feed the hungry. God bless you for your kindness.
Ann Marie Wallace
Soup Kitchen Mgr.
New Journey Food Ministry

Looking Ahead!

From Beverly Perella

FUTURE DATES:

SATURDAY, MAY 14

SPRING FLING FLEA MARKET

(Try to say that 10 times fast!) We are not accepting items at this time, but will announce that date later.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

MUSIC SUNDAY CELEBRATION

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

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

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

Pastor: Jerry McGrath, 610-670-1022
Pastor of CE: Dorris McCoy, 610-777-6128
Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-603-0150
Secretary: Marilyn Seiders
Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735
 cherfallon@comcast.net
Nursery: Nina Cirulli, Robyn Harris

Voice mail Pastor Jerry 44, Church Office 21,
 Dorris McCoy 24, Beverly Perella 26

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E-mail: lpcumc@verizon.net (secretary and church), lpumcpastor@verizon.net (Pastor McGrath),
dmccoy2@verizon.net (Pastor Dorris McCoy)
(For urgent messages, use voice mail, please.)