



News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania

September, 2011

Make a Difference by Supporting Opportunity House

From Penny Snook

It's back to school time, a busy time of year for sure. However, many people are struggling these days, and their troubles don't go away. Why not take a few hours out of your hectic schedule to make a difference in someone's life?

We'll be serving dinner at Opportunity House on **September 6**. Anyone interested in helping to cook and/or serve the meal is welcome. Cooking begins in the Church Kitchen at 4 pm, and we leave

for the shelter at 6 pm.

If you don't have time to be there in person, could you manage a monetary donation towards the cost of the meal? There are also items that the shelter always needs, like grooming products, pillows, bedding, and more. Those items should be labeled "Opportunity House" and left in the Kitchen so we can deliver them with the meal.

Please contact **Penny Snook**, 610-781-7704, with questions or to volunteer.



Church Workday

From Your Trustees

Remember the old adage, *Many hands make light work?* It's true! On **Saturday, September 10**, beginning at 8:30 am with coffee and donuts in Memorial Hall, we'll have a list of tasks to accomplish — including painting, yard work, and minor repairs. Please come out and join us as we seek to be good stewards of our church buildings and grounds.

Inside this issue

Worship	p. 2
From Pastor McMillan	p. 4
Music Notes	p. 3
New Support Groups	p. 7
Stewardship	p. 7, 14
What's New?	p. 11



From Pastor David McMillan

During September, we'll finish our sermon series *On the Road*, as we witness the church reaching out to embrace those who are actively seeking God and those, who in the past, the church considered "unclean." On the last two Sundays of September, we'll consider what makes for a glad and generous heart, as we explore the meaning of being good stewards of God's bountiful gifts.

- September 4 *On the Road to Gaza*
 The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 8:26-40
- September 11 *On the Road to Caesarea*
 The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 10
- September 18 *The Genesis of Generosity*
 Genesis 1-2:3
- September 25 *Nurturing a Generous Spirit*
 Galatians 5:22
-

Training for Lay Readers Scheduled

Pastor Dave will lead a **LAY READER TRAINING SESSION** following the Traditional Service on **Sunday, September 11**. All Lay Readers should sit at the front of the sanctuary on the lectern side. If you have interest in becoming a Lay Reader, please call Pastor Dave at the Church Office, 610-77-1422, ext. 44.

Music Notes

From Music Director Beverly Perella

Covered Dish Social in Memorial Hall for LP Musicians

Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and Praise Band
Wednesday, September 14, at 6:30

Want to join one of these groups? This would be a great night to come out and get acquainted.

**Make Music a
Part of Your Life**



CHANCEL CHOIR begins its regular rehearsal schedule Wednesday, September 21, at 7:30.

BELL CHOIR begins with weekly rehearsals Wednesday, October 5, at 6:30.

PRAISE BAND practices weekly on Thursdays, at 8 pm.

One of God's greatest gifts is His gift of music. Has He shared even a small musical gift with you? If so, don't bury it; come share it with us! All are needed and certainly welcome!

Bev Perella is the one to contact about Chancel and Bell Choirs. **Julie Stites** is Contemporary Worship Leader and Director of the Praise Band.

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 David McMillan

Lessons Learned

On my last Sunday with the folks at Hibernia UM Church, we gathered beneath a pavilion for our annual church picnic. I shared, with a hint of amusement, that after 11 years as their pastor, I could write a book. After I finished speaking, many encouraged me to do just that.

Well, over the next several months, I'd like to beg your indulgence, as I share some of their stories and the lessons I learned. I've decided not to use fictitious names because I feel it would detract from the intimacy we shared. But understand that these are my own ruminations, not necessarily theirs, and that each person has a few stories on me as well.

There's no doubt where I should begin. Every week VIVIAN reminded me and the women in our Bible study that she was the oldest church member. And every week we'd remind her that she was second oldest, bested by two weeks by her long time friend, Jane Wagner.

At 91, except for a hernia and colostomy, the result of a botched colonoscopy,

she was as spry as a spring lamb. Weekly, in morning Bible study, she threatened to prove her vitality by standing on her head in the corner of the room.

Vivian grew up on her family farm, adjoining the back of our church property. At 13, her older brothers having left home, she was taken out of school to

“harrow fields, cut and bail hay, and milk cows.” It was a decision she never regretted. She took pleasure in the work and the outdoors and attributes her longevity to its healthy benefits.

Vivian had three loves in her life. She lost the first in a car accident when she was 18. Possibly reeling from her loss, or for reasons she could never put her finger on, she soon married a man almost 20 years older, whom she always defends as a “good man,” but with a drinking problem. She spoke of going without money and walking along train tracks to find coal to keep her two children warm. One Christmas, he came home without any pay, after stopping at a local bar. It was more than she could bear.

“What Vivian taught me is that life is about being fully human.”

Her third love was Myron Ireland whom she met in New Jersey while visiting her sister. Myron was the oldest of four boys and two girls. After the loss of his father, he went to work to support his family. He was in his late 20's, a World War II veteran, when they met. By Vivian's account he "had never been with a woman.". She declared to me with amusement, "I taught him everything he knew." She hit Myron once in 61 years of marriage; he called her a dirty word and she slapped him across the face. Stunned, he never used the word again.

They shared a good long life together, for which she was grateful, especially for being able to lie with Myron in their bed, fondling his hair, as he passed from this life into the next.

By now, you can tell that Vivian was free with her feelings and ruminations. Touched with a slight case of dementia, she shared many thoughts again and again as if for the first time. One morning in Bible study, we discussed the Apostle Paul's missionary journey to the Gentiles, "the uncircumcised."

Vivian couldn't understand why any man would be circumcised. She assured us that her own son was not circumcised. She had promised herself, after holding her

nephew as he was circumcised by a doctor in her sister's home, that if she ever had a boy, she would never put him through the agony. Over the next several weeks, every time circumcision was mentioned in the Bible, she would return to her stories and protest of such a barbarous act.



Blessings From Above

There are other stories I could share about Vivian —

- like the time she altered my suit pants, and my crotch ended up at my knees
- or the times she'd interrupt worship, as the Spirit moved her, to recite a poem or announce to the congregation that she was leaving early to put a roast in the oven

for company coming by later that afternoon

- or the times when her nerves got the best of her and she'd have to leave church
- or the days she brought me fresh eggs or tomatoes, or cooked potatoes and onions, and placed them at my back door when I wasn't home.

But, these will have to wait for that book I'm working on.

What Vivian taught me is that life is about being fully human. St. Irenaeus said (in the second century) "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." Vivian's dementia had erased what little

(Continued on page 6)

Looking Ahead - Grief and Divorce Care

From Pastor Dave McMillan



Grieving the loss of a spouse, child, significant other, career, or independence can be a lonely and difficult road to travel. Going through a separation and divorce can be heart-breaking and leave you with a mix of unprocessed emotions.

Beginning in October, for six weeks, we'll offer two separate support groups for those who are suffering with grief, and for those who are separated or recently divorced. **Sandi Rosencrans**, an active participant in the life of our church and trained therapist, will facilitate our Grief Support Group while Pastor Dave will assist our Divorce Care Group.

Look for more information on times and dates in October's *News-Linc*.

(Continued from page 5)

pretension she ever had. "Here, I am," her spirit said. And we all, while at times frustrated by the repetition of stories and faltering memory, felt so blessed to have her in our lives. When you find a Vivian in your life, you cherish her.

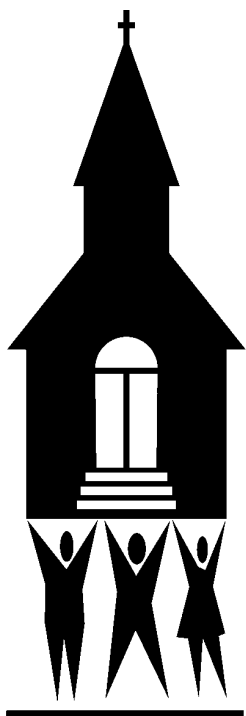
At 91, she is the hope you look for - that, while life has its struggles and losses, it is good and, as we are able, to be fully lived and enjoyed.

"The habit of giving only enhances the desire to give."

— Walt Whitman

Our Annual Stewardship Campaign: Nurturing a Generous Spirit

From Pastor Dave McMillan



Annual Stewardship Campaign

What is “Stewardship?”



One of my favorite authors, Wendell Berry, who still farms along the Kentucky River with a team of horses, says “stewardship is leaving the land entrusted to you in better shape than you received it.”

Friends, “stewardship” is not a dirty word. It’s a good word that comes with both privilege and responsibility. The privilege is to have been entrusted with something by God...some gift, time, talent. The responsibility is to cultivate the gift and pass it forward as a blessing to those who follow us. I’ve never witnessed this done well without the possession of a generous spirit.

This year, we’ll hold our annual stewardship campaign in September. All members will receive a letter with an *Estimate of Giving* card for the coming year, 2012. These cards will be received during traditional and contemporary worship services on **Sunday, September 25**.

Every year, our budget and programs are based on the amount of money which is committed through *Estimate of Giving* cards, as well as additional monies we historically receive through non-pledged giving. Having some knowledge of the monies we can count on will help us in prioritizing our ministries and outreach for the coming year, thus enabling us to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. While it requires an act of faith, every confidential *Estimate of Giving* card received is one more sign of our commitment to Christ and to the future of His Church here at Lincoln Park.

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	<p>"An unhurried sense of time is in itself a form of —Bonnie Friedman</p>		
<p>4</p> <p>Remembering 9/11 *****</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Opportunity House 4pm Trustees 7pm</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Lay Reader Training Session 12 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p><i>News-Line Deadline</i></p> <p>Finance 7pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>LP Musicians Dish Supper 6</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Church Council 7pm Book Club 7pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Chancel Choir</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Stewardship Sunday Pledge Cards Received</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Chancel Choir</p>



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
wealth."	1 Praise Band 8pm	2	3
8	8 Praise Band 8pm	9 	10 Trustees Work Day 8:30 am
' Covered 5:30pm	15 Worship Cm 7pm Praise Band 8pm	16	17
r 7:30pm	22 Praise Band 8pm	23	24
r 7:30pm	29	<div data-bbox="549 1240 1161 1508" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Looking ahead to October</p> <p>10/3 Trustees 7pm</p> <p>10/5 Bell Choir Rehearsals Begin</p> <p>10/6 Men's Night Out 6pm</p> <p>10/7 Ladies' Night Out 6:30pm</p> <p>10/10 Finance 7pm</p> <p>10/30 Pot-Luck Lunch</p> </div>	

Ladies' Night Coming Up for All LPCUMC Women

From Linda Woll



What better place than church to gather with friends and have a good laugh or cry? Enjoy a homemade potluck meal (anything goes!) in Memorial Hall. We'll meet at 6:30 pm till 8:30—or longer!

So bring along a dish of your choice and get ready for a huge helping of Christian fellowship. If you have stories to share, listening ears, hopes, joys, concerns, prayer requests, a need to connect with others, or a desire to meet more people within our congregation, please consider attending!

Our last Ladies' Night was held at Pastor Dorris's home last October, and it was a huge success! We'd like to make this a quarterly event and are looking for ideas and alternate locations. Your input is needed and appreciated.

Questions? Please contact **Sandi Rosencrans**, 610-376-2176, or **Linda Woll**, 610-781-8046 (voicemail or text message).

Dear Lord,

I'm proud to say; so far today I've got along all right;
I have not gossiped, whined, or bragged, or had a single fight.
I haven't lost my temper once, or criticized my mate,
I have not lied, I have not cried, or loudly cursed my fate.
So far today I've not one time been grumpy or morose,
I've not been spiteful, cold, or vain, self-centered, or verbose.
But, Lord, I'm going to need our help throughout the hours ahead,
So give me strength, Dear Lord, for now I'm getting out of bed.

—John T. Baker



What's NEW?

Methodist Men's Night Out: Join Us!

From Todd Beamsderfer

WHEN: Thursday, October 6, 6 pm

WHERE: Reading Liederkrantz
143 Spook Lane, Reading

WHO: Open to all LPCUMC men

WHY: A chance to get to know more about your fellow church members in a relaxed atmosphere.

Thursdays are wing night!

Questions: Contact **Todd Beamsderfer**, 610-678-7434

Attention: Generation X

From Beverly Perella

You're invited to a gathering for single and married members of Generation X (those born between 1965-1976, plus or minus a few years). This first get-together is sponsored by two Baby Boomers—**Pastor Dave McMillan** and **Beverly Perella**.

After that, Generation X will take over this new ministry for their age group.

Come for dinner in Memorial Hall, **Sunday, October 9**, at 5:30. If you have little darlings, please bring them as child care will be provided.

One of the first questions new Generation X church members want to know is if there are other people their own age. The answer is definitely **YES**. One of our Christian missions is to love and support each other. This offers us another opportunity to do just that!

Here's What Happened at Eastern PA Annual Conference

From Shirley Cline

This year's Annual Conference did not have any of the voting issues that are sometimes vocal and political, but the voting for delegates to General Conference was time consuming. The theme of *Journeying with the Poor* was woven throughout the entire conference.

The keynote speaker, the Rev. Rudy Rasmus of St. John's UMC, Houston, TX, told of his early assignment to "rescue" a church on the brink of closing. His journey with the poor and years of struggle in a less than desirable community were a reminder that we have forgotten our mission beyond the margin. The Rev. Rasmus says there is one prayer the Lord always answers: "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace." Membership of that church today is over 9000!

Dr. Joseph Daniels, of Emory UMC, Washington, DC, was the key speaker for the laity session. He told a similar story of being sent on a mission to close this church, located in a drug-infested, gang-controlled community. Persuaded by a handful of faithful to stay, he began his journey with the poor. Now, 18 years later, Sunday attendance reaches 1200. Dr. Daniels believes the Lord uses His spirit, in the form of the poor and down-trodden, to see if Christians are for REAL:

† Relevant,
† Enthusiastic,
† Authentic, and
† Loving.

Conference attendees were part of specific projects for "journeying." One successful, ongoing project is the *Potato Drop*. UM Men work with growers and processors, taking potatoes that don't make the grade for market, and distribute them to food banks and soup kitchens. At Conference, bags of potatoes were given to attendees to distribute. All 50,000 lbs were taken!

In conjunction with STOP HUNGER NOW, we packed 10,000! high protein, dehydrated meals for schools and orphanages worldwide.

There were budget presentations, and Conference again made budget cuts where possible, holding the line where they could. You can be assured that our apportionments are used wisely.

There were no controversial voting issues, but there were sad ones. A vote was taken to close five churches in our conference. Loss of members, resulting in financial decline, was the overall reason. I ask you to pray for our Conference, but most of all, pray for OUR church to grow and be strengthened in its growing. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Lay Member to Annual

Your Trustees at Work: Improvements to our Church

From Jerry Manhart

Have you seen the new carpet in the Education Building? How about the new tile on the stage and landings of Memorial Hall? Come view the improvements! *Please remember, no budget money was used to complete the projects.*



The Trustees have scheduled a **WORKDAY** for **September 10**, at 9 am, to repair and paint woodwork and outdoor steps at the Office and Church. Please join the ranks of members who have given time and talent to help with cleaning, painting, or repairing the Parsonage, or moving furniture and equipment from the Education Building or from Memorial Hall.

Special thanks go to: **Todd Beamesderfer, Allen Buchanan, Becky Chadwick, Shirley Cline, Jay Dianna, Dennis Dorward, Jan Ferree, Jim Gehman, Bruce Kleckner, Bill and Nancy Lape, Pastor Dave McMillan, Carl and Nancy Madeira, Lou Manhart, Karen Osika, George Pyle, Michelle Ringler, Jon Rhodes, Don Schlosser, Ron Schucker, Elizabeth Stoud, Jack and Mark Villecco, George Weikel, Ron Woessner, and Dean Zuber.**

Flea Market Alert: Clothing Will Be Sold!

From Beverly Perella

Returning to our 2012 Flea Market will be Ladies' Clothing because we had so many disappointed women at this year's sale. However, there's a new twist: We're requesting that all items (such as blouses, sweaters, dresses, tops, slacks) be brought in on hangers all ready for sale. And for your hanging pleasure, we have hundreds of metal hangers to offer you. This is the only way we'll be able to accept items. So, start setting aside your lovely clothes and place them on hangers for our sale. You'll be able to bring in this clothing after Easter. Thanks in advance!

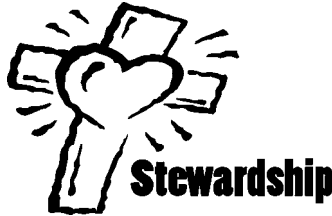
Labor Day: Is Some Work Dignified, Some Not?

Submitted by Nancy Villecco, from *Parish Publications*

For 40 years, the National Opinion Research Center has asked Americans to rate the “respectability” or “prestige” of various occupations. Recent results give physicians an 86 rating out of a possible 100. Astronauts got 80. Homemakers came in at 51. On the low end were occupations like dishwasher, migrant laborer, and grocery bagger.

Work’s dignity or prestige is not derived from the type of work performed, writes Stephen Colecchi. It is dignified because it “shares in the creative energy of God... Women and men are created in the image of a worker God.”

Maybe a story says it better. “A refugee named Theodore would come every few months to wash our windows,” says John Clayton of the



University of Massachusetts. “I remember his buckets...I remember his thick Polish accent. One afternoon my mother called me to watch him at work. ‘You see that man? What do you think he’s doing?’

‘Washing windows,’ I suggested. ‘Let me tell you what he’s really doing: That man is putting two sons and a daughter through university! You understand?’

I remember feeling a shiver. After that, Theodore seemed to me a kind of HERO.”

➔ This story was originally published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and then featured in *Parish Publications* in September, 1994. I find it still relevant in 2011. Food for thought!



We offer deepest sympathy to the **Antunes** and **Chadwick** families. **Gabi**’s mother passed away on August 12, and **Bill**’s father passed away on August 4. May God surround you with lots of love.



Lincoln Park's Bull... ..



September 12
for our
October issue

Change of Address

Thomas Lechner
41 Cottonwood Ln
Lewes DE 19958-8966

Grant Garrity
2912 Chiselford Dr
Sinking Spring PA 19608-9698

From our mailbox



♥ Thank you so much for the gifts of prayer, flowers, cards, and visits that you have given to me in the last months. They have made my life easier. It is a true blessing to be a part of such a loving, caring community.

Jeanne Perkins

♥ Dear Pastor David, Staff, and Members of LPUMC,

I can't thank you enough for your outpouring of prayer, love, and support for my husband Jim on his recent passing. We would have celebrated our 28th year of marriage in September, and he will be greatly missed.

I very much appreciate the many cards and words of condolence.

Your friend,

Linda Umstead

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

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♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the assorted groceries, money, and minestrone soup donated to our food pantry. Each donation adds to what we can offer our clients. May God bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace
Soup Kitchen Mgr
New Journey UMC

♥ Wyomissing Church of the Brethren would like to thank you for your generous donation of decorations and props for our Pandamonia VBS. You asked us to pass along these "gifts" to another congregation if we could. We were overjoyed to pass these along to a small church in Pottstown for their VBS in July.

If, in the future, we could be of service to you, please contact us. Your donation was a blessing for us. Thank you, God!

In appreciation,
Brenda Bechtel, VBS Director
Wyomissing Church of the Brethren

NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization
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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

Voicemail: Pastor Dave 44, Church Office 21, Beverly Perella 26, Julie Stites 31

Web: www.lpcumc.org

E-mail: lpcumc@verizon.net (Secretary and Church), lpumcpastor@verizon.net
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