



News-Line

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

November, 2011

Reading's Poverty Rate Exceeds 41%*

**Reading Eagle, 9/29/11*

Bring Us Your Coats for Kids (& Adults) Needed Now

From Kathy Avedissian
Please help local needy families during the cold weather ahead. Simply bring any gently used **coats, hats, scarves, and gloves** to church, and place them in designated containers at the back of the sanctuary or at the Cambridge entrance.

Local dry cleaners will clean them, and the Salvation Army will then distribute them to our less fortunate neighbors. All sizes accepted. The deadline for donations is November 16. Call **Kathy Avedissian** with questions, 610-372-1735. Thank you for your help!

HOW you can
HELP

Stock the Food Pantry

From Marian Longenecker
It's time for our Fall Food Drive. The Mission Committee will collect non

-perishable food items until November 13 for the Food Pantry at New Journey United Methodist Church.

Please place items in the blue basket in the Wagner Room.

Serve Dinner at Opportunity House November 1

From Penny Snook

It's time for us to get together again to feed the folks at Opportunity House. If you haven't had the gratifying experience of assisting in this undertaking, why not give it a shot?

Come on out and help the team of "regulars" prepare and/or serve the meal at Opportunity House. We'll meet at church at 4 pm, on

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From Pastor David McMillan

Over the first three Sundays of November, we continue our sermon series on *Life's Healing Choices: Freedom from Your Hurts, Hang-ups, and Habits*, based on Jesus' Beatitudes in His Sermon on the Mount. On November 27, we begin the Season of Advent by taking a look at the story of John the Baptist... one crying out in the wilderness "Prepare the way of the Lord!"



November 6 **COMING CLEAN: THE HOUSECLEANING CHOICE**

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Matthew 5:8

November 13 **MAKING CHANGES: THE TRANSFORMATION CHOICE**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall see God. Matthew 5:6

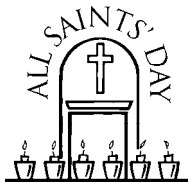
November 20 **REPAIRING RELATIONSHIPS: THE RELATIONSHIP CHOICE**

Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.
Matthew 5:7

November 27 First Sunday of Advent

JOHN'S STORY: CRYING OUT IN THE WILDNERNESS

Looking Ahead: Our annual Christmas Cantata will be performed Sunday, December 11. On Christmas Eve, we worship at 7 pm, with a Service of Lessons and Carols and Children's Pageant. At 10 pm, we gather for a Candlelight and Communion Service. On Christmas Day, there will be one service at 8 am.



From Beverly Perella

On Sunday, November 6, we'll remember loved ones who've died in the past year. Please give us the names and pictures of these persons by calling or bringing them to the Church Office.

Music Note

From Music Director Beverly Perella



CHRISTMAS CANTATA ALERT

Mark December 11 on your calendar for the annual Christmas Cantata at 11am. This year it's *The Mystery and the Majesty* by Joseph Martin, with chorus, bells, piano, trumpet, flute, violin, and trombone.

Meet our New District Superintendent at Annual Charge Conference

From Pastor Dave McMillan

All members of the church are invited to take part at our Annual Charge Conference with Dr. Anita Powell, our new District Superintendent, on Saturday, November 19, 2:30-4 pm, in Memorial Hall.

Our meeting will include Pastor Dave's State of the Church Report, the presentation of our 2012 budget, voting on the 2012 pastor's compensation, and lay leadership report for the classes of 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Pastoral Care Committee Meets Wednesday, November 16

From Jane Reitz

Time: Noon
Location: Parsonage
Bring a bag lunch.
Dessert: **Betty Frederickson**
Drinks: Pastor Dave
Topic: *The Art of Listening*
Regrets: **Jane Reitz**, 610-921-3303

Our purpose: To visit church members who are experiencing lengthy stays in the hospital/ rehab, are homebound, or are wrestling with depression or grief. Phone the Church Office, 610-777-1422, to request a visitation.

(Continued from page 1)

November 1, to prepare the meal, and leave the church around 6:30 pm to serve the meal at the shelter. Please contact **Penny Snook**, 610-781-7704, with questions or to volunteer.



"I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS."

EPHESIANS 1:16, NIV

From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor David McMillan

Lessons Learned

For a few more months, I'd like to share some lessons I learned while serving in my previous appointment at Hibernia United Methodist Church in Chester County. There, every Thursday morning from 10-11:30 am, a Bible Study met in the Church Library.

A number of folks attended the Bible study over my 11 years there. Charlie and Shirley Snitcher, part of our Sunday morning "hug patrol," have now gone on to be with the Lord. Art and Janice Pagenkemper were beneficiaries of a substantial inheritance and now travel to campgrounds fellowshiping with Christians of all shapes, sizes, and denominations. Then, there was Helen Salzman, who had gone through three husbands and a laundry basket of cats, who were too old and infirm to make it to church.

Our official meeting time was 10 am, that is, except for Mary Walker, who raced down the church driveway in her Subaru station wagon past our window every week at about a quarter after. She apologized every week, and only recently

I learned that she had a standing appointment with her chiropractor every Thursday morning at 10 am before hurrying to church.

Besides Mary, for the better part of five years, our study included Sue Lake, Sandy Bensinger, Noelle Leming, and Vivian Ireland. Over those years, we covered almost every book of the Bible, a handful of video series like *Disciple* and *ALPHA*, and other unplanned topics of which I'll have more to say later.



SUE was the most biblically literate of the group. For years, she had made a discipline of starting her every morning with prayer, a daily devotional, and Bible reading. Her well-worn King James Bible — with tabs for each book — was a testament to her love for God and His scriptures.

Sue and her sister were raised by their mother and grandparents in a segregated mill town in southern Georgia. Her father, a traveling salesman and "ladies' man," eventually left them. He stopped to see them when passing through, but it wasn't until later that Sue visited him and

became better acquainted. While attending college in Minnesota, Sue met her husband Norm at a USO dance. After they married and his duty was up, they returned to Coatesville where he started working in the steel mill. Sue never finished school and for many years grieved her southern roots and the family so far away.

SANDY is a native of Chester County. Except for trips to Kentucky to visit two of her children, she's been as far west as Ohio and as far south as Virginia Beach. She and her husband are partial to the Blue Ridge Mountains and have camped there many times, enjoying the vistas and wildlife.

Sandy was raised by her grandparents during the 40's and 50's in a home without running water. Some nights, all they ate were boiled potatoes. Her teenaged mother eventually married and lived on a farm in southern Chester County. Sandy visited the summers, but returned to her grandparents' home for the school year.

While she had some idea of who her father was, his identity was not confirmed until after his death. She now knows of a step-brother, but is afraid to introduce herself for fear that he has no knowledge of her and will deny their relation.

MARY was born and raised during the 40's and 50's by her father in a suburb of

Philadelphia. Her mother suffered from mental illness and was institutionalized when she was young. She recalls visiting her mother, who was too ill to give Mary the love and stability she needed. Unfortunately, Mary's older sister also became mentally ill and was institutionalized. Mary became the caretaker

for her working father and older brother.

Mary grew up with the fear that she might become mentally ill. One day, she expressed her fear to her pastor who rightly or wrongly told her she had a choice. "She was on a fence. She could choose to believe she would become sick or she could believe she was going to be well." While I don't believe that all mental illness is a choice, Mary remembers choosing that she was going to be well. Still, the threat of mental illness haunted her.

NOELLE was born and raised by her mother during the 50's and 60's in a Philadelphia suburb. Her father died while she was young, leaving them alone in a large, austere house. Her mother had high expectations that Noelle never felt she could meet. She worked hard in school, earning a PhD. in Art History and teaching as an adjunct professor in a small college. Fol-

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“Five aging women, Piggy, and me. Would you be surprised to know that I cherished those mornings?”

lowing her mother's death, she followed her passion and began making and selling jewelry, but it barely pays her bills. To make ends meet, she takes a boarder into her small two-bedroom home.

Later in life, when Noelle's mother was dying, she cared for her. With little time left, she was able to tell her mother that she felt emotionally abandoned throughout her lifetime. In a moment of vulnerability, her mother confessed that she had not been a good mother to her. It was only in the last months of her life that she was able to tell her daughter that she loved her.

I would be remiss not to mention Noelle's companion, who came with her every Thursday. Named "Piggy," this sweet little chocolate-colored guinea pig warmed to our company. Unfortunately, he was not housebroken.

I dedicated my September *News-Linc* article to VIVIAN Ireland, but allow me to refresh you. At 91, Vivian is the second oldest member of Hibernia UMC. Unfortunately, her memory resets every few minutes. Stories about still being able to

stand on her head or of the Catholic priest who tried to take her to bed are told again and again with enthusiasm. We try to look surprised every time she tells her story, but while the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak.

Vivian has passed through her own travails: the loss of a sister at age two and six other siblings since, the loss of three loves including two husbands, and the recent loss of her driver's license, which no reasoning seems to relieve.

I hope by now you have some idea of the scene in our Thursday morning Bible study. Five aging women, Piggy, and me. Would you be surprised to know that I cherished those mornings? There were times when I wished I had more time to prepare my sermon or to keep up with administrative tasks, but Thursday mornings were grounding for me. The depth of our conversations and the level of intimacy we shared allowed us to bond and bring to light some hurts, fears, and shame we had hidden in the dark, some of us, for years.

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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!





Your Pledges are Vital to Planning for 2012

From Linda Hope

Every year our budget and programs for the coming year are, in part, determined by the amount of money pledged on Commitment Sunday. Commitment Sunday was held on September 25 and to date we have received 90 pledges totaling \$221,642. Last year we had a total of 104 pledges for over \$245,000. If you have not received an "Estimate of Giving" card, please contact the office or pick one up in the Sanctuary on the welcome table. If you have not had the opportunity to submit your card, please put it in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office. Thank you for your continued support of Lincoln Park and our ministries.

BUDGET UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2011

From Linda Hope

Income to Date:	\$222,313.72 (70%)
Expenses to Date:	\$230,043.92 (73%)
CURRENT DEFICIT:	(\$7,730.20)

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The ever-present challenge was keeping this group on task. While intent on the book of the Bible at hand, they could be easily sidetracked.

One morning I stepped out, leaving Sue Lake to carry on, as I escorted our plumber to a leaking toilet in the men's room. When I returned, the women had given up on the Apostle Paul's theology of justification by faith and were comparing bra sizes. How they had gone from the Apostle Paul to bra sizes, I was afraid

to ask. Some of you might blush if I shared some of the subjects these women, in time, felt free to discuss. If their husbands only knew!

But, isn't this what it's all about? In confidence, we were able to read and understand the Bible as a living word speaking to every aspect of our human life, from the mundane to the sacrilegious to the sacred. The living word, tears, laughter, and prayer were our daily bread.

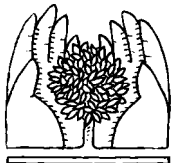
November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p>“Joy is the echo of God’s life in us.” —Columba of Iona</p>		<p>1 Opportunity House Supper 4:30 /6:30pm</p>	<p>2 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
	<p>6 Daylight Savings Time Ends All Saints’ Day Honored Grief/Divorce Support Groups 4pm Sun Supper Series 5:30pm</p>	<p>7 Trustees 7 pm Finance 7pm</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>13 Deadline: Fall Food Drive Grief/Divorce Support Groups 4pm Sun Supper Series 5:30pm</p>	<p>14 Agape Noon Church Council 7pm</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Pastoral Care Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir Deadline: Co</p>
<p>20 Grief/Divorce Support Groups 4pm Sun Supper Series 5:30pm</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Don't forget to order your poinsettias!</p>	<p>28 Book Club 7pm</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30pm or 7:30pm	3 Craft Group 1pm Youth Group 6:30pm Praise Band 8pm	4	5
30pm or 7:30pm	10 Praise Band 8pm	11	12 <i>News-Line Deadline</i>
Comm Noon 30pm or 7:30pm Mats for Kids	17 Craft Group 1pm Youth Group 6:30pm Praise Band 8pm	18	19 CHARGE CONFERENCE 2:30 pm
30pm or 7:30pm	24 THANKSGIVING DAY 	25	26
30pm or 7:30pm		<div data-bbox="575 1170 1185 1502" data-label="Complex-Block" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Looking ahead to December</p> <p>12/4 Grief/Divorce Support Groups 4pm Sunday Supper Series 5:30pm</p> <p>12/5 Trustees 7pm Finance 7pm</p> <p>12/11 Christmas Cantata 11 am</p> <p>12/12 Agape 12pm Finance 7pm</p> <p>12/24 Christmas Eve Worship 7 & 10pm</p> <p>12/25 Christmas Day Worship 8am</p> </div>	

Does Your Spirit Need Some Nurturing?



From Pastor David McMillan

Spiritual Growth

† *Silence is the language of God, and the only language deep enough*

to absorb all the contradictions and failures that we are holding against ourselves. God loves us silently because God has no case to make against us. The silent communion absorbs our self-hatred, as every lover knows”

Richard Rohr, Simplicity: The Freedom of Letting Go

† *If the only prayer you said in your whole life was “thank you,” that would be sufficient”*

Meister Eckhart

† **STEP 1:** *We admitted we were powerless over our addiction – that our lives had become unmanageable.*

STEP 2: *Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.*

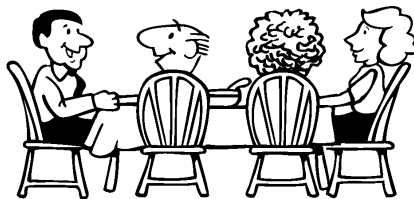
The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous

Join Us Sundays Grief/Divorce Support Groups Sunday Supper Series

From Pastor David McMillan

Two new support groups met on Sunday, October 30, and will continue to meet for five more weeks. One of the groups, led by **Sandi Rosencrans**, is aimed at those of us struggling with grief and loss. The other group deals with the emotional process of divorce and is led by **Pastor Dave**. Both groups meet at the church Sundays, 4-5:30 pm. All are welcome.

Following these groups is our six-week Sunday Supper Series, also begun on October 30. Supper comes first, at 5:30 pm, in Memorial Hall, followed by the program, based on a Wesley Bible Study by James Moore: *How God Takes Our Little & Makes It Much*. Our Lay Leader, **Earl Hope**, is the facilitator.



Please feel free to join us for any of these programs.



Youth Group Meets Thursdays

From Pastor Dave McMillan

Our Youth Group meets on the first and third Thursday evening of every month, 6:30-8 pm, in the Youth Room of the Education Building. Invite a friend along to an exciting time of fun games, lively discussions and meaningful worship.

Book Club Meets Monday, November 28, 7pm

From Jane Reitz

Location: **Bernie Ackelson's** home
1719 Garfield Ave
Wyomissing

Selection: *Secret Daughter* by Shilpi
Somaya Gowda

Plot: Explores motherhood, loss,
identity and love as wit-
nessed by two families –
one Indian and one Ameri-
can and the child that con-
nects them.



Group Prepares Crafts for Reading Schoolchildren

Please join us the first and third Thursdays of each month, at 1 pm. We prepare simple craft projects for the after-school program at First Baptist Church, Reading.

Questions? Call **Bernie Ackelson**,
610-372-3472, or **JoAnn Ross**, 610-
775-7966.

"Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way."
—Native American Saying

Random Acts of Kindness Stories

Simple Acts Can Change the World

From Sandi Rosencrans

Editor's Note: We're happy to present this mini-series of articles "intended to stimulate thought and inspire action." We welcome your own *Random Acts of Kindness Stories*. To submit, you can email them to cherfallon@comcast.net or leave them in my mailbox in the Church Office.



THE RANDOM PLAN

Growing up I was fueled with interest and enthusiasm over all people, places, and things foreign and exotic, so it was n't surprising that I decided to go to Morocco. The year was 2000, and my friends had no interest in Morocco: It was too foreign, too different, and they were too fearful.

Undeterred, I found a tour called *The Tribal Markets of Morocco*, operated by a woman in Boston. As an inveterate traveler, I know the importance of advance research and preparation, so I read and re-read the four recommended books.

Among the many mandates about dress and behavior in an Islamic country (albeit a liberal one) all four books emphatically offered a way to make immediate friends with Moroccan children:

Bring as many shiny, glittery, colorfully decorated ballpoint pens as one could carry, and give them away as serendipitous opportunities presented themselves. On the day of departure, my backpack included 75 such pens.

Although Morocco is not a third-world country, it has many beggars. Like ours, some are legitimately in need, and others run scam operations to bilk tourists of every possible dirham. For that reason, Morocco's licensed tour guides discourage pandering to beggars, so when the same crying, pleading, snotty-nosed child implores you five times within three streets, it's a targeted scam operation, not poverty.

But even though he was clearly a well-trained operator of about six-years old, I surprised this small con artist by pulling

not money from my backpack, but a ballpoint pen. He stopped in his tracks, dropped his jaw, studied the pen, and gave me a big smile. He got something totally different and seemingly better than what he expected. Excited and delighted, he smiled and waved as he ran off shouting, I think, to his mother.

In the walled city of Taradount, I encountered a totally shrouded woman whose only exposed body parts were her eyes and hands. She had three small children in tow.

I seized the moment with a gesture that said, “Please wait, I have something for you.” Somewhat startled, she paused as I pulled out three sparkly ballpoint pens and wordlessly asked her permission to give one to each of her youngsters. Her smile erupted above the veil, and she gave me an enthusiastic affirmative nod.

With a slight bow I formally proffered the now-magical pens to the three siblings who reacted as though they’d been escorted into Ali Baba’s cave of treasures for a free-for-all. The mother took my hand in both of hers and held tight in gratitude. We turned, smiled, and waved good-bye several times before we lost

sight of each other.

More pens were distributed to children in remote Berber villages. One went to a young camel herder in the desert. He had a cell phone, of course, but apparently had not seen such a pen before. One pen got me an invitation to the home of a village chief in the Atlas Mountains where I had delicious tea and homemade bread. I gave a pen to an elderly woman walking the one dusty street in her rural village; you would have thought I’d given her a grand inheritance.

In short, I became a sort of Pied Piper of Hamelin, a maker of memories, an American ambassador, and the envy of my tour mates, none of whom had brought any kind of ball point pens with them, and a few confessed to not having read the assigned books.

Morocco, the first country in the world to officially recognize America’s independence from England, is a beautiful, fascinating country every bit as romantic and exotic as presented in travel brochures — and the wonderful diverse people there respond well to random acts of kindness.

“I gave a pen to an elderly woman walking the one dusty street in her rural village; you would have thought I’d given her a grand inheritance.”

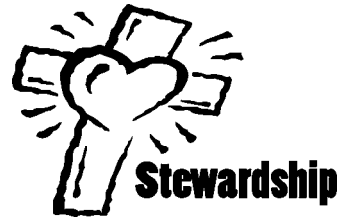
Stewardship Opportunities for You!

From Nancy Villecco

*Love each other with brotherly affection
and take delight in honoring each other ~ Romans 12:10*

In a recent sermon, our pastor Kevin mentioned an encounter he'd had with my husband Wayne. No one in church realized he was talking about Wayne, but I did.

Kevin had stopped by our house on a quick errand for his wife, and Wayne had asked him in for a cup of coffee. Kevin was in a hurry and declined; he had a meeting scheduled, places to go and people to see. Wayne didn't think anything of it and neither did I.



Then on Sunday morning Kevin talked about the incident. He said he had been so busy doing the work of the church that he'd forgotten to be the church. He'd missed an opportunity to get to know one of his flock better and he regretted it.

That set me to thinking about how many opportunities I've missed because I was in a hurry to get somewhere. How many people has God planted in my path whom I was in too much of a hurry to notice?

As an old saying has it, "You may be the only Bible someone will ever read." If that's the case, I want to make sure I represent the living Christ in a way that honors Him.

*Father God, help me to live my life in such a way that
people will see my faith in the love I show others.*

Debbie Macomber
2011 Daily Guideposts Edition (p.28)



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*November 12
for our
December issue
Please include
news for the first two
weeks of January.*

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-

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Krystin Brown
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Upper Chichester PA 19061-3246



From our mailbox



- ♥ Thank you for the groceries you donated to our food pantry. Each little bit adds to the whole and helps us feed one more family. May God bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace
Soup Kitchen/Pantry Manager
New Journey UMC

It's Time to Order

From Betsy Buchanan

You can help decorate our church for Christmas! Please order poinsettias by November 30. Order forms will be in church bulletins. Please contact me, 610-777-2501, or the Church Office, 610-777-1422, with questions.



Poinsettias

"The way to worry
about nothing is
to pray
about everything."

-Unknown



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
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