



News-Line

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

Angel Tree Brings Joy to Reading Families

From Jim Eckert

In what has become a tradition at Lincoln Park Church, we'll be sponsoring local families this Christmas season for the Salvation Army ADOPT-A-FAMILY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM. Families are evaluated and selected by the Salvation Army. We'll be supporting three families, totaling 17 individuals, including 12 children.

**Angel
Tree**



December 17. Therefore, December 11 is the last SUNDAY gifts should be brought to church. However, gifts can be dropped off at the church (Wagner Room or Church Office) after Sunday, December 11, up to Saturday, December 17.

The support of our people at Lincoln Park has lightened past Christmas seasons for families facing grim holiday prospects. Please help again this season by finding "angels" attached to the trees in the Wagner Room. We'll take gifts to the Salvation Army center on Saturday,



Christmas Cantata

From Music Director Beverly Perella

Join us Sunday, December 11, at 11 am, for our annual Christmas Cantata. This year it's *The Mystery and the Majesty* by Joseph Martin, with chorus, bells, piano, trumpet, flute, violin, and trombone. Performing this year is a choir of 16 voices, 5 instruments and narration by **Sandi Ros-**

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Come & Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan

In December, we celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas. During Advent, we anticipate the “coming” or “arrival” of the promised Messiah. On Christmas and the following 12 days, we welcome and receive the gift of life in Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

I am excited as we enter into this special season of the year. I hope you are too and will make every effort to take part in this mystery of our faith as God comes to us revealed in human flesh.



December 4 ***Mary's Story:*** What is Mary's story? How is it that this girl of no more than 14 becomes the mother of our Lord?
Luke 1:26-38

December 11 11 am - **CHRISTMAS CANTATA**
The Mystery and the Majesty

December 18 ***Joseph's Story:*** What is Joseph's story? Who is he? How is it that he becomes the human father of our Lord?
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**
7 pm - A Family Service of Lesson and Carols
with **CHILDREN'S PAGEANT**
10 pm - A Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
Preludes beginning at 9:30 pm will feature *Trio Jolie*, with flutist Robin Lillarose, oboist Kirsten Meyers, and cellist Janifer Dixon.

December 25 **8 am - CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**

January 1 **10 am - NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE**

You're Invited to Our Sunday Supper Series

From Pastor Dave McMillan

The Sunday Supper Series continues on Sunday evenings, December 4 and 11, 5:30-7:30 pm, in Memorial Hall. Dinner is served at 5:30 pm, followed by our study: *How God Takes Our Little and Makes It Much*, by James E. Moore.

This has been a great and well-attended learning experience. Each lesson stands on its own, so come and join the fellowship and fun.

We're Going Caroling!

From Beverly Perella

**Sunday,
December 18,
5 pm**

We'll return to church afterward for hot chocolate and cookies. Bring the family and sing!



Love Christmas Music?

Here's another great concert of religious and pop music of the season. You can hear it on Sunday, December 11, at 7pm, at Atone-ment Lutheran Church in Wy-omissing, featuring our beloved summer soloist, Donna Danielski, accompanied by our Music Direc-tor, **Beverly Perella**.

(Continued from page 1)

encrans and Tricia

Goldsbrough. We know the words of the Christmas story, but we hear it anew each year through soft melodies, lively folk sounds, and favorite carols. Come and experience the mystery and the majesty as we are prepare for our Savior's birth.

Jesus' Birthday Party

From Linda Woll

Please come for Jesus' Birthday Party on **Friday, December 2, at 6:15 pm.**

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Mohnton Food Bank and a Christmas tree decoration for our tree in Memorial Hall.



From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor David McMillan

Lessons Learned The Company of Men

How very good and pleasant it is when men live together in unity!



It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. Psalm 133: 1,2

Every few months, Jack Horrex, Jack Stapleton, and I met for breakfast at Ranck's Family Restaurant in Bowmansville. Jack Horrex was a regular there, having moved into his son's home in Bowmansville after his wife died in 2003. At 89, he walked a mile to the restaurant and back every morning for breakfast. He was always waiting for us at a table, conversing with the waitress or a group of men at the counter, his usual breakfast companions, who were veterans of World War II.

When I arrived at Hibernia UMC, Jack was almost 80 and, at six foot three, he literally stood out among the crowd. His family emigrated from Scotland in the late 1700's and settled in Chester County, working as stone masons. Jack grew up on a farm which his father worked in the afternoons and evenings after return-

ing home from work at the steel mill in

Coatesville.

After high school, Jack enlisted in the army and was stationed in northern Canada. He was recruited for the base boxing team and, surprisingly (for I knew Jack as an gentle man) he pummeled a number of his opponents into submission. As part of his duty, Jack spent several nights a week lying in a sleeping bag in bitter cold, looking for American planes returning from Europe. He recalls the few planes on his watch, which, for mechanical reasons, damage due to war, or running out of gas, did not reach the airfield. Spotting where the planes went down, Jack was often first on the scene. Sadly, there were no survivors.

After the war, Jack returned home and eventually married. He met his wife Lulu while hunting in Sullivan County. "I went up to shoot a buck and returned with a doe," he used to say. He worked for his father-in-law the first year of his marriage, driving a logging truck down steep mountain roads, delivering logs to the saw mill. Then he and Lulu returned

to Chester County where they built a home on his father's farm. Later, they purchased a one-room school house, just down the road, where Jack had gone to school, and converted it into their new home. Unable to have children of their own, they adopted two of his cousin's children, Jim and Andy, and raised them as their own.

It wasn't long after I arrived at Hibernia that Jack's wife Lulu took ill. For many years she had suffered from debilitating rheumatoid arthritis, and Jack had been her caregiver. Eventually, Lulu's body gave out. After surviving Lulu for eight years, Jack succumbed to congestive heart failure and went on to be with the Lord last year at the age of 90.

At the time of our breakfasts, Jack Stapleton was 16 or 17 years Jack Horrex's junior. He also served in the army, stationed in Korea. One highlight of his tour of duty was traveling back and forth to the states aboard ship. He and his pinochle partner, having developed sophisticated signals, were declared the ship's champions, and they made off with a tidy sum of money.

Jack was also born and raised in Chester County. His parents, "Old Mr. Stapleton" and Dot, were pillars of Hibernia Church. Jack grew up with a mischievous streak, which you can still see if you look in his

eyes closely. He told me that as a young boy, in a moment of temporary insanity, he had shot an arrow at his sister. It had passed through a screen door and lodged in their backdoor as she ran from him into the house. He shared this story regrettably, and with tears in his eyes, not long after his sister (also a beloved member of our congregation) died from injuries sustained in a tragic automobile accident.

Jack had married a local girl named Rosalee, and they raised five children. They also started their own surveying business. And, on faith, without knowing where the money would come from, they purchased 600 acres in the moun-

tains. After Rosalee died of brain cancer in her late 50's, Jack married Helen who had six children of her own. Together, they made a meaningful life for them-

selves and their large family, including raising their remaining children still at home. Sadly, Helen died of pancreatic cancer in 2006.

Jack (who I have to say is one of my favorite people of all time) is a stalwart in the church, like his parents before him, and he still marches on. At 75, he was always one of the first to arrive for Trustee Workdays ...digging post holes, clearing trees or shrubs, painting, or

*"More than ever, I believe there
is a need for men
to share our stories
with one another..."*

(Continued on page 6)

Eight Work on Reading Home October 29 through Habitat for Humanity

From Jim Eckert

Eight individuals from Lincoln Park Church joined another group of five folks to help with construction at a home at 624 Mulberry Street, in Reading. We worked on caulking, insulation, and some cleanup.

Our workday was curtailed by the First Annual Snowstorm of the Century, as we were dismissed, after less than three hours, around noon.

Participants included **Pastor Dave**, his daughter **Hannah** and her school friend **Erin**, **Carol Piller**, **Pat Owens**, **Pete Cipolla**, **Dorinne Bilger**, and **Jim Eckert**.

Stay tuned for another possible workday in the spring.

(Continued from page 5)

raking leaves. He is part of a COM-PEERS program, visiting regularly with a young man institutionalized with paranoid schizophrenia. He enjoys traveling with friends and his children out west, overseas, and to his mountain home. You may also find him on a Sunday afternoon taking long walks through the fields or forests of Chester County, using his surveying knowledge to uncover old railroad beds and artifacts or the foundations of old homes and property lines of times long forgotten. He also, I might add, has been enjoying the company of a special lady friend for the past few years.

I miss those breakfasts with Jack and Jack. There is something about the company of men, and especially of older men — since my father is no longer with me — that is meaningful and reassuring. More than ever, I believe there is a need for men to share our stories with one another, especially from one generation to the next. Through our stories, we learn from one another what it means to be a man, a husband, a father, a child of God, a friend.

Welcome Newcomers!

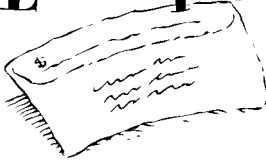
We invite you to any meetings or activities you read about here. Please call the Church Office, 610-777-1422, for names, phone numbers, information, or to speak with our pastor. If you'd like to receive *News-Linc* in the mail, just notify our secretary. Please join in at Lincoln Park!



2012 Offering Envelopes Have Arrived!

From Linda Hope

Offering Envelopes



Please pick-up your 2012 offering envelopes in the Wagner Room on Sunday morning or call the Church Office to make other arrangements. Any questions, please contact **Linda Hope**.

BUDGET UPDATE as of OCTOBER 31, 2011

From Linda Hope

Income to Date:	\$246,382.27
Expenses to Date:	\$253,006.69
CURRENT DEFICIT:	(\$6,624.32)

Your Trustees at Work: Improvements to our Church

From Jerry Manhart

The Trustees have been busy — opening clogged drains, painting window sills, and cleaning up leaves at the church, painting the fire escape and garage door frame at the office, and removing tree limbs that fell with the snow at the parsonage. Many thanks to:

Todd Beamesderfer, Bill Lape, Nancy Lape, Carl Madeira, and Pastor Dave.

The Snow Team had an early start this year with the October snow. Thanks go to **Carol Bashore, Bill, Jonathan, Parker, and Ryan Chadwick, Pat Owens, Kris Savell, Elizabeth Stoud, and Pastor Dave.**

If you can help out by sweeping or shoveling snow from the steps or running the snow blower, please call **Jerry Manhart**, to have your name added to our Snow Team.



December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p>“We have only this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand...and melting like a snowflake. Let us use it.” —Marie Beynon Ray</p>			
<p>4 Grief/Divorce Support Groups 4:30pm Sun Supper Series 5:30pm</p>	<p>5 Trustees 7 pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>11 Sun Supper Series 5:30 Last Sunday for Angel Tree Gifts Christmas Cantata 11am</p> 	<p>12 Agape Noon Finance 7pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>18 FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING 5 PM</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP 8 AM</p>	<p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> 		<p>27 “God doesn’t call the qualified qualifies the called.” —Max Lucado</p>



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Craft Group 1pm Youth Group 6:30pm Praise Band 8pm	2 Jesus' Birthday and Friends 6:15pm	3
7:30pm or 7:30pm	8 Praise Band 8pm	9 <div data-bbox="588 704 877 946" data-label="Image"> </div>	10
8:30pm or 7:30pm	15 Craft Group 1pm Youth Group 6:30pm Praise Band 8pm	16	17
8:30pm or 7:30pm	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 7 & 10PM <div data-bbox="1068 1109 1206 1284" data-label="Image"> </div>
l. He	<div data-bbox="189 1409 512 1474" data-label="Text"> <p><i>News-Line Deadline</i></p> </div>	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Nurturing Our Spirits this Advent

From Pastor David McMillan



Preparing for the Christmas Season

Week 1 of Advent: *A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; ... Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.'* Isaiah 40:3-5

Have you gone out into the wilderness? Where/What is your wilderness? What valley need be lifted up, what mountain or hill made low, what crooked way be made straight that you might see the glory of God revealed?

Week 2 of Advent: *Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.* Psalm 27:14

What are you waiting for? How long have you been waiting? What does your heart, your soul, long for this Advent season? What do you feel as you wait? Where is God in the midst your waiting?

Week 3 of Advent: *Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.* Luke 1:38

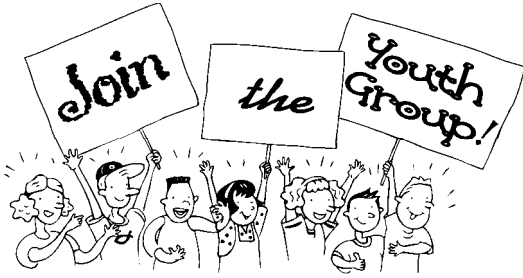
When the Spirit overshadows you this Advent season wanting to bring about new life, in the midst of your uncertainty and vulnerability, what will be your response? What new birth does the Spirit want to bring forth within you?

Week 4 of Advent: *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people..."* Luke 2:10

Over and over again, through angels, God declares, "Fear not." What are your fears? What do you or whom do you fear? In 1 John 4:18 we read, "Perfect love casts out fear." Are you willing to let go of your fears? Love is and has come.

Christmas Day/Week: *...the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. – Luke 2:7*

Have you made room? If not, why not now, today? What will making room look like, feel like for you? Peace be upon you.



Youth Group Meets Thursdays

From Pastor Dave McMillan,
Mark Villecco, and Danielle Pasquale

Our Youth Group, Grades 7-12, will meet on Thursday nights, December 1 and 15,

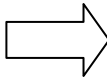
6:30-8 pm, to make and bake Christmas cookies in the Church Kitchen for our at-home members. On Sunday, December 18, from 5 to 6:30 pm, we'll deliver our cookies while "caroling merrily along." Come and join the fun and remember to bring a friend.

Ladies Night Out

From Linda Woll

It was a huge success with great food, even better company, interesting chatter, and a wonderful opportunity to spend more than a few minutes with people we see on a Sunday morning.

My friend Heide, who'd never been to our church before, said "It was nice to be in the presence of such kind, loving people. The food was delicious, the conversation was good, and I felt very welcome. Thank you, God's people." And that gracious comment sums up the evening. Watch for details and the date of our next get-together!



Men's Night Out

From Todd Beamesderfer

Ozgood's Bar and Grill in Robesonia

Meet at the church at 6 pm on

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12.

If you live near the restaurant, simply meet us there.

Keep an eye out for a **VILLECCO FAMILY CHRISTMAS CD** (or download) which will be available at or through the church (website) after Dec. 5! Proceeds will benefit LP's Opportunity House Supper Fund.



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.



From Loreen Miller

One Saturday in late August, about 20 years ago, I was waiting for a prescription in a Sinking Spring pharmacy. As I perused the aisles, I noticed a young boy, about eight, carefully choosing school supplies and checking prices constantly. I remember thinking "Wow, he's really serious about this!" He was alone.

Eventually he took his precious supplies to the checkout. I fell in behind him in line with my prescription. He laid his supplies on the counter, his money beside them. The clerk rang up the items and announced the total.

As I recall, the total was about \$1.35 more than the money on the counter. The boy scrambled through his pockets but came up empty. The clerk counted the disheveled-looking money again and told the boy he'd have to put something back.

At that point, the youngster looked totally deflated. His chest "caved in," and he struggled to decide which of his sensible purchases to put back.

I told the clerk that the boy wouldn't need to put anything back. I would pay the remainder so he could add it to my bill. The clerk looked at me a moment, shrugged, and bagged the boy's purchases. The boy lowered his head and remained silent. He left the store, and few minutes later, so did I.

As I walked to my car, I looked over and saw him carrying his bag up the hill, presumably to his home. Suddenly he turned around, looking back toward the drugstore. Our eyes met, and I will never forget that look. It made words unnecessary.

A simple thing, yet somehow it stands in my heart as one of the most important things I have ever done.

From the Editor: Pass It On!

From Cheri Fallon

I have an idea! I'd like to start a regular column in our *News-Linc* featuring advice for living from our church members.

It would be a collection of secrets for living a good life, like *The Last Lecture* given by Randy Pausch, after learning he was dying of cancer, to his students at Carnegie Mellon (but directed at his own small children).

Is there a thought you'd like to pass on to your children? Is there a story or memory that illustrates what you want to pass on?

It might be a simple thought; it might be Bible-based. It could be an idea for getting organized, or a holiday tradition that your family enjoys. You might tell us how you got over a sorrowful loss, disciplined a child, got over an argument, how you pray.

When I sit in church, I look around at all the wise people sitting there. I know only some of the experiences they've had and wonder how they solve problems and live abundantly.

Think about it. Tell us your secrets. We'll talk more about it in 2012.

Here's an example:

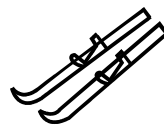
The Ski Lesson

Once, my sister, the skier, took a vacation in Colorado with my parents, who were in their 60's. Jean wanted them to try skiing. (She wanted everyone to ski, saying "It's a whole new world!")

So my parents agreed, rented skis, and donned the gear — long underwear, coats, neck-ups, goggles, and **the boots**. (Have you ever put these on...in the high altitudes of Colorado?) It's a breath-taking experience, literally. And my Mom had asthma.



Jean wanted them to have the full ski experience, so they walked to a shuttle bus for Vail Mountain (in **the boots**) carrying skis and poles (a feat). Then they walked up the hill to the ski lift and put on their skis.



At this point — readying for the lesson — my Mom turned to my sister and said, "Jean, this is all I can do." And that was the end of my Mom's skiing.

I think of this story:

- When I can't stay up any later wrapping Christmas gifts
- When I can't seem to help a troubled friend
- When I can't keep up to the cards I should write, dinners I should cook, places I should be.
- And more...

So, as you go about your life: Give it your best shot! Try as hard as you can! Turn it over to God! Then say to yourself, "**THIS IS ALL I CAN DO.**"

As the country song goes, sometimes "You gotta know when to fold 'em!"

Stewardship Committee Gives Thanks for You!

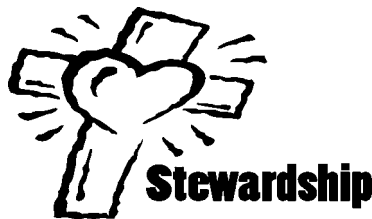
From Nancy Villecco

INSPIRATION: An influence, movement or guide of a divine nature.
John 3:16 : *For God so loved the world that he GAVE his only begotten son.*

Dear Friends of LPCUMC,

We, on the Stewardship Committee, are inspired by the pledges of sacrificial giving for 2012. We are here, as a church, for the purpose of ministry, and our budget exists simply as a means for that ministry!

We are grateful for your support of the church by your prayers, presence, gifts, and service. It's a wonderful thing to open one's heart to respond to God's call. So, please know that we are most appreciative for the ministries we'll be able to provide to this community and beyond because of your generosity. There is a hurting world out there, and we need to pray for further inspiration to fulfill God's vision and direction for



our ministries.

We also ask that you prayerfully consider how each of us is being called to invest in fulfilling those— on a personal level. How can we take the inspiration we receive and put it into personal action? Has it motivated us in some way to do something more?

May the Lord bless you as we journey through the end of 2011 and into the new year of 2012.

“We make a LIVING by what we GET... We make a LIFE by what we GIVE.” — Winston Churchill



We extend our sympathy to the **Fallon** family on the death of **Cheri's** father, Ferne Fredrickson, on November 1. We will keep you in our hearts and prayers.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*December 29
for our
Mid-January
issue*

*Please submit timely,
brief news for this issue*

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, Betsy & Allen Buchanan, Bunny Carlson, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, Elaine Meckes, Suzanne Romig, and Doris Schucker

Change of Address

Jonathan Rhodes
228 Loyalsock Dr
Douglassville PA 19518-8732

Thank You from Our Missions Committee

From Marian Longnecker

The Missions Committee thanks all those who donated food items for the Food Bank at New Journey United Methodist Church. We collected 112 items, which, as always, are much appreciated by those in need.

Thanks for Your Coats!

From Kathy Avedissian

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who donated coats and other outerwear to Coats For Kids. Our church collected 65 coats as well as 18 hats, five pairs of gloves, and eight scarves for the Salvation Army's program. Many needy local families will be warmer this winter as a result of your efforts and generosity.

From our mailbox



♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the generous gift of \$107. It will go a long way towards helping us to feed the hungry. It seems that whenever we need something, God knows and provides. May God bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace
Soup Kitchen/Pantry Manager
New Journey UMC

A LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

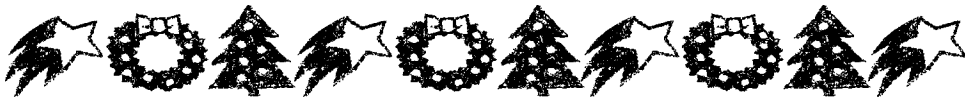


NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization
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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

Voicemail: Pastor Dave 44, Church Office 21, Beverly Perella 26, Julie Stites 31
Web: www.lpcumc.org

E-mail: info@lpcumc.org (Secretary and Church), dmcmillan@lpcumc.org (Pastor McMillan) For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.

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