



News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *January, 2012*

A New Year Is a Fresh Start

From Nancy Villecco



I was leaving the Walmart shopping center one evening in December. The line was long at the traffic light, and I had to wait through two cycles. At the end, there was a young man holding up a cardboard sign that said, “Homeless, hungry, please help.”

Only one person in the cars ahead of me gave him a donation. When I got closer to the red light, I reached in my purse and gave a small donation. He said “God bless you,” and I said “Merry Christmas.”

A story from Robert Schnase immedi-

ately popped into my head — though it took me hours to recall where I’d read it. Remembering the story touched me, and I was sorry I hadn’t given a bit more. I

(Continued on page 10)

Enjoy Music at LP

From Music Director Beverly Perella

One of LP's strengths is the variety of gifted musicians we have within our church family. This is more evident throughout the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas when these musicians share their talents with us. We are indeed grateful to the Praise Band, the Bell Choir, the Chancel Choir, and our many soloists.

IT’S NEVER TOO LATE to offer your musical talents to any of our groups. Don't just say, "I should join the bells, band, or choir." Just DO it.

Bell Choir practices at 6:30 and Chancel Choir at 7:30 pm, on Wednesday evenings. Please join us!

Inside this issue

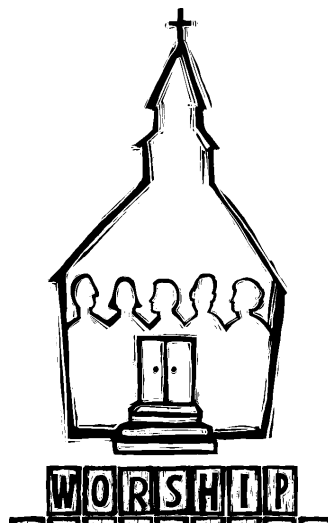
| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Worship | p. 2 |
| From Pastor McMillan | p. 4 |
| Upcoming Events | p. 7 |
| Soul Care | p. 8 |
| Random Acts Stories | p. 9 |

Come & Worship with Us

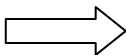
From Pastor David McMillan

As we begin the new year, I'll be preaching a sermon series entitled *Fear Not*. Possibly the greatest threat to living the Christian life in all of its fullness is fear. Unhealthy fear and uncertainty can lead us into sin and alienate us from our better self, God, and others.

In the epistle of First John, we read "perfect love casts out fear." We find this perfect, trustworthy love in Christ, who gives us the courage to live confidently in a fear-full world.



- Sunday, January 8 *Why Are You Afraid, You of Little Faith?*
Matthew 8:23-27
- Sunday, January 15 *The Fear of Change and Uncertainty*
John 3: 1-8
- Sunday, January 22 *The Fear of Rejection*
John 21:15-17
- Sunday, January 29 *The Fear of Violence and Terrorism*
Matthew 10:26-31



ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY AT 10 AM
Potluck Lunch to follow

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 Trustees at Work

From Jerry Manhart

The good news is that the lift in the Church plus the boilers in the Church and Education Building have passed inspection. The not-so good news is that we had to make some costly repairs to correct deficiencies. We spent over \$2,100 on the lift and over \$5,200 on the boilers in 2011.



Your church staff would like to thank LP members for your generous gifts to us for Christmas. Your devotion to God and His work and your loyalty to Lincoln Park Church and to us are the additional gifts that we appreciate throughout the year.

Lincoln Park Church Staff

Attention: Closet Organizers

From Beverly Perella

It's time to remember our upcoming **MAY FLEA MARKET.**

This year we'll again feature women's clothing, so please get ready.

We're asking that you deliver the clothes washed and on a hanger ready for sale. (We have plenty of extra hangers if you need them.) This will be an enormous help to our committee as we don't have time to prepare the items for sale. Just push the items to the back of your closet until late April when you can bring them to church.

LP Hires New Nursery Attendant

From Richard Auman

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee has hired Kathi Ernst, a West Wyomissing resident, as a new nursery attendant. She replaces Christina Boyer who submitted her resignation in December. Kathi, a graduate of Wilson High School, is employed in the school district and works with autistic and emotionally-challenged children. She also works part-time for Comfort Keepers, a home care service for the elderly. She has taken additional education courses in subjects from safety to intervention.

From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor David McMillan

Lessons Learned

One of my greatest joys in the ministry has been to watch the children in my congregations grow up. Due to pastoral responsibilities and a gas tank quickly depleted by commotion, my observations have mostly been made from a comfortable distance. Fortunately, or unfortunately, a lack of volunteers and a guilty conscience have often pressed me into service. I've rarely been disappointed.



Over the past several years at Hibernia United Methodist Church, I co-led our “Kid’s Club,” which met every other Sunday afternoon. To create a meaningful learning experience, we included Grades 2 through 6. The regulars included Emily Ecklund, Dylan and Tyler McAllister, Nate and Sam Mowday, Emily Shultz, Jeffry and Stephen Gill, the Kuhn triplets: Marissa, Bekah and Kristin, and their younger brother Kevin.

An only child, Emily Ecklund was probably the most precocious of the group. Like my daughter Hannah, she attends Catholic school, where kids tend

to live with more fear.

The parameters of acceptable behavior are quickly reinforced with the threat of demerits or detention with Sister Aloysius, pronounced *Al-o-wish-us* (from Latin, meaning *famous warrior*.) It took

some time for Emily to loosen up, but, with a relaxed atmosphere and familiarity with her leaders and peers, she became quite the chatter box.

Dylan and Tyler McCallister came to the “Kid’s Club” after the first year of its inception. To make ends meet, their parents had moved from Central Pennsylvania into the home of their parents who were members of our church. Dylan and Tyler were your prototypical “rug rats” - mussed hair, dirty faces, disheveled clothes, perpetual smiles, and mischief in their eyes which said “what can we get into next?” At one of their first meetings, they wore “Wheelies” (sneakers with wheels on them) and proceeded to skate in circles around the tiled room. What I won’t forget were the cards they drew and wrote for our at-home members —

not long, but touching, revealing beneath the mischievousness a well-preserved innocence.

Nate and Sam Mowday were as different as night and day. After their parents' divorce, they moved with their father into their grandparents' house. Butch and Peetie were long-time members. Nate, the younger of the two, is shy. Conscious of a slight speech impediment, he kept to himself and a handful of comic books he brought every Sunday. He is one of the nicest, gentlest kids I've known. When we played *Christians and Romans*, a variation on *Capture the Flag*, I inconspicuously gave him the role of the Roman Guard who was secretly a Christian. Without his Roman Guard teammates knowing, he could quietly set the captured Christians free. The look of excitement and joy on his face was priceless.

On the other hand, his older brother Sam was the most boisterous of our group. Overweight for his age, Sam had endured some cruel jokes and bullying at school. But, over the years, having matured and grown into his body, his girth became the source of some pride and welcome intimidation.

Sam was one of those kids who gets fixated on things. At first, it was with Michael Jackson. Early on, he made the mistake of bringing in a glove covered in glitter, a trade mark of Michael Jackson, which he wore on one hand while giving his "Thriller" impersonation. His act haunted him with the older kids for years.

Now, he is consumed with the culture of "guns." According to his Facebook page, he is **Part of** : "The People of the Gun" - **His Political View**: "Resistance" - **Religious Views**: "Methodist" - **Sport**: "Shooting" - **Movies**: "*Dirty Harry* and *Porky's Revenge*" - **Television**: "*Sons of Guns*" - **Activities and Interests**: "Sleeping and Shooting" - **Basic Information About Sam**: "I like guns." and - **Interested in**: "Women." Sam is now 13.

Emily Shultz and Jeffry and Stephen Gill are neighbors. Emily, her younger brother Alex, and her parents are members of Hibernia. Emily's parents had invited Jeffrey and Stephen to Vacation Bible School, and today their whole family also attends the church. Emily's father Rob is a High School Science teacher, soccer player, and rock climber. Her mother Dana is a speech pathologist and a marathon runner. With Emily's cute and spunky personality, I imagine the caption under her yearbook picture reading *Homecoming Queen, Best Female Athlete, Most Likely to Succeed*, or all of the above.

Jeffry and Stephen were stuck in the early throes of sibling rivalry. The force of the blows they delivered to one another were startling, but then I grew up with four sisters. Both were always fastidiously dressed, with gelled hair and metro-sexual glasses. Stephen was a trip. Before I'd ask a question, his hand

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

was raised to give an answer – rarely the right one. If he wasn't speaking, I think he feared he would fade into anonymity. So, he spoke constantly, giving a running commentary on everything taking place. One weekend, during a youth lock-in, some older boys took off their pajama tops and made capes before chasing girls through the sanctuary. When Stephen found me, he was anxious to report that Sam was sporting a "fine pair of man boobs."

This leaves the Kuhn kids. After Lauren was born, Eric and Ellen had trouble conceiving again. Years later, with the help of a fertility drug, Ellen gave birth to triplets: Marissa, Bekah, and Kristin. Three years later, she gave birth to Kevin, and three years after that, to Cindy. Together, they were almost half of the Kid's Club.

Marissa was the most recognizable triplet. In time, she stood a head taller than her sisters. She was also the most self-conscious and independent. Over the

summer, she worked at a neighbor's stable, brushing horses and cleaning tack.

Only recently was I doing better than 50/50 in addressing Bekah and Kristin by their right names. Looking alike, they played the characters *Thing One* and *Thing Two* in Lauren's Junior High Musical — *Seussical the Musical*. Though they looked alike and were often inseparable, they began to form their separate identities as siblings do.

Kevin. What can I say? He's a good kid and a "pouter." I empathized with him (having all those girls in the family) but some day he'll have to cut the apron strings. Hopefully, it's before he graduates from seminary.

Needless to say, many a Sunday evening was spent on the couch recovering from the bedlam of the afternoon. But, with the exhaustion was the satisfaction that something important was taking place that I was privileged to be a part of.

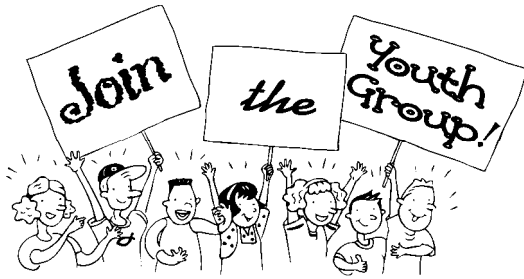
"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for such belongs to the kingdom of God."

- Matthew 19:14



"One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this: To rise above the little things."

—John Burroughs



Youth Group Meets Thursdays

From Pastor Dave McMillan,
Mark Villecco, and Danielle Pasquale

Youth Group, Grades 7-12, meets every other Thursday night from 6:30-8 pm. Our

next meeting is Thursday, January 19, in Memorial Hall. Bring a friend!



- 12 — Worship Committee 7pm
- 16 — Trustees 7pm
- 19 — Youth 6:30pm
- 21 — Church Council 9-11am
Breakfast at Pastor Dave's House
- 23 — Church Council 7pm
Book Club 7pm, *East of the Sun*, Julia Gregson
- 27 — Jr Youth Wii Game Night 6pm
- 29 — Fifth Sunday — Single Worship Service 10am,
Pot-luck Lunch to follow



- 2 — Youth 6:30pm
- 13 — Agape Noon
Finance 7pm
- 16 — Youth 6:30pm
- 20 — Trustees 7pm



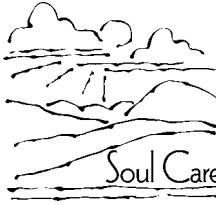
February



We extend our sympathy to the family of **John Frasso**, who passed away on January 2, and to the family of **Leon Weyandt**, who died on December 4. We offer condolences also to the **Gehman** family on the loss of **Jim's** father and to the **Ferree** family on the loss of **Jan's** sister. We will keep you all in our hearts and prayers.

Nurturing Our Spirits this New Year

From Pastor David McMillan



I recently stopped by to see **Mary Gundy**, who has just turned 91! I found Mary and her part-time caretaker, Sandy, rapt in deep

conversation. After reading a daily devotion, they were discussing the meaning of the “soul.” It reminded me of a story of my own.

When it became known in my home church that I was planning to go to seminary, Gerald Griffin, an elderly and kind widower, invited me to his home to give me some books of possible interest. Mr. Griffin had owned several newspapers in Philadelphia and its suburbs and had become a man of some means.

When I arrived at his home, he escorted me upstairs to a bedroom that he had converted into a library. Shelves of books lined the walls of the room. As he began to take down books and offer them to me, describing the contents of each, I remember feeling awed by the breadth of his knowledge.

Handing me a book on Greek philosophers, he shared that, through his reading and study, he had come to believe that the soul of a person resides somewhere in the throat. Unfortunately, immature and not looking up from the book to study his serious face, I began to laugh. His words

struck me as funny. I had never given much consideration of the soul, much less its resting place. Catching myself, it was too late. Though he remained gracious, changing the subject, I could see that I had injured him. This was my first introduction to the existence of the soul.

SOUL: 1: the immaterial essence, animating principle, or actuating cause of an individual life

2a : the spiritual principle embodied in human beings, all rational and spiritual beings, or the universe

3: a person's total self,

4a: an active or essential part *b* : a moving spirit,

5a : the moral and emotional nature of human beings *b* : the quality that arouses emotion and sentiment *c* : spiritual or moral force

– *Merriam Webster Dictionary*

▫ “The soul, in its highest sense, is a vast capacity for God. It sounds like a curious chamber added on to being, and somehow involving being, a chamber with elastic and contractile walls, which can be expanded, with God as its guest, illimitably, but which without God shrinks and shrivels until every vestige of the divine is gone.”

– Henry Drummond

(19th century scientist and evangelist)

▫ “Awake my soul!” – Psalm 108:1c

▫ “As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?” - Psalm 42:1,2

▫ “Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light”
- Matthew 11:28-30

▫ “Christ asks for a home in your soul,

where he can be at rest with you, where he can talk easily to you, where you and he, alone together, can laugh and be silent and be delighted with one another.”

- Caryll Houselander,
This War is the Passion

▫ “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all of your soul, and with all of your strength, and with all of your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” – Luke 10:27

Random Acts of Kindness Stories

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.



A Turnpike Improvement

I pull up to the toll booth on the PA turnpike, pay the toll, and, as I pocket the change with one hand, I use the other to give the toll taker three large, homemade chocolate chip cookies.

Smiling at him, I declare, “I know it’s a boring job — even with shift changes — so you deserve a special thank you. And I made the cookies myself.”

His jaw drops. His eyebrows go up, way up. He doubts both my sanity and my intentions. With one bite, however, he is grinning. A smug smile crosses my face as I drive off.

(Continued from page 1)

wouldn't miss it, and it could have been a bigger help. See if it doesn't stay with you, too. A new year is a fresh start. *I can do better.* My best to you in 2012.

Caught Doing Good

From Robert Schnase's Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations
Pgs. 113-4, *The Practice of Extravagant Generosity*

A downtown congregation in a moderately-sized community had occasional transients, homeless persons, and street people who would ask for handouts. Often street people would be found sleeping on the front steps. The staff developed rules, guidelines, and policies for how to help or how to refer those who asked for help. They had many discussions about the pros and cons of giving cash, vouchers, and addresses of other social agencies. One day's discussion took considerable staff time with few conclusions.

As the pastor was leaving the church later that afternoon, he noticed the part-time custodian carrying out the garbage to the large trash bin in the alley. There was a homeless person sprawled out beside the bin, looking barely conscious. As the custodian approached the trash bin, he set down the garbage bag he was carrying, reached into his pocket, pulled out his wallet, and removed a few dollar bills. Without having been asked, he walked over to the homeless



person and gave him the money, said something, then continued his work, and returned to the church.

The pastor was amazed and humbled by this extraordinary display of generosity. The part-time janitor who earned less than anyone else on staff gave generously without even being asked, while the staff had spent several hours trying to figure out policies and procedures.

The pastor asked the custodian why he gave the money without being asked and pressed him about whether he thought the homeless person might misuse the money for alcohol or drugs. "I always do that when I can," the janitor answered. "I give them a little money and say, 'God bless you,' because I figure that even though they may be pretty messed up, they are some mother's son, some father's child, and so I give them something. What they do with the money — well, they have to answer to God about that. I just have to answer to God about what I do with mine."



Lincoln Park's Bulletin



January 15
for our
February
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, Betsy & Allen Buchanan, Bunny Carlson, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, Elaine Meckes, Suzanne Romig, and Doris Schucker

♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the groceries donated to our food pantry. We're glad to have good friends who help us feed the hungry. Each donation adds to what we can offer our clients. May God bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace
Soup Kitchen/Pantry Manager
New Journey UMC

♥ Thank you, Lincoln Park UMC Church, for the beautiful flowers. They sure do brighten up a room.

Thanks, **Margaret Christ**

♥ Many thanks to Pastor Dave and members of our church for your prayers during **Todd's** hospitalization and our daughter's surgery.

Gloria Beamesderfer and Family

♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for your sweet cards and notes after my father's death. Your prayers and support have meant so much to us.

Cheri Fallon & Family

♥ The Villecco family would like to thank all who supported our first CD recording venture with a donation to LP's Opportunity House Supper Fund. \$145 was raised for the fund, from far and near, through the Christmas season. We enjoyed doing the project, hope all enjoyed the finished product, and feel good about helping others in the community at the same time. Anyone who may still want a CD can visit the Church Office or contact **Nancy Villecco**. For a download of the music, you can visit: store.villeccomedia.com

God's blessings to you in 2012!

♥ Dear LPCUMC Congregants,
Thank you so much for your prayers for my survival and recovery! After 47 days in TRHMC and now nurses and therapists twice a week at home, I am determined to get back in "working order." I am grateful for your concern and spiritual support. Blessings on each of you for those petitions on my behalf!

Your sister in Christ,
Arlene Unger, member, Pennside Presbyterian Church, and sister of **Sandi Rosencrans**

NEWS-LINC

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

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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

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Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39

Fax line 610-777-4309

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