

News-Line

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



**Begin your
Lenten
Journey with
Worship,
Feb 22, 7 pm**

Church Council Meets for Brunch & Planning

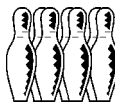
Please come Saturday, February 11, 9-11 am, for our rescheduled Church Council meeting at the parsonage. All chairpersons and members of council are invited to attend. Please RSVP to the Church Office, 610-777-1422, if you cannot attend.

Youth Plan Bowl-Down

From Pastor Dave McMillan

Calling all Youth, 6th-12th grades! Our Lincoln Park Youth Group is meeting for its annual ‘Bowl-Down’ on Friday night, February 17, 9-11 pm, at Berks Lanes. The cost is \$10, which includes: shoes, bowling, pizza, and drinks.

Prizes will be awarded! Bring a friend!



For more information, contact
Pastor Dave, 610-777-1422.



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Come & Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan

On the first Sunday of February, Pastor Larry Carl will ask us to consider who we are looking for in Jesus. On the 12th and 19th, we'll finish up our sermon series *Fear Not: Living Fearlessly in a Fear-full World*. On the 22nd, we'll gather on Ash Wednesday to worship and receive the imposition of ashes marking the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. Finally, on the 26th, we'll begin a new sermon series on the Lord's Prayer.

February 5 *Are You Looking for Something?*

The Rev. Larry Carl
Mark 1:29-39

February 12 *The Fear of Parenting*

Exodus 34:6,7

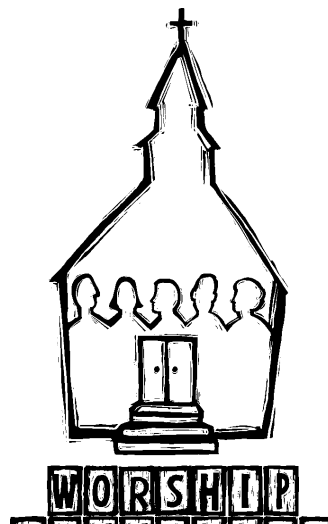
February 19 *The Fear of Growing Old*

John 3:1-8

February 22 **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, 7 PM**

February 26 *The Lord's Prayer:*

The Prayer of Connection
Matthew 6:9-13



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!



Lenten Supper Series Begins March 4

From Pastor David McMillan



Make sure to add this to your calendar! During March, we'll meet each Sunday evening, from 5:30-7:30 pm, for dinner followed by a study of Adam Hamilton's book *Final Words: From the Cross*. In this study, we'll reflect on and discuss Jesus' dying hours and his final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross.

This will be a great way for us to journey together through Lent, as we move toward Good Friday and the empty tomb.

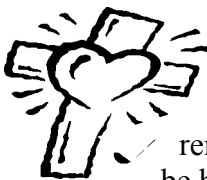
This Small Church Makes a Big Difference

Submitted by Nancy Villecco

by Jeff Japinga, from the *2011 Daily Guideposts* book for 8/21/11 (p.245)

This has to be one of the smallest churches I've ever worshipped in, I thought. There was room for 60 or 70 people in the pews, and plenty of good seats were still available among the smattering of people present. As I sat through the service... I found myself wondering about the future of this place. How does such a tiny congregation survive, let alone make a difference?

When the final hymn was over and benediction pronounced, I felt a tap on my shoulder. *You're the visitor from headquarters, aren't you?* a man said, extending a huge paw of a hand. At that time, I was working on the national staff of my denomination and was out this way on a visit. *Just wanted you to know, this church saved my life. Bunch of others, too. Don't let our size fool you.*



Whenever I find myself thinking that the world is too big, its problems too enormous, I remember that little church. It'll never be big, well-known or famous. But just like the rest of us, it's called by the One Who came from little, inconsequential Bethlehem; called to make a difference in this vast world by making a difference in its own place. And just like that little church, we're assured that no matter how big the problem and how small our resources may seem, we can accomplish important things.

How can I be so sure? I've seen it with my own eyes in the little church that saves lives.

*Never let us despair, oh Lord,
of your Gospel- humble in beginning,
humble in character,
yet able to change the world.*

From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor David McMillan

Lessons Learned

Odds and ends (or odds and sods), bits and bobs, this and that, bits and pieces are all used to mean random items. But it also has been used to mean in a state of disarray."

—Online, *The Phrase Finder*

I've often found myself in a state of wonder in the congregations I've served, amazed at the assortment of people who make up these communities of faith. In my mind, gratefully, amusingly, I liken them to "odds and ends" that comprise this body we call "The Church". Though a smallish congregation, Hibernia United Methodist Church had a double portion - repentants, eccentrics, blue collars, the unconvinced, and bleeding hearts.

FRED AND HIS WIFE MARY began attending Hibernia a few years after I arrived. One morning in adult Sunday school, Fred told of his wayward past, of his stint in the Navy in Japan, where he semi-consciously acquired tattoos, a failed marriage, prodigal children, a failed business, and several DUI's. The threat of losing his license (and his life) finally got his attention. Fred made a complete 360: He stopped drinking and started exercising to get his blood sugar under control. He took up golf and play

ing the guitar, and came back to church. Now he sings in the choir (at least that's what he calls it), teaches Sunday School, and leads the United Methodist Men. He humbly counts himself among the Redeemed.

BILL AND MARY lived right up the road from me in a home dating back to the mid-1800's. Not much has changed. They continue to heat their home with an open fireplace in their living room. Now in their late 70's, Bill keeps chickens in a barn in the backyard with a roof that looks like it could give way any minute.

The first time I met Mary, she was laying on the couch in their sparsely furnished living room watching Pat Robertson prophesying about Armageddon and the end of the world. "Preacher," she said to me with a look of concern, "It could be anytime soon." She was also particularly concerned with the unborn and believed it a litmus test for Believers and Unbelievers.

Bill was a tall, thin, likeable man, with a thick shock of white hair on top of his head. He was also a homemade wine maker. He led me down a narrow stairway to his unfinished basement where there were several five-gallon plastic jugs still fermenting. Taking a grocery bag, he wrapped several bottles in newspaper and

filled the bag. They were holdovers from the previous year: dandelion, elderberry, mint, honey, strawberry, and grape wine. Handing me the bag, he said, "That should keep you. Bring those bottles back and I'll give you more." I still have his empty bottles in my garage. Someday, I intend to return them.

BUTCH AND HIS WIFE PEETIE began attending Hibernia when their grandsons came to live with them. Peetie had delivered mail on a rural route for many years but had to give it up due to carpal tunnel syndrome. Butch drove a tractor trailer cross country for a good part of his adult life, but became tired of being away from home. He now drives a cement truck out of Kennett Square. Sporting a good 260 pounds, mostly around his waist, Butch is a closet smoker who talks and laughs in a low, hoarse voice. He has an infectious and endearing laugh. He was the President of the Trustees and I've watched him out my office window cutting up and loading downed trees into his pick-up truck, stopping every now and then to pace himself and catch his breath. Delegating work is not his strong suit.

HENRY has a PhD in statistics. He taught college for several years, before working

in the pharmaceutical industry. He and his wife Joanne came to Hibernia a few years before I left. Gracious folks, they invited me to their home, not long after they started visiting, for a meal on their back porch.

Henry has a mind like an iron trap. It became evident that there was nothing in life he took too lightly. He's given considerable thought to just about all the larger questions of life, reading such theologians as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, G.K. Chesterton, and Pope Benedict XVI. When he taught adult Sunday school, we knew we were in for a wild ride with probing questions and peculiar insights. And can Henry pray — I mean really pray — and preach for that matter. Still, like many of us who are irrepressibly drawn to wrestle with God and life, who carry our insecurities on our sleeve, trust does not come easily.

LYNDA was one of our two lay leaders when I arrived at Hibernia. It was clear to me early on that she liked to run a tight ship. It was discovered that some dishes that had been donated by a certain church benefactor (that had sat around taking up space for several years) were now missing. It caused a

(Continued on page 8)



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p><i>“Being time is something we all need for our spiritual health, and often we don’t take enough of it.” —Madeleine L’Engle</i></p>			1
<p>5</p> <p>Guest Preacher: The Rev. Larry Carl</p>	6	7	8 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir
<p>12</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Agape Noon Finance 7pm</p> <p><i>News-Line Deadline</i></p>	<p>14</p> 	15 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir
<p>19</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>Trustees 7pm</p> <p>Presidents’ Day</p>	21	22 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7PM
26	<p>27</p> <p>Book Club 7pm</p>	28	29 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir

ry 2012

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2 Craft Group 1pm Youth Group 6:30pm Praise Band 8pm	3	3
5:30pm Choir 7:30pm	9 Praise Band 8pm	10	11 Church Council Brunch/Planning Session 9-11am, Parsonage
5:30pm Choir 7:30pm	16 Craft Group 1pm Praise Band 8pm	17 9-11pm YOUTH GROUP BOWL- DOWN	18
TUESDAY PM	23 Praise Band 8pm	24	25
5:30pm Choir 7:30pm			

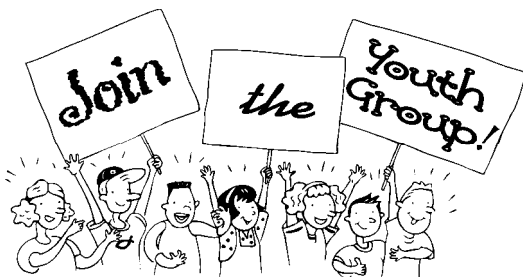
(Continued from page 5)

stir among some of the older women. Sometime later she confided in me that she had quietly sold them during our Country Fair: a secret we keep to this day.

Lynda had little tolerance for clutter or disorder. Except for some territorial disputes with our Church Treasurer over the use of her desk and computer, she became the perfect Church Secretary. Working only 12 hours a week, she administrated our little church with precision and passion. I say “passion,” but I had an insider’s view. To the outside world, even to some members, she projects a tough exterior, a defense she learned to survive in childhood. Underneath, she is a bleeding heart.

Lynda makes it her responsibility to care for the weak and defenseless whether it was keeping the church birdfeeder full, chewing out a few husbands in the church who were unkind to their wives, or taking veterans from Coatesville Hospital under her wings. For eight or nine years, after spending early Sunday mornings on a nearby lake kayaking, she’d race into Coatesville to make sure these men could attend Sunday school and church. It’s a ministry she continues to this day.

Odds and ends, sometimes appearing in a *state of disarray*, yet bound together into one body and one Spirit, ... “Having one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” – Ephesians 4:4,5



Youth Group Meets Thursdays

From Pastor Dave McMillan,
Mark Villecco, and Danielle Pasquale
Youth Group, Grades 7-12, usually meets
every other Thursday night from 6:30-8

pm. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 2, in Memorial Hall. Bring a friend! Our regularly scheduled meeting for February 16 will be cancelled due to the **YOUTH BOWL-DOWN** on February 17. See p. 1 for details. We hope you’ll join us!

2011 Year End Budget Summary

From The Finance Committee

TOTAL INCOME: \$305,103.63 (97% of budgeted \$315,545)
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$301,398.24 (95% of budgeted \$316,040)
DIFFERENCE: \$3,705.39

2012 Budget

From the Finance Committee

TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME: \$300,454.80
TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES: \$300,454.80



BUILDING FUND 2012

The Finance Committee voted on January 9, to continue to deposit all BUILDING FUND donations (12 special offering envelopes, designated with PURPLE LINES, at the bottom in the offering packets) to the Trustees designated fund for Major Repair Reserve. Please feel free to contact **Bill Chadwick**, 610-927-2207, with questions or concerns.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2012

From The Finance Committee

There are still personalized offering envelope packets in the Wagner Room ready to be picked up. If you have not received your envelopes, please contact the office if you're not available to pick them up on Sunday morning.

Also, please pay attention to the envelopes in the packet to make sure your contributions are credited to the proper account. There is a BUDGET envelope (NO COLORED LINES) for each week in the packet, but there are other envelopes certain weeks to allow additional contributions (outside of your pledge or budget giving) that go to MISSIONS (BLUE LINES - 6 times a year), BUILDING FUND (PURPLE LINES - 12 times a year), ENDOWMENT (RED LINES - 2 times a year) and LENT (GREEN LINES - 1 time a year).

If you don't use the personalized offering packets, please designate your intentions for your donation on the check and/or envelope you place the check into. This will help our tellers make proper deposits and save the bookkeeper and financial secretaries from making changes at a later date if an error is found.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Linda Hope**, 610-670-9731.

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.



The Visitors

My doorbell rings and, to retain my clear, Christian conscience, I answer it, knowing that I'm *not* a candidate for conversion to the religion for which my callers are proselytizing. Still, I'm determined to support them in some way.

I open the door and summer heat and humidity pour in. Smiling, I politely state my religious position early on to save us all time and trouble.

"Nevertheless," I declare, "I respect your commitment. It takes courage

and conviction to ring the doorbells of total strangers, many of whom may be unwelcoming." My callers nod affirmatively. "It's beastly weather today, and you could probably use a cold drink."

With a wave of my hand, I invite them in. Two ice-cold lemonades and a bathroom visit later, they left refreshed and smiling, but not entirely sure, I think, of what actually took place. But I was. (And yes, I *did* read the literature they left.

Birth



Congratulations to Sonja and **Andrew Fallon** on the birth of their son, Finn Edward, on January 19. Finn weighed 7 lbs, was 19 1/2 inches long, and lives with his happy parents in Washington DC. He is the grandson of **Cheri** and **Ed Fallon**.



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



February 13
for our
March issue

From our mailbox



News-Linc, monthly publication of Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church, hopes to link you to your church with information about its programs, plans, and people. Your comments and suggestions are welcome and may be left in the newsletter mailbox by the church office.

Our staff-

Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678-8735

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

♥ Our deepest thanks for the communications, cards, visits, gifts, flowers and especially for the prayers offered by so many of our congregation. **Roe's** recovery is an evident example of the power of positive thoughts and prayers.

It was always a welcoming joy when Pastor Dave came to visit at St. Joseph's and the Reading South Rehab.

An additional thank you for the cards and prayers from so many of you upon the passing of **Jim's** Dad.

We are anxiously looking forward to 2012 with renewed faith and energy. Best wishes for a new year filled with great health, much happiness and many blessings.

Roe and Jim Gehman

♥ Dear LPCUMC Congregation,
Thank you for your generous donation of food, time, and energy in December to the Mifflin Community Food Ministry. We greatly appreciate your help. On December 17 we served more than 90 families and helped them get

ready for Christmas. We have served well over 2000 people throughout the year.

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

May you have a blessed 2012!

Sincerely yours,

Janet C. Reese, Secretary

Book Club Meets Monday, February 27, 7pm

From Jane Reitz

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

Selection: *Heaven Is for Real*
by Todd Burpo

We'll meet again March 26 to discuss Jodi Picoult's new novel, *Sing You Home*.

All are welcome!

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

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.

Pastor: David McMillan, 610-670-1022
Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-603-0150
Worship Leader: Julie Stites
Secretary: Marilyn Seiders
Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735
cherifallon@comcast.net
Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Robyn Harris