

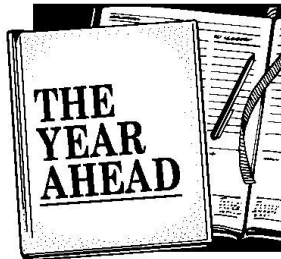
News=Line

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

LP Church Council Sets Goals for 2012

From Pastor David McMillan

At our first Church Council meeting in 2012, new initiatives for the year were offered and discussed. Some initiatives were in response to the United Methodist Bishop's *Call to Action*.



- number of small group participants
- number of participants involved in missions, and

(Continued on page 13)

Men Invited for Breakfast at the Parsonage

From Pastor Dave McMillan

On March 10, 8-10 am, I'll host a Men's Breakfast at the parsonage, 50 East Court Boulevard, in West Lawn.

Following our meal, I'll lead a discussion on fathers and sons, particularly the importance of passing on a meaningful legacy from one generation to the next. To facilitate discussion, I'll draw from readings of author and farmer, Wendell Berry, and poet Robert Bly.

I hope you'll consider joining me for food, fellowship, and fun. For more information, call me at the Church Office, 610-777-1422.

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Come & Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan

During **March**, we continue our sermon series on *The Lord's Prayer*. Watching Jesus return from a private time of prayer, His disciples ask, "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1-4)

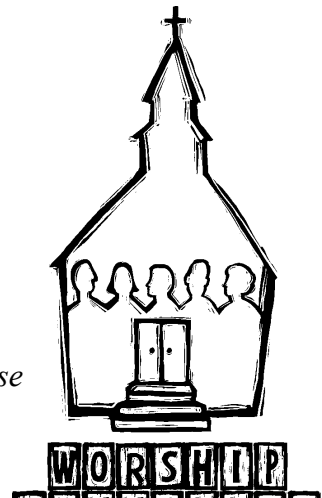
The Lord's Prayer is the best-known and most-loved prayer in the Christian Church. Many Christians pray it daily, but what does it mean? Together, we continue our study of Jesus' prayer and learn to make it our own as we seek to become more and more like Him.

March 4 *The Lord's Prayer:*
The Prayer of Surrender
Matthew 6:10

March 11 *The Lord's Prayer:*
The Prayer of Dependence
Matthew 6:11

March 18 *The Lord's Prayer:*
The Prayer of Forgiveness and Release
Matthew 6:12

March 25 *The Lord's Prayer:*
The Prayer of Deliverance
Matthew 6:13



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!

Special March Concerts Offered at LP

From Beverly Perella



Friday, March 9, at 7:30 pm

MANE MEN AND ALBRIGHT ANGELS

These a cappella groups from Albright College will begin their spring concert series here at Lincoln Park. If you need a ride, do not hesitate to call or see me.

Sunday, March 18, 3 pm

ANNUAL READING PHILHARMONIC CONCERT

An offering will be received at both concerts with the proceeds divided between the groups and our church.

Can You Help Bring Music to Our Church?

From Beverly Perella

Summer's around the corner, and with it the beginning of our *Summer Mini-Concert Series*. Our coffers are lower than usual. If you'd like to contribute, please designate cash or a check for the *Concert Fund*. Music is truly a great gift from God.

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.



From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor David McMillan

Lessons Learned

Surely the Lord Was In This Place – Genesis 28:16

Life always occurs in place. "Surely the Lord was in this place, and I did not know it." Get to know this place.

-A Memoir: The Pastor – Every Step an Arrival, Eugene Peterson

Hibernia is the Latin name for the island of Ireland. The original meaning of the name is thought to be "abundant land."

–Wikipedia

For 11 years I lived in an old farmhouse on top of a knoll, between the east and west branches of the Brandywine Creek, in what was once a rural community known as Hibernia. The large, four bedroom parsonage was located next door to the church, separated by a tall line of red cedar, pine, and a large forsythia bush which I purposely neglected to trim in order to block the line of sight between the church and my back door. A pastor needs some mystery.

The original stone home was built in the mid-1800's with one great room downstairs, fireplace, deep windowsills, and three small bedrooms upstairs. Over the years, the house settled at a slight pitch toward the south. I could set a marble down at the northern end of the upstairs hallway, and with a touch, it would quickly gain momentum before bouncing

off the wall of my bedroom at the southern end. After a long day, I was grateful for the help to bed.

On the property sat a detached garage - an apartment complex for squirrels and field mice in winter. It was in that garage that I performed my first miracle, resurrecting a tiny wren that had flown headlong into the cinder block wall. There were also the remains of an old pig shed, overgrown with briars and multi-flora roses, where I threw scraps of lumber. There was also the memory of an out-house: There Vivian Ireland, now 92, recalls her girlish self poking old Mrs. Smith with a stick in the behind through a crack in the boards, and then running away with her girlfriends filled with delight.

The parsonage and new church sit on 24 acres of ground east of Hibernia Road that the church had bought, with help from the Conference, in 1968. Behind the church and parsonage stood 20 acres of locust, pin oak, and black cherry that we select-harvested to pay for a new church roof and later replanted with the hope of another future yield. Across the street from the parsonage and New Church, on the west side of the road is the Old Church, built in 1842, and cemetery hal-

lowed by saints who had gone on before. Among the graves were the remains of Revolutionary and Civil War Veterans and Herbert Brooks, the proprietor of the Brandywine Iron Works, who built the Old Church for his employees. Local history has it that he was the only Iron Works Master along the West Brandywine Creek who shut down his furnaces on a Sunday, at a financial loss, for the spiritual well-being of his men and their families.

Plots were still available along the borders of the cemetery, and I performed more than a handful of graveside services there over my 12 years. They always seemed to occur after a heavy rain or snowfall, leaving us searching for sure footing on muddy, uneven ground as we commended a loved one to God and their body to its resting place. In the fall, while the trustees raked leaves into the woods, each of us seemed mindful of the names engraved on the headstones and the families they represented. It became for us a kind of sacrament as we recalled the great membership of the living and the dead.

While my most meaningful moments were spent in the small sanctuary on Sunday mornings or after church at our monthly potluck, my sometimes questionable grip on sanity was maintained by my daily

walks or runs through Hibernia County Park. Across the street from home and passing through the old church cemetery there is a steep rocky path which leads into the 1,000 acre park. At the end of this path is an old railroad bed

that stretches out for two miles along the West Brandywine Creek, which once ran between Coatesville and Reading. Through all seasons — either with Summer, my yellow lab, with a friend, with Hannah, or on my own — I sought the solace of this place.

Along that trail in early spring — before trees were in blossom — unfolding

ferns, flowering hepatica, and skunk cabbage gave me hope of warmer days ahead. As spring turned to summer, there would be jack-in-the-pulpit, may apples, flowering mountain laurel, red chokeberries, beds of wild petunias and geraniums, jewel weed, and thickets of black raspberries. Early in the morning, as the sun was piercing through the forest canopy, I was surprised by deer, pools of spring peepers and rising trout, box and snapping turtles, palliated woodpeckers, an occasional toad and black snake, and thousands upon thousands of six-inch long centipedes that carpeted the trail, keeping you hopping for fear of taking the life of a reincarnat-

Put off thy shoes
from off thy feet,
for the
place
whereon
thou
standest is
holy ground.



E x o d u s 3 : 5

(Continued on page 12)

Random Acts of Kindness Stories

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.



Easy Magic

From Sandi Rosencrans

It's 2009 and I'm in the Giant off State Hill Road, sizing up the length of check-out lines when I'm surprised to see a new male cashier who's obviously a Sikh.*

He appears a living, breathing, exotic page out of Rudyard Kipling. He looks to be in his 20's, and, despite the black beard, moustache, and neatly wound turban, his striking features are easily discernible. There's no one in his line, so he's the cashier I choose. Unlike his peers who have names on their tags, his name tag merely announces *KP*.

"I see only *KP* on your name tag, so may I ask what your name is?"

Moving my groceries with expert efficiency, he rolls two melons toward the

bagger, while maintaining eye contact with the conveyor belt and register, and replies with an absence of any foreign accent.

"You won't get it, that's why I use initials. Americans can't pronounce it."

"I'm American and you sound American to me," I retort. "Just try me!"

Still hustling the job along, he offers his comeback: "Yeah, and I'm Kerararan Prangkarenasett." **

I promptly repeat it back to him three times to insure I have the pronunciation correct. He pauses his cashiering and for the first time looks me straight in the eye.

"Hey, you got it right away!"

"Of course, and I'll remember it."

(Continued on page 14)

* Sikhism is the doctrine and practice of a monotheistic Hindu religious sect founded in the 16th century.

** Not his real name, but one equally difficult.

Prepare Your Fleas for the March to Church

From Beverly Perella

If you've been hibernating this winter, here's something to think about:

OUR ANNUAL LP CHURCH FLEA MARKET!

This important fundraiser for our church is a massive sale and a time for fellowship with other volunteers, working together to produce a fun and delicious event.

So here's how you can help:

- ☀ Mark your calendar for **SATURDAY, MAY 19.**
- ☀ Clean out your closets, basements, and attics. Set aside the fleas (items appropriate for sale, in good condition and working order) so you can march them to church in the beginning of May.



- ☀ Gather your women's clothing and place these clean items on hangers, ready for May.

(Note: We're selling *only ladies' clothes* this year.)

- ☀ Consider what you might donate for the Silent Auction that's become a big part of our Flea Market. This includes your crafts, paintings, treasures, talents, services. We hope to come up with some new offerings this year.
- ☀ Be prepared to volunteer. It's a fun day for those working, and the preparations and cleanup, too, offer opportunities for getting to know church members better.

Men's Night Out

From Todd
Beamesderfer

Join us at
The Peanut Bar
MONDAY
MARCH 5
6 PM



Time to Order Your Easter Flowers

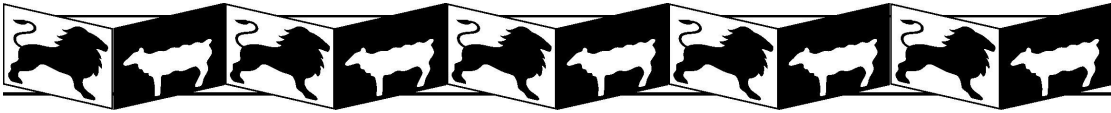
Please order lilies, tulips, or daffodils to beautify our church for Easter. Plants are \$7 each. Order forms are available in the Sunday bulletins or from the Church Office.



Please place your forms, with check or cash, in the basket in the Wagner Room, by **March 9.** Questions? Call **Betsy Buchanan**, 610.777.2501.



March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
 <p>“Some cause happiness wherever they go.” —Oscar Wilde</p>			
<p>4</p> <p>Lenten Supper Series 5:30-7:30pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>OPPORTUNITY HOUSE SUPPER</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Lenten Supper Series 5:30-7:30pm YOUTH WII OLYMPICS 3-5pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Finance 7pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00</p>
<p>18 READING PHILHARMONIC CONCERT 3PM </p> <p>Lenten Supper Series 5:30-7:30pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Trustees 7pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Lenten Supper Series 5:30-7:30pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Church Council 7pm Book Club 7pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir 7:00</p>



ed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Youth Group 6:30pm Praise Band 8pm	2	3
30pm r 7:30pm	8 Craft Group 1pm Praise Band 8pm	9 Concert: Mane Men & Albright Angels 7:30pm Deadline: Easter Flowers	10 MEN'S BREAKFAST Parsonage 8-10am
30pm r 7:30pm	15 Praise Band 8pm	16	17 
30pm r 7:30pm	22 Craft Group 1pm Praise Band 8pm	23 	24 LADIES' NIGHT 5:30PM
30pm r 7:30pm	29 Youth Group 6:30pm Praise Band 8pm	30 April 1 Palm Sunday April 8 Easter Sunday April 9 Finance 7pm April 13 Camp Peace Works 7:30-5pm April 16 Trustees 7pm April 23 Book Club 7pm	

A Path to Simplicity

Submitted by Nancy Villecco

by Roberta Messner, from the *2011 Daily Guideposts* book for 9/1/11 (p.257)

I'd recently replaced my



laptop computer, and my old one was on the kitchen table. "I can sell it at my yard sale," I decided.

That afternoon, the computer store sent a technician to train me on my new lap-

top. Jake was a friendly guy, and soon we were laughing over our common struggles with attention deficit disorder. "Forget this instruction book," he said with a grin as he tossed it on the sofa. "Get me a sheet of paper, and I'll work you up the cheat sheet of all cheat sheets."

Just then, Jake spotted my old laptop. "Are you selling it?" he asked.

Giving Freely

Jake's wife, a stay-at-home mom, was an aspiring writer. If she had a laptop, she could write close by while their three small kids played or napped.

I tore a piece of paper for Jake from the notebook I'd unearthed that morning while working in the attic. It held snapshots of my first apartment. The picture of the copper-toned kitchen stove took me back 30 years. A physician who made rounds on the floor where I worked as a new nurse had heard that I needed a stove. He barely knew me, but he offered the nearly new stove as if I were his sister. "Why are you giving it away when you could sell it?" I asked incredulously.

"Why sell it when I can give it away?" he answered.

All at once I knew: I had a computer to give away. And, I knew just the technician who could refurbish it.



We extend our love and sympathy to the family of **Ira Mohler**, who passed away on February 24, at 101 years of age. Ira was a long-time member of Lincoln Park Church.

From Beverly Perella

It only takes a spark to get a fire going. That's how it is with God's love: Once you experience it; you want to pass it on. That's exactly what we're doing here at LP, more often than you might know.

We'd like to CELEBRATE monthly how we're passing along God's love. If you have a new celebration, let **Pastor Dave, Cheri Fallon, or Bev Perella** know about it, and we'll publish it in the next issue of *News-Linc*.

Here are some celebrations for February:

- ☺ *Hearts for Haiti*, a candy sale spearheaded by 8-year-old **Claire Chelius**, was held on February 12. Because of Claire and her sale, \$221 will be sent to Haiti via UMCOR (United Methodist Council for Relief). Claire and her assistants have raised more than \$750 for Haiti in the past three years.
- ☺ At their February meeting, the AGAPE women collected \$150 for the Clothes Closet at New Journeys UM Church, on S. 6th Street, by having a White Elephant auction.
- ☺ Members of our congregation have been donating clothes, blankets, sheets, and towels weekly to the Clothes Closet at New Journeys. This clothing give-away operates every Friday to assist the poor of Read-



ing. The donations grow larger every week!

- ☺ At Children's Time during Contemporary Worship, the children decorated wooden hearts and placed them in hand-made Valentine's cards which were distributed to 17 shut-in members of our congregation.
- ☺ The Villecco family raised \$155 for the Soup Kitchen at Opportunity House by recording and selling a CD of contemporary music. The *Villecco Family Singers* raised more money singing at a church where an offering of \$350 was received.

These celebrations of God's work add to our regular activities of cooking and sharing Stone Soup, preparing and serving meals at Opportunity House, tutoring at Opportunity House, and serving at the Soup Kitchen at New Journeys Church. Individually, in small groups, or collectively we are about our Father's business of *Seeking and Sharing*.

(Continued from page 5)
ed Buddhist monk.

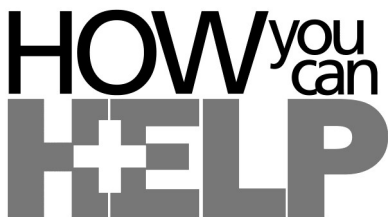
With fall and winter came changes in flora and fauna; the turning and falling of leaves and stark silhouettes of winter often mirrored my changing spiritual disposition. Still, there were moments in my walks and runs when I could not imagine anything in heaven being more beautiful.

In his memoir, Pastor Eugene Peterson

writes, “Place gathers stories, relationships, memories.” Hibernia, that “abundant land” between the two Brandywines, will always be holy ground for me. By the grace of God, I came to know that place. There, amidst my family and church life, in that place, I became aware of the presence of God. The One “in whom,” writes the Apostle Paul, “we live and move and have our being.”

Gifts to Opportunity House Can Be Doubled

From Nancy Villecco



A yearly challenge grant from the Alan Feinstein Foundation invites us to donate to Opportunity House March 1 through April 30 for TWICE the benefit to this organization.

Opportunity House is a service organization aimed at improving the lives of children and adults who are unable to live independently. Its primary goal is to promote self-sufficiency for its clients.

Services include a Learning Center; emergency, transitional, or permanent housing; and a center for abused children. Lincoln Park Church regularly supports Opportunity House, one way being our bi-monthly dinners, prepared and served by our members for the clients there.

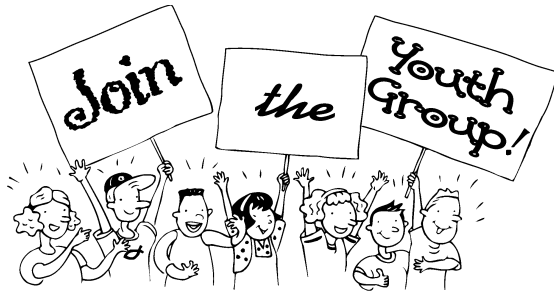
Please send your donation to: Opportunity House

430 N. Second St.

Reading, PA 19601

For more information, please visit: www.feinsteinfoundation.org.

**Lincoln Park will serve dinner at Opportunity House
March 6. You're invited to help!**



Youth Group Meets Thursdays

From Pastor Dave McMillan

On Sunday, March 11, from 3-5 pm,
we'll gather in Memorial Hall for our

ANNUAL WII OLYMPICS.

This event is for Grades 6-12. Make
sure to bring a friend!

During March, the regular Youth Group, Grades 7 and up, will meet on Thursdays,
March 1 and 29, from 6:30 – 8 pm, in Pastor Dave's office.

(Continued from page 1)

- amount of money given to missions.

Our new initiatives for 2012 include:

- † Entering into a covenant relationship with a sister church in the city of Reading, namely New Journey United Methodist Church, at 138 South 6th Street. Partnering with New Journey will enrich both congregations as we reach out in ministry with the poor.
- † *Twos and Threes* is a **small group ministry** we plan to begin following Easter. These small groups will gather around common interests and the Scriptures, providing more personal opportunities to nurture our love for

God and one another.

- † Church growth studies reveal that most people choose to receive and follow Christ between ages 13 and 21. Once that window is past, the percentage of folks who come to Christ and follow is far less. For this reason, we are recommitting ourselves to our ministries to our children and youth.

These are some of the goals our Council has committed to in the coming year. Please pray about how you can help to see these hopes and goals become a reality as together we live “to seek and share Christ.” For more information, talk with **Jack Villecco**, Council Chair, or **Pastor Dave**.

Here's How You Can Help LP Church: It's Easy

We've made it easier for you to support Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church. We registered with GoodSearch.com, a company that helps non-profits like ours raise funds.

Here's how you can help:

- Use GoodSearch when you search the internet – they'll donate a penny to us every time you do.
- Use GoodShop.com when you shop online – they work with more than 2,500 major brands, have over 100,000 coupons, and donate a percentage of



every purchase you make to us.

- Enroll in GoodDining.com. They'll donate up to 6% of every dollar you spend when you eat at one of 10,000 participating restaurants.

Please join our community on GoodSearch.com and help us raise money for our mission. Get started by clicking the "Become a Supporter" button on our profile page at <http://www.goodsearch.com/nonprofit/lincoln-park-community-united-methodist-church-lpcumc.aspx>!

(Continued from page 6)

I get back to my car and record the phonetic spelling of his name and immediately start practicing aloud. From that moment on, I always seek his cashier line and greet him confidently with, "Hi, Kerararan Prangkarenasset, how's it going?"

He soon starts smiling when he sees me coming. I learn he was born and raised in Brooklyn, and his family moved to Berks County to escape big city stress. He's scheduled to start law school at Penn in the fall.

After six weeks I no longer see him. One day when I'm attending a World Affairs Council luncheon program at the Inn of Reading, he comes up to me grinning a big hello and says "It's you!"

"Yes, Kerararan Prangkarenasett, it's me. How's law school going?"

He sits down and tells me. We break bread together. We discuss the luncheon speaker. And I'm so glad I'd practiced and remembered his name without prompting or reverting to *KP*.

As we shake hands before heading our separate ways, he asks with a twinkle in his Sikh eye, "Just *exactly* what kind of American are you?"

"The kind that cares," I reply.

As you already know, the principle of this true story is not news to Pastor Dave, who clearly practices the magic that lives and grows by learning, knowing, and car-



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*March 12
for our
April issue*

From our mailbox



- ♥ I want to thank everyone for the prayers, calls, kind words, and cards that I received when my sister passed away. These expressions of kindness meant so much to me. I do appreciate them all and am thankful to be a member of such a caring, loving church family.

Sincerely, Janet Ferree

- ♥ Dear Members and Friends of LPCUMChurch,

We wish to express our deep appreciation for your cards, visits, words of comfort and caring, and prayers following the death of Betty's brother, Leslie.

Each has brought comfort and support to us during this time of sadness.

Sincerely,
Eugene & Betty Frederickson

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

- ♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the groceries and money donated to our food pantry. We're glad to have good friends who help us feed the hungry. May God bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace
Soup Kitchen/Pantry Manager
New Journey UMC

Book Club Meets

Monday, March 26, 7pm

From Jane Reitz

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

Wyomissing

Selection: *Sing You Home*
by Jodi Picoult

All are welcome!



**"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again,
but expecting different results."**

—Albert Einstein

NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

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Reading, PA

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

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