



---

*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter*  
*Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania* *July/August 2012*

---

## ***Sistering with New Journey UMC***

From Pastor David McMillan

*When* I was an associate pastor at Lincoln Park, from 1989-1995, the Rev. Gil Rendle and his family were attending here. Gil, who was doing church consulting work at the time, had once been the pastor at what was then Central Park United Methodist Church, at 138 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St., in Reading.

Aware of the growing poverty surrounding Central Park, Gil was instrumental in starting the Soup Kitchen. From the beginning, Lincoln Park sent volunteer teams into the city to make and serve lunch to the poor.

### **Inside this issue**

Worship	p. 2
From Pastor McMillan	p. 4
Summer Mini-Concerts	p. 9
Golf Outing	p. 8
Sanctuary Renovations	p. 6
Random Acts of Kdns	p.12
Graduates	p.13

Since the mid-90's the neighborhood surrounding what is now New Journey United Methodist Church has continued to decline. Last year, the Soup Kitchen served a record 20,000 meals to hungry men, women, and children. Aware of this growing need, I brought to our Administrative Council the idea of becoming a *sister church* with New Journey in ministry.

New Journey UMC is now an English and Spanish speaking congregation. Besides the Soup Kitchen, they house a clothing ministry, Boys and Girls Club, and an English Language Summer Camp. To give their neighbors a *hand-up* as well as a *hand-out*, they'd like to start English as a Second Language Classes, Life Skills Classes, and a Mentoring or After School Tutoring Program.

While they have the will, they unfortunately lack some volunteers and

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Come & Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan



We have an exciting calendar planned for summer worship. On Sunday, July 1, we'll gather for one service at 10 am to give thanks for the birth of our nation and the freedoms we enjoy, especially our freedom to worship God as we choose. Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Anita Powell, District Superintendent of the Central District. Dr. Powell is a gracious, gifted speaker with a heart for God and all of God's people. Member **Debbie Pyle** and her piano students will share some special music.

On Sunday, July 8, I'll begin a sermon series on the Apostle Paul's Letter to the Church in Galatia. My series is entitled *Traveling Light* after Eugene Peterson's book of the same name, *Traveling Light: Modern Meditations on St. Paul's Letter of Freedom*. Often fearful and defensive, many Christians never know or experience the depth of freedom God makes available to those who choose to live by faith in Christ. The Apostle Paul helps us throw off all that encumbers us, to live lives that are truly set free, and then, "to stand fast."



In July and August, we'll have three additional guest preachers. On Sunday, July 29, our Lay Leader **Earl Hope** will preach on *Matters of the Heart*. On the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 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!



(Continued from page 2)

5<sup>th</sup> of August, the Rev. Steve Belinski, Lutheran Pastor and Chairman of the Reading Housing Authority, will share the morning message. On Sunday, August 26, the Rev. Alicia Julia-Stanley, pastor of New Journey United Methodist Church in Reading, will be our guest preacher.

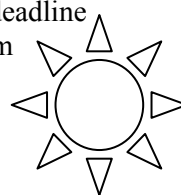
- July 1            *Freedom Celebration* – The Rev. Dr. Anita Powell, District Superintendent of The Central District with **Debbie Pyle** and students (**one service at 10 am**)
- July 8            *Traveling Light: Free to Live*– Galatians 1:1-5
- July 15           *Traveling Light: Free to Explore* – Galatians 2:11-21
- July 22           *Traveling Light: Free to Receive* – Galatians 3:28-4:11
- July 29           *Matters of the Heart* – **Earl Hope**, Lay Leader
- August 5           Guest Preacher – The Rev. Steve Belinski
- August 12        *Traveling Light: Free to Love* – Galatians 5:13-21
- August 19        *Traveling Light: Free to Create* – Galatians 5:22-6:5
- August 26        Pulpit Exchange – The Rev. Alicia Julia-Stanley, New Journey United Methodist Church



---

### Coming Up this Summer

- |               |   |                 |                           |
|---------------|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>JULY 1</b> | The Rev. Dr. Anita Powell will preach. One 10am service | <b>AUGUST 6</b> | Church Council 7pm        |
| 9             | Finance 7pm   | 13              | Finance 7pm               |
| 12            | Worship 7pm   | 15              | <i>News-Linc</i> deadline |
| 16            | Trustees 7pm  | 20              | Trustees 7pm              |
| 22            | Golf Outing 2pm   |                 |                           |
| 29            | One 10am service  |                 |                           |
|               | <b>Earl Hope</b> will preach                            |                 |                           |



# From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor David McMillan

## Speaking Christian

Continuing my series on *Speaking Christian*, I'd like us to consider the word *salvation*. It's a big word for Christians; we use it to describe the ultimate aim or purpose of the Christian life. But *salvation* is also a loaded word, saddled with nuances and prejudices.

In 1995, after my first six years as associate pastor at Lincoln Park, I was appointed to Boehm's United Methodist Church in southern Lancaster County. On the grounds of the property stands Boehm's Chapel, the second oldest Methodist meeting place (1791) in the country. The chapel was built at the tail end of the Second Great Spiritual Awakening that swept across our young nation.

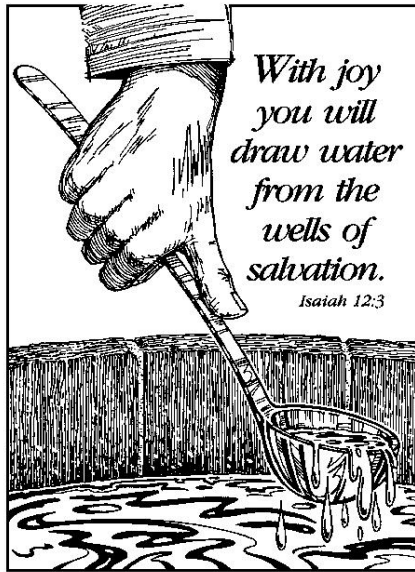
In the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, following the Civil War, another spiritual awakening of sorts took place, known as the *Holiness Movement*. Moved, in part, by a sense of national grief and renewed hopefulness, people traveled to large campgrounds to hear impassioned preachers call sinners to repentance and

faith in Christ and exhort them to flee from the wrath to come. One such Methodist campground, which was permanently established in southern Lancaster County in 1886, was the Rawlinsville Camp Meeting.

It was quickly brought to my attention that, as the new pastor of Boehm's UMC, my attendance was expected at the revivals held at the Campground every Saturday night. Before every revival, many pastors from 16 local

Methodist churches gathered to pray for the winning of souls and to be instructed on how we were to counsel the "repentant" who came forward during the evening altar call.

One evening, an ex-professional baseball player turned evangelist was our guest preacher. His name and story had been publicized for weeks, and everyone expected a big turnout. After 15 or 20 minutes of a gospel hymn sing, the evangelist stood in the pulpit and began to tell his story of having been the prodigal son and how he had finally "come to his



senses” and returned home to his father’s house.

After about a half hour of his personal testimony, he began to make his impassioned plea to all other prodigals seated in the amphitheater to “come to their senses” and return home by making their way down to the altar rail. But, lo and behold, no one budged. Visibly panicked, he gave a second impassioned plea, tinged with a bit of “you better if you know what’s good for you.” Still, no one moved.

Sweat began to bead and run down his forehead and the veins in his neck became pronounced as he reached for the big guns, threatening the possibility of eternal damnation to those who remained unrepentant. Finally, a group of about six or seven nine-year-old girls saved us. Sacrificing themselves, they huddled together making their way down to the altar rail, so that everyone else could finally go home. What were the sins they came forward to repent of? I couldn’t tell you. The lip of the young girl I counseled at the rail was quivering so much she couldn’t speak. I assured her that she was loved.

Salvation is a good thing. It’s not coerced out of fear but is a response to grace and unconditional love. A Samaritan woman of questionable character encountered

Jesus at a well in the heat of the day. She was filled with feelings of shame. She was taken back when Jesus, a Jew, spoke to her in public. But this Rabbi seemed to understand and see right through her. He knew her shame but refused to condemn her. Feeling accepted, possibly for the first time, she left her water jar, ran into the village and announced “Come and see the man who has told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?”

A tax collector climbed into a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of an itinerant preacher. Jesus looked up and said to the man, “Zacheus, come down from there for I want to eat at your table tonight.” Standing up later that night,

Zacheus announced to all his dinner guests, “I will give half of my money to the poor and to all I have cheated, I will return fourfold.” Jesus then rose from the table and declared “Today, salvation has come to

this house.”

A man who’d been an invalid and lain beside the Pool of Bethesda for 38 years was asked by Jesus if he wanted to “be made well.” This had been the only life he’d ever known. His disability had been his identity and the source of his

*(Continued on page 7)*

**“Salvation is about...  
experiencing life,  
real life,  
here and now  
on earth.”**

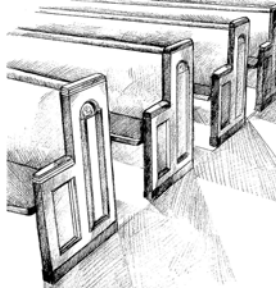
# Our Sanctuary Needs Renovations

From Pastor David McMillan

Over the past year, I've become keenly aware of the challenges that exist on Sunday mornings with the use of our sanctuary. Most challenges are logistical. They entail the flow of our service (especially when serving Communion), safety concerns, and the transition time between our early and late service. These logistical challenges include the placement of the overhead screen, LED projector, table and computer, the sound mixer, microphones, stands, and attending cables and wires. While these items are *integral* to our contemporary worship service, their placement has yet to be adequately addressed.

Aware of these challenges in 2008, the Trustees sought the recommendation of Arthur Funk & Sons Inc., the builder/contractor who renovated our church sanctuary. Unfortunately, for financial reasons at the time, their recommendations were not pursued.

Well friends, it's four years later and we're taking up the mantle again. Recently, the trustees contacted a local multi-media company for consultation and a more current estimate of renovation costs. Our vision for improving the logistics and safety of our sanctuary includes:



- mounting a retractable movie screen and LED projector from the sanctuary ceiling
- mounting the floor speakers to the sanctuary walls
- placing flush floor microphone jacks and outlets on the first step behind the communion rail on both sides of the chancel area,
- and running all wiring under the floor to the back of the sanctuary to a media center, which will house the sound board, computer and computer screens.

These changes will allow us to remove all wiring from the sanctuary floor, the computer table in the center aisle at the front of the sanctuary, the movie screen and stools which were used for support, and the stands which supported the microphone speakers. In other words, we will have a sanctuary that will be safer, with less clutter, that will flow more freely during Communion and other worship events.

Once the Trustees have had the opportunity to review the renovation recommendations and the estimate of cost, a decision will be made as to what is the best way to raise the necessary funds. Please stay tuned.

# Your Trustees at Work

## Much Accomplished at our May WorkDay

From Jerry Manhart

The Trustees have completed, or are in the process of completing, many projects. A new dining room chandelier, doorbell, and porch light were installed at the rental property. The laundry room and basement were painted. Cement was added to reinforce the foundation of the outside cellar door.

The window frames of the Office received a coat of paint. More stain was added to the fire escape in the rear of the office. In the garage, a light was repaired.

A stone in the wall of the front steps of the church was repaired. Paint was added to a front window sill. New shrubbery is being planted in the front of the church to replace the overgrown shrubbery that was removed.

Thanks to: **Jim Gehman, Bill Lape, Carl Madeira, Pastor Dave McMillan, Lee Posey, Ron Schucker, Jack Villecco, George Weikel, and Ron Woessner** for all their help.



---

*(Continued from page 5)*

livelihood. It was not an easy decision. But he heard in Jesus' voice an opportunity to take courage, "Yes, Lord, I want to be made well." Jesus said to him "Take up your pallet and walk." The man got up, took up his pallet and walked.

Salvation is not coerced out of fear but is a response to grace and unconditional love. Salvation is not about escaping the wrath of God or hell, or even necessarily about getting into heaven; it is about experiencing life, real life, here and now on earth. It is about encountering Jesus and

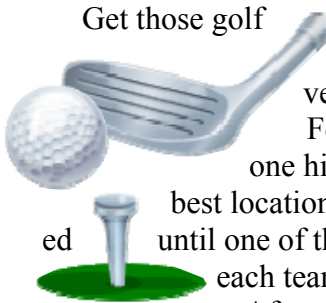
being delivered from our shame, greed, and fears to embrace a new life, free from our past.

When we experience salvation, real salvation, it will affect the way we relate to others. We'll want others to be in on this gift as well. We'll leave what we're doing to run and tell them "Come and see a man who has told me everything I have ever done. Could he be the Messiah?" We'll want to give half of what we have to the poor and to be reconciled to those we have offended. We'll want to leave our old self behind and take up our pallet and walk, really walk.

# Lincoln Park UMC Golf Outing

Sunday, July 22

From Pastor Dave McMillan



Get those golf clubs out of the closet! Lincoln Park UMC plans a golf outing at Fox Chase Golf Course just up the road in Stevens, PA. The first foursome will tee off at 2 pm.

Four person teams will play a scramble format where everyone hits a ball, then three of the players move their balls to the best location of the four shots, and all four hit from there. This is repeated until one of the players gets it in the hole. There will be one score for each team. It's a fun format for pros and amateurs alike.

After the round, we'll gather at Pastor Dave's parsonage for burgers, chips, hot dogs, and soda. The winning team will have bragging rites until next year's tournament. A sign-up sheet is in the Wagner Room for those wishing to join us. If you have any questions see **George Weikel** or **Mark Bisignaro**.

---

*(Continued from page 1)*

resources to see their vision become a reality. Here is where we can help.

While we have a surrounding community with needs as well, I see the city of Reading, with its large population of poor, as a mission field in our own backyard. To foster a relationship and join in ministry with New Journey, we've invited Ann Marie Wallace, Director of the Soup Kitchen, and Beverly Connor, Director of the Clothing Ministry, to come and speak to us.

On Friday and Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, we'll take a mission team to New Journey to help paint the entry way and dining hall where the Soup Kitchen clients eat. On Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup>, the Rev.

Alicia Julia-Stanley and I will exchange pulpits to introduce ourselves to one another's congregation. In the early fall, we hope to invite the congregation of New Journey to share a meal with us here in Memorial Hall.

As United Methodists, we have a rich biblical tradition of being a connectional church where we nurture a common life and ministry to neighbors in need. I believe there's an opportunity before us to enlarge our world and do the vital work of ushering in God's kingdom in Reading, especially among the poor. Please keep this endeavor and the people of New Journey UMC and Lincoln Park UMC in your prayers.





## Summer Mini-Concerts Offered

From Beverly Perella

Please join us for worship on Sundays this summer  
and enjoy some special music.

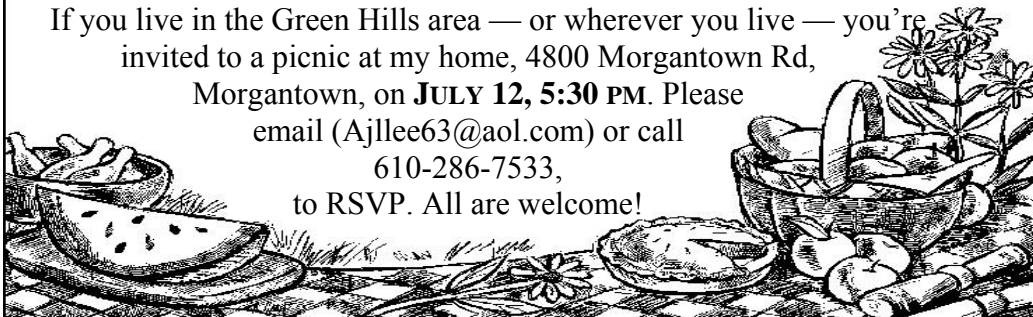
July 1	<b>Debbie Pyle</b> and 13 piano students
July 8	Valerie Trollinger, bassoon
July 15	Runette Gabrielle, soprano
July 22	Pretzel City Chorus
July 29	TBA
August 5	Brackbill Family Quartet- piano, violin, viola and cello
August 12	Nicolas Agia, piano
August 19	TBA
August 26	TBA
September 2	Talent from Within (LP's own musicians)

## You're Invited

From Linda Lee

If you live in the Green Hills area — or wherever you live — you're invited to a picnic at my home, 4800 Morgantown Rd, Morgantown, on **JULY 12, 5:30 PM**. Please email ([Ajlllee63@aol.com](mailto:Ajlllee63@aol.com)) or call

610-286-7533,  
to RSVP. All are welcome!



# What Are the Odds of this Happening?

Submitted by Nancy Villecco

*I love coincidences!* Some are small but others are so powerful they can knock you off your feet, give you chills, and make you ask if there's a message there for you. These attention-getting moments make you ask "What are the odds of this happening?"

The following story is in a chapter of *A Second Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul* titled **Miracles**. I believe that IS what coincidences often are: meaningful, startling, able to move one to tears in their power and timing, and, even **humbling** in that one can witness to the power of unfolding events that occurs. I praise the Lord for these "wake-up" moments.

## Never, Never Give Up

by Diane Novinski, from *A Second Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul* \*

It was a very exciting day for us — the championship Little League game of the season. Two teams would be battling it out one more time for the championship. We were the only team all season to beat this "Paint Shop" team, and they were determined to win tonight's game.

We were a baseball family. Ben, my husband, had coached the Little League team for the past two years, but he had lost his battle to cancer two months earlier. Dying at the age of 43 after a courageous struggle, he had left me and our two children, Jared, 10, and Lara, six.

He had coached while undergoing massive doses of chemotherapy and many stays in the hospital, along with daily trips to the hospital for tests. Despite being tired, worried, and worn down, he had continued to coach.

How he delighted in Jared's accomplishments playing baseball, and how proud he would have been today of this team and Jared, the team leader and starting pitcher.

Ben was an English teacher by profession and had enjoyed coaching soccer and baseball for years. He taught the teams how to play the game and about good sportsmanship, fair play and physical fitness.

\*Used by permission from Health Communications

He also taught his family and a caring community how to fight a terrible disease with faith, hope, courage and dignity. He gave us all the courage to hope when all hope was lost.

An avid reader, Ben jotted down quotes on index cards and left them here or there around the house. One quote he loved was by Winston Churchill during WW II: “Never, never, never, never give up.” It seemed so appropriate for Ben, as those were the words he lived by, fighting this disease for one-and-a-half years, up to his very last breath.

Upon his death, we had those words inscribed on his tombstone. Those special words became a message to my children and me upon every visit to his grave. They were not something to be shared—they were just for us. Our secret message to each other from Dad.

The game was close, and Jared felt the pressure.

Because parents, family and friends on both teams had helped care for our children at a moment’s notice during our nightmare and had felt much anguish up-

on Ben’s death, every person at that field missed Ben that evening.

One enthusiastic father, whose son was new to the team, and who had not known our family circumstances over the past year, came to the game with 25 paper cups on which he had written different baseball expressions: “Get a base hit,” “Catch that fly ball,” “Pop-Up,” “Bunt.” What fun it would be for each player to read a message on his cup after quenching his thirst.

The score was close: it was a nerve-wracking game. In the fourth inning, Jared pulled a cup out randomly for his drink of water. Suddenly he ran from the bench over to me with

the cup. Written on his cup were the words, “Never, never give up.” The news spread fast. Ben was there, even if in spirit only. Needless to say, we won the game, and the cup now sits on a shelf next to Ben’s picture to greet anyone who walks in our back door.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Perhaps you have a story about coincidence. It might be interesting to share some of these in a future *News-Linc* column.



# 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 *Random Acts of Kindness Stories*. To submit, email them to [cherfallon@comcast.net](mailto:cherfallon@comcast.net) or leave them in my mailbox in the Church Office.



## I'll Be Back in a Minute!

From Susie Romig

Over Memorial Day weekend I went to Ocean City, NJ, with my son's family and a friend of theirs. We try to go prepared with most of the basics we'll need for the weekend, plus most of the food.

However, at one point, my daughter-in-law, Jane, and her friend Sandy decided they needed to run to Super-Fresh for some food items. On their return, Jane saw an older woman struggling up a flight of stairs to a second floor unit, grocery bag in one arm

and two hanging flower baskets in the other hand.

Jane put on her flashers, pulled over, said to Sandy, "I'll be back in a minute." Next thing, Sandy saw her racing up the steps, taking the two baskets of flowers from the woman's hands, and seeing that she got to her porch safely.

She didn't say anything to anyone about her "random act of kindness," and I would not have known had not Sandy told me when Jane wasn't around.

---

We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to former members **Bonnie** and **Carl Knutsen** and their family on the death of Bonnie's father on April 20. May God bless you with His peace and love.



**Congratulations**

**Graduae**



### **Tyler James Ernst**

graduated from Wilson High School on June 9. He also received his Certificate from VoTech in Recreational and Power Equipment.

Tyler enjoys riding motorcycles and dirt bike riding. He works at Eisenhower Nissan detailing cars.

Tyler is the son of **Jeff** and **Kathi Ernst**.

### **Michael Park Brown**

received his MBA (Masters in Business Administration) from Eastern University in May. Mike's concentration was in Healthcare Administration. Mike is Director of Operations at Cogent HMG, a company that manages hospitalists in numerous hospitals nationwide.

He is the son of **Tina Brown Eckart** and the late **Ray Brown**.

Mike and his wife **Christy (Fallon) Brown** live in Philadelphia, where they happily await their first baby in August.

More to come next issue....

*Create in me a*

 *clean heart,*

*O God;  
and renew a*

*right  
spirit  
within  
me.*



*Psalms 51:10*

*“How do we feed  
and nourish our  
spirit, and the spirit  
of others? First find  
path, and a little  
light to see by.  
Then push up your  
sleeves and start  
helping.”*

*—Anne Lamott*

## From our mailbox



♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the groceries, rolls, clothes and money donated to our food pantry. We're glad for all our friends who help us feed the hungry. Each donation is a blessing to us. May God bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace  
Soup Kitchen/Pantry Manager  
New Journey UMC

♥ To My Church Family

I would like to thank everyone for their care, kindness, and many cards while I was in the hospital and also recuperating at the Highlands. The prayers and visits by **Pastor Dave** were so appreciated. God bless you all.

Bunny Carlson

♥ I would like to express my gratitude to all who have kept me in touch with what goes on at Lincoln Park Church.

First of all, to **Cheri Fallon** and her *News-Linc* Staff for all their continuous good works. I read the newsletter from cover to cover the day it arrives.

I appreciate the photos, notes, drawings, and handcrafts and items from the Sunday School children. They always bring a smile to my face.

Visits from **Pastor Dave** and other church members are also much appreciated — as are flowers and **Barb Schlosser's** delivery of the *Upper Room!*

I think it's wonderful that when we can't come to church, our church comes to us!

Sincerely,  
Mary Gundy

---

“As long as Christ is in our boat, we have nothing to fear.”

—The Rev. Diane Ruth Gilbert,  
Kynett United Methodist Church  
Beach Haven, NJ  
in a sermon about standing up to  
our Goliaths and life struggles





# Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*August 15  
for our  
September 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, Carol Bashore, Betsy & Allen Buchanan, Bunny Carlson, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, Elaine Meckes, and Doris Schucker

## Change of Address

Grace Blakely  
40W 24th St Apt 6E  
New York NY 10010-3215

Kathryn Hafer  
2000 Cambridge Ave #NU  
Reading PA 19610-2714

Sandra Mohler  
132 Valley Greene Cir  
Reading PA 19610-1964

Robert B Owens  
1C Olympic Dr #1C  
Reading PA 19607-3332

## Birth

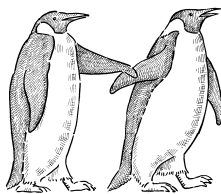


Adelaide Elsie Lee was born on May 24, at home, in National Park NJ. Adelaide is the daughter of **An-drew Lee** and Jessica Ferraro, and daughter

of **Linda Lee**. Congratulations to the entire family!

An interesting aside: Adelaide's Daddy is a sous chef at the Valley Forge Casino.

*Let's get together!*



## Generation X Gathering Saturday, July 7, 5pm

From Linda Woll

Calling all "Generation X'ers" and their families! **Julie** and **Sean Stites** will host a fun-filled family outing at their home. Children are encouraged to attend with their parents. Pot Luck - so search your cookbooks and recipe cards.

Julie's address is: 1284 Horning Road, Denver, PA 17517-9721. Directions will be available in the Church Office and the Wagner Room. Questions? Please contact Julie via email: [juliannastites@aol.com](mailto:juliannastites@aol.com) , or call 717-579-1534.

# NEWS-LINC

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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
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-2 pm, Mon-Th  
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](http://www.lpcumc.org)

E-mail: [info@lpcumc.org](mailto:info@lpcumc.org) (Secretary and Church), [dmcmillan@lpcumc.org](mailto: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

[cherfallon@comcast.net](mailto:cherfallon@comcast.net)

Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Robyn Harris