



News-Line

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

2013 LPCUMC Budget Passed!

From William J. Chadwick, Finance Committee Chair

The Finance Committee would like to thank the congregation for their commitments for 2012. Due to your continued support and the continued diligence of the church's committees, LPCUMC ended 2012 in a positive financial position.

That being said, the development of the 2013 budget was a difficult endeavor. The level of congregational commitment for the 2013 budget is lower than for 2012.



The Finance Committee realizes that the past couple of years have been financially difficult for many in our congregation. This has resulted in some hard looks at 2013 spending for families within the church.

The Finance Committee, too, has taken a hard look at LPCUMC's

budget for the coming year. As always, LPCUMC has certain expenses that are fairly fixed, with little wiggle room for changes.

Overall, the approved 2013 (\$285,000) budget contains a 5% reduction from 2012 (\$300,500). Even with reductions, the 2013 approved budget has increases in youth program ministries, and LPCUMC will again be making 100% apportionment to the Connectional Min-

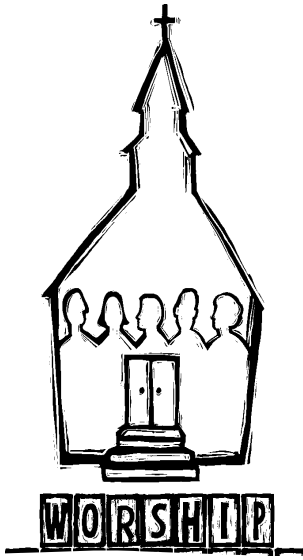
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Come and Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan



In January and February, we'll survey the Old Testament book of Exodus. There we witness God remaining faithful to His promise to form a unique people, who are blessed in order to be a blessing to all nations. We also witness God, who sides with the oppressed, delivering those who "cry out," and renewing the covenant to be their God and they His people. We also witness a community transformed from lives of slavery to lives of freedom, but not without first going through the wilderness.

January 13 *The Burning Bush and Bumbling Speech*
Exodus 3-4:17

January 20 *Let My People Go!* Exodus 4:18-11

January 27 *The Passover and Pass Through*
Exodus 11-15

February 3 Guest Preacher

February 10 *Wilderness Wandering & The Law*
Exodus 15-20

February 13 Ash Wednesday 7 pm

February 17 *Covenant, The Golden Calf & The Promised Land*, Exodus 21-40

February 24 *People Jesus Met: Nicodemus*, John 3:1-8

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 Bible Study on Anger to be Offered

Thursdays, February 14-March 21, 7 pm

From Pastor Dave McMillan

The Apostle Paul counsels: *Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil.* —Ephesians 4:26

Anger can be a healthy or unhealthy emotional response, depending on our circumstances and the way we express it. Unfortunately, many of us allow anger to rule us and negatively affect our well-being, as well as our relationships.

For six Thursday evenings, February 14-March 21, from 7-8:30 pm, in the Wagner Room, we'll explore and discuss:

1. What is anger?
2. What are the symptoms, sources, and styles of anger?
3. What purpose does anger serve? and,
4. How do we manage and heal from anger?



In my years as pastor and counselor, I have come to believe that it is *unprocessed* and/or *unhealthy anger* that keeps people emotionally stuck and is at the root of most strained and broken relationships. Lent is a season to take an honest look at how anger adversely affects our lives and to turn over a new leaf.



From Pastor Dave McMillan

We're continuing our **BIBLE STUDY** on the Old Testament book of Jeremiah, also known as "The Weeping Prophet." We meet every Monday from 12-1:15 in the Church Library, except for the second Monday of the month.

All are welcome at any time, and bring your lunch.

From Our Pastor

From Pastor David McMillan

Thinking Out Loud

*...to set the mind on the Spirit
is life and peace.— Romans 8:6*

I recently had breakfast with a clergy friend who was in the middle of his annual week of spiritual renewal: a time not counted as vacation, according to our clergy journal, which pastors are encouraged to take yearly for their own spiritual well-being. I'll take my week at the end of this month, to attend a Pastor's Conference at Stetson University in Deland, Florida. One topic will be: *Is There a Future for Pastoral Ministry in a Post-Modern, Post-Denominational, Post-Christian Society? - Being Relevant, Engaging, and Alive.*

When I asked my friend what he was doing for his renewal week, he said he was staying home to file piles of post-it notes and scraps of paper with sermon ideas and illustrations into various categories. Once he accomplished that, he would clean up and order his basement which has suffered from years of neglect.

Some may question whether this use of time falls under the discipline of spiritual renewal, but I, particularly as a fellow

pastor, do not. Except for performing baptisms, marriages, and funerals, there is little in pastoral work that is whole. The relationships we nurture within our congregations are forever in flux. There are always folks you feel you should visit. Every year, a new budget has to be made, new committee members have to be approached and nominated, programs have to be planned and tweaked. And, every Sunday you stand up before the congregation and speak about what is largely ineffable, before returning the next Sunday to try again. There's little in pastoral work that is complete.

Whatever the vocation, I imagine many of us feel the same way. It's not often that we see the fruits of our labor. Your children are still in the developmental stage. You wonder if your adult children remember anything you tried to teach them. Your efforts at work go unnoticed. Even after re-financing, you have 25 years left on your mortgage. With the economy and changes in Social Security,

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Make Music a
Part of Your Life



From Beverly Perella

Like the Army, we're looking for a few good men and women for our musical groups. It's never too late in the season to offer your musical talents.

Don't like traditional music? Join our Praise Band. Don't care for contemporary music? Join the Chancel Choir. Can't read music? We can teach! Can't sing? Join the Bell Choir, also known as The Happy Dingalings!

AND if you can't do any of the above, you can contribute to the Concert Fund to help provide additional outstanding music for our church. Don't bury a talent or an opportunity!

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retirement seems to be moving further out of reach. And, though you're retired, you're wondering how you had time to get anything done when you were working and your children were at home.

Everyone needs a time for spiritual renewal: a reprieve, a respite from everyday toil, even if it's solitude while cleaning out a desk, closet, or basement...some small accomplishment with which comes the easing of the mind. Our life, writes the Apostle Paul,

is not a sprint. The life of faith is an endurance race (I Corinthians 9:24ff). We need to learn to pace ourselves, to be intentional about caring for our spirit because the Spirit is life, and without the Spirit, what do we really have?

As we begin the New Year, my prayer for you is that you will love yourself enough to take time to care for your spirit so that you may continue to feel like your life is "relevant, engaging, and alive."

Thinking of Joining Us at Lincoln Park Church?



Pastor Dave will hold a New Members Class in April, following Easter. Look for more information in the March-April *News-Linc*. If you're interested in becoming a new member, please speak with Pastor Dave.

Your Gifts Make Three Families Happy

From Jim Eckert



The Missions Committee and Salvation Army want to thank our church family

at Lincoln Park for their response to the Adopt-a-Family Angel Tree this Christmas season. We helped three families, totaling 14 individuals.

These families are experiencing such difficulties as major medical concerns – a 7-year old girl who had open heart surgery, a boy of 7 with Crohn's disease. Another family has a special needs child, with four children sharing a bed; they struggle to pay for heat on a cut income.

Most gift requests were for ordinary, daily needs items such as winter clothing, boots, simple toys or crafts for children, and household items. All items placed under the tree were delivered by generous folks who wanted to make the season better for those whose needs were great. In addition, individuals who made donations for gift cards to Giant and Wal-Mart allowed these folk to make some choices of their own.



(Continued from page 1)

istries Fund, the World Service Fund, and the General Church Ministries through our District. Some increases have been made through holding staff salaries at 2012 levels and having a long-term financial obligation reduction by having a final loan payment in July.

As LPCUMC moves into 2013, your continued commitment is important to support all the program ministries, staff, and facilities throughout the year. The committees, who are the stewards of your giving, will endeavor to use your commitments with the most precautionous standards to be sure that all areas are supported. As always, the budget is a starting point and as LPCUMC moves through the coming year, the Finance Committee will continue to track and re-evaluate the budget.

Look for our Pink Piggy Banks

From Beverly Perella

PINK PIGGY BANKS

There were two little piggies named Frank and Hank,
Who went to a local Shillington bank.
But when they got there, their tummies weren't bare.
For the teller could count a kingly amount
Which we gave to a needy Lincoln Park house
So they could celebrate with Santa's little mouse!



Silliness aside, our family at LP filled the pink piggies with \$175. Two days after the money was counted, a local disabled family with a wife and three children reached out to us in desperate need. And guess what? Our \$175 was a miracle for this most-grateful family. Within our own church, within the city of Reading, and even within this beautiful Lincoln Park area, we are called and expected to be God's servants. It was indeed a very Merry Christmas!

Look for Frank and Hank. Frank is upstairs at the rear of the church, and Hank is on the counter in the kitchen. God bless us everyone!

New Journey Clothes Closet on South Sixth Street Needs Your Help

From Beverly Perella

My car is filled with items to deliver to New Journey Church almost every week. (You'd think I actually live in it!) Your donations are always needed, season appropriate, please. Last week two families arrived from Puerto Rico with no warm clothing, and we could outfit them from underwear to winter coats. Their smiles, obvious joy, and *gracias's* were enough to "pay" for these gifts.

Your generosity is amazing! Current needs include: men's clothing including shoes and belts (but there's not a demand for men's suits) blankets, sheets labeled with size, towels, and all kinds of cloth-

ing for women and children.

Here's a new venture, a new way to serve God and His people. The clothes closet is only open Fridays now, but *there's a opportunity* to open on Wednesdays when families come to the Food Bank. I propose that we staff this tiny store two Wednesdays a month. All we need is two teams of four people, each team serving only once a month from 10:30 am to 12:30. I'll serve as group leader each Wednesday. This is a growing need! Interested? Is the Spirit moving you? Call me, 610-603-0150.



From our mailbox

- ♥ Thank you all so much for the thoughtful cards. It meant so much to me.

Love,
Kailee

- ♥ To Everyone at Lincoln Park Church, Thank you all so much for the inspirational cards you sent to Kailee. We cannot tell you how much we appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Love,
Jayme

- ♥ Dear Friends,
Thank you for the groceries you donated to our food ministry. Each donation is a blessing to us. We are glad for all our friends who help us feed the hungry. May God bless you for your kindness.

Ann Marie Wallace
New Journey UMC Food Ministry
Soup Kitchen/Pantry Manager

- ♥ Thank you for the lovely flowers you sent to Manor Court. My husband enjoyed them.

Margaret & Henry Christ

- ♥ Thank you so much for the monetary gift. I am so blessed to be working with such wonderful people. Have a great new year.

Kathi Ernst, Nursery Attendant

- ♥ To the Children of LPCUMC,
The beautiful card reminds me every day of God's love and of all you dear children. Thank you for sending me this message and the beautiful card with some of your smiling faces.

Love to you and your teachers, too,
Patricia Park

Annual FLEA MARKET to Open Again!

From Beverly Perella

It's cold, but the fleas are wearing scarves and hats in preparation for their return on **SATURDAY, MAY 18**. The Head Fleas need you! We're looking for chairpersons to head each committee and be responsible for all operations of that group.

We are an equal opportunity employer and do not discriminate against age, beauty, clumsiness, or inexperience. (NOTE: We've even allowed **Harry Garrity** and **Pat Owens** to operate the outdoor hot dog stand!) Head Fleas **Carol Bashore** and **Bev Perella** are manning phone lines in anticipation of hundreds of offers to help. Don't be the last to call as we might not need you! (Joke!)

Remember to set aside garage-sale-type items and women's clothes (on hangers) to be collected in April and May for this important fundraiser.

youth group

SCHEDULE

From Pastor
Dave McMillan

The Youth
Group (Grades 7
-12) will meet

Sundays: January 20, February 10 and
24, at 6:30 pm. Look for more infor-
mation in your Sunday bulletin.

From Beverly Perella

The KID'S FOR CHRIST CLUB

(KFC) will meet
again starting Febru-
ary 3 (movie and
popcorn) and then
again February 17
from 3- 4:30. This is for all children in
Grades 2-6 — our own kids and any-
one who wants to come. Invite the
world! Questions? Call **Bev Perella,**
610-603-0150.



Mark Your Calendars

- JAN.** 20 Youth Group
21 Bible Study Noon
Trustees 7pm
23 Lifeline Health Screening

- FEB.** 3 KIDS FOR CHRIST 3 pm
4 Bible Study Noon
10 Youth Group
13 **Ash Wednesday Service** 7pm
14 Lenten Study 7 pm
15 *News-Line* Deadline for
Mar-Apr Issue
17 KIDS FOR CHRIST 3 pm
18 Bible Study Noon
Trustees 7 pm
21 Lenten Study 7pm
23 Men's Breakfast 8:30-10am
24 Youth Group



Wednesdays: Bell Choir 6:30,
Chancel Choir 7:30
Thursdays: Praise Band 8pm

All men are invited to join Pastor
Dave at the Parsonage, Saturday, Feb-
ruary 23, 8:30-10 am, for breakfast,
followed by a time of fellowship and
lively discussion on *Male Spirituality*.
Sons are welcome to come along with
their fathers.



We Are Called to Meet a Need — Today

From Gina Bridgeman, submitted by Nancy Villecco

From the 2011 Daily Guideposts, page 310

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ~ I Peter 4:10 (TNIV)

Once the weather cools, autumn in Phoenix brings a different outdoor fair every weekend. One of the most impressive is the Via Colori Street Painting Festival. Streets are closed so that artists can create murals in chalk pastels on the pavement. We watched, mesmerized, as one artist worked hours on a 12-by-12-foot depiction of a Renaissance mother with her child. Her flowing red robe looked real enough to touch, as did her serene face. Of course, the next day traffic resumed and the masterpieces were gone forever.

I was amazed that these artists had given so much of themselves for something that lasted such a short time. They used their talent to create something beautiful for people to enjoy for a day; not one of

them thought beyond it.

I can adopt the same attitude toward the gifts God has given me, knowing that I can't always create something permanent; sometimes I'm called just to meet a need today. This morning our church bulletin asked for food bank volunteers, visitors for the

homebound and soup kitchen servers. It isn't work that seems to create a lasting result, but that's not the point. A lot of small efforts that seem to wash away almost as soon as they're completed add up to a life that has made a big difference.

God, give me the generosity of spirit to use everything You've given me in every way possible to serve You.



“He has a right to criticize who has a heart to help.”

—Abraham Lincoln



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



February 12
for our
March-April 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

Matthew T Brown
428 Alice St Apt 404
Oakland CA 94607-4341
Andrew Fallon
40232 Charles Town Pike
Hamilton VA 20158-3214
Grant Garrity
38409 Prospect Park Ct
Lewes DE 19958
Susan Perkins
28 Clare Ave
Albany NY 12202-1115
Erika Pied
1647 E. Jefferson St T2
Rockville MD 20852

Birth

Congratulations to **Jay and KC (Buchanan) Dianna** on the birth of their son, **Joseph Allen**, on 12/12/12. He weighed 8 lbs and 6 oz, and has two older brothers, Samuel and Tyler. **Allen and Betsy Buchanan** are the proud grandparents! Best wishes to the entire family.



Baptized

Isla Ray Brown, daughter of **Michael and Christine (Fallon) Brown**, was baptized in our church on January 13. Isla is the granddaughter of former member **Tina Brown-Eckart** and **Fred Eckart** and **Ed and Cheri Fallon**.

May God bless Isla and her family as she grows in love and grace.

"Here I Am, Lord"

In his sermon on January 13, Pastor Dave mentioned that he makes a habit of saying these words as he puts his feet on the floor each morning. What a way to start the day!

NEWS-LINC

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church
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Reading, PA 19609

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Worship with us: 9-9:55 am - Contemporary Worship
9:55-10:10 - Fellowship
10:10-10:50 am - Christian Education
11 am - Traditional Worship

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), dcmillan@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
Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Robyn Harris