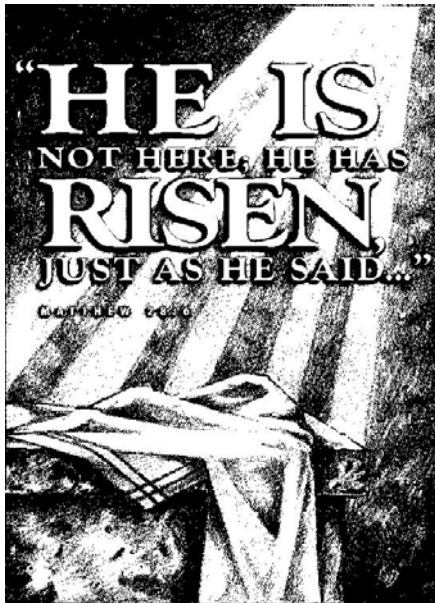


News-Line

*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania
March, April 2013*



**Join Us Easter Sunday
9 and 11 am**

Inside this issue

Worship	p. 2
From Pastor McMillan	p. 4
Sanctuary Renovations	p. 3
Random Acts	p. 6
Flea Market	p. 7
Youth and Kids Groups	p. 9

Vision and Mission

From Pastor Dave McMillan

In the coming weeks you'll hear more about a church-wide mission and vision process that presently is being developed by several leaders in our congregation.

With The Church facing challenges today of declining attendance and membership and, after much prayer and conversation, I believe it's essential for us to revisit these questions:

- † What does it mean to be a church?
and
- † What steps do we **need to take to faithfully fulfill the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations?**

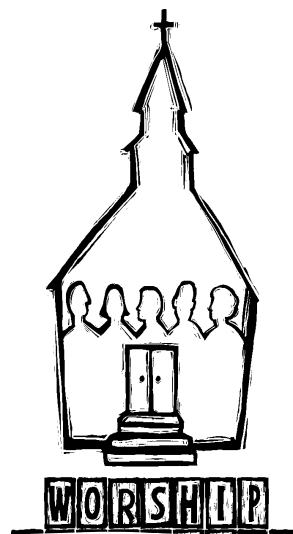
I'm excited about the possibilities and future we will **imagine together and work toward, with God's help.**

Come and Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan

In March, we'll continue to explore the process of Christian Discipleship and human transformation as we encounter the living Christ, who is "the power to make all things new again." In April, we'll begin a sermon series entitled: *Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words*, based on Brian McLaren's book by the same name. In this series, we'll explore what's at the heart of an unclothed spiritual life.

- March 3 *The Woman at the Well: Spirit and Truth*
 John 1:1-26
- March 10 *The Man at the Sheep's Gate: Take Up Your*
 Mat and Walk; John 5:1-18
- March 17 *The Woman Caught in Adultery: Fidelity*
 John 8:1-3
- March 24 **PALM SUNDAY**
 Caiaphas and Pilate: Where Does True Power
 Reside? John 18
- March 31 **EASTER SUNDAY**
 Mary: A Day of New Beginnings
 John 20:1-18
- April 7 *"Here": Starting Right Now*
 Exodus 3:1-6
- April 14 *"Thanks": Appreciation*
- April 21 *"O": Practicing Jubilation*
- April 28 *"Sorry": Unleashing Our Own Becoming*



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!



Sanctuary Renovations Considered

From Pastor Dave McMillan

For some time, conversations have taken place within the church concerning possible renovations to our sanctuary. These include:

1. Mounting a retractable screen and projector to the ceiling,
2. Installing flush mounted audio jacks and outlets at the front of the sanctuary, and
3. Running all wires under the floor or above the ceiling to a media center in the back of the sanctuary.

The renovations will make our sanctuary safer, improve the quality of our visual and auditory presentations, and

save time and effort in transitioning from one service to the next on Sunday mornings.

These conversations began among those who'll be most affected by the changes and included consultations with three media contractors and a discussion and vote by the Board of Trustees. The recommendation to renovate our sanctuary will next be taken to our Administrative Council for approval. If they're approved, a presentation will be made to the congregation in the near future. More information concerning this possible project will be forthcoming. Stay tuned!

Bible Studies Continue : Join Us!

From Pastor Dave McMillan

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 and negatively affect us and our relationships. Thursday evenings through March 21, from 7-8:30 pm, in the Wagner Room, you are welcome to join us as we continue our discussion.

Lent is a season to take an honest look at how anger adversely affects our lives and to turn over a new leaf.



We're also continuing our **BIBLE STUDY** on the Old Testament book of Jeremiah, "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

Look, now is the day of salvation!
II Corinthians 6:2

Kenny Miller and I were driving east in his 1969 Ford Mustang convertible on our way to Ocean City, NJ while his 8 track player blasted *More Than a Feeling* by the rock group Boston. Earlier that night, feeling bored, we stopped by my house to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, before telling everyone we were heading to Ocean City for a weekend at a friend's family house. Kenny would actually end up spending that night in jail, and I slept in the back seat of his car, but that's a story for another time.

Our trip took place not long after I'd encountered a Campus Crusade for Christ staff person at a local college campus where some friends attended. I had skipped a Monday of high school, a regrettable habit, and was sitting outside on a bench when he approached me. After he shared a small gospel tract with me, I found myself repeating after him "the sinner's prayer." Having given my life to Christ that day, the next thing I knew,

I was a regular Billy Graham.

Sitting next to Ken in his car, I asked him if he knew Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and if he knew how much God loved him and wanted a relationship with him. Something seemed to click. It was as if Ken had been waiting for this invitation. Together, with his speakers blasting *More Than a Feeling*, we prayed and he gave his life to Christ.

Things appeared to spread like wildfire after that. Between Ken and me, it seemed like our friends began to fall under the Spirit, one after the other: first John, then Brian, then Chuck, Sam, Bob, Graham, and George. George accepted Christ on a school snow day while we were playing "King of the Mountain" on top of a large pile of snow. Wade was the only one I can remember in our group who remained a skeptic. He may have been the wisest of all of us. Well, ...not really. Our evenings of underage drinking and singing James Taylor songs together soon turned to nights at a local Bible study with other new converts led by the same Campus Crusade for Christ

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

staff person who first found me the day I skipped school.

Having surveyed these matters, people in evangelical circles say that the chance of a person coming to faith in Christ after high school and college is slim. If we're going to reach people with the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ, we need to appeal to them while they are young. It's no longer a secret that we've been failing in this department as the Church. Look around in most churches on Sunday mornings.

The truth is, I'm about as perplexed as the next person. It's a much different age now than my own. There are many more claims upon children and young people: from television, video games, and computers. They are inundated with options and skeptical of anyone in authority, **and their future seems much more uncertain than when we were their age.**

“Every human being longs to know and be known by God.”

Do kids and youth need Christ today any less than the children Jesus gathered on his knee? I don't know about you, but while I'd like to think my faith has grown and matured over the years, I cannot imagine my life without Christ.

While my religious faith and experience is not the rule of faith or happiness for anyone else, I do believe that every human being longs to know and be known by God. Every one of us needs — at different times, often over and over again — to be saved, rescued, redeemed, and loved unconditionally. Everyone needs to be in touch with a power and life beyond the self, yet close, whole. If I am to trust my experience as a person and pastor, it confirms the urgency and importance of the invitation “Now is the acceptable time. Look, now is the day of salvation.”

Thinking of Joining Us at Lincoln Park Church?



Pastor Dave will offer a New Member's Class on three successive Sunday afternoons, 4-6 pm, April 7, 14, and 21. We will begin with a pot-luck supper followed by our membership class.

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 or leave them in my mailbox in the Church Office.



From Suzanne Romig

It's been over a year now since all the negative news about Penn State hit the media, and it has seemed like there was no good news to be had. But that seems not to be true.

In January I received a request for my annual donation to *THON*. It reminded me of an extremely cold and windy day last winter when two Penn State Berks students stood at the intersection of Rt. 724 and Rt. 422, their noses red and eyes watering from the cold, holding their buckets and asking for donations to *THON*.

I had already mailed in my check, but I opened my car window and when they extended the bucket, I dumped in all of the change I keep in my car and wished them well.

For those of you who don't know about *THON*, it started in 1977 at Penn State as *Dance Marathon*, and it was a weekend of student non-stop dancing to benefit the Four Diamonds Fund at Hershey Medical Center, which supports children with cancer.

It has become simply *THON* and is the largest student-run philanthropy in the nation, bringing in millions of dollars every year. In its yearlong efforts—since 1977—to raise funds for the fight against pediatric cancer, Penn State students have raised more than 89 million dollars.

If my extra \$10 helped in the battle, I am grateful to those two students enduring miserable weather that day for the sake of a child.

“Some cause happiness wherever they go.”

—Oscar Wilde

Annual FLEA MARKET to Open Again!

Saturday, May 18, 7 am -3 pm

From Beverly Perella

"What can I offer?" you might ask. Here is the shortened version. For more details, see or call Head Fleas, **Carol Bashore** and **Bev Perella**.

COLLECT FABULOUS FLEAS

Beginning mid-March we'll accept your garage sale-type items for our biggest fundraiser of the year—except no computer components, large appliances, or glassware with logos. Please deliver fleas between 9 am and 3 pm, when there's an evening meeting or rehearsal, or on Sundays. Watch the bulletin for more details.

GIVE YOUR TIME

with pricing, manning the stands on May 18, or setting up and taking down.

PLAN TO DONATE

- **Ladies Clothes** in "Ready for Sale" condition. Place all items on hangers

and bring them in **beginning Sunday, April 28**. Hang them on racks outside the Youth Room in the Education

Building.

- **Quality Used Furniture.** If you need items picked up, let us know.

- **Boutique Items** — scarves, jewelry, shoes, handbags

- **Flowers, plants, potting soil**

- All Types of **baked goods**

- **Food** —hot dogs, barbeque, rolls, soda

- **Books, CD's, DVD's**

(No textbooks, magazines, or encyclopedias, please.)

- **Silent Auction Items-** skills, talents, items. (Note: The addition of the Silent Auction has added thousands of dollars to our profit for the past three years. What can you offer?)

HOW you can HELP



We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to **Jerry and Lou Manhart** and family on the loss of Jerry's mother, **Alice**, on January 19.

Our sympathy and Christian love to **Jim and Roseline Gehman** and family. Jim's mother, **Pearle**, passed away on February 16. May God bless you with His peace and love.





From our mailbox

♥ Dear Friends,

Thank you for the groceries and money donated to our food pantry. 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 cards, calls, and visits during my recuperation from bi-lateral knee surgery. A special thank you to Pastor Dave for his visits and prayers. Your thoughts and prayers were a source of encouragement during my recuperation.

I am well along on the healing process and praise God for healing grace and those who are instruments of that grace: doctors, nurses, therapists, good friends, and others.

May God continue to bless you in your shared life and ministry!

Pastor Larry

♥ Merriam-Webster defines the word *SHOWER* as “*to give in abundance from a single source whose trail appears to originate at the same point.*” Recently our church family “showered” my mother, **Kathryn Hafer**, with cards for her 92nd birthday. The abundance of cards she received was a testimony to our church family’s kindness in following His word to care for one another. Thank you to everyone who took the time to visit or send a card to make this landmark birthday a special day for my mother.

Kris Wright

♥ I would like to thank your church for the 38 shoeboxes that your members packed for Operation Christmas Child.! Keep up the great work!

Wanda Groff

Operation Christmas Child
Church Relations Team

“The love of our neighbor in all its fullness
simply means being able to say to him,
‘What are you going through?’”

—Simone Weil

youth group

SCHEDULE

From Pastor Dave McMillan

The Youth Group will continue to meet every other Sunday through March and April. Youth in Grades 7-12 are welcome to attend and bring a friend(s). In March, we'll meet on the 3rd and 17th, in the Youth Room at the church, from 6:30-8 pm.

From Beverly Perella

The **KIDS FOR CHRIST CLUB (KFC)** continues to meet from 3-4:30 pm the first and third Sundays of the month through May. All kids in Grades 2-6 are encouraged to come!

What do we do? Church and community service, learn, play, and, of course, snack!

Often your church friends become your best, longest-lasting friends. (Ask Rich Auman, Carol Bashore, and Kris Wright.) Questions? Call **Bev Perella**, 610-603-0150.



Mark Your Calendars

- MAR.** 3 Kids for Christ 3pm; Youth 6:30
 4 Bible Study 12pm
 5 Church Council 7pm
 7 Lenten Study 7pm
 11 Agape Noon; Finance 7pm
 12 VBS Meeting 7pm
 14 Lenten Study 7pm
 16 Experience 6pm
 17 Rdg Philharmonic Concert 3pm
 Kids for Christ 3pm; Youth 6:30
 18 Trustees 7pm
 21 Lenten Study 7pm
 25 Bible Study 12; Book Club 7pm
 28 Holy Thursday
 29 Good Friday, Church Open
 31 **EASTER SUNDAY**
- APR.** 1 Bible Study 12pm
 7 Kids for Christ 3pm; Youth 6:30
 New Member Class 4pm
 8 Agape 12pm
 10 *News-Linc Deadline for
 May-June Issue*
 13 Men's Breakfast 8:30
 14 New Member Class 4pm
 15 Bible Study 12pm
 20 Experience 6pm
 21 Kids for Christ 3pm; Youth 6:30
 New Member Class 4pm
 22 Bible Study 12pm
- Wednesdays: Bell Choir 6:30,
 Chancel Choir 7:30
 Thursdays: Praise Band 8pm

What's In Your Basket Today?

From Jeff Chu, submitted by Nancy Villecco

From the *2011 Daily Guideposts*, page 9 (January 4)

Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts...she has also set her table. ~ Proverbs 9:1-2 (RSV)

Over the past couple of years, I've become a Food Network junkie. I can watch those TV chefs for hours, hoping that one or another of their lessons will somehow improve my own cuisine.

My favorite show is called *Chopped*, where four chefs are thrown into competition. In each round, they get a basket of surprise ingredients, (say, flank steak, grape juice, goat cheese, and lemongrass) and a tight time frame (20 minutes for the appetizer, 30 minutes for entrée and dessert) in which they have to create a dish that includes all of them. After each round, one chef gets "chopped" from the contest. The whole thing is a crazy, wild test of their creativity, their patience, and their ability to apply, in a super-high-pressure situation, the lessons they've learned in meals past.

Reality is no game show, but there are parallels between what those chefs have

to do and how we are called to respond to the unpredictability of life. Every day is a basket of surprise ingredients: the traffic, a colleague's sour mood, an unexpected project, a toothache, a kind word from a stranger. So what will I make with my daily basket? Will I respond to adversity with frustration or with aplomb? Will I react to good news with humility or gloating?

When I was a child, my grandmother would tell me that Proverbs has 31 chapters so that I could read one each day of the month. Its admonitions are to the faithful life as knife skills are to cookery. And the lessons within come straight from the only One we can call life's Master Chef.

Lord, when life seems to have heaped too much on my plate, help me to step back and take time in your Word.





Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



April 10
for our
May-June issue
Please be prompt
as the Editor is
going on vacation!

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



March
10

SET YOUR CLOCKS
Ahead!

In Our Sanctuary

**Reading
Philharmonic
Concert**

**Sunday, March 17,
3 pm
Free Will Offering**

Men's Breakfast

From Pastor Dave McMillan

Mark it on your calendar! The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 8:30-10 am, at the parsonage. The topic will be *Men as Servant Leaders*. Bring a friend or neighbor!



GRACE

From Jane Westmoreland, *Guideposts* 1/2008

Blessings on this day, may I make it special in some way.

Blessings on all people, may I see the goodness in everyone.

Blessings on nature, may I notice its beauty and wonder.

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: 9-9:55 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 Pastor: David McMillan, 610-670-1022
Office phone 610-777-1422 Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-603-0150
Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35; Worship Leader: Julie Stites
Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39 Secretary: Marilyn Seiders

Fax line 610-777-4309 Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735
cherfallon@comcast.net
Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Robyn Harris

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.