



News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania

November — December 2013

SING MESSIAH Comes to LP

Sunday, Nov 17, 3 pm

From Beverly Perella

Don't miss this event in our sanctuary, conducted by Brian Gibson in his farewell appearance. If you're singing, bring your score. You'll be accompanied by the Berks Chamber Orchestra and joined by soloists Donna Danielski, Betty Weik-Koppenhofer, John Perella, and David Warden. There will be seating for non-singers, and a \$10 donation is suggested.

Operation Christmas Child

The Power of a Simple Gift

From Jim Eckert

Since 2002, generous participants at our church have filled some 800 boxes with small gifts for children, many of whom have never before received a gift. Check the Wagner Room for brochures explaining the ministry, suggested gifts, and instructions for preparing the box. Even non-shoppers like myself have found this fun and rewarding. Some boxes will be provided in the Wagner Room. A plastic con-

(Continued on page 8)

Adopt-a-Family this Christmas

From Jim Eckert



The Angel Tree will be up by December 1, and gifts collected up to **Sunday, December 15**. As usual, we'll assist about three families, totaling

around 15 folks.

The Missions Committee and Salvation Army want to thank our church family for their response to the Adopt-a-Family Angel tree last Christmas season. We helped three families, totaling 14 individuals. The families are experiencing such difficulties as major

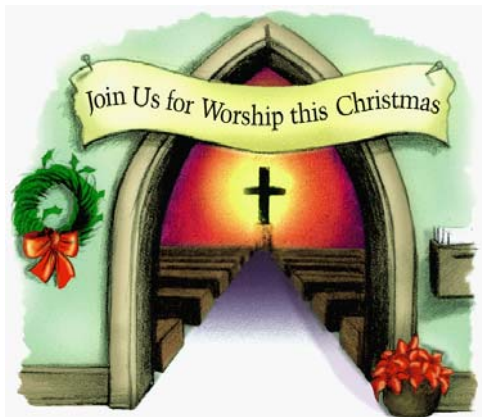
(Continued on page 6)

Inside this issue

Worship	p. 2
From Pastor McMillan	p. 4-5
Christian Ed	p. 3
Experience	p. 6
Music	p. 7
The Potter's Wheel	p. 3

Come and Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan



In November, we'll continue our sermon series *When Christians Get It Wrong*. In a recent survey, The Barna Group found that 40% of young people in America (ages 18-29) have no interest in being part of the Church. While they admire Jesus, they see a disturbing incongruity between how Jesus lived his life and the witness of Church. How have we gotten it wrong and how might we get it right?

The first Sunday of December begins the Christian Season of Advent, the beginning of the church year, as we anticipate and await the coming of God's messiah, "who is and was and is to come." Together, let us re-orient our lives in light of God's living word made flesh, who comes to establish a peaceable kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

- November 3 *When Christians Get It Wrong: Christians and Science*
Genesis 1:1-5
- November 10 Veteran's Day Service with Guest Preacher **Amy Troutman**
- November 17 *When Christians Get It Wrong: When Bad Things Happen*
Job 16:1-5
- November 17 **SING MESSIAH**– 3 pm
- November 24 *When Christians Get It Right* – I John 4:11-12, 16, 19-21
- December 1 *The Day and Hour Unknown* - Matthew 26: 36-44
- December 8 *Prepare The Way* - Matthew 3:1-12
- December 15 **CHRISTMAS CANTATA**
- December 22 *God With Us* - Matthew 1:18-25
- DECEMBER 24** *Make Room* - Luke 2:1-14
7 pm - Family Service, 10 pm - Communion Service
- December 29 *The Mother of Our Lord*- Luke 2:15-21
One Service, 10 am, followed by a Pot-luck luncheon in Memorial Hall)

**Sunday Supper Series:
When Christians Get It Wrong**

From Pastor Dave McMillan

COME AND JOIN US on Sunday evenings through November, from 5-7 pm, in Memorial Hall. We'll begin with dinner, followed by an important, lively discussion on how we, the Church, should be "in but not of the world." Dinner and childcare are provided.

Our topics in November include: *When Speaking of Other Religions, When Bad Things Happen, In Dealing with Homosexuality, and When Christians Get It Right.*



Women's Sunday School

All women are welcome, at 10:10 am, as we study *Grown-Up Girlfriends: Finding and Keeping Real Friends in the Real World*, by Erin Smalley and Carrie Oliver.

We'll also continue our Stone Soup Ministry on the fourth Sunday every month, when we meet in the kitchen to prepare food for the Mohnton Food Pantry. Join us whenever you can!

New Program Begun

From Bev Perella

After the Children's Message at the Contemporary Service, children in Grades 1-6 join me for a new, creative program called **THE POTTER'S WHEEL**. We do music, art, children's bells, and drama, using the creativity God has given us.

**Join Us at 10:10 am
for Adult Sunday School!**

From Earl Hope

Nov 3 & 10: *Embracing
Interfaith Cooperation*

In discussion group format, we'll address the understanding of and cooperation with different faith traditions as part of the American tradition of freedom.

Nov 17 & 24: *William Sloane Coffin -
An American Prophet*

An interview with this well-known progressive pastor of New York City's Riverside church in the 60's and 70's.

Dec 1 - Dec 22: *Advent Series,
The Christmas Story in Word and Art.*
Re-telling of the Christmas story using powerful artwork and insights from scholars at Emory University Seminary.

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!



Sightings

From Pastor David McMillan

Listen and I will tell you a mystery... - I Corinthians 15:51

When I first saw the tall- legged Siberian Husky mix, walking with her retired companion, I did a double take. After turning off West Wyomissing Boulevard onto Jefferson Avenue, and unlike most dogs — who walk in the grass between the sidewalk and road — she was happily and intently strolling along the six inch wide curb, as if she walking on a balance beam. Now, in my 50's, every once in a while I still test my balance by doing the same.

Amused, I opened my window to ask her companion if he'd taught her this trick. He said he couldn't take any of the credit. "It was a practice she came up with all by herself."

On my way in to work another morning, at the intersection of Jefferson Boulevard and Cornell Avenue, I witnessed another spectacle. A large crow hovered 10 feet over the road, holding something which looked round, soft, and furry. I stopped and watched as he repeatedly lifted and dropped this object. Finally, I realized that what he was dropping was a mouse. It seems he was attempting to knock it senseless and make it his breakfast. Ever since reading *The*

Adventures of Anatole the Mouse as a young boy, I've had an affinity for field mice. Opening my window made just enough commotion for Anatole to escape into the safety of a patch of groundcover.

The last sighting I'll mention from this past summer was of a more close-up and intimate variety. Exiting, late one night, out the back of the sanctuary onto Carlisle Road, I was greeted by a shocked and agitated-looking pole cat. I had apparently startled him digging for grubs, and he had immediately taken up a defensive position. Freezing for a moment, I slowly retreated. Then, when we were both at a safe distance, my four-legged friend ran off across the street and into a neighbor's backyard.

*"For the soul to thrive,
it has to leave room
for the unexpected."*

I'm all for surprises like these – even when the potential for minor tragedies exist. Today, we live in a world in which we leave little room for surprises. Working countless hours behind a desk, spending hours in front of a television screen or running from one planned activity to the next, we live under the tyranny of the expected. Such a life engenders a poverty of the soul.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

For a soul to thrive, it has to leave room for the unexpected. In the unexpected there can be a sense of uncertainty and danger, but also the possibility of wonder, joy, and the exercise of faith.

So, put your pen down and get out of your house. Make no plans for a Saturday. Take a walk along the creek or under the canopy of white pines in Wyomissing Park or a drive through the countryside of Berks, Chester, or Lancaster counties, or sit out in a chair in your backyard and avail all your senses to what's taking place around and within you. Revel in this gift, delight in this wonder we call *life*.

Annual Charge Conference Convenes

From Pastor Dave McMillan

Our Annual Charge Conference will be held at Lincoln Park UMC on **Saturday, November 9, at 10 am**. Our District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Anita Powell will preside over our opening session, with Calvary Wyomissing and Calvary Mohnton United Methodist Churches.

During our Charge Conference, we review the past year, set the pastor's compensation for 2014, and vote to approve nominated ministry team members for the coming year. All are invited!



From Betsy Buchanan

You can help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas by ordering poinsettias, which you can take home after Christmas Eve services. By mid-November, forms will be in the bulletin, in the Wagner Room, and in the Church Office.

Cost is \$6 per plant, checks payable to LPCUMC. **Last day for orders is Sunday, Dec 1.** Contact **Betsy Buchanan**, 610-777-2501, or the Church Office with questions.

LP Serves Dinner at Opportunity House Tuesday, November 5



From Linda Hope

Please consider helping us prepare and serve dinner at Opportunity House! **Jessica Ferraro** will be planning and supervising the cooking, but we need volunteers in the Church Kitchen from 4-6 pm, and servers 6:30-7:30 pm at Opportunity House.

If you can help, please call the Church Office, 610-777-1422. Don't miss out on this fulfilling ministry: Serve God by serving others!

What's NEW?

From
Becky
Chadwick

Our Third Saturday Dinner Experience

Are you looking for something fun and FREE to do with your family or friends on a Saturday night? Lincoln Park has just the thing for you! The third Saturday of every month we'll be serving a **FREE DINNER** and a **FREE FAMILY-APPROPRIATE ACTIVITY**.

We'll gather for dinner at 5 pm in Memorial Hall and then immediately begin our activity after dinner.

Saturday, Nov 16: Movie Night

Saturday, Dec 21: Cookie Decorating

Saturday, Jan 18: Jugglers

More **EXPERIENCES** for 2014 include games, The Easter Story (interactive), and a family-friendly comedian.

Please contact **Becky Chadwick**, 610-927-2207, if you have questions or would love to help. Volunteers are needed for set-up, cooking, and clean up. All ages are invited, all friends are invited, all community members are invited! Please help us spread the word and then join us for food, fun, and fellowship. See you there!

We Need Your Photos!

From Linda Hope

Whether you're a professional, photo buff, or amateur, your pictures are needed! The Contemporary Service uses pictures through the year of church activities, and it's wonderful to have current pictures of Lincoln Park's people in action!



So, the next time you're involved in a Lincoln Park activity, whether it's the Soup Kitchen, Opportunity House, or Easter Egg Hunt, please consider taking pictures and submitting them to the Church Office so we can build a database for future use. Pictures can be submitted in electronic form on a DVD or the old-fashioned way! Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words!

(Continued from page 1)

medical concerns – a 7-year old girl who had open heart surgery, a boy of seven with Crohn's disease. Another family has a special needs child, with four children sharing a bed, and struggling to pay for heat. Gift requests were for ordinary daily needs items such as winter clothing, boots, simple toys or crafts for children, household items.

Many generous folks made the season a bit better for those whose needs were so great this season. In addition, individuals who made donations for gift cards to Giant and Wal-Mart allowed these folk to make some choices of their own.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Here's an Update on our Need for
New Choir Members:**

*Precious Lord, You heard our call to
Rescue the Perishing. We said, Christ,
for the World We Sing, but without
enough voices to Pass Our Music On,
we were indeed in a Deep, Deep River.*

We asked You, God, *Be Thou Our Vi-
sion* and find us some new choir mem-
bers. You asked, *Whom Shall I Send?*
And then you said to a few people, *Are
You Able?* and You commanded, *Rise
Up, O Men and Woman of God.*”

So far two women (and we can still
use MORE — **Kay Eyrich** and **Lynn
Moyer** — have heard *The Voice of God
Calling* and have answered: *Here I Am,
Lord,* and *It's Me, It's Me, O Lord.*

What *Amazing Grace* You have given
us, God. *How Sweet the Sound* of our
growing Chancel Choir. *Thanks Be to
Thee, God,* for *Your Gift of Love,* for
Your gift of music, and for our choir
members who sing *Praise God, from
Whom All Blessings Flow.*

PS- It's never too late to join any of our
music groups!

From Beverly Perella

Christmas Music



December 15, 11 am Service Christmas Cantata

Bethlehems' Child by Victor C. Johnson
and Lloyd Larson, featuring our Chancel
Choir, Bell Choir, and several instrumen-
talists.

Christmas Eve Services

7 pm PRELUDES featuring our own
musicians begin at 6:45
CHILDREN'S PAGEANT based
on the Christmas narrative as
told by the Little Drummer
Boy

10 pm CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE
Preludes begin at 9:30.

“Life favors the grateful heart.”

—Anonymous

Kids for Christ Fall Harvest Party

On Sunday, November 24, 3-5 pm, we'll celebrate a Fall Harvest Party here at the church.

KIDS FOR CHRIST is for all children, grades 1-6.

Please bring a friend. Come and join us for an afternoon of fun, games and refreshments!



(Continued from page 1)

tainer may be substituted for a shoe box. Boxes are due in the Wagner Room by **Sunday, November 24.**

This ministry also provides gifts, reading materials and follow-up (by Samaritan's Purse ministry founded by Franklin Graham, son of Billy) to introduce children to Jesus Christ - in over 130 countries. An on-line feature allows one to trace where their box is going.

Over 100,000,000 gift boxes have been distributed through this ministry. Math buffs note – our all-time total represents about 1/125,000th of that total, an excellent above average response for one congregation.

End of 2013 Deadlines

From Linda Hope, Treasurer

Please ensure that all green sheets for check requests and bill payments to be paid out of the 2013 budget are turned into the office by **Wednesday, December 18**, for processing by the end of the year. Anything turned in after this date will be processed from the 2014 budget. Please contact **Marilyn Seiders**, Church Secretary, with questions.

Contributions to the 2013 budget must be **RECEIVED** in the office by **Friday, December 27**, or placed in the offering plate on **Sunday, December 29**. Anything not counted with the December 29th collection, will not be deposited until January 6 and will be counted towards your 2014 totals. Thank you!

Envelopes Are Ready

From Linda Hope, Treasurer

2014 offering envelopes will soon be available in the Wagner Room for pick-up. They will be arranged alphabetically, with a master list of names and envelope numbers. If you're unable to pick-up your envelopes, please call the Church Office, 610-777-1422. *If you can help deliver envelopes to those unable to come to church, that would be greatly appreciated.*

The first envelope, labeled *Initial Offering*, helps defray printing costs. Other special envelopes, labeled *Missions*, *Endowment*, and *Lent*, don't count towards your pledge, but allow monies to be put aside for other areas of ministries. Please contact **Linda Hope**, Treasurer, or **Marilyn Seiders**, Church Secretary, with questions.



From our mailbox

♥ HELLO FRIENDS AT LINCOLN PARK,

I'm writing from LaVista, NE, our home since May. Gene and I pray this finds you well and looking forward to a special fall and holiday season.

Recently, I needed surgery on my back to relieve chronic/acute sciatic pain. Gene and I would like to send our sincere appreciation to everyone who prayed for success in this endeavor.

The surgery was a success, and my recovery is progressing well, as I came home the same day and am up and about with few restrictions. The prayers of our church family, the many cards, phone calls, and emails have been a gift from our Lord and a blessing to Gene and me.

Lincoln Park Church and its family remain in my prayers. We're getting established in a church near our home which is another gift from our Lord; we love being only a mile from our family whom we see frequently.

I'm always open to continuing as a "prayer warrior" for any needs at LPCUMC.

In His love,
Gene and Betty Frederickson

♥ *Wherever there is a human being, there is opportunity for kindness.* –Seneca
Thank you from the clients and staff at Opportunity House for volunteering in our kitchen!

Mark Your Calendars

- NOV** 3 Sunday Supper Series 5-7pm
 5 Opp House Supper 4 pm
 9 Charge Conference 10am
 10 Supper Series 5-7pm
 11 Agape Noon
 Finance 7pm
 14 Worship Committee 6:30pm
 16 **EXPERIENCE** 5pm
 17 **SING MESSIAH** 3pm
 Supper Series 5-7pm
 24 KFC Harvest Party 3-5pm
 Supper Series 5-7pm

- DEC** 9 Agape Noon
 Finance 7pm
 15 **CHRISTMAS CANTATA** 11am
 21 **EXPERIENCE** 5pm
 24 Christmas Eve Worship 7pm
 Communion Worship 10pm
 30 **One Service 10 am**
Pot-luck luncheon
 31 *News-Linc* Deadline for
Mid Jan-Feb Issue



- Mondays:** Exercise Class 11am
 Bible Study 12pm
 (except 2nd Mondays)
Wednesdays: Bell Choir 6:30pm
 Chancel Choir 7:30pm
Thursdays: Praise Band 8pm

...

From Brock Kidd, submitted by Nancy Villecco

From the *2013 Daily Guideposts*, pgs. 122-3 (March 17, 2013)

He shall receive blessing from the Lord,

And righteousness from the God of his salvation.~ Psalm 24:5 (NKJV)

From the 2013 Daily Guideposts, pgs.
122/123 and dated March 17, 2013

He shall receive blessing from the Lord,
And righteousness from the God of his
salvation. ~ Psalm 24:5 (NKJV)

My birthday falls on March 14,
just three days shy of St. Patrick's
Day. So, through the years, many of my
birthday parties have conveniently adopt-
ed a St. Patrick's Day theme. Just imag-
ine pots of fake gold for centerpieces,
gold-foiled chocolate coins for favors,
and lots of shamrocks and leprechauns
perched on cakes. There's really no rea-
son for me to imagine I have anything in
common with Patrick, since my forebear-
ers are as much Scottish and English as
they are Irish. But since he always
shows up at my parents' house on March
14, I decided to better acquaint myself
with him.

The first thing I learned was that
he was far from a saint in his early
years. Okay, so we had that in com-
mon. Patrick was a self-professed pagan
and only found the Christian faith during

a stint in prison. He studied in a monas-
tery where he found his life's pas-
sion. I'm not sure where the leprechauns,
rainbows and pots of gold came in to the
mix, but Patrick spent more than thirty
years converting the Celtic Druids and
building schools and churches across Ire-
land.

I also discovered that there is one
truth hidden in all those birthday decora-
tions my mom comes up with every
year. It's hidden within the green sham-
rock. History says that Patrick used the
shamrock in his sermons as a visual to
represent the Trinity, showing how the
Father, Son and Holy Spirit can all exist
as separate parts of the same entity.

Not a bad takeaway for a sermon
or, for that matter, a birthday party!

God, all I have to do is look and
I can find You- not just in cele-
brations, but in everything I see,
hear and do.



~

Brock Kidd

Well, Cheri...stay warm and pray the
snow (another 4 letter 'S-word' I'm not
fond of!!!) lets up on us somewhat! I
think I now have arthritis in my right arm

10 because of all



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*April
for our
May-June issue*

Change of Address

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, and Elaine Meckes

**“To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant,
to enact gratitude is generous and noble,
but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven.”**

—Johannes A. Gaertner

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 9am-2pm, Mon-Thurs Pastor: David McMillan, 610-670-1022
9am-Noon, Fri

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
Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735
cherfallon@comcast.net

Fax line 610-777-4309 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), dmcmillan@lpcumc.org (Pastor McMillan) For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.