

News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania

January — February 2014

Lincoln Park Welcomes a New Youth Leader

Todd Frey, our new Youth Leader, is currently a Junior at Messiah College, working toward a degree in Theology and eventually a Masters of Divinity.



Todd has been active in several churches, working with youth in particular. “I have a passion for youth ministry,” he admits. But, as a volunteer he has done “generally whatever required help,” including food and clothing drives, small groups, and events. He’s also participated in more than 20 mission trips across the US.

Since graduating from Conestoga Valley HS in 1998, Todd has owned and operated two businesses: US Lawns of Lancaster and, more recently, Restore Earth Ecoservices, which he still owns and manages.

We’re excited to have Todd leading our Youth Group (Grades 7-12) and teaching the Youth Sunday School

class. He says he “understands the tremendous difficulties our children face in this modern world

and how they will have their faith challenged during these critical adolescent years.”

On New Year’s Eve, Todd invited our youth to an All-Nighter at the church, 7 pm—7 am, including bowling, games, music, and movies.

Concert Fund Contributions Help!

From Beverly Perella, Director of Music

On the Saturday *Reading Eagle’s* religion page, one church stands out for its musical offerings, and that’s ours! Through the year we use the gifts of our own church musicians and the talents of many in our community.

Our Saturday evening **EXPERIENCE** often offers musical programs, we host

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Come and Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan

From January through March, I'll be preaching a sermon series, *The Way of Jesus*, based on Eugene Peterson's book *The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways that Jesus Is the Way*. Peterson writes:

"...from Abraham to Jesus, the people of God were developing ways of living in "the kingdom of God" that became fully expressed in Jesus, the very ways that turned out to be definitive for the salvation of the world.



For Christians who live in countries that inherit a Christian tradition, however thinned out, it is sometimes difficult to discern how different we are from the world. We speak the same language, eat the same food, drive the same cars, vote in the same elections. But we follow a very different leader, one who in virtually every detail guides us in a way of living that is counter to that of the world, a leader who not only leads but tells us, without qualification, "Follow me."

Come and let us worship the Lord together as we seek to understand, celebrate, and live in The Way that leads to life!

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| January 5 | <i>The Gifts We Bring</i> - Matthew 2:1-12 |
| January 12 | <i>The Way of Jesus: I Am the Way...</i> - John 14:6 |
| January 19 | <i>The Way of Jesus - Abraham: Climbing Mount Moriah</i> - Genesis 22 |
| January 26 | <i>The Way of Jesus - Moses: On the Plains of Moab</i> - Exodus 4:10-12 |
| February 2 | Guest Preacher: Pastor Larry Carl |
| February 9 | <i>The Way of Jesus - David: I Did Not Hide My Iniquity</i> - Psalm 32 |
| February 16 | <i>The Way of Jesus - Elijah: Hide Yourself by the Brook Kerith</i>
- I Kings 17 |
| February 23 | <i>The Way of Jesus - Isaiah of Jerusalem: The Holy</i> - Isaiah 6 |
| March 2 | ASH WEDNESDAY - <i>Ashes</i> -Job 42:6 – 7 pm service |

Youth Prepare for Confirmation

From Pastor David McMillan

Youth, ages 12 and over, are invited to be part of this year's Confirmation Class.

This is an opportunity for our youth:

- † to **affirm the faith** into which they were baptized
- † or, for those not baptized, to **profess their faith in Jesus Christ** as their Lord **and affirm their new covenant relationship to Christ's body, the Church.**

Confirmation helps young people realize how God *is* and *has been at work in their lives*. It is the beginning of a deeper, more vital faith.

Confirmation Classes will meet at church Sundays, 5-6 pm, from January 12 to June 8, when the Rite of Confirmation will be held during morning worship. If you'd like more information or have a son, daughter, or grandchild who is interested, please contact me at the Church Office, 610-777-1422.

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Sunday afternoon concerts, and we're the *only* church offering a mini-concert every summer Sunday. LP's musicians donate their talents, but we *do* present an honorarium to those from the community.

Money from the Concert Fund is available for Contemporary and Traditional programs and worship services.

Are you able to offer a donation to this

Potter's Wheel Class Offered for Grades 1- 6 At 9am Contemporary Service

From Bev Perella



What's new for 2014? How about a class in pottery making, sending letters and pictures to our shut-ins, producing a play, learning to play the bells, singing contemporary and traditional children's church music...? Any other ideas, see Bev Perella.

Join Us for Monday Noon Bible Study

From Pastor Dave McMillan

Come to our Church Library every Monday (except the second Monday of the month), 12-1:15 pm, where we read and discuss the life and ministry of Jesus found in the gospel of Mark. You don't need to be a Bible scholar; you only need an ear to hear and a heart to follow.

ministry? If so, simply designate the *Concert Fund* on your check. We are truly blessed by God for His many gifts to this church, and one of His greatest gifts to us is music.

Thank you, friends, for your dedication to God, this church, and our music program. God's peace, love, and health to you in this New Year!

Thinking Out Loud — Winter Wanderings

From Pastor David McMillan

Lord, I believe; help my unbelief. - Mark 9:24

The books I find myself reading often appear to reflect the condition of my soul. My current reading of Philip Yancey's *Reaching for the Invisible God: What Can We Expect to Find* is a case in point. Over the winter, when I'm feeling a little more isolated due, in part, to inclement weather, I often turn to novels or short stories to read of various human characters living in families and close knit, albeit imperfect communities. These stories have a way of helping me feel more connected and settled in my solitude.

But this winter finds me wrestling with myself more than usual. It could be the recent loss of members in our church family or the protracted cultural wars which continually play out in and outside of the Church that leave me feeling weary and less self-assured. Every year, winter's shorter days and longer nights also tend to invite a slight melancholy which lays over me like an extra blanket mak-

ing it harder to rise and meet the day.

At this time of the year, I find I'm a little less resourceful. Normal responsibilities feel more daunting. I find it harder to hold on to my own emotions when providing pastoral care. And, wanting to inspire others, I find myself struggling with self-doubt, even doubt in what I believe.

*"We both believe and disbelieve
a hundred times an hour,
which keeps believing nimble."
- Emily Dickinson*

It's not as bad as it may sound. Really! I've found solace in Philip Yancey's book when he writes of Martin Luther who constantly battled doubt and depression. "For more than a week," Luther once wrote, "Christ was holy lost. I was shaken by desperation and blasphemy against God." Yancey also tells of an application of D.L. Moody, the great 19th century evangelist, for joining a church in Boston that was actually delayed because... "his beliefs seemed so uncertain."

I've been on this Christian journey long enough now to know that seasons of faith and doubt come and go. And, I would

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like to believe and have some assurance that “every round does go “higher... higher.” But, it’s when you’re in the middle of it that everything seems so challenging. Walker Percy once wrote “To live in the past and future is easy. To live in the present is like threading a needle.”

So, here’s where I find myself at the beginning of the New Year: “reaching for an invisible God,” and attempting to “thread a needle” in what feels like insufficient light.

“Faith,” writes the Apostle Paul, “is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen.” I am working on settling in for the next few winter months and on taking to heart my yoga instructor’s admonition to refrain from judging any feelings of doubt or unbelief, to trust that where I am at this moment is where I am meant to be and reminding myself that Spring is not that far off.

Presenting the Magic of a Great Story

From Sandi Rosencrans



On Monday, January 13, at noon, Lincoln Park’s Agape Women’s Group will present an open reading of *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Toulane*, by Kate Dicamillo.

Published in 2006, the book received the Boston Globe Horn Book Award and the famed Christopher Award. Suitable for any listener 10 and over, it is superbly written and extraordinary in every way. You, your friends, family, and fellow book lovers are invited to bring your brown bag lunch to the Memorial Hall at 12 pm. Because the reading aloud of this compelling story requires *an hour and a half*, the presentation will start promptly at dessert. Please plan accordingly.

Former voice-over artist and radio

show host, **Sandi Rosencrans**, will be the reader.

If seriously inclement weather strikes, the program will be postponed. Please call the Church Office or check your e-mail.

KFC: Kids for Christ Grades 1-6

From Pastor Dave McMillan

Kids for Christ is a monthly junior youth group, held Sundays, 3-4:30 pm, for children in Grades 1-6, led by Pastor Dave. On **Sunday, January 19**, we’ll meet at church before leaving to bowl at Berks Lanes. Please bring \$6 for bowling, shoes, and a snack. On **Sunday, February 23**, we’ll meet at church for a Bible activity and games! For more information, call Pastor Dave.



From our mailbox

♥ A Christmas Gift Thank You

On behalf of the church staff, I'd like to thank the congregation for your generous Christmas gifts. We are grateful for this expression of your love and support.

Pastor Dave

♥ Dear Beverly and Choir:

After so many upsets, you still pulled out a most beautiful cantata. The variety and musicality of the piece was a wonderful variety and every soloist expert. Thanks for such hard work and flexibility.

God Bless All of You,
Jean and Whip (The Whipples)

♥ Dear Marilyn,

As we have moved to the Lititz area, it is with regret - but also joy - that we ask to have our membership transferred to the Lititz Church of the Brethren. We carry with us fond memories of our many years of fellowship in the Lincoln Park congregation.

May God's blessing continue to be with you in growth, love, and fellowship with Him.

Sincerely,
Jerry and Joan Shaeffer

♥ Dear Carolers,

Thank you for coming. It is such a joy to see you. And special thank you for the box of yummy cookies and candy. What a pleasant surprise.

My wishes and prayers that you have a Merry Christmas all year.

Lovingly,
Polly Stark

We mourn the recent loss of two long-time, faithful members of Lincoln Park Church.



We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to **Anne Wardrop** and her family on the loss of her husband, **Marshall (Mike) Wardrop** on October 31. They had been married for 67 years. Mike was a Lieutenant in the US Navy in World War II and in the Korean Conflict.

Sadly, **Doris Schucker** passed away on November 25. Our sympathy and Christian love to her husband, **Ronald Schucker**, daughter **Linda Mann**, son **Glen**, and her entire family. Doris had five children and 11 grandchildren.

May God bless you with His peace and love.

Tomorrow's a Clean Blackboard!

From Pam Kidd, submitted by Nancy Villecco

From the *2013 Daily Guideposts*, pgs. 30-31 (Jan 19, 2013)

Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more. – Hebrews 10:17 (NKJV)

For me, January is always the month of beginning again. I have packed away the bright trappings of Christmas, and our post-holiday house has a simple feel. We crave vegetable soup and cornbread, baked sweet potatoes, hot oatmeal.

The time is right to consider the year that lies ahead. I smile, suddenly recalling the words I used to say to our son Brock each night as I tucked him into bed:

“Tomorrow’s a clean blackboard with all the mistakes you made today erased away!”

I can almost hear God saying the same thing, as I remember a long-ago teacher choosing me to clean the blackboard. This coveted assignment involved standing on a chair and erasing every word on the blackboard and then gathering the erasers and going out to the back of the school building. There, I pounded the erasers against the wall until fanciful clouds of chalk dust floated toward the sky.

I laugh out loud, imagining God pounding the chalk from His big eraser after He has wiped our slate clean. A year’s worth of my mistakes would seem to cloud the horizon, but God promises the opposite.

I am free to choose. I can leave my mistakes, my disappointments, my bad attitudes to yesterday. I can rewrite myself as a person of hope. I can get up each morning with an attitude of appreciation and turn every event into an occasion of thankfulness. If my life is too complicated, I have the power to make simpler choices.


God has tucked me in with His promise. I wake to a new day; my blackboard is clean; my mistakes have dissipated into the wind. How will I choose to write the new year?

Only You can make me
Brand new, Father. Thank You.



Please Welcome ...

OUR NEW NURSERY ATTENDANT, Kris Fedeli. A preschool teacher with supervisory experience in day care centers, she has volunteered as a nursery attendant and started a toddler and preschool program at her local church.



February 14
for our
March-April
Issue

NEWS-LINC

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church
1 Carlisle Avenue
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 9am-2pm, Mon-Thurs Pastor: David McMillan, 610-670-1022
 9am-Noon, Fri Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-603-0150
 Worship Leader: Julie Stites
 Secretary: Marilyn Seiders
 Youth Leader: Todd Frey
Office phone 610-777-1422 Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735
Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35; cherfallon@comcast.net
Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39
Fax line 610-777-4309 Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Kris Fedeli
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.