

# NEWS-LINC

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

*Change service requested*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Reading, PA  
Permit No. 233



*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter  
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania  
Winter 2015*

## Join Us for a Congregational Meeting

**Saturday, February 7, 9-11:30 am**

From Pastor David McMillan

*If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed."*

Proverbs 29:18, The Message



### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

All members and friends of our congregation are asked to attend a congregational meeting on Saturday February 7, 9-11:30 am, pertaining to **the life and future of our church.**

Clearly, changes have been taking place in Main Line Denominations for some time now, the effects of which are being felt in many local congregations. Not the least of these changes is an aging and declining membership. It has become incumbent upon local congregations, possibly as never as before ...

- to understand these changes,
- to decide how to live in light of them,

- and to focus on possible visions for the future.

On Saturday, February 7, we'll meet for a light breakfast at 9 am, followed by our meeting.

I am praying that everyone who is able will be a part of this important on-going conversation concerning our life together.

## Come on Ash Wednesday for a Pancake & Sausage Dinner

February 18, 5:45 pm  
Dinner prepared by LP's Bell Choir  
Ash Wednesday Service  
follows the dinner at 7 pm.

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-1pm, Mon-Thurs Pastor: David McMillan, 610-670-1022  
Music Director: Beverly Perella, 610-603-0150  
Secretary: Marilyn Seiders  
Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735  
cherfallon@comcast.net

Office phone 610-777-1422 Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Kris Fedeli  
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  
Web: www.lpcumc.org  
E-mail: info@lpcumc.org (Secretary and Church), dmcmillan@lpcumc.org (Pastor McMillan) For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.



From Pastor David McMillan

Our sermon series for the next few months is entitled:

*THAT'S WHAT THE MAN SAID: THE SAYINGS OF JESUS.*

It's based on a Discipleship Workbook written by Maxie Dunnam, retired United Methodist pastor and author. While Jesus healed many people and performed miracles, he was forever speaking words of life. They're not always easy words to hear, for they challenge our acceptance of the status quo and our divided loyalties. But, the words Jesus speaks are truths that set us free. Come, as we gather for worship, let us sit beneath Jesus' teaching and allow his Spirit to make, in us, all things new again.

January 25	<i>God Has No Grandchildren</i>	John 3:1-15
February 1	Guest Preacher: <b>Pastor Larry Carl</b>	
February 8	<i>For God's Sake, Be as Christian As You Are</i>	Matthew 5:13-16
February 15	<i>What Can I Get By With</i>	Luke 17:5-10
February 22	<i>A New Look at the Sabbath</i>	Mark 2:23-28

## Come and Enter through Our New Church Doors

From Pastor David McMillan

As a result of the Trustees wish list and an anonymous donor, we now have new mahogany front doors. They were hung by local carpenter **David Irwin**. The stained glass inserts were painted by **Franklin Weidman**, the same artist who has painted our memorial windows. The design on the glass panels includes a Greek cross symbolizing Jesus Christ, two doves symbolizing "two souls feasting upon Christ," and olive branches referring to Christ as God's promised Messiah (Isaiah 4:2).

May all who pass through these doors find welcome and the peace of Christ.



## Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



February 15  
for our  
March-April issue

*News-Linc*, bi-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, Betsy & Allen Buchanan, Bunny Carlson, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, and Elaine Meckes

### Change of Address

Mr Nelson Loeb  
701 Carolina Ave  
Reading PA 19605-1101

Mr Gregory Maack  
1421 Rose Virginia Rd  
Reading PA 19611-1737

Nicole Mann  
1474 Cherry Ln  
Pottstown PA 19464-5031

Mr & Mrs Andrew Nass  
305 Driftwood Ln  
Downingtown PA 19335-4555

Danielle Pasquale  
106 S Morwood Ave  
Reading PA 19609-2017



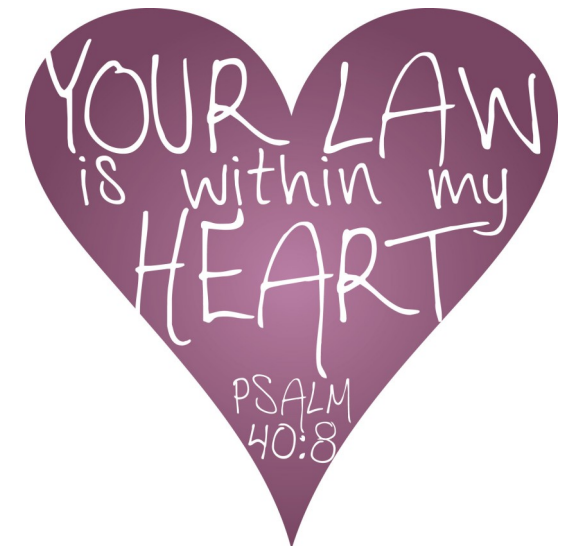
### Baptism

**Liam Michael Brown**, son of **Christine and Michael**, was baptized on November 30. His grandparents are **Ed and Cheri Fallon** and **Tina Brown-Eckart and Fred Eckart**. May God bless Liam and his family as he grows in love and grace.

LP Serves Dinner at  
Opportunity House  
Tuesday, March 3



Can You Help?



## Seeing the Blessing Behind the Challenge

From Jeffrey Japinga, submitted by Nancy Villecco  
From the *Daily Guideposts* 2013 Edition, p. 383-4 (August 27, 2013)

*As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others."* Luke 21:1-3 (NIV)

**T**he flood of e-mails that day told a story of overwhelming human need: a devastating famine in Africa; severe flooding in one part of the United States and a drought in another; two local school-children murdered; unemployment up, poverty up, hunger up. Just reciting the mournful list to a friend left me exhausted and, worse, feeling helpless to make any difference.

"I wish I could do something about all this," I said. "But I'd need 10 million dollars to have an impact, and I don't have 10 million dollars."

"Do you have 10 minutes?" she replied.

"Well, of course. But for what?"

"To write a card to someone grieving. To make a small donation to an organization that can help someone. To pray

for those on the front lines." She paused. "I don't have 10 million dollars either, and I know I can't solve all the big problems of the world alone. But I can do something today in just 10 minutes, to answer one specific need. And, if we all answered one need..." My friend was right. Too often I've fallen prey to the idea that only lots of money can make a big difference in a troubled world, and so I've done nothing. Now, instead of my 10-million-dollar lament, I try to live by her 10-minute rule.

How about you? Could you give 10 minutes today? And tomorrow? And the next day?

You have blessed me with much, God. Help me to give back today and every day. Amen.



## It's a New Phrase: Combo, not Solo

From Beverly Perella

As I was skimming an article by worship leader and consultant Dave Helmuth, a simple idea jumped out at me — an idea I'd been in need of. So I've adopted Dave's advice, not as a New Year's Resolution, but as a way of life. It's simple and obvious: **COMBO, NOT SOLO!**



Months ago, when **Elaine Meckes** and I were talking about the Flea Market and the possibility of not having it, she exclaimed, **"We can't let this go! It's been part of our church for so long."** So, with Elaine's concern and Dave's suggestion, I've developed a plan for the Flea Market.

As a church family we all have strengths and gifts. Some of us volunteer readily, and others need to be asked, persuaded, and coaxed. **But we all have a role.** And I'm asking you to step into the different roles that will create a successful Flea Market. So I *will help* with the Flea Market; I *will not chair* it. We as a family are in charge, each with different responsibilities and activities. I've come up with a magic list of people I'll ask to take charge of various aspects — from pricing fleas to cleaning up at the end of the day. I'll help you determine exactly what you have to do, and then I'll assume you're taking charge. As in any family, different chores for different members! Combined we equal one amazing, well-tuned family capable of doing anything we set our minds to.

So I'm now a COMBO girl, no longer a SOLO one. I'm simply one of the members. (Incidentally, I plan to use the "combo, not solo" approach for other areas of my church and private life.) And it feels so good to share!

## 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!



# Thinking Out Loud

From Pastor David McMillan

*He's God, our God, in charge of the whole earth. And he remembers, remembers his Covenant—for a thousand generations he's been as good as his word."* – Psalm 105:7

2014 was a good year at Lincoln Park UMC. Except for a couple of snow cancellations, we were able to worship together every Sunday at the 9 and 11 o'clock hour.

Over the year, we celebrated several special services including Baptisms, a Rite of Confirmation, a Family Day Service, an Anniversary Service (with our District Superintendent, **the Rev. Dr. Anita Powell**) and an end of the year Love Feast.

There were ongoing programs at the church, including our Sunday School for all ages, the Potter's Wheel class for children 6-12, a Confirmation class, United Methodist Youth, the Agape Group, Monday Bible Study and exercise class, a book club, men's bowling team and breakfasts. Short term programs included *The Long Goodbye*, a five-part series on issues surrounding the end of life, Saturday evening dinners and worship experiences, and a wonderful church music camp ending with Friday evening and Sunday morning performances!

*"Some things in life can only be experienced and accomplished while living together in Christian community."*

There were also single events including a church golf outing, our annual Church Picnic, and a Christmas Dinner and Celebration.

Once again, our congregation was active in mission and outreach. Our Youth took a summer mission trip to Washington, DC. Twice a month, our volunteers served lunch at the New Journey Soup Kitchen at South 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Reading. Every other month, we prepared and served dinner at Opportunity House, a homeless shelter for men, women, and children, on North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. And on the third Sunday of every month, our women's Sunday School class prepared homemade soup for the Mohnton Food Pantry.

In November and December, our Mission's Team collected groceries for the New Journey Food Pantry, 49 shoe boxes filled with children's items for Operation Christmas Child, gifts for families in Reading through the Salvation Army Angel Tree ministry, and a workday with Habitat for Humanity renovating

*(Continued on page 5)*



From Pastor Dave McMillan

Our Youth Group, grades 7-12, meets regularly for Bible Study, games and activities, mission and outreach projects, and worship. All youth are invited and encouraged to bring friends. Here is our upcoming schedule. For more information, contact Pastor Dave at the Church Office, 610-777-1422.

January 18	Trip to Gretna Glen Camp for Youth Night	3-7:30 pm
February 8	Bible Study (Race Relations) and Games	4-5:30 pm
February 15	Glow Bowling – Berks Lanes	3-5 pm
February 22	Soup Making – Church Kitchen (Mission Project)	3:30-5:30 pm

We were saddened at Lincoln Park Church to hear of the deaths of two long-time members. **James Perry** passed away on December 31. Jim was the husband of **Laura**, father of **Carson**, **Rebecca**, and **Devini Henry**, and grandfather of **Dean Weaver**. Jim served in Vietnam, was a microbiologist and instructor at St. Joseph's Medical Center, and owned a cleaning business. Jim was active at Lincoln Park Church and sang in the choirs. He is especially remembered here for his wonderful singing voice.

**Alice Ulrich** died on December 12; she was 94. Alice was a teacher at Lincoln Park Elementary School and taught Sunday School at LP Church. Alice is survived by her son and his wife, two grandsons and their wives, and two great granddaughters.



Our sympathy to **Dennis** and **Gabriella Antunes** on the loss of Dennis's father. And to **Jack** and **Nancy Villecco**, **Mark**, **Lindsey**, and **Kevin**, on the loss of Jack's brother **Stephen**.

**You are in our hearts and prayers at Lincoln Park Church!**

# Happy New Year From the Editor

From Cheri Fallon

Our January magazines, newspapers, blogs, and talk shows are full of self-help at this time of the year — when we're working on our fresh starts for 2015. We've pledged diets, exercise, de-cluttering, relationship-work, volunteerism, and Bible reading. I admit I *go for it* every year: the fresh starts *and* the self-help.

So, when cleaning out some “stuff” recently (speaking of clutter) I found a list of **VERBS** in my handwriting on the back of an old bank envelope, beside an ancient fruit salad recipe (also in my handwriting.) Perhaps they came from the *Today Show* in, say, January, 1988.

Around that time, in writing classes I'd learned that it's *the verb* that gives a sentence life, as opposed to the adjectives. (We all love the adjectives: *fabulous, awesome, miserable, deathly, gruesome.*) But, in fact, the professor claimed that omitting adjectives makes strong writing.

Anyway, I still find this old-bank-envelope-list-of-verbs inspiring in my 2015 fresh start. Maybe you will too. They appear in my Bible reading from time to time and must also be in Pastor Dave's current sermon series on *The Sayings of Jesus*.

**Prepare  
Listen  
Smile  
Care  
Choose  
Focus  
Believe  
Relax  
Act  
Forgive  
Pray  
Trust  
Persist  
Change  
Accept  
Risk  
Wait**

One more verb comes to mind. Years ago I became friends with Judy Magill, the wife of the Wyomissing Superintendent of Schools, Dr. David Magill. Judy and I sat together during our daughters' dance class every week.

One day we chatted about the frustration of getting our kids moving on some school project or college application essay. Judy said Dave advised his kids, “Now you have all you need to do the project, just **begin!**”

So there you go, the final word, encouraging us to take on that project, that habit, that quality, or that change:

**Begin.**

**“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.”**

—Vern McLedan

(Continued from page 4)

abandoned homes. At our Christmas celebration, we also collected toiletries for the New Journey Food Pantry and wrote Christmas cards to our at-home members. We also undertook a new initiative as a congregation in 2014, partnering with the 10<sup>th</sup> and Green Elementary School in Reading, providing school supplies and purchasing books for several classes at Christmas time.

I'm sure I've overlooked a few programs or ministries of our church, but the above is evidence that we serve a good God, who keeps covenant with us, and of our own faithfulness in keeping covenant with one another as we “seek and share Christ.” Some things in life can only be experienced and accomplished while living together in Christian community. I personally rejoice and give thanks for the life we shared throughout 2014 and feel encouraged in what God will do in and through us in 2015. Let us commit ourselves to God and to one another for the coming year.

**Dear God,**



Who are we that you are mindful of us, and yet you have made us a little lower than the angels and crowned us with glory and honor. Thank you for calling us out from our selves to live together in Christian community. We renew our covenant this day to participate in the life of our congregation through our prayers, presence, gifts, and service that in all things your kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

**Thank You**

On behalf of the church staff, I would like to thank the congregation for your gracious Christmas gifts. Every Christmas, we are reminded of the love and generosity of our congregation.

Pastor Dave

**Usher, Communion Steward, Greeter,  
and Teacher Training**

**Saturday, February 7, 11:30- 1 pm**

From Pastor David McMillan

Following our congregational meeting in Memorial Hall on February 7, all ushers, communion stewards, greeters, and teachers will meet in the sanctuary, at 11:30 am, for a training session and update on our Safe Sanctuary policies. If you've volunteered for any of these ministries, please try to attend.



## Your Local and Global Outreach to Others

From Jim Eckert, Missions Committee



On November 14, 2014, four individuals from Lincoln Park Church joined another group of four from Kutztown University to help with construction at homes on 4<sup>th</sup> and Elm Street in Reading.

This "cluster" project will renovate four homes there over 16 months.

It was simple, brainless, but satisfying work - cleaning up construction rubble and ridding the insides of the homes of the mess.

Our workday lasted from 9 am to 1:30, and participants included **Pastor Dave, Todd Beamsderfer, Pat Owens, and Jim Eckert.**

The Committee also donated \$500 from Missions Designated Offering for Habitat supplies.

Stay tuned for another possible workday in the spring.

### Operation Christmas Child

#### The Power of a Simple Gift

Our annual Shoe Box collection in November (for Samaritan's Purse) netted 49 boxes from our church. Since 2002, generous participants at Lincoln Park have filled nearly 1000 boxes with small gifts for children, many of whom have never received a gift. Most importantly, many

learn of the "reason for the season" by hearing of Jesus' birth.

Boxes were taken to Community Evangelical Church, Sinking Spring, which serves as a drop-off point and distributor. From there, they traveled to over 130 countries.

Thanks to those who, in the midst of the busy holiday season, went out and considered the needs of others whom they may never meet in this life. They fulfill the words of Jesus "whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me!" Matthew 25:40.

### Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family Angel Tree Program



This program, coordinated by the Salvation Army of Reading, has been a light for struggling local families at Christmas. With an emphasis on gifts of clothing, shoes, bedding, gift cards, and simple children's toys, caring folks at our church have generously supported this ministry over the years.

We helped two families this season, consisting of 14 folks. One family consisted of both parents and three children.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Stewardship Update

From Pastor David McMillan

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.* – Luke 6:38

A grateful thanks to the congregation for your faithful financial stewardship of our church. While our commitment to the church includes our prayers, presence, and service, our financial gifts are an important sign of our love for God and God's Church.

**For the year 2014, our actual income was \$293,600 representing 101% of what**

**Good News!**



**was hoped for.** Our actual expenses were \$281,110, representing 97% of our expected expenses. These totals left us with a balance for year 2014 of \$12,490.

I hope you are as encouraged as I am by the ongoing financial faithfulness of our congregation. Our financial sacrifice makes possible our life and ministry together in this place and beyond.

May God continue to open our hearts and hands in the coming year.

*(Continued from page 6)*

The mother hasn't been working, since she cannot find affordable child care. They hoped to receive warm clothing for the family and toys for the children, including a boy 11, girl 8, and girl 6-years old.

Another family consisted of a single parent with nine children, ranging four months to 21 years. The child care problem, along with the need for winter necessities and some surprise toys for children, was the same as for the first family.

The response of our church at Lincoln Park has always been generous, and the Salvation Army has appreciated that they've been able to count on us to help some of the larger and most in-need families on their lists.

All gift tags were taken, including 10 leftover, which were later taken and gifts obtained. Some funds from Missions Designated Offering were used to cover extra expenses.

A special thanks to our members for being timely in bringing gifts this season; stragglers were few. Gifts were transported to the Salvation Army by church members and were distributed by the Salvation Army the Saturday before Christmas.