



News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *Early Fall 2016*

Wanted: New Members for Our Musical Groups All Are Welcome!

From Beverly Perella

A new **CHANCEL CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR** year has begun, and as usual we're asking, *actually begging*, for new members.

- **Bell Choir** rehearses Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm, in the Wagner Room.
- **Chancel Choir** rehearsal follows at 7:30 pm in the Music Room of the Education Wing.
- **THE PRAISE BAND** practices year round at 8 pm in the Sanctuary.

Please contact **Mark Villecco** or **Becky Chadwick** about Praise Band and **Beverly Perella** about Bell and Chancel Choirs. God gives us all different talents. Is yours music? Perhaps you and God need to chat about this.

Silent Auction

From Beverly Perella

Our Fall Auction will begin earlier this year. Bids may be placed on three Sundays - October 23, 30, and November 6.



It's not too early to look around your house for treasures you'd like to donate. If you have any questions, please contact **Beverly Perella**, 610-334-4197. You may bring your donation to church and place it in the Music Office.

Thanks to all who attended our Church Picnic on Sunday, September 11, and helped to put together cleaning buckets to send to UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) for flood victims in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Our Newly-Formed Cherub Choir ...



meets Tuesday evenings, from 6-6:30 pm. Ages two and up are invited! Contact **KC Dianna** and **Krista Gilham** if you have any questions about this lively group.



From Pastor David McMillan

*Come let us worship and bow down:
let us kneel before the Lord our
maker. For he is our God; and we
are the people of his pasture, the flock that he shepherds.
Psalm 95:6,7*

On the first two Sundays in September, we considered the Letter of James, which describes the characteristics of a healthy Christian community. Then, we begin our annual stewardship series on *Sacrificial Giving*. In October, we start a six-week sermon series based Adam Hamilton's book *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Others Things The Bible Doesn't Say*.

September 18	<i>What Good Does It Do? - Jerry Manhart and Jack Villecco</i>
September 25	<i>Giving Sacrificially: Out of Abundance - Luke 19:1-10</i>
October 26	<i>Giving Sacrificially: Out of Poverty - John 6:1-14</i> World Communion Sunday
October 9	<i>Giving Sacrificially: Cheerfully - 2 Corinthians 9</i> Consecration Sunday
October 16	Laity Sunday
October 23	<i>Half Truths: Everything Happens for a Reason</i> Deuteronomy 30:19-20a
October 30	<i>Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves</i> Psalm 121

Every Third Thursday Join Us for Worship at 8 pm

It's THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE! Please come for a special monthly worship service held in our Wagner Room the third Thursday of every month. During this casual worship time, we'll sing, pray, hear devotions, and join in fellowship with one another. This is a great opportunity for anyone who cannot attend worship on Sunday mornings, or for anyone who'd like to supplement their weekly worship with a new experience in a different setting.

Mini-Concerts Will Continue into Fall

From Beverly Perella

We're offering Mini-Concerts the first Sunday of the month at 10:45, beginning Sunday, October 2, which is World Wide Communion. Thank you for your continued support of these concerts, both by your attendance and your financial contributions.

From Pastor David McMillan

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We offer **three adult classes** on Sunday mornings: our **Women's Class** and **Bible Study Class**, in the Perkins Education Building, from 10-10:50 am, and a **Topics Class** at the same time in Memorial Hall. Jesus said *Come and follow me and I will make you fishers of men.* Discipleship is a life-long commitment and journey. I pray that you will take these opportunities to strengthen your faith.

ADULT TOPICS CLASS

The Topics Class will begin Sunday, September 18, from 10:10-10:50 am, downstairs in Memorial Hall. Over five Sundays we'll consider *The Five Marks of a Methodist: The Fruit of a Living Faith*. Come and learn the five identifiers John Wesley, our Methodist patriarch, put forth in his pamphlet *The Five Characteristics of a Methodist*, published in 1742. This discussion class will be led by various presenters throughout the year.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This study begins on September 19, 11-12 am, in the Church Library, located in the Perkins Education Building. Every Monday morning throughout the year (September-June), we read one book of the Bible at a time, attempting to understand and apply the Living Word to our everyday lives. Come and join us!



Sunday School for Our Children

From Beverly Perella

Our first **Potter's Wheel Class** (Grades 1-6) begins

Sunday, September 18, at 9:15 am, immediately following the Children's Message at the Contemporary Service.

Potter's Wheel, Part 1, is from 9:15 - 10 am and meets in Room 101 in the Education Wing. Potter's Wheel, Part 2 begins at 10:10 and ends at 10:50. Children may attend only one or both parts. We're using the **Deep Blue** curriculum, published by Cokesbury, a UMC Church endorsement.

The Nursery Class will also follow the Cokesbury **Deep Blue** series for toddlers. These lessons will be presented at 9:15, 10:10, and 11 am.

Gods' gifts to us are many. And teaching is one of them. Are you feeling called to help with our Sunday School program? We need your help. Please contact **Beverly Perella**, 610-334-4197, to offer your talents. You'll be included in a rotating schedule and not be asked to commit weekly. Is God speaking to you about teaching?

Church Directory Pictures

It's not too late to submit a picture or have one taken for our new directory, to be published before the end of the year. Bring in a recent photo or send it via e-mail to info@lpcumc.org.

Thinking Out Loud: *Who Am I?*

From Pastor David McMillan

For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately

Some time ago, I watched an old documentary hosted by the late neurologist, Oliver Sacks. He was interviewing a middle-aged man suffering from Korsakoff's Syndrome, who could remember nothing of his life since the end of World War II. In this 1990's documentary, he believed it was 1945 and behaved normally aside from his inability to remember most of his past and events of his day-to-day life. I felt heartbroken watching him struggle to find meaning in the midst of forgetting what he was doing from one moment to the next.



According to psychologist David Keirsey, who developed the popular personality assessment, the Keirsey Temperament Sorter, I fall under the category of an *Idealist*. I imagine this isn't a surprise! According to Keirsey, as an *Idealist*, I'm part of 12% of the world's population who are forever concerned with seeking meaning and significance, obsessed with answering the question *Who am I?* While I still have a fair memory, there are some mornings when I look in the mirror, as if I have

I suspect it's a question we all ask from time to time. I also believe it was a

question Jesus tried to answer for us — by taking the ordinary lives of his disciples and showing us how extraordinary life can become. He answered by revealing and confronting our religious pretensions, appealing to the authenticity of love, justice, and mercy. He tried to show us who we are in befriending and forgiving sinners like Zacchaeus, The Woman at the Well, and The

Woman Caught in Adultery, revealing to us our better moral nature. He revealed to us who we are in his crucifixion and death, the fearful part of ourselves that wills for power (that we would rather not admit to) but must always remember lest history tragically repeat itself again and again.

Jesus tried to show us who we are through calling us to follow him in Christian discipleship. Pastor Eugene Peterson wrote that Christian discipleship is “a long obedience in the same direction.” Jesus knew that self-identity comes only after a life-time of fidelity to the spiritual practices of self-surrender, prayer, corporate worship, right relationships, and acts of compassion and service...until the faith we profess is harmonious with the faith we

(Continued on page 5)

Covenant Bible Study: Are You Willing?

From Pastor Dave McMillan

One of the most meaningful experiences I had at Lincoln Park while serving as associate pastor, 1989-1995, was going through the 34-week Disciple Bible Study with 12 members of our church. Yes! It was a big commitment, but one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. Some others have said the same.

I've been looking for a similar **STUDY**, in which we read and discuss the Bible

together. It differs from other studies in that it emphasizes the biblical concept of covenant as a unifying pattern throughout the entire Bible, underscoring the unique relationship that God chooses with us as his people.

Over three eight-week modules, we'll read the Old and New Testaments as they relate to three different aspects of what covenant means: **CREATING, LIVING, AND TRUSTING**. This program has been developed for a small group of no more than 12. We'll meet Thursday nights, from 6:30-8 pm, in the Wagner Room. The first module begins October 6. I recognize committing 24 weeks to read through the Bible and meet weekly is a commitment, and not for the faint of heart. But most things worthwhile in life require dedication. Let me know if you're interested.

(Continued from page 4)

live, until we become more like our Master. Only then when we look in a mirror and walk away, we won't feel the need to run back having forgotten what we are

We'll Remember Loved Ones November 6

From Beverly Perella

At both worship services on **ALL SAINTS DAY**, Sunday, November 6, we'll honor the memory of loved ones who've passed away. Please share a picture with us so we can include it in our memorial video that day. You may give us the actual picture, to be returned to you, or you may e-mail it to our office at info@lpcumc.org.

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!



Being a Fruitful Congregation

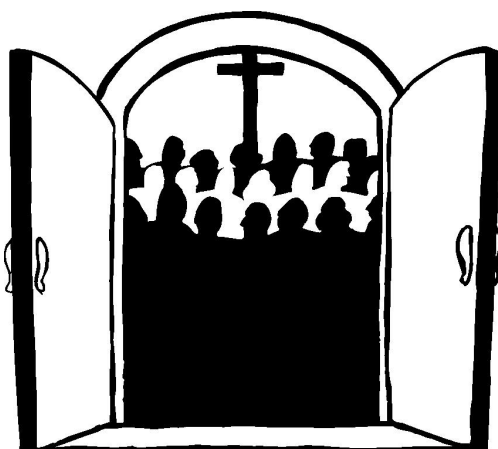
From Pastor David McMillan

And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. – 2 Corinthians 3:18

After several congregational meetings in spring 2015, we came up with recommendations to keep our congregation vital well into the future. The recommendations fell under headings we've considered, in sermons and discussion, from *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity* written by Methodist Bishop Robert Schnase.

To date, several recommendations have been implemented, including the hiring of a **Children's Ministry Coordinator** to strengthen our ministry with children and a **Youth Pastor** to help disciple our youth. We have also begun a **ministry for our young adults**.

Here is where we are now with our remaining recommendations as prioritized:



RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

1. To focus our mission outreach, we'll center our efforts on feeding the poor through the **New Journey Soup**

Kitchen and Opportunity House and through a new partnership with the **Reading Berks Food Bank**, near our church. Hunger is a growing concern for children, the elderly, and the working poor. In this way, we'll help to meet an important need.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

2. We're planning a program to welcome visitors into our church community and looking for members and couples willing to reach out to visitors and help them feel at home.

3. To help our church grow numerically, we have to become better at inviting family members, friends, neighbors, and strangers, not only to "come and see," but to "come and follow." Church growth experts say that young people want to join churches where they can make a difference in the world. To this end, we hope to develop ministry and mission opportunities that invite partici-

pation.

4. The Ad-Council is still struggling to discern **our niche** as a congregation. What makes us unique enough that someone would say *that's the church I want to be a part of*.

Intentional Faith Development

5. Most thriving churches have this in common: meaningful small groups within their congregations- —men's and women's groups, Bible studies, book clubs, service and mission groups... They find that at the heart of a healthy church are relationships where people feel known and supported. We'll continue to offer short and long-term small group opportunities.

Radical Hospitality

6. While Jesus exhorts us "not to let the right hand know what the left hand is doing,," I think he would be okay if we continue to get our name out there. To this end, we're exploring new ways to advertise our church and tell our story.

Intentional Faith Development

7. A vital church requires good leadership. At Lincoln Park, we're fortunate to have a history of strong leaders, who are now ready to pass on the baton to the next generation. To keep the tradition going, we're organizing a mentoring program for emerging leaders.

So you can see, some progress has been made, with more work yet to be done. But we've set our course. Our prayer is that in time, with God's help,

we will bear fruit.

New Members Class Offered in November

Pastor Dave will offer a New Member Class this fall. A series of three meetings will be held on Monday evenings (**NOVEMBER 7, 14, AND 21**) from 6:30-8 pm, at the parsonage. If you're interested in becoming a member here at Lincoln Park,

For Your December Calendar From Beverly Perella

Sunday, November 27 - *SING MESSIAH!*

This year our church will sponsor this beloved concert, a wonderful start to the Advent season.

Sunday, December 4— 5 pm

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY AND DINNER

Sunday, December 11— 11 am

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



Julia Rose Gehman and **Jacob Mark Gehman**, children of **Kelly** and **Tony Gehman**, are 2016 Wilson graduates. Julia attends the University of South Carolina, majoring in Business Administration. Jake is enrolled at Millersville University and is majoring in Business Management. Julia and Jake are **Roe** and **Jim Gehman's** grandchildren.

What You Need to Know Before You Consider Your Giving to LP Church

WHERE DO WE OBTAIN THE INCOME TO SUPPORT OUR BUDGET?

ENVELOPES represent 84% of our contributions. Of this money, 84% was pledged and 16% was from non-pledges. *Your pledges help us plan the next year's budget.*

PLATE is loose money in the collection plate with no name attached; it represents 2% of our budget. We can't give a statement or credit because we don't know who the contributor was.

SPECIAL ENVELOPES (Initial, Lent, Easter, Anniversary, Thanksgiving, and Christmas) make up 3% of our budget. However, the Mission, Building Fund, and Pastor's Discretionary giving go right to Designated Funds and are not part of the budget.

OTHER represents the last 11% of the budget. It's a catchall: Sunday School giving, savings interest, Silent Auction, Flea Market, rental income, sponsored bulletins, *Upper Room*, copier income, miscellaneous income, and Designated Funds.

DESIGNATED FUNDS are moneys set aside from the budget for specific things. *Unfortunately we had to use \$13,000 from these funds to balance the budget, and we cannot continue to do that.*

WHAT ARE MY CONTRIBUTIONS

USED FOR? How do our church, its members, and people outside our church benefit from your contributions?

Our **Expense Budget** includes:

- Church Council Ministries of Administration - 9% of budget - From supplies to advertising, these line items keep our church business running.
- Church Council Program Ministries 14% of budget - It includes programs for education and activities; We also support the Eastern PA Conference of the UMC and Christian missions a ministries worldwide.
- Staff Parish - 57% of budget. We all benefit from staff preaching and interpreting the Bible, visits to the sick, Christian teaching, music, child care, youth programs, and a clean church. We have nine staff members some full-time and some part-time.
- Board of Trustees - 20% of budget Our properties — the Church, Perkins Education Building, Office Building, Parsonage, and Rental Property— have the same expenses you have to insure and maintain your home.

It's said that our members always come through in a crisis or major improvement. Let's avoid having a crisis, major maintenance problem, or staff reduction by supporting the annual budget.

What Do You Do?

From Jeffrey Japinga, submitted by Nancy Villecco

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us...

I was at one of those large gatherings, in a room filled with people you know only by name tags. When I asked a woman I'd just met one of the typical questions we all ask in settings like that — *What do you do?* — I

expected a typical response.

But that's not what I got.

She smiled and said quietly *I bring hope to people who are hurting.*

With a little more digging, I got the answer I had originally expected: She

was a clerk in a local grocery store. But she didn't see her job simply as a job. It was also a way to use the gifts of hospitality and love God had given her to help make the world a better place. And so, she said, she especially paid attention to people who looked sad or careworn, and intentionally offered them a simple word

of kindness. *I think it makes a difference*, she concluded.

What do I do? I'm a seminary dean, and with the academic year just starting, I've got a to-do list the length of my

arm. If we met today, I could tell you all about that, and you could tell me your job title and functions, too.

But because someone recently gave me an answer I didn't expect, it's helped me see my work in a whole new way. What do I do? I

use my gifts of administration and teaching to prepare people for ministry and build up the kingdom of God. It doesn't make my to-do list any shorter, but it does make it more compelling.

This Labor Day, why not ask yourself: *What larger work has God called me to do?* Then look for it.



We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family of **Nancy Lape**. She and her husband **Bill**, were married for 53 years. Nancy was very proud of her daughters, **Jane Martin** and **Susan Stone**, and her four grandchildren. Nancy was a faithful member at LP Church. May God bless her friends and family with His love and peace.

Why Am I Here? From the Blog, *Refresh the Church*

by Zach Below, Worship Leader, Life Group Site Director at One Life West

Submitted by Becky Chadwick

I'm sitting at a makeshift desk in a dorm room in Knoxville, TN. I just finished a 6 1/2-hour drive in a 15-passenger van with nine Jr. High girls.

My wife and kids are 400 miles away. Tonight when I talk to my 5-year-old, he'll want to know why I've left him for a week. I'll give him a few reasons, but I need to answer the same question in my own heart as well. Why am I at a Student Conference in Tennessee with a bunch of Jr. High girls?

The easy but unsatisfying answer is: I'm a youth minister and it's my job to take students to conferences. The day that becomes my total answer is the day I resign from ministry. It's much bigger than that. It *has* to be to pull me away from a family I love to invest in the lives of students I'll only know for a season of life.

So...here's my reason. I believe that when Jesus uses His church, it has the power to alter the direction of a person's life. *I'm talking completely changing the outcome of someone's future!*

In light of that reality, how should we structure our youth ministry? I believe there are **two things** that the entire church has to do in this amazing process of life transformation of students. If I'm pressed to do a program or event that doesn't fit into one of these two categories, it's an easy pass. If it fits into both, we're on to something.

Create Spiritual Memories

My greatest childhood and teen memories are attached to the church. There were ski trips and retreats. We zip-lined across lakes, dove into pools of oatmeal, and watched friends be baptized in lakes, horse troughs, and oceans.

Why do we plan big production events with lights and smoke machines in worship or plan crazy games? Because we're creating spiritual memories; students can remember the fun and creative things they were part of, all attached to their journey of faith.

Grounded in Relational Growth

Spiritual memories are empty without intentional relational growth. I'm not the only leader with our group at this conference. Two female leaders took VACATION TIME from work to spend it with these nine girls. Why? Because relational growth is where the good stuff is. Spiritual formation will come from the leaders in their lives — the ladies willing to show up again and again because they understand how important it is.

Why am I in Knoxville with nine Jr. High girls? Because I have no doubt that this week will be a standing stone in their lives, a lasting memory, grounded in relational growth with the leaders who gave their time to tag along. Sincere thanks to leaders who aren't paid to travel with students but are willing to give up their pay to do so. It blows my mind every time!



Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*Oct 15
for our
Nov-Dec 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, Bunny Carlson, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, Elaine Meckes, Mark Villecco

From our mailbox...



♥ KC, Elizabeth, and I would like to thank our Lincoln Park Church family for the kindnesses shown to us during Allen's illness, hospitalization, and passing. The cards, meals, transportation, prayers, and caring thoughts mean so much.

The church was an important part of Allen's life, and he valued his friends, commitments and dedication to Lincoln Park.

Thank you again for your love and support.

Betsy Buchanan, KC Dianna and Elizabeth Kirkpatrick.

♥ Dear Dave and Congregation,
Thank you for the flowers I received today. I always appreciate how well I'm received and remembered when I can get to church. It's like old home-week. Sincerely, **Suzi**

Birth

Belated congratulations to **Erika and Aaron Pied** on the birth of their son, **Gavin Leroy**, on July 25.



His happy grandparents are **Harry and Gretchen Garrity**. Gavin weighed 8lbs 8oz, and was 21 in long. Welcome to the

Change of Address

Matthew T. Brown
1530 N Edgewood St
Arlington VA 22201-3906

Becky Perry
424 Argonne Dr
New Kensington PA 15068-5908

Alyssa Chandler

Summer Trip for 2017

Want to travel with us on our third trip? Come to our first planning meeting **Sunday, September 25**, at 12:30 pm, in Memorial Hall. Although it's not definite, we're considering an Alaskan cruise. Come share your ideas with us. Church members and their friends are welcome. If you have questions or can't make that meeting, talk to **Beverly Perella**.

NEWS-LINC

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

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Change service requested

Carry the cross  and follow me.
Luke 14:27, NRSV

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
 Worship Leaders: Becky Chadwick, Mark Villecco
 Youth Leader: Kyle Robbins
 Secretary: Marilyn Seiders
 Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678- 8735, cherfallon@comcast.net
 Nursery: Kathi Ernst, Kris Fedeli
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
Web: www.lpcumc.org