

Lower Bucks Center for  
Church and Community

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TO:

Salt Shaker is the newsletter of the Lower Bucks Center for Church and Community, an ecumenical body which aims to bring Christians and congregations together across denominational, social, racial, and economic lines to promote Christian unity, greater understanding among faiths, social justice, and ministry to all God's people.

Call 215-295-2076 or [maben730@aol.com](mailto:maben730@aol.com) to comment or to include your events!

LBCCC is a not-for-profit 510(c)(3) organization founded in 1989.

A copy of our official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Funding for LBCCC and WTS comes from individuals, congregations, and businesses, and foundation.



# SALT SHAKER

You Are The Salt of the Earth

The Lower Bucks  
Center for Church  
and Community  
October 2006

## Welcoming the Stranger Classes Expand to Bristol & Bensalem

Immigrants and refugees are flocking to Welcoming the Stranger free classes from Bristol to Warminster, and many points in between as the WTS fall semester begins. New this semester are Beginner and Intermediate English classes at Bristol's First United Methodist Church and at Bensalem's

Creekside Apartments, and English for Health Care Workers at Chandler Hall in Newtown, as WTS tries to respond to community needs.

Last year (Sept.-July) our English, Computer, and Citizenship classes reached 280 different students. 180 of them were brand new to Welcoming the Stranger. We hope to reach 300 different students

this year! With our increased class load, we need more teachers, too. Please call director Sturgis Poorman (215-702-34345) to offer your help or for more information. Maybe you know someone who could benefit from our classes. See the complete schedule at [www.welcomingthe stranger.org](http://www.welcomingthe stranger.org).

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## New FLOC Advocates Wanted!

FLOC- For Love Of Children is looking for a few more good Advocates. They're the folks who sign up for periodic email Alerts when issues affecting children and their families come up in Harrisburg or Washington. Advocates try to take the

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Coming Home to Earth: An Eco-Mission  
of Reconciliation— Oct. 10, 11, 12



“A Spirituality  
of the Earth”  
offered by St.  
Mary Medical  
Center

As people begin to acknowledge the serious environmental issues that engulf our planet, St. Mary Medical Center is offering Christians an opportunity to focus on our shared responsibility as a Christian people to be good stewards of the precious gift of God's Creation. At 7 pm on Oct. 10, 11 and 12, Fr. Richard Landry, a La Salette Missionary currently serving as a chaplain at St. Mary, will offer a preached Eco-Mission on “A Spirituality for the Earth”. Themes for three evenings are these: Parables of the Earth

in the Gospel of Mark;

From Chaos to the Cosmic Christ: The Scriptures Revisited; and The Universe: Our Story.

In hopes that Christians from many different congregations will attend this important spiritual event, the St. Mary Mission and Ministry Department is offering to assume the registration fee for between 4 and 6 members of a congregation who register together. Individuals are also welcome to attend. The programs will be held in the St. Mary Medical

Center Auditorium A donation of \$40 for the series or \$15 per session is requested. For further information, check [www.stmaryhealthcare.org](http://www.stmaryhealthcare.org) or call 214-710-2000.

News to Share, continued...

Children should not be poor. As a first step, our nation must commit to a plan to reduce child poverty by half over 10 years.

The US should work to end global poverty by supporting effective aid, good government, just trade policies, and debt cancellation to lift billions of people out of extreme poverty.

Individuals, congregations, and organizations can all sign this covenant. In embracing it, they commit to personal action, congregational engagement, and societal renewal through advocacy and witness. Copies of the Covenant and a tool kit for implementing it are available free from Sojourners/A Call for a New America.

Connect with the Covenant at [www.covenantforanewamerica.org](http://www.covenantforanewamerica.org).

October is a great month for raising awareness about Domestic Violence. Christian congregations need to do more to let their people know that domestic violence is sinful and never acceptable. Consider having a speaker at your church or meeting on domestic violence. Bucks County has two great groups that would love to be invited to come to your place of worship. A Woman's Place, currently marking its 30<sup>th</sup> year helping abused women, can be reached at 215-343-9421. They have a wealth of excellent information to publicize their services, including flyers and cards with their 24 hour hotline number: 800-220-8116. NOVA (Network of Victim Assistance) also offers speakers on many topics related to violence. They provide services to victims of sexual assault and other serious crimes in Bucks County. Their number is 215-343-6543, their hotline number 800-675-6900. Make October the month your church gets these hotline numbers posted and some flyers on preventing domestic and other kinds of violence displayed. Call A Woman's Place or NOVA and talk about having a program, too.

Speak out, judge righteously,  
defend the rights of the poor and needy.  
Proverbs 31:9

## News to Share

Switch one light bulb! Save God's Creation. Money, too.

Swap out one standard 100w bulb for a just-as-bright CFL (compact fluorescent), and you'll reduce your household's global warming pollution by more than 1,300 pounds. Couldn't you switch just one? If we all did that, we could have a real impact on our nation's energy consumption and resulting pollution of our precious air.

The Environmental Defense Fund's national Make the Switch Campaign to reduce global warming pollution through the use of energy-saving CFLs has a goal of ONE MILLION light bulbs over the next year.

If every US household replaced three 60-watt incandescent bulbs with CFLs, it would be like taking .5 million cars off the roads!

CFLs save you money by burning years longer than standard bulbs while using fewer watts.

A 20-watt CFL screws into an ordinary light socket and is just as bright as a regular 60-watt.

So what are you waiting for? Go to [TakeAction@environmentaldefense.org](mailto:TakeAction@environmentaldefense.org). Pledge to switch one light bulb.

### A Covenant for a New America

Religious leaders across the nation- conservative, liberal, and in between, from all denominations – are coming together in a grand alliance around a commitment to meeting the needs of “the least.” of God's people.

They want to build a new common ground with moral and political commitment to national change of heart that would make overcoming poverty at home and across the world a nonpartisan agenda and a bipartisan cause.

Here are the three main points in the Covenant for a New America:

Those who work should have a living family income that produces a decent standard of living.

## LBCCC Welcomes New Board Members

With four new members, LBCCC Board of Directors is experiencing an influx of energy and enthusiasm! We welcome the Rev. Donna Dambrot, pastor of St. James Episcopal Church in Langhorne; the Rev. John Davidson, pastor of Scottsville United Methodist Church, Langhorne; Ann O' Shea, Vice President Mission and Ministry, St. Mary Medical Center; and the Rev. Debra Stanton, pastor of Bensalem United Methodist Church. They bring a wealth of talent and enthusiasm to our efforts.

Pete Stevens of St. James Episcopal Church in Langhorne and Sr. Kathleen Purser of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in Yardley will continue to lead LBCCC as president and vice president respectively. Bill Kennedy, a member of St. George Roman Catholic Church in Washington Crossing, will serve as secretary, while long-time treasurer Jim Higgins, of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Lower Makefield, will continue as treasurer. Leaving the board after several years of service is Mike Hoy of North and Southampton Reformed Church. Many thanks, Mike, for all those minutes you took, for your frequent good ideas and suggestions, and for your hard work as chair of the Christian Unity Committee. Mike promises to continue working with LBCCC as a member of our Caring for Creation Committee.

## Caring for Creation Committee Meeting

Scheduled for October 26

Want to join with other Christians in efforts to protect our precious environment and God's wonderful creation? Please come to LBCCC's Caring for Creation meeting on Thursday, October 26, at 7:30 PM. All interested people are welcome. The meeting will be held at the home of Peter Stevens, 204 W. Marshall Ave., Langhorne. For more information, call Peter at 215 702-9827 or email [petedadstevens@aol.com](mailto:petedadstevens@aol.com)



"The recent release of a 32 year old New York state man who was wrongfully imprisoned for a rape and murder he did not commit was the catalyst for this topic."

Sister Helen Pre-jean, CSJ, author of the best selling book "Dead Man Walking" and an internationally known speaker, is coming to St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church in Newtown to speak at an ecumenical prayer service on Eliminating the Use of the Death Penalty in the United States. Sr. Helen has dedicated her life to educating others about the unjust, flawed, and evil aspects of the death penalty. The recent release of a 32 year old New York state man who was wrongly imprisoned for a rape

and murder he did not commit was the catalyst for this topic. That man is the 184<sup>th</sup> person exonerated of a capital conviction by DNA evidence since the death penalty was reinstated in 1989.

Sponsored jointly by St. Andrew Church and the Bucks County Committee Against the Death Penalty in an effort to promote the dignity of life and to educate others, the ecumenical service will be held at 8PM on Friday, Oct. 21 at the church at 81 Swamp Road, Newtown.

Admission is free. For information, contact Sr. Jean Liston, GNSH at 215-968-2262. X26 or [sr/jean@standrewnewtown.com](mailto:sr/jean@standrewnewtown.com).

Visit [www.standrewnewtown.com](http://www.standrewnewtown.com) for updates on Death Penalty information.

## Sr. Helen Prejean to Speak at Ecumenical Service on the Death Penalty

## Ecumenical & Interfaith Happenings Continued

Just what Christians should be doing ..... During the awful June flood, area congregations and their members were actively involved in helping our neighbors, many of them hit by those angry waters for the third time in just 15 months. The congregations helped spread the word about the kinds of donations needed, and recruited and coordinated volunteers to lend helping hands. Good to see churches so involved in the commu-

### Looking for Interfaith Dialogue? Try The Interfaith Gathering

The Interfaith Gathering is a group that brings Christians, Jews, Buddhists, and Muslims together to foster greater understanding among people of different faith traditions. They welcome visitors and new members. Contact the Rev. Don Richards, 215-043-0652 to find out when their next monthly meeting is scheduled or just to learn more about the group. They would be happy to come to your congregation to tell about their work.

(Continued from page 1)

### WELCOMING THE STRANGER NEEDS YOUR HELP!

- 1) We need one or two more volunteers for the Monday or Wednesday evening ESL class in Morrisville;
- 2) We need one more volunteer for the Thursday morning ESL class in Warminster;
- 3) We need three volunteers for the Monday or Wednesday afternoon ESL class at Creekside in Bensalem;
- 4) We need two volunteers for the Wednesday afternoon class at Chandler Hall in Newtown;
- 5) We need a volunteer to lead a Tuesday and Thursday morning Microsoft Excel computer class in Langhorne.

## Check these Ecumenical and Interfaith Happenings

Morrisville Presbyterian Church invites you to attend their Taize services again this year. Music, scripture, candlelight, and silence make up this meditative form of worship created by the Taize monastic community in France at the beginning of the Second World War. The intention was to promote reconciliation and peace among Christian denominations and to reach out to youth as well as adults all around the world. That's still a great idea! Share in the deeply spiritual Taize experience at ecumenical services at 7 PM on these Sundays: December 3, February 25, and April 22. For more information call the church office, 215-295-4191.

### The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – January 18 to 25

“Open our ears and loosen our tongues.” (Mark 7:31-37. That's the theme of the 2007 International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25. The Greymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute in Greymoor, NY, provides complete resources to help you celebrate and work harder to achieve the unity Jesus intends for his follower. Download materials from [www.geii.org](http://www.geii.org), or order them from Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, Route 9, P.O.Box 300, Garrison, NY 10524-0300.

### ♪ ♪ A HYMN CONTEST FOR PASTORAL MUSICIANS! ♪ ♪

In preparation for the centennial observance in 2008 of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement are sponsoring a hymn contest for two liturgical songs based on the theme “That All May Be One” (Jn.17:21) That's the theme for the 2007 NPM National Convention at which the winning songs will be sung. Composers and text writers are invited to submit entries in one or both of the following categories :a new text and tune (refrain and verses) appropriate for singing during the Communion procession or the administration of the sacrament; and a new hymn text that may be sung using one or more familiar tunes. ♪ ♪ ♪

Both texts are to incorporate or be based on the words, “that all may be one”. Cash prizes are \$1,500 for the winning Communion song, and \$1,000 for the winning hymn text. Entries must be postmarked by Nov. 30, 2006, so please get busy. Wouldn't it be wonderful if someone from Lower Bucks County won! Complete guidelines are at [www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org) More information available from, NPM,962 Wayne Ave, Suite 210, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4461).

♪ ♪ ♪

## FLOC Update Continued...

(Continued from page 1)

action suggested - calling, writing, or emailing the targeted legislator or official. Issues include food stamps, child care, and more. Right now FLOC is watching a bill in the PA legislature to restrict purchase of Hand Guns to one per month. The bill aims to cut down on the practice of “straw purchase” of hand guns. That's when someone buys a batch of gun legally for resale on the streets of our cities to people who want them for criminal reasons. If this bill seems like a “no-brainer” to you, maybe you should

be a FLOC Advocate. Together we can make a difference! Contact Mary Ann Bentz ([maben730@aol.com](mailto:maben730@aol.com), 215-295-2076) to sign-up.

Tooth Fairy Continues to Need Help, too

FLOC can always use donations of tooth paste, toothbrushes, soap, and other health basics for the Tooth Fairy Kits we give to school nurses for needy children in local schools. Contact Tammie Faggart ( 215-741-5996) for information.



## Beloved WTS Computer Teacher Dies Suddenly in Florida

WTS and LBCCC friends, and hundreds of current and former students have been saddened by the sudden death of Jim Campelone, who with his wife Jeanne has been teaching WTS computer classes from the beginning, both as a volunteer and as a member of our small paid staff. Jim not only taught, he actually fashioned the various computer curricula. His great expertise, coupled with his kindness, generosity, and genuine love for his students were an unbeatable combination that

won the hearts and minds of all who were fortunate enough to come under his tutelage. During our shortfall in funds a year or so ago, both the Campelone's continued to offer their services for free. Our sincerest condolences go out to Jeanne and all Jim's family.

Rest in peace, good and faithful servant Jim. You will be sorely missed.

## Children's Sabbath Celebrations Coming Soon!



Planning a  
Children's  
Sabbath  
celebration in  
your  
congregation  
Oct. 20-22

All across America, congregations of many faith traditions – Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and other, are making plans for Children's Sabbath Celebrations on the weekend of Oct. 20-22. All those congregations will be offering special prayers for our nation's children. Some congregations will have speakers and education programs to help people of faith learn more about problems facing children and poor families.. Others will plan special projects to assist children in their communities or farther from

home.

Congregations Stand for Healthy Children: Bringing Hope and Healing is the theme for the 2006 observances, focused on health care for all our children. Sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund and endorsed by the major religious groups in the US, the Children's Sabbath Weekend has become an annual national event at which people of faith re-dedicate themselves to better lives for America's children.

Fine Children's Sabbath resource materials prepared by experts from all the major US religious groups are available for just \$10. Resources include prayer materials, liturgical suggestions and sample sermons, religious education lesson plans, action ideas, and more. It's not too late for your congregation to plan a Children's Sabbath celebration. If you can't do it Oct. 20-22, some other weekend will be just fine. Order materials from the Rev. Sally Jo Snyder, 202-667-3579, [ssnyder@childrendefense.org](mailto:ssnyder@childrendefense.org).

## "Click" for LBCCC!

..... What if Lower Bucks Center for Church and Community earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? We can! GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would

any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.

Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter Lower Bucks Center for Church and Community as the charity you want to support. You only have to register once, After that, every time you search you earn a penny for

us. Spread the word and keep on searching!

And keep on clicking for World hunger, Breast Cancer, and more! .... Go to [www.thehungersite.com](http://www.thehungersite.com) to find out how your clicks each day can trigger donations on that site and others linked to it.



Click and LBCCC  
earns a penny!

## Help Feed God's Hungry People

Is your congregation committed to ending hunger in God's world? Are you? Bread for the World is a Christian citizen's group that advocates with our government leaders for programs that help hungry people at home and abroad. You and your congregation can join other communities of faith in celebrating Bread for the World Sunday on October 29 or any other Sunday of your choosing. BFW's free resources make it easy for a congregation to reflect, pray, and take specific steps to help end hunger. This year's resources include a scripture study written by the Rev. Mpho Tutu, an Episcopal priest and the daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. A responsive prayer and creative ideas for celebrating are also included. Preview BFW's free resources on line at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org), then order what you need on line while supplies last or by calling 1-800-82-BREAD.