



Ecumenical Encounters

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ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS: WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T

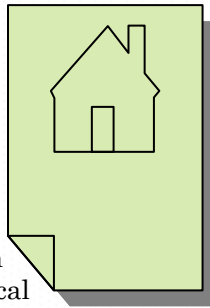
By the Rev. Dr. Christine L. Nelson, Executive Director

They said it couldn't be done. In 2003 when President Bush called on the nation to end chronic homelessness, few people were optimistic. But the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has unveiled new research conducted by communities across the country including the Lehigh Valley showing the number of homeless people living on the streets and in shelters is down dramatically.

Nationally, between 2005 and 2007, our most vulnerable neighbors dropped 30% from 176,000 to fewer than 124,000. What accounts for this significant decrease is the creation and implementation of 350 local plans to end chronic homelessness in 10 years including our own Allentown Plan which just recently celebrated important first-year accomplishments.

Modeled after other cities/regions plans and built around business principles, a collaboration of 50+ local Lehigh Valley non-profits, governmental entities, and hospitals, with no budget just a desire to sew up the safety net, began work on this vision:

The Allentown Commission to End Chronic Homelessness envisions a city where there are no chronically homeless individuals or families. Our mission is to ensure that every formerly chronically homeless person will have the support services, health care, and employment opportunities needed to live as independently as possible in safe, sanitary, accessible, and affordable permanent housing of his or her choice.



The Conference of Churches, as the local initiator of this project in conjunction with Mayor and First Lady Pawlowski, is proud to share these significant **ACHIEVEMENTS in YEAR 1:**

- Creating a humane and person centered procedure for homeless camp closures that resulted in the closure of 3 encampments and the placement of 8 out of 9 homeless in permanent housing
- Development of an electronic "Street Sheet" of services for the chronically homeless for use by social service providers, advocates, first responders, medical professionals that is closing service gaps and creating more effective hospital discharge planning and

(Continued on page 2)

	November 14 A Sacred Conversation on Race—Part 2	December 13 Nazareth to Bethlehem Peace Pilgrimage	February 1 Souper Bowl of Caring
	December 6 Pathways 20th Anniversary	January 25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	February 5 Aspires Mentor of the Year

What Works, Cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

increasing access to drug and alcohol treatment, mental health services, employment and vocational rehabilitation, medical and dental care and prescriptions

- Expanding the number of emergency shelter units and permanent housing designated for chronically homeless individuals by entities working together: Allentown Rescue Mission drug and alcohol unit is expanding by X # units; LCCC via a HUD grant can provide funding for housing for up to 22 chronically homeless; New Bethany Ministries, Grace Episcopal Church and the LCCC are partnering to rehab a building to provide 6 new units with supportive wrap-around services
- Collaborating with other area coalitions, successful advocacy for passage of the National Affordable Trust Fund Act, implementation of Point in Time surveys of the chronically homeless, the annual Shelter Census, Bi-County Housing Summit, creation of a Regional Housing Development Coordinator, & other local housing initiatives.
- Prevented homelessness via increased renter education trainings, expanded legal advocacy and eviction prevention services, & partnered to promote employment services, job fairs and readiness to work programs such as the Allentown Rescue Mission "Clean Team" and the Lehigh County Conference of Churches Transitional Work Program

The first year efforts of the Allentown Commission to End Chronic Homelessness have resulted in a significant positive change for chronically homeless individuals in the City of Allentown. These efforts have laid the groundwork for the coming nine years and for the time when homelessness is eliminated and safe stable housing is available for all residents of the city.

FOCUSES FOR YEAR TWO:

- Seek to make the commission regional by contacting our neighbors to join us
- Look for community shakers and movers to help us educate the wider community about the needs of chronic homeless persons

- Continue eviction prevention, rental and landlord education, expand employment opportunities
- Develop database to count, coordinate services, and address needs of chronically homeless and continue to shore up the safety net to remove barriers to services
- Working with area coalitions, plan and create new affordable housing
- Advocate for the chronic homeless, particularly for livable wage and the State Housing Trust Fund (PHARE: Senate Bill 1400, House Bill 2601)

What can you do to help chronically homeless people? Donate food, toiletries and money to organizations that serve them. Volunteer your time. Educate yourself about homelessness and join with this commission and the LCCC J&A network to advocate for housing and services.

*The full 10-Year Plan is available for viewing via www.allentownpa.gov. Look under the heading "Community" or www.lcconfchurch.org under "10 Year Plan"

**Healing Our Brokenness:
A Sacred Conversation on Race – Pt 2
Grace Episcopal Church
108 N 5th St
Allentown, PA 18102
November 14, 2008, 7:00pm thru 8:30pm**

LCCC's Ecumenism Committee will host a second Sacred Conversation on Race. Clergy, lay people, and those who are interested in hearing why Sunday morning is still the most segregated hour in America, call today and register your participation. If you don't mind sharing your encounter with segregation, racism, and discrimination in the Christian church please join us for a honest and compassionate dialogue. The purpose of these dialogues is to help congregations build stronger relationships with each other and with the Conference.

Please register with Karen Tomlinson at ktomlinson@lcconfchurch.org. For more information, contact the Conference office at 610-433-6421 or at dhepburn@lcconfchurch.org. The event is free. Everyone is welcome to attend. Donations will be graciously accepted to help cover costs.

2008 CROP Hunger Walk Report

An approximate 275 persons which included both walkers and bicyclist participated in the 2008 Crop Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 12. They represented 36 churches and local high school organizations in the annual event. The participants were received by Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski, and Congressman Charlie Dent whose wife, Pam, served as the Honorary Chairperson. To date approximately \$22,000 has been received with outstanding pledges expected over the coming weeks. In 2007 the Allentown walk ranked number 6 in regards to donations raised by Pennsylvania cities and 46th nationwide. In 2009 the Allentown Crop Hunger Walk will be entering its 30th year.

Those who wish to contribute can do so by sending their checks to Lehigh County Conference of Churches, 534 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18102 payable to **Church World Service**. All proceeds are given to Church World Service to address world hunger. Twenty-five percent of the Allentown donations are distributed to the LCCC Soup Kitchen and Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank

Thanksgiving

LCCC Launches New Affiliate Web Site Link Up for Justice at <http://ja.ppj.org>

Information gathering and sharing is key to making things happen at the Conference of Churches. Like most organizations and businesses, the Conference is committed to reaching people by using the most effective mediums available. LCCC is in no way lacking when it comes to futuristic methodologies for effective communications. As poverty increases in the community, so do programs and services which must address some obvious reasons for hunger, homelessness, at risk youth, mental health concerns, lack of healthcare, immigration, and the list goes on and on. LCCC's Justice and Advocacy Committee is in need of help advocating for the poor and the marginalized. They are looking to network advocates in local congregations and inspire them to take action.

The Committee decided that one way of bringing people together is by utilizing the internet. After careful consideration the J&A committee has developed and constructed a website that offers LCCC advocacy education information and links to other LCCC programs along with partnering local, state, and federal advocacy groups. In addition, the website will support the work of the developing LCCC J&A Network. The website's address is <http://ja.ppj.org> and will focus on Conference advocacy initiatives. While this is not the official website of the LCCC, it is an approved affiliate website. The site will be maintained by Bob Walden of LCCC J&A Committee. Feel free to visit the website, click on the links, and take action on behalf of those who cannot act for themselves.

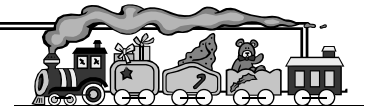
Muhlenberg Students To Host Phone-A-Thon To E.A.T.

If your church phone rings and the caller I.D. reads Muhlenberg College, at the other end will be the voice of a student interested in what your congregation is doing about local hunger. In an effort to tally the results of E.A.T. Weigh In Against Hunger Food Drive, Muhlenberg students will conduct a phone-a-thon. LCCC Interfaith In Action Committee rolled out the food drive in July to help increase donations to area soup kitchens, pantries, and Second Harvest. Congregations were asked to **Educate** people about hunger; **Act** by donating food and money to area food programs; **Tell** LCCC how much they donated.

The week of Nov. 10th thru Nov. 14th Muhlenberg students will call area congregations to sign them up to E.A.T. When you receive the phone call feel free to **Tell** what your congregation is doing to address hunger and register the approximate weight of food and/or cash that was donated. Your efforts will be counted toward the E.A.T. Weigh In Against Hunger goal of 250,000 lbs of food and cash. The food drive is scheduled to end on Thanksgiving. LCCC will report the total pounds of food and dollars collected as a witness to the power of "Faith In Action." Keep listening for that special ring and E.A.T. with a Muhlenberg student.

TOY ALERT!

Pathways needs toys for children 5 to 13 for Christmas distribution. Call Deanne at 610-439-8653 for more information.



Justice and Advocacy

First on the Agenda... Healthy, Happy Kids

All too often children are the victims of violent crimes and extreme neglect. In many cases child neglect is a result of poverty, the lack of education and not knowing about local social service programs. There are extreme cases we learn about from media sources but more often we encounter subtle problems right in our neighborhoods. Hunger is one of them. This past summer there was a 60% increase in the number of children at the LCCC Soup Kitchen. While many citizens work hard to make children's lives easier, there is still so much work to be done.

State and federal governments have taken some steps to help improve kid's lives but there is too much that is still left undone by elected officials. Necessary attention must be given to children in our community in order to ensure a healthy and vibrant future for all of America. We must advocate on their behalf and ask our elected officials to put kids needs first. Whether it's local, state, or federal government, those who run for public office must keep children at the top of their campaign agendas. This agenda must include the very basic things all kids have a right to like:

- Vital early education opportunities that enhance school readiness;
- Access to critical health coverage
- Nutritious food at home and at school.

You can begin advocating on behalf of families with children who struggle with food insecurity. Ask legislators to pass **The National Hunger Relief Act of 2008**. This bill was introduced by Senator Bob Casey to increase funding to help federal nutrition assistance programs adjust to rising food prices. Read more about it and take action at <http://casey.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/>. Put kids first on the political agenda and poverty will begin to move down the list. Our kids have a right to grow up safe, happy, healthy and successful – in school, college and career.

Community Forum Discusses Healthcare Issues and Answers

At a recently held healthcare workshop, Rev. Sandy Strauss of Pa. Council of Churches asked "what makes healthcare an issue for the faith community?" A panel of local experts answered the question by highlighting their experiences working with the uninsured in three area hospitals. Mary Ann Gibbons of the LCCC Board of Directors, Ed Curran of Sacred Heart, Rev. Nancy Adams of St. Luke's, and Luisa Torres of Casa Guadalupe LVH all agreed that language barriers, family dynamics, and access to medicine are common issues for many citizens throughout the Lehigh Valley.

When asked, "What can people of faith do to help change the way healthcare is delivered?" Each panelist expressed their desire to see communities of faith advocate for preventative healthcare. In addition, they indicated that there is a need to modify the healthcare system to a single payer healthcare plan, and that Christians and others should hold government accountable. People who attended the workshop agreed that healthcare is certainly an issue for many, but advocacy answers the call to help the least among us.



Above is a display positioned in front of Allentown YM/YWCA soliciting donations for the Weigh in for Hunger Campaign. Church groups and organizations can involve the public in feeding their hungry neighbors by providing similar opportunities. Photo submitted by Veronica Elias.



Cooking for the Conference

The Lehigh County Conference of Churches will serve over 60,000 meals in 2008, 50% more than in 2004.


Our Neighbors Living in Poverty Need Your Help! As you begin setting up your event calendar for the coming year, we know that many of you will be planning spaghetti dinners, pancake breakfasts, bake sales, strawberry festivals and the like. Why not cook for the Conference? Schedule a new event or set aside a traditional one in April of 2009. That way, we can use the proceeds to provide for the food, shelter, and other needs of the 25,000 people in Allentown and more across the region that live in poverty.

We'll be happy to provide a speaker beforehand to discuss the need with your congregation, school or club.

We'll be happy to publicize your event in our print and electronic newsletters.

But most of all, the men, women and children who depend on you for their daily bread will thank you from the bottom of their hearts.





Cold Weather Is Coming Linkage Needs

Men's slightly worn used clothing, especially:

- Jackets
- Gloves
- Hats
- Socks
- Long underwear

Did You Know that **Dangerous Weather Alerts** are called when the temperature reaches 20 degrees F or lower (this is actual temperature or wind chill).

When an alert is called, the Allentown Rescue Mission remains open for men and women are permitted to stay in the lobby of the Salvation Army for the night.


Linkage plays a special role in visiting encampments and encouraging homeless persons to go to these shelters.

Thanks Daybreak Volunteer Katie Bemis

Who can bring the sunshine to Daybreak members? Muhlenberg student Katie Bemis! Katie not only brings smiles every time she walks into the room, Katie brings recognition and monetary support.

Recently selected as a Sodexo Foundation STOP Hunger Regional Honoree for her dedication to fighting hunger and poverty, Katie promptly gave the \$1,000 grant monies to her favorite hunger-related organization—LCCC Daybreak. Having volunteered here for four years, Katie said there is no more special place in the Lehigh Valley. Thank you Katie!

Thanksgiving Dinners



St. James AME Zion Church, 410 Union St., Allentown
Saturday, November 15, 2008, 12pm—3pm
 For more information, please call Rev. Thomas Sweatt at 610-841-4407 or Pam Riddick 610-841-4407

Vision Misionera
 at Dubbs Memorial UCC, 455 W. Allen St., Allentown
Wednesday November 26, 2008, 5 pm—6:30 pm
 (volunteers are needed to help serve)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 8th and Walnut Sts.
Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 11:30am—2:30pm

Jordan UCC, Walbert Ave. and Rt. 309
**Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, November 27
 Lunch 1pm and Dinner 4pm**

LIHEAT KEEPS IT WARM

The Pennsylvania Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low income people pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants and crisis grants. You need not have an unpaid bill to receive home heating energy assistance. You can receive this money without being in the Cash Assistance program—a family of four with an annual income of up to \$44,443 can qualify for assistance. No lien is placed on your property if you receive this help. The program starts November 3rd. To sign up or get more information, call the Allentown Department of Welfare at 610-821-6509.

Announcing 2009 Week of Prayer For Christian Unity Service

St. Peter's Lutheran, 1933 Hanover Avenue,
Allentown
January 25, 2009, 4:00pm

Churches in East Allentown will begin gearing up in preparation for the annual prayer service to celebrate Christian unity. Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Langensiepen and the congregation of St. Peter's Lutheran Church have agreed to be the host church. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began approximately 101 years ago as Anglican and Catholic Church leaders sought to pray together in obedience to John 17, "that they may be one." Since that time, Christians the world over have engaged in unified services of prayer and celebration to respond to the prayer of Christ.

The LCCC prayer service has become a Valley wide celebration inviting Christians from different denominations, ethnic groups, and worship styles. One highlight of the service is a talented and energetic youth choir. Rehearsals will begin in November for all youth interested in performing with the choir. We are looking forward to a great time of celebration and praise. So mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2009 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service. For more information call the Conference office at 610-433-6421.

LEHIGH JUDICIARY LEADERS PRAY AND WORK TOGETHER



Each quarter the executive leaders of area denominations are brought together by the Lehigh County Conference of Churches to work and pray. Sharing spiritual journeys with one another inspires us all as we hear how God has called and is working within our lives.

Pastors, Youth Workers, Parents Promote Christian Unity Through Youth Choir

Christian youth ages 12-18 are invited to participate in an ecumenical youth choir at the 2009 LCCC annual unity service. The youth choir has been a positive and spiritually enriching experience for a growing number of young people for the past 4 years. The choir is made up of youth from different cultures and denominations throughout the valley. A number of them have cultivated friendships and continue to worship with each other at special times throughout the year.

- The choir will be accompanied by the contemporary Christian band SWIM. **Rehearsal dates:** Nov. 16, 2008, Jan. 11, 2009, Jan. 18th -- 6:00 pm thru 7:00 pm; Jan. 25th – 3:00pm
- **Location:** St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1933 Hanover Ave. Allentown

For more information please contact the Rev. Debra Hepburn at 484-664-7320 or Rick Focht at 610-706-0686. All Youth Are Welcome!

The Lehigh County Conference Of Churches Soup Kitchen

**Is Open And
Serving This
Holiday Season**



The Soup Kitchen Committee is collecting items for Christmas personal care bags for those in need.

- Bar Soap • Razors
- Deodorant
- Shaving Cream
- Shampoo • Combs
- Hand Lotion
- Small Hand Towels
- Tooth Paste
- Tooth Brushes
- Female Hygiene Products
- Gloves, Hats and Socks

Baby Items

- Lotion
- Diapers

For Children

In addition to personal care items, it would be nice to include a small gift... like crayons, a coloring book, a puzzle, etc.

*J.S. Burkholder
Funeral Home
is a drop off point
for items.
Please make
donations
Monday
through Friday,
8:30am to 4:30pm*

This message sponsored by

J.S. Burkholder

Funeral Home, Inc.
Michael A. Weber, Owner-Supvr. Sonya Stegheid, General Manager
16th & Hamilton Sts., Allentown • 610-433-5161
www.burkholderfuneral.com

Advocate for Hope and Not Fear

By Patti Milot

Healthcare is a priority of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches. What makes healthcare an issue for the faith community? As good stewards of our resources religious traditions call us to speak out. People are dying because of no access to healthcare! The United States spends more on health care than any other nation, yet 17% of the population of the USA is uninsured. Many people are completely uninsured and many others are underinsured.

It has been noted that medicine has become very pricey and many medications are overused. Preventative Care is not promoted, and it really should be as preventative care saves money in the long run by helping to keep people in optimal health and helps with positive outcomes.

Most people of faith believe that all creation is sacred and that all are called to love and compassion. Believing that Christ calls us to action, Christians must advocate for good healthcare with good outcomes for all of God's people. What can you do? What will you do for health care for all? Put your faith into action and advocate, educate, prioritize, and practice what you preach. Be an advocate of hope and not fear!

(Patti is a RN and Parish/Faith Community Nurse at St. Pauls' Lutheran Church Allentown and a member of the LCCC Justice and Advocacy Committee.)



Be a Daybreak Angel



Tis the season! Once again, Daybreak is asking for your support to help make the holidays brighter for people with mental health concerns.

The ground rules: Our volunteer members at Daybreak will "wish" for three items, with a value of up to \$25.00 combined. They will also be wishing for one \$25 item. You, as Daybreak "Angel," agree to purchase one or more items for the list or one \$25 item. The value of the total purchase should not exceed \$25.00. Angel gifts are due wrapped with the name of "your" Daybreak member volunteer on a tag by December 8th.

Please contact Christine Morrison or Susan Unger at 610-820-5049 if you are interested in becoming an ANGEL!

Introducing the Lehigh County Prescription Card

FREE to County Residents

Americans are paying more for prescription drugs than ever before. Without prescription coverage, staying healthy can come at a high price. With the Lehigh County Prescription Discount Card, free to County Residents, you can save money on many of your prescription purchases.

Any county resident without prescription coverage can use this program. Even if you have insurance for prescription drugs, you may still benefit from the discount card, since it may save you money on prescription drugs your existing plan does not cover.

Every one is eligible. No income requirements, No age requirements, Unlimited use for the whole family.

The Lehigh County Prescription Card is:

- **Valuable.** Save an average of 20% off the pharmacy's regular price on all commonly prescribed prescriptions and an average savings of 50% on 3-month supplies of select generics through mail service. Savings are also available on high tech and injectable drugs through our specialty pharmacy.
- **Easy.** There are no claim forms to fill out and no annual fee to pay.
- **Convenient.** Over 59,000 participating retail pharmacies nationwide, approximately 100 participating pharmacies are right here in the county.

For more information on card distribution sites and pickup locations contact 610-782-3952 (Karen) or 610-782-3096 (Kim) or visit the county website at www.lehighcounty.org. For questions about the card, call toll free at 1-877-321-2652 or visit www.caremark.com/naco.

Cards are available at the LCCC Main Office on 534 Chew Street and the 544 Hamilton Street site. See Karen or Gigi in the Administration Office.





Conference Bulletin Board



ATTEND LCCC'S MONTHLY TOUR
November 13, 2008, 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
534 Chew Street, Allentown

Visit the Lehigh Valley's leading ecumenical, faith-based social service agency and see what ordinary people are doing to change the lives of their neighbors. Led by LCCC Ecumenical Director Rev. Hepburn, the tour includes:

- A midmorning introduction to the services that are helping to meet the needs of hundreds of people in Lehigh County every day.
- Free lunch at the Daybreak Drop-in Center.
- An invitation to employ your gifts and talents in meaningful ways
- Opportunities to cultivate new and positive friendships within the religious community and beyond.

To join a tour group, email Rev. Hepburn at dhepburn@lccconfchurch.org. For more information, call the Conference main office at 610-433-6421 or 484-664-7320. Everyone is welcome!

Lehigh County Conference of Churches Pathways 20th Anniversary

Please join us for a light lunch and celebration.

When: Saturday, December 6th, 2008
 Registration starts 11:00 am
 Lunch and Celebration: 11:30 am—1:30pm
 Where: St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 36 S. Eighth St., Allentown

Please register by November 21st by calling the Conference Main Office at 610-433-6421 or emailing at lccc@lccconfchurch.org

Pathways is always in need of toiletries. As your admission fee, we ask that you bring with you a donation of one or more of the following:

Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Razors, Toilet Paper, Deodorant and/or Soap

Together We Can Report

Thanks to our supporters, *Together We Can* once again was a success. Those in attendance experienced the wonderful venue provided by Asbury United Methodist Church, heard inspirational talks by Dr. Tjelveit and our Daybreak members that stimulated thought and touched the heart, shared a wonderful meal by CURA and, we hope, went away educated and inspired. The best news is all monies raised go directly to help people in need. Proceeds from *Together We Can* will be used to underwrite the mental health and general programming of the Conference.



Lay Rep Training
December 11, 10am to Noon
544 Hamilton St., Allentown, PA

Call the Conference Office to register (610-433-6421).

Learn how your congregation can get involved in community ministry.



Child Care Providers Needed for Aspires Mentoring

Experienced Child Care providers are needed to provide child care during the Aspires Mentoring Very Important Parents program. There are 3 positions available and the job pays \$8-\$9 an hour. The program is held on Wednesdays from 5pm-8pm and lasts 21 weeks. The children range in age from 2 months to 5 years.

Qualified applicants need to be 18 years old or older, have previous child care experience, be certified in CPR/First Aid or have completed the Red Cross Babysitting class, pass a background and child abuse check and willing to commit for at least seven weeks. For more information, please contact Missy Wise at 484-664-7320 x17 or email: mwise@lccconfchurch.org



Community Bulletin Board

Northampton Community College Conversation on College Graduation

NCC is hosting a conversation on November 11 at 8:00am with clergy and other religious professionals to discuss its involvement in an initiative named Achieving the Dream. The purpose of this initiative is to improve the persistence and graduation rates of students enrolled in College with a focus on low-income and minority students.

If you are interested in joining NCC for this conversation please call 610-861-4558 or email pward@northampton.edu and they will provide directions and details.

Faith and Food Minicourse IJCU Discount

We opened the minicourse with a lively discussion on Wednesday evening and look forward to a strong series on food and hunger in religion. For those who have not yet registered, we are offering the **reduced registration** rate of \$50 for the remaining five evenings of the series, Wednesdays, 7 to 9 pm now through November 19th.

Those who are members of congregations and groups that are participating in the Lehigh County Conference of Churches' Weigh-In Against Hunger initiative still qualify for the super-discount of \$20 for the series, and IJCU members are welcome to use a \$5 Program Discount Coupon. Call now (484-664-3470), or reply to ijcu@muhlenberg.edu to reserve your space; registration can be done at the First



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES®

Shop at the Muhlenberg College Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Festival and discover authentic, charming gifts and home decor handcrafted by skilled artisans in the developing world. Fair trade means providing dignity and a living wage for artisans in developing nations who are unemployed or underemployed.

Invest in Your World...Shop Fair Trade.

For more information about Ten Thousand Villages or Fair Trade, please visit www.tenthousandvillages.com.

Reserved parking spots will be provided during the day. Parking lots available after 5pm.

Want to get a head start on your holiday shopping?

FIRST FRIDAY

Luncheon Discussion at Seegers Union,
Muhlenberg College, Rooms 111 & 112
Lunch 11:45 am, Program 12:00-1:00pm

November 7, 2008

*Ecology and the Stewardship of the Land—
Reflections on Leviticus 25*
Rabbi Rob Lennick
Congregation Kenneseth Israel

December 5, 2008

Convivencia: Interfaith Coexistence in Medieval Spain
Prof. Sharon Albert
Visiting Lecturer, Department of Religion Studies,
Muhlenberg College



HELP!

- Pathways needs Toiletries
- Aspires needs Mentors
- Daybreak needs Volunteers to Cook and Food Donations

Call the LCCC Main Office at 610-433-6421.



Vision Misionera Will host a Community Christmas Concert

on
Friday, December 12, 2008
7:00pm to 9:00pm
at
Dubbs Memorial UCC
455 W. Allen St. Allentown

Lehigh County Conference of Churches
534 Chew Street
Allentown, PA 18102

November 2008

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage Paid

Permit #1409

Allentown, PA

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Ecumenical Encounters

November, 2008

Published by the Lehigh County
Conference of Churches

*The Rev. Dr. Christine L. Nelson,
Executive Director*

*Ira Faro,
Development Senior Director*

*Tom Smith,
Operations Director*

*Tom Walker,
Human Services Director*

*The Rev. Debra Hepburn,
Ecumenical Director*

*Carol Closson,
The Rev. William Seaman,
Executive Directors Emeritus*

United Way of the
Greater Lehigh Valley



**Announcing the 49th Annual
Christmas Peace Pilgrimage**
Saturday, December 13, 2008
10:45am – 5:30pm



Do you believe that peace is important to God? Is it important to humankind? Is it important to you? For almost 50 years people in the Lehigh Valley have set out to witness to their love of peace by embarking upon a 10 mile journey. The Nazareth to Bethlehem peace walk happens annually during the Christmas season. You are invited to walk with friends and pray for a more peaceful world.

The peace walk will feature **Janet Chisolm**, Peace, Justice and Training Coordinator at Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center. A lifetime worker for peace, Janet's speech is entitled "Walking Away from Fear."

Register at www.peacewalk.org/registration to walk and include the names of people walking with you. For more information contact Fran Dreisbach at 610-258-7373 or the Conference main office at 610-433-6421.

Lehigh County Conference
of Churches

Email: lccc@lccconfchurch.org

Fax: 610-439-8039

Telephone: 610-433-6421

www.lccconfchurch.org