

Lititz Church Host To HPI Living Gift Fair

LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — The Lititz Church of the Brethren will host the sixth annual Heifer Project International "Living Gift Fair" Nov. 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sponsored by HPI and an ecumenical group of local volunteers, the fair enables people to deal with two problems at once — holiday shopping and global hunger.

"The unique thing about the Living Gift Fair," said volunteer fair coordinator Dan Fitzkee of Manheim, "is that you can buy gifts for loved ones and help a needy family at the same time."

Shoppers purchase animals or shares of animals in the name of a friend. The friend receives an attractive HPI giftcard. A family in need receives the HPI animal that is purchased. Colorfully decorated tables provide information about how the HPI animals benefit poor families in the US and around the world.

Shoppers at the fair will be able to choose from a variety of HPI animals, ranging from the more traditional — cows, goats, pigs, sheep, and rabbits — to the more exotic — yaks, water buffalo, and honeybees. New this year are leu-

caena tree seedlings, which counter deforestation, provide fodder for animals, and prevent soil erosion.

In addition to animals and trees, shoppers will also be able to choose from homemade baked goods, arts and crafts items, and more. Homemade soups and sandwiches will be on sale for lunch, and a petting zoo, clowns, and free balloons are sure to please

children.

Heifer Project International is a non-profit development agency that alleviates world hunger and poverty by giving poor families "living gifts" of animals and the training required to care for the animals. Headquartered in Little Rock, Ark., HPI celebrates its 50th anniversary next year. Since 1944 HPI has empowered families

in 110 countries to become self-reliant. At present, the organization has projects in 37 countries, including the US.

A unique feature of HPI's program is the requirement that recipients of animals "pass on the gift" by sharing the first female offspring of their gift animal with another needy family.

Last year's Living Gift Fair raised over \$12,500; enough to

send either thousands of chicks, 625 rabbits, 100 goats, or 25 dairy heifers to people in need.

Donations of arts and crafts and baked goods will be accepted up to the day of the fair. For more information, contact Dan Fitzkee at (717) 665-5743.

The Lititz Church of the Brethren is located at 300 W. Orange St., in Lititz, directly across from Warwick High School.

Interim Dean Appoints Assistant

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Craig S. Oliver, interim dean for the College of Agriculture at the University of Maryland at College Park, announced this week the appointment of Mildred F. (Midge) Smith as acting assistant to the dean.

Earlier this month, Dr. Oliver has assumed the position of interim dean in addition to his duties as state director for the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service. Oliver also is scheduled to become interim director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station on Jan. 1.

A professor in the College of

Agriculture, Dr. Smith will retain her position as coordinator of program planning, evaluation and staff development for the Cooperative Extension Service. But her first priority will be to assist in the overall functioning of the dean's office.

Smith began her professional career at the University of Maryland in 1985 as an associate professor in the former Department of Agricultural and Extension Education and coordinator for evaluation and staff development for the Cooperative Extension Service.

She currently serves on the board of directors for the Ameri-

can Evaluation Association, and she has been an active member of the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education, formerly serving as national chairperson for the association's Cooperative Extension Unit.

Smith has authored numerous studies aimed at helping administrators evaluate Extension educational programs. Recent studies have dealt with establishing an economic and geographic basis for assignment of Extension agents throughout the state.

A native of Florida, Smith holds a B.S. degree from Mississippi State University, an M. Ed. from

the University of Florida and a Ph.D. from the College of Education at the University of Maryland at College Park.

She has authored or co-authored more than 130 professional and Extension publications. Her book, Evaluability Assessment: A Practical Approach, was published in 1989.

Smith received the Award of Honor from the Maryland Extension Specialists Association in 1990. In 1990 she was part of a two-person contingent receiving the team award for Sustained Excellence in Extension Education from the American Evaluation Association.

Before joining the University of Maryland faculty, Smith served six years as a program evaluation specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service in Florida. She also did considerable consulting work for universities and state and local government agencies.

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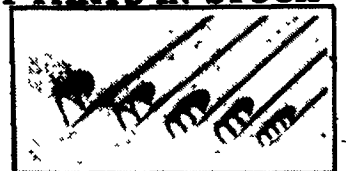


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