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# The Linworth Link

Volume 16, Issue 7 July 2009

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## Linworth United Methodist Church

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## Words from Pastor Gene On Turning Fifty

My cousin and I, along with 5 or 6 of our high school classmates, meet for lunch about once every six weeks or so. We have a lot of fun talking about what we did (or didn't do) in elementary, junior high, and high school. This year our conversations have been somewhat more serious because we're all turning 50. How we came to this moment in our lives is a tempting question, which promises all the pleasure of nostalgia as well as the pains of regret. So we've been waxing nostalgic concerning our half-century lives. There has been some lamenting, over failed marriages, strained relationships with our parents and with our children, lost career opportunities and the like. There has been some pride talking too, about educational attainment, about leaving the known environment of our home town and venturing into the unknown, and about letting go of things that might have prevented us from becoming the people we've become. We've laughed and we've cried, as we shared our stories, our vulnerabilities, and our true selves.

Well, it's July and it's my turn to turn 50. I don't feel fifty, but the gray hair, puffy jowls, stiff knees and reading glasses tell me that I am. I turned 27 right after I arrived at Linworth, fresh out of graduate school and eager to be in ministry. I made mistakes, but you forgave me. Most importantly, I made friendships that have lasted a lifetime and beyond. What I discovered early on in my ministry here at LUMC is that I had A LOT TO LEARN about the church, about life in general and my life in particular, about faith, about prayer, about compassion and forgiveness, and about God. So, if you will indulge me on my birthday, I'd like to share with you just a few (of many) of the lessons I have learned in my 50 years:

First, I've come to believe that empathy is the greatest virtue. I'm ashamed to admit I've spent too many of my years NOT imagining myself in situations in which other people find themselves. Consequently, I've been too quick to judge and too hesitant to act.

Second, I've come to believe that candor is overrated. I really do wish I had remembered what my grandmother used to tell me, "If you can't say something nice about a person, don't say anything at all." Somewhere in my late thirties and early forties I decided it was wise to be brutally honest with people. What a mistake.

Third, I've come to understand that you can't avoid offending people from time to time. When you don't mean it, apologize. When you do mean it, accept the consequences. When I was younger I was pretty good about the former and pretty bad about the latter. I learned that accepting the consequences of my actions may cost me a friendship, but it will help me keep my self-respect.

(Continued on last page)

### July Worship Schedule

#### 5 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion  
8:45 a.m.—Traditional  
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary  
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

#### 12 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

8:45 a.m.—Traditional  
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary  
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

#### 19 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Brunch Bunch  
8:45 a.m.—Traditional  
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary  
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

#### 26 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

8:45 a.m.—Traditional  
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary  
11:30 a.m.—Traditional



## Small Groups

**Between the Lines:** Contact: Faye Black  
Love to read? **Between the Lines** meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in room 226 to discuss contemporary works of religious fiction. Join us for great discussion and fellowship. Group will not meet in July or August. Watch the worship folder for more information.

**Bridge Club:** Contact: Linda Kemp  
Meets the first Friday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in homes. No meeting in **July or August**.

**Building Nesters:** Contact: Sara Schwanzl  
July Social is at Apple Valley on **July 25**. Hosts are Chris & David Rinehart. Building Nesters will not be meeting for Bible Studies in July. The planning session for Fall/Winter will be on **August 6**.

**Closer Walk Class:** Contact: Janet Blocher  
Summer is the perfect time to develop a "Closer Walk!" The Closer Walk class meets at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings in Room 225. The group will be studying the book of John during the summer. Come as often as you can for this discussion based class!

**Dining Disciples:** Contacts: Marlene Goodenow/Karen Stahle/Sally Moser/Julie Yeater

For fun and fellowship, join Dining Disciples. Groups of singles and married couples meet in homes or restaurants for a meal about 4 times a year. What a great way to get to know each other. To sign up, call a contact.

**Hand and Foot Card Club:** Contact: Jean Balsler  
Club will meet on **Friday, July 10** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Join this fun bunch for an evening of fellowship and laughter while playing cards. Bring a snack to share.

**HomeBuilders:** Contact: Jane Wright  
Want to build a solid marriage? **HomeBuilders** is a group for married or engaged couples of all ages and stages, who want to focus on their relationship. This group gathers every first Sunday (**July 5**) in room 228 at 11:30 a.m. to celebrate marriage, and learn more about what a Christ-centered marriage looks like. Watch the worship folder for more information, or call Jane.

**IMPACT Service Group:** Contact: Becki Hollenbaugh  
IMPACT is a service group that meets with residents at Claremont Retirement Village. Join them at 7:30 p.m. on **Wednesdays, July 8 & 22**.

**In Daily Places:** Contact: Debby Fuller  
Ladies - are you looking for a small group that meets in the evening? In Daily Places welcomes women of all ages for study, prayer and fellowship. Join us **Mondays, July 13 & 27** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Babysitting is available with prior notice.

**Keen Adult Bible Study:** Contact: Bob Jacobson  
This Sunday morning Sunday School class meets at 10:00 a.m. in room 136 of the Fellowship Hall. Summer schedule may vary.

**LinWomen Online:** Contact: Sharon Valade  
A virtual community of Linworth Women who are able to share using modern technology. Call Sharon to sign up and get logged on.

### **Men's Before-Work Spiritual Sharing Group:**

Contact: Mike Smeltzer

The Men's Breakfast Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings at First Watch Restaurant. Join them **July 14 & 28** at 7:00 a.m.

**Mom's Book Study:** Contact: Julie Nicolosi

We will be meeting socially over the summer. Join us on **July 23** at Handel's in Powell with our families for dinner and ice cream at the park. Call Julie for details.

**MOPS (Mothers Of PreSchoolers):**

Contacts: Holly Meister & Andrea Orofino

This is a group for mothers with children ages birth through kindergarten. **MOPS continues through the summer with PLAYDATES** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month (**July 13 & 27**) from 9:00 a.m.—noon at Worthington Recreation Center on Wilson Bridge Rd. Shaded playground and bathrooms. Bring a picnic lunch. **MOM'S NIGHT OUT, Wednesday, July 22**, 7:00 p.m. Meet at Figlio Wood Fired Pizza (3712 Riverside Dr, Columbus 43221). **MOPS AND POPS PICNIC** Join us **Sunday, August 30** from 4:30 -7:00 p.m. to kick-off the new MOPS year. RSVP to Kristen Minichello ([minibuck7@hotmail.com](mailto:minibuck7@hotmail.com)) for all events.

**Peace in the House:** Contact: Shelley Burton

This group supports you finding and maintaining peace with yourself, peace with God, and peace with others. Relax this summer and return refreshed in September.

**Sensational Older Singles (SOS):**

Contact: Lois Gifford

Call Lois for an updated schedule of events.

**Searchers:** Contact: Doug Stahle

Meets in the Fellowship Hall (room 128) at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings for thought provoking and stimulating discussion on a number of religious issues.

**Shawl Ministry:** Contacts: Marilyn Pohlman/Jean Davidson

More than 220 shawls already have been presented to those in pain. Call a contact to become involved.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study:** Contact: Maxine Bartelt

There will be social & devotional meetings this summer. Join us on **July 9 & August 13**. Check with Maxine Bartelt for details. The every Thursday schedule begins again on Thursday, September 10. Leadership (in the absence of their regular leader, Lillian Payne) is shared by the members. Visitors always welcome!

**Women's Bible Study:** Contact: Jeanne Byers

Join us in July as we continue our study of 1 & 2 Samuel. In 1 & 2 Samuel we meet a man who excelled in the arts, was a military hero, successful in the political arena, and could have been on the cover of Sports Illustrated. But what most marked the life of David was his passionate heart for God. By learning about the life of David, we can develop a heart that will bring joy to the heart of God. We meet every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in room 210.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

If you need a phone number or email for a contact person for an event or group, please contact the church office (336-8485).

## Children's Ministry at Linworth

**Register Now!** Join us the week of **July 13-17** for VBS 2009, Crocodile Dock... where fearless kids shine God's light! Children, age 3 - grade four, will gather for games, crafts, snacks, movies and Bible stories featuring our hero, Moses! Fifth and sixth graders will spend the mornings doing outreach in our community.

**Morning session is closed!** Evening sessions still has space available. Watch the bulletin for more information. Contact Mary Torok with questions (336-8485).



**Interested in teaching or assisting** with children's Sunday School this fall? Watch the bulletin in July for opportunities to serve as a teacher, assistant, or nursery caregiver one or two Sundays/month. Questions? Call Mary Torok (336-8485).

**Have a child that needs to be baptized?** Our next Baptism Sunday will be **August 23** with a class for parents on **August 16**. Registration forms are in the church office or call Mary Torok (336-8485).

### Preaching Texts Available Through August!

Some have asked us, "Will the pastors give us their texts so that we can read them to prepare for worship?" "Yes, we would be glad to do this!" Here is what we have through August 23rd.

July 5: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

July 12: Jeremiah 18:1-6

July 19: Exodus 3:1-10

Then beginning July 26th the pastors will be doing a three week series, "Remembering Her Name, Three Women of the Early Church."

July 26: Phoebe, Romans 16:1-2

August 2: Dorcas, Acts 9:36-42

August 9: Lydia, Acts 16:11-15;40

August 16: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

August 23: Ephesians 5:8-20

August 30: TBA

### Linworth Historical Group

As a tribute to Leatherlips and Bill Moose, LUMC Historical Society has printed eight souvenir memorial cards. With financial support from William Rutherford and Roger Perry, 450 packets of 8 cards each have been donated to elementary schools in Worthington, Dublin, Upper Arlington and Big Walnut for classroom curriculum use.

The packets can be purchased for \$5.00 at the Village Book Store in Linworth; Myers Inn Museum, Sunbury; Linworth Methodist Church or from Jim Thompson.

Paintings by Dick Hoke and Hal Sherman can be viewed at Myers Inn Museum, located at 45 South Columbus Street, Sunbury, OH (southwest corner on the town square).

### Pastors' Visitation Schedules

Pastor Rae Lynn Schleif visits on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Pastor Gene Folden makes calls on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Pastor Jeffery Dunn is available upon request. As always, contact the church office with any pastoral needs (336-8485).

### Lonely? Sad? Discouraged?



Going through a tough time—emotionally or spiritually? Struggling with a crisis in life? Or simply feeling down?

Consider letting a Stephen Minister help. A Stephen Minister is a member of our congregation who is trained to listen, care, encourage, pray, and walk alongside you during difficult times. It's confidential, free, and very helpful.

To learn more, talk with a pastor or Robyn Hahnert.

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

— Galatians 6:2

**Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**

# X TREME I MPACT

## Youth News

from Seth Rowe (406-9234)

### Xtreme Impact July Schedule:

5—Holiday weekend! No Xtreme Impact.

12—DCLA! No Xtreme Impact.

19—Philly Mission Trip! No Xtreme Impact.

26—Softball Game at 4:00 p.m. @ Thompson Field #2. After the game we will have a short lesson then head to the Sawmill Road Chipotle for some serious deliciousness!

We also have small groups meeting throughout the summer. Call Seth Rowe (406-9234) for more info!



### Have You Noticed the Improvements?

Here are the latest and greatest improvements at LUMC:

- All the VCT floors (Fellowship Hall, Rooms 212, 219, 220, 223, 224, and the back stairwell) are completed, including waxing.
- The handicapped doors (Fellowship Hall and Worship Center entrances) are installed and operating.
- The painting project is completed.
- Carpeting installation will begin sometime around June 29. Dates to be confirmed.

### How Can You Serve?

VBS offers an exciting week of ministry to the children of Linworth and our greater community. Why not come along for the fun? We are looking for volunteers the week of **July 13-17** to work directly with small groups of children, help out in the kitchen, or offer administrative support. Contact Mary Torok (336-8485, ext. 202) to find the right place to serve during this amazing week of ministry.



### Linworth Campers

**July 2-4** Natural Springs, New Paris  
Hosts: Tom & Bobbie Miller  
Celebrate the 4th of July!

Contact:  
Sharon McManis

**July 17-18** Carthage Gap, Coolville  
Hosts: Randy & Lynne Heiligmann  
This weekend will have a Maple Syrup theme.

**July 31-August 1** Lancaster Campground  
Hosts: Ian & Jean Davidson  
Visit the old Methodist Church Camp

If you would like a complete schedule,  
contact Sharon McManis

Mission Board Meeting: Contact :Sondie Schwotzer  
First Monday of every month.  
NO MEETING IN JULY

Evening Circle: Contacts: Linda Holloway & Kathy Balakrishnan  
Third Monday evening of every month.  
NO MEETING IN JULY

Fellowship Day Circle: Contacts: Nancy Zimmerman & Marlene Heltzel  
Second Tuesday morning of every month.  
NO MEETING IN JULY

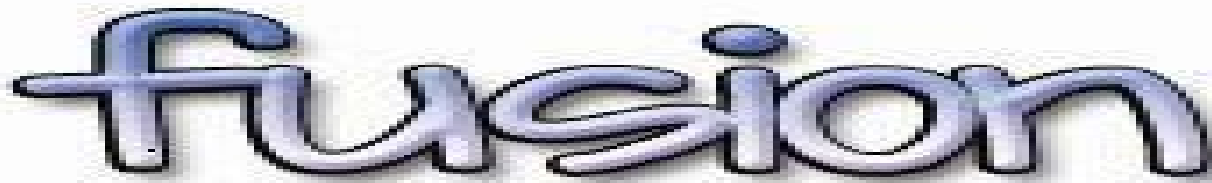
MOPS: Contacts: Holly Meister & Andrea Orofino  
Second and fourth Monday Mornings.  
**July 13 & 27**—Play dates at Worthington Recreation Center  
**July 22**—Mom's Night Out at 7:00 p.m. at Figlio's

SERVICE CIRCLE: Contact: Lea Elshoff  
Fourth Friday morning of the month on **July 24** at 9:30 a.m. Sandwich making in the Church Kitchen for Faith Mission.

#### MISSION PROJECT HELP

During the month of July we are collecting shampoos and deodorants for New Life UMC. These may be placed in the basket in the church office. Our collection of used postage stamps, Campbell's Soup Labels, used reading glasses, and pop can tabs is continuous! Our colorful three-drawer container for these items is located near the office. Did you know the recycling of your pop tabs pays the electricity bill at the 80-room Ronald McDonald House in Columbus? Thank you for your ongoing support.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
UMW RETREAT AT THE CHURCH  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**



**A Group For Young Adults  
Join us for FUN!**

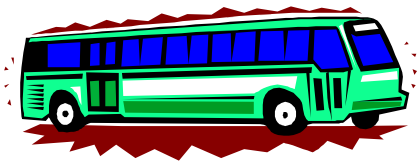
(students, young working adults,  
young marrieds and singles)

#### **Summer Jams**

Join Fusion as we rock out this summer! Each week someone has signed up to bring a song to share with the group. That person will be leading us in an activity and discussion based on the song that they have chosen. The discussions are sure to relate to our personal lives and faith journeys. If you have not been to Fusion yet, Summer Jams is the perfect opportunity to check out the group. We would love to have you join us! Be sure to email Jen Snyder to sign up for our list-serv so that we can keep you up-to-date on all of the fun activities this summer.

Fusion has a new email!  
[linworthfusion@gmail.com](mailto:linworthfusion@gmail.com)





## Linworthys News: Jump on the Bus!

(the 55 and over group)

Contacts: Doug Stahle/Joe Strickland

### BUS TRIP TO OSU!!!

**Tuesday July 28, 11:00 a.m.**

Meet at Linworth UMC where we will board the bus for an 11:30 a.m. lunch at the Ohio State University Fawcett Center.

▶ 1:00 p.m. a Presentation and Tour presented by Dr. Jon R. Woods, the OSU Marching Band Director.

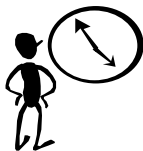
▶ 2:00 p.m., a Tour of the OSU Horseshoe Stadium.

▶ 3:30 p.m. we will return to LUMC.

There is considerable walking, but what an opportunity to listen to Dr. Woods as he gives us insights of our popular OSU Band, and to see and hear about the stadium when not filled with people. So come along for a fun day spent with your Linworthys friends. The cost is \$27.00 per person. Checks payable to Linworthys and mailed to George Bilderback. Contacts: Pat Burkey/Donna Hughes.

#### NOTE:

Looking forward. Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, August 25** at 11:30 a.m. for our fun filled BINGO PARTY and hopefully win prizes collected and gift wrapped by the Prize Patrol gals.



### New Office Hours For LUMC and LCC

Monday-Friday  
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Please make note of this change.

## Upcoming Events

### JULY

School Supply Drive will begin in July  
July 3—Church Office Closed in observance of Independence Day

July 5—Holy Communion

July 9-13—Youth at DC/LA 2009 Conference

July 13-17—Vacation Bible School (Morning Session: 9 a.m.—12 p.m. & Evening Session: 6-8:30 p.m.)

July 19-25—Youth Mission Trip to Philadelphia

July 19—Brunch Bunch

July 28—Administrative Council Meeting

### AUGUST

August 2—Holy Communion

August 17-21—LCC Work Week

August 23—Brunch Bunch and Baptism Sunday

August 25—Administrative Council Meeting

August 29—UMW Retreat

### Linworth's School Supply Drive August 11, 13 and 15, 2009

Last year Linworth served a number of families connected through our Children's Center Summer Camp Program and the remaining supplies were given to New Life UMC. This year the Team has set a goal to serve 100 children/youth in our community by providing free school supplies. Families will be welcomed into our church and the children will get to pick out their supplies from a list we will provide for them. The supplies will be set up and organized in the Fellowship Hall and Gathering Area for distribution on the dates listed above. We will serve as many children as we can while the supplies last and if we have left over supplies we will donate them to New Life UMC for their supply drive.

Here are the ways you can help:

1. Purchase and donate items listed on the bulletin board outside the church office beginning **July 5** through **August 2**.
2. Donate gift cards from Meijer, Wal-Mart, Target, etc. to be used to purchase school supplies. (Purchase gift cards using our SCRIP Program and reduce our debt as well.)
3. Volunteer to help set up and/or clean up for the supply drive.
4. Volunteer to work as a greeter or helper on one or more of the days we will be distributing the supplies.
5. Supply and serve refreshments to our guests on the distribution dates.

Please contact Linda Kemp or Amy Thornton.



## Social Concerns

Contact: Esther  
Hunter

## Get Involved with Social Concerns

- The Red Cross Blood Drive was a success. We exceeded our goal with 33 productive units (110% of goal.) The next Blood Drive will be **Saturday, September 19**. Thanks to all who donated the gift of life and their time. You can give blood every 56 days. For info call Esther.
- The July 26 Brunch has been moved. We will be celebrating the end of VBS on **July 19**. Call Mary Torok with questions.
- The Open Shelter and Rebecca's House meals will be on **Tuesday, July 14**. We will be making sandwiches at 8:00 a.m. and the hot meal at 11:00 a.m. in the Kitchen. Call Roy & Arlean Sudhoff if you would like to help. Delivery and serving of the meal will be from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Call Celeste Thomas to help deliver and serve.
- Scioto Ridge Job Networking Group will meet on **Tuesdays, July 7 and 21** from 6:30—9:30 p.m. If you or someone you know is job searching, please visit this group for incredible support. Call Sue Kuhn for information.
- Linworth UMC will be partnering with the newly organized Worthington Food Pantry & Resource Center, opening on **July 18**. They will be temporarily housed in the United Methodist Children's Home. Our partnership will include having food drives at LUMC, providing volunteers for the pantry, providing support and supplies. The WFPRC will serve zip codes 43085, 43235, 43229 and 43081. Below is a pantry room needs list if anyone would like to donate items. Please call Esther for additional information.

### Furniture:

Computer desk & chair, office/check-in desk & chair, 2 interviewing tables or desks (small), room partition, 10 folding chairs, dead bolt lock, 2 sets of window bars, refrigerator.

### Office Supplies:

Utility knife, scissors, staples & stapler, notepads (memo & legal), notebooks (3 ring), monthly notebook dividers, pens & pencils, black markers, post-it-notes, index cards, labels (big & small), binder & paper clips (big & small), Scotch Tape, in/out box, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, name tags, bulletin boards, calculators, calendars (daily & monthly), computer paper, printer ink cartridges and donation cards.

### Cleaning Supplies:

Mops & buckets, paper towels, toilet paper, Windex, dust pan, 409 Cleaner, anti-bacterial soap, trash bags (big & small), zip lock baggies (big & small), and sponges.

### Most Needed Food Items:

Canned juices, canned fruit, sugar, spaghetti sauces, canned meat, beef stew, peanut butter, pancake mix, tomato products, and white rice.





**Linworth United Methodist Church**  
7070 Bent Tree Blvd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43235

*Creating Community*  
*Growing in Christ*  
*Serving the World*

**Sunday Morning  
Worship  
Opportunities**

8:45 Traditional  
10:15 Contemporary  
11:30 Traditional

(Continued from front page)

Fourth, I've learned that love is truly the greatest power at work in our world, a power that really can overcome any force that might try to destroy it. I thought I understood this power when I was 27, but now that I'm 50 I realize how little I knew about it then, and how much more I need to experience now.

Fifth, I've learned that gratitude is an attitude of respect for the Lord of my life. It's not enough to say that you have a relationship with Jesus; you have to live each day expressing it. I don't know about you, but I've spent too much of my life comparing what I have and what I do with other people, rather than simply being grateful for what I have.

As I said these are just a few of the life lessons I have learned in my fifty years, most of which were learned in the 23 years I've spent in ministry with you. For those of you who have already turned 50 I'm hoping you will share with me your top 5 or 6 lessons learned. Perhaps we can compile a "top 50" list of lessons learned by Linworth people at age 50! Thank you for celebrating my half-century birthday with me, and thank you for allowing me to be a part of your lives for such a long time, I'd rather be here with you in this place we call our church home than anyplace else in the world.

Blessings to you all,  
Gene