



The Linworth Link

Volume 16, Issue 5 May 2009

Linworth United Methodist Church

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Words from Pastor Rae Lynn

I am enjoying my ministry at Linworth United Methodist Church and have felt blessed to be one of your pastors. I have been with you almost one year and have been through the seasons of Vacation Bible School, Stewardship and Every One in Ministry, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. I have noticed that each season offers ministry to our church family and ministry beyond our church family. We reach out to those we don't know but who need our Christian love. Linworth, our congregation, is an incredibly generous congregation. I became curious about a month ago wondering how much ministry happens beyond the doors of Linworth. I was suspicious that it was more than any one of us imagined. On April 26th, during our worship services, we celebrated and affirmed our ministry and the generosity of this church family. I want to share with you in this Link article the fullness of the ways we are in ministry.

I asked Esther, our staff person to missions and social concerns, and our United Methodist Women to pull together some numbers for me that represent as best as we can our ministry of giving during 2008. I am certain these numbers are conservative and that we have missed a few, but the results are overwhelming. Monetary giving is one of the most common ways for us to give. However, our congregation gave over 12,300 volunteer hours to ministries beyond our congregation. We have missed some volunteer hours in our calculating because we know that Sunday School classes, our Xtreme Impact youth and our Club 56 youth have all served at soup kitchens, churches, and retirement centers including Manna Café, Church For All People, New Life and the Trillium. Thanks for taking time out of your busy lives and giving it to others. Those 12,300 plus hours translate to over 236 hours per week, or about 45 minutes per worshiping attendee each week. Seven hundred fifty persons served as volunteers! Of course, some of you volunteered at more than one ministry! Imagine the impact if every one of us who attended worship gave 45 minutes per week. Our volunteer hours and persons would double!

We gave financially to a variety of mission ministries- over \$74,000! We give to missions in Texas, Russia, Haiti, Africa, Jackson and Columbus, Ohio, and many, many other places. We gave to homeless shelters, hospitals, a university in Africa, an orphanage, a children's home, the seminary up the road called METHESCO, and the habitat for humanity project. We adopt families at Christmas, help those who do not have jobs, send our youth to experience missions in other countries and cities, and assist persons in learning English. We even have a small food pantry in our office for those who come in wondering if we can help them. We keep scrips cards on hand to give to those who need gas and those traveling through who need a meal. We can gift them a fast food or restaurant card to provide for that immediate transient need.

Our United Methodist Women add to all of this with their ministry to women and children around the globe. One hundred fifty pairs of eyeglasses were collected to enhance sight to those who have no access to an optician, 2000 meals were served to those at Faith Mission, 2,800 Campbell soup labels went to the Southside Learning and Development Center, hundreds of dollars worth of clothing and personal care items were taken to our sister congregation New Life UMC in the inner city, (remember this past Lent and the mountains of bath towels and wash cloths.) And then we have the fun statistics of 500 pounds (1/4 ton) of cookies baked for the Christmas Cookie Bake Sale, 27.5 pounds of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House (that's 35,200) and \$6,000 sent to various ministries around the globe and locally.

Amazingly, all of this happened in the midst of a year when the economy began to take a turn. As we have moved into the first part of 2009, with the economy still struggling, we are continuing to give generously and abundantly. Thank you for caring so deeply for others,

May Worship Schedule

3 - 4th Sunday of Easter

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

10 - 5th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day

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

17 - 6th Sunday of Easter

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

24 - 7th Sunday of Easter

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

31—Day of Pentecost Music Recognition

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 (**May 13**) 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. Watch the worship folder for more information.

Bridge Club: Contact: Linda Kemp

Meets the first Friday (**May 1**) of each month at 8:00 p.m. in homes.

Building Nesters: Contact: Sara Schwanzl

Come be a part of this small group of parents with young children. Bible Studies are **May 7 & 21**, at 6:30 p.m. in room 228.

Closer Walk Class: Contact: Janet Blocher

Are you looking for a way to enhance your spiritual journey in 2009? The Closer Walk class might be just the thing for you! Closer Walk is a discussion based group that meets in room 225 at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

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, May 1** 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: Contacts: Pastor Jeff Dunn/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 and third Sunday (**May 3 & 17**) 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, May 13 & 27.**

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 **Monday, May 11** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library as we begin our study of *The Shack* by Wm. Paul Young. 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.

LinWomen Online: Contact: Sharon Valade

A virtual community of Linworth Women who are able to share using modern technology. Log on today and get connected.

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 **May 12 & 26** at 7:00 a.m.

Mom's Book Study: Contact: Julie Nicolosi

Calling all moms! Please join this group as they continue their Mom's Book/Bible Study with "An Ordinary Day," by John Ortberg. The group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays (**May 14 & 28**) from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in room 228. Please join them as they continue their faith journeys together. This study is open to moms with children of ALL AGES and childcare is also provided.

MOPS (Mothers Of Preschoolers):

Contacts: Holly Meister & Carri Clark

MOPS is a Christian group of mothers with children ages infant through kindergarten. We are looking for new Moms to join us next year. **Adventures in Motherhood**, Ephesians 3:18, is the 2008-09 theme. Contact Holly or Carri for more information. Childcare is provided.

Meeting date is **May 11**. Hope to see you there!

Peace in the House: Contact: Shelley Burton

This group supports you finding and maintaining peace with yourself, peace with God, and peace with others.

They will meet on **May 6 & 20** at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

Sensational Older Singles (SOS):

Contact: Lois Gifford

Cookbooks are still on sale for \$15. (They make great Mother's Day gifts.) Proceeds go to Debt Reduction! Buy yours today!

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

Group meets **every Thursday morning** from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. We are currently studying "Beatitudes from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas. 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

We all want a faith that won't let us down in times of trouble or loss, uncertainty or fear. A faith that can pull us through the worst--and best--times in our lives. This is the kind of faith that James writes about. Join us as we continue our study on the Book of James. We meet every Sunday at 10:15 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

Club 56...Calling all fifth and sixth graders! Join us at church on **May 3** for food, fun and fellowship. All incoming fifth graders (fourth graders this year) are invited to join us at the end-of-the-school-year pool party at the Wynne's house on **May 31** from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Bring a suit, a towel and a friend! Watch the bulletin for more information or call Jenifer Wynne.



Do you have a child who needs to be baptized? Do you need to be baptized?

Our next **Baptism Sunday is May 10** (Mother's Day), with a class for parents on May 3 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Contact Mary Torok (336-8485) to register.

Mark Your Calendar 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 and evening sessions will be offered. Watch the bulletin for more information. Contact Mary Torok (336-8485) with questions.



Social Concerns

Contact:
Esther Hunter

Get Involved with Social Concerns

- Thank you to everyone who donated, worked, shopped and prayed for the Spring Garage Sale! As always, it was a great success with lots of fellowship, caring, food, and work. Without volunteers, we would be unable to fulfill the need of Youth Ministries and community outreach. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. There will be a complete accounting of Garage Sale proceeds and expenses in the June Link.
- The American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on **Saturday, May 30**. Watch for the donation signups and give the gift of life.
- The next Brunch Bunch will be on **Sunday, May 24**. Call Marie Hardin if you can help.
- Mother's Day gifts available from Sensational Older Singles on **May 3**. A *Taste of Linworth* cookbooks would be a perfect gift for mothers of all ages. Cookbooks will be on sale for \$15.00. All proceeds go to debt reduction. Call Lois Gifford for information.
- The Scioto Ridge Job Networking Group will meet on **Tuesdays, May 5 and 19** at 6:30 p.m. If you or someone you know is seeking employment, this organization might be able to help. Call Sue Kuhn for information.

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).



Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

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!



Youth News: Xtreme Impact Update

from Seth Rowe (406-9234)

May 3--Outdoor Game Fest '09, 6:00—8:00 p.m.

May 10-Mother's Day, No XI

May 17-Combined XI, 6:30—8:00 p.m.

May 22-24-Retreat Weekend, No XI

May 31-Combined XI, 6:30—8:00 p.m.

Thank you to all the students who helped serve breakfast at the Church for All People in April, it was a huge success!



Linworth Campers

May 8-9

Mohican State Park

Hosts: Warren & Marlene

Goodenow

Contact: Sharon
McManis

May 22-24

Kentucky Horse Park

Hosts: Mike & Sharon McManis

June 5-6

Indian Lake State Park

Hosts: Stuart & Sondie Schwotzer

If you would like a complete schedule, contact Sharon McManis.

Know Where to Sit in the Worship Center for the Best Sound?

I am often asked by our members, 'Where is the best place to sit in our Worship Center in order to hear the spoken word as well as the music?' The answer to that question is in the chairs, beginning in the 4th row from the stage back to the beginning of the pews. This is the area where the speakers are best heard. For those who are having the greatest difficulty hearing I would recommend sitting directly in front of the pastors in the 4th through the 8th rows of chairs.

- Eric Reidinger

Linworthys News

(the 55 and over group)

Contacts: Doug Stahle/Joe Strickland

Join with us **Tuesday, May 26** at 11:30 a.m. for a CRAFTS GALORE MEETING. To make this a success, bring a craft or two that you have made to display, and to show off your creative talents. Art works, needlework, ceramics, woodworking, music, writing, etc., will be displayed for all to share. We have had a Crafts Galore meeting in the past and it was enjoyed by all. Luncheon prepared by our Kitchen/Social Committee. Menu is BBQ sandwiches, various salads, and dessert. Cost is \$6.00 each. Please come. Friends and their creative works are welcome to attend. Make certain to relay this information to our phone callers in order for our K/SC to provide the right amount of food.

Have You Seen the Linworthys' Donation?

The large sign with night lighting at Bent Tree on the outside wall of our church (namely LINWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH with the CROSS and FLAME). This certainly identifies us as LUMC. We feel so honored that the Linworthys, by working the Garage Sales, and attending our meetings helped generate funds for this sign. What an opportunity to give back to our church. Thanks be to God!

Women's Mission Board Meeting: Contact: Sondie Schwotzer
Monday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. in room 210



Evening Circle: Contacts: Linda Holloway & Kathy Balakrishnan
Monday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Worship Center. Bishop Judith Craig will be our guest speaker.

Fellowship Day Circle: Contacts: Nancy Zimmerman & Marlene Heltzel
Make sure to join the Evening Circle for the meeting with Bishop Craig.

MOPS: Contacts: Holly Meister and Carri Clark
Monday, May 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Worship Center

Service Circle: Contact Lea Elshoff
Friday, May 22 at 9:30 a.m. Sandwich making in the church kitchen for Faith Mission.

MISSION PROJECT HELP

During the month of MAY we are collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss for New Life UMC. These may be placed in the basket in the Church Office, or bring them to any Circle or Board meeting. 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 opposite the office, under the coat rack. 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.

All tickets for the "Women of Faith" gathering have been sold.

fusion

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

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

Fusion has a new email!
linworthfusion@gmail.com

We will continue to study the book "The Shack" during the month of May. Look for more details in the worship folder regarding our fellowship event on **Wednesday, May 27**.

Contact Jen Snyder (linworthfusion@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like more information.

Membership News



Births:

■ Shannon Gabrielle Madden, daughter of Brendan & Bonnie Sue; granddaughter of Bonny Heger; great granddaughter of Bobby Easton.

Interested in Joining Linworth UMC?

Our next membership class series will begin on **May 17** and continue May 24 and May 31, with *Membership Sunday on June 14*. Contact Mary Torok (336-8485) with questions.



Notes received at LUMC:

"Of all the many ways there are for thanks to be expressed, the simple phrase, God bless you is the one that says it best! Thanks so much for providing us with a lovely space to meet.

*Sincerely,
The Worthington Nurses Association."*

"Linworth UMC & Linworth Children's Center: The First Community Village residents loved the Easter cards and Easter pins you "made" for our seniors! You put a "bright light" in the Easter holiday for many.

*Thank you!
First Community Village Residents."*

*"Dear Members of Linworth United Methodist Church,
Thank you very much for the \$300 donation that you gave to me. It helped me pay my rent and buy food. It was very kind of you to do that for me, and I am grateful.*

*Thank you,
W. S."*



CONCEPT RENDERING - MEMORIAL GARDEN
LINWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



CONCEPT RENDERING - MEMORIAL GARDEN
LINWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Columbarium to be Dedicated

There are a few remaining touches to be made to our new columbarium but we are pleased with the construction and the landscaping surrounding it. We want to alert you to two services planned for the near future.

The first service will be a brief Dedication Ceremony to be held at the site on **Sunday, May 10 at 12:45 p.m.** You are invited to attend the service as we dedicate the columbarium to the Glory of God.

The second service will be a Memorial Service to be held on **Sunday, May 31 at 1:00 p.m.** for those families who will be having their loved ones' remains interred in the columbarium. A reception for families and friends will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the May 31 service.

You may contact Beryl Danner with questions concerning the columbarium.

Missions



Change for the Better Drive Update

It was raining towels, wash cloths, and pennies from Heaven when John and Lori Blakely challenged us with the goal of raising \$2,009.00 for the “Change for the Better Drive” for New Life Church. We all said that it was a nice goal, but we had never raised that much. John and Lori demonstrated that miracles come from placing our faith in hope, rather than being intimidated by the fear of failure. As a result of their hope and hard work and the generosity of the LUMC congregation, we raised \$2,241.40 in the Change for the Better Drive for New Life UMC. In addition, we collected 227 towels and 506 wash cloths.

Dust Off Your Nail Pouch

Habitat for Humanity is on the move. Linworth, is one of 6 churches that make up the Hilliard-Adopt-A-House Group. This is not organized by one church, but by people from all the churches. We donate funds and person-power to assist with construction. In early May our Habitat Project will be building 2 houses in adjacent lots. Many hands will be needed to complete this project. This project is the first for the Hilliard-Adopt-A-House group to manage. Please consider donating your skills to this construction effort. Contact Mike Torok and let him know about your building skills and your availability to work.

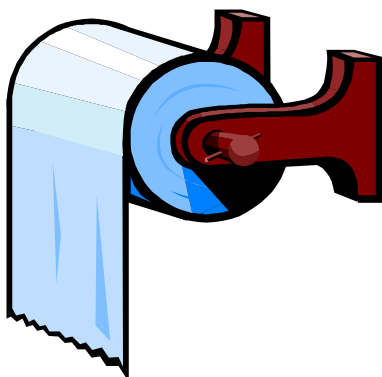
Mike Smeltzer Reports on Progress in Pharr

Mike writes: “I just returned from a trip with our mission partners in Pharr, TX. They are doing amazing work with new immigrants and non-English speaking people. I attended several English classes, helped with preparing their new building for service, and assisted with outreach to the Colonia's. I visited with the family and saw the home we worked on 3 years ago. They have improved on it and it is really a wonderful home for the Marquez family, Elias, Jevan and their children— Ruth Esther, Jose, Semera, and Abigail. The kids are all in school and very happy.”

The Pharr Literacy Project has needs for craft materials for their classes, English as a Second Language workbooks, and GED workbooks. If you are interested in supporting the Pharr Mission please contact Mike Smeltzer.

Basic Necessities Can Be a Struggle for Many

Imagine a day without detergent or toilet tissue. Daily living items we take for granted are a daily struggle for families that depend on the services of New Life United Methodist Church. The Church is having trouble securing enough donations of small bottles of dish washing liquid, toilet paper and laundry detergent to meet the need. Please help fill this gap. You may place your donations in the New Life Basket located in the church office.



Needed donations include:

Dish Washing Detergent
Powder Laundry Detergent
Toilet Paper
Men's New Boxer Underwear



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7070 Bent Tree Blvd.
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Creating Community
Growing in Christ
Serving the World

**Sunday Morning
Worship
Opportunities**

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

May Events

- 3 Holy Communion
- 10 Dedication of the Columbarium
- Baptism Sunday
- Mother's Day
- 18 Evening Circle hosts Bishop Judith
Craig
- 22-24 Youth Spring Retreat at Tar Hollow
- 24 Brunch Bunch
- 25 Church Office Closed in observance
of Memorial Day
- 30 Red Cross Blood Drive
- 31 Music Recognition Sunday
- Internment Memorial Service
- Club 56 End of the Year Pool Party

especially those "others" whom we will never know by name, but who need a warm blanket, or a hot meal, a gift card, or a utility bill paid. Thank you for touching the child with a gift during our Christmas adopt-a-family ministry, a person having surgery with a prayer shawl, an older adult at Claremont with a game of UNO, a home built through Habitat for Humanity, pencils, crayons, notebooks and paper for the young student heading back to school in the fall. All of this means so much to those who do not have as much as we do.

Thank you Linworth for how much you love Christ and how much you love those whom Christ loves. I am privileged to be one of your pastors. Keep eating the cookies, Campbell's soup, and drinking pop. I know this is not the most nutritional of meals, but the labels and pop tabs become incredible ministries!

In ministry with you,
Rae Lynn