



# The Linworth Link

Volume 18, Issue 3

March 2011

## Linworth United Methodist Church

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Columbus, OH 43235

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## Thoughts from Pastor Rae Lynn

Dear Linworth family,

Several weeks have passed since the Music and Arts Sunday celebration. Admittedly, most of us have a preference for a particular worship style, but on February 13, we experienced the many ways in which God is worshiped and honored at Linworth! For me, God was vibrantly present during the shared choir and New Connections song with Beth and Janelle singing "O Happy Day!" backed by the choir, organ and band! I hope you will share the story of the power of worship here with your friends and co-workers.

Because of that God moment on February 13, my theme for this newsletter is "O Happy Day!" I am filled with thanksgiving as I share with you snapshots of the presence of God amongst us. Our Linworth Children's Center ministers to 176

children each week. The children are multi-cultural and come from a variety of faith backgrounds. The faces of the children reflect the neighbors who live around us. "Red and yellow, black and white." LCC reflects the children of God's world. I hope you are proud of the ways in which we love children.

"O Happy Day!" We are moving forward on a debt reduction campaign and "yes" that fills me with happiness as we faithfully continue to pay off our mortgage and look ahead in the future to where God will call us next! Soon you will be hearing more.

Communication and information will come your way during the months of March, April and May!

As a brief update, our current indebtedness is 1.5 million dollars. We are in the process of refinancing our loans at a much lower interest rate and hope over the

next three years to reduce our debt to half. This will take a sacrificial gift from each and every one of us. Put Sunday evening, May 15, on your calendar and bring the entire family to a picnic banquet and celebration. We will feast, fellowship and have fun as we commit to reduce our debt.

"O Happy Day!" In 2012 Linworth will be 125 years old! A team of persons are already working together on this celebration. Pastors Gene and Jeff are leading the team! I expect with Gene taking the lead, (and by the way, he was around for the 100<sup>th</sup>) we are in for some fun and fantastic moments!

"O Happy Day!" Laos and Linworth in ministry together has become real! We have established a solid relationship with our missionaries in Laos, Bev and Emmanuel Barte. Joel and Beth

### March Worship Schedule

#### 6- Last Sunday after the Epiphany, Holy Communion

Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif  
8:45 a.m.—Traditional  
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary  
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

#### 9-Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Service

#### 13 - 1st Sunday in Lent

Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif  
8:45 a.m.—Traditional  
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary  
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

#### 20 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif  
8:45 a.m.—Traditional  
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary  
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

#### 27 - 3rd Sunday in Lent

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

(continued on last page)



## Adult Small Groups

### Bridge Club:

Contact: Byrdie Lorenz

Bridge Club will meet on **March 4** at 8:00 p.m. in members homes. Call Byrdie for information.

### Building Nesters:

Contacts: Shawn & Amy Brown  
We will be meeting twice this month for Bible Study on **March 3 and March 17**. We meet in room 228 and will continue with our book "Building Your Marriage." Childcare is provided. Our social event on **March 27** beginning at 4:00 p.m. will be an Anniversary Dinner to celebrate the 10 years we have been together as a small group. Feel free to join us!

### Closer Walk Class:

Contact: Janet Blocher  
The Closer Walk Class meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in room 225. If you have decided to develop a "Closer Walk" with God, this class is for you! The Closer Walk Class also undertakes service projects and has fellowship opportunities throughout the year. Check us out! We'd love to have you.

### Dining Disciples:

Contacts: Marlene Goodenow/Karen Stahle/Sally Moser  
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. There's still time to sign-up for 2011. Call a contact.

### Hand and Foot Card Club:

Contact: Jean Balsler  
Join us in the Fellowship Hall on **March 4** at 7:00 p.m. Bring a snack to share. The group usually meets the first Friday of each month.

### IMPACT Service Group:

Contact: Becki Hollenbaugh  
IMPACT is a service group that meets with residents at Claremont Retirement Village. Join them on **March 9 & 23** at 7:30 p.m.

### In Daily Places:

Contact: Debby Fuller  
Looking for a ladies' fellowship and study small group that meets in the evening? Join us on **March 14 & 28** at

7:00 p.m. at church. We will look at chapters 11 & 12 respectively in the book, Discovering Joy in Your Creativity: You are Made in the Image of a Creative God.

### Keen Adult Bible Study:

Contact: Bob Jacobson  
Join them in the Fellowship Hall (room 136) at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

### LinWomen Online:

Contact: Sharon Valade  
This is an online group for women to chat, encourage, and share spiritual concerns with other busy women. You can write as much as you want, respond to others, give new information, and share joys and concerns.

### Men's Before-Work Spiritual

#### Sharing Group:

Contact: Mike Smeltzer  
The Men's Breakfast Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings at the Worthington First Watch Restaurant at 7:00 a.m. See you on **March 8 & 22**.

### Mom's Study:

Contact: Terese Loudner  
We will meet **Thursday, March 10 and March 24** from 6:30 -8:00 p.m. Childcare is available. All moms are invited for fellowship, friends, and spiritual growth. Topic will be determined. We will study a short book, movie clips or questions of the day. Questions? Contact Terese.

### MOPS (Mothers Of PreSchoolers):

(A Christian group for mothers with children ages birth through kindergarten)  
Contacts: Diane Hamilton & Melissa Hufft  
Our March meeting dates are **March 14 & 28. CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS are needed!!!!** MOPS is in need of volunteers for one or two Monday(s) a month from 9:00 a.m. - noon. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Holly Meister.

### Peace in the House:

Contact: Shelley Burton  
This group supports you finding and maintaining peace with yourself, peace with God, and peace with others. Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. Join us on **March 2 & 16**.

### Searchers:

Contact: Doug Stahle  
Meets in the Fellowship Hall (room 138) 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 230 shawls already have been presented to those in pain. You don't have to knit to be involved. Call a contact to get connected.

### Stephen Ministry:

Contact: Sandy Apicella  
We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. March meetings are **March 1 & 15** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library and room 225.

### Thursday Morning Bible Study:

Contact: Lea Elshoff  
The Thursday morning Bible Study continues to meet each week at 10:00 a.m. and extends an open invitation to all. In March, we will continue using "The Upper Room" as our study book. Copies, both large and standard-type, are available on the literature rack outside the office. The main focus for the study centers on the weekly questions at the back of the book. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact Lea.

### Women's Bible Study:

Contact: Jeanne Byers  
We are continuing our new study, "Peter - Learning to be Like Jesus." Simon Peter was a follower like us -- he wanted to be like Jesus, but he struggled with doubts, and at times he failed. At other times he was used powerfully by God. This study is about his life and the challenges he faced which, in turn, motivate us to continue to grow in Christ likeness. No matter where you are in your journey of faith, come and be part of this wonderful fellowship of women. We meet on Sundays in room 210 at 10:00 a.m.

**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 News

Alisha Meacham

(ameacham@linworthumc.org)

Director of Children's Ministries,  
LUMC

**Club 56 news:** Club 56 will meet on **Sundays, March 6 and 20** this month. Look for more details in the Club 56 newsletter and church bulletin. Meeting time is from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. and remember to eat before you come. Don't forget that friends are always welcome!

**VBS 2011 Open House:** Think warm...think summer...think VBS 2011! Now that I have your attention, there will be a VBS 2011 Open House on **Sunday, March 6** at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. Come hear about our theme (PandaMania) and learn how you can become a volunteer this summer. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

### **Family Fellowship Night at Super Games Indoor Adventure Center:**

Come join us for a evening of fun at Super Games on **March 13** from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Activities for all ages (adults too)! Tickets are \$20 per family, which includes pizza and can be purchased through Linworth Children's Center (LCC) or the LUMC office. This family event is sponsored by LCC. Come and enjoy the fun!

### **Volunteer Help Needed On Sunday**

**Morning:** Volunteer help is needed in the toddler/twos room during the 10:15 service on the 1st, 2nd, and 5th Sundays of each month. If you are interested in helping, please contact Alisha Meacham (Dir. of Children's Ministries) at: ameacham@linworthumc.org.

## Membership Care News

Chad Johns

(cjohns@linworthumc.org)

Director of Membership Care &  
Small Groups

You may have noticed over the last couple of weeks that little blue cards have been showing up in the worship bulletins on Sunday mornings. These are our new attendance cards. Though we know that many people like the pew pads, we have a lot of people who are getting missed because they arrive after the pad has been passed. Our hope is that these cards will be a bit more user friendly for our guests and visitors. Ultimately, it's all about hospitality. Of course, we also know that people like to use the pew pads to learn the names of who's sitting next to them. While that won't be possible anymore, think of this as a new and golden opportunity to introduce yourself to those sitting nearby. You might find friends you never expected...



## Come join the fun and fellowship of our Church Garage Sale!!

Mark Your Calendars Now!  
May 6 & 7—Garage Sale  
Sale set-up:

Sunday, May 1-Thursday, May 5

To donate items to the Sale or to find ways to help, call the office at 336-8485.

To donate food items or gift cards contact, Donna Hughes or Shirley Galloway.

Please let your family, friends, and neighbors know about our Sale. Proceeds help fund our Church missions.

We need many hands to make this Sale a success, so please keep this week open.

Thanks,  
Linworth UMC Garage Sale



## Youth News

Seth Rowe ([srowe@linworthumc.org](mailto:srowe@linworthumc.org))  
Director of Youth Ministries

### Xtreme Impact March Schedule:

- 6— Bible Study 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.  
Xtreme Impact 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- 13—Bible Study 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.  
Xtreme Impact 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- 20—Bible Study 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.  
Xtreme Impact 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
- 27—Bible Study 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.  
Xtreme Impact 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.



**Linworth Children's Center**  
Enrolling NOW for Fall!

### Full Day Programs

6 weeks to Full Day Kindergarten  
Monday – Friday  
7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### Part Day Programs AM and PM

Preschool - 2 yrs (potty trained not required) to 5 yrs

### Full Day Kindergarten

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Before and After Care Program (a la carte)  
Kindergarten Enrichment available on Fridays

Christian Based Program  
Small Class sizes  
Degreed Teachers

For more information  
Call 614.336.9559 or visit our website at  
[www.linworthcc.org](http://www.linworthcc.org)



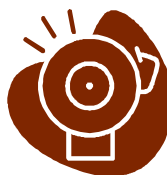
**The following notes were received:**

*"Hi Linworth,  
Just wanted to say thanks for the prayers and cards  
and pastors' visits. It is so uplifting to have wonderful  
people like you in our corner. Rick is doing well, has  
to work on his balance. Doctors say it will come back  
in time.  
Thanks, Rick & Helen Becker."*

*"I want to thank everyone for the phone calls, prayers  
and cards that I received during my recent illness.  
They all meant so much to me and helped me get  
through my recovery.  
God Bless, Judie R. Todd."*

*"I would like to thank Rae Lynn, Gene, and members  
of the church for the visits, cards, and prayers during  
my recent hip surgery.  
Gary & Joann Bogart."*

*"Dear church members,  
I would like to thank you with all my heart for helping  
me pay my utility bills. Without your help, my power  
and heat would have been shut off. Thank you, kind  
congregation!  
Sincerely, Susi Solér."*



## Safety Fact of the Month

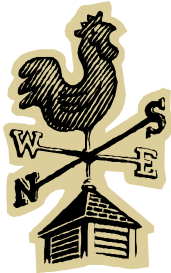
The newly formed Safety and Security Team is looking to gauge the interest level (and recruit) volunteers to staff a reception type desk/table from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. some evenings during the week to monitor and greet persons entering our facility. If you are interested in this ministry or would like to know more, please contact Gene Hughes. If you are interested in helping with this effort during the day in combination with LCC parents, please contact Amy Hopson.

### ***Do you know where the nearest phone is to the Worship Center?***

*The nearest phone is located in the Usher/Coat Closet directly off of the Lobby by the Worship Center doors. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with this phone's location.*



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
 Imposition of Ashes  
 March 9 at 7:00 p.m.  
 In the Worship Center



**Linworthys News**  
 (the 55 and over group)  
 Contact: Doug Stahle

Meet with us on **Tuesday, March 22** at 11:30 a.m. for a vegetarian pasta, Italian bread, salad and dessert luncheon served by our Kitchen/Social Committee. Cost is \$6.00. Scheduled for our program is Chris Bradley from Channel 6 News. Chris is the weatherman on the 6 o'clock and 11 o'clock news. This should prove to be a entertaining and interesting session, possibly due to the cold, snowy and icy winter conditions we have faced this never ending winter. Perhaps Chris will predict a better outlook for spring. Come and remember friends and visitors are welcome. Contact person for this event is Mary Lu Webster.



**A Group for Young Adults**

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

We are a community of Young Adults encouraging one another to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, living out our faith by serving others with the love of Jesus Christ.

In March, we will continue our study of the Gospel of Mark. We meet every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at church.

**Thursday, March 17** will be our social event for March Madness.

For more information, contact Angela Pucher at: [linworthfusion@gmail.com](mailto:linworthfusion@gmail.com).



**Stephen Ministers Are There to Care**

Are you going through a difficult time--emotionally, spiritually, or relationally? Are you lonely, experiencing a crisis, or simply stressed by everyday life? You don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. To find out more, talk with Sandy Apicella, Janet Enck, Cheryn Houston or Pastor Rae Lynn.



**Deaths:** Margaret Quelette Russell

**Births:**

- Alanna Leora Thornton, daughter of Brian & Amy Thornton, sister of Alexa, Amalia & Amaya

- Anna Emarie Arnold, daughter of Matt & Michelle Arnold. Granddaughter of Esther Hunter; niece of Angie Hunter

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**Pastors' NEW Hospital Visitation Schedules**

Pastor Rae Lynn Schleif:  
 Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Pastor Gene Folden:  
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Pastor Jeffery Dunn:  
 Sunday

As always, contact the church office (336-8485) with any pastoral needs.

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**Evening Circle News:**

Mary Lynn Jacobson will lead the UMW Evening Circle in a discussion as we look at how the early Methodist Church interacted with Native Americans. The program, "Native American Stories from 'Circle of Life' " will be held in the Gathering Area **Monday, March 21** at 7:00 p.m. The devotions will be given by Nancy Zimmerman. Linda Holloway is hostess for the evening.



## UMW Women's Ministries

### Mission Board Meeting

Contact: Sue Gabel  
First Monday of every month. Next meeting is **March 7** at 7:00 p.m.

### Evening Circle - New Time!!

Contacts: Linda Holloway & Sue Bowen  
Third Monday evening of every month. Next meeting is **March 21** at 7:00 p.m. Native American stories from "Circle of Life," presented by Mary Lynn Jacobson. (See article on page 5.)

### Fellowship Day Circle

Contacts: Nancy Zimmerman & Marlene Heltzel  
We meet the second Tuesday of every month at the church, 9:30 a.m. Join us on **March 8** in the Fellowship Hall. Native American stories from "Circle of Life" presented by Mary Lynn Jacobson.

### MOPS

Contacts: Diane Hamilton & Melissa Hufft  
This is a time to rejuvenate and reconnect with other moms on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 9:30 -11:30 a.m. at the church. Child care is provided. See you **March 14 & 28**.

### Linwomen Online

Contacts: Sharon Valade & Karen Wood  
This is an online group for women to chat, encourage, and share spiritual concerns with other busy women. You can write as much as you want, respond to others, give new information, and share joys and concerns.

### Service Circle

Contact: Lea Elshoff  
Sandwich making in the Church Kitchen for Faith Mission. Join us on **March 25** at 9:30 a.m. in the Kitchen.

## UMW MISSION PROJECT HELP

During the month of March we are collecting for New Life UMC:

body lotions  
feminine hygiene products.

Our collection of:

used postage stamps  
Campbell's Soup labels  
used reading glasses  
pop can tabs

is continuous! Please place all of these items in the UMW - Club 56 cupboard opposite the church office, or they may be brought to any Circle or Board meeting.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



### Social Concerns

Contact: Esther Hunter

### Get Involved with Social Concerns

⇒ The Open Shelter Meal will be prepared beginning at 8:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, March 8** in the church kitchen. If you can help contact Arlean Sudhoff.

⇒ The Rebecca's House meal will be prepared at 11:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, March 8** in the church kitchen. Call Arlean Sudhoff if you need information. If you would like to help serve the meal, contact Celeste Thomas.

⇒ March Brunch Bunch will be held on **March 27** from 9:45 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Want to help? Call the church office (336-8485). Make plans now to meet your friends at Brunch!

⇒ The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be **Saturday, March 12**. Please sign up to give the gift of life. Our goal is 30 units. We are in need of volunteers to clean up following the Blood Drive. Contact the office (336-8485) if you can help.



## Updates for March

### Change for the Better—

#### Fill the Jar and Throw in a Towel

Most of us take for granted a clean wash cloth and a clean towel for our morning shower. We take one, use it and tomorrow we take another. Nothing feels better than a soft towel after a good shower.

What we take for granted is a luxury for many who may be lucky to have a shower and may not have a towel or wash cloth. Give a gift of a new clean wash cloth and towel. It is a way to touch people in a basic and meaningful way and ease their daily living struggle.

The Mission Committee is sponsoring the “Change” for the Better Drive to raise funds for the New Life United Methodist Church. The Drive begins March 13 and will go through April 3. Pick up change collection boxes, empty the change from your pockets, and drop off towels and wash cloths at the table in the Lobby. **Our goals for the New Life “Change” for the Better Drive are:**

\$2011  
211 Wash Cloths  
211 Towels

New Life, located at 25 W. Fifth Avenue, is engaged in servant ministry, seeking to be faithful disciples by following Jesus, who came "not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45), by responding to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our neighbors. Key programs include: Worship, Clothing Room, Breakfast Ministry, Sunday Family Dinner, Youth Ministry, and 12 Step Support Groups. Check out New Life at <http://newlifeunitedmethodist.org/>

If you want to assist with the “Change” collections contact Becki Hollenbaugh.

### Pound a Nail, Change a Life

Linworth United Methodist Church continues its ministry with Columbus Habitat for Humanity through the Hilliard Adopt a House organization. Steve Beard leads this personal ministry for Linworth United Methodist Church. Our effort is combined with six other churches in our area. The ministry serves the Columbus Community as well as other areas affected by floods and hurricanes.

The Habitat Group is currently building a house on Minnesota Avenue in Columbus. We started this house in October from the foundation and just completed the drywall on February 12.

Howard Dean and Steve Beard spent a week in Mobile, Alabama beginning on Saturday, February 19 to continue working on houses in Mobile County. This was their fourth trip to this area to support the Local Habitat efforts to build homes. This area is still feeling the effects of Hurricane Katrina, as many families from the New Orleans area were relocated to Mobile. This summer will mark the 1,000 house that Habitat for Humanity has built in this area and will also be our last trip to this area.

The Group is planning a trip to Nashville, Tennessee next year as this area of the country needs volunteers to help their Habitat for Humanity mission.

If you are interested in volunteering on a Saturday for our Columbus home please contact Steve Beard for this important ministry.



### Mission Projects

The Mission Committee identified the mission projects that the Church will support this year. These contributions support over 24 mission projects locally, nationally, and world wide. These projects are supported by contributions from the Church Budget, Thanksgiving Offering, Easter Offering, Christmas Offering, Bread and Water, Change Drive, Seed Drive, and Recycling.

Summarized below are the mission projects we will support in 2011.

- Pharr Literacy Project— \$4,000
- Grace Hospital— \$2,000
- Operation Christmas Child— \$200
- Africa University— \$1,000
- Jackson Area Ministry— \$2,000
- Laos Ministry— \$3,000
- Neighborhood Ministry— \$2,000
- Faith Mission— \$1,000
- SS Settlement— \$2,000
- Open Shelter— \$500
- Habitat— \$5,000
- International Friendships— \$1,000
- New Life Sunday Dinner— \$500
- New Life Church— \$2,000
- Children’s Home— \$500
- Adopt a Family— \$300
- IMPACT— \$300
- New Life Tailgate— \$150
- U-2— \$500
- NNEMAP— \$1,000
- Cherokee UMC— \$1,000
- Worthington Food Pantry— \$1,000
- Northern Chaplin Service— \$500
- Methesco— \$500
- Unanticipated Needs— \$450
- Total \$32,400**



**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 page 1)

Rabb are leading this mission partnership. Recently the team launching this ministry decided our congregation would sponsor two pastors this year. A gift of \$100 per month will support their salary and family. As a second ministry, Bev shared that several villages along the Mekong River need steps built from the water's edge up the steep river bank so that women, children and the elderly can have easier access from the river to the village and the village to the river. Finally, the team is planning a mission trip to Laos for this next October. Want to go? Give the Rabbs or me a call.

"O Happy Day!" We have an average of five persons each week who come through our doors on Sunday morning to "check us out!" All it takes is a simple conversation to get to know their names. Welcome our guests to worship. Ask them to the gathering area for a cup of coffee. On Brunch Sundays invite them and walk with them to the fellowship hall for great food and more hospitality. They have made the effort to seek us out and we need to receive their effort and seek them out!

"O Happy Day!" Your staff and Administrative Board are having conversations on a new purpose statement and a

process for making disciples. Soon you will be hearing words such as "Discover, Grow, and Serve." We are a faith community that builds deeply committed Christians who love God and neighbor!

Well, this is just a taste of all that is happening here. I give thanks for this dynamic congregation and the deep faith and gifts that are present every day.

Thank you for who you are and how you live and serve!

In ministry with you,  
**Rae Lynn**