



The Linworth Link

Volume 18, Issue 2

February 2011

Linworth United Methodist Church

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Thoughts from Pastor Rae Lynn

Welcome to February! I thought about beginning my article saying, "Greetings Church!" But then wondered what someone reading this on the web might think and if it would make them pause and not read any further. So, if you are such a new reader to the Linworth Link, I invite you to read on!

I thought I would share a bit of what I am currently reading and invite all of us into a conversation about "church!" Joe Strickland gave me an article the other day titled, "Americans are ready to dial it down a notch or two." The article is a book review written by David Platt titled, Radical: Taking Back Your Faith From the American Dream. Platt, at age 26 became the pastor of a 4,300 person mega-church in Birmingham. He speaks of multi-million dollar worship palaces that compete for the market of consumer Christianity. His concern for us is that American Christianity has become more of an expression of what we want out of worship instead of truly worshiping the God who gave us Jesus. "Jesus," Platt notes, "made it hard on his followers. He created a mini-church, not a mega one." "The American dream radically differs from the call of Jesus and the essence of the Gospel. The American dream emphasizes self-development and personal growth. But the Gospel rejects the focus on self. . . . Success in the kingdom of God involves moving down, not up."

Then, in the *Christian Century* magazine, I read an article titled "Selling out?" Again the article is a book review, this book by Jeffrey MacDonald titled, Thieves in the Temple: The Christian Church and the Selling of the American Soul. In the review, the writer, Lillian Daniel, says of the book, "The religious marketplace MacDonald describes is full of people looking for a church that meets their needs. MacDonald argues that we often don't know what we need, so instead we choose what we want—a faith that requires very little of us. What we need is a faith that requires commitment, sacrifice and the occasional denial of our own desires. People shop for churches that will meet their desires when they ought to be looking for a church that will *shape* their desires."

This past week I spent time with two young couples in conversation. One couple, raised in the Church, (coming now to Linworth and soon to join), spoke to me that they were looking for a church that called them to serve. They read our mission statement and talked with each other about our mission statement and resonated to what it said. (Can all of us articulate our church's mission statement?) This couple was drawn to the phrases "creating community" and "serving the world." They asked me how this happens at Linworth.

I was moved by the commitment and desire on their part to look for a church that would *shape* them in their faith journey.

The other couple was my niece and her husband. They are around 30 years of age and are in very different places in their spiritual journey. He was raised Catholic, although never followed up with being confirmed as a member. She was raised with no faith background and is just beginning her journey to learn and discover. For them, this is not about shopping for a church to meet their desires. This is about

February Worship Schedule

6– 5th 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

13 - 6th Sunday after the Epiphany—Music & Arts Appreciation Sunday

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

20 - 7th Sunday after the Epiphany

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

27 - 8th Sunday after the Epiphany—Baptism & New Member Sunday

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 **February 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 **February 3 & 17**. We meet in room 228 and will continue with our book "Building Your Marriage." Childcare is provided. Our social event in February will be a Valentine's Day Party, February 12 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. 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 time for 2011. Call a contact.

Hand and Foot Card Club: Contact: Jean Balsler
Join us in the Fellowship Hall on **February 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 **February 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? Welcome to "In Daily Places," where women from their twenties through their seventies learn, grow, serve and laugh together. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month at 7:00 p.m. at church. Join us on **February 14 & 28**.

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 First Watch Restaurant at 7:00 a.m. See you on **February 8 & 22**.

Mom's Book Study: Contact: Terese Loudner
Meetings are at the church on Thursdays, **February 10 & 24** from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Our study is yet to be determined. We are a small group of moms who enjoy fellowship, laughter, study, and support. Childcare is available. Questions? Contact Terese. I look forward to meeting you.

MOPS (Mothers Of PreSchoolers): (A Christian group for mothers with children ages birth through kindergarten)
Contacts: Diane Hamilton & Melissa Hufft
Our February meeting dates are **February 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 **February 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. January meetings are **February 1 & 15** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library and room 225.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: Contact: Lea Elshoff
Would you like to take another step in your faith journey? Each Thursday, from 10:00 until 11:30 a.m., approximately 8-12 ladies meet in room 210 to study, pray and fellowship together using various books related to the scriptures. We are using a study program in "The Upper Room." This requires no additional book purchase and copies of "The Upper Room" are available in the church office. Please come and join us.

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

Children's Ministries

Sunday School...Want to see what the children of LUMC are doing in Sunday School? We are still keeping busy with the different activities and learning new Bible verses with each curriculum theme. Also, we have started doing music with Lori Walls during Sunday School every other Sunday. Come check us out!

Club 56...Meetings this month for Club 56 will be on **February 6** (Bowling) and **February 20** (church). Watch for any details in the Club 56 Newsletter and church worship folder. Thanks to everyone who helped donate to the recent Club 56 mission project. It's wonderful to see the 5th & 6th graders of LUMC serving others in need.

Music & Arts Appreciation

Sunday...Music & Arts Sunday is **February 13**. Children will be singing only at the 10:15 service. There will also be a Children's Message during the 10:15 service. Please plan to attend and celebrate music with us.

Questions about LUMC Children's Ministry? Contact: Alisha Meacham, Director of Children's Ministries (ameacham@linworthumc.org).

Membership Care News

Chad Johns
(cjohns@linworthumc.org)
Director of Membership Care &
Small Groups

Exploring Linworth

Are you new (or newish) to Linworth UMC? Would you like to get to know some of the staff a little bit better?

Do you have questions about the church and its ministries? If you can answer yes to any of these questions, then we invite you to one of our upcoming "Exploring Linworth" classes. This class gives you an opportunity to have lunch with both the pastoral and program staff of the church. You'll also get a chance to learn about the ministries and mission of Linworth as well as the United Methodist Church as a whole. Still interested? Good.

The class will be available on two Sundays: **February 13 and 20 from 12:30-4:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. You only need to attend **one** of the two days. As noted above, lunch will be provided. We can also have childcare available if you let us know ahead of time that you need it.

Finally, those who take the class will be given an opportunity to officially join the church on **February 27**. Taking the class doesn't mean you have to join the church, but it is a requirement for those who want to join.

Still have questions? Want to RSVP? Contact Chad Johns at cjohns@linworthumc.org.



NEW AT LINWORTH: THE HEART OF HEALING - A TIME OF PRAYER AND HEALING

Do you desire a deeper walk with God? Is something in your life holding you back from wholeness of spirit, of mind, of body? The new healing ministry at Linworth could be your answer. Pastor Rae Lynn will lead a healing service on **Sunday, February 20** at 6:30 p.m. The service will offer a time for prayer, reflection, and healing. In October, Pastor Rae Lynn led the congregation in a series of three sermons on healing prayer. There we learned that healing prayer is not a magical panacea that fulfills our every wish. Rather, healing prayer begins a process that allows us to become the person God is calling us to be at every stage of our lives. Often, the results of healing may not be what we expect—in the midst of being afflicted with hardship or disease, we may find an increased faith in God and an increased desire to love and serve. The very thing that causes our brokenness can be used in God's way and in God's time for His purpose. The first healing service will follow the theme, "Soul Worth." Come. Be healed. Discover your soul worth.



Youth News

Seth Rowe (srowe@linworthumc.org)
Director of Youth Ministries

Xtreme Impact February Schedule:

- 6—Super Bowl Party, details TBA
- 13—3:00 - 4:15 p.m., Bible Study
4:30 - 6:00 p.m., Xtreme Impact
- 18—Lock-in!
- 20—Vespers Night
- 27—3:00 - 4:15 p.m., Bible Study
4:30 - 6:00 p.m., Xtreme Impact

The following note was received:

“Dear Friends,

It has been one year since we lost Joel's brother, Clint due to injuries he received in Haiti. As we have grieved his loss over the last year, we have been lifted by the congregation, by the staff, and by Rae Lynn, Gene, and Jeff. Rae Lynn's notes and support has been especially helpful. This congregation's support has been a priceless gift.

*Blessings to you,
Joel and Beth”*

Safety Fact of the Month

Linworth UMC has two new ministries that are passionate about safety. The first is the Safety Team. This Team will be bringing you facts, and inform you of what to do “if.”

The First Aid Kit Team will work in conjunction with the Safety Team, but will concentrate on making first aid supplies readily accessible if they are needed.

Do you have safety/medical expertise that you could share? Contact Cheryl Helenberger (chelenberger@linworthumc.org) to get involved.

We are currently searching for an individual who is certified to train others in CPR. Can you help?



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



Chili Cook Off
February 27
5:00—8:00 p.m.

The Chili Cook Off is always a fun evening. Come be a part of the judging, and vote on your favorite spicy, mild or non-traditional chili.

Have your own recipe you want to enter? That would be wonderful! (Hot dogs will be available for those who do not enjoy chili.)

Following dinner we will move to the Worship Center for some Square Dancing! This was a lot of fun last year, and will be again this year. What a great family event!

Watch the worship folder for more information. Want to help with this event or sign up to enter your recipe? Contact Eric Reidinger or the church office (336-8485).

Remember, February 27, 5:00—8:00 p.m. at the Church!

Linworthys News

(the 55 and over group)

Contact: Doug Stahle

Meeting **Tuesday, February 22** at 11:30 a.m. Join us for a POTLUCK luncheon. NOTE: The Kitchen/Social Committee is providing MEATBALLS AND DESSERT. Please bring a side dish to share that can serve 10 to 15 persons. Bring your own TABLE SERVICE. Cost is \$2.00 each. Our program is one we feel sure you will enjoy. It is "TWO FRIENDS." Joyce Beauvals and Sue Ellen Beacher are looking forward to returning to our church. They are duo pianists who performed with Clintonville Mothersingers in the Spring. They will play a whole program of familiar songs with a touch of love, faith, and premier some new numbers just for our group. Both are church musicians in Clintonville and created "TWO FRIENDS" in 2000. Come trade off the winter doldrums for an enjoyable, entertaining afternoon. As always, friends are welcome-just let your telephone contact person know.

The board members of the Linworthys extend an open invitation to persons 55 and over to visit with us at one of our meetings. We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. except for June (--a bus trip) and October (--Mystery Bus trip). Our meetings are a luncheon, devotions, short business meeting, birthday of month recognition and interesting program. The Christian fellowship that we share is a gift from God. We are not all fun and games--donations are made to various church needs, missions and memorials. If interested call Mary Lu Webster and tell her you wish to attend the meeting and **hopefully you will have such a wonderful time, that you will decide to join.**

COMING UP--In the planning stages - A 3 DAY- BUS TOUR, MARCH 29, 30, 31 to Ronks, PA, to the Sights and Sounds Theater to see the production of "Joseph," visit the Chocolate Factory at Hershey, and visit the Kitchen Kettle Village . We would leave LUMC on March 29 and return March 31. In order to receive additional information, please visit the following websites to become familiar with where the bus trip will take you:

<http://www.sightsound.com/WebSiteSS/getshowdetails.do?eventCD=JOE>

<http://www.hersheypa.com/>

<http://www.kitchenkettle.com/index.asp>

Our regular March 22 meeting is still scheduled!!

Mission Board Meeting

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

Evening Circle - New Time!!

Contacts: Linda Holloway & Sue Bowen

Third Monday evening of every month. Next meeting is **February 21** at 7:00 p.m. The program will be on, Women in Haiti. (See article on page 7.)

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 **February 8** in the Fellowship Hall. Invitational Education I Hong Kong.

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 **February 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 **February 25** at 9:30 a.m. in the Kitchen.

MISSION PROJECT HELP

During the month of February we are collecting lip balm, shaving cream, razors, and deodorant for New Life UMC. Our collection of used postage stamps, Campbell's Soup labels, used reading glasses, and 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.



**UMW
Women's
Ministries**



Updates for February

Christmas Generosity

Christmas time brought out the passion that the Linworth congregation has for service and giving. All through the Advent season, people were busy organizing, shopping, packing, buying alternative gifts, delivering gifts, and making contributions for the Christmas Offerings. All through the year we see God's gift of grace through Jesus Christ. We saw ourselves as emissaries of that grace during this Christmas Season.

Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas Offering will be dedicated to the Parr Literacy Project, Laos Mission, and Neighborhood Outreach. The 2010 Christmas Offering raised \$8,619.75 for these and other mission projects.

The Pharr Literacy Project founded by Keith and Elva Michal from Linworth, serves a greatly impoverished population in south Texas. Many of the people in this community are largely without the necessary skills to be a productive part of the American economy. The program provides GED prep-work, ESL classes, introductory computer classes, and pre-literacy classes for children. Over the past year nearly 650 participants were served, with a participant retention rate of 72 %. 65 % of ESL students have successfully graduated to the next level of study, and 70 % of involved children have met or exceeded their personal reading goals.

In Laos, there are 75 congregations overseen by 81 lay pastors, an estimate of 5,000 members. All the 81 Lay Pastors are men; however, we have four women out of eight Bible students studying in Phayao Bible Seminary in Thailand.

Despite the current status, the government is aware of the existence of the LSMC through our social programs/assistance as we reach out to the community. There are new mission efforts to expand elementary education in Luang Prabang province and vocational education efforts for out of school youth.

We continue to explore ways to reach the families living in the apartments in our neighborhood.

Adopt a Family

It takes a congregation to lift up needy families at Christmas time. Adopt a Family was a busy cross roads of coordinated activities uniting the different efforts of various groups of people. Some organized the effort and interviewed needy families, some shopped, some wrapped, some organized the gifts and food, some greeted the families picking up gifts, and some made deliveries.

Those who met the families at the church or made deliveries offered hope and prayer in addition to the food and gifts for children. Serving 30 families, this effort provided \$1100 for family food, \$5,000 for children's gifts, and \$435 for books. With the in-kind gifts of more than \$500 the Adopt a Family project raised over \$7000 in total.

Virginia Brizendine who was the organizer of the effort was overwhelmed by the generosity of the congregation. She said, "How blessed we are for the people willing to donate time, talent, and money to make the project work for these families."

New Life

Christmas is over but human needs persist. In this cold period of the year New Life is in need of items that are essential for human survival.

Please donate:

Blankets
Sweaters
Sweat Shirts
Jeans
Towels.

You can place these needed items in the New Life section of the cabinets across from the Office Door. Thanks!



Membership News:

Births: Chloe Rose Jackman,
daughter of Craig & Karen Jackman,
sister of Ryan & Zachary

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.



A Group for Young Adults

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

Contact: Angela (linworthfusion@gmail.com)

Fusion meets on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
at the church.

February Dates

- 3 - Social/Service Event
- 10 - Bible Study, The book of Mark, room 228,
7:00 p.m.
- 17 - Bible Study, The book of Mark room 226,
7:00 p.m.
- 24 - Social/Service event - Contact
linworthfusion@gmail.com for location

Get Involved with Social Concerns

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



Social Concerns
Contact: Esther Hunter

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

⇒ February Brunch Bunch will be held on **February 27**. Want to help? Call the church office (336-8485). Make plans now to meet your friends at Brunch!



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.

Evening Circle News: More about the Women in Haiti

A discussion of "Women in Haiti" will be featured at our February Evening Circle meeting. Olivia Winkfield will be our guest presenter. Olivia is a nurse by profession, and immediately after the earthquake she went to Haiti with a team of doctors. She will share with us her experiences working with the people of Haiti during this time of crisis. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, February 21** in the Gathering Area.

Beth Rabb will be our hostess and the devotions will be led by Linda Holloway.

This month please bring lip balm, deodorants, razors and shaving cream for us to share with New Life UMC.



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

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starting from scratch, not knowing what questions to ask or how to find answers, wondering how this was going to impact their marriage and also each of them personally. Our conversation lasted eight hours as we shared together. I found our conversation heart-warming, connecting, and spiritual. Not religious, but spiritual. Much of society around us is right where my niece and her husband are and I have welcomed the challenge to listen and share, but not debate. I have come to learn that religion and spirituality are non-debatable. Such deep and personal inquiries need to be honored as we wade gently into conversations.

My current reading is a book called Simple Church. The book is about clarifying our mission and creating a straightforward process for growing persons in the faith. Simple does not mean easy. "Simple" means clear, understandable and direct. I believe that the purpose of the church is, indeed, to help shape our desires. And more than shape our desires, it is to shape our lives around the Gospel that clearly teaches God first, that grace is given without condition, that love is to be given generously and Jesus invites us to such a life. People shop for churches that will meet their desires. We want to be the kind of church that will *shape* their desires. That will happen as we *create community, grow in Christ and serve the world*. And then we are to offer this to those who come into our doors and to those who stand outside as God continues to shape us to be the Church in the world to the world!

Your pastors, Gene, Jeff and I, will never offer a people-pleasing, consumer-oriented Christianity that requires no commitment. We will offer a journey that calls all of us to deeply embrace and embed Christ in our hearts so as to be Christian every day in this world. Day by day and week by week, together we will grow and support one another in our faith journey. I appreciate this faith community who willingly will read together books such as Three Simple Rules and embrace the challenge.

I hope that we will read together this next year several others books, along with our Bibles, and find a common language, a common mission, a common vision and *be Church!* I am blessed by this congregation and I give thanks to God every day that I am here and we are walking together on the path of deepening our faith.

In ministry with you,
Rae Lynn