



The Linworth Link

Volume 18, Issue 1

January 2011

Linworth United Methodist Church

7070 Bent Tree Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43235

Phone:

614-336-8485

Fax:

614-336-8486

www.

linworthumc.org

Thoughts from Pastor Gene Folden

Bless You!

Recently something occurred that I continue to mull over in my mind and in my heart. It happened at a holiday party at the home of one of my neighbors. At the end of the evening as the guests were donning their coats and hats about to leave for home, the host and hostess said to each and every person, "Thank you for blessing our home and our lives with your presence tonight." Wow! We could not leave that home that night and not feel the love, warmth and care of our neighbor. Even now, weeks after that blessing occurred, I can not help but think about the power of being blessed.

How important is the ancient and mysterious act of blessing! In fact, the whole biblical story sometimes seems like one continuous blessing. God blesses newly-made creatures and pronounces them "good."

God makes sacred covenants and blesses them with miraculous births and rainbows of hope. God blesses Jesus at his baptism, declaring him (and by extension, us) "beloved." Jesus insists on blessing even children, despite the scandal. From his prison cell, an affectionate and urgent pastor, Paul, blesses his faraway flock.

In the same way, you and I have repeatedly stretched out our own hands to bless our sisters and brothers as they embark on journeys to new cities and take up new challenges, or as they are ordained to lead other families of faith.

And then there is the blessing at the end of the Sunday service when, as your pastor, I get to pronounce the benediction, or the "good word" of affection, encouragement, and assurance.

If you are attuned to the feel of the sanctuary right before the benediction is pronounced, perhaps you sense as I do that it is a moment of great expectation. It seems as if the congregation is waiting to hear something important—something we know we need, something we hunger for. We expect to be blessed. We need to be blessed.

Some of us never got a blessing from someone we longed to receive it from. Some of us find it hard to believe that we deserve a blessing. Blessings bestowed have power, and so do blessings denied. Blessings can make or break us.

It's no wonder, then, that on occasion people weep when they receive a farewell blessing at the end of a service, or a soothing blessing at a healing service, or a peace-filled blessing in the pastor's office after an intimate conversation.

Nothing is quite like it, the blessing that forthrightly declares the truth about us—that we are loved; that we do not need to be afraid; that God has confidence in us, work for us to do, and delights for us to taste; and that in all of life, and even in death, God is closer to us than we are to ourselves, night and morning, now and forever, world without end.

Nothing is quite like a blessing. And so I say to you, my dear friends at Linworth United Methodist church, **bless you**. Bless you for being a church that has passion for prayer and study, a love for God expressed through glorious music and worship, and a warm sense of community. And bless you for your acts of kindness, your expressions of support, and your warm words of acceptance and forgiveness to me and to every member of the staff. I pray that in 2011, you will continue to be a people that blesses each other and a church that blesses the lives of persons in this community and far beyond.

Pastor Gene

January Worship Schedule

2- Epiphany Sunday

Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif

8:45 a.m.—Traditional

10:15 a.m.—Contemporary

11:30 a.m.—Traditional

9 - 1st Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Jeffery Dunn

8:45 a.m.—Traditional

10:15 a.m.—Contemporary

11:30 a.m.—Traditional

16 - 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif

8:45 a.m.—Traditional

10:15 a.m.—Contemporary

11:30 a.m.—Traditional

23 - 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Dr. Eugene Folden

8:45 a.m.—Traditional

10:15 a.m.—Contemporary

11:30 a.m.—Traditional

30 - 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif

8:45 a.m.—Traditional

10:15 a.m.—Contemporary

11:30 a.m.—Traditional



Small Groups

Bridge Club: Contact: Byrdie Lorenz
Bridge Club will meet on **January 7** at 8:00 p.m. in members homes. Call Brydie for information.

Building Nesters: Contacts: Shawn & Amy Brown
Join us for Bible Study in room 228 as we finish our book. Our January meetings are **January 6 and 20**. Childcare is provided. 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. It's sign-up time for 2011 so, call a contact.

Hand and Foot Card Club: Contact: Jean Balsler
Join us in the Fellowship Hall on **January 7** 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 **January 12 and 26** 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. Join us on **January 10 and 24**.

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 **January 11 and 25**.

Mom's Book Study: Contact: Terese Loudner
The Mom's Book Study will meet **January 13** at 6:30 p.m. How was your Holiday? (Nothing to read.), and **January 27** at 6:30 p.m. Book TBA. Are you looking for a mom's group? This is the place. Everyone is welcome. Childcare is available.

MOPS (Mothers Of PreSchoolers): (a Christian group for mothers with children ages birth through kindergarten).

Contacts: Diane Hamilton & Melissa Hufft
Our January meeting dates are **January 10 and 24**. **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. Join us on **January 5 and 19**.

Sensational Older Singles (SOS):
Contact: Lois Gifford
Meets for lunch after the 11:30 service on Sunday. Anyone is welcome. Call Lois for details.

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. Call a contact to become involved.

Stephen Ministry: Contact: Sandy Apicella
We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. January meetings are **January 4 and 18** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library and room 225.

Thursday Morning Bible Study:
Contact: Maxine Bartelt
We meet from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays. We're still using "Meeting the Messiah, Scriptures for the Advent Season," by Kara Lassen Oliver as our study guide. This is a very informal group led by participants of the group. We study, pray and fellowship together. Guests are always welcome.

Women's Bible Study: Contact: Jeanne Byers
Join us as we continue our study, Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, by Joanna Weaver. The life of a woman today isn't really all that different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, you long to sit at the Lord's feet...but the daily demands of a busy world just won't leave you alone. Like Martha, you love Jesus and really want to serve him...yet you struggle with weariness, resentment, and feelings of inadequacy. Then comes Jesus, into the midst of your busy life, to extend the same invitation he issued long ago to the two sisters from Bethany. Tenderly, he invites you to choose "the better part"—a joyful life of intimacy with him that flows naturally into loving service. No matter where you are in your journey of faith, come and enjoy the wonderful discussion and fellowship.

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL IN 2011!

Club 56—We will be meeting at the church for our **January** meetings on the **16th** and **30th** from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. If inclement weather occurs, Club 56 will still meet unless there is a Level 3 issued. Parents feel free to make your own decision of whether to have your child come or not. Safety is the main priority. Please contact the Club 56 leaders if you have any questions regarding this. Thank you.

Questions about Club 56? Contact Jenifer Wynne, Julie Ricketts, or Rob Ciccotelli.

Advent Festival...THANK YOU! -

Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the Advent Festival! It was a fun-filled morning of food/cookies, crafts, Santa, and music! We hope

everyone had a great time and look forward to seeing you next year :)

New theme for Sunday School Curriculum

- We will be starting the next theme of Sunday School curriculum in January: Acceptance/Diversity. The curriculum will last for about 8 weeks.

Nursery help needed - There will be a need for help in our nursery on Sunday mornings starting at the end of January. Please contact Alisha Meacham, ameacham@linworthumc.org, if you are interested.

Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with their family and loved ones. Remember to stay warm and get involved with the many exciting upcoming events at LUMC this New Year!

Alisha

Membership Care News

Chad Johns

(cjohns@linworthumc.org)

Director of Membership Care & Small Groups

Beginnings: An Introduction to the Christian Faith

Starting **January 9**, we will offer an 8-week class on the basic concept of Christianity. The class will meet from 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. on Sundays in room 226. If you're new to the ideas of faith or feel like you've never really gotten a sense of what Christianity is about, then this class is for you. There is a small study guide (less than \$10) that you will need. Once we have a sense of how many people are interested, we'll order the books through the church. Are you interested? Do you have questions? In either case, contact Chad Johns (cjohns@linworthumc.org or 614-336-8485) for more information or to RSVP.

Linworthys News

(the 55 and over group)

Contact: Doug Stahle

Meet with us **Tuesday, January 28** at 11:30 a.m. to start our 2011 season. Our lunch menu is pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, salad and dessert, served by our Kitchen/Social Chefs. \$6.00 per person. Our program will be presented by Esther Hunter (Director of Social Concerns/Missions & Outreach of our LUMC). Esther will share with us some of her life's journey experiences--a testimony of faith of her work with social concerns, missions, etc. Please attend, as we listen to Esther, we can become aware of how we can help with this ministry.

2010 has now past, and Linworthys—what a great year! We were privileged to hear Carol Clark who climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro--laughed with Ron Stroup and Margie Stroup as they presented "Morning of Magical Fun." We listened to Dr. Jep Hostetler (author of the book--*The Joy Factor*) as he discussed the meaning of joy as we age. We welcomed back the Clintonville Mother Singers, always a treat. Then a trip to La Comedia for lunch and *The Church Basement Ladies* show and the June Bus Trip to Greenville Oh—Kitchen Aid Factory, Garst Museum, and a delicious lunch at Brethren Retirement Community Center. The next meeting, "The Four Singing Pastors" were so well received that the Linworthys sponsored a follow-up in November for members of our church. Our Bingo Party--as always— fun. The Tail Gate party with the first OSU female baton twirler, Shelly Graff was a wonderful day, she even led the group in dotting the "I." The OCTOBER MYSTERY TRIP--\$64.00 was money well spent. Not only did we view pottery making, but we ended up in Marietta, OH, to board a stern wheeler for lunch. It was a beautiful sunny day as we cruised and went through a lock. Kudos to Donna and Pat--comments were-- "all this for \$64.00." Then our annual November/December meeting, a complimentary turkey dinner with 113 attending. The program was Hank Arbaugh who sang and played different instruments. We also made 8 contributions to the LUMC Memorial Fund, plus 4 miscellaneous causes. Let's not forget the folks (some of us with health issues) who helped with the April and October garage sales. Thanks Linworthys for a great year!!

Facts from Community Ministries

Hunger in Ohio- by Bob Erickson, Hunger Network in Ohio

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service reported just last week that 14.8 percent, (679,172) or more than one in seven of Ohio households are facing a daily risk of hunger, or "food insecurity." Ohio is tied at 9th in the nation for states with the highest rates of food insecurity, above comparably populous states like California, Florida, and New York. Ohio's rate is above the national average of food insecurity, which rests at 14.7 percent.

Food insecurity, as defined by the "USDA's Household Food Security in the United States, 2009," remained essentially unchanged from 2008 to 2009 across the nation, but Ohio's food insecurity rose significantly. Over the past year, food insecurity in Ohio households rose from 13.3 percent to 14.8 percent; more than 71,000 additional Ohio households now struggle to keep an adequate amount of food on the table.

The study also reviewed and collected information about rates of very low food security, when households at-risk of hunger cut back on the amount of food, number of meals and other indicators because they lacked the money and other resources for food. In Ohio, 6.1 percent of households were categorized as having very low food security, significantly above the national average of 5.2 percent.

Fighting Hunger in Ohio

For Ohio's emergency food network, these statistics do not come as a surprise. "Food is a basic human need, yet increasing numbers of Ohioans are faced with tough decisions each and every day that affect their ability to put enough food on the table and meet their and their family's nutritional needs," stated Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. "These families are standing at our doors. During the last quarter alone, over 1.9 million Ohioans visited a food pantry. From state fiscal year 2007 to state fiscal year 2010, demand at food pantries alone increased by 68.6 percent."

Tough Choices

In Hunger in Ohio 2010, a study conducted by Mathematica Policy Institute, Inc., in conjunction with Feeding America (confirmed by the USDA) found that of those served by Ohio's emergency food network:

- 52 percent are choosing between buying food and paying for utilities
- 43 percent are choosing between buying food and paying for rent or mortgage
- 42 percent are choosing between buying food and paying for medicine or medical care

Hunger in America

Coinciding with this alarming data are just a few of the statistics from USDA's Household Food Security in the United States, 2009, which confirms that hunger and poverty are still increasing. In 2009:

- 16.6 percent of Americans lived in food insecure households
- 14.7 percent of American households were food insecure
- 21.3 percent of American households with children were living in food insecure households
- 23.2 percent of American children were living in food insecure households
- 7.5 percent of American households with seniors were living in food insecure homes
- 7.8 percent of seniors living alone were living in food insecure households

What Can I Do?

Why not calculate the overall cost of the meal divided by the nose count at your table (plus one!)? Taking the expense of that extra guest alone, contribute it to your church, local food pantry, favorite charity or preferred anti-hunger initiative. That's easy to do and won't break your food budget. But it might serve to remind you to consider regularly adding--whether real or symbolically--another seat, if not an extra leaf, to your dinner table.

PRIMARY REFERENCES AND LINKS

About the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF):

OASHF is Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio's 12 Feeding America/Second Harvest foodbanks and 3,000 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. OASHF and its network of providers distributed more than 135 million pounds of food and grocery items. OASHF also served as the lead agencies for the Ohio Benefit Bank, an Internet-based, application assistance program which breaks down barriers and helps simplify the application process for work support programs and tax credits.

To learn more the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks visit www.oashf.org or call 614/221-4336.

Bob Erickson, Director, Hunger Network in Ohio, 82 East 16th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201, 614.424.6203 (Phone) www.hungernetohio.org (Website) - HungerNetOhio@aol.com (email)

Freedom Schools Come to Central Ohio

United Methodist Churches are at the forefront of bringing **Freedom Schools** to people in need in central Ohio! Eight UM churches will host the 2011 Freedom School, a six week, all day, free, summer program focused on improving reading skills and youth leadership development and generating positive attitudes toward learning. You can sponsor a child, contribute to the overall expenses of the school or volunteer to help. For more information contact Rev. Laura Young , lyoung@cdfohio.org.

Mission Board Meeting

Contact: Sue Gabel

First Monday of every month. Next meeting is **January 3** at 7:00 p.m.

Evening Circle

Contacts: Linda Holloway & Sue Bowen

Meet with us on **Monday, January 17** at 7:30 p.m. in the Gathering Area.

Fellowship Day Circle

Contacts: Nancy Zimmerman & Marlene Heltzel

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at the church, 9:30 a.m. on **January 11** in the Fellowship Hall.

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 **January 10 and 24**.

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 **January 28** at 9:30 a.m. in the Kitchen.

MISSION PROJECT HELP

During the month of January we are collecting new socks, underwear, gloves or mittens for New Life UMC Clothing Room. 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.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Many thanks to all who baked, purchased and prayed for the annual Cookie Sale. It was fun and a great success! The UMW made over \$3,500 for missions. We could not have done this without the help and support of the congregation.

The following note was received:

"I would like to thank everyone for all the good thoughts and prayers, cards and calls. I have been very relaxed and at ease during my recovery process. I can only credit prayers for that.

See you soon. (As soon as they let me drive.)

Beryl Danner."



2011 Charts are Posted

Flower Chart Is Here

Thinking of honoring someone or celebrating a special occasion during 2011? The 2011 flower chart is posted on the bulletin board near the kitchen.

Bread and Water Chart Is Also Here

A remembrance to Bread and Water helps to support UMC Missions. See the bulletin board near the kitchen.



Updates for December

Thanksgiving Offering Update

The Thanksgiving Offering this year provided \$2443 for Faith Mission, serving the homeless community; International Friendships, providing Christian hospitality to international students at Ohio State; and Cherokee Mission providing emergency services and support to Native Americans in North Carolina as well as other mission projects for 2009. We thank you for your support!!!

Operation Christmas Child Helps Many

Win Smith headed up this year's Operation Christmas Child that collected 46 Christmas shoe boxes from the Linworth congregation. The shoe boxes were filled with essential items such as soap, wash cloths, toothbrush, and fun items such as toys and candy. The boxes were stuffed with items that were gender and age appropriate for a child from age 2 to 14. Operation Christmas Child is part of Samaritan's Purse that expects to collect more than 8 million shoe box gifts this holiday season, including 5 million in the United States, to send to needy children in some 100 countries. Plans are underway to deliver 250,000 boxes to children in Haiti. Samaritan's Purse has worked steadily in the country since the January 12 earthquake, building thousands

of shelters, supplying clean drinking water, and sending medical staff to respond to the raging cholera epidemic.

Wash Cloths Help New Life

New Life Church is in constant need of basic items for everyday living. Life is lived at the margin when having a wash cloth is a treasured gift. Susan Ford and Mike Smeltzer gathered 200 washcloths to take to New Life for their Christmas on December 19. Thanks for your support to this project.

Alternative Gifts Says "Thanks"

The Missions Committee is pleased to report that once again our congregation has been very generous during the Advent season. We were able to send Heifer International enough money to purchase: 13 flocks of chickens; 11 ducks; 1 sheep; 7 shares of a heifer; 3 goats; 2 llamas, 2 water buffalos; 8 hives of honey bees; and 1 trio of rabbits. Each gift multiplies as the recipients of Heifer animals promise to share any offspring with another family in need. We also donated \$300 to New Life UMC to purchase warm hats, gloves and blankets for their outreach program. Thanks to all who participated in raising \$2800 for these important missions.

Fill the Bread and Water Dates

On the right side of the worship center sits bread and water. These symbols are a tangible reminder of Linworth's commitment to supporting those

in need. You can commemorate a family event or person in your life with a contribution to bread and water. The sign up sheet for bread and water is located on the mission bulletin board in the back hallway near the kitchen. There are open dates next year for contributions to Bread and Water.

Planning For Laos Ministry Begins

If you are interested in becoming a part of this fledgling ministry we will be meeting on **Wednesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m.** During that time we will introduce you to the country with a fact sheet, share a twenty minute power point on our trip over there last April, talk about the missionaries and their understanding of the needs of the country, building financial support for this ministry and next steps.

In a recent communication, Missionary Beverly Barte wrote: "We have recently met with the governor in Luang Prabang, and there are many opportunities for us to move ahead in our ministry here in Laos, as long as we work with the various government agencies."

I hope that you will come, listen and learn and then consider joining the effort!



Membership News:

Deaths: Don Russell, Sr.

Births: Sophie Elizabeth McGary, daughter of Carter & Niki McGary. Grandparents are Ed & Cyndi Johnston

Have you met Matt?!?

Matt Fuller is our newest team member. His position is Building Supervisor. Matt has a background in custodial cleaning and floor care. His father had a cleaning business that Matt would help with as a child.

Matt is married to Katie, and his daughter, Hailey just celebrated her 5th birthday. Matt enjoys hunting, riding his motorcycle and spending time with his extended family.

Be sure to welcome Matt to our Linworth family!

Pastors' Hospital Visitation Schedules

Pastor Rae Lynn Schleif:
Sunday, Thursday, Saturday
Pastor Gene Folden:
Monday, Tuesday, Friday
Pastor Jeffery Dunn:
Wednesday

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)

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

January Dates: 6, 13, 20, 27

Contact: Angela (linworthfusion@gmail.com)

Get Involved with Social Concerns

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



Social Concerns
Contact: Esther Hunter



Learn, Grow, and Serve by Becoming a Stephen Minister

Do you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening? If so, please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

Linworth UMC will be training another class of Stephen Ministers beginning in **January 2011**. Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual support and care to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister or how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Sandy Apicella, Janet Enck, Cheryn Houston or Pastor Rae Lynn.

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.



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

Tim Dove Named 2011 Ohio Teacher of the Year

On Friday, December 17, during an all-school assembly at Phoenix Middle School in Worthington, Deborah S. Delisle, superintendent of public instruction announced Timothy Dove's selection as Ohio Teacher of the Year. Mr. Dove, (yes this is Rev. Mark & Jenelle Dove's son) a social studies teacher in the Worthington School District for 29 years was selected for the honor from a group of over 1000 nominations from schools across the state. These nominations were reviewed by a panel composed of representatives from a wide range of backgrounds including community and business representatives, elementary and secondary school administrators, principals and teachers.

Mr. Dove has been part of a team of teachers responsible for the Phoenix school made up of 7th and 8th graders. This alternative school program was initiated in 2006 when the school administration asked four separate teacher/principal teams to create an alternative to the traditional teaching/learning model for Middle school students. Mr. Dove was a part of the team which created the model adopted by the Worthington School administration and board, and six teachers began the living out of "their dream" with eighty-two seventh graders in August of 2007. In 2008 the "Phoenix School" was expanded to include seventh and eighth graders. Since then there has been some talk about the possibility of expanding the size of the program to 5th through 8th grades.

For students to become a part of this program, they must request to be part of it. The number of requests each year has been more than double the numbers that can be accepted. A lottery is held each year to determine which students will be part of the Phoenix School with additional screening for the purpose of ensuring diversity in scholastic ability, equal geographical representation from the four middle school areas in Worthington and balance of numbers based on race and gender.

There are some major differences in what is expected of the "Phoenix students." The school day begins at 7:00 a.m. and lasts until 5:00 p.m. There are no grades. Every student is required to reach the 90% level of mastery in every scholastic arena. If a student does not reach that level during the allotted time frame, they are required to work individually with a teacher until the mastery is complete. Now that the Phoenix School is in its fourth year, there is statistical data showing that 25% of the freshman class in Worthington High Schools have been a part of the Phoenix School program. Among the freshman honors students carrying a 3.5 grade average, 50% are Phoenix School grads.

Mr. Dove has loved being a part of this alternative educational process and firmly believes that having had this opportunity has been a significant factor in his being chosen for his Ohio Teacher of the Year Award.