



The Linworth Link



Volume 17, Issue 2, February 2010

Linworth United Methodist Church

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Thoughts from Pastor Jeff

Observing Lent

I invite you...to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating of God's Holy Word.

—*The United Methodist Book of Worship*

Lent is an often misunderstood and variously observed season of the Christian Year. Some avoid it for promoting an exaggerated sense of shame and guilt. Others are suspicious because the disciplines of Lent are too often trivialized. And still others ignore Lenten disciplines altogether as having little contemporary significance.

Lent can be welcomed as a season of renewal and refreshment. Lent invites us to reconsider the parts of our lives that sustain us and give us life. Lent offers the opportunity to discard what is hampering our spiritual health, and to embrace those things that can bring us a sense of balance.

Fr. Edward Hays, best known for his work on prayer and contemporary spirituality, offers us a generously artful vision for approaching this season of Lent. As the daylight increases and warms our side of the planet, I hope this image of the Lenten journey will give you courage to stir and sprout again.

A Lenten Psalm of Awakening

Come, O Life-giving Creator,
and rattle the door latch
of my slumbering heart.

Awaken me as you breathe upon
a winter-wrapped earth,
gently calling to life virgin Spring.

Awaken in these fortified days
of Lenten prayer and discipline
my youthful dream of holiness.

Call me forth from the prison camp
of my numerous past defeats
and my narrow patterns of being
to make my ordinary life extra-ordinarily alive,
through the passion of my love.

Show me during these Lenten days
how to take the daily things of life
and by submerging them in the sacred,
to infuse them with a great love
for you, O God, and for others.

February Worship Schedule

7 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Communion

Jennifer Snyder

8:45 a.m.—Traditional

10:15 a.m.—Contemporary

11:30 a.m.—Traditional

14 - Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif

8:45 a.m.—Traditional

10:15 a.m.—Contemporary

11:30 a.m.—Traditional

17—Ash Wednesday

Clergy Staff

7:00 p.m. Imposition of Ashes
Service

21 - 1st Sunday in Lent

Rev. Rae Lynn Schleif

Exodus 20:1-7

8:45 a.m. —Traditional

10:15 a.m.—Contemporary

11:30 a.m.—Traditional

28 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Rev. Jeffery Dunn

Exodus 20:12

8:45 a.m.—Traditional

10:15 a.m. Contemporary

11:30 a.m.—Traditional

(Continued on back page)



Small Groups

Between the Lines: Contact: Faye Black

If you love to read fiction and would like to discuss books with other fiction lovers, join the Between the Lines book club. We will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. February's meeting is **Feb 10** at 7:00 p.m. in room 226.

Bridge Club: Contact: Byrdie Lorenz

Bridge Club will meet on **Friday, Feb 5** at 8:00 p.m. in private homes. Our meetings are usually the 1st Friday of the month at 8:00 p.m. (with a few exceptions caused by holidays). We meet in the homes of members.

Building Nesters: Contact: Sara Schwanzl

Our meetings in February will be on **Thursday, Feb 4 & 18** for Bible Study. Childcare is provided. Our February social event is TBD.

Closer Walk Class: Contact: Janet Blocher

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m. in Room 225. The Closer Walk class has just started a new study based on the book, *Reimagining Christianity* by Alan Jones. Pastor Jeff is leading this thought provoking discussion-based study. If you are looking to develop a "closer walk," this group is for you. Newcomers are always welcome!

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

The Club will meet on **Friday, Feb 5** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. 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 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday. Join them on **Feb 10 & 24** at 6:30 p.m. at Claremont.

In Daily Places: Contact: Debby Fuller

Ladies join "In Daily Places" as we continue our study of *Catching Fireflies: Teaching Your Heart to See God's Light Everywhere*, by best-selling author and "Women of Faith" speaker, Patsy Claremont. We will meet this month on **Monday, Feb 8 & 22** in room 226 at 7:00 p.m. Call with questions.

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. Call Sharon to sign up and get logged on.

Men's Before-Work Spiritual Sharing Group:

Contact: Mike Smeltzer

The Men's Breakfast Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings at First Watch Restaurant. Join them on **Feb 9 & 23** at 7:00 a.m.

Mom's Book Study: Contact: Julie Yeater

This is a book study for moms of all ages! We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings of each month. Join us on **Feb 11 & 25** at 6:30 p.m. in room 226.

MOPS (Mothers Of Preschoolers):

Contacts: Holly Meister & Andrea Orofino

MOPS is a Christian group for mothers with children ages birth through kindergarten. Our February meeting dates are **8 and 22** from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Peace in the House: Contact: Shelley Burton

This group supports you finding and maintaining peace with yourself, peace with God, and peace with others. Meet with us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. February dates are **Feb 3 & 17** at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

Sensational Older Singles (SOS):

Contact: Lois Gifford

Call Lois to find out what this group is planning.

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 230 shawls already have been presented to those in pain. Call a contact to become involved.

Stephen Ministry: Contact: Sandy Apicella

We meet **Tuesdays, Feb 2 & 16** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

Thursday Morning Bible Study:

Contact: Maxine Bartelt

We meet from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

As a study guide we are now using "Living The Questions in Mark" by the Navigators. This is a 10 week study of Mark's look at some questions raised by Jesus. This is a very informal study group led by members. Visitors always welcome.

Women's Bible Study: Contact: Jeanne Byers

Join us each Sunday in room 210 at 10:00 a.m. This is a great small group to get to know some people, and enjoy a study at the same time.

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).

Employment Group

Struggling with employment? Join this start-up support group on **Thursday, February 11** at 7:00 p.m. Leaders will be Charlie & Linda Krumm (625-0056) and Pastor Rae Lynn Schleif (366-8485).

Club 56 News (A group especially for youth in grades 5 and 6)

Come and have fun with us on **Sunday, February 14**. We'll do Cookies for Friends. Then on **Sunday, February 28**, it's "The Game of Life!". We gather from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Friends are always welcome. Need more information? Contact Jenifer Wynne or Julie Ricketts.



Marriage Matters Couples Group...

What's Your Love Language? Join us every first and third Sunday from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. to find out your language as we study Gary Chapman's book, The Five Love Languages for Couples. Bring your friends or come meet some new ones, and give your marriage the attention it deserves. February dates are **7 & 21**. Childcare is provided. Call Mary Torok (336-8485) with questions.

UMCOR's Haiti Disaster Response

UMCOR requests that offerings be made to the **Haiti Disaster Response Advance #418325**.

News updates about the disaster can be found on the UMCOR Hotline News Update webpage. The most recent article written is United Methodist Respond with Prayer, Aid for Haiti.

Lenten Opportunity

Pastor Rae Lynn will be leading a Lenten Study on Prayer beginning **Sunday, February 21** at 6:30 p.m. We will be using the resource "Stretch Out Your Hand." Cost for books is \$10.80. Please RSVP with the church office by February 12, if you plan to attend so we can order books.



Linworth Campers

Contact:
Sharon McManis

Watch for details about the winter planning dinner.

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

Pastors' Hospital Visitation Schedules

Pastor Rae Lynn Schleif: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday

Pastor Gene Folden: Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Pastor Jeffery Dunn: Available upon request

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

Do You Have an Aging Parent?

We are exploring the possibility of forming a new group to support and educate those who are dealing with an aging parent. If you are interested in participating, if you want to be part of the visioning process, or if you have skills to offer, please contact Mary Torok (336-8485).

Lonely? Sad? Discouraged?



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

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

To learn more, talk with a pastor or Sandy Apicella.

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!



Membership News

Births:

- Dexter K-Pang Jacobson,
son of Andy & Karen Jacobson

Xtreme Impact

Youth News from Seth Rowe (406-9234)

Xtreme Impact February Calendar

★ **7th-** Middle School, 5:00—6:15 p.m.
 ★ Middle School and High School: Super Bowl Party!
 ★ Details TBA

★ **14th--**Middle School, 5:00—6:15 p.m.
 ★ High School, 7:00—8:15 p.m.

★ **19th-20th--**MS/HS Lock-in at the church. Details TBA.

★ **21st--**Middle School, 5:00—6:15 p.m.
 ★ High School, 7:00—8:15 p.m.

★ **28th--**Middle School, 5:00—6:15 p.m.
 ★ High School, 7:00—8:15 p.m.

Every Monday

Middle School Girls Small Group, 5:00—6:00 p.m.
 @ the Rowe's house

High School Bible Study, 6:45—8:00 p.m. @ the Rowe's house

Check the website for the Winter calendar
<http://www.lumcym.blogspot.com>



Super Bowl Party February 7, 2010!



A Group For Young Adults

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

Fusion, a small group for fellowship and study for young adults. We meet weekly on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at LUMC, room 228, for Bible Studies. Contact Angela at linworthfusion@gmail.com, for exact details for our upcoming social and service events.

February events are:

- 3rd** - Social event
- 10th** - Bible study
- 17th** - Bible study
- 24th** - Service event.

Strategy Team Work to be Shared

The Strategy Team has been meeting monthly since September. We will soon place, within the worship folder, a synopsis of our work and an invitation for all of us at Linworth to come to an event. At the event we will share the outline of our vision for our church with you. This will be a time to gain your input!

Look for it and come!

Mission Board Meeting

Contact: Sue Gabel

First Monday of every month. Next meeting is **February 1** at 7:00 p.m.

Evening Circle

Contacts: Linda Holloway & Sue Bowen

Third Monday evening of every month. Next meeting is **February 15** 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for Craft Night - We will be making birthday cards for United Methodist Missionaries...and packets of note cards for homebound members of Linworth. This month we are collecting lip balm, deodorants, razors, shaving cream and wash cloths for New Life UMC.



Fellowship Day Circle

Contact Nancy Zimmerman & Marlene Heltzel

Usually meets the second Tuesday morning of every month. Meet **February 10** at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot. We will be going to the Worthington Food Pantry.

MOPS

Contact: Holly Meister & Andrea Orofino

Second and Fourth Monday Mornings. Join us on **February 8 & 22** in the Worship Center from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

SERVICE CIRCLE

Contact: Lea Elshoff

Fourth Friday morning of the month. Sandwich making in the Church Kitchen for Faith Mission. Join is on **February 26** at 9:30 a.m. in the Kitchen.

MISSION PROJECT HELP

During the month of February we are collecting lip balm, deodorants, razors and shaving cream 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.

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

Meeting **Tuesday February 23** at 11:30 a.m. Our lunch menu is a chicken wild rice soup, salad and dessert. \$6.00 per person. Isn't it a joy to come, relax, and visit without worrying about preparing potluck or bringing table service!! Think magic as we have a slight of hand program. Ron Stroup and Margie Sharpies will present "A morning of Magical Fun." Let's not disappoint these two entertainers who have been well received at Westminster Thurber last fall. The setting will be in our sanctuary as Ron needs a stage and several hours to set up his props. Attend and remember that friends are welcome. Just let your calling team know. Telephone contact is Mary Lu Webster.



Social Concerns

Contact: Esther
Hunter

Get Involved with Social Concerns

Truly, the congregation of LUMC is the most generous, caring group of persons known to me. In addition to all of the wonderful mission projects, special offerings, food drives, school supply drives etc., you have given approximately \$19,000 to the Johanson fund during 2009! Because of your generosity during communion at worship, we have been able to help 38 families or individuals and give out 31 Meijer, Giant Eagle or Kroger gift cards to those needing assistance. You are awesome! Thank you from my heart.

Join us for Brunch Bunch on **Sunday, February 28**. We welcome every one to share food, fun and fellowship. We serve from 9:45 to 1:30 p.m. If you would like to help, call Marie Hardin.

The February Open Shelter & Rebecca's House meals will be on **Tuesday, February 9**. For information on preparation, call Roy & Arlean Sudhoff. For serving or transportation, call Celeste Thomas.

The February meetings of Scioto Ridge Job Networking Group will be **Tuesdays February 2 and 16** at 6:30 p.m.

The new Worthington Food Pantry and Resource Center is really off to a great start. We opened on July 8. In the six months we have been in service to the community, we have served a total of 221 families consisting of 797 individuals (353 children, 444 adults). We distributed 450 food boxes (approx. 11,250 pounds). Thank you for your continued support of this needed community ministry. If you would like to volunteer, call Esther Hunter.

The church received the following notes:

"Dear Outreach Group. Thank you very much for the cards you have sent me and also for the lovely poinsettia plant. That was very kind of you. I hope you all have a happy and healthy New Year. As for me, I'm looking forward to spring. Sincerely, Faye Bonath."

**

"Dear Linworth United Methodist. Thank you for the healing shawl and pretty planter. I'm now at the Heartland Victorian Village. I enjoy visitors. Sincerely, Marcia D. Baum."

"Marcia is truly blessed to have such a caring church to remember her as you have with visits and gifts. She is very appreciative of that lovely shawl and beautiful planter. As her mother, I thank you also because your thoughtfulness has done much to help her feel better. Sincerely, Nancy Baum."

**

"To whom it may concern, I just wanted to send a note of the deepest appreciation for what your church did for a very needy family at my Preschool in Hilliard. Because of your generosity, a mother and her three young children were not evicted and put out on the streets for the holiday. The parent and all of us at Preschool can never thank you enough for all your generosity and love for a family you don't even know. God bless your church and its community. Sincerely, Sharon Balduf, NCS D Preschool Director."

**

"Dear friends at Linworth UMC. Thank you for your gift of \$500.00, which was designated to the Methesco's Greatest Needs Fund. It has been a busy and successful year on campus, energized by promising students and a faculty committed to preparing them fully for transformational ministry. We greatly appreciate the investment of your congregation in this vital work.

We also value your connection to the life of the school, and I encourage you to stay up to date with our news and events by visiting www.mtso.edu. If I can be of any service, please contact me. Once again, thank you. Sincerely, Danny Russell, Director of Advancement."

"Dear Friends, It is with deep gratitude I thank you for the kindness and support that your congregation has provided to Heifer International. By choosing an alternative gift through Heifer International, coupled with our special Pass on the Gift cornerstone, your generosity will transform countless lives and communities. With your gift we will be able to continue to provide hope and a new way of life for more struggling families. Passing on the Gift creates a living cycle of sustainability that develops community and enhances self-esteem by allowing project participants to become donors. And, it all starts with your congregation's selfless giving! Thank you for believing just as Dan West did-that selfless giving coupled with sustainable agriculture practices can change futures forever! Your continued prayers and support of our mission means so much. Sincerely, Jo Luck, President and CEO, Heifer International."



Mission Update for February

Christmas Projects Summary

This was a special year for Christmas Projects at Linworth United Methodist Church. In this year of economic adversity you dug deeply to lighten the burden of those who have suffered most. The congregation set records for giving in all our Christmas Projects. You are to be commended for your generosity in a time when money is scarce. In addition to giving money you participated in the activities necessary to make these projects work. Below is a summary of your work in action during the Christmas Season.

Adopt-A-Family

WOW!!! Adopt a family raised over \$9,700 from the congregation and a gift from Wendy's International to help 32 Families with 89 Children. Here are the figures at the end of the Adopt-A-Family Mission's Project for 2009. As coordinator Donna Hughes said when she finished the Final Report, "Unbelievable - Hallelujah!!! Donna"

Congregation Gifts

80 Children - Gifts \$5,650.00

30 gift cards to 30 families \$2,250.00

Groceries \$ 990.95

Supplies \$ 91.95

Zoo Passes & Parking \$ 168.00

Subtotal \$9,150.90

Wendy's Gift

2 families (9 children) \$ 560.00

Total \$9,710.90

Impact and Claremont Residents New Life Project

IMPACT members working with Claremont residents created over 150 personal care bags for men being served by New Life UMC. These vinyl bags were crafted over several months during their craft nights by Claremont residents assisted by IMPACT Members. Becki Hollenbaugh who heads the IMPACT Ministry said, "Thank you to the Searchers Sunday School class members for their donations of the men's items." Funds from the Mission's Ministries also helped purchase personal care items.

Alternative Christmas Gifts

Hats and Gloves and a barnyard full of animals which included a Water Buffalo were donated as a result of over \$3,000 in Alternative Gifts this year. Below is a summary of the gifts made:

New Life Hats and Gloves \$ 420.00

Heifer International Donations \$2,580.00

Sheep - 6.5

Chicks - 7 Flocks

Ducks - 22

Pigs - 4.33

Trees - 2 large

Water Buffalo - 1

Bees - 1

Rabbits - 1 Trio

Goats - 1

Linda Mrukowski said, "I enjoyed 'chairing' the Alternate Gifts effort and herding up a nice menagerie of animals for Heifer International. Thanks to all those on the Mission Team that served at the gift table and helped raise \$3,000 for a very worthy cause." As a Zoo Volunteer and Coordinator for New Life, Susan Ford seemed quite pleased with this Christmas Menagerie.

(Continued on page 7)

Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering set a record more than doubling the offering for last year. You contributed 8,626.68 in your Christmas Offering. Your generosity will support the Pharr Literacy Project and the AIRO Chaplain's Ministry in 2010. In addition these funds will support other mission's projects. Emerging Churches in Southeast Asia is one area we will be exploring for inclusion in our missions ministry.

A Recap of 2009 Mission Projects

Contributions

For Calendar Year 2009, the congregation has contributed over \$24,000 to support over 19 mission projects. These funds were raised last year in the following ways:

Church Budget \$ 5,000	Easter Offering \$ 4,420
Bread and Water \$ 2,000	Recycling \$ 1,000
Thanksgiving Offering \$ 2,500	Christmas Offering \$ 4,100
Change Drive \$ 2,251	
<u>Other \$ 3,200</u>	
Total \$24,471	

Mission Projects

These contributions supported over 19 mission projects locally, nationally, and world wide. Summarized below are the mission projects we supported in 2009.

Serving the World (International)

Africa University \$ 1,000	Grace Hospital (Haiti) \$ 2,000
Myanmar Disaster Relief \$ 1,000	Samara Orphanage \$ 1,000

Creating Community (Local)

South Side Settlement House \$ 2,000	Faith Mission \$ 1,000
Open Shelter \$ 500	Habitat for Humanity \$ 3,000
International Friend \$ 1,000	New Life UMC \$ 2,000
Methodist Children's Home \$ 500	IMPACT Ministries \$ 100

Growing in Christ (National)

Jackson Area Ministries \$ 2,000	Pharr Literacy Project \$ 4,000
Cherokee UMC \$ 1,000	U-2 Youth Volunteer Project \$ 1,000
Methesco \$ 500	AIRO Ministries Project \$ 500

End of Year Balance \$ 371
Total \$24,471

Moving Into February 2010

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 Sunday, February 14th and will go through March 14th. Pick up change collection boxes, empty the change from your pockets, and drop off towels and wash cloths at the table in the Narthex. Our 2010 Challenge Goals for the New Life

"Change" for the Better Drive are: \$2010; 210 Wash Cloths; 210 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 "Change" collections contact John and Lori Blakely.

Pantry Needs

As we assist those with material needs we need donated items to meet these needs. To assist with those emergency food needs we need Peanut Butter, Granola Bars, Rice, and Cereal. Contact Esther Hunter to arrange a drop off of these food items.

Fill the Bread and Water Dates

On the right of the sanctuary sits bread and water. These symbols are a tangible reminder that Linworth is committed 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 on the back hall way near the kitchen. There are open dates next year for contributions to Bread and Water. If you have questions about Bread and Water contact Virginia Brizendine.




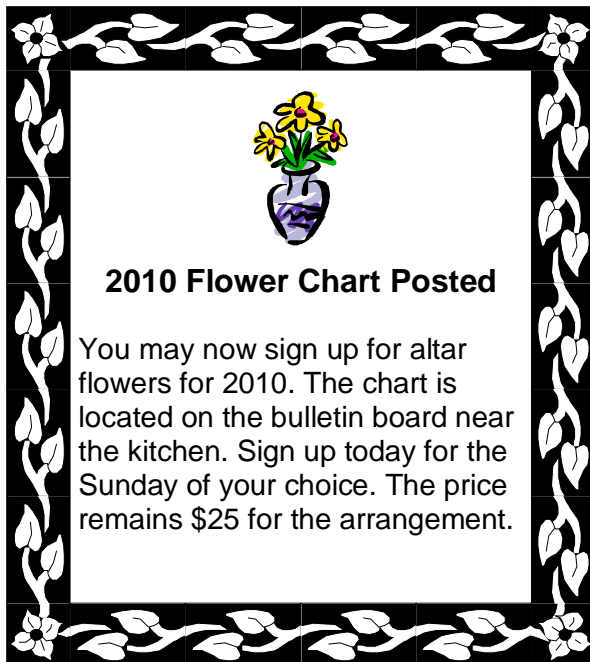


Linworth United Methodist Church
7070 Bent Tree Blvd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235

*Creating Community
Growing in Christ
Serving the World*

**Sunday Morning
Worship
Opportunities**

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



2010 Flower Chart Posted

You may now sign up for altar flowers for 2010. The chart is located on the bulletin board near the kitchen. Sign up today for the Sunday of your choice. The price remains \$25 for the arrangement.

(Continued from first page)

Guide me to perform simple acts of love and prayer,
the real works of reform and renewal
of this overture to the spring of the Spirit.

O Father of Jesus, Mother of Christ,
help me not to waste
these precious Lenten days
of my soul's spiritual springtime.

Edward Hays

The Season of Lent formally opens with our Ash Wednesday Service on February 17. I invite you to observe a holy Lent.

Pastor Jeff