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Wilson Bridge Road



A LINWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY

Linworth Historical Society Newsletter

LUMC Teens Honor the Past—Impact the Future



2004 Teens from Linworth UMC call themselves *The Xtreme*

Occasionally there is someone who will ask, "Why do you need or want an historical society?" There's a beautiful song written in Deuteronomy 32 that answers this question. Here are a few verses.

*"Read up on what happened before you were born;
Dig into the past, understand your roots.
Ask your parents what it was like before you were born;
Ask the old-ones, they'll tell you a thing or two." (The Message)*

Linworth decided over a year ago that one of the best ways for the old-ones to tell their stories was through pictures. Lining the walls and tables in the Heritage Gathering Room at LUMC, also called Elmwood Station, are scores of pictures telling what the Linworth area was like dating back into the 19th century.—log cabins, circuit riders, Native Americans, church founders, railroads, stores, early settlers.

Nathan Smith, Director of Youth Ministries at Linworth, wants the teens in the church to see and hear these stories and get a feeling for the rich heritage that is theirs. During the recent Confirmation Class at LUMC, Nathan asked Linworth's Historical Society's guru, Jim Thompson, to spend some time with the teens in the Heritage Room. Jim pointed to pictures and told stories in more detail than is gathered from the picture captions.

A field trip followed. A number of teens accompanied Nathan and Jim to the Bill Moose monument. Here the teens were able to grasp only a little of the emotion that wells



A small bouquet of flowers is placed in memory and in respect at the Bill Moose Monument.

Linworth Historical Society

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Adults assist in remembering Chief Leatherlips.

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inside Linworth's old-timers when they look at the memorial to Bill Moose. Jim Thompson's thoughts invariably turn to stories told by his dad who eighty years ago sat on Bill Moose's knee and heard exciting tales of adventure. It's probably difficult for the teens to associate those stories with the elderly Jim and Louise Thompson who still find their accustomed pews at LUMC.

What an opportunity the generations have to learn from each other—the long ago stories of the past impacting the energy and vitality of the present.

So, what is there to be learned from looking at a few pictures on a wall or from visiting Bill Moose's monument? First, the stories of those early settlers are filled with the importance of sacrifice and dedication to God and to just causes. Second, the stories of Bill Moose emphasize the importance of diversity and the love and warmth that should permeate the Christian community. Third, the stories of the past show God's care and leadership which is as available to today's youth as it was to their forebears. Deuteronomy 32's song says it this way:

*"He (God) was like an eagle
Hovering over its nest,
Overshadowing its young,
Then spreading its wings,
Lifting them into the air,
Teaching them to fly.
God alone led them."
(The Message)*

Teens Impact the Future

Work and More Work

The teens at Linworth put their muscles to work this summer at Camp Lakewood, a United Methodist Campground, in Indiana. Linworth's early settlers would have been proud watching these young people build a Nature Center. This was not a pre-fab project. Trees were felled and milled and the Nature Center was constructed "All Natural"—from the natural resources there



at the camp. These hardy teens also built a three hundred yard trail through the swamp at the campground. Easy work?? No way! There were one hundred tons of rocks to break and carry in order to form the trail and then mulch had to be added. As if these projects weren't enough, the teens cleaned the camp's maintenance area. We can be proud of these Linworth youth who gave so much muscle power in mission to others. Imagine the many who will attend the camp and who will get to enjoy the setting the teens have provided. Can you also imagine our early pioneers living in their "All Natural" log cabins smiling at this current Linworth generation? (See log cabin near the Scioto River built by John Sells, circa 1800, in Remembering Our Roots.)

Youth Speak Out

Our Historical Society Newsletter Staff spent time talking to young people at Linworth. We are happy to report that they have a positive message for us. First, they were quick to thank Nathan Smith, Youth Minister, and his corps of adult volunteers. Every teen we talked to said that Linworth UMC is offering them a fun, informative, and spiritual program with opportunities for service to others. Adults—youth may not hear what you say, but they see how you live your life. They expressed their gratitude for their Christian role models. Interestingly, they rated the Summer Breaking Bread Bible Studies as their favorite youth activity—study, reflection, and fellowship. What do youth want from their church and community? Number one—they want adults to relate to their feelings about worship and life and they are pleased when we care enough to call them by their names. The future is bright!



A LUMC Teen Sunday School Class (Circa 1950)

Historical Musings with Jim

Can you imagine a chicken dinner for fifteen cents? Those dinners were standard fare in the early days of the Linworth church and community. The profits (yes, I said profits) helped meet the financial needs of a young, struggling church. Of course those dinners are long gone, but Linworth now offers you deals that are comparable. **Friday, October 15 from 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 16 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Linworth's Garage Sale** will be open to the public. You have to see the event to believe it!

Linworth's Garage Sale



There are two things you need to know about the Linworth Garage Sale. First, monies raised by the sale help finance the operation of Linworth's Youth Program. Second, and maybe more important, **the Garage Sale is a mission**. Throughout this past year clothes, furniture, and appliances have often been sold to needy persons at very low prices and in many cases, even donated to persons in dire need. God has blessed this mission, especially since Linworth Youth began reaching out to others and not viewing the sale as merely a monetary program.

Come and visit the tent on the north side of the church. The Historical Society will be working the tent sales. Our albums, Remembering Our Roots and The Last of the Wyandots, will be available for purchase.