



The Linden Lantern

July 1, 2010 - August 31, 2010

Special points of interest:

- July 4: Independence Day
- July 4: Communion Service
- July 11 - July 16: Music Conf.
- August 7: Pancake Breakfast
- August 25: Karyae Pk. Picnic

No Wed. Night Program in July.
The WNP will resume on August 11th.

Homecoming September 12th



Join the Flock at Sunday School!

10:00 am

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Big Things About "Small"

First, let's explore what it means to be "small." Church culture today tends to attach a negative stigma to the idea of being small. After all, if you're "small," you must not be doing something right...you must not be as effective...you must not be as attractive. If you're small-well, you must not be as good...right?

WRONG!

Nothing could be further from the truth. Small is good. In fact, small is great. More precisely, "small" is the norm in churches across the country and around the globe. And "small" in children's ministry can be a wonderful thing. In his book, *Energizing Children's Ministry In the Smaller Church*, Rick Chromey points out these positives when it comes to children's ministry in smaller churches:

- **Significant Impact**– Smaller churches have the opportunity to make significant impact on a child's faith because they can often offer greater focus on each child.
- **Parent Ministry**– Small churches have great potential for effective parent ministry by more involved ministry to parents and getting parents involved in ministry.
- **Family Ties**– Small churches offer a close community of Christians, allowing children more opportunities to get to know other adults and kids in a much more personal way-and letting them see other Christians live their faith.
- **Service Avenues**– Small churches typically offer kids more opportunities to serve and lead in the church.
- **Exploration**– Small churches offer the flexibility to test and try new, creative, and innovative ideas with children that allow them to experientially develop their faith.

In short, the small church is uniquely positioned to have a big impact on the children in its ministry. You have flexibility and face-time with kids that's not afforded with bigger churches. The small church is a force to be reckoned with on the front lines for God!

Congratulations

We congratulate Mary Lineberger on her recent retirement after 32 years of teaching in the public school system. Mrs. Lineberger is a graduate of Erskine College. She began her teaching career in the Gaston County School System. Since those beginning years she has taught in a Christian school in Landrum, SC and in the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System. She finished her teaching career back in the Gaston County School System. The major portion of her teaching has been in inner city under-privileged schools. She saw to it that her students always had the supplies they needed to help make each day successful. Mrs. Lineberger accomplished all this while raising three daughters and a husband. We congratulate her on her retirement from a successful teaching career and pray that her retirement days will be blessed days.

Forestview High School Commencement-2010

Eighteen year old Forestview High School senior and life long member of Linden ARP Church, Alex Harwell, greets you with a friendly smile and firm handshake as he seeks to witness his Christian faith to all who come his way. Alex was a part of the 2010 graduating class of Forestview High School.

A day in the life: The life of a high school student is busy. The school day starts at 8:00am and ends at 3:00pm. Alex's appreciation for music is reflected in his class schedule which includes chorus and music appreciation. Alex sings in the Gaston Choral Ensemble and has performed in several school musicals. He says he doesn't have a lot of free time but when he does Alex enjoys hanging out with his friends and going out to eat. Like many high school students, Alex has had a few part time jobs after school.

What's next? During the summer months Alex hopes to be working and getting ready for college. He has been accepted at Mars Hill College where he will enroll later in the summer. His music talents and academics have helped him in receiving scholarships and grants to Mars Hill College.

How can you pray? In 1992 Alex was baptized as an infant and became a non communicant member of Linden. In 2005 Alex made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his savior and Lord and became a communicant member of Linden. In his personal testimony at the time Alex said, "I believe that God came to earth and saved me from my sins and has gone back to heaven and is building a home for everyone to live in." Alex seeks direction for his future and encouragement that he will go as God leads him. So may we pray to that end, that Alex will go as God leads him and that he will not stray from his faith in God.



Confidence

Confidence. Sometimes I think about God choosing me. I imagine Him looking out across the world, searching for someone who will rise to the challenge of making the world different. Like a kid in school I see myself raising my hand saying, "pick me! Pick me!".

I hope with all that is within me that I am good enough, smart enough, educated enough and experienced enough to lead and love His church. Most days I feel confident because I hear God saying, "I've already picked you".

There are days when questions arise in my mind and I forget God's gentle voice saying, "I picked you for this time and place. You are the one I need. Lead strong and with great confidence."

But there are those moments when people don't get along, when questions arise about why we do the things we do. Now that in and of itself is not a bad question. We should examine our motives. Sometimes though the "why" is asked from a sense of we can do without it. We don't need to make any changes.

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Celebrating Birthdays in July and August

Jesse Funderburk-July 3

Bett Strout-July 28

Michael Kelly-August 7

Rick Hodge-July 7

Michael McCarter-July 31

Rita Bradshaw-August 9

Wyatt Watts-July 7

Betty McElroy-August 1

Ellen Kelly-August 10

Matthew Crump-July 10

Bill Deal-August 1

Jay Watts-August 13

Hilda Crenshaw-July 10

Ted Crump-August 5

Tommy Dagenhart-August 15

Roger Clemons-July 23

Susan Crump-August 6

Susan Funderburk-August 17



You know you're getting old when it takes twice as long to look half as good.

Confidence-continued

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Recently we have asked that giving over the normal tithe (I hope you are tithing) be guided toward our general fund, since that fund has been on the negative side of the financial ledger.

We are thankful for all the giving that has come our way to maintain our church and ministry. We are thankful for the gifts that have come to help send children to the music camp again.

In September of 2009 our session, whom you elected to govern, made the following decision concerning the music conference program. I quote from the official minutes of the session: "The following motion was made to the session by Tommy Dagenhart and seconded by Steve Myers. All fundraiser proceeds minus a tithe (10%) to the church will be placed in one fund "Fundraiser Fund". There will be two funds from that called "Appalachian Mission Fund" and "Music Conference Fund". These two funds will accept donations that are specified. All fundraiser proceeds minus 10% will be used to send only the children to the Appalachian Mission Trip and Bonclarken Music Conference. Adults must pay their own way regardless of their participation. Motion passed by all."

We thank you for your support of this fundraiser. Perhaps for next year we will revisit these projects and make a decision about the continuance of them.

The Appalachian Mission Trip did not materialize because of various scheduling difficulties.

We thank the Women's Ministry for adopting this program and designating proceeds from the cook book sale to go toward the expenses to send our senior highs on the mission trip. With the exception of the cook book monies which is in the Women's Ministry account, no funds were raised or donated to the Appalachian fund.

The session established a capital improvement fund called the technology fund. This fund involved no fund raising but depended on the generous giving of any who would like to give to it. The session minutes of June 14, 2009 reads as follows: "Steve Myers made a motion to create a technology fund which will be used to buy equipment such as projectors, screens, laptops. Larry Morrow seconded the motion and the motion passed by all." We did not know what it would cost at the time and no dollar amounts were set.

One year later and we are ready to proceed with the purchase and installation of a screen and projector in the sanctuary. We thank you for your contributions to this fund and we especially thank you that the giving to this fund did not take away from the normal tithes and offerings. There was the question of why we purchased the sound equipment from the gospel group "The Songsters". Well again that equipment has been a blessing to us. On at least two occasions this equipment has aided in the production and presentation of two dramas directed by Stephanie Easler. There have been numerous fellowship hall activities in which sound equipment was needed. During our mission emphasis the equipment was used by our special luncheon speaker as he explained short term missions to us. Last year the equipment was vital to us during VBS as music from the Go Fish group was central to VBS. Though not used everyday this equipment has proven to be a good investment. So what about the projector and laptop and screen for the sanctuary? As you saw from our Youth Sunday this technology provides a

great opportunity for visual training. On Youth Sunday the youth used the technology to introduce a new praise and prayer song to you entitled "Open the Eyes of My Heart". The visual presentation made that possible. We have youth and adults in our church who desire to do more of that with appropriate praise and worship music. We don't need to ask "Why" but rather what are we doing to encourage the next generation in their worship and praise of God? What are we doing to help prepare them for church leadership? There are numerous avenues we will be able to venture down with the new audio visual addition. Homecoming is in September and the equipment can be used to take a look at the past. In 2012 Linden will be 100 years old. The audio visual equipment will make it possible for a celebration of past, present and future with sight and sound, like you've never seen before. I am encouraged with what we can do in the days to come. I hope you are as well. We have put the most recent financial information in this newsletter. Please be in prayer about your giving.

Well today I raise my hand again and imagine God choosing me and whispering, "You are the one I need. You can make a difference. Lead strong and with great confidence." I wonder if anyone else is raising their hand and saying to God, "Pick me! Pick me!". Is God whispering to you, "You are the one I need. You can make a difference."?

"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:6

Linden ARP Church
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Pastor: Michael Lineberger

Our Purpose:

By the grace of God and for the glory of God, Linden ARP exists as a worshipping community of believers who are committed to being and making disciples of Jesus Christ in our community and beyond.

Happy Anniversary

Glenn and Betty Huffstetler-July 22
Rev. Mike and Mary Lineberger-July 31

Carl and Geneva Hanna-August 8
Larry and JoAnn Morrow-August 11

Visit us...



www.LindenARPCChurch.org

Pancake Breakfast

The pancake breakfast will not take place on July 3. It will resume at a later date (August) and you will be notified of the continuation. Thanks for your previous help with this. Your purchases of breakfast helped to send the youth to the Bonclarken Music Conference in July.

