

The Livingston Letter

APRIL 2007

"God in a Box"

Spring is in the air and we can expect the crocuses to bloom, college March Madness, professional spring baseball training, and debunkers of the resurrection to show up in the press.

A few weeks ago, *Titanic* director James Cameron explained to the press why the box of bones in front of him might have contained Jesus' remains. *Time's* James Poniewozik described the revealing scene as "the man who showed us Kate Winslet's breast's in *Titanic* was boasting that he had brought God to Manhattan in a box and DNA - tested Him like a dinosaur femur."

I find speculative ideas that challenge the bodily Resurrection of Christ, the virgin birth and the marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene fascinating.

Do ideas like the denial of the Resurrection shake my faith?

Heck no! They strengthen it by forcing me to seriously think about the foundation of my faith in Jesus Christ. If you're faith is on shaky ground then ideas that try to undermine your faith in God will cause you grief.

Do you believe, as I do, the resurrection of Jesus is true and the tomb's empty? Listen to what the Apostle Paul has to say about the resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then your faith has nothing to it; you are still guilty of your sins". (1 Corinthians 15:17). In other words, if Jesus Christ has been raised then all His followers will join Him.

Whenever I read of attempts like James Cameron's to deny basic Christian principles, I'm reminded of what C.S. Lewis eloquently said in *The Problem of Pain*: "A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling 'darkness' on the walls of his cell."

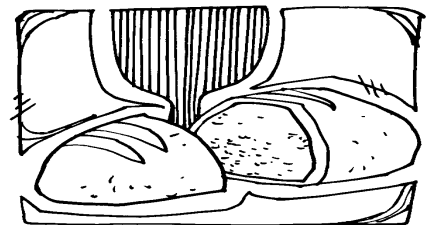
So, fear not those who try to diminish God's glorious resurrection. Jesus died for you and rose again because He loves you passionately. He's alive!

The season of Lent which climaxes on Easter Sunday vividly reminds us that out of love Jesus gave Himself for our sins. We know His death wasn't the end of His story because the Bible says His tomb is empty, and not in a burial box. Our God's not in a box - He's alive!

Affectionately,
Jim



Palm Sunday, April 1



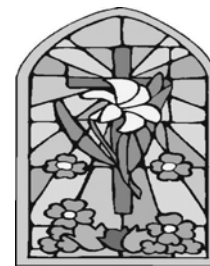
MAUNDY THURSDAY

The Last Supper, 8 PM



Good Friday Service
of Darkness, 8 PM

Church for All people UMC will join us.



**Christ
the Lord
is Risen
Today!**

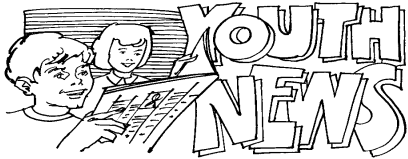
Sunrise Service 7:30 am
presented by our Youth Group

Easter Breakfast 8:00 am
prepared by
Debbie and Terry Whitt

Easter morning Craft time
Sunday School - 9:00 am
Worship Celebration 10:30

PHOTO DATE – WE NEED TO TAKE A SNAPSHOT OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

We want to use pictures of Livingston members in our future marketing and promotion efforts including the new web site. Bruce Reedy will be taking pictures in the fellowship hall on Sunday, April 15th immediately after church. We'd love to have a picture of all members. If you cannot make this date, please contact Bruce to have your picture included in this project.



Our youth fellowship is continuing the study "My Journey" in our Sunday evening meetings. We've recently talked about a number of challenging topics.

Our kids studied what we think heaven and hell would be like and came up with questions that we'd like to ask God if we ever have the chance. We all identified ten of the greatest events that have shaped our lives so far and how those impact who we really are.

During February we created a collage about love and shared our experiences about different types of love and how we have shared the love of God with others. We believe as a group that God loves variety and can use each of us to spread his perfect love with those who might not know about it.

Our group displayed servant's hearts by helping to feed over 300 hungry men at Faith Mission in February. Part of our

group prepared the meal and the other part of the group served it.

We've also had some enlightening discussions about fear. We learned about a numerous fears, both familiar to us and new to us, and created visual aids to demonstrate those fears to others in the group. We learned a number of "fear busters" which are Bible verses about fear. One of those that we looked at was the old favorite "I will fear no evil, for you are with me." from Psalm 23:4. Another reference that the kids liked was "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. The Lord Almighty is with us." from Psalm 46:1,7.

Our youth fellowship always welcomes snack donations and drinks like bottled water or juice drinks.

We are looking forward to presenting our traditional Easter Sunrise Service and attending the Taylor University Youth Conference in Upland, Indiana. We will look forward to sharing with the congregation when we return from Taylor.

Love and Peace,
Donna

Hear our Prayer O God. †

PRAYER CHAIN

If you aren't on the Church Prayer Chain and would like to receive URGENT prayer requests either by e-mail or telephone, please indicate so on the attendance sheet or call Julie Rogers at 443-9841 or 444-5908.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Our women's group Monday April 2nd and April 16th 6:30 PM. All women are welcome. Don't forget to invite a FRAN (Friend, Relative, Associate or Neighbor)

MEN GROUP

The Men's Group will meet over dinner at Planks South High/Whittier Sts. Wednesday, April 11th and 25th, 6:00 PM.



We are looking someone to become our web editor and writer to develop our new Livingston Church web site. You would gather and manage all web content relating to each area of our ministry. Since the web site will become a very important "window to the outside world" for Livingston Church, your responsibilities would also include regular updates to the site including publication of current events, pictures, and the input of our existing newsletters and bulletins. There is no technical knowledge needed as our webmaster handles the actual installation of the data that you prepare. Please contact Bruce Reedy at 614-298-0084 or brucereedy@sdgsecurity.com for more information. Thanks!



CONGRATULATIONS

Dear Jim,

Bless you for leading the Livingston U.M. Church in 100% payment of their 2006 Conference apportionments. Because of the congregation's faithful stewardship, more than 6,000 people in West Ohio found new life through faith in Jesus Christ. New churches were started on every district and many dying churches were revived. Your gifts also helped to proclaim the Gospel around the world through missions. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry.

R. Stanley Sutton
Conference Treasurer



04/04 Danny and Denise Russell
04/11 Jerry and Patti Roadcap
04/19 Mike and Sharon Weber
04/20 Jack and Mira Cremeans
04/22 Allen and Susan Adams



04/01 HILYARD, CALEIGH
04/05 EWING, EDDIE
04/10 MOFFITT, FRANCES
EVANS, REBECCA
04/14 LEATHERMAN, SUE
04/15 PRICE, GEORGIA
CREMEANS, MACKENZIE
04/18 ROGERS, JULIE
04/19 LIVINGSTON, PAT
04/20 MILLIGAN, JESSIE
04/22 EWING, EVELYN
04/25 DUERLER, PATRICIA
04/26 JONES, EVAN
04/30 STUBBINS, ADRIENNE
ADAMS, ROBERT

MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS

April 20 Dee Dee Heffner
April 24 Julie O'Herin

**Financial Report as of
February 28, 2007**
**2007 General Fund Budget
\$169,428**

February Budget \$14,119
Receipts \$13,206

Missions Budget \$13,796

February Budget \$1,150
Receipts \$1,172


**Spring Jazz Vesper Service
Sunday May 6, 6 PM**

Make plans to join your Livingston Church family and friends for our Spring Jazz Vespers Service. The music will be provided by The Mark Flugge Quartet featuring Michael Cox on sax. Seasonal Psalms will be read and great jazz to be enjoyed. Refreshments will be served following the service.

**Westside
Free Store
Benefit Auction**

On Friday, April 13, an auction will be held at Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 3005 Holt Road, Grove City, to benefit the Westside Free Store Ministries, whose purpose is to provide clothing and household items to those with limited resources. Auction items include collectibles including china, copperware, Coca Cola merchandise, dolls, ceramics, furniture, exercise equipment, glassware, items from Cleveland Cavaliers, OSU and Cleveland Indians items, free dinners, golf at Pinnacle Golf Club, something for everyone. Doors open at 6:30 PM with free appetizers and the auction begins at 7:30 PM. A \$2 donation, applicable to a successful auction bid, will be collected. Information about this mission available at auction and at www.westsidefm.org.

HE KNEW

When God made the rocks of iron and ore
Do you ever suppose that He Was thinking of the nails they'd form
To nail Him on a tree;
And when God made the trees so tall
Was he seeing far ahead
The cross to be made from lumber
Where His Son's own blood was shed;
And when God made man's muscle
And gave him brain and will
Did God believe these creature men
Would use that power to kill?
Oh, yes God knew of all of this
And yet because of love
For sinful men he came to earth
And left His home above
He took on Him the form of man
And then men's sins He took
And then redeemed by faith in Him
Our names within the Book."
—Mrs. Winnifred Myers.

