

The Livingston Letter

“WE LOVE WHO JESUS LOVES.” JANUARY 2008



Have you ever “hit the wall”? For many reasons, you feel like you’re not growing professionally in your job. Or you’ve tried to lose weight and the pounds just aren’t coming off. Maybe your spiritual life as a follower of Jesus’ seems stale. These are some examples of hitting the wall – you’re discontent with a significant area of your life.

I want to help you start 2008 with practical tools that will get you over, around, or under the barrier that keeps you from maturing.

Beginning Sunday, January 6th, I’m starting a new series to help breathe a fresh wind into your spiritual life. My series is based on the classic spiritual practices Christians have employed to help them get over the wall of spiritual discontent. Here’s the run down of January’s series:

January 6

“The Hope of Transformation”

January 13

“The Goal of Spiritual Life”

January 20

“The Truth about Spiritual Disciplines”

January 27

“The Practice of Celebration”

Another “wall” many of us have hit is our inability to lose the weight we need to feel good about ourselves. Obesity is a national epidemic. As your pastor, I want to help you get over the wall of being over

weight. One very helpful way to lose weight is to be connected to a hopeful group of people who share your same goal – to lose weight.

Starting Wednesday, January 16, 6:00 p.m. Livingston will host a Weight Watcher (WW) group every Wednesday evening. It’ll be led by Lou Tucci. He’s a long time Weight Watcher member and leader. He’s kept his goal weight because of the WW program. I am also a lifetime member.

If you want to transform your life physically, I encourage you to join the Livingston WW group. The \$26.00 membership fee will be waived in January and February.

2008 is going to be an exciting year at Livingston. If you’re feeling like you’ve hit the wall spiritually and physically, January promises to be a time of renewal and personal transformation by moving beyond your season of discontent.

Pastor Jim

Meet our

Weight Watcher

Leader

Lou Tucci

Sunday, January 6th

Lou will be available after worship for a Q & A session. Lou is a positive guy who has successfully maintained his goal weight for many years.



Read the New Testament in One Year – Pastor Jim invites you to read with him through the New Testament in one year. The One Year Reading plan is on the hospitality table. Reading and applying God’s Word every day will transform your life.

Missionaries
Neal & Mari Hicks

Neal and Mari Hicks will be with us in Sunday School and worship, Sunday, January 13th. They serve the Lord in Japan with The Mission Society.

Points of Interests

- 2008 Ad Council
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Finance Report
- Mission Project
- Thank You
- Van Goes
- Worship





Baby Shower

Baby Shower for Bethany Hilyard, hosted by Julie Rogers and Lucille Graham, will be held following the worship service next Sunday. A light lunch will be served. The Hilyards' are expecting a boy. For gift suggestions, call Bethany at 878-0401.

Men's Group

The men will meet January 9th and 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at Talita's Mexican restaurant in Grove City. All guys are invited to come, and bring a friend.



Livingston Book Club

Livingston Book Club's newest book is 90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper. At our first meeting at 5:00 on Sunday, January 13, we will discuss chapters 1-6. The second meeting will be February 3, when we will discuss chapters 7-12. We will complete the book discussion on February 27 (chapters 13-18). Please consider joining us in the parlor at 5:00 on the above Sunday afternoons.

Worship Committee will meet
Thursday, January 17, 6:00 PM

Strategic Planning Session, January 20th

All Administrative Council leaders and church members are invited to attend our Strategic Planning meeting Sunday, January 20th, after worship.

Scholarship Meeting

The Scholarship Committee will meet in the library on Sunday, January 27th, immediately after worship to review current scholarship applications.

SPRC will meet Monday
January 28th, 6 PM

Ad Council will meet Monday,
January 28th, 7:00 PM



01/03	FIELDS, NORMA
01/04	STUBBINS, PAIGE
01/06	THOMAS, BUZZ
01/07	WHITT, ANGELA
01/08	WHITT, DEBORAH
01/09	GILES, WESLEY
01/15	ADAMS, ROBERT
01/16	McQUEEN, SYLVIA
	LANCASTER, BARBARA
01/18	DUERLER, JAMES
01/27	MILLIGAN, JOEY
01/27	STATEN, JENNIFER
01/29	RUSSELL, NOELLE

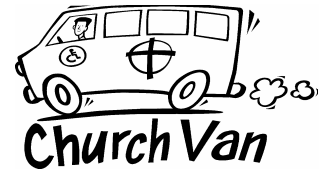
MISSIONARIES BIRTHDAYS

01/14 Mary Hermiz

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jan. 14 James/Patty Duerler

Jan. 31 Randy/Julie Culbertson



The Van Goes

January 10, we leave the church at 10 AM to go to the Columbus Museum of Art to see Monet's Garden, The Lure of Giverny. Tickets: over 60, \$9, under 60, \$11. We will have lunch at Barcelona. Sign-up up with Sarah Miller to go.

Time's running out - Make your reservation for a Spring get-away at the Inn at Honey Run, Millersburg, Ohio. A group from Livingston will be going on the afternoon of May 4 and returning May 6. Cost of the room for two people is \$125 per night. Deposit of \$125 is due January 15. Make check payable to Jane Runkle. Trips to various Amish Country sights is planned. On the internet, go to www.innathoneyrun.com to see the inn and the beautiful scenery. Make your reservation with Sarah Miller. We have 6 rooms reserved at this time.

11 MONTHS REPORT	
General Fund	
Actual Expenses	\$149,318
Receipts	<u>\$137,510</u>
Deficit	\$ 11,808
MISSIONS	
Budget	\$ 12,406
Receipts	\$ 13,579



Pastor Jim and members,

Thanks for allowing "Faith In Motion" to minister to you. Everyone was so warm to us. We felt right at home. And, Ms. Cindy is now a member of "Faith In Motion", we love her spirit. I won't forget what one of your members said to me in the restroom. The cute lady with the leopard print blouse and white sneakers, sorry but I forgot her name, when I told her that we were here to dance with Cindy, she said, "well, welcome. That type of dancing warms my heart!" Praise God.

Be Blessed and stay encouraged.

Carol O'Neill
and "Faith In Motion"

United Methodist Community Ministries

Dear Livingston UMC,

*Thank you for your generosity!
Thanks for your support and
your outreach to people in
need.*

*Merry Christmas,
Rev. Beth Weisbrod*

United Methodist Community Ministries: helps meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of over 23,000 families in nine counties in Central Ohio. Thank you for your contribution of \$1,099 in serving the least, the last, and the lost in our two districts through the open doors and open hearts of the United Methodist Church.

Hanging of the Greens

by Karen Cook

The Hanging of the Greens was very special this year. It was a special treat that many of our Livingston family shared their time, their talents and their treasured family stories, to create a special service that ushered in Advent 2007.

The Cremeans family and their band shared their incredible musical gifts. Your time and efforts made this evening special through your music.

Six members of our congregation shared their treasured nativity sets. Noelle Russell, nativity collector extraordinaire, shared two of her favorite sets: one, hand-carved in a coconut, a souvenir gift Danny and Denise brought her from Hawaii. A second set from Peru was made of marbles. Adrienne Stubbins made the congregation chuckle with the Stubbins' family nativity. Lisa Godfrey shared her poignant story of her Christmas scene inherited from her mother who was a devout Christian and how much it means to her. Jerry Roadcap shared a nativity bought several decades ago at Livingston during a missions fair. Jerry convinced us that it was a well-constructed work of art since Joseph has survived several near-flushes by a young Vincent Roadcap. Sarah Miller's nativity was an after-Christmas bargain bought years ago at Lazarus. This Christmas scene has seen six Miller children grow into adulthood, and has also seen many Miller grandchildren and great-grandchildren come home for Christmas. Sue Leatherman brought two Haitian-crafted sets, and shared the story of one

cherished set bought for her by her daughter Julie.

Thank you to each of you who willingly agreed to participate and share your family traditions with your church family. Your time and efforts made this evening special through your renditions of family stories.

It was a wonderful evening.

A huge thank-you to everyone who seemed to magically appear at church on Saturday at noon to hang the decorations. The church looked wonderful; your generous contribution of love and time added to the spirit of the season. All who visited Livingston during December felt the genuine spirit of the season because of your time and effort. Many thanks!!!

Lastly, thanks to the Barta family who organized the meal after the Hanging of the Greens Service. The 'Barta Food Service' crew is second to none!

* * *

Dear Livingston Church family,

I wanted to take time to thank you for your support, cards, and prayers during my fight with cancer and my recent hospitalizations. I know I couldn't have completed my chemotherapy without the Lord's grace and mercy.

Again, thank you for everything.

*Love,
Bobbi Cobb*

* * *

We want to thank Jim and Patty Duerler and the whole church for the Christmas presents and the delicious cookies. It was a joy to visit with them.

*Olga Mae and
Rev. Roland Perkins*



Dear Livingston family and
Pastor Jim and Sue,

Thinking of you with warm
wishes for a bright and happy
season.

My heart will always be with
the Livingston United Meth-
odist Church.

Love and blessings
in Jesus name,
Eileen Hoover

PS Thank you Pastor Jim and
LMY Bible Class for
remembering me.

* * *

Dear People of Livingston
Church,

Thank you for the Christmas
gifts. May the excitement and
joy of the season bring a
special warmth to your heart.

Antoinette Jones

* * *

Thank you to everyone who
contributed to the Christmas
Mission Project. \$864 was
received for the fund for
mosquito nets with repellent
for the people in Africa.



A BIG THANK YOU to Patricia
Thomas, Sandy Trinter,
principle, and the students of
Stewart Avenue Elementary
School for their very generous
donation to the Food Pantry.
This is an annual project for
the school.

WINTER ADDRESS

Mr/Mrs. James Duerler
3100 Hawthorne St, Lot 124S

Sarasota, FL 34329

*Dates to
Remember*



Sundays

Sunday School, 9 AM.
Worship Service, 10:30 AM.
Youth Fellowship, 5:30-7:30 PM

Tuesdays

Bringing to the Light Prayer Group
7 PM in the library

Thursdays

Bell Choir, 6:30 PM.
Chancel Choir 7:15 PM

- 1/06 Greeters meeting after
worship
Weight Watchers meeting
Luncheon Baby Shower for
Bethany Hilyard
1/09 Men's Group, 6 PM
1/10 Van Goes, 10 AM
1/12 Taking down decorations,
10 AM
1/13 Book Club, 5 PM
1/16 Weight Watchers, 6 PM
1/17 Worship Comm., 6 PM
1/20 Strategic Planning
Session, after worship
1/22 Food Pantry
1/23 Weight Watchers, 6 PM
Men's Group, 6 PM
1/24 Food Pantry
1/26 Food Pantry
1/27 Scholarship Comm., after
worship
1/28 SPRC, 6 PM
Ad Co, 7 PM
1/30 Weight Watchers, 6 PM
1/31 Men's Winter Retreat

**CAMPBELL
LABELS**

Please turn in Campbell's UPC
codes from soup cans and
other Campbell products such
as Pepperidge Farm, Prego,
V8, Swanson, Market Day,
Franco American. See Brenda
Ewing for more details.

Labels help support the
Navajo Indian mission work.



New Life Celebration

January is a time to celebrate
new life, new beginnings.
Livingston Church is having a
Baby Bottle Campaign and you
vote with your spare change.
Here's how it works: Pregnancy
Decision Health Center provides
our church,

Sunday school classes, youth,
and adults with baby bottles to
take home on January 27th or
anytime before March 3rd, the
day the campaign ends. You fill
them with spare change (or
cash or checks!) and return
them to church. PDHC will pick
up the bottles, count the funds,
and report to the church about
the success of the campaign.
Receipts for individual donors
are available upon request. All
funds raised go directly to the
ministry of PDHC.

This is the story of how our
Baby Bottle Campaign came to
be. This past summer during
our Sunday afternoon studies
of difficult decisions that the
church faces we were talking
about abortion. Cindy Koch told
of her volunteer experience
with Pregnancy Decision Health
before going overseas to teach.
Cindy Violet of PDHC attended
our Mission Committee and told
of different ways to support the
ministry. We thought the Baby
Bottle Campaign would be
exciting.

PDHC work is vital in the
community to counsel unwed
mothers(fathers) on a decision
that will effect their whole life.
They also counsel those who
have had abortions and are

having difficult times. Let's join together to celebrate new life!

Worship

Livingston's Journey on the Path to ACTS 2

We've heard Pastor Jim mention 'ACTS 2 Congregation', 'Passionate Worship', 'Radical Hospitality', 'Faith-Forming Relationships' and 'Risk-Taking Service and Mission'.

On Saturday, June 23, Livingston's Worship Committee met at Pastor Jim and Sue's home to begin Livingston's journey on the path toward becoming an "ACTS 2 Congregation" in a unified, focused, organized way.

To fulfill the ACTS 2 directive, we decided to focus on 'curb to curb' worship experience. That is, being mindful that the ACTS 2 worship experience begins when we and our visitors step out of our/their cars, before a worshipper reaches Livingston's doors. The experience ends when we/they step back into their cars. The worship experience continues outside our doors.

This 'curb-to-curb' view certainly extends the traditional perception of worship. This new perspective puts the responsibility of worship into the hands of more of us than just our minister and music director. It spreads the responsibility of worship over many, if not all of us. Thus, invitations to Pastor Jim and Sue's were extended to many who are part of the Sunday morning worship service.

With this 'curb-to-curb' goal in mind I began to prepare for this meeting. I went to the West Ohio Conference website to better understand the 'ACTS 2 Congregation'. I found and read Bishop's Ough's address

from June's Lakeside conference. I found it interesting enough to command an additional reading, and then another and another and I'm certain I'll continue to revisit his speech many more times as I continue to put meaning to ACTS 2.

Even though I have heard Pastor Jim repeatedly mention all of the ACTS 2 components—'Passionate Worship', 'Radical Hospitality', etc—sitting in the quiet of my home, with the goal of this meeting in mind, the words of Bishop Ough became very powerful. I encourage you to go to the website, print out his address, read it several times, use your highlighter and pen to make notes and then, try putting into your own words what it means to you. If you don't have access to a computer, please let Pastor Jim know if you would like a copy.

For this newsletter article, my intention was to focus on two of the above components, but I found one paragraph of Bishop Ough's address so powerful that I thought it best to only include it because it does a wonderful job of setting the stage for ACTS 2. It states a purpose, a need for ACTS 2.

The following paragraph follows a video clip Bishop Ough had prepared. It is not important to view the video clip; we can make our own deductions based on the bishop's address. Please use the following excerpt to put purpose to the ACTS 2 Congregation initiative.

"That (the video clip) is only a small slice of the shift that is happening all around us. But, the point is stark – the point is clear – we are living in exponential times. Information technologies, populations, jobs, cultures, the church are all

shifting at lightning speed. The church finds itself in the midst of a huge "whoosh." We certainly do not want to find ourselves flatfooted, unable or unwilling to be the transformational movement God intends. We certainly do not want to be the church Lyle Schaller quips about when he says that if the 1950's return, The United Methodist Church will be perfectly positioned to reach the world." From Bishop Ough's Episcopal Address, on June 11, 2007.

www.westohioumc.com

This month, prayerfully consider Livingston's place in "...the transformational movement God intends." What is Livingston's part in this movement? What is my part? What is your part?

How do the components mentioned at the beginning of this article fit in this transformational movement?

Karen Cook, Worship Committee Chairperson



We love who Jesus loves.

Sunday School 9 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

200 E. Livingston Ave.

Columbus, OH 43215

Church Phone: 224-2006,

FAX 224-8175

Pastor: Rev. James Donnan

Parsonage: 235-6156

Cell phone: 313-1482

e-mail: JimDonnan@wideopenwest.com

Church e-mail lumc2@juno.com

Secretary: Jane Runkle

Music Director/Organist Danny Russell

Choir Director: Ed Ewing

Bell Choir: Jennifer Staten

Praise Song Leader: Karen Clouse

Sound Tech Chm: Bruce Reedy

Pastor Emeritus: Roland Perkins

