

THE LIVINGSTON LETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

WE LOVE WHO JESUS LOVES!

April 2009



**April 9
8 PM**



**April 10
Good Friday
Service
8 PM**

**SATURDAY
April 11
Decorate
the
Sanctuary
10 AM**

CHRIST
is RISEN!



"Because He Lives"

Monday morning, February 23, I sang the classic hymn "Because He Lives" with tears in my eyes at the funeral of a dear friend. The refrain goes like this: *"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know the future is worth living, just because He lives."*

I am confident that Miss Rene Evans is in heaven right now. You can be assured of eternal life only because Jesus lives, not because of anything you have done.

The season of Lent which climaxes on Easter Sunday vividly reminds us that Jesus had to die for our sins. We know His death wasn't the end of the story because the Bible says His tomb is empty. He lives now.

Do you believe 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. Not only will my dear friend Rene be raised again – so will you! Isn't that a fantastic promise!

Jesus died for you and rose again because He loves you passionately. He's alive!

Affectionately,

Pastor Jim



**April 12
7:30 AM
Youth Led
service**

***"Perspectives
on the Cross"***

**8:15 AM
Breakfast
prepped and
served by
the Men's
Group**

***Easter
Activities for
the children***

**9:00 AM
Sunday
School**

**10:30 AM
Worship**

See inside articles on:
Community Gardens, pg. 2
Charity Pharmacy, pg. 3
Illuminati, pg. 2
Update on O'Herins, pg.
Medical news, pg. 2



Community Garden at Livingston Church

A few weeks ago Erin O'Donnell the German Village Society Director let me know that there was some interest in the GV community to create a Community Garden and asked if Livingston is interested in designating some of our grassy area for a garden? I said let's explore this idea further. So Sarah Miller (a gardener extraordinaire) met with three women who are interested in developing a community garden.

Community gardening is an urban idea that's been growing for years. Often a neighborhood will take an abandoned lot and with a lot of TLC, convert it into a beautiful garden oasis in the middle of a blighted community. In Columbus, most Community Garden leaders look to Bill Dawson, the director of the Growing to Green program at the Franklin Park Conservatory for guidance.

Fortunately, our property isn't blighted, but we do have a lot of green space that could be used by interested Livingston members and German Village residents who love to garden. Plus, a portion of the garden's produce would be given to the Food Pantry to distribute to our clients.

On Tuesday, March 24, Bill Dawson met with 5 interested people at the church to go over the nuts and bolts of a creating a community garden. He counseled to start small and to grow it one year at a time. He said the front yard of the church next to the I-70/71 fence would work well.

And it wouldn't interfere with our lawn events (Red, White & Boom, OSU Football Game on the mega-screen).

Our third meeting will be Thursday, April 2, 6 PM in the Chapel. If you are interested in creating a community garden in collaboration with German Village residents, please come to the brainstorming session. For more information on community gardening check out the community gardening link at

<http://www.fpconservatory.org/growing2green.htm>

Bill Dawson, Growing to Green Coordinator, will be at the meeting and will present a 4 minute video on community gardening.

I hope you will join us on Thursday, April 2 at 6 PM.

This is another way for the church to connect with our downtown community.

Pastor Jim



Illuminati will perform Morning Worship Service April 26

Illuminati will return to Livingston on April 26, at 10:30 AM. Illuminati is a special ensemble of the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus that performs sacred music in churches across central Ohio. Illuminati's mission is to increase awareness that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals have spiritual concerns and a place in the religious life of the community.

If you have never been blessed to hear this ensemble, you will NOT want to miss this service! They will fill our sanctuary with glorious music, and our hearts with the presence of the Lord. It's a great day to invite family, friends and neighbors to worship at Livingston.



Charity Pharmacy Update

Mike Weber, Bruce Reedy and Pastor Jim met with Rev. John Edgar and Craig Vanderveen an architect to talk more specifically about the Charity Pharmacy concept. We all want this project to succeed and to be a Win-Win for the church and the pharmacy. Here are a few items that would be in the contract should we sign with the Pharmacy:

1. The church would receive a monthly donation of \$1000.00 to cover utilities and extra expenses. If that amount isn't sufficient, then the donation would be adjusted accordingly within the first year.
2. The church would receive a unisex handicap assessable restroom in the back hall where the two small restrooms are located. The pharmacy would pay for the restroom conversion.
3. Bruce Reedy's company will provide sufficient security (discrete monitoring cameras in the halls and locks, etc.) paid for by the Pharmacy.
4. The volunteer base will come from the many sources: Livingston members, Central Ohio United Methodists, OSU Pharmacy students, and GV residents. A group of volunteer helpers will usher clients from the narthex to the pharmacy. If there are no volunteers available to escort clients, then the pharmacy will not be open that day. This level of security will prevent clients from wandering around the building.
5. The Pharmacy will be a separate non-profit corporation under the ministry umbrella of the West Ohio Conference of the UMC. It will be responsible for raising all operating funds, paying all salaries (Pharmacist, Pharm. Tech, Patient Advocate), recruiting and managing volunteers.
6. The Pharmacy would escrow sufficient funds to cover the expense of removing the pharmacy equipment and restoring the space for church use.

Of course, the Trustees and the Administrative Council need to approve the architectural plans and the final contract agreement before the Charity Pharmacy can go forward. Rev. Edgar will have a preliminary contract for the Trustees by mid-April and the architectural plans by mid-May. If you have any questions about the Charity Pharmacy, please see Pastor Jim, Mike Weber or Bruce Reedy.

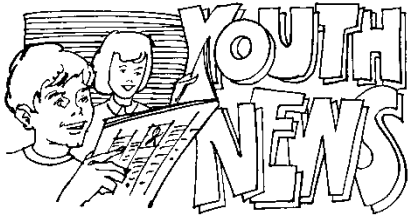
Medical Camp
Saturday, April 4, 10 AM – 3 PM
Wesley Church of Hope UMC
2935 Bulen Ave.

Many medical services are available at no cost. For more information and to pre-register call 491-7772. Mammograms by appointment only.

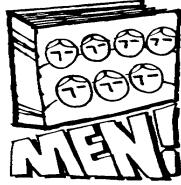
Mt Carmel Health Stations

Mt. Carmel Health Stations are fully equipped medical offices providing compassionate care in neighborhood churches. They provide primary medical treatment, health screenings, prevention and wellness education, health maintenance services. Locations are: Church 4 All People, 946 Parsons Avenue (Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 AM-4 PM) and First Church of God, 3480 Refugee Road, (Monday and Wednesday, 8:30 AM-4 PM). Call 234-7400 to make an appointment (Push 1, wait a second and then Push 2). Most health insurance plans are accepted, special payment arrangements are available for low-income individuals, and financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

Financial Report as of	
February 28, 2009	
General Fund	
Budget - \$14,765	
Receipts	\$10,249
Expenses	\$14,919
Deficit	\$ 4,670
Missions Budget \$1063.50	
Receipts	\$686
Expenses	\$1009



The Youth Group will meet Sunday, April 5, 5 PM at Julie and Robbie's home, 5635 Sandbrook Lane, Hilliard, to hang out and work on the Easter skit. On April 11, they help decorate for Easter.



Men's Group & "The Shack"

The Men's Group will begin discussing the phenomenally popular book "The Shack". We'll meet April 8th and 22nd at 6 PM at Wendy's on S. High. In spite of its weird portrayal of the God, Wm. Young clearly defines what it means for us to be created in the image of God. Donald Haynes, a UMR columnist, says "Young makes a convincing case for the priority of right relationships over right beliefs, and he does a beautiful job of helping anyone deal redemptively with tragedy, pain, hurt and abuse."

So pick up a copy of the book at the library or the book store and start reading. I'll have a study guide available before our first meeting.



Heart to Heart

Wednesday, April 29, 6:30 PM

Our Women's Group will discuss chapter 9 & 10 of "Having Mary's Heart in a Martha's World." Even if you haven't read the book, please come and enjoy the conversation and make some new friends. Question? Contact Sue Leatherman @ Sleath@wideopenwest.com.



APRIL

Sundays:

Sunday School, 9 AM
Worship, 10:30 AM
Youth 5:30- 7:30

Tuesdays:

Bringing to the Light Prayer Group, 6:45 PM

Wednesdays:

AmSpirit, 7:30 Am
Weight Watchers, 6 PM

Thursdays:

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

- 4/02 Community Gardens Meeting, 6 PM
- 4/04 Medical Camp @Wesley Church of Hope
- 4/08 Men's Group, 6 PM
- 4/09 Maundy Thursday, 8 PM
- 4/10 Good Friday, 8 PM
- 4/11 Decorate for Easter Sunday, 10 AM
- 4/12 Easter Sunday Breakfast, 8:15 AM
- 4/21-23-25 Food Pantry
9-noon
- 4/22 Men's Group, 6 PM
- 4/29 Heart to Heart 6:30



We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of Leland Bobbitt and Mary Huff Steppert in their death. Both were former members of this church. Also, Antoinette Jones who died March 17.





Dear partnership team!

We **thank God** for the blessing of His loving grace which has been so evident to us these past few months.

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths. (Ps. 25:4)

We have joy and also grief as we set out on new paths.... Brian has been asked to serve in the role of **Associate International Linguistics Coordinator** for SIL International (the sister organization to Wycliffe Bible Translators). This means we have completed our assignment of training students with SIL at Biola. **Please pray** for us in the transition to our new role. We have thoroughly enjoyed our years spent training and preparing people for Bible translation, and we rejoice in our many former students who are now involved in their own translation projects around the world – what a blessing! This change will now move Brian into a more technical role, and though we miss our inter-action with students, we see how this new assignment is an excellent fit for Brian in regard to both his experience and his gifts. **Praise God!**

“You’re a linguist? How many languages do you speak??” We hear this question all the time, but linguistics is the study of language in general, not necessarily the study of a particular language. We use linguistics as a tool at various stages in the long and complex process of Bible translation. With this tool one can learn a new language faster and better, analyze grammar and style issues, understand the semantic nuances of an ambiguous word or sentence and relate with people better through a second language and culture. Brian’s work will have an impact on the linguistics that SIL does worldwide, and good linguistics leads to better quality translations!

Brian’s new role involves assisting the International Linguistics Coordinator in a variety of ways so that resources for better linguistics are maximized around the world. Some of his new responsibilities will be:

- coordinating the work of SIL’s International Linguistics Advisors and

Consultants (making sure the help gets to where it is needed),

- updating and clarifying the roles and competencies for linguistics-related jobs in SIL (making sure SIL’s training most effectively covers the needed skills), and
- consulting and advising for academic papers, SIL workshops and field courses, SIL publications, SIL website linguistics sections and SIL linguistics software resources.

Brian will also continue work on the linguistic textbook we mentioned in our last letter.

We remain available as needed for the translation project in Eurasia we were involved with for so many years. **Please pray** for the situation there, as circumstances out of our control continue to delay the project, and **pray** for the people still waiting for His Word.

Julie is enjoying much better health this year, for which we **thank God!** Brian will be able to undertake his new role remotely from California, even though the International Linguistics Coordinator is located in Dallas, so we will not have to move. This is a blessing, in that we will not have to give up Julie’s excellent support and care network or uproot ourselves from our home, church and being near Steven.

Speaking of our favorite UCLA Bruin, Steven stays busy with classes, socializing, work as an editor, athletics, church and ministry, and an active leadership role in his Christian fraternity. We enjoy seeing him when we can.

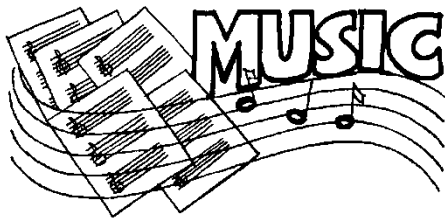
Meanwhile, in Boston, on November 8, Kevin asked Alice Chi to marry him. They have not set a date yet but it will be after they graduate from Harvard in June.

As always, we **thank God** for your partnership with us in prayer, finances and friendship. You are a huge reason for our thankfulness this season. We pray this blessing for you:

May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, Who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. (II Thessalonians 2:16-17)

With encouragement, gratitude and hope in Christ,

Brian and Julie O’Herin



ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME

Augustus Montague Toplady, the writer was born in England in 1740 and died there from TB in 1778.

Toplady was a staunch Calvinist and notorious for his dislike of and feuds with John Wesley. Through he had converted to Methodism; his study persuaded him that the Calvinist perspective, rather than Arminian theology supported by Wesley, offered the best understanding of salvation. In 1775, he moved to Leichester Fields and preached for a French Calvinist Church.

Toplady was involved in several literary endeavors. He published *Psalms and Hymns for a Public and Private Worship* (1776) and served as editor of the *Gospel Magazine* from, 1771-1776.

In the *Dictionary of Hymnology*, John Julian cites the 1775 article "Life a Journey," in which Toplady first published the first stanza of "Rock of Ages." The following paragraph preceded the first stanza of the hymn: "Yes, if you fall, be humbled, but do not despair. Pray afresh to God, who is able to raise you up, and set you on your feet again. Look to the blood of the covenant; and say to the Lord from the depths of your heart....."

The complete hymn appeared a year later in the *Gospel Magazine* as "A Living and Dying Prayer for the Holiest Believer in the World." According to the hymnologist Albert Bailey, the climax of the article "intended to show that as England could never pay her national debt, so man could never liquidate his sin account."

In this prayer, "Rock of Ages" is used as an endearing term for God. Christ's blood from his death as the forgiveness for our sins is the theme in stanza one. Stanza 2 focuses on the idea that we can never repay him for that sacrifice. Baptism is the theme of stanza 3. Stanza 4 climaxes with an end of times focus asking for mercy as we face death.

Wesleyan roots

Julian, a hymnologist in the 19th century England, declared "Rock of Ages" one of the most well known of English hymns. Thomas Hastings' musical setting TOPLADY will be the one we sing for the life of the hymn. Written in four-part harmony, TOPLADY can be sung with piano, organ, or a *cappella*. Hastings (1784-1872) lived in New York and was an advocate with Lowell Mason for music education and Singing Schools.

One of the paradoxes of this hymn is that Toplady may have borrowed the opening line from his theological nemesis, Charles Wesley. The image of the rock, common in hymnody and Scripture, was used by Wesley in one of his *Hymns on the Lord's Supper*, published 30 years earlier. Though Wesley's hymn goes in a different direction, it beings, "Rock of Israel, cleft or me..."



- 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 JESSBURGER, JESSIE
- 04/22 EWING, EVELYN
- 04/25 DUERLER, PATRICIA
- 04/26 JONES, EVAN
- 04/30 STUBBINS, ADRIENNE
ADAMS, ROBERT



- 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