

The Livingston Letter

"WE LOVE WHO JESUS LOVES"

MAY 2010



Livingston Church is going to be a busy place Friday, April 30th, through Wednesday, May 5th. The Council of Bishops will be meeting in Columbus and the theme of the week is ReThink Poverty. Here is a schedule of events impacting our church and community:

Friday, April 30 - Our church van will be used to transport the Bishops and their spouses from the airport to a downtown hotel.

Saturday, May 1 – 9:00 – 11:00 AM, you are invited to attend a workshop on the relationship between poverty & global health led by Bishop Fritz Mutti.

Saturday, 11:00 – 1:00 PM, you are invited to serve with a team to assemble 3000 health & hygiene kits which will be distributed to local UM ministry sites. Tours of the Charitable Pharmacy will also be given. Our goal, and I'm inviting the German Village community to help us, is to provide 1000 tubes of toothpaste for the health kits. Other Central Ohio congregations will provide the other 2000 tubes.

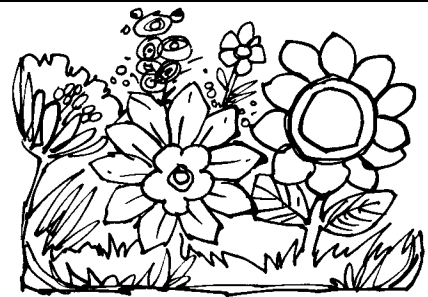
Saturday, 11:00 – 1:00 PM, you are invited to browse the Health Fair and receive free health screenings by RN's from Riverside Methodist Hospital.

How can you help? Colleen Barta is coordinating our volunteers, so please give her a call at 746-5222.

Wednesday, May 5th, 12:00 – 1:00 PM – Some of the Bishops will gather at Livingston to learn about the history of the Charitable Pharmacy and how the ministry can be replicated in their Annual Conferences.

Livingston Church is a vital part of the United Methodist Connectional Church and this is one way that we can show Jesus' love to others.

Affectionately,
Pastor Jim



PLAN AHEAD

Sunday

G.V. Al-Anon meeting 5:30 PM (Chapel)
Haus AA meeting 5:30 PM (Fellowship Hall)

Monday

Charitable Pharmacy open, 9 AM-4 PM

Tuesday

Bringing to the Light Prayer Group, 6:45 PM (Library)

Wednesday

AMSPIRIT, 7:30 AM (Chapel)
Charitable Pharmacy open, 9-4 PM
Weight Watchers, 6 PM (Chapel)

Thursday

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

Friday

Charitable Pharmacy open, 9 AM-1 PM

- 05/01 Bishop's workshop, 9-11 AM
Health Fair, 11-1 PM
Assemble kits, 11-1 PM
- 05/02 Illumaniti during worship
- 05/04 Home Bible Study Group, 7 PM
- 05/05 Bishop meet @LUMC, 12-1 PM
- 05/09 Mother's Day
- 05/12 Men's Group, 6 PM (Wendy's)
- 05/16 Steurys during worship
- 05/18 Home Bible Study Group, 7 PM
- 05/19 Mid-Ohio Food pick-up, 9 AM
- 05/21 Van Goes, 10:00 AM
- 05/21-23 Men's Retreat
- 05/26 Men's Group, 6 PM (Wendy's)
- 05/25/27/29 Food Pantry, 9 AM - noon
- 05/30 Faith Mission served



**Illuminati to Sing
in Worship
May 2nd**

Illuminati, a special ensemble of the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus, performs sacred music in churches across Central Ohio. Illuminati's mission is to increase awareness that gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender 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.



Tuesday Home Bible Study, May 4th and 18th, 7:00 PM, location TBD.

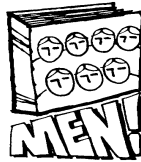


Congratulations to Julie Donnan who graduates on May 9th with honors from Baldwin-Wallace College.



Mother's Day, May 9th

Sue Brizendine will be our guest speaker on Mother's Day. We are looking forward to hearing what God has been showing her. Thank you, Sue, for sharing your faith journey with your church family.



Men's Group will meet Wednesday, May 12 & 26, 6 PM at Wendy's on S. High Street.



**Jon and Vera Steury
WGM Missionaries**

The Steurys, who serve in Kenya with World Gospel Mission, will be with us at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM on May 16. They will share how God has been using them since their last visit. (See their story on page 3.)

**March FOOD
PANTRY REPORT**

95 Households
Total served: 352 individuals
An increase of 62 individuals over previous month.



**Men's Spring Retreat
May 21-23**

All men are invited to the Men's Retreat to be held at Brian and Colleen Barta's Hocking Hills cabin. It'll be a time of personal spiritual discovery and lots of outdoor opportunities. All costs will be divided by the participants, to make this affordable. See Pastor Jim or Brian to make your reservations.



May 21 - Grange Audubon – leave the church at 10 AM. Lunch will be at the Columbus Maennerchor Club. Sign up with Sarah or call the church office 224-2006.

- (June 25)
- Adena State Memorial (July 9)
- Warren G. Harding Home (August 20)
- Warther's, Dover
- Rutherford B. Hayes (Sept.)
- Mohican State Park (Oct.)
- Clifton Mill & Gorge (Nov.)
- Christmas lunch (December)

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

05/29 Mike/Adrienne Stubbins
Jim Donnan/Sue
5/30 Dan/Jessica Jessburger



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

05/07 KLEIN, JOAN
05/08 STUBBINS Sr. MIKE
05/10 STUBBINS, GAVIN
05/13 STUBBINS JR. JOHN
05/24 JONES, RUBY
05/25 CREMEANS, JACK
05/26 TUCCI, LOU
05/29 MCDANIEL, JERRI

**MISSIONARY
BIRTHDAYS**

May 4 Brenden Steury
May 28 Donna Henry

On their special day remember our missionaries and their children. Thank God for them and ask His Special Blessings.

**Financial Report as
of
March 31, 2010**

General Fund	
Receipts	
\$10,957.29	
Expenses:	
Apportionments	\$3,520.99
Clergy Support	\$5,085.30
Lay Employees	\$3,130.32
Operating Exp.	\$2,094.71
Office Expense	\$ 65.56
Total Expenses	\$13,896.88

Missions	
Receipts	\$ 818.00
Expenses	\$ 1,122.74

Chase ATM update

Chase is working through the zoning variances with the City.

They hope to have it installed in a few months.

JON AND VERA STEURY

Why We Serve

I (Jon) was raised as a missionary kid in Kenya. I later felt God calling me to return to Kenya as a missionary. It was while Vera and I were dating at Asbury College (Kentucky) that we both sensed God leading us to Kenya for full-time missionary service. Only four months after we were married, we were appointed by World Gospel Mission as career missionaries to Kenya.

Although we first went to Kenya as secondary school teachers, God gave us a burden for the people in the communities around us. This led me into community health and development work, focusing on the physical and spiritual needs of the people we serve. Our passion for holistic ministry has continued these intervening years as we have tried to show Christ's love and care for the whole person.

Where We Serve

When people ask us where we live, our most common answer is, "In the bush." Quite literally, this means the remote scrub brush and savannah so commonly associated with Africa. A visitor once remarked, "It's not the end of the earth, but you can see it from there!"

The community of Olderkesi (the Maasai name for a tree common to the area) is located about 60 miles from the nearest town of Narok, about 10 miles north of the Kenya/Tanzania border, and about 13 miles east of the Maasai Mara Game Reserve. It is located in the heart of Maasailand—the area of Kenya and Tanzania where the Maasai people live.

We live on a small mission compound at Olderkesi that was developed by WGM and Africa

Gospel Church in the late '80s and early '90s. However, our area of ministry is much broader, encompassing communities within approximately a 20-mile radius.

What We Do

Jon: My primary ministry focus is in the area of community health and development. I serve as the coordinator of Maasai Community Health, a satellite office of the Tenwek Community Health and Development Department of Tenwek Hospital. I have also been more and more active in leadership roles for WGM Kenya, having served on the field's executive/finance committee and as the assistant field director.

Vera: My primary role has been educating our three children — Bethany, Ben, and Brenden. This job, along with hosting many visitors and work teams, takes the majority of my time. I have also taught the children's Sunday School class at Olderkesi.

Jon and Vera will be here in Sunday School and worship on Sunday, May 16 to tell more about their work.

**ATTENTION
KROGER COMMUNITY
REWARDS
PARTICIPANTS**

You **must re-enroll** in the Kroger Community Rewards. Go to Kroger.com/mykroger and log into your existing account or create a new account if you are not already signed up. Then update your information. The code 80726 is for Livingston Church and should be marked as the choice for your rewards to benefit. If you enrolled with the barcode or do not have access to a

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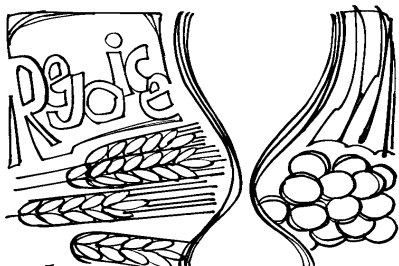
computer, please see Ginny Clear or Jane Runkle for assistance. Proceeds benefit the Food Pantry and Faith Mission



Livingston Church serves at Faith Mission on May 30th

Key Blue Print A new Food Pantry Partner

Key Blue Print is providing their box truck and driver to deliver food from the Mid Ohio Food Bank to the church. It greatly reduces the time and effort involved in the food pick up process. Thank you Key Blue Print for your generosity!



**All shall be made
AINE IN CHRIST**

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls.

Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing

our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to

somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth... My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light.

An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, 'Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles.'

Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you.'

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through!

God determines who walks into your life...it's up to you to decide who you let walk away, who you let stay

and who you refuse to let
go.'

WHAT YOU ARE IS
GOD'S GIFT TO YOU
WHAT YOU MAKE OF YOURSELF
IS YOUR GIFT TO GOD!