

The Livingston Letter

June 2007

Communion on Death Row

We celebrate the presence of Jesus every month by symbolically receiving His body and His blood during Communion. The Communion or the Lord's Supper is a powerful way to experience the presence of Jesus. When we receive the bread and juice by faith, the Bible teaches us that we are to remember His life, ministry, His sacrificial death, and His glorious resurrection.

Has there been a worship service recently where Jesus was especially present with you when you ate the bread and drank from the cup? I had a fresh experience of the strong presence of Jesus during my recent prison visit with Chuck Lorraine who is on death row. Chuck asked me to be his pastor after we met and I agreed to do it. Developing a pastoral relationship with a man who committed a horrific crime as a drug crazed teen-ager and who has repented of the crime and has asked Jesus to forgive him is new ground for me. I've visited church members in the Franklin County jail serving a few days for DWI and petty crimes, but never anyone on death row, until now.

As Chuck's pastor, I've been sending him Biblical information about the meaning of becoming new in Christ.

Chuck has asked me about the meaning of Communion so I made the proper requests to the corrections officials. When I arrived with the bread and the cup of grape juice for a recent visit, the officer on duty refused to allow me take it in because of a bureaucratic mix-up.

On my next visit, I bought Chuck four White Castle cheeseburgers from the vending machine and a Mountain Dew. I bought for myself a Code Red Mountain Dew. Before Chuck finished his burgers, I tore off a piece of the bun set it aside. When he finished his lunch and we had gotten the small talk out of the way, I asked him if he was ready to receive communion. I took the piece of cheeseburger bun laced with onion and ketchup and blessed it. We ate it together. Then I took the Code Red Mountain Dew bottle, poured some in his bottle cap and some red soda in my cap. We lifted it up together and I blessed it. Then we drank. Jesus' blood and His blood were received by faith by a death row inmate and his pastor.

I don't believe that I committed a sin by substituting common elements for communion. Jesus can take the simplest gift we have and create something wonderful from it. Can a White Castle cheeseburger bun and Code Red Mountain Dew symbolize the body and blood of Jesus Christ? Yes I do believe they can, because Jesus said when ever two or more are gathered in His name, He is present.

It's my hope and prayer that sharing Communion together is a powerful reminder of Jesus' sacrificial love for you and not merely a once a month routine. If Communion can come alive a death row inmate and his pastor, Jesus can certainly reveal Himself to you also.

Shalom,
Pastor Jim



- 3 Usher/Greeter training
- Open House -
Community Development
for All People 1-3 PM
- 9 Golf Outing at Blacklick
Woods, 12:30 p.m.
- 10-14 Annual Conference
at Lakeside
- 13 Men's Group, 6 p.m.
Planks on S. High
- 17 Father's Day Blessing
of the Motorcycles
5 PM Tough Issues
Creation & Evolution
- 22 Van Goes, 9 AM
Ohio Historical Museum
- 24 Discovering
Membership class
5 PM. Tough Issues
Separation of Church
- 25 Administrative
Council Mtg. 7 PM
- 26-28-30 Food Pantry

- **Anniversaries**
- **Birthdays**
- **Bishop Ough writes**
- **Directory Changes**
- **Father's Day Cookout**
- **Finances**
- **Graduates**
- **Membership Class**
- **Missions work**
- **Pledges**
- **Red/White Boom**
- **Sermon series**
- **Sympathy**
- **Ushers/Greeters**
- **"Van Goes"**

OUR GREETERS AND USHERS



Greeter and Usher Ministry Training, June 3, after worship. If you would like to serve as greeter or usher on Sunday morning, please join Ginny Clear and Pastor Jim for a brief training session.

You are cordially invited to an

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday June 3
1 to 3 PM

**Community
Development
for All People
946 Parsons Avenue**

Tour the new facility that is now home to the Free Store, the U.M.C. for All People and the life changing activities of our community development corporation.

Come and enjoy live music and light refreshments. Gather information and see demonstrations of the ministries that are transforming lives on the Southside of Columbus.

Please RSVP by calling 614-445-7342 or email commdev4allpeople@sbcglobal.net

West Ohio Annual Conference June 10-14

Pastor Jim and Ginny Clear will represent Livingston at our Annual Conference at Lakeside.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

Livingston Golf Outing and Cookout

When: Saturday June 9th

Where: Blacklick Woods Golf Course (Reynoldsburg Livingston Ave near Route 256).

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$37.00/person 18 holes includes cart

Game Format:
Best ball in foursomes

Prizes:
Best Male Team
Best Female Team
Youngest Golfer
Oldest Golfer

Cookout – Pastor Jim's house

Sign Up at Church or Contact:
Craig Moore, 614-208-4663
Aug896@yahoo.com

"Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues"

What does the Bible really say about 7 hot potato social issues thoughtful Christians struggle with? Beginning June 17th, 5:00 p.m. Pastor Jim will lead a seven week Sunday evening study and sermon series called "Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues".

June 17 "Creation and Evolution in the Public Schools"

June 24 "The Separation of Church and State"

July 1 "Euthanasia"

July 8 "The Death Penalty"

July 15 "Prayer in Public Schools"

July 22 "Abortion"

July 29 "Homosexuality"

We will use the resource book "**Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues**" by Rev. Adam Hamilton, a United Methodist pastor. It may be purchased at Cokesbury or at Amazon.com.

I will preach on the topic discussed the previous Sunday evening so I can incorporate the group's ideas into my message. Don't forget to invite a FRAN to this important study.

CHURCH BAR-B-Q



Father's Day, June 17th Cookout

Blessing of Livingston's Motorcycle Riders and their FRANS, plus cookout after worship.

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, please bring two side dishes to share.

Discover Membership Class June 24

If you would like to learn more about Livingston church's core values and become a member, Pastor Jim will lead a new member's class Sunday, June 24, after worship. It will last about two hours. A light meal will be served. Please indicate on the worship attendance pad if plan on attending.



Livingston Ministries Don't Go on Vacation

Summer is almost here and it's time to think about summer vacations. Taking time to be with your family and friends is a necessary part of staying emotionally healthy. Please remember that even though you may take a vacation and miss a number of Sunday's your church's ministry budget doesn't relax in a comfortable Adirondack chair. I can't imagine any of our faithful members and friends not giving to the church simply because they are not in worship. When Sue and I are away from Livingston on a Sunday, we simply pay our tithe the Sunday before our vacation begins. Then I know our church ministries won't miss our tithe.

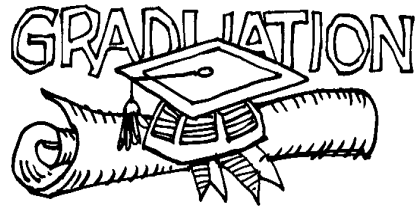
I hope you have a restful and relaxing summer. But please don't forget your church's ministry obligations. If Livingston church is to thrive all of us need to strive to tithe.

2007 General Fund Budget \$169,748

April Budget	\$14,151
Receipts	\$15,471

Missions Budget \$13,796

April Budget	\$1,150
Receipts	\$1,403



Livingston's 2007 Graduates

Tim Brizendine, Capital University
Julie O'Herin, Biola University
Amanda Sowards, Kent State
Jen Staten, Otterbein University
Angela Whitt, Capital University
Law School
Steven O'Herin, La Mirada H.S.
Brittany Robertson, Central
Crossing High School

May the Lord bless each of you with His wisdom and understanding.



Brittany Robertson graduated from Central Crossing High School on May 27 and invites you to celebrate with her at her graduation party on Saturday June 2, 4-8 PM here at the church in the Fellowship Hall.

Jen Staten is graduating from Otterbein College! Please join in the celebration at the Staten's home on June 9. Open house from 2-5 p.m. Hope to see you there!



Congratulations to Patricia Thomas on being named Teacher of the Year.



Red, White and Boom

Prepare now to attend Red, White and Boom on Monday, July 3rd at Livingston. There will be a potluck meal in the Fellowship hall, the dads of the Youth will run the parking lot, and the Youth will sell glow sticks, pop and hotdogs to raise funds for the mission trip to Georgia.

Gathering of Mustangs & Legends, September 27-30

Rickenbacker Int'l Airport. An estimated 100 P-51 Mustangs from all over the world are scheduled to attend the largest gathering of Mustangs to fly together since WW2 and Korea.



Thank you to everyone who donated to and help work the Food Pantry Yard Sale. Total proceeds were \$650.

The Hilliard Post Office gave their food collection of 4,000 pounds to the Livingston Food Pantry. This is truly a blessing to our Pantry and to the people who will benefit from it.

Bishop Ough writes...

Did you know that every minute, nearly five people die of AIDS?

Did you know that already 23 million persons have died from AIDS?

Did you know that by year 2010, as many as 100 million people may be infected?

Did you know that this week – and every week – nearly 40,000 Africans will die of the disease? The enormity of this pandemic is staggering. Each of these statistics above is a person, a face, a soul, like the six-year-old girl Char and I visited in Mozambique, covered with open sores and ulcers that her HIV infected body could not heal. In response to this pandemic, the 2004 General Conference of the UMC established the Global AIDS Fund and made a commitment to raise at least \$8 million for HIV/AIDS ministries. A gift of \$1 per United Methodist member in the United States will achieve this goal.

As the 2007 Annual Conference Session approaches, I invite you to participate in the Miracle Offering for the Global AIDS Fund. Our offering goal is \$230,000 – \$1 for every United Methodist member in our conference. We will receive the offering on Wednesday morning, June 13 during our morning worship and **Bishop encourages assistance for UMC global AIDS relief** again on Wednesday evening during our Ordination and Retirement Service. Once received, 75% of the Miracle Offering will go to ministries in international settings and 25% will be retained by the West Ohio Conference for AIDS-related ministries. I have witnessed the

transforming, healing power of Christ in hundreds of lives. Every week I see miraculous power being released by faith-filled United Methodists in West Ohio. I am convinced that if we call upon the "latent miraculous power" in each of us and in each of our congregations, we will celebrate a miracle of \$230,000 to be used for the healing of those infected with HIV/AIDS.



Please watch your bulletin for updates or changes in trips.

June 22 - the first full day of summer - we will **leave** the church at 9 AM to go to the Ohio Historical Society Museum, here in Columbus, and see the exhibit, **FIRST LADIES: Political Role and Public Images**, from the Smithsonian Institution, which examines the demanding duties of the presidential partner and national hostess. See more than 150 objects including the gowns, fine china, and White House furnishings used by the women who played host to the word. From Martha Washington through Laura Bush, learn the challenges these women faced and how they handled the public spotlight.

Time permitting, we will also visit the Ohio's Garden Path: The flowering of our Landscape exhibit - this temporary exhibit explores the nation's most popular leisure time activity from a perspective of 200 years of change. The 4,000 square

foot exhibit shows how gardening styles have changed over time in the context of world events, fashion trends, and architectural styles.

Please arrive at the church at least 10 minutes prior to departure time. Tour times are set and luncheon reservations are made so we must be on schedule.

Location of lunch yet to be determined.

July 10 (July 31 rain date) both days are a Tuesday - lunch at Clarks Restaurant in Jackson-town and then to Buckeye Lake for a ride on a pontoon boat. **Leave** the church at 11 AM.

Upcoming dates

August 30

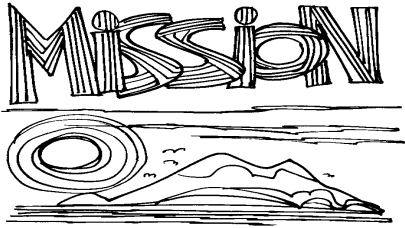
September 20



06/01	PRIDY, SHYANNA ENDICOTT, LORRETTA
06/03	JONES, ANTOINETTE
06/04	HILYARD, BETHANY
06/06	FLEURIVAL, CEMERITE
06/07	STATEN, KRISTA
06/08	PIERRE, ACENIE
06/12	GAMMELL, CHARLENE
06/14	MERRITT, Eva KLOTZ, DONALD
06/16	PERKINS, OLGA MAE
06/18	PAYNE, VICKI
06/19	MILLER, BARNEY
06/30	ADAMS, SUSAN

Happy Anniversary

06/02	DONNA/LOWELL STATEN
06/04	BUZZ/PATRICIA THOMAS
06/12	ROLAND/OLGA MAE PERKINS
06/16	CHARLES/SHARLYN BROWN
06/21	BOB/LORRAINE GRIFFITH ED/BRENDA EWING



Dear Friend,

More gleanings from the China grapevine — You frequently see pictures of people here in the USA with a cross on a necklace. I often wonder what relationship the person has with the Galilean who was crucified there. But now it has become quite fashionable for sophisticated urbanites in China to sport crosses as well. Again, I wonder if those people really understand what that cross represents. I pray that even if they only wear it as a piece of jewelry they will learn the true meaning of the cross and become a follower of the man who died there.

According to a China news article 300 million Chinese are learning English, the world's largest foreign-language student group. If you want to have a wonderful experience, volunteer to go to China to teach English for a few months on a university campus. You do not have to be an English major to do that. What they want more than anything is native English speakers to spend time with students in language conversation. (The English Language Institute of China is a good place to start.)

If you speak Chinese and want to serve as a missionary you might be interested to know that there are 230,000 Chinese living in Central America. Very few of them have heard the gospel.

Since 1988, 53 million Bibles have been printed inside

China. Most of those have been printed in Nanjing at the Amity Printing Company. There are 70 different distribution points throughout China. Currently, a new, larger printing facility is being built which will have capacity of printing 12 million books annually. Various Christian books are printed, as well as the Bible.

A listener to the radio program OC helps sponsor for China wrote: "I retired at 62 from the army, received Christ at 65, and served Him for the past 12 years. God helped me through the Voice of Friendship Seminary program to obtain my diploma which states, 'Be devout, holy, preach and serve.' I will devote the rest of my life to being a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Please pray for dear pastors like this brother that they will understand not only the necessity of evangelization and conversion, but adequate follow-up for spiritual growth.

Keith and Charlotte Brown

DIRECTORY CHANGE

Catherine Clarke
PH: 614-235-1603

Eddie Davis
827-3220

John Stubbins, Jr.
333 Thurman Avenue, 43206



Remember in your prayers the Don Wills and his family in the death of his brother, Paul.



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WEBSITE: Livingstonumc.com
Pastor Emeritus: Roland Perkins

Secretary: Jane Runkle
Music Director/Organist:
Danny Russell

Choir Director: Ed Ewing
Bell Choir: Jennifer Staten
Praise Song Leader: Karen Clouse

Youth: Donna Staten
Sound Technicians:
Bruce Reedy, Tony Giles,

Weekly

Sunday School 9 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

Tuesdays: Bringing to the Light
Prayer Group
7 p.m. in the library

Thursdays: (Sept. - June)
Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir 7:15 p.m.

WAKE UP!

Decide to have a good day.

**"Today is the day the Lord
hath made; let us rejoice and
be glad in it." Psalm 118:24**