

The Livingston Letter

AUGUST 2007



In early June, over 2000 United Methodists from the West Ohio Conference gathered at Lakeside, Ohio, for our Annual Conference. Bishop Ough encouraged every church to become an Acts 2 Congregation. The Act 2 metaphor is take from the Book of Acts, chapter 2 were the Holy Spirit fell on the faithful followers of Jesus and the birth of the church began. Bishop Ough's vision for Acts 2 churches, including Livingston, is that each church would reflect these characteristics:

1. Hospitality that welcomes persons of all nations and races into the community;
2. Glad and passionate worship that praises and magnifies God's presence;
3. Devotion to the apostles' teachings, fellowship and prayer that grows disciples; and
4. Justice and mercy ministries that serve the community.

How can we as the living Body of Christ be a more vital and relevant church to our unchurched FRANs (Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors)?

Adam Hamilton, our Conference speaker whose ministry has been very effective at Church of the Resurrection U.M.C. in Leawood, Kansas, said the same Holy Spirit that fueled the early church is at work here in the West Ohio Conference. What we do is basically take John Wesley and apply it to today's culture," said Rev. Adam Hamilton

He compared the decline of the mainline denominations, including United Methodism, to the decline of the "Big Three" American auto makers and how those automobile manufacturers failed to adjust to changing conditions.

He shared several principles which he said could lead to the revitalization of the Methodist denomination and to a brighter future.

Principle #1 is to learn to "change, improve, innovate or die," Using examples of how music technology has changed from 8 track tapes to cassette tapes to CD's to MP3 players, Rev. Hamilton said although the Gospel message does not change, the world does, which demands that the church adjust in how it presents that Gospel.

Is the leadership of Livingston church willing to change, to improve, and to innovate the way we present the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

With God's grace and our willingness to step out in faith, Livingston will become a vital Acts 2 Congregation willing to embrace change and improvement.

Be Strong and Courageous,

Pastor Jim

Ginny Clear Recognized at Annual Conference

Our Ginny was recognized by Bishop Ough as a graduate of the Lay Ministry course of ministry. Ginny attended two years of classes which helped her discern her ministry at Livingston Church. Through prayer, reading and small group meetings, she is certain that the Food Pantry Ministry is one place where God wants to use her. Congratulations, Ginny.

Pastor Jim Wants to Hear from You

Would you take a moment and write to me at JimDonnan@wideopenwest.com or on paper the three most critical questions in your life. If I know what your deepest questions and concerns are then I can respond to them in my sermons.

On Vacation

Pastor Jim will be on vacation August 4-17. Buzz Thomas (home - 444-4608 or cell - 562-9600) will be available for hospital visits. Rev. Evan Jones (237-3071) will be available for pastoral emergencies.

Special Points of Interests

- Birthdays/Anniversary
- Book Club Missions
- Food Pantry
- 6 month Financial Report
- Missions
- "Van Goes"

Men's Group Meeting

The guys will meet at Planks (S. High/Whittier) on Wednesday August 8 and 22, 6 PM We'll discuss the implications of the lessons learned from the book "Why Men Hate Going to Church." All men are invited

Short Term Medical Mission Trip Blessing

On August 5th, Brian and Colleen Barta and Denise Russell will be blessed at the altar as they prepare to serve the Lord in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico, August 9-12. Colleen and Denise will feed the team of 40, and Brian will be a runner/driver for the medical team. They are asking for monetary donations for this trip so they can provide additional medical care for the people who come to the clinic in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico.

May the Lord cover you with His mercy and love for the Mexican people you will serve.



Back to school donations for the United Methodist Free Store will be collected until August 20. Items needed are school supplies and clothing for all school age children. New underclothes and uniforms (dark pants and skirts, and white tops) are also needed. Items may be put in the box in the narthex. Monetary donation may be given to Colleen Barta and she will purchase school supplies.

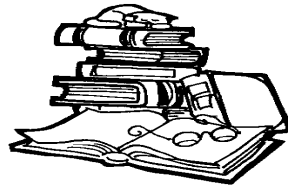
Thanks
Colleen Barta

Blessing of Educators

On Sunday, August 26, Pastor Jim will lead a service focusing on blessing all our educators and their FRANS.



All Livingston children are invited to join our C4AP friends for VBS Avalanche Ranch beginning Sunday evening, August 19 through Thursday, August 23. The fun begins at 6 to 8 PM. at Church for All People at their new location on Parsons & Whittier St.



by Bob Ralston

Because Pastor Jim knows of my passion for the writings of Anne Lamott, he has encouraged me to lead a book discussion group. I have chosen the second book of her faith trilogy, Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith.

Now, Anne Lamott is no Catherine Marshall or Corrie Ten Boom. She can be quite salty, occasionally irreverent, and I don't agree with her stance on everything. But her talent as a writer can not be denied. She is one of the few non-fiction writers who I am inclined to highlight as I read so that I can quote her later. If you want a taste of what she has to offer, take a few minutes to read the first essay, "Ham of God", and you'll understand what I mean.

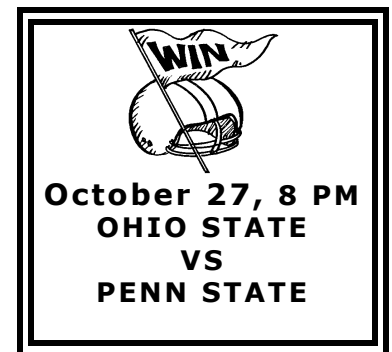
You can surely get it at the public library, but if you want your own copy, I found an overabundance of them at the Book Loft (\$4.99) (basement-religious section, against the back wall). Or you can get less of a bargain, though a bargain nonetheless, at amazon or www.powells.com.

Jim and I have mapped out this plan. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, August 12, at my home. We will begin promptly at 5 and wrap up no later than 6:15. This meeting will cover the first 6 essays. We will meet then every other Sunday, 8/26, 9/9, and 9/23.

I hope you can find the time to join us and find out why she is my favorite contemporary writer. You don't have to RSVP, but it would be helpful for me to know if you plan to attend, so I can plan accordingly.

If you're planning on attending. Call 868-9197, or RLRalston@earthlink.net.

Bob's address is
522 Camdenway Ct. 43213
(Off McNaughten Rd, near Mount Carmel East Hospital).



Join your church family and bring your friends to watch the game on the church lawn.



HERMIZ HAPPENINGS

Students

Watching new students learn the skills of nursing is always fun. Of course they don't always find it fun. The students had a practical exam last week. They performed timed nursing skills at 8 different stations. As they were assessed by the instructors, their hands and voices shook with fear. But what relief when they were done and results were given. They did well. The new students have 4 more weeks in the classroom and then they begin working in the hospital. I know they will appreciate your prayers.

Hospital

Tenwek Hospital is experiencing a critical shortage of staff. There are multiple reasons for the shortage. Our services have increased and we have lost nurses to the government. Our next class of students won't be ready to hire until October. Pray for those in leadership that they will find solutions to this problem.

School Building

The saga of the repairs on the school building continues. We still have 3 floors that need finishing. The company didn't pour the terrazzo to our satisfaction. We have been looking for another company for 2 months. Please pray that this project will soon be completed and we can have full

use of the building.

Health

My knee still isn't cooperating as it should. But that is not for lack of exercise. A physical therapist was here a few weeks ago and I had her examine my knee. She said "your leg is stronger than mine." Now if the swelling would just go down and stay down I'd be able to get around better.

Thank you for all your love, prayers and generous support that make it possible for me to serve here.

In Him,
Mary

In memoriam of Ruth Bell Graham

Time to Adore

And when I die
I hope my soul ascends
slowly, so that I
may watch the earth receding
out of sight,
its vastness growing smaller as
I rise,
savoring its recession with
delight.
Anticipating joy itself a joy.
And joy unspeakable
and full glory needs more
than "in the twinkling of an
eye,
more than "in a moment."

Lord, who am I to disagree?
It's only we have much to leave
behind;
so much...Before.
These moments of transition
will, for me
be time to adore.

Ruth Bell Graham

(from Ruth Bell Graham's
Collected Poems.)



To Livingston,

From the entire Giblin family, we would like to thank everyone for all their prayers, cards and support. I know my father was smiling during his memorial service. What a wonderful final send off.

God Bless Everyone

Colleen Barta and Family

Dear Pastor & Livingston UMC,

Thank you so much for the love offering you sent for our trip to France. We are excited to see what God is going to do in the lives of the French people and also in our hearts. We appreciate your generosity and kindness.

In His Service,
Jeremy, Rebecca and Jacob
Williamson

Dear Church family,

Thank you for your thoughts, cards and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery.

Bobbi Cobb



Congratulations to Robert Long and Jessica Schwanzwho were united in marriage on June 12.

ENGAGED IN THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST

(excerpts from an article written by Hubert Harriman for *Call to Prayer*, July/August 2007)

TO YOU DEAR YOUTH - Why Be a Missionary?

I've tried to point out that it's not for the adventures, though there are many. I've also tried to point out that it's not for the advantages, though there are plenty. And then I try to make the point that it has to do with abandon—the "deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me" kind of heart. It's great truth!

I've never met a good missionary who isn't adventurous. Just sit down and visit with one sometime. They will take you into a world few are privileged to experience, sharing with excitement adventures few would dare to know. They face the reality of separation from family, with all the feelings that evokes. Life and ministry on the mission field can quickly become chaotic, with the instabilities of travel, governments, education, and medical care.

Missionaries will carry stories of dysentery, malaria, and rare infections like badges of honor, finding humor in the most extreme circumstances. They will mesmerize you with their adventures in language and cultural learning. On an income that is considered poverty level to many Americans, most missionaries have rubbed shoulders with

the rich and the poor, traveled to exciting and exotic places while able to turn right around and work among some of the most impoverished and unfortunate of the world. They do it all for the King of kings who came and did the same.

And I've never yet met a missionary who doesn't mark the advantages of missionary service. While we may make much of their sacrifice, they take note of their privileges. To them, it's an honor with tremendous benefits—the opportunity to learn a second language, the opportunity to travel, the pleasure of cross-cultural experiences and friendships, and, above all, the joy of being laborers together with God.

Good missionaries count their blessings!

And then there is the matter of abandon. Pulled by a heart that loves adventure and a heart that sees nothing but advantages, at the core of a missionary's heart is abandon. They are risk takers. They know the adventures can sometimes go over the top, and they understand that the advantages can sometimes look bleak.

A missionary must have a complete commitment and total abandonment to the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Put all three together - a spirit of adventure, an eye for the advantages, and a heart fully abandoned - and you have a great missionary!

 A **JESUS CHRIST**
Now and Forever



*absent from body...
and present with the Lord....*

Sympathy to the family of:

Colleen Barta in the death of her father, Carl Giblin.

the family of Carolyn Driggs in her death and the death of her grandson, Joel E. Blazer.

Vaughn Lawlor in the death of his friend, Madeline Heery.

PRAY

Ruth Graham Bell

Pray

when all your soul
a tiptoe stands
in wistful eagerness
to talk with God;
put out your hands,
God bends to hear;
it would be sin
to not draw near.

Pray

when gray inertia
creeps through your soul,
as through a man
who fights the cold,
then growing languid
slumbereth,
and slumbering
knows not
at his death.

Pray

when swamped
with sin and shame
and nowhere else
to pin the blame
but your own will
and waywardness;
God knows you,
loves you nonetheless,
So...pray.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

CLARKE, Catherine
PH: 235-1603

DAVIS, Edward
PH: 827-3220

DRIGGS, Carolyn
(delete)

DUMENY, Ricky and Esther
(remove Pierre)
4665 Tamarck Blvd. Apt. 2
Columbus, OH 43229

FLEURIVAL, Edvert
422 E. 12th Ave. #3
Columbus, OH 43201
PH: 294-2787

HEERY, Madeline
(delete)

LONG, Robert and Jessica
(remove Schwanz)

MANLEY, Carol
3452 Maize Rd
Columbus, OH 43224

MARSHALL, Joe
2638 E. Livingston Ave.
Columbus, OH 43209
PH: 216-5702

MILLIGAN, Joey
2638 E. Livingston Ave.
Columbus, OH 43209
PH: 216-5702

PACKARD, Wendy
630 E. Town St, #102
Columbus, Oh 43215
PH: 222-1871
Cell: 208-9705


PETERSON, Tim and Sandie
5262 Conklin Dr.
Hilliard, OH 43026
PH: 527-8483

SOWARDS, Amanda
329 Iroquois Park Pl.
Gahanna, OH 43230
PH: 4761278

STUBBINS, John Jr.
333 Thurman Avenue
Columbus, OH 43206

WIDNEY, Megan
1209 Sanctuary Pl.
Gahanna, OH 43230

WIDNEY, Tom
(delete)



Livingston Church
A United Methodist Fellowship

Sunday School 9 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
200 E. Livingston Ave.
Columbus, OH 43215
Church Phone: 224-2006
FAX 224-8175
Website: LivingstonUMC.com
Pastor: Rev. James Donnan
Parsonage: 235-6156, 237-6254,
e-mail: JimDonnan@wideopenwest.com
Church: lumc2@juno.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, Megan Widney
Tony Giles, Alyssa Staten, Jim Brizendine

Newsletter published monthly.
Articles for the next issue are due
in the church office by the second
Sunday of the current month.

Wake Up!

Decide to have a good day.
*"Today is the day the Lord
hath made; let us rejoice and
be glad in it."*
Psalms 118:24

Dress Up!

The best way to dress up is
to put on a smile. A smile is
an inexpensive to improve
your looks.
*"The Lord does not look at
the things man looks at. Man
looks at outward appearance;
but the Lord looks at the
heart."*
1 Samuel 16:7

Shut-up!

Say nice things and learn to
listen. God gave us two ears
and one mouth, so He must
have meant for us to do twice
as much listening as talking.
*"He who guards his lips,
guards his soul."*
Proverbs 13:3

Stand Up!

For what you believe in,
stand for something or you
will fall for anything..

*"Let us not be weary in doing
good; for at the proper time,
we will reap a harvest if we
do not give up. Therefore, as
we have opportunity, let us
do good..."*

Galatians 6:9-10.

Rules from God