

# The Livingston Letter

Volume 1, Issue 7

WE LOVE WHO JESUS LOVES!

AUGUST 2009

## Doing No Harm, Doing Good and Loving God

I want to introduce you to three simple rules of spiritual growth. These simple rules were given to us by John Wesley, the founder of the United Methodist church.

The rules are intended to be guidelines to Christians to follow. They are:

1. Do No Harm
2. Do Good
3. Stay in Love with God

They are the basis of a series I'm teaching Sunday's in August. These rules are very difficult to follow even though they seem easy.

What are the benefits of Doing No Harm?

Following the rule "Do No Harm" works well when we're engaged in conflict. If the group can agree to this rule, then the climate of the conflict can change, keeping us from gossip, manipulation of the facts, and injury to the character of opponents. Doing no harm demands a radical trust in God's presence, power, wisdom and guidance.

And demands a radical obedience to God's leadership.

The second rule is Do Good. There are ample opportunities for you to do good right where you live, or at the church.

As I write this Saturday morning, I hear the grocery carts shuttling about in the Narthex loaded with groceries for the poor. The Food Pantry ministry team is fulfilling the teaching from 3 John 11: "Whoever does good is from God."

Finally, how do we stay in love with God? Sue and I have been married on 27 years. For us to stay in love with each other, we don't just fondly look back at the vows we took on that hot May day for marital strength. We work to stay in love by being authentic with each other and by spending quality time together. The same is true with staying in love with God. Remembering when you first said "I Do" to Jesus Christ is so important, but to stay in love with Him requires spiritual growth. That means spending time to regularly worship God, being involved in a small discipleship group, and talking to God, that's prayer.

So the three simple rules are Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with God.

If you're not away on vacation, join your church family as we learn these simple rules of Christian living.

Be well,  
Jim



Weekly Meetings:

### Sunday:

German Village

Al-Anon meeting

5:30 PM (Chapel)

Haus AA meeting 5:30 PM  
(Fellowship Hall)

### Tuesday

DCOM 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Bringing to the Light

Prayer Group, 6:45

(Library)

German Village Community

Farm, 5:30-7:30 PM

### Wednesday

AMSPIRIT, 7:30 AM

(Chapel)

Weight Watchers, 6 PM

(Chapel)

### Thursday

Purpose Driven Life group

7 PM

### Saturday

German Village Community

Farm, 9-11:00 AM

8/5-9 Mexico Mission Trip

8/09 Ben/Melissa Miller

8/12 Men's Mtg., 6 PM

8/21 Van Goes, 8/23

8/25 Food Pantry, 9-12

8/26 Men's Mtg., 6 PM

8/27 Food Pantry, 9-12

8/29 Food Pantry, 9-12

8/30 FPU Preview, 9 &  
11:30 AM

9/6 FPU Preview,  
9 & 11:30 AM



## Charity Pharmacy Update

At our July 15<sup>th</sup> steering committee, Rev. John Edgar told us that over \$100,000 for operations (salaries and utilities) have been committed to the new ministry. The contributors are:

The Columbus Foundation –	\$25,000
The English Family Foundation -	\$25,000
Michael Rizzoti Foundation -	\$25,000
Nationwide Children's Hospital –	<u>\$25,000</u>
Subtotal	\$100,000

West Ohio Conference & Capital Area South District (tentative) \$15,000

The Charitable Pharmacy already has \$100,000 in the bank to be used for start up costs.

The Board of Directors has been formed; I am one of 9 board members. The architect has drawn up a sketch of the pharmacy and it will be examined by our Trustees at their July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The goal is to be operational in mid-November 2009. If you have any questions about the Charitable Pharmacy, please don't hesitate to ask Pastor Jim.



## Financial Peace University Begins in September

What would your life look like if you had no debt and were really in control of your money? During this class you will learn how to:

*Get Control of Your Money*

*Stop Struggling to Make Ends Meet*

*Change Your Family's Future*

Are you ready to take the first step? Learn more about Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" class by attending the free preview on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM and at 11:30 AM, in the Chapel.

See Pastor Jim for more details.

## Our New Recovery Groups Haus AA & GV Al Anon

Every Sunday evening at 5:30 PM, Haus AA and German Village Al Anon meet here at the church. The groups are here for you on your recovery journey and welcome all who are struggling with their addictive behaviors.

Both groups meet Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM, Al-Anon in the Chapel, and AA in the Fellowship Hall.



## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for Power Hour on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. Please sign up on the sheet on the elevator door in the narthex or see Brian Barta if you have any questions.



## Ben and Melissa Miller to Speak August 9<sup>th</sup>.

On Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM, the Miller family will be with us to share how God is using them in Tanzania, Africa.

**Storage areas** are being cleaned out in anticipation of the space being reallocated for the Charitable Pharmacy. If you have personal possessions stored, please claim them. We will be consolidating materials. Please see Sarah Miller with any questions.



## McCurdy School

*Dee Dee Heffner is a missionary of the General Board of Global Ministries assigned to the McCurdy School in Espanola, New Mexico. She shares news of ongoing work at McCurdy and how it has impacted the lives of two very special young people. (Names of students have been changed.)*

I have been privileged to serve as a United Methodist home missionary at McCurdy School since 1975. At our last graduation ceremony, Dr. Ryan, our local physician and father of three children who are McCurdy graduates sought me out. Dr. Ryan's youngest child, Gretchen, had just delivered the valedictory address.

Dr. Ryan is on the front line in battling the problems of drug addiction here in Rio Arriba County, which has the highest rate per capita of deaths to heroin overdoses in the United States. He said, "I'm grateful, of course, that Gretchen and my sons were able to have an excellent Christian education here at McCurdy. But McCurdy isn't primarily for them. It is for Joaquin and Esperanza and Jose. All three of these young people were at risk for gang and drug activity. Yet all of them are headed for college. McCurdy is the major factor in their lives which made this graduation and their futures possible. I'll like to share two of their stories:

*When Esperanza was five, her mother suffered a massive stroke and died. Because her father was abusive and drug addicted, various family members cared for the children. An altercation between Esperanza's father and family members (in the presence of his children) resulted in the seizing a gun from him that resulted in his death. Esperanza came to McCurdy in the second grade. So traumatized was she by her experiences that she was*

*unable to interact with other children. At McCurdy, in a loving*

*Christian environment and with a strong educational program, she flourished. Esperanza went on to become a member of the National Honor Society in high school, where she received excellent scholarships and is on track for a professional program in a good university.*

*Jose is the only member of his family, other than his grandmother with whom he lives, who does not use black tar heroin. He chose to come to McCurdy in middle school, and worked for a cleaning service to pay his share of the tuition. Despite being surrounded by abusive behavior in his early years, Jose came to be known as one of the most considerate, compassionate, and ethical young men in McCurdy's student body. He is grateful for the support and encouragement he received from staff of the school, and he, too, is a member of the National Honor Society and received college scholarships. In addition, Jose has a radiant Christian faith.*

Dr. Ryan is correct. McCurdy is serving children from many walks of life. Please know how thankful I am for the prayers and financial support of United Methodists. You touch the lives of children and young people with the Good News.

You may contribute to the support of the McCurdy School by making a donation. Checks may be written to 'Advance GCFA' and placed in collection plates at United Methodist churches, or mailed directly to 'Advance GCFA' and mail it to Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068. Please note on your check that it is for 'McCurdy School - Advance#581479-2.' Credit card donations may be made by calling (888) 252-6174.

**The Advance for Christ and His Church** is an official program of The United Methodist Church for voluntary, designated financial giving. One hundred percent of your donation goes to the Advance ministry you choose. All Advance administrative and promotional costs are covered by World Service and other funds.

## LUMC FOOD PANTRY

Six months ago, my husband Larry and I came to Livingston Church at a time of change in our lives. I was lost, our children had all grown and moved away, I had recently been laid off from my job and my husband and I were in the mist of struggling with the reality of life threatening illnesses. Life seemed to be complicated and overwhelming. I had read in the Sunday Bulletin about the food pantry. About the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, when leaving the church, I asked if we could help.

The food pantry mission is truly a rewarding experience and a wonderful way to serve all Gods people. As servants of God, we open our joyous hearts. We share our faith in God. We reach out to others and we bring hope to those in need. We give smiles to those in despair, we welcome all of Gods children and we serve with Love in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are many people who dedicate time to prepare every month ensuring that everything runs smoothly. There are many who provide food and funding to help support this wonderful mission and there are many who help serve the days the pantry is open. The fellowship and teamwork are amazing to be a part of.

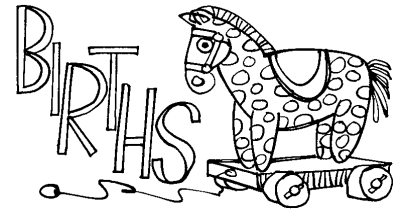
During the last few months, we have reached out to the church and German Village community by providing space for the Community Farm. This mission has helped provide fresh produce over the summer months and has promoted fellowship. During the July, pantry week we were able to share some of the harvest from the garden with those in need. The garden continues to grow and produce. By the Grace of God, we have had wonderful warm weather and rain when needed to produce a bountiful harvest. August food pantry should be overwhelmed with God's gifts.

In addition, we have reached out to share our wonderful mission by asking for help. In July, we were able to share our mission with 6 new servants who have opened their hearts to help those in need. Through the fellowship of the church and community, we have been able to share our experience and love for God. We have been able to make it a rewarding experience for all. It is always great to have more hands working in God's name. New friends have been made and our fellowship is growing. Changes have been made along the way and the rewards are great.

I would personally and in the name of God like to thank the Livingston Church and German Village community for all their efforts and support and for making serving in the name of God so rewarding.

It is truly a blessing, with love and appreciation in my heart,

Megan Delisle  
Food Pantry Volunteer Coordinator



Isabelle Genevieve Jessberger was born Tuesday, June 9. She weighs 8 pounds, 11 ounces and is 22 inches long. She is the first child of Jessie and Dan Jessberger and granddaughter of Jennie Long.

### Livingston Church

Financial Report

**6 MONTHS**

#### General Fund

Expenses	\$85,515
Receipts	<u>\$78,838</u>
Deficit	\$ 6,677

#### Missions

Expenses	\$6,356
Receipts	\$6,581

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

Dan and Jessica Jessburger  
1160 Snohomish Ave.  
Worthington, OH 43085.  
614-355-6383

Brian and Colleen Barta  
1816 Hobbes Dr  
Hilliard, OH 43026  
PH: 614-529-9955

Evelyn Ewing  
2855 Wynridge Dr  
Grove City, OH 43123  
PH: 614-871-1850

Tim and Jen Brizendine  
New phone #614-626-8706

Jim and Patty Duerler

New phone number: 614-594-2513

E-mail address: [jamesduerler1940@wowway.com](mailto:jamesduerler1940@wowway.com)



## Here We Are, Lord: A Journey of the Heart

In a country where we don't think twice about ordering a \$9 hamburger, it's hard to believe a single slice of bologna between two pieces of white bread could mean so much.

Anticipating my third mission trip to Nuevo Progreso, Mexico, I can't help but be humbled – and somewhat ashamed – by all I take for granted as an American. Whether it's free education, indoor plumbing, paved roads, health care accessibility, air conditioning, a front door on my house or a \$9 hamburger.

From August 5-9, I once again will join three of my good Livingston friends on a journey of the heart to Nuevo Progreso, a border town across from McAllen, Texas. With one main, partially paved road through the middle of town, it caters to tourists with cheap souvenirs and street vendors selling everything from goat tacos to the local delicacy of roasted corn slathered with mayonnaise and barbecue sauce.

Colleen and Brian Barta, Meghan O'Grady and I will join 35 others on a medical mission trip sponsored by the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. Most of the team members are doctors, nurses, nursing students, pharmacists and translators.

The team will see about 300 Mexican patients, many of whom don't speak English, in a makeshift clinic that operates for two days out of a hot, dusty church. Whole families, from grandmas to infants, wait patiently, sometimes from early morning until late afternoon, for their only chance at medical care. Free medical care. Without this mission project of the West Ohio Conference, which sends different teams of medical personnel to Nuevo Progreso seven times a year, these people would have no health care.

But Colleen and Brian and Meghan and I are not doctors or nurses. What role could there possibly be for the four of us from Livingston Church on a medical mission team? Why us?

To put it simply: We heard God's call deep in our souls. And we felt a need to answer Him with "Here I am, Lord."

Our role is to serve God by serving the team, which in turn serves the people of Nuevo Progreso.

The team stays at a Methodist Church in McAllen, Texas, where we sleep and eat. We're blessed to have a full kitchen, mattresses to sleep on, laundry facilities and air conditioning.

Colleen, who is going on her seventh trip, is the cook for the team, keeping them well fed after a long day in the clinic. Brian, who is going for the sixth time, does everything from driving patients into town for x-rays to playing with the children as they wait to be examined. Meghan joined the 2008 team and proved invaluable as a translator. And this will be my third trip helping Colleen in the kitchen, preparing breakfast and dinner each day for the 40-member team.

For Colleen and me, who don't work one-on-one with the patients, it's our trips into the rural colonia that make it so rewarding. The colonia is where the people actually live. It's not the part of Nuevo Progreso most tourists see. The houses, though tiny, usually are home to three or four generations of families and are made of whatever's available: corrugated steel, wood, cardboard, mud. If the house has a door, it's likely a piece of brightly colored fabric that flaps in the wind. The lean-to fences delineate property ownership and reign in the children or the chickens or the pigs that live there.

That's where those simple bologna sandwiches become so important. After breakfast each morning, the mission team members lovingly make 300 sandwiches that Colleen and I take over at lunchtime to the patients waiting in the clinic. What's left we distribute throughout the colonia.

That single piece of bologna between two slices of white bread (with a squirt of yellow mustard) brings the prettiest smiles, as it may be people's only meal that day. And that makes us smile, to know we've been able to share God's love in such a simple way.

Back in Texas each evening, the mission team sings and prays and shares the hardships and the joys

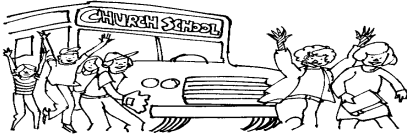
they've seen that day. It was during that devotional time on my first trip when I truly understood the power of the words we sang: "I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."

The people of Nuevo Progreso are in our hearts.

- Denise Russell

Kiger. Your gift will go a long way in a young Rwandan's life.

the church office so we may enter it in the computer.



**Back to School Drive for the United Methodist Free Store**

We are partnering with local neighborhood schools again this year to provide school supplies for all the students at three of the local elementary schools. Clothing for all school age children is appreciated. New underclothes, socks, and uniforms (dark pants and skirts, and white tops) are needed also. School Supply List:

**Kindergarten:**

Jumbo Crayons, Jumbo Pencils, Blunt Scissors.

**All Grades:** Binders, Colored Pencils, Crayons (24 count), Erasers, Folders-3 prong, Glue Sticks, Highlighters, Ink Pens - black and blue, Markers, Notebook Paper, # 2 pencils, Rulers, Spiral Notebooks, Scissors.

A box will be in the narthex through August 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please see Colleen Barta.



Thank you for your generous gift of \$685.00 to the Rwandan scholarship fund started by Nick and Misty



- 08/03 Mercer, Diana
- 08/05 Barta, Colleen  
Doughty, Bryan  
McBride, Caleb
- 08/06 Hayhurst, Becky
- 08/07 Marshall, Joe  
Moore, Craig
- 08/08 Bryant, Norene  
Donnan, Julia  
Staten, Alyssa
- 08/10 Cobb Jr. Thomas
- 08/11 Long, Jennifer  
Johnson, Lori
- 08/14 Perkins, David
- 08/15 Sturgill, Debbie
- 08/19 Roadcap, Gerald
- 08/21 Brizendine. Jim
- 08/24 Cooper, Mckaila  
Lewis, Nina
- 08/27 Wills, Rosemary  
Clouse, Karen

Missionary birthdays:  
8/17 Steve Henry  
8/19 Philip Hicks

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**



- 08/08  
Craig/Nelina Moore
- 08/16  
Terry/Angela Whitt
- 08/17  
Tony/Kim Giles

If your birthday or anniversary isn't included in the newsletter, please notify



**Friday, August 21**, we will go to the National Air Force Museum in Dayton. We'll leave the church at 8:30 AM. You will have the option of attending an IMAX movie:

*The Magic of Flight @1 PM, Space Station @11 AM or Fighter Pilot @12 noon (Seniors \$6 or \$11 for 2 movies)*

or

touring the Presidential Aircraft and Research Development Flight Test Hangars including the museum's collection of Presidential aircraft. We must sign-up up for this tour as soon as we arrive. A government issued ID is required. We will eat lunch in the café there.

**Spirit of America  
Nationwide Arena  
Friday, September 18  
9:00 AM**

The history of our nation will come to life as more than 300 active duty Soldiers from the United States Army Military District of Washington perform historical reenactments, musical entertainment and precision military drill live and on stage at Nationwide Arena, Center. Historical accounts, taken directly from Soldiers' letters and diaries, provide the story lines for a powerful drama designed to entertain while encouraging all citizens to reflect on how history relates to them today.

Since 1975, Spirit of America has informed, entertained and inspired citizens of all ages, presenting the history and development of the U.S. Army from its very origins through the

wars, conflicts, and missions that have molded the Army and the nation.

We have 20 seats reserved. Admission is FREE. Please sign up now with Sarah

Miller if you would like to join us. We leave the church at 9 AM.

Please give ideas for future trips to Sarah Miller or e-mail to Jane at lumc2@juno.com.