

# The Livingston Letter

OCTOBER 2007



## Living with Doubt

When I invited the church to share their greatest questions about faith, one concern dominated all the responses. That concern is Doubt: How do we grow through the uncertainties of faith.

One member asked the question, "Jim, am I a bad person because I sometimes question God's goodness, and at times, I question God's existence?" Another asked, "Have I lost my faith because I question the truth of the Bible?" I believe honest doubt stretches our faith. Doubt can be a powerful faith builder.

Have you ever felt like the author of this lament to God:

*"Lord, my God, who am I that You should forsake me? The Child of Your Love, and now become as the most hated one, the one, You have thrown away as unwanted, unloved."*

Those could have been my words, but they are not. I have not felt God's healing love all the time. Mother Teresa wrote that heartfelt prayer to God early in her ministry. If a Godly woman like Mother Teresa had doubts about her relationship with God throughout her life, what does that say to us? Until we see God, we will have doubts and be like the man who begged Jesus to heal his demon possessed son. Jesus asked him if he had faith in Jesus, the father said, "Jesus, I believe, help me overcome my unbelief." (Mark 9:24)

Friends, Jesus wants us to come to Him by faith with our doubts and uncertainties.

Be strong and courageous!

Jim



**OSU/Penn State  
Church Gate Party  
Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m.**

Invite your FRANs to Livingston to watch the OSU/Penn State night game on a REALLY big screen. The game will be project outside on the west side of the building. This is one way Livingston is making its presence known in the community. Please come and be a witness for Jesus Christ to our FRANs.

## Blessing of Pets Sunday, October 28 at Schiller Park

If you would like to have your beloved pet blessed come to Schiller Park in German Village Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Pastor Jim and Pastor Mary Kay Carter will bless the pets.



**Fall Jazz Vespers  
Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.**

The Eileen Howard Trio will play for our Fall Jazz Vespers Service. Eileen will sing jazz standards plus favorite gospel songs backed up by a first class trio. This is another opportunity for you to invite your FRANs to Livingston.

## Consecration Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>

Our 2008 Annual Stewardship Program will begin October 21<sup>st</sup> and we will receive our Discipleship Promise card November 11<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Jim's three part stewardship series this year is called "Money Matters".

10/21 "Livings Debt Free"

11/4 "Living with Financial Discipline"

11/11 "Living with More than Enough"

May the Lord richly bless you as you richly give to the church's ministry now and in 2008.

## "Bag of Blessing"

"Bag of Blessing" groceries for the Food Pantry. We have a new opportunity for you to support our Food Pantry ministry. We're inviting Livingston people to take home a specially designed canvas tote bag with a suggested Food Pantry grocery list. When the bag is full, please return it to the church and our Bag of Blessing coordinator, Pat Livingston, will receive it. To take a Bag of Blessing, see Pat after worship in the Narthex.

Livingston Tote Bags may be purchased for \$10.00 for your personal use. The proceeds go to the Food Pantry ministry.

*Church Conference  
Sunday, October 14  
3:00 PM  
at Grove City UMC*

## MEN'S GROUP

All Livingston men and their FRANS (Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors) are invited to check out the Men's Group. We'll meet on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at Frankie's Café, 3096 Southwest Blvd. Grove City. If you have any questions, ask Buzz Thomas, Glenn Rogers, Jerry Roadcap or Pastor Jim.

## CROP WALK

The Crop Walk will be Sunday, October 14, starting at noon. Please join Colleen Barta on this walk to raise money for world hunger. Last year Franklin County raised \$69,000. The goal this year is \$75,000. Please see Colleen if you are interested in walking and raising money for this great event. Her goal for Livingston Church is to raise \$1000.



Please remember in prayer the family of Bob Ralston who died September 15. Also Tom Cobb and his family in the death of his cousin, Sherry Bolin.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee will meet Monday, Oct. 22, 6:15 PM.

Administrative Council meeting Monday, October 22, 7:00 PM.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Weekly :

**Sunday:** Sunday School 9 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Youth Fellowship 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday:** Bringing to the Light  
Prayer Group 7:00 p.m.  
**Thursday:**  
Bell Choir rehearsal 6:15  
Chancel Choir, 7:15 p.m.

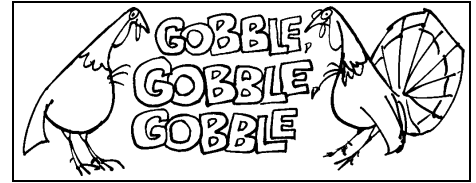
10/10 Men's Group, 6 p.m.  
10/14 CROP WALK, noon  
Church Conference, 3 PM  
10/17 Mid-Ohio Food pick-up  
10/18 Van Goes - Hocking Hills  
Worship Comm. 6:15 PM  
10/24 Men's Group, 6:00 p.m.  
10/21 Stewardship Drive begins  
Columbus Marathon  
10/22 SPRC, 6:15 PM  
Ad Council, 7 PM  
10/23 Food Pantry, 10-12  
10/24 Men's Group, 6 p.m.  
10/25 Food Pantry, 10-12  
10/27 Food Pantry, 10-12  
OSU vs PENN ST., 8 PM  
10/28 Blessing of Pets, Shiller Pk.  
Fall Vespers Service, 6 PM  
Faith Mission meal served



10/03 CULVER, CHARLES  
10/05 CREMEANS, MIRA  
10/07 SHAW, CYNTHIA  
10/08 MILLER, SARAH  
10/09 BURKHART, LINDA  
10/12 GILHAUSEN STEFFANIE  
10/16 JOHNSON, WILLIAM  
10/17 DONNAN, KATIE  
10/17 CLEAR, HEATHER  
10/18 MERRITT, JENNIFER  
10/18 WEBER< MIKE  
10/23 CARTE, EMILY  
10/25 BAILEY, CATHERINE  
10/26 STUBBINS, GRANT  
10/28 HODNETT, NICHOLAS  
10/29 REEDY, BRUCE

## Happy Anniversary

10/04 GORDON/BECKY EVANS  
10/07 BRIAN/COLLEEN BARTA  
10/16 DARRIN/MICHELLE WOLFE



Monetary donations are being accepted to purchase roasting chickens and/or turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas for the Food pantry patrons. You may give your donations to Ginny Clear or Kim Giles.



**MANY THANKS to  
Jim Donnan and, his  
secretary, and the appropriate  
Livingston UMC Committees**

It is with deep appreciation that I thank each of you for your efforts in bringing the Marion E. Brown Scholarship to life there in the Livingston United Methodist Church. I wish the enclosed check were larger, but for the beginning this is what I am able to do.

Mardy



**End of  
Daylight  
Savings...  
FALL BACK!**

**November 4**

Set your clocks back one hour.



## MILLER FAMILY TANZANIA....HERE WE COME!

*Our house is sold, our bags are packed (kind of), our tickets have been purchased and we are preparing ourselves and the kids for departure on September 26<sup>th</sup>. There is an exciting spirit of chaos in the air as we do last minute packing and purging of our possessions...*

We could not have made it to this point in our journey abroad without the many prayer and financial supporters we have. God has blessed us with you all, an amazing network of family and friends, who have supported us and spoken into our lives. We have always tried to follow the path God leads us on. Whether here in Columbus, Pittsburgh for graduate school or the Navajo Nation in Arizona, each of you has helped to play a part in getting us to where we are headed, the next phase of our journey....Tanzania.

**God has been near us amidst the many preparations and distractions of the last year. We recognize that any effectiveness we experience in Tanzania can only be attributed to God's faithfulness.**

### PRAYER NEEDS:

The stats: We have raised 65% of our goal for monthly support. Although this is great, we are praying for another \$1300 in monthly support. Continue to pray.

Smooth travel, good transition and health for the kids, locating housing, language learning (Kiswahili), safety, finances.

Ben and Melissa Miller

Website:

Web.mac.com/benmelmiller  
email: benmelmiller@mac.com

### Steve and Donna Henry write:

September is upon us with its seasonal changes, schedule of seminars and school. With thankful hearts we are glad to share that Laura is managing quite nicely with her life of classes at OCU and working at Gibson's restaurant. She still struggles, as we, with some of the 'ways' of Americans, it seems it is taking us all longer this time to adapt into living here. Laura is a fully licensed driver and loves being the one behind the wheel!

Steve and I are at WGM Headquarters in Marian, Indiana, for a week of seminars. We ask your prayers that we could absorb and benefit from these. We are enjoying the cooling down in the evenings and even when it rains.

Robert along with his Unit are still in Afghanistan flying Chinook helicopters on daily and nightly missions. Thank you for your prayers for them all to remain safe while their term of one year of overseas service comes to an end. Hopefully we will see Robert return to the USA in October.

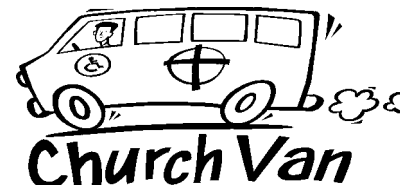
Steve and Donna Henry



## CAMPBELL LABELS

**Reminder** - turn in Campbell's UPC codes from soup cans and other Campbell products such as Pepperidge Farm, Prego, V8, Swanson, Market Day, Franco American. See Brenda Ewing for more details. Labels help support the Navajo Indian mission work.

If you have any questions, please see Brenda Ewing.



The "Van Goes" (our adult adventure travel group) takes a short day trip each month. You may join us on any event by making a reservation with Sarah Miller at 224-2006. You are responsible for your own admission fee, food and we donate \$5 towards the expense of the church van.

Check out the pictures of the Governor's mansion on the bulletin board in the north hallway. We had a wonderful tour there on September 18.

**October 18** - See the beautiful fall colors in the Hocking Hills. Lunch will be at Ravenswood Castle. Leave the church at 10:30 AM. Reservations are needed for lunch. Please sign-up with Sarah Miller.

**November 14** - Our annual trip to LaComedia Dinner Theatre in Springboro to see Irving Berlin's **White Christmas**. We'll leave from the church at 9 AM. Tickets are \$46 and must be ordered soon.

**JOIN US ON THIS MONTH.**

## Remembering Educators who have shaped our lives.

Many of us found mentors who shaped our lives right here at Livingston.

Lydia Klotz was the wife of Dr. Emil Klotz who was pastor from 1935-1955.

Audrey Mumford and her husband, Porter, were very active in the church many years ago. Audrey was a Sunday School teacher for a number of years.

Roberta Kessler was a dedicated teacher in and outside of Livingston.

Patty Duerler writes: "Roberta Kessler, Youth Counselor at Livingston. My junior year at OSU I was a fairly new Christian and a political zealot majoring in political science. I wanted to change the world. Roberta invited me to observe her first grade class. At the end of the day I had a new direction for my passion - become a teacher and change the world one student at a time."

Nina Lewis writes: Lydia Klotz, Sunday School teacher, talked to me about receiving Jesus. She prayed earnestly for her class members. She followed up and gave me her companionship when I was a new Christians.

Sylvia McQueen writes: "Evangeline stalker was a great help in my spiritual life. She was a real special person in my life."

Rosemary Wills writes: "Audrey Mumford, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School, was a Christian teacher who taught me how to live a better Christian life with God's help."

We'll continue sharing your responses in future newsletters.

## LAY SPEAKER OPPORTUNITIES

The Capitol Area South District will offer two lay speaker opportunities during the weekend of **October 26-27**. The training sessions will be held at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 6389 Blacklick-Eastern Rd (Rt. 204), Pickerington, OH 43147. The following sessions will be offered:

### Basic Lay Speaker Training

This introductory class is the required class for all persons who want to enter the ministry of lay speaking. Upon completion of the class, the participant is eligible to become a Local Church Lay Speaker. Approval of the pastor of the participant's church and the charge conference or church council of the local church is also required for one to become a Local Church Lay Speaker.

### Advanced Lay Speaking Class

Those who are Local Church or Certified Lay Speakers may take the Advanced Class that will be offered. The advanced class is entitled "Justice in Everyday Life". In this class, participants will discover the power of inspiring others to a deeper commitment to Christ and to more faithful discipleship. Modeled after the callings of the United Methodist Social Principles, this course delves into existing issues surrounding matters of faith and practices. *Justice in Everyday Life* encourages lay speakers to thoughtfully and candidly examine the Social Principles. In this course, participants will learn how to expand a network of support, deepen the practice of means of grace, understand, form and nurture partnerships, create a climate of hospitality.

Classes will meet on Friday, October 26 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM

and on Saturday, October 27, from 8:30 to 4:30 PM. Students are **required** to attend both Friday and Saturday classes to receive certification for the course.

Cost for either class is \$30.00 per person to cover the expense of materials and refreshments. To register for the class, complete the appropriate section on the attached registration form.

The registration deadline is October 15. Upon receipt of registration, materials, homework, assignments, and directions to the church will be sent to participants. Homework assignments are expected to be completed prior to the weekend of the class.

*To continue in the ministry of lay speaking, all lay speakers are expected to take a refresher/advanced class once every three years.*



**We love who Jesus loves.**

Sunday School 9 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

200 E. Livingston Ave.

Columbus, OH 43215

Church Phone: 224-2006,

FAX 224-8175

Pastor: Rev. James Donnan

Parsonage: 235-6156

Cell phone: 313-1482

e-mail: JimDonnan@wideopenwest.com

Church e-mail lumc2@juno.com

Secretary: Jane Runkle

Music Director/Organist

Danny Russell

Choir Director: Ed Ewing

Bell Choir: Jennifer Staten

Praise Song Leader: Karen Clouse

Sound Tech Chm: Bruce Reedy

Pastor Emeritus: Roland Perkins