

The Livingston Letter

WE LOVE WHO JESUS LOVES

DECEMBER 2008



"God with Us"

Do you ever rant at the radio? Early in November, I walked into the office and our always helpful secretary, Jane Runkle, had her radio tuned to 93.3 FM and the music was softly wafting through her work space. Then I heard him! On November 4th I heard Burl Ives singing "Holly Jolly Christmas" and I started my holiday rant. I don't want to listen to Burl, or Alvin and the Chipmunks before Advent. Yep, I'm a scrooge when it comes to honey sweet holiday songs.

I'm a scrooge because the secular holiday songs have zero to do with the birth of Jesus our Savior. I can handle the Madison Avenue push to go shopping once December hits, but fueling the buying blitz in early November is too much for me.

The birth of Jesus is so precious to me. Why? Jesus' birth was foretold by the prophet who wrote "*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel – which means, 'God with us.'*" Matthew 1:22-23.

Immanuel means "God with us." Our Savior Jesus is with us. He's not a bystander, but is truly with us in every part of our lives. We are all going through the most devastating economic crises since the Great Depression. Our jobs are no longer secure. When we're laid off, our health care insurance evaporates. Our 401K's are now 101K's! Friends, in the midst of this horrific economic storm, you need to remember that Immanuel is with us. He's with us in this financial storm and in every storm of life.

So during Advent 2008, please remember that whatever storm you're in, Immanuel is with you. And if Burl Ives cheers your spirit in December then please forgive me for my ranting. Have a holly jolly Christmas!

Affectionately,

Jim



Do you know what the word Advent means?

In the Christian Church, the Advent season is the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Advent means the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. The word "adventure" is a descriptive noun derived from Advent.

How are we going to prepare for the coming of Christ into our world?

Our Adventure season begins Sunday morning, November 30th. Our Advent devotional, "Living in Hope", is written by Henri Nouwen and will be available in the literature rack. Pastor Jim's message will be "Dreaming of a White Christmas".

Later that evening, at 5 PM, our Hanging of the Greens service will begin. A variety of members will tell us about their favorite Christmas tradition. Dee Keller will lead the singing. A delicious potluck meal will follow at 6 PM. Please bring two side dishes to share. The main course will be provided.



second sunday of advent

On December 7, Pastor Jim's message will be "Sleigh Bells Ring". Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" preview will be shown at 9:00 AM and after worship in the chapel.

If you can't attend morning worship, join us at 5 PM for our new evening worship gathering "Encounter" in the remodeled Chapel.

At 7 PM, Jennifer Brizendine and the Celebration Ringers will play at Caterina LTD on Third St., in German Village, during the "Village Lights" event. The church van will provide transportation throughout German Village for all who want to experience the enchanted evening.



third sunday of advent

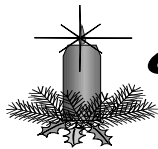
The third Sunday of Advent will be December 14. Pastor Jim's message will be "Home for Christmas".

The Christmas gifts donated to the Free Store Christmas shop will be dedicated at that time.



fourth sunday of advent

December 21, will be the fourth Sunday of Advent. Our Chancel Choir will present a Christmas Cantata.



Candlelight Service

On Christmas Eve, December 24, we will lift high the birth of our Savior at 6 PM for our Candlelight Service. Our youth group will be involved in the evening service.



Merry Christmas

On Sunday, December 28th, Pastor Jim's message will be "Three Really Smart Guys and a Star".

Don't let the adventure of Advent pass you by this year. Adventures are a lot more fun when you bring a friend along. So invite a friend to worship this Advent season.



The Men's Group will meet on Wednesday, December 10, at 6:00 PM at Subway on S. High and Greenlawn. We'll continue our discussion based on John Wesley's writings. All men are encouraged to stop by for good food and fellowship. No meeting on December 24, Christmas Eve. Questions? See Pastor Jim.

Come and Worship



Ed Ewing along with Lee & Sadler Ministries invite you to share with them "An Evening in December" on Friday, December 12, 7:00 PM, here at the church. It will be an evening of assorted Christmas music and a short message. Refreshments after the service



Heart to Heart, the Women's Group, will meet Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 PM, for a "Ladies Night Out". Call Sue Leatherman for details.



General Fund Budget

10 Months Expenses	\$148,874
10 Month Receipts	\$124,623

Missions

10 month Expenses	\$11,008
Receipts	\$10,644



The Free Store Christmas Shop

The Christmas Shop has been the Free Store's largest single venture during the past four years. Through Livingston's past generosity, the Free Store has provided new clothing and toys to make a more joyful Christmas for many children.

The Free Store Christmas Shop will be held on **Saturday, December 20th at the Church for All People**. This delightful holiday party provides low-income families an opportunity to select, free of charge, toys and clothing for each of their children. After making the selections, the parents will join with volunteers in wrapping gifts, singing carols, and celebrating the joy of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.

Please be generous this year and bring your toys, clothes, or money on **Sunday, December 7 and 14th** so we can deliver the items to Washington Ave church. Our **Colleen Barta** is coordinating the volunteer opportunities for the Christmas Shop. If you or your class would like to serve in some way, give Colleen a call at **(614)529-9955**.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Gavin Stubbins
1389 S. 3rd St
Columbus, Oh 43207

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Cook
Gabbie and Alesia
6506 Patriot Drive
Orient, OH 43146



Special Friends

Again this year, gift bags will be prepared for our Church family who for may not be able to be present in worship with us.

Items needed are postage stamps, combs, hairbrushes, note cards, ink pens, toothpaste, bath powder, homemade cookies and candies or any items that you think a person will use.

All donations should be brought to the church by December 7, for delivery on the December 14.

Volunteers are needed to help deliver these items. To volunteer, see Julie Rogers or call her at 443-9841.

McCurdy School writes....

Thank you for your faithful support of McCurdy School through the Campbell's and Box Tops for Education Programs. Thank you for remembering our school. Blessing to you from McCurdy.

Campbell labels donated by Livingston Church:

375 one point labels

51 five point labels

5 lids

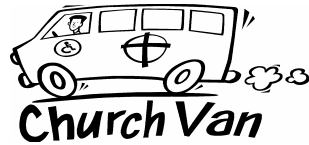
And

24 Box Tops for Education

Good job Livingston folks. Remember to keep turning in the Campbell, Franco American, Swanson, Prego, and Market Day UPC codes plus lids from some products.

Please check the list by Campbell's can in narthex for all acceptable items.

Brenda Ewing, coordinator



The Van Goes

December 12 – 9:45 AM we will leave the church and travel to Lebanon for lunch at the Golden Lamb.

Looking ahead to 2009:

Ohio Supreme Court House

Rockwell's America at the Ohio Historical Center

Ohio's Murphin Ridge Inn, West Union, Ohio in Adams County, (Anyone interested in spending a couple nights?)

Suggestions always welcome.

Don't forget to sign up for all the trips with Sarah Miller as soon as possible.



Soon we will be celebrating Christmas and the New Year. This is good time for us to remember our homebound members and those who have moved away. Why don't you drop them a line or two.

Mrs. Evelyn Ewing
3052 Mulberry Ct.
Grove City, 43123

Mrs. Thelma Highfield
Logan Elm Health Center
370 Tarlton Rd
Circleville, OH 43113

Antoinette Jones
300 E. Rich St., #1206, 43215

Phyllis Leach
2949A Addison Drive

Grove City, OH 43123

Mrs. Frances Moffitt,
4211 E. Broad St. #208, 43213

Rev. Roland Perkins
21770 Ringgold Rd
Circleville, OH 43113-9236.

Eileen Hoover
202 River Oak Circle, #21
Mills River, NC 28759

If you know of someone else who should be included in this list, please contact the church office, 224-2006.



Financial Peace University Begins on January 7th

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 December 7 at 9:00 AM and at 11:30 AM in the Chapel.



Men's Winter Retreat

Mark off Thursday, January 29th through February 1st, so you can join us in northern Michigan for our annual retreat. We'll leave early Thursday morning and

return Sunday afternoon. We'll eat like kings, play hard on our snow gear, and grow closer to Jesus.



12/01 HIGHFIELD, THELMA
COOK, GABBY
12/02 DONNAN, JAMES
BAILEY, LAUREN
12/04 O'GRADY, BONNIE
12/06 MORTON, SUSAN
12/09 BAILEY, JACOB
12/10 HOOVER. EILEEN
12/11 O'GRADY, KEVIN
12/14 COOPER, SAMANTHA
12/21 STEFFENS, WALTER
12/22 JOHNSON, ETHAN
12/26 MILLER. CHRISTINA
12/30 WOLFE, DARRIN
12/31 ARCHER. BARBARA

MISSIONARY BIRTHDAYS:

12/12 Neil Hicks
12/18 Jonah Miller
12/19 Laura Henry
12/20 Brian O'Herin



Weekly

Sunday:

Sunday School 9 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Encounter Evening Worship
Gathering, 5 PM
Youth Fellowship 6:00-7:30

Tuesday:

Bringing to the Light
Prayer Group 6:45 PM

Wednesday:

Weight Watchers, 6 PM

7 Second Sunday of Advent
Village Lights
10 Men's Group , 6 PM
12 Van Goes to Lebanon
"An Evening in
December", 7 PM
14 Third Sunday of Advent
17 Heart to Heart, 6:30 PM
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

24 Candlelight Service

"I Voted Today"

After the historic November 4th election of our nation's first African American president, I received this essay from Buzz Thomas. I was moved to tears while reading it. I asked him if I could share it with all of you. He graciously said "Yes."

Thank you, Buzz, for this.

I Voted Today

I voted today. The act in and of itself is not unusual for me. I consider voting a right, a privilege, and a responsibility of citizenship. It is among the most fervently held tenets of my belief system.

But today was different. I entered the voting booth and as the screen displayed the candidates for president of the United States, I paused. There before me was a new reality. I was not only going to get to vote for the person I thought was best qualified, but that person happened to be a person of color.

I touched the screen and I was overcome by emotion. I started to cry. Events in my life were coursing through my consciousness at breakneck speed.

I thought of the lady who poisoned my dog when I was 4 years old to send a message to my family. I lived with my grandmother at the time and we were the only black family on the block. She couldn't make me understand why this had happened. She cried with me.

I thought of my mother's frustration as she tried to tell me why I couldn't swim in a particular pool. I remember she became angry when I didn't understand. I know now that her anger was born of a helplessness to change a discriminatory situation that affected her child.

I thought of the first time colored people were allowed to go to the Palace Theater to watch a movie.

I thought of being called a jungle bunny and a jigaboo and of course the n word.

I thought of being a freshman at Capital University and encountering a young man who was from southern Ohio and had never spoken to a black person. His parents told him black people had tails. He wanted to know if it was true.

I thought of being in the military in 1972 in Cape Hatteras North Carolina. A group of us were at a restaurant and the owner said he would admit everyone but the 'darkie'.

I thought of the times I've been stopped for driving while black.

I thought of my mother and my stepfather, my grandmother and my father. People who encouraged me to be the best I could be regardless of circumstances. They reaffirmed my humanity in the face of racial adversity. They taught me not to lower myself to the level of those who would abase me but to hold my head high and be proud of who and what I was. How I wish they could have seen this day.

I have always been proud to be an American. Today I was proud of America.

I voted today. I hope you did too.

Buzz Thomas



Christmas Tree Miracles

Each year Livingston Church responds generously to our Christmas Tree projects. Instead of sending cards we choose a mission need. The money that would be spent on cards and postage to friends at Livingston is donated to the project. Cards and names are posted. This year this spirit-filled tradition is continued. Proceeds will go to the country of Haiti where our missionaries Matt and Stacey Ayars serve. The United Methodist Church reports: "Four successive catastrophic storms have torn through Haiti in less than a month. Hundreds of deaths and extensive flooding have been reported and thousands of homes and livelihoods have been destroyed. In a country with limited resources and widespread poverty, more than 650,000 people are left especially vulnerable because of the storms." A number of Livingston members have gone on mission trips to Haiti and know firsthand: living conditions are poor but the people are always smiling and thankful for what is given to them. Keep the Christmas Tree tradition alive - pray for Haiti and its people - and give generously! May the Lord grant you His wonderful peace this Christmas season



New Year's Resolutions

I think that I shall resolve not to resolve,
Then there'll be nothing for me to break –
Other years, as I recall,
Long lists were made,
And one by one, I broke them all.
To promise might be unwise;
Were I to fail
I'd hurt nobody but me.
Could be that I've grown lazy
With advancing years
Or lesser time to sit and think
About making resolutions
New Year's first day
When I'm tired from the year now gone!
I think I shall try to make it
From day to day,
And resolve, as I go along,
To do a little better,
Lord, if you'll help,
And forgive when I do things wrong.

LIVINGSTON CHURCH

We love who Jesus Loves

Sunday School 9 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Encounter Worship, 5 PM

200 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, OH

Phone: 224-2006

FAX 224-

8175

Church e-mail lumc2@juno.com

Pastor: Rev. James Donnan

Parsonage: 235-6156, 237-6254,

jdonnan2003@yahoo.com

www.livingstonUMC.com

Pastor Emeritus: Roland Perkins

Secretary: Jane Runkle
 Music Director/Organist: Danny Russell
 Choir Director: Ed Ewing
 Bell Choir: Jen Brizendine
 Praise Song Leader: Karen Clouse
 Youth Ministries: Nick Kiger
 Encounter Worship leader: Dee Keller
 Sound Technicians: Bruce Reedy,
 Jim Brizendine, Megan Widney,
 Tony Giles, Libby Giles,
 Alyssa Staten

A DONKEY, LLAMAS, AND SHEEP BRING THE CHRISTMAS STORY TO LIFE IN TWO DOWNTOWN CHURCHES

WHAT: *The Wise Still Seek Him: A Celebration of the Christmas Story* – a unique presentation of the Christmas Story, provided through the collaboration of two local churches together with other community resources.

The program includes live animals walking down church aisles - a donkey, llamas and sheep and a cast of over 100 of performers -- actors, dancers, chorus and musicians including Teiko Drums and organ. Free refreshments after the pageant.

WHEN and WHERE:

Sunday, December 7 1 PM. First English Lutheran Church
 1015 East Main St. 43205

Live nativity and caroling with the Alliance Chorus
 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Saturday, December 13 5 PM. Trinity Lutheran Church
 404 S. 3rd St. 43215

A live nativity on 3rd Street 4:30 PM

COST: FREE to the public

VISUALS: Christmas story with live animals including Mary riding a donkey and participants in colorful costumes

WEBSITE: www.oldtrinity.com/pageant

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A camel, llamas, a donkey and sheep are just a part of the cast that will present the Christmas Story in a way you've never experienced it before.

This Advent season, *The Wise Still Seek Him: A Celebration of the Christmas Story* bring together many local resources – singers, actors, dancers and musicians, including Teiko drummers ... along with live animals ... to present a memorable and meaningful holiday message.

First English Lutheran Church member Todd Adam Decker wrote the original score, which is based on the Biblical books of Matthew and Luke. "It is just fantastic to experience it all coming together. The entire community gets involved in the production," said Decker.

The performers include all ages, ethnic and economic backgrounds. Children from the neighborhoods join in the dancing. The chorus members are drawn from the two congregations, other area churches as well as local schools, and the community. Dressed in authentic costume, Mary rides on a donkey down the church aisle which is strewn with straw.

The pageant will be presented free of charge on two occasions and locations.

"Everyone is welcome," said Bob Ward, pastor of First English. "The animals bring the story to life, especially for the children. It's a very special opportunity for all to come together for a celebration of hope and healing."

Originally created at First English in 2006, this is the 2nd year for Trinity Lutheran.

First English, located in one of Columbus' poorer neighborhoods,

initially proposed the pageant as a project that would bring the neighborhood together and involve children in constructive activity. The churches rely on the generosity of local families and businesses to help produce the pageant.

"This is an inspiring Advent celebration," added Denise Edwards, pastor at Trinity Lutheran. "We are excited about expanding the opportunity for the wider community to experience this story of Jesus' birth. Just be watching for the donkey and sheep on the church steps on Third Street!"

