

# The Livingston Lamplighter

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May 19, 2019  
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## Coming Home Doesn't Have To Be So Hard

By: Jon Ledbetter

He steps over the threshold with a load of money in his bag bound for a far away country. Never thinking twice about the blessings that surrounded him in the home he was leaving, he searches for happiness in another way of life. With his large inheritance, friends weren't hard to find. Where the money seemed to go, we can't know for sure. Was it partying, drinking, drugs, prostitutes, luxury or all of the above? Whatever it was, the money was soon spent and the "friends" start to disappear. Refusing to give up the imagined pleasures of this far away country, he works a lowly job of feeding swine. Soon after the feelings of starvation begin to arise, he gazes at the trough where the swine were feeding. Before making his fill, his eyes begin to see clearly the situation he has put himself in. He thinks of home and how he wouldn't be welcome there anymore. He hopes his Father will be compassionate enough to make him a servant. After his long journey, his Father's house is in view. What he finds is not resentment but forgiveness and love. (Luke 15).

Though we have heard sermon after sermon on this beloved parable, we still have so many questions that simply can't be answered.

"Why did the son want to leave his Father's house?"

"Where was the far away country?"

"How long was he gone?"

"What all did he spend his inheritance on?"

All are interesting questions to ponder, but what about the question, "Why did it take him so long to come home?" Probably the same reason it often takes us so long to come home to God after suffering in the far away country of sinful living. There is fear of resentment, unworthiness, rejection, not being forgiven, being unwelcome and judgment. But in reality, when we come home, there is nothing but joy, rejoicing and gladness. (Luke 15:7, 10, 32) Because we have a loving God, coming home doesn't have to be so hard.



### Elders

Dale Flatt 823-5477  
Philip Gunter 823-6717

### Deacons

Dale Mabry 823-7177  
Buckie Parsons 498-2266  
Jason Brown 823-0823  
Ralph McDonald 823-4107

### Treasurer

Rusty Robbins 823-2764

### Minister

Jon Ledbetter  
931-214-2121

### Radio Broadcasts WLIV 920 AM or wlvradio.com

Sunday: Worship service 10:00 a.m.  
Thursday: Sowing the Seed 8:15 a.m.

### Church Office

Tuesday-Friday (8:00-1:00)

### Works Supported

Latin American Missions  
Happy Haven Children's Home  
Florida School of Preaching  
Joey Treat- South Pacific Islands  
International Bible Teaching Ministries

### Weekly Record:

Sunday School 97  
Worship 169  
PM Worship 86  
Wed Bible Study 70  
Contribution \$3859

*Welcome Visitors! Please fill out a visitor's card for our record of your visit.*

### **Family and Friends—Prayers**

Judy Boles' husband, Glen, is home but remains very sick.

### **Nursing Homes**

#### **OCNH**

George Cannon—Doug Cannon's brother  
Linda Hagood-Requests visits, room 262  
Glen Webb-Susan Ashburn's father

### **Shut-In**

Geraldine Cannon     Ina Poston  
Doretha Flowers     Winnie Worley  
Marie Pryor             Terry Neal  
Bobbie Sells

Remember the spouses/caregivers of our shut-in and let them know we remember them also.

### **HISTORY**

The Livingston church of Christ was organized in June 1847, meeting in private homes. On Jan. 7, 1848, Joseph Goodbar donated and deeded lot #90 on W. Broad St., Livingston, TN to elders William Allen, Thompson R. Groce and Thompson Cash and their successors for a place of worship. On this lot was constructed a log building with an open fireplace in one side for heating the building in winter. This building was used by the church of Christ as a place of worship until the Civil War (1861-1865). It was burned down in 1863 by the Union army because the church had allowed the Confederate Army to use the building for a hospital. The congregation was strong in faith and continued worship in private homes. Livingston. (Continued on Page 3)

### **BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **May**

19-Ellex Barlow  
19- Emily England  
19- Chris Gore

### **We Continue to Remember ...**

*(Names in **Bold print** are Livingston members)*

**Leon & Reba Flatt, Leigh Smith, Marlene Colbert, Earl Carr, Kay Thomas, Evelyn Brown, Trisha Wilson, Linda Mahaney, Diana Webb, Barbara Carwile, Jewel Turner, Dale Flatt, Geraldine Cannon, Mary Helen Apple, Jim Sells**

Vivian Walker, Ray & Bea Taylor, Randall (Bear) Mathis, Addie Underhill, Bobby Coley, Glen Williams, Betty Southerland, Bobby Smith, Glenard Hogue, Riley Boles, Scott Bilbrey, Mandy Lay, Rita Hargis, Joyce Ramsey, Ed Meadows, Bobby Dale, Leann Duke, Ralph Sells, Gail Duke, Phyllis Duke, Gary Walker, Kathy Sullivan, Cindy Martin, Rose Collins, Dallas Sullivan, Jonathan Fisher, Laurie Stanley, Jean Keller, Scott Mullins, Shirley Key, John Smith, Jr., Denise Gross, Chris Ashlock, Clint Cannon, Bob Roberson, Edie Williams, Rita Martin, Logan Hargis, Ben Walker, Thelma Gore, Reed Thomas, Jane Wilmoth, Kathy Craft, O. D. Colson, Allan Terry, Matthew, Gracie, Lyon and Zach Hogue, Glen Boles

### **Prayer Requests**

Judy Boles asks that we remember her husband, Glen, in our prayers at this time and also, Judy needs our prayers and encouragement as his caregiver and the toll it takes on her.



Copies of more Livingston church of Christ history in foyer.

**SUNDAY:**

**Bible School:**  
Song Director: Joel Upton  
First Prayer: Ralph McDonald

**A.M. Worship:**  
Song Director: Joel Upton  
First Prayer: Larry Worley

**Scripture Reading:** Daniel Flatt

**Lord's Supper:** Presiding: Ralph McDonald

Serve	Doug Cannon	Henry Colbert
	Bobby Byers	Clay McDonald
	Jason Brown	Tim Gray
	Dale Mabry	Will Brown

**(Please meet in the library before service begins)**

**Announcements:** Charles Anderson

**Dismissal Prayer:** Phil Gunter

**Count Contribution:** Daniel Flatt  
 Jerry Lancaster  
 Doug Riggins

**Communion Ware:** Vicki White  
 Patricia Wilson

**Bus Driver:** Connie Brown

**P.M. Worship:**  
Song Director: Joel Upton  
First Prayer: Josh Cantrell  
Read Scripture: Doug Riggins  
Lord's Supper: David Webb  
Dismissal Prayer: Will Brown

**WEDNESDAY**

Song Director: Joel Upton  
First Prayer: Dale Flatt  
Dismissal Prayer: Clay McDonald

**GREETERS-** Ralph and Jogenna McDonald  
 (Please give all visitors a Visitor's Packet)

**BUILDING LOCK-UP** Dale Flatt  
 Dale Mabry

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
 Bible School 9:00 am  
 Worship 10:00 am  
 Evening Worship 6:00 pm

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**  
 Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

A Weekly publication of the Livingston Church of Christ

*Livingston Church of Christ*  
 215 East Main St.  
 Livingston, TN 38570  
 Return Service Requested

**MAY CALENDAR**

18-Spring Cleaning of buildings  
 19-Homecoming Service  
 19-Graduates recognized after morning service  
 26-Fourth Sunday singing Free Communion

**VBS-Walnut Grove** May 19-23. Jon will be speaking in the adult class Thurs. Eric Collins will be teaching the teen class.

***Our Graduates***

From high school-Sydney Copeland, Ethan Barlow and Kaitlyn Rumancik  
 From Tennessee Tech-Daniel Flatt, Norah Ledbetter and Douglas Riggins.  
 Abby Sells, certified nursing assistant/

Others-Halie Beason, fiancée of Daniel Flatt, UT Martin, Drew Smith, granddaughter of Boyd and Betty Smith, TTU and Laiton Pigg, granddaughter of Jack and Betty Pigg, UT.

On May 19 after morning services, these graduates will be recognized and presented a gift from the congregation by the elders.

**(Continued from page 2)**

In 1893, a new frame building was constructed on lot #90 on W. Broad St. In 1956, the church bought a home located at 511 N. Goodpasture St. for the minister's residence.. It was sold in 1977. On May 1, 1962, a lot at 215 E. Main St. was bought from Miller heirs as a site for a new church of Christ building. This was completed in 1963. The old church building on W. Broad was sold to Overton county. In 1967, a lot at 212 E. Cedar St., adjacent to the church property, was bought for the minister's home. This home was built in 1975. During 1986, the auditorium of the church was expanded from 428 to 668 seating capacity. (Copied from *Livingston church of Christ* 1987 directory)

**Pantry Items Needed-**

Any nonperishable,  
OR give money to Brent and Sada.

**Absent-**A list of those absent at Sunday worship is on the table in the foyer. Remember to check on them and let them know they are missed.

**Wednesday Night Meals-**Don't forget 5:30 p.m. before Bible study.

**Ladies Class-**Ladies Bible class each Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the library.

**Help at Home-**The third Saturday of each month for any member who needs it.

**Wednesday Night Invitation-**Any of our men who wish to offer the invitation after Wednesday evening Bible study, please sign up to do so.

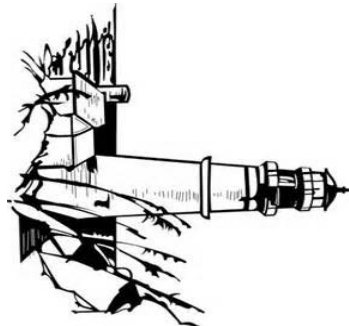
Jon's sermons can now be heard on our Website: ***churchlivingston.com.***

**Everyone Invited**

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration in honor of Earl and Barbara Carwile, Sat., May 18th, 5-8 p.m. at Standing Stone State Park Tea Room. Please RSVP to Lindon and Bridgett at 931-823-7477. Please, no gifts!

**DAILY BIBLE READERS  
 WEEK OF May 5**

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