



A New (Old) Kind of Marriage

Shari and Bob Fant, of Springdale, Arkansas, are trading in their marriage license on a new and improved model. The state of Arkansas is one of only three or four states that offers two kinds of marriage licenses, the regular one and a "covenant marriage" license. First-time couples can choose which kind they want, and couples already married can trade in their old one for the new one.

The new one is tough, says an article in the Bentonville *Morning News*. It makes divorce harder to do: couples can separate and divorce for limited reasons, such as abuse or a felony arrest, and can do so only after counseling and a waiting period of two years. Covenant marriages also require premarital counseling and the signing of an affidavit to seek marital counseling if troubles arise.

One couple who converted to a covenant marriage contract said they thought that traditional marriage has been cheapened and the family unit is in disarray because divorce is too easy. "I think in this unstable world where there seems to be more questions about whether daddy is coming home tonight, I wanted to go back to what marriage should be," said one husband who's happy he and his wife are converting to an official covenant marriage.

The idea is catching on. From a slow start in 2001, when the law was passed, now 562 couples in Arkansas have taken out covenant marriage licenses and 206 couples have converted to the new plan. In one church, 70 couples switched over on one day.

Some say the new plan won't really change the divorce statistics because couples who are apt to sign up for covenant marriage are those who already take marriage seriously. Others argue with that, however. One woman said, "Before [we switched to covenant marriage] we would argue. Now it kind of makes you think before you argue or yell. It keeps us on our toes more and makes us reexamine the vows we said and what they meant."

Bottom line: regardless of what the marriage license says, premarital counseling and a commitment to love and serve the partner are building blocks of a stable marriage. *G. Crowe*

Words From the Past

Take a moment and see if you can finish some of the following phrases: "Give me liberty or . . ." (Patrick Henry), "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are . . ." (Declaration of Independence), "The only thing we have to fear is . . ." (FDR), "I only regret that I have but one life to . . ." (Nathan Hale).

How did you do? My guess is that most of you did quite well. These are lines that have been in our ears since we were old enough to walk. These are especially fresh in our minds because of our recent celebration of independence.

Let's try a few more quotations though: "A new command I give you . . ." (Jesus), "And when you fast . . ." (Jesus), "When you pray do not . . ." (Jesus), In the same way, let your light shine before men . . ." (Jesus), "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Therefore . . ." (Paul).

During this time of celebrating freedom, it is sobering to see how many American phrases we know by heart versus the number of Scriptures we remember word for word. Phrases that define us, such as the phrases of Jesus do, should be on our tongues and as easy to complete as the words and phrases that ensured our freedom to learn them and to worship the one that said them. It is a true blessing to be able to read the words of Christ freely. Let's not abuse that privilege! Let's read them and know them by heart! Dan

Prayer Concerns...

Having normal test results and gaining a little weight, **Eryn Studebaker** was able to go home over the weekend...**Aevin Gaylor**, 3-month-old granddaughter of Mike & Scheryl, was dismissed from the hospital and is doing well after receiving a pacemaker last week...**Elizabeth Tinkle** was hospitalized on Friday for an infection in her leg....Continue to pray for **Joe White, Bill Andrews, Geneva Hamilton, Beth Holt, Anna Dale, Ruth Marks, Burnell Gulden, Darrel Martin, Gene Walker, Terry Pepper, Minnie Scott, Eunice Whitesell, Mark Eddy, Bernice Todd, Irene Fox, Ramona Farris, and Delpha Allen.**

Serving in the military: **Josh Hunt** is in Iraq.

New Study for Young Mom's Bible Class

The Young Mom's Bible Class has begun a new study of *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Questions? Call Becky Pitt at 471-9155.

Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming *Focus on the Family* programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at **6:30 PM Monday-Friday.**

- July 7 & 8* **Mary Crowley" A Woman's Journey of Faith**-Mary Crowley shares about her journey of faith as she came out of a humble background to become a successful entrepreneur. (Parts 1 & 2)
- July 11 & 12* **Speaking the Language of Love**-Les and Leslie Parrott provide insight on how married couples can improve their communication by identifying their "fear factors" and determining their personal communication styles. (Parts 1 & 2)
- July 13 & 14* **Building Hedges Around Your Marriage**-Bestselling author Jerry Jenkins discusses practical ways couples can protect their marriage from the temptations of infidelity. (Parts 1 & 2)

"Hymns from Our Hearts"

All copies of the CD of hymns recorded by the Elmwood College Class Singers (~1962) have been distributed. If you signed up for one or more but did not get them, please add your name to the **NEW** sign up sheet posted in the Farris Foyer. If anyone else would like a CD, just add your name to the same sign up sheet. We hope to have the CDs for you by July 17th.



Congratulations to **Veronica & Brandon Hombs** on the arrival of their little girl, **Natalia Cadence**, born Sunday, July 3, weighing 7 pounds 1.5 ounce, and measuring 20 inches long. Welcome, Natalia, to Elmwood!

Food Pantry Needs



The pantry items for this week are **cereal & chicken noodle soup.**

Men's Breakfast, July 17, 7:43 AM, at Elmwood

July 3, 2005

Class: 141 Worship: 200

Contribution: \$7,988

Budget: \$8,100

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We're In!

This past Sunday morning, we had our first "official class" in the rent house on Wayne Terrace. Just in case anyone wants to know, the address is 1207. I'm not sure what we will finally call the house, it could be the annex, the satellite, etc., but I'm sure that as long as the youth group is meeting there, it will be called the youth house or teen house by some. Let me make it perfectly clear that we do not intend to be the only ones to use the house. While we do intend for the Jr. High and Senior High classes to meet there (Sunday's and Wednesday's), to have some LIFE Group Meetings there and other special gatherings of teens and friends, we will keep it available for other church groups as well. We are not quite ready for an "open house" as yet, but we are functional upstairs. We have two class meeting areas and one area for sitting and visiting. The kitchen and bathroom are also both usable. The new water heater still needs to be connected for us to have hot water, but that is coming soon. I have said this before, but John Stafford has done a wonderful job in getting us to this point. Max Houlton recently put a new door on the basement entry so the house is more secure. Once we get a few more things done upstairs, we will "tackle" the basement. We have been advised that basically everything that is not "load bearing" needs to come out. Need I say the teens are looking forward to that project? Once we have cleaned out and done some basic division of the basement with some walls, etc., we will use that area for storage, recreation, etc. We really have most of the furniture we need for now...unless you have something you are sure we can't live without. We could use a small dining table and chairs and maybe a couple resin chairs for the deck. It would also be nice if we had our own lawn mower so the teens can take over keeping up the yard at the house. Thank you all for helping make this project become a reality. We intend to do our best to make it something to enhance Elmwood's ministries and outreach and to bring glory to God.

And We're Off...

June is gone, but I'm not sure where it went. It won't be long before July is history as well. Before we get there, we have several really important weeks ahead in the youth ministry. This Saturday, a group of us will be leaving for Cincinnati for our mission trip/inner city camp. We will be "tent camping" on the property of the Midwest Children's Home and working with around 50 children who have been selected by an inner city ministry (sponsored by Churches of Christ) run by Pat Pugh. July 17 we will begin our Senior Week of camp at Spring Mill and the following Sunday, we will have our Intermediate Week. Having said that, I'll see you July 31, Lord willing. Keep us in your prayers!

- Lee

Food Pantry Report

During June the Food Pantry was closed one week for vacation so the Pantry was open only eleven days. However, we still served 180 families with 589 individuals. Due to the generosity of Elmwood members, we purchased only \$514 of supplies at the Food Finders Food Bank.

But we have encountered a problem. Several other food pantries have cut back on hours and frequency of visits. One large pantry is relocating for several months in order to rebuild their facility. This has had a tremendous impact on our pantry. In June we served 52 NEW families. We just do not have the space or manpower to continue this rate of growth. Therefore, **effective July 5, the Elmwood Food Pantry WILL NOT SERVE NEW FAMILIES.** We hope this is a temporary measure, but it will allow us to continue our 3 days per week service with the fifteen volunteers we have who work so diligently. Please continue your prayers for this ministry.

-Herb & Mary Ella King

...Let Me Introduce Myself Dinner

This Sunday there will be **no evening worship at the 6:00 hour** due to the **"I Don't Believe We've Met, Let Me Introduce Myself"** Dinner. If you signed up for the dinner, you should have been notified by your host family as to the time and what you are to bring. If you haven't been contacted or wish to sign up, notify the church office at 447-2874.



July 6, 7 PM...Bible classes for all

July 6, 7 PM....Men's Class, room 204,

Young Mom's Class, room 202

July 9-15...CUMO (Youth group mission trip)

July 10....Rick Swensen will preach in the morning;

Let Me Introduce Myself Dinners at 6:00 PM

July 17, 7:43 AM....Men's Breakfast at Elmwood

July 17-23....Senior Week at Spring Mill Bible Camp

Read:

I Chronicles 13-27;
Romans 1-4; Psalms 5-10;
Proverbs 19:4-17

2005 Spiritual Adventure

Week 29: July 18-24

This past month we were fortunate to have several former Elmwood members reunite with us for a few days to reminisce and reconfirm their relationships with other believers in Christ's body. I have known most of these members since 1962 when I moved here and began attending Elmwood. Since then we have gone our separate ways, experiencing both good and bad times, but in the midst of sorrow and heartache, the Lord was always present to strengthen and give hope.

During this reunion, we gathered to eat, sing, and worship together. On Wednesday afternoon a tree was planted in memory of our dear one—Scottie Morrison. Prior to planting the tree, our former minister, John T., read several scriptures which compared our lives to that of a tree. On Wednesday evening John T. presented a lesson on Abraham's faith and led us through the different stages of Abraham's life and how he acted on that faith. Abraham believed and loved God, was led by God, and was willing to sacrifice his little son, Isaac, for God. *Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about" (Genesis 22:2). Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised (Romans 5:20, 21).*

After hearing the lesson on Wednesday evening, I started reflecting on all these years since 1962. I thought about our lives and how they had taken twists and turns, how we had been led by God, loved Him. We have received many blessings from Him and these blessings are overflowing to each other. What is the common thread that weaves in and out of our lives and binds us together, not only with these former Elmwood members, but Christians everywhere?

Perhaps our faith cannot be compared to that of Abraham, but it is a faith that dwells in each of our souls, because we believe in God and are led by Him regardless of the different paths that separated us, and despite the difficulties we have faced. We reunite spiritually because of our faith in God, and therefore our love overflows to each other. **-Thelma Hoyt**

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Matthews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99556 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000
	 Staff	
Elmwood Nursery School & Pre-K Preschool: Tues-Thurs 9-11:30 am Pre-K: Mon-Thurs 9-11:30 am Director, Susan McClain 447-2874	Ministers Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 743-0954 Office Manager Sherry Marks 447-2874	City of Children Ensenada, Mexico Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774



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