



## Choice Meat from Leviticus

The place: The Bethesda Crab House, Bethesda Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland. Our tools: a knife and a wooden mallet. The assignment: to work our way through a dozen crabs who volunteered to provide our nourishment for the evening.

You've heard of the Atkins Diet, the grapefruit diet, the South Beach diet, the Weight Watcher diet. Someday some perceptive entrepreneur will come out with The Crab Diet. It would be instantly successful. One evening of a crab dinner would convince anybody that the calories expended in the project far outnumber any calories devoured. At the end of the evening a huge carcass mound belied the minuscule amount of crab actually consumed.

Midway through the crab exercise, my mind drifted (I am not making this up) to the Book of Leviticus. Reading Leviticus is not unlike eating a crab dinner. Everything in Leviticus is important and necessary for those to whom it was written, just as everything in a crab is important for the health and well-being of the crab. Leviticus is full of details about sacrifices, details about offerings, details about installations and consecrations, details about purifications, details about holy days and holy places, details about . . . well, you get my drift. But just as a substantive morsel of crab meat will occasionally pop out to delight the hungry, so occasionally a precious morsel of spiritual insight will pop out of Leviticus.

Sandwiched between the shocking story of the death of Nadab and Abihu and the endless regulations about clean and unclean animals is this choice food for thought in Leviticus 10:10:

*You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that the Lord has spoken . . .*

Of all the jobs the 21st century Christian has, does that one not top the list? Our culture prods—encourages—screams, “Anything goes! Don’t be a crab! Be tolerant! Be open-minded!” Through Leviticus, God warns the faithful, “Not so fast!” Some things are holy and helpful, while others are unholy and destructive. The wise know the difference between the two and apportion their time, their resources, and their passions accordingly. *G. Crowe*

## Empowerment— part deux

“With great power comes great responsibility.” This line comes from one of the wisest men to have ever lived on the silver screen—Uncle Ben. In the movie world, Uncle Ben was the driving force behind the man we come to know as Spiderman.

Spiderman carried these words with him throughout his superhero career. They often echoed in his head at times when he considered giving up his life as a superhero. He knew that although his powers were a gift, they were not free. Cost was involved. Responsibility was incurred.

As God’s primary means of working in the world, we are undoubtedly blessed. We all have talents, gifts, powers given to us by God Himself. Some are gifted with the ability to discern, some with vision, some with service, some with encouragement, some with art, some with words.

These gifts are wonderful, awesome, amazing! They even work well together! Instead of competing for the place of highest status, they compliment each other. But, these gifts involve cost. We must use them to His glory! I encourage you to find a leader in this church and ask that person to help you discover your gift and put it to use! Remember . . . with great power comes great responsibility! *~Dan*



Joe White has been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. Besides medication, he will likely begin radiation treatments next week. He and Wanita will move (temporarily) to University Place in West Lafayette this weekend....Bob Stafford is home after undergoing back surgery last week....Farrell Simmerman had foot surgery last week and is home doing well.... Geneva Hamilton, Margaret Gustafson's sister, remains at IU Medical Center in Indianapolis....Burnell Gulden, father of Elaine Borie, is in Home Hospital, room 2337....Remember to pray for Minnie Scott, Eunice Whitesell, Ken Nicholson, Sr., Mark Eddy, Jay Verett, Ramona Farris, Irene Fox, Delpha Allen, and Bernice Todd.

We wish to include a new category of names for your prayer concerns. They are the families that are expecting babies in the near future. They include the Sipe, DeWoody, and Hombs families. Pray for these as they await the safe arrival of their babies.

Serving in the military: Josh Hunt in Iraq; Loren Sniffen in Afghanistan.

*Josh Hunt's armored vehicle recently encountered a "car bomb" in a road-side car. The vehicle Josh was driving was seriously damaged, torn into pieces by shrapnel. Josh was not injured, and spent his time giving emergency first-aid to two of the men in the vehicle who eventually had to be med-evacuated out.*

## Opportunities to Serve

Many have been distressed at the news of Joe White's malignancy, and have wondered if they could do anything to help. Yes, there are two things:

First, Joe and Wanita will need transportation three days a week from University Place (1700 Lindberg Rd., West Lafayette) to Unity Healthcare on Creasy Ln. for Joe's radiation treatments. If you could assist with this once or twice in the next seven weeks, please notify Sam Postlethwait at 463-3976 or [postleth@bilbo.bio.purdue.edu](mailto:postleth@bilbo.bio.purdue.edu). Specify whether a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday would be best for you.

Second, Wanita and Joe will occasionally need transportation for other purposes (groceries, etc.). If you could help out with that occasionally, notify Sam about that also.

## New Class Topic



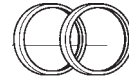
The adult class, meeting in room 2 and taught by Rob Smith, will begin a study April 3 on the classic book, *The Christian's Secret to a Happy Life*, by Hannah Whitall Smith. All are invited to join in this study. Please let Rob Smith or Betty Brown know if you are interested before March 24, so copies of the book can be ordered.

## Love Won Out

April 16 is the date for the "Love Won Out" conference in Louisville. This annual conference addresses the homosexual issue from the perspective of nationally recognized experts who have firsthand experience with all aspects of dealing with homosexuality. Those who attend will learn how to help a friend or loved one who is struggling with homosexuality, how to respond to misinformation in our culture, how to defend Biblical beliefs, and how to prevent children from embracing this way of life. Sponsored by Focus on the Family, this one-day conference is \$60 per person, with an "early bird" rate of \$50 if registrations are turned in by April 7. For information, contact the church office or call 800-A-FAMILY or go to [www.lovewonout.com](http://www.lovewonout.com).



## Congratulations, Julie & Jackson



Julie Groves, daughter of Brett and Connie, and Jackson Phillips were married Friday evening, March 4. Our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to them. They are living at 503 Anchor Dr., Apt. 100, Lafayette 47905.



Lester Jenkins, the brother-in-law of Bernie & Armilda Follick, died Tuesday, March 1. Our sympathy to Bernie and Armilda and their family.



After this Saturday, March 12, Ron and Sue (Hamilton) Walker will be living at 2736 Narragansett Way, Lafayette 47909. Their phone number will be 471-1450.

March 6, 2005

Class: 232 Worship: 354

Contribution: \$11,446

Budget: \$8,100

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.



## TRUE LOVE WAITS

For the past two Sunday afternoons, 16 of our young people from Elmwood joined Alison Ruhl, Mariah Wise and me as we worked through the True Love Waits seminar. This week's sessions focused on living a pure life in all areas and the importance of commitments. As we wrapped up the seminar, the students were given the opportunity to make a commitment to remain sexually pure till marriage. There are a couple things I want you to know about the commitment: 1) no pressure was placed on any of the students. We passed out the cards and pens or pencils, but we did not ask them to sign them on the spot, nor did we collect the cards...they are for the students and their families, not for us. 2) This year's cards have a place not only for the students to sign, but also a place on the back for an adult to join them in the pledge. Most teens will likely ask one of their parents to sign their cards, but don't be surprised if one of the teens asks one of you to sign. If you do sign, you are not being asked to do anything you should not already be doing – not watching bad movies, keeping your thoughts clean, being faithful to your spouse, etc. All of the students except one are pictured below with Alison Ruhl. If you see one of the students, let them know you appreciate their willingness to participate in this special effort.



## Leadership Training for Christ – LAST CALL

Several of you have gone online and registered as observers since last week, but there may be more who plan to go to the convention. You do not have to pre-register as an observer to go, but it may shorten your time in line if you have registered on the web site. The web site will shut down this Saturday, so if you have not registered by then, you will have to fill out a registration form at the hotel. Please remember two things: 1) there is no charge to attend the convention and support our students, and 2) our students are worth the effort. It will take you about one hour to drive to the Marriott East hotel – 7202 E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street in Indianapolis—but the blessing you will give and receive should make you forget all about the drive there and back. If you need any help getting registered, please call Rose Hunt or the church office as soon as possible. Thanks in advance for being there! –Lee

## Budget Plans



This month the elders, with support from Bill Hodges (treasurer), will begin the process of developing a budget for Elmwood's next fiscal year (7/05 thru 6/06). As part of this process, the elders are seeking your input for any expenditure items that you would like to have considered for inclusion. If you have any requests for funding, please contact the elders individually or at our e-mail site (elmwoodelders@hotmail.com). Your input and prayerful support during this process is appreciated. –The Elders

## Youth & Seniors Together

Many of our seniors would enjoy visits and assistance from our younger people. The youth would gain joy as a result of serving and also benefit from the wisdom and experience of our seniors. We're looking to match kids and teens with a senior. If you're interested, please contact Michelle Robson at 583-3106.

## \$\$ Help Is On the Way! \$\$

Ever wonder where all the money goes? Most people do, at least now and then (or maybe all the time!). The Christian belief is that all of life is to be under the control of Jesus Christ, and that means our money and possessions, too.

Beginning **April 19** and continuing for six Tuesday nights (ending May 24), Brent Branstetter and Janet Boston will be teaching the "Good \$ense" course at Elmwood. This course will look at Biblical financial principles that will transform your finances and your life. You will hear more about this in the next few weeks, but for now, (1) block out the dates, and (2) start praying that God will use this course to bring you and your family to a level of financial stability and comfort that you have not known before.



- March 9, 7 PM....Bible Classes for all; LTC training
- March 13, 6 PM....LIFE Groups meet
- March 19, 7:43 AM....Men's Breakfast at Elmwood
- March 20, 5:30 PM....Leadership Training for Christ Showcase; Finger Foods to follow
- March 25-27....Leadership Training for Christ
- May 20-21....Promise Keepers in Ft. Wayne
- Oct. 21-22....Men's Retreat at Camp Tecumseh

*Read:*  
 Numbers 22-33; Luke 2-4;  
 Psalms 58-64; Proverbs  
 11:12-22

# 2005 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 12: March 21-27

Everyday I find myself dealing with customers who for one reason or another are replacing old outdated equipment with newer more technologically advanced equipment because of the advantages it has to offer. One of the main advantages is the fact that most of the newer equipment is easier to use. You can simply program settings into memory and press a button and you are up and running.

I began thinking of this while reading Luke 2-4 for this article. The birth of Christ really did the same thing for us in our spiritual lives. He eliminated the need for the old law and replaced it with a newer "user friendly" version. I am so thankful that we are under this new law and that it is by grace that God has given us this new law so that we may be saved not by works but by the blood of Christ.

Christ replaced an old law, which required many rituals, sacrifices, and rules, with a law that requires faith and he even demonstrated what faith should look like when in Luke 3 he was baptized by John.

The greatest part of the newer "user friendly" law that God has given us is that, unlike the equipment I sell, it is free to anyone who is committed to receiving it. He even gave us a users' manual to help guide us along the way. How lucky we are to have a Father in Heaven who cares for us so much.

**-John Adams**

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions
<b>Sunday</b> Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. <b>Wednesday</b> 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	
<b>Elmwood Nursery School &amp; Pre-K</b> Preschool: Tues-Thurs 9-11:30 am Pre-K: Mon-Thurs 9-11:30 am Director, Susan McClain 447-2874	<b>Ministers</b> Gayle Crowe 447-6940 Lee Porter 463-6993 Dan Cooke 743-0954 <b>Office Manager</b> Sherry Marks 447-2874	City of Children Ensenada, Mexico  Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774



2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904  
 (765) 447-2874 (765) 447-0878 FAX  
 E-mail: office@elmwood-church.org  
 Web site: elmwood-church.org



a LIGHTHOUSE to  
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
 115 Waldron St.  
 W. Lafayette, IN 47906  
 (765) 743-0954

Second-Class  
 Postage  
**PAID**  
 at  
 Lafayette, IN