



## Aisle. Altar. Whom?

The bride was very nervous. It was right before the service and she wasn't sure she could even walk down the aisle. Her mother gave her some advice to calm her down. "Honey," she said, "there's just three things you need to focus on. If you focus on these three things you'll be fine. The first is just walking down the aisle. I know it's a long aisle, but just focus on getting down the aisle. Second, focus on the altar. It's your destination today. Make your way down the aisle to the altar because that's where you're going today. Keep your eyes on that altar. Focus on the altar. There will you stand with the man you love, in front of God and all these people, and think about the future that God has in mind for the two of you. So focus on the altar. Last, focus on that hymn that's started playing. In poetry and verse, that hymn really describes God's love for you in Christ. It captures the love your new husband will have for you, and the love the two of you will be showing to the world. So focus on that hymn. Just the words to the hymn—focus on those. So focus on those three things: walking down the aisle, standing before the altar, and listening to the hymn. Focus on those and you will be fine.

The hymn started and the bride started down the aisle. She was doing beautifully. There was a look of calm determination on her face. But as she traveled the length of the aisle, everyone she passed started chuckling. As she passed each row of pews she was heard mumbling to herself, "Aisle. Altar. Hymn." "Aisle. Altar. Hymn." "Aisle. Altar. Hymn."

OK, so it probably didn't happen. But it does remind us what the marriage vow is not. It's not a license to "altar" the one at the end of the aisle. Just the contrary. Marriage is a lifelong commitment to alter the one in the mirror. No greater assignment is given to married partners than what Paul gives in I Corinthians 13:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude. It is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

"Aisle. Altar. Me." – the #1 wedding day vow!

*G. Crowe*

## Lunch Time

Adopted students and parents, I want to take a few minutes of your time to invite you to the adopted student luncheon this coming Sunday.

The luncheon is a time when students and parents can spend time getting to know each other and developing a relationship that will last for years to come.

By now, you should have received a letter in the mail with a picture of your student and a sheet describing your student's major at Purdue and his interests. If you have not, please call the CSC office at 765-743-0954.

Parents: Please call and invite your students to this meal. It will be a pitch in and will be held directly after second service this Sunday in A-2. Every student has to eat so it might as well be a meal where fellowship can be fostered and relationships formed! I cannot think of a better meal than that!

Students: Please make this a priority! You will never forget your adopted families, so please be a part of this wonderful opportunity and awesome ministry that Elmwood provides. I look forward to seeing you there!

~Dan

# Prayer Concerns...

**Joe White's** condition is worsening....The Cleveland specialist was not able to help **Natasha Risley**. He suggested a doctor in St. Louis, who will see Natasha November 3. The surgery is very risky.... **Elizabeth Tinkle** remains in St. Elizabeth Hospital, room 4341, as she recovers from a broken leg. She has begun some therapy....**Alice Follick** is at St. Anthony's Health Care, room 106. Cancer has been found throughout her body....**David Henke**, grandson of David & Vicki, was taken to Riley Hospital in Indianapolis on Friday. He was having seizures and has been diagnosed as autistic....**Merville Zinn**, brother of Jan Lucas, who lives in Indianapolis, has terminal cancer....**Judy Vaughn**, friend of Tammy Tatman, has been receiving radiation and chemotherapy for cancer....**Gordon Hooker**, husband of Tammy Tatman's co-worker, has been diagnosed with terminal cancer....Continue to pray for **Marie DeWoody, Mark Eddy, Clarence Wilson, Geneva Hamilton, Terry Pepper, Anna Dale, Eunice Whitesell, Ramona Farris, Irene Fox, and Delpha Allen**. Those in Rosewalk Village: **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, and Burnell Gulden**.

Serving in the military: **Josh Hunt** and the rest of his unit are awaiting transportation from Kuwait to the States! Praise the Lord! Others now serving in Iraq: **Dustin Holley** (relative of Paul & Argie Verett and Pauletta & Rob Smith), and **Brad King** (Joe and Sandy Seele's neighbor's son).



## Thelma Hoyt going to Poland!

During the May reunion of former Elmwood members, Thelma Hoyt was asked by John & Ann Smithson and Harry & Sara Hodges to consider a mission trip to Gdansk, Poland, to teach Bible lessons. After much prayer and consideration, she has agreed to go along, and will be leaving Thursday, September 29 and returning October 21. She will be teaching University students, young professionals, and then some over 30. Great news, Thelma! Our prayers will be with you.

## Men's Retreat 2005

This year's **Men's Retreat** will be held at the Tecumseh YMCA Camp at Brookston, Indiana, on **October 21, 22, 2005**. Retreat activities will begin Friday evening with dinner at 5:30 PM and conclude Saturday afternoon. Inspirational messages on becoming more Christ-like will be presented by **Ken Chaffin**, former minister at Elmwood, and currently preaching in Wake Forest, North Carolina. The theme of this year's retreat is **"Husbands Love Your Wives"** as presented in Ephesians 5:22-23. Men of all ages, married or single are invited to attend. Sign up sheets will be posted in the Farris foyer.

## Thanks!

Dear Elmwood family,

Thank you so much for all of the cards, calls, visits and prayers while I was in the hospital and then in rehab for so long. They really helped!

In Christ,  
Elaine Crowder



## Congratulations, Bud & Mary



**Bud & Mary Darby** celebrated 60 years of marriage last week. Congratulations on this milestone!



The food pantry is in need of **fruit** and **chicken noodle soup**.

-Herb & Mary Ella King

## It's a Boy!



**Jackson Dean Fry** was born September 13 to John & Katie Fry, daughter and son-in-law of Greg & Terri Miller. He weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces. Congratulations to all!

## Attention Parents:

Since this Sunday, **Sept. 25**, is the last Sunday of the month, there will be **no Children's Church for grades 1-5**.

-Joe Ruhl

**September 18, 2005**  
Class: 222 Worship: 276  
Contribution: \$5,196  
Budget: \$8,100



## Crossroads

16th Annual SMBC Fall Retreat  
October 7-9, 2005

*Here is the scoop from Curt, Jimmy and Mark:*

"The annual Fall Retreat at Spring Mill Bible Camp is approaching quickly. We're busy planning another great weekend and we hope you will join us. This year's retreat will be October 7-9 with registration on Friday night from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM. The theme for this year's retreat will be "Crossroads." We will be studying about people who had their lives changed forever after bumping into Jesus as they traveled. These encounters may appear accidental, but we know our God is not a God of accidents. We know God had a plan to change these folks and has a plan for each of us. We invite you to join us at the Crossroads as we search for God's guidance in our lives. We pray it will be an inspiring and challenging weekend to help us all grow closer to our God and to each other. Please join us in praying for God to do great things for all in attendance during this event.

"We have four great speakers lined up to share thoughts with us over the weekend. Pat Arthur from the Indiana Avenue Church of Christ in Bloomington will kick things off for us on Friday night, Randy Weilbaker of the Fredericksburg Church of Christ will get us started on Saturday morning, Lee Porter will be speaking on Saturday afternoon, and Jim Pierce from the Central Church of Christ in Bedford will lead us in our final session on Saturday evening.

"We will also be enjoying the talents of Company from Rochester College. Company is a drama troupe that is entertaining, humorous, and inspiring. They will be with us throughout the weekend and performing on Saturday night. The cost of this year's retreat will be \$30 per person and will include all lodging, meals, snacks, and a t-shirt (there will be an Elmwood transportation fee, too). There are only 120 spaces open for the retreat and they will be filling up quickly. We have filled up prior to registration day for the past several years, so please return your registration form along with your registration fee to reserve your spot. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about Jesus. We know that with God's blessing this retreat will touch many souls. May God bless us all in our work for Him and may all the glory always be His. In Christ, Mark McKee, Jim Pierce and Curt Parsley."

## Calling All New Parents!

Have you just "adopted" a student? Many of you received adoption papers in the mail during the past week. If you have a student, or if you would like to honor the new and/or returning students, don't miss the Adopt-a-Student dinner this Sunday (September 25) about noon, after the second worship. This will be a pitch-in dinner, so bring enough for yourselves and your adopted student(s).

## Israel-Jordan Trip Planned for June

In this newsletter is a flyer describing a 12-day trip to Israel and Jordan next June. Jordan has been included because of the many events, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, that happened in what we now call Jordan. An information meeting for any who are even remotely interested in this trip will be in A-2 on **Saturday, October 1**. Come at 7 PM to eat dessert and to learn more details about the trip.

## Noah's Ark Night November 5



**Noah's Ark Night** is scheduled for **November 5th**. If you would like to help plan, or help in any way, contact Lynae Stafford. Lynae needs help with collecting boxes for the maze. Call her (474-8478) for details.



- Sept. 21, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
- Sept. 21, 7 PM....Men's Class, room 204,  
Young Mom's Class, room 202
- Sept. 25, 12 noon....Adopted Student Lunch in  
fellowship room
- Sept. 17, 7:43 AM....Men's Breakfast
- Sept. 25, 6 PM....LIFE Groups
- Oct. 21-22....Men's Retreat at Camp Tecumseh;  
sign-up sheet in the Farris foyer

*Read:*

Isaiah 51–Jeremiah 2;

Ephesians 5–Philippians 4

Psalms 65–69; Prov. 24:7–20

# 2005 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 40: October 3–9

I have had this goal of reading the Bible from beginning to end. I made it my goal to read the Bible because I had just been baptized. I thought, "Okay, I am a Christian, I need to read the Bible. I gotta know what this book is all about!" I decided that I may not know a lot about the Bible and I may not be able to make all of the connections that a veteran Christian could, but I wanted and needed to read this amazing book. I made myself a deal (so that it didn't seem so overwhelming), no expectations, no need to uncover any great mysteries—just read.

So, here I am in Psalms. As I began the book of Psalms, I began to stumble. I had to remind myself (so soon after Chronicles it seemed) that I started reading the Bible just to read it as a book. It seems so long ago that I started reading the Bible from Genesis 1:1 (yes, I should be further along), but here I am in the Book of Psalms! I didn't plan to grasp much my first go 'round. I realize now that I'm not grasping much, but that **God** is teaching me, leading me and loving me.

A friend of mine recently said this, "You know when you are a non-believer, you think that with more understanding will come more faith. But the reality is, with more faith comes more understanding." Well, I was a believer and I still thought that I needed more understanding. But, all I need to do is open the Bible and God comes bursting through the words! So every time I start to stumble, whether it is reading the Bible or in my life, I am going to remember to have faith. God will not just meet me, He will come and get me. I will remember this, "For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37

**Sonja Meador**