



The Ideal Church

It doesn't get any better than last Sunday. 400 people here for the two Easter services, and the second service began with a baptism. God continues to work in his church in ways that are beyond knowledge or understanding. So appropriate are these words from The New Union Prayer Book: "How filled with awe is this place and we did not know it."

A woman in the Southeast, who prefers to remain anonymous, wrote these words about her vision of the ideal church:

"There's no sign. There's no advertising. People just come. They've heard that there's something special happening 'up there.' The building is open almost constantly. The community knows all about it, and uses it for multiple purposes, civic meetings, support groups. When they come into the building for their meetings, they see visible signs of what God is doing at that place.

"They're all shapes and sizes, overgrown hippies in sandals and beards, business men in power suits, young men in pony tails who don't even own a suit, grandmothers, young mothers without husbands towing four or five filthy children. Some have lived hard lives—drug addicts, prostitutes—some have lived successful lives and manage multi-million dollar companies. But all are empty, and they have come seeking more. And they are finding it.

"They have found a place to belong. Where people are real, where needs are met, where lives are changed. They were completely unprepared for what they experienced when they first came: friendly faces, multiple handshakes, cups of warm coffee and lots of conversation. They found it to be relaxed, not stuffy like churches they'd been to in the past. The songs are catchy and easy to sing along with and the enthusiasm is contagious.

"They actually hear people tell stories of how their lives are different because of Jesus and the strength they receive from Christian fellowship. They've heard about people taking care of strangers, giving them food, clothing, places to live, money to meet their bills.

"They see people moved by the power of the gospel story, and they see how Jesus is lived as a servant among believers. The list of ministries to hurting people is endless, and those being served are coming to Jesus because they see hope for the first time in their lives. They're realizing what being a part of this family is about, and they don't want to be left out." *G. Crowe*

Outreach Event

This year's Root Beer Kegger promises to be an amazing event. It will be this Friday night at 7 pm at the CSC.

Everyone is welcome to join us! We have a moonwalk, games, and lots of food and, oh yeah, root beer!

This is more than a just a fun time. We are praying that this event will be used for the kingdom of God in amazing ways.

Drinking is a very big problem at Purdue. There are a variety of reasons that students drink like they do: to explore what life has to offer, to spend time with friends, to relax, to climb the social ladder, to forget their problems, etc. But what many students really aren't aware of is that all of these goals can be accomplished without alcohol!

You can explore many other things life has to offer, relax, develop a great social network, and address/resolve (better than forgetting) your problems without a drop of alcohol anywhere nearby. The Root Beer Kegger demonstrates that to the campus.

Please help us with this important event by providing baked goods or side dishes (that you need no utensils to eat). Bring them by anytime on Friday to the CSC, or they will be picked up at the church building by 12 noon.

And don't forget to come to the Spring Banquet next Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 pm! Tickets are still on sale for \$10.

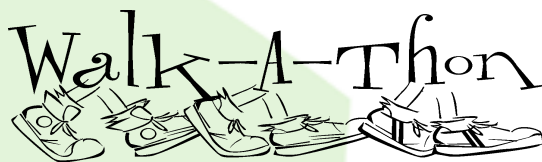
Hope to see you there!

~Dan



Tim McClain had surgery on Monday morning to remove a benign salivary tumor....**Patty Vice** will have surgery to remove her gall bladder on Thursday at Home Hospital....Continue praying for **Argie Verett, Kaden Koebcke, Noah Powlen, Willie Batts, Sarah Bird, Natasha Risley, Phyllis Gray, Mark Eddy, Marie DeWoody, Anna Dale, Delpha Allen, Carrie High** (Regency Place Nursing Home), **Irene Fox** (George Davis Manor Nursing Home), **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott,** and **Burnell Gulden** (Rosewalk Village).

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner, Loren Sniffen,** and **Brad King.** Serving in South Korea near the DMZ: **Amanda Martin** (Phyllis Simmerman's niece).



Chelsea Barnett and **Cara Gamble** will both participate in the **March of Dimes Walk America** on **Saturday, April 29.** All money donated to them will be used to further the cause of saving premature babies. If you would like to donate to Chelsea, contact her at 477-0027 or Caitie Jones at 426-8651 or email her at cnjones@purdue.edu. To donate to Cara you can reach her at 538-2995 or email her at Rscargamble@aol.com.

A Personal Note

Last Monday night I spoke to a men's gathering at the Crossroads Christian Church. I chose as my topic a bird's-eye view of the restructuring that Elmwood has done the past 18 months with the work of the Health Team. I also reviewed the work that continues through the SHAPE classes as the elders attempt to encourage every member of Elmwood to become a contributing member as he/she uses the spiritual gifts God has given us.

After we were dismissed, a member of the Fowler Christian Church introduced himself and told me the story of their church's experience in doing virtually the same thing we are doing. He said that for 40 years or more their church has hovered in the 70 to 90 range. Over the past year that church has concentrated on helping every member find and begin to use the spiritual gifts God has given to the church, and with everybody's participation the church has grown to 170 in just the past year. This is the "all by itself" principle of church growth: we do what we're supposed to, and "all by itself" (with God's help and direction) the church will grow. -Gayle Crowe



for Mary McClain & Jared Fee

Everyone is invited to a come-n-go wedding shower for Mary McClain, bride-elect of Jared Fee, on **Sunday, April 30, from 3-5 PM,** in the fellowship room (A-2) of Elmwood Church of Christ. For contributions toward a gift, see Stephanie Barrett, Sherry Marks, Sharon Porter, or Sheryl Willison. Please come and offer your best wishes to Mary and Jared who will be married June 10.



Thank You!

To my church family,
Thanks for your prayers, cards,
visits, and food while I was in
the hospital and since returning
home. May God continue to
bless you. -Edith McCoy

Dear friends at Elmwood:
Thank you very much to everyone
who contributed to Sophia's gifts
and beautiful baby shower. That
was such a wonderful gesture
and we are so appreciative.
Thank you for all of your love
and support for my girls and
myself through this time.

Love, Chelsea, Madelyn,
Gwen & Sophia Barnett

Attention Parents

There will be **no Children's Church** for grades 1-5 this **Sunday, April 23.**



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

April 9, 2006
Class: 260 Worship: 400
Contribution: \$5,639
Budget: \$8,100

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MWLTC 2006-Take the Lead

How did we do? Thanks for asking!

Audrey Barnett: Small Group Singing, Gold; Service Challenge, Silver – **Peter Bell:** Leadership Challenge Award; Puppets, Gold; Service Challenge, Gold – **Taylor Gamble:** Puppets, Gold – **Jesse Jones:** Small Group Singing, Gold; Service Challenge, Gold – **Tyler Lee:** Small Group Singing, Gold; Live Modern Christian Drama, Gold; Puppets, Gold – **Nikki Manus:** Christian Art, Silver; Service Challenge, Silver; **Michael Merriman:** Small Group Singing, Gold; Puppets, Gold; Radio Minute Message, Gold; Scrap Books, Silver; **Noah Merriman:** Live Modern Christian Drama, Gold; Puppets, Gold – **Mark Moore:** Bible Bowl Team, Participant; Bible Bowl Individual, Bronze; Leadership Challenge Award; Puppets, Gold; Scrap Books, Silver; Service Challenge, Gold – **Aaron Murray:** Puppets, Gold; Service Challenge, Gold – **Caroline O'Donnell:** Bulletin Boards, Silver; Small Group Singing, Gold; Puppets, Gold; Video Bible Drama, Bronze – **Kaitlyn O'Donnell:** Bulletin Boards, Silver; Small Group Singing, Gold; Puppets, Gold; Radio Minute Message, Gold; Video Bible Drama, Bronze – **Seth Ratcliff:** Bulletin Boards, Silver; Small Group Singing, Gold; Puppets, Gold; Radio Minute Message, Gold; Video Bible Drama, Bronze – **Natasha Risley:** Leadership Challenge Award; Scrap Books, Silver; Service Challenge, Gold – **Patrick Ruhl:** Puppets, Gold; Radio Minute Message, Gold; Scrap Books, Silver; Service Challenge, Gold – **Dylon Shields:** Bible Bowl Team, Participant; Bible Bowl Individual, Bronze – **Andrew Simmerman:** Small Group Singing, Gold; Puppets, Gold; Radio Minute Message, Gold; Scrap Books, Silver; Service Challenge, Gold – **Erin Simmerman:** Small Group Singing; Leadership Challenge Award; Service Challenge, Gold – **Ben Stafford:** Bible Bowl Team, Participant; Small Group Singing, Gold; Leadership Challenge Award; Puppets, Gold; Radio Minute Message, Gold; Scrap Books, Silver; Service Challenge, Gold – **Josh Stafford:** Bible Bowl Team, Participant; Bible Bowl Individual, Bronze; Small Group Singing, Gold; Live Modern Christian Drama, Gold; Leadership Challenge Award; Puppets, Gold; Radio Minute Message, Gold; Scrap Books, Silver; Service Challenge, Gold – **Rachel Stafford:** Bible Bowl Team, Bronze; Bible Bowl Individual, Bronze; Bulletin Boards, Silver; Small Group Singing, Gold; Puppets, Gold; Radio Minute Message, Gold; Scrap Books, Silver; Service Challenge, Gold; Video Bible Drama, Bronze; Alternative Art, Gold – **Nelson Tilley:** Small Group Singing, Gold; Puppets, Gold; Radio Minute Message, Gold; Video Bible Drama, Bronze. Great job, one and all. We are proud of all of you!

– Lee



After a lot of thought and soul searching after the campus spring retreat, college student John Szabela made the decision to make Jesus Lord of his life on Sunday morning, April 16. John is a senior who is graduating with his degree in electrical engineering. He is currently seeking full time employment. Congratulations, John, and may God bless you richly in your future plans. His current address: 249 Littleton St. Apt. #9, West Lafayette 47906.

Men's Breakfast, April 22, 7:43 AM

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for **this Saturday, April 22, at 7:43 AM in A-2.** Men of all ages are welcome. If you plan to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet located in the Farris Foyer. The food is great and the fellowship is even better.

Teacher Training April 29

Attention teachers of students ages 0 to 120: **Saturday, April 29, Tom Tignor,** Curriculum Editor for 21st Century Christian, will present three teacher training sessions that will revolutionize your teaching. The Northern Indiana Teacher Training Seminar begins with registration at 8:30 AM, followed by sessions that will run from 9:00 until noon. The seminar is free but space is limited, so if interested contact Rob Hall at Yorktown Road Church of Christ (574-753-2757) or Tom Tignor (800-251-2477) to reserve your spot. The seminar will be held at the Yorktown Road Church of Christ, 406 Yorktown Road, Logansport, Indiana.

–Joe Ruhl



April 19, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

April 21....Root Beer Keg Party at CSC

April 22, 7:43 AM....Men's Breakfast

April 23 & 30, 6 PM....LIFE Groups

April 29, 8:30 AM....Teacher Training Seminar at Yorktown Rd. Church of Christ in Logansport

April 29, 7:30 PM....College Spring Banquet, at the Seattle Beanery; **Mindy Hart will be selling tickets after both services in the Farris foyer; cost \$10**

April 30, 3-5 PM....Wedding Shower for Mary McClain & Jared Fee at Elmwood fellowship room

Read:
Judges 17-21; Psalm 77;
Romans 1-14

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 18: April 30–May 6

From Lawlessness To Righteousness

"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit" (Judges 21:25). These final words from the book of Judges sum up the lawlessness and depravity of the book's last five chapters. Without a king, God's chosen people engaged in unspeakable depravities—just read Judges 17-21 to see the depressing litany of sins, from idolatry to kidnapping and murder, along with perhaps the most repulsive story in the entire Bible.

It is fitting that this kingless lawlessness is included along with most of the book of Romans in this week's readings, because Romans 1 begins with a catalogue of just the kinds of sins illustrated at the close of Judges. Unlike the depressing "every man for himself" ending of Judges, however, Paul offers a different outcome in Romans. While the Israelites of Judges had no king, Christians live under the reign of Jesus Christ. Praise God for the difference that makes!

It may well be that we live in a culture like that of Judges, in which people do as they see fit, but let it not be said of us that we have no king. Jesus is our king. And as Paul writes in Romans 14:17, "the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Because of the dominion of Jesus over our lives, we live not trapped in depravity and evil, but embraced by righteousness, peace, and joy because of our King and his Spirit who lives within us.

Josh Boyd