



## Half a Century and Counting

Bill Farris stood at the lectern last Sunday helping our minds envision the role of the Lord's Supper in our worship and in our lives. As he spoke, my mind wandered back over the past 20 years and to decades beyond that. How many times—the number would venture into the thousands—has Bill stood before the church to offer words of encouragement and challenge?

For over half a century, the Nelsons (1947), Postlethwaits (1949), Dales (1949), and Farris (1952) have been the face of Elmwood to generations of members. Back in the 50's they helped put the building together, board by board, nail by nail. Throughout the years at one time or another they have filled every role in the church. Other families were equally involved, but these stand out to me because they were all elders under whom I served.

There was not a naysayer among them. Whatever the idea, whatever the proposal, not one of them would speak those famous words for which elders in some places are legendary: "We've never done it that way before," or "We did that once and it didn't work." *Au contraire*, their response to suggestions and ideas was typically, "How can we help you make that work?"

Ken Chaffin, minister in the early 80's, and I have remarked to each other that we marvel at these men's patience. Ministers came and went, deacons and committee chairs came and went, and with each new person came ideas that he or she thought were brilliant and revolutionary. Though the elders had undoubtedly heard the same things over and over, they were supportive and acted enthusiastic about each "new and improved" change. They've heard it all before, but being pastors at heart they made every person feel important and valued. Did every one like everything that has gone on? No. But that didn't keep them from pastoring and blessing.

God wrote that Moses was "faithful in all my house." "Faithful" is from a galaxy of words that mean reliability, stability, steadfastness, to confirm, to support. These men—these couples—have made a difference at Elmwood because they kept on keeping on, year in and year out, as reliable, stable, steadfast, supportive pastors of the flock. We honor and thank them all.

G. Crowe

## Freshman

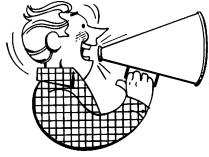
Yesterday 5,000 freshmen came through the armory where more than 100 booths were on display. There were booths representing everything imaginable. Amidst all of the booths that were on display rested ours along with all the other religious organizations. The religious organizations are placed directly across from the Greek society booths. We handed out calendars for our first month with a map to our building on the back. We also included a statement of purpose so students would know what we are on campus to do.

The Christian presence in the activity fair is always very small. But nonetheless we were there. When one walks into that fair and sees the chaos of 5,000 students walking around subjected to sensory and sugar overload (most groups give out free candy) it is easy to wonder how there is any impact.

It is at these moments that I force myself to remember two things: 1) We are answering the call of the sower. We are successful when we sow the seed. And boy, did we ever do that! 2) Christ cannot be outnumbered, outmaneuvered, or outmanaged. His word does not come back void, and though the Christian presence is small on campus, it will prevail.

Pray for the students every day this week. Pray for their openness to the gospel and their protection from the Evil One. Pray that God would continue to work in the CSC. Thank you for your support in this crucial ministry!

~Dan



## Here's What's Ahead

Five special events are coming up at Elmwood the next few weeks:

1. **September 10** is our annual picnic at Columbian Park. We go there at noon, enjoy each other's company for the afternoon. No Elmwood services that evening.
2. **Cody Sipe** begins a 3-week Sunday morning preaching series on September 10 entitled: **"Healthy Body, Healthy Spirit, Healthy You."** Cody's professional life (he's chief of the Ismail Center at Purdue, a health and fitness facility) has led him to think about what constitutes health—how the habits that lead to good physical health are but a reflection of the habits that lead to good spiritual health. He'll be sharing his insights with us for three Sundays.
3. On **September 17**, Sunday noon, a potluck dinner will be held in A-2 in honor of the new and returning Purdue students and the "adoptive parents" who will walk with them over the next year.
4. **LIFE Groups** resume **September 17**.
5. The **Men's Retreat** is **October 13-15**. **Patrick Mead** will be the guest speaker, and will preach at Elmwood on Sunday morning, October 15.



Pray for people not Christians who live on your block....Pray that God would show each of us open doors to communicate our faith.

**Patty Vice** is undergoing tests at Mayo Clinic until the end of this week....**Janet Nelson's** surgery to replace her pacemaker went better than expected. She is at home recuperating....**Ronda Tidrick** will have surgery on Monday, August 21, at Home Hospital....Continue praying for **Ella McBride** (*Dorothy Walters one-year-old great-granddaughter*), **Rose Hunt**, **Nathan Weir** (*Riley Children's Hospital*), **Mary Burns**, **Lynn Robinson** (*treatment for colon cancer*), **Linda** (*Newberry*) **Smith** (*improved and now at Community Hospital*), **Helen Clements** (*Heritage Healthcare*), **Kaden Koebecke**, **Noah Powlen**, **Phyllis Gray**, **Mark Eddy**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Delpha Allen**, **Anna Dale**, **Elizabeth Tinkle & Carrie High** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor Nursing Home*), and in *Rosewalk Village*: **Ruth Marks**, **Minnie Scott**, & **Burnell Gulden**.

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner**, **Loren Sniffen**, and **Brad King**. Serving in South Korea: **Amanda Martin**.

## World Bible School Request

**Urgent:** if you took packets when Jim Corners spoke on World Bible School Sunday evening, July 9, please call 449-0497. Also, if you were not here and would like to be involved in sowing the Seed of the Kingdom, we have received 200 more names from 32 nations. People all over the world are thirsting for the Word of Life. Some of these are from communist and Moslem nations. Many of the students wanting to study are computer-savvy, and WBS is also available in computer courses. If you would like to help by mail or by computer, talk to Wanita White (449-0497). 92 of our new names are people here in the United States wanting to study. A great opportunity for soul-winning! Materials are excellent and true to the scriptures. Some people at Elmwood have been involved in this work for nearly forty years and on a more local scale for twenty years before that.

—Wanita White



## Can You Help?

Assistance is needed to transport approximately **3000** pounds of food from Food Finders to the building on **this Friday, August 18** from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. If you have a truck and can help, contact John Stafford at 474-8478.



*Our Elmwood family,  
Thank you so much for your cards,  
anniversary wishes and prayers.  
And for those who took time to  
come to our reception—thanks!  
We love you all.* —Dorothy Jane &  
Oscar Miller

*Thank you so much for the  
generous contribution to the  
Columbus Hospice, Inc. in  
memory of my husband (Diann  
Doty's father).* Love,  
Robena Rustin

*Last week's Spiritual Adventure article  
was written by Bryce Bahler, a friend of  
Sarah Bird—not by Sarah.*

**August 13, 2006**

*Class: 182 Worship: 278*

*Contribution: \$6,615*

*Budget: \$8,100*

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### Back To School!

I know that thought just brings joy to everyone's hearts, but it is that time again. I can't believe that the summer is gone! We have had a really good summer with CUMO, camps, Phil Travis, and many other blessings, but now it is time to get back to routine...but maybe we can add some variety, too. We have a lot of things already scheduled, so please take note and mark your calendars.

First, before anyone forgets, parents I/we need school addresses for all of our college students. Please send those as soon as possible and include e-mail.

Next, LIFE Groups will be starting in just a few weeks and we are going to need homes to meet in. We are really working toward having a Sr. High group and a Jr. High/ Middle school group this year and they can be at the same house or different houses....just let us know of your availability and wishes.

On **September 10**, we will be having our **church-wide picnic at noon** and that is always lots of fun!

For the guys, there are a couple special things coming up: **September 22, 23 is Promise Keepers** in Louisville, KY; we still have a couple tickets available.

**October 13-15** is the **Men's Retreat** at Camp Tecumseh. Patrick Mead is our guest speaker and you will be blessed by being a part of this special event.

**See You at the Pole** is scheduled for Wednesday, **September 27**. Most school meetings take place at 7:00 AM, but check around to see when the group plans to meet at your school. Take a stand and pray for your school.

Winterfest has been a great blessing to our group for several years now and Fallfest has been around (in Chicago), but we have never participated. This year's **Fallfest - "Fool Factor"** is scheduled for **September 29 - October 1** in Cincinnati at King's Island. Some of our friends from Withamsville (Mike Gully and others) are helping lead the event this year and we plan to be a part. More info will be coming, soon.

The **Fall Retreat at SMBC** is always a great experience and a blessing to our group. It is not only a time of spiritual renewal; we get to be with some of our friends we don't see often enough. This year's retreat is **October 6-8**.

It has been a couple years since we did **Partners in Prayer**, but it will be returning this year under the able leadership of Christi Branstetter. We want to make sure we do a good job of getting everyone connected this year, so it may be a couple weeks before you get to sign up, but as soon as everything is in place, we will let you know!

Finally, parents, as we all know, we are all too busy but we really want to know about your children's busy lives. Please remember to make us aware of sports, band, drama, choir and any other activities we may be able to be present to show our love and support to your family. - Lee



The **Mark McClains** have left for their new home in Atlanta. On Monday, Mark begins as Natural Resources Group Leader with MACTEC Engineering. A full page of the newsletter is not enough to chronicle all the ways they have ministered during their 20 years at Elmwood. Mark's teaching through classes and LIFE Groups, Sue's 15-year leadership of the Nursery and Pre-K School, her 5 years in the church office, Tim's participation in virtually every teen activity until his graduation from high school, and his involvement with the CSC in recent years—have all combined for a lasting impact on the Elmwood family. Our prayers go with them. Their address: 204 Hunters Ridge, Canton, GA 30114; phone: (765) 491.2260 (Sue's cell phone).

## Baby Gifts for Koebckes

Money and gifts will be collected for **Kaden Koebcke** and given to Cami and Travis. Gift suggestions: 6-9 month clothes that **open up in the front** and money for a stroller (large group gift). Please give money or gifts to Becky Pitt and/or Christi Branstetter by September 4. If you have any questions, call Christie at 423-5650 or Becky at 471-9155.

## Teachers' Meeting August 27, 4:30 PM

There will be a teachers' meeting for those teaching nursery through high school on **Sunday, August 27, at 4:30 PM**, in the teachers' workroom. Questions? Call Joe Ruhl at 463-7012.



**August 16, 7 PM**....Bible classes for all

**August 20, 6 PM**....Six-Way Happening

**Sept. 10, noon**....All-church picnic at Columbian Park

**October 13-15**....Men's retreat (more info to come)

### CSC August Events....

**August 21**....Open House

**August 22**.... Sand Volleyball

**August 23**....Encounter & Ice Cream Social

*Read:*  
Nehemiah 7-13; I Timothy 1-  
6; Psalm 114-119:8

# 2006 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 35: August 27-Sept. 2

Did you know that when reading the Bible some people DO NOT take it literally? OR, should I ask: Did you know that when reading the Bible some people DO take it literally? Yes! It's true, different people read the same Bible, and live together in harmony, and do not agree on that one issue. Is the Bible to be taken literally, or not? Undoubtedly, arguments for who is "right" could be made for either side, and this is why I believe Psalms 118 is spectacular! In this Psalm, no matter what side of the fence you may be on, it is hard to deny that "He is good; [and] His love endures forever"! Oh what relief there is to be found in these scriptures. My God, the one in whom I fully trust with my eternal being, is a God whose "love endures forever"!

Granted, there are issues in our lives that constitute a good debate, but in my lowly life, I don't see those issues in this Psalm. I see a vertical type love from above that we are to share horizontally with all. I see a saving God whose salvation is my hope and strength in the tomorrow. I see a God whose love is undeniable no matter how you may choose to interpret the scriptures. That is what I like. I like it cut and dry, black and white, clear as it can be.

Literally, or figuratively, when you make the stone that the builders rejected *your* capstone, He will become *your* strength and *your* song. This is the message we can receive out of Psalm 118. Have you read it lately? If not, read it now! Let this be encouragement to us all, in all our tough daily situations, in all our quirky circumstances, and in all debates "take refuge in the Lord" for "His love endures forever"! Amen. **-Eric Clowdus**