



Bumping Noses on Change

"Nothing endures but change," wrote Heraclitus six centuries before the Apostle Paul arrived at his home town of Ephesus. Books of quotations cite everyone from philosophers to business leaders on the necessity of change. One of my personal favorites is from W. Edwards Deming, the American management consultant: "It is not necessary to change. Survival is not mandatory."

Five pulpit ministers recently collaborated on an audio presentation, "My Biggest Ministry Blunders." These men are with large, growing churches in Indiana, Florida, Tennessee, and Illinois. As each one related the most painful blunders they have made in their ministries, the common theme became clear: every case they listed was caused by a breakdown of communication.

In some cases they neglected to communicate adequately with their congregations about upcoming changes. Other times they failed in the process of hiring staff: not having in-depth conversations with prospective staff members, or not preparing the congregation for the new staff person. Sometimes it was simply a case of the leader's having a vision for the direction of the church so clearly in his head that he failed to go through the laborious process of talking, talking, talking, filtering the ideas through key people, tweaking the details to make the changes more acceptable and more easily adopted. Bottom line: communication breakdown.

So should they have just forgotten about changing? That is not an option. The Apostle Paul made numerous changes in his ministry: to Jews he quoted scripture; to Gentiles he quoted pagan poets. Churches I attended as a boy had funeral fans and 45 minute sermons; hard to find that kind of church today (and who would go if we found it?).

The Gospel, the message, never changes. Our ways of communicating the message must change constantly. The test of good leaders is not that they resist change, but that they prayerfully walk toward godly visions, bumping their nose occasionally but learning as they go. God honors churches that work toward "Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known," even when the territory is uncertain and the path is uneven.

G. Crowe

Feed My Sheep

"If you love me," Jesus said to his disciple, "feed my sheep." And although the exact meaning is not entirely applicable to this article, it is still the most relevant statement I can make.

This coming Sunday is Super Bowl Sunday. The CSC will be hosting a Super Bowl for the university students as well as anyone else who would like to join in the fun.

What we really need is for someone to feed our sheep! We would love to be able to eat lots of baked goods on that day! This is where you come in....

If you would like to contribute a snack food or a baked food of some variety, we would love for you to do so! Please bring your item to church next Sunday morning (the 5th) and I will pick that item up and take it to the CSC. Please make sure they are in containers that are either labeled or ones that you do not need to have returned.

Thank you so much in advance for the way that you provide for our students! I know I speak on their behalf when I say that they are truly blessed by your presence and ministry to them! See you next Sunday!

~Dan

Prayer Concerns....

Natasha Risley's surgery at Children's Hospital in St. Louis went even better than hoped for! After a scare with a hole in her lung (*which healed itself—thank you, God*), she is recovering remarkably well. She has gained 6 inches in height! Her address is Children's Hospital, room 1099B, 1 Children's Place, St. Louis, MO 63110. Phone: 314-454-6000....**Kaden Koebcke**, grandson of Jack & Sue McCoy, remains in neonatal ICU at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis. He continues to get stronger and overcome new hurdles daily....**Mickey Rigdon** consulted with a heart specialist on Monday. Unable to endure a physical stress test, he will undergo a medicine stress test in early MarchJohn Stafford's nephew, **Josiah, 10**, has a fluid-filled bubble (cyst) on one of three membranes that cover the brain that is causing pressure and headaches. He and his parents consulted with a neurosurgeon on Tuesday....**Terry Spenard** is recovering from carpal tunnel surgery and foot surgery....**Josh Dieterle**, 11, great-nephew of Brenda Gibson, had spinal surgery similar to Natasha, for scoliosis, on Monday in Louisville, Kentucky. He is in a drug-induced coma while in ICU. He will have a second surgery for the back of his spine next Monday....Continue praying for **Doris Swensen, Marie DeWoody, Earl Leech, Sarah Watts, Neta Guthery, Jim Beghtol, Mark Eddy, Anna Dale, Eunice Whitesell, Ramona Farris, Irene Fox, Carrie High, and Delpha Allen**. Those in Rosewalk Village: **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, and Burnell Gulden**. Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner** (*Amanda Guthrie's brother recently sent to Iraq*), **Loren Sniffen, Dustin Holley, and Brad King**.

The "Elmwood Boys" in Concert

The Elmwood Boys (**Ben, Patrick, Josh and Andrew**) will be singing at Elmwood on Sunday night, February 12, at 6:00. Invite family and friends for this "free" concert.



Gayle Crowe served **Eunice Whitesell's** family by doing the funeral service for her 36-year-old grandson, **Kevin Whitesell**, on Friday at Hippensteel. Our sincere sympathies to Eunice and her family. Eunice loves getting mail from Elmwood family members. Her address is Regency Place, 300 Windy Hill Dr., Lafayette 47909.

Our sympathies also to Mickey Rigdon's family on the death of his stepmother, **Betty Rigdon**. She had kidney failure and died Tuesday morning. Arrangements will be made soon for the funeral on Friday in Anderson, Indiana.

Thank You!

*Our family at Elmwood,
Thank you for sharing our sorrow. Thanks for all your hard work, and for the flowers.
Your kindness is deeply appreciated and remembered.*

Sincerely, Barb Newberry & family.



Congratulations!



Dinea Kinzer was recently promoted and raised to a higher level of responsibilities at her job at Purdue where she works in service. Congratulations, we're proud of you!



The food pantry is in need of **boxed dinners** (Hamburger Helper, etc.) and **soup**.

Senior Servants meet on Wednesdays

Elmwood Senior Servants meet this month on the **1st & 15th of February, 11:30 AM**, in the fellowship room. Bring a sack lunch and come enjoy the fellowship.

January 29, 2006

Class: 245 Worship: 326

Contribution: \$6,062

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.



**Registration - Winterfest
Gatlinburg 2006
LAST CALL!**

Okay, it's time to get with it. Here are the current projected costs for Winterfest in Gatlinburg, TN - February 17-19. First, you will choose which package you want; see the registration form below. Second, transportation and lodging will be \$85.00 each. That covers two night's lodging and the rental of an additional 15 passenger van and trailer. Remember that a completed registration form and \$50 saves you a place in a bed till we run out (about 2 places left as of Sunday), after beds are gone, there is floor space. Each townhouse has a king bed, 2 queens and a sleeper sofa - we also have washers and dryers! Forms and the \$50 deposit must be in by Sunday so I can order tickets and T-shirts. Meals and souvenirs are extra...we may do some meals at the townhouses to help with costs. For those interested, Tait is the concert group for Friday night at 10:00 pm. You can check them out at www.taitband.com. Of course, Jeff Walling will be speaking and Watershed Worship will lead worship...you don't want to miss this!

-----Cut here and return to Lee SUNDAY!-----

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

T-Shirt size: Small _____ Medium _____
Large _____

X-Large _____ XX-Large _____ XXX-Large _____
____ Package A: Includes Registration, T-Shirt, Concert (\$38.00)

____ Package B: Includes Registration, T-Shirt, (\$29.00)

____ Package C: Includes Registration, Concert (\$31.00)

____ Package D: Includes Registration (\$21.00)

Hey! Write Philip and Natasha!!!

- Lee



James Bell was baptized at Elmwood Sunday morning in the 10:45 worship hour. A homeless man with a troubled past, James found genuine warmth and acceptance when he arrived at Elmwood. Dave Hunt put aside his bible class agenda to focus on James and his spiritual needs, and by the end of class James had concluded he needed to be baptized into Christ. We have no contact information for him, but ask the prayers of the church that he will find spiritual support and growth in his travels.

**Thanks to Jack, Greg
and Jimmy**

For about 18 years **Jack McCoy** served as the Worship Task coordinator for the congregation. Every month (do the math: that's 216 times!) he drew up the lists of who would be invited to serve the congregation in Sunday worship for the following month, then on Sundays he would "round up" the people serving, giving them instructions and sending them into the auditorium with an encouragement and a prayer. The church owes Jack a tremendous debt of gratitude for this selfless ministry over many, many years.

Jack has recently asked to be reassigned. **Greg Sutherlin** stepped up to the plate and served in this role on an interim basis. Now **Jimmy Huff** has agreed to take on the role of Worship Task Coordinator, effective this Sunday. If you are scheduled to serve you are asked to communicate with him (phone: 714-0998) if you know you cannot be there. If an emergency arises on Sunday morning, call the church office after 7:40 AM. Thanks, Jimmy for taking on this important ministry.



Feb. 1, 7 PM...Bible classes for all

Feb. 1, 7 PM...Good Sense Budget Class

Feb. 5, 6 PM...LIFE Groups meet

Feb. 11, 7:43 AM...Men's Breakfast at Elmwood

Feb. 12, 6 PM...The "Elmwood Boys" sing;
Finger Foods to follow

Read:
Acts 13–28; Leviticus 1–2;
Proverbs 10–13

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 7: February 12–18

Acts for Today

The readings for this week include Acts 13–28, the chapters that look at the worldwide spread of the church in the first century. With all the history in the book, it must never be forgotten that Acts is also a handbook for the Christian life and for a Spirit-filled church. Nothing in Acts or the rest of the New Testament indicates that signs, wonders, miracles, spiritual gifts, or the apostolic standard for the church's life and ministry were to cease suddenly or permanently at the end of the apostolic age. Acts records what the church must be and do in any generation as it continues Jesus' ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here are nine characteristics of the early church:

1. It had a mission and was governed by principles that continue in today's church.
2. It was empowered by the Holy Spirit in power (1:8), boldness (4:31), the holy fear of God (5:3), wisdom (6:3, 10), guidance (16:6), and spiritual gifts (19:6).
3. It rang out with inspiring sermons by Peter, Stephen, Paul, James.
4. It was a church of prayer. Early Christians devoted themselves to regular and fervent prayers, expecting and receiving results.
5. It was known for signs, wonders, and miracles which proclaimed the power of the Holy Spirit.
6. It was often persecuted. Powerful gospel proclamation stirred up both religious and secular opposition.
7. It traced the interactions and controversies of its Jewish and Gentile membership.
8. It focused, to a degree unprecedented in the ancient world, on the gifts and contributions of its female members.
9. It was a triumphant church. No barriers (national, religious, cultural) and no opposition or persecution could thwart the advance of the gospel.

–Don Vice