



Thank God for Cheerleaders!

On the wall of Elmwood's fellowship room is a banner, lovingly created by Ramona Farris, containing five words from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians: "For Christ's love compels us."

As people who are not Christians pass through that room, I often wonder what they think of that. "Compels us to do what?" By themselves, the words are enigmatic. But to Christians who understand the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of His people, they make perfect sense and contain a powerful message.

What compels us—what motivates us—is a powerful force in our lives. Last Sunday Tiger Woods won the British Open, one of golf's most prestigious events. The lead photo was unusual: it showed him dissolved in tears after the final putt. Just worn out? Too long a day. The Associated Press reported that he walked off the green and sobbed again while hugging his wife, Elin, and his trainer, Keith Klevin. "I could not stop it; I miss my dad so much." Earl Woods died of cancer last May 3.

Through the years Earl has been Tiger's coach, his inspiration, his #1 encourager, his #1 fan. He even wrote books about his close relationship with his son, books with titles like, *Training a Tiger* and *Big Dreams and Adventures with Tiger*. Earl had been with Tiger for his first taste of big-time golf in the 1995 Scottish Amateur when Tiger was a 19-year-old amateur. "He was out there today keeping me calm," said Tiger.

Who knows how many of the world's most accomplished people have been motivated by a parent, a spouse, a role model? Just to know there is somebody in our grandstand who is cheering us on in the good times and the bad times, makes all the difference.

Hebrew 12 tells who's in our grandstand. Besides Jesus himself, all those listed in the prior chapter—the "great cloud of witnesses" from Noah to Abraham to Moses and untold other people of faith—are "surrounding" us, encouraging us by the knowledge that as God worked in their lives, and fulfilled His awesome promises to them, so we know He will do the same for us. G. Crowe

Creeds

In our Sunday morning Bible Study this summer we have been looking at early church fathers and early church documents. Within that study we have taken the last few weeks to look at church creeds. We have read the Nicene Creed (AD 325), Athanasian Creed (Unknown), Chalcedonian Creed (AD 451), and the Westminster Confession of Faith (1646).

Now, you might be asking why a church tradition such as ours who has a long, rich history of being an anti-creed church would spend time studying them. Good question.

We are studying creeds for several reasons. Let me tell you two of them. It is so important to look at the early church creeds because they give us insight into what the most pressing early church questions were. It is humbling to note that the most popular and pressing questions of the church today seem to revolve around worship (around what we consumers want or don't want in terms of worship) while the early church was talking mostly about the nature of Christ and the nature of the Trinity.

Second, we can't know where we are going as a church unless we know where we have been. Studying this rich history will help us strive forward to new heights as Christ reigns over our lives. I encourage you to ask someone from the college group about our study!



Lori Anne Perkins
and
Terry Dee Miller

invite you to attend our marriage on Saturday, July 29, 2006,
at 4:00 in the afternoon
at the Elmwood Church of Christ
Cake & punch immediately following the ceremony
in the fellowship room.

Celebration continues with a hog roast at
Prophetstown State Park at 6:30 p.m.

RSVP either by e-mail to loriperkins@hotmail.com
or by phone at 474-7761.



Can You Provide "Tools for Schools"?



Underprivileged children in our community are hit with the same school costs that all other children are, but it's tough for them to get what they need. Could you open your heart (and your wallet) to provide some of these items? There's a collection box in the Farris Foyer for you to put your supplies in, then next week we'll transfer all items to the Salvation Army for distribution. Supplies needed include:

Lafayette 2nd & 3rd grade tablets
Letter sheet & penmanship tablets
Lafayette primary paper tablets
Pedigree pink erasers
Prang oval paints-8 pan
Washable markers
#2 pencils
Dry erasable markers, fine point
Ball point pens, not retractable
Two pocket folders with prongs

Plain pocket folder, no prongs
Quart size freezer bags with zip top
Gallon size freezer bags with zip top
Highlighter-markers (yellow)
Colored pencils, 12 count/24 count
Thin calculators
Fiskars scissors, 5-inch pointed
Ball point pens, erasable
Glue sticks
1" 3-ring binders

New and gently used clothing for students aged 4 to 18 is also needed. Many thanks for your generosity.

Items in the Attic?

This **Saturday, July 29, from 10 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock in the afternoon**, Dan Cooke is inviting you to come take from the CSC attic any items that you believe are yours. After that time they will no longer be available. If you need to make an earlier appointment, call Dan at 743-0954.

Extra Portions

There is a need in the congregation for single-serving food portions, particularly lean meat entree items. If you are fixing a meal and have an extra portion, please consider freezing it in a labeled plastic container and leaving it in the freezers in the A-2 kitchen. Please contact Ann Vaught (annv@insightbb.com, 477-0579) for more information.

Dorothy & Oscar Miller celebrate 25 years of marriage



Dorothy & Oscar Miller will soon celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. A come-n-go reception in their honor will be held on Saturday, August 5, from 2:00 until 5:00 in the Elmwood fellowship room (A-2). Cards (only) appreciated.



Glen Winters, 90, last living sibling of Ruth Marks, died June 15, in Terre Haute at his daughter's home. His funeral was Wednesday. Our sincere sympathies to Ruth, Paul, and the rest of the Marks family.

LUM Meal Providers

Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry Monday night were **Amy & Gabe Colon, Barb & Ed Tilley, Ann Vaught, Michelle & Ed Robson.**

July 23, 2006

Class: 150 Worship: 253

Contribution: \$6,274

Budget: \$8,100

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Epic

The Lord of the Rings, Spiderman, Superman, Batman, X-men, and Star Wars... what do all these movies have in common? Well, for starters, they are some of my all-time favorites, but I think there is something more to it. These movies aren't just my favorite movies; judging by their box office performances, they are some of America's all-time favorites too. There must be something to them which inspires so many people to throw money at these stories. There must be something to these stories, something more than your average comedy, drama, or chick-flick, which draws the crowds.

I think I know what it is. It's not the massive budgets that stretch into the hundreds of millions, it's not the amazing special effects, and it's not how attractive the characters are. There is something intrinsically valuable in these stories, and that is the idea of Epic. Almost every movie in the top 20 list of all time most successful movies are Epics, i.e., Titanic, E.T., and Star Wars to name a few. Why is it that the human psyche, or more specifically the American people, loves the Epic?

Well, I don't know all the reasons, but I have a guess at one of them. Inside of us all is the call of God, and what he calls us to is to something more. God doesn't want our lives to be mediocre; he wants something more for us than the stereotypical American family. Now, certainly he doesn't want for all of us to put on spandex and fly around the city stopping evil. But he does want us to be a radical force, moving like a drop of food coloring in a glass of water, slowly changing the makeup of the world around us until it looks entirely different. Simply showing someone you care is enough.

Most of these stories are of ordinary people who, through some miraculous event, get transformed into marvelous beings (either that or they are really rich and they buy a lot of cool gadgets and a cape and there's also a short guy who gets stuck with a ring) and they use their gift to change the world for the better. They don't automatically become saints; they make mistakes and struggle with everyday life. But they feel the pull inside them to something more than an average life.

We have been given a miraculous gift... it doesn't manifest itself in our bodies, but in our spirits. We have been given the gift of salvation, and it is this which should inspire us to something more. We've been sitting on the couch in front of the TV watching superheroes do our job for far too long. Are you ready to stand up and begin your own Epic?
~Phil Travis

Six-Way Happening

Don't miss it! Beginning this Sunday night, July 30, and continuing for six weeks, the "Six-Way Happening" will be Elmwood's Sunday night format. Six separate groups will be happening on those nights from 6 to 7 PM:

1. The nursery will be staffed.
2. For toddlers through 5th grade, "Fiesta" (a modified VBS-format) will be happening in the youth classrooms.
3. For teens in the youth house the topic will be, "It's All About Me, Isn't It?"
4. For parents of teens, as well as others who would like to participate, Lee Porter will be "Parenting Teens May Be Rocket Science!" in A-2.
5. Janet Boston will be leading the "Good \$ense" workshop in the new conference room.
6. For all others, Gayle Crowe and Dan Cooke will be helping those in A-1 to say, "Now I See!"

You—and your friends—will benefit from this summer series!

Prayer Concerns....

Elizabeth Tinkle has been transferred to Regency Place, room 102. Her phone there is 477-7791....Continue praying for **Rose Hunt, Nathan Weir** (*Riley Children's Hospital*), **Mary Burns, Dick Waterstraat, Lynn Robinson** (*treatment for colon cancer*), **Audrey Merri-man, Linda Smith** (*Methodist Hospital*), **Henrietta Frampton** (*St. Mary's, room 301*), **Helen Clements** (*Heritage Healthcare*), **Kaden Koebcke, Noah Powlen, Phyllis Gray, Mark Eddy, Marie DeWoody, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, 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.**

Restoration Series Concludes

Our summer Restoration series concluded last Sunday night. Over the past several Sunday nights the ministers from Lafayette Church of Christ, West Lafayette Christian Church, Linnwood Church of Christ, Brady Lane Church of Christ, and the downtown First Christian Church all spoke.

Each lesson was unique and thoughtfully prepared. Each left us with meat to chew on. This series was a recognition of the tragedy of division that happened among Churches of Christ 100 years ago. With God's help this was but a first step toward restoring fellowship among the heirs of the Restoration in Lafayette.

Coming Soon...

July 23-28....Spring Mill Bible Camp Intermediate week

July 26, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

July 29, 4 PM....Lori Perkins-Terry Miller wedding

July 30, 6 PM....Six-Way Happening

Read:
II Chronicles 19-32;
Psalms 99-104:23

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 32: August 6-12

I grew up in the Presbyterian church. I have very vivid memories of Sunday school when I was little. One of the things I remember most is that in the Primary class we had to memorize certain scripture passages. The one that we learned first was Psalm 100. It was written out in big primary print letters with a black "Magic Marker" on big lined chart paper. I remember that as a child, I thought that it was huge! Now as an adult I realize that it *is* a "huge" scripture.

It's all in there. We are to worship the Lord with *gladness* and come into his presence with *joyful* songs. God knows that we have burdens and struggles, but when we come to him, we can lay that aside and be glad and joyful. We are to know that the Lord is God, that he made us, that we are his sheep. God will take care of us, watch over us, and protect us, just as a shepherd does for his flock. We are to come before him and give him thanks. We are to praise his name. Why? Verse 5: *For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

While there are hard times in all of our lives, whether they are financial, health related, family problems, or difficulties with our job, we need to take the time to talk to God about them. And in the midst of hard times, we also need to take the time to think of all the blessings that God has given to us. Believe me, if you really look, the blessings will outweigh the troubles. Take a "Magic Marker" and a piece of chart paper and write down your blessings and then take some time to thank God and praise him for all he has done for you.

-Sue McClain

This Week's Highlight: "Education"

Each of Elmwood's five deacons leads one ministry area. This is the third ministry area to be highlighted in the newsletter.

What is the "Education" Group About?

Joe Ruhl, deacon who supports the "Education" group, was asked specific questions about his area of ministry.

1. How would you describe what your ministry is about?

Education is vitally important in the life of the church. Elmwood is blessed with excellent teachers. My role as education deacon is to encourage and facilitate their work.

2. Why is this ministry important? Why do you think God wants this ministry to be a part of this church's life?

Education is the vehicle through which the truths of our faith are passed on to the children. Learning is a life-long endeavor and the education ministry also provides opportunities for our adults to continue to grow in their knowledge of God.

3. What in your background has led you to be prepared to lead this ministry?

In my professional life I have worked as a public school science teacher for 28 years and as a department head for 15 years. I love learning and I enjoy seeing students acquire a love for learning.

4. What are some of your most immediate objectives for your particular ministry?

My immediate objective for the Elmwood education ministry is to identify people who have gifts and passions for the various components of our education program and to help them become involved in this aspect of God's work.

5. What are some of your long-range goals for this ministry?

My long-range goal for this ministry is to facilitate learning and nurturing of members and visitors towards mature, effective Christian living.

6. What specifically could the Elmwood members be praying about regarding you and/or your ministry?

I ask that the Elmwood members pray that God would give wisdom and encouragement to everyone involved in the Elmwood education ministry.