



And Now, a Little History

Who would have thought that 1681 years later, halfway around the world, people would be talking about it. The Council of Nicea, held in A.D. 325, was a gathering of 300 churchmen to decide a sticky point of theology. Today, thanks to *The Da Vinci Code*, suddenly millions of people are curious as to what it was about.

Early in the 4th century an obscure preacher in Alexandria, Egypt, began preaching a strange doctrine. Arius began with the Bible, but added a hefty amount of Greek thought, coming out with strange ideas. He taught that God is so radically different from humanity that He cannot possibly share any of His essence with human flesh. Hence, Jesus could not have come in the flesh. He was like the Father, but he was only human, not divine.

Arius was eloquent, so these ideas spread. He was even smart enough to put some of his ideas into jingles which the folks on the farm could sing. Many accepted his ideas without thinking.

Those who did think, however, weren't fooled by Arius and his ideas. The Bible teaches that in order to save sinful humanity, Jesus had to be both truly man and truly God. Only if He's both is He both powerful enough to save us eternally and at the same time sympathetic enough to understand what we're going through in this life. If He's only God, He's too remote; if He's only human, He's impotent to help in this life.

Sensing the importance of the question, Constantine, the Emperor, convened a Council of 300 bishops. Arius made his defense and the Council denounced and condemned his views by a vote of 298 to 2. Those two, plus Arius, were sent into exile.

The "plus" side of Nicea is that it followed the example of Acts 15 in convening church leaders to settle a dispute. The "down" side of Nicea is that it united church and state to solve church problems, a precedent that "would have many baneful consequences in the centuries to come," says Kenneth Curtis in *Dates with Destiny*. That's what the Council was about, so now you can read/watch *The Code* with the facts in hand.

G. Crowe

2006 Graduates

Graduation is upon us! We have several graduates this year. This is a special group of graduates to me because some of them are the first graduates that were also my first freshman class.

The following people are graduating this May: **Ray Diaz, Jared Fee, John Szabela, Steven Kady, Samantha Sanders, Jon Vaught, and Mariah Wise.** **Earnest Nyannor** will also be graduating in August.

Their career pursuits vary greatly as do their plans for the future. Some already have jobs and some are still looking. But they do have at least two things in common: Christ and the CSC. They will always have a home right here at Elmwood with us.

To these people we not only owe a huge congratulations, but also a huge debt of gratitude. They have given us laughter and have called us to take our faith seriously. We have watched them struggle to discover how their faith interacts with their careers and academic disciplines. We have seen them change and grow, and they have enriched our lives beyond our imaginations.

To you, graduating seniors, we say thank you so much for your presence and for entrusting your faith to us. We celebrate with you this achievement and also the great things God will do through you and in you in your futures.

~Dan



Barbara Newberry fell Friday at home and broke her wrist....**Argie Verett**, Pauletta Smith's mother, has reinjured her back while having medical tests....**Sarah Watts**, Suzanne Fournier's 25-year-old sister, had a mastectomy last week. She had a lumpectomy in November, but doctors recently found more cancer....Surgeries for both **Bob Stafford** and **Connie Nicholson** went well. They are home recuperating.... Continue praying for **Amber Tolle**, **Willie Batts**, **Patty Vice**, **Rose Hunt**, **Kaden Koebecke**, **Noah Powlan**, **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).



Joe Armstrong & Eleri Griffin

Joe Armstrong and his fiancée, **Eleri Griffin**, will be honored at a shower at the home of Mandy and Kenny Anderson, 16 Haymarket Way, Lafayette, on **May 13 at 7:00 PM**. To contribute to a group gift, see Gina Boyd or Mandy Anderson.

Directory Information

Farrell Simmerman is gathering additional information for our new pictorial directory now being done. If you'd like your wedding anniversary date and your cell phone numbers listed along with your address and phone number, etc., contact Farrell at 474-6277 or by email at farrellnphyllis@aol.com. You may also list that information on your yellow attendance card on Sunday morning.

Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming *Focus on the Family* programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at **7:30 PM Monday-Friday**.

- May 3-4* **Finding New Intimacy in Prayer**—Based on their book **Experiencing Prayer With Jesus**, Henry Blackaby and his son, Norman, talk about developing intimacy with God through prayer. (Part 1 & 2)
- May 5* **A Brush With Death**—Joshua Youssef reveals how a brush with death during a canoeing trip influenced him to recommit his life to the Lord.
- May 8-9* **Raising Boys: Routine Panic**—Dr. Dobson addresses the issues that lead parents to overwork and exhaust themselves and encourages parents to provide the stability and family time needed by both boys and girls. (Part 1 & 2)



Matrix Lifeline holds two Spring Volunteer Orientation sessions

Matrix Lifeline Pregnancy Center will hold two Spring Volunteer Orientation sessions to introduce prospective volunteers to the mission, history, services and volunteer opportunities of this life-affirming ministry. Those interested can attend Wednesday, May 10, from 9:30 until 11:00 AM or 7:00 until 8:30 PM. All who have a desire to offer alternatives to abortion, as well as support and education to young parents, are welcome. Call 742-1533 or email matrixlife@aol.com to RSVP for the session of your choice by Tuesday, May 9. The office is located at 1824 Maple St. in Lafayette.

New Address

Lisa Baird, who was recently home for a short visit, is now living in California while going to film editing school. Her address is: 5132 El Rio Avenue, Eagle Rock, CA 90041.

April 30, 2006

Class: 165 Worship: 320

Contribution: \$8,448

Budget: \$8,100

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A Word from Phil Travis

Hey everyone,

Well, as we get closer to the time that I will be in Lafayette working with you all, I get more and more excited, and nervous! I'm excited to get to know you all and to create a lot of friendships this summer. I am looking forward to the opportunity to learn from you and Lee how to not only be a better youth minister, but a better Christian as well, as I'm sure I struggle in some areas which some of you have nailed down already.

I hope y'all (yes, I am from Michigan, and I do use "y'all" on occasion) are excited for this summer as well. I know that summer is a time for a lot of family vacations, but I hope that you are planning on being involved as much as you can during the summer. While I am around, if any of you have any activities like sports or singing or whatever, let me know, I want to be involved and to know what you like to do.

Well, I guess I'll see you all in a few weeks, until then, enjoy yourselves and good luck as school starts to wind down! - Phil Travis ecy_intern2006@yahoo.com

Sign Up!

I mentioned this last week, but three families have signed up to give Phil a place to stay; now we need your help in making sure he has plenty to eat. Sign up sheets have been posted on the wall across from my office door. Please stop by and sign up to take Phil out for a meal, or have him over to your home. Remember, the big part of this is not so much financial (although it will help Phil save money) but rather it is so that the church family can get to know Phil better and vice versa. Bottom line is that it will greatly enhance Phil's ministry experience...both for him personally and for the body at Elmwood collectively. I always look forward to our having an intern because I believe it is truly a mutually beneficial endeavor. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know. Phil will be with us May 15 - August 2. He will be out for a few days in June for his brother's wedding. It has not yet been decided on what youth trips (camp, etc.) he will be joining the teens. - Lee

High School Senior Open Houses

May 21 - Jay Hodges

May 28 - Erin Simmerman & Heather Willison

June 4 - Mallory Woody

Parent's Meeting May 14 - 5:00pm



Audrey Barnett, soon to graduate high school senior from Frontier High School, made the decision last Wednesday after Bible class to make Jesus Lord of her life. Audrey lives at 903 S. Brackney, Brookston 47923. Phone: 563-3828. Audrey's future plans are to attend IPFW in the fall.

Let's Start Talking Team goes to Fiji

For the sixth time, Elmwood is sending a team of Let's Start Talking workers to teach Jesus using English conversation. This year, the team will be sent to Suva, Fiji. The team includes **Josh, Gina, and Kinley Boyd; Ryan and Stephanie Middleton; and Alison Ruhl**. The team will leave for Fiji in June 13 and will spend 6 weeks sharing Jesus and their faith. Please pray for all the team members as they prepare. If you'd like to contribute to the project, see Josh Boyd or go online to <http://lst.kintera.org/2006projects/purdue>, where you can contribute to individual members or click on "general team donation" for your gift to be used by whoever needs it most.

Congratulations!

Tana Lee will be graduating May 14 from Purdue with a degree in Health Sciences. She has been working at Purdue and going to school part-time as well as raising a family! She is unsure of her future job plans at this point. A big congratulations, Tana, for sticking with it!



May 3, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

May 13, 7 PM....Wedding shower for Joe Armstrong & Eleri Griffin at the Anderson home, 16 Haymarket Way, Lafayette

May 14, 6 PM....LTC awards, preaching, finger foods

June 13....Let's Start Talking Team (**Josh, Gina, & Kinley Boyd, Ryan & Stephanie Middleton, & Alison Ruhl**) leaves for Suva, Fiji; will return July 25

Read:
I Samuel 5-18;
Proverbs 23:1-26:16

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 20: May 14-20

The Book of Beginnings

At least some of the books of the Bible are named, in Hebrew—and sometimes in English for the first word in the book. So Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning....” is Bereshith, “Beginning” or “Genesis.” The chapters in I Samuel for this week’s readings suggest that “Bereshith,” “Beginning,” would also be a good name for I Samuel. Lots of good beginnings!

- The people brought the ark back to Jerusalem with all expectations of great days ahead. A good beginning, but (sigh) it didn’t last long: before long the people were living as if the ark of God (with the mercy seat, the closest thing Israel had to a visible throne for God) were a million miles away.
- Samuel led the people in battle against some of its fiercest enemies, including the Philistines. A good beginning, but (sigh) before long they were having to fight those same enemies over and over again.
- Samuel anointed Saul to be king over Israel. Great beginning! But (sigh) what a disappointment Saul proved to be. He had “all the right stuff” going for him at the beginning, but he blew it with his insecurities and jealousies.

The point: great beginnings don’t do much if that’s all there is. Only with follow-through, persistence, and endurance can anything lasting be accomplished. Elmwood is about to undergo a time of testing. The Health Team has done its work, job descriptions have been written, the SHAPE classes have been held, interviews are beginning to be done. Now comes the laborious work of sorting through all the results. Soon the time will come for people to step up to the plate to carry through with what they (we) have learned. When people look back on this whole experience 20 years from now, what will they say? “It was a great beginning!” or “It changed the life of that church! It’s now much, much more involved in ministry and service, both at home and afar, than it was before the process began.” Great beginnings, or—with God’s direction—a transformed church?

G. Crowe