



## Time to Get Serious

The point of a hospital labor room is not just a very ready mother-to-be and a competent physician; the point is the new life that comes as a result of the moment of birth. The point of baptism is not the words said or the temperature of the water; the point is the new life that comes as a result of the baptism event.

When Paul wrote words about baptism in Romans 6, his point was not "do it!" His point was, "Now that you've done it, what does it mean?" Baptism means new life . . . a crucified old self . . . a changed and transformed new life . . . being alive to God . . . death to the evil in us . . . offering the various parts of our bodies to God as instruments for Him to use to accomplish His purposes.

Baptism, in other words, does not look backward to what we have done; it looks forward to what we will do as redeemed, changed, transformed people. And it's a good thing, because our unredeemed, unchanged, pre-transformed state was pretty pitiful.

In the latest *U. S. News*, Mortimer Zuckerman does a reality check of who people are. Lots of our fellow Americans, he says, are cheating, lying, greedy creatures. Corporations regularly overstate earnings. College coaches bend the rules for talented athletes. Athletes believe that performance-enhancing drugs are the open door to future success. More than 70% of one college's students admit to having cheated at least once on exams in the previous year. Tax cheaters cost the US treasury \$500 billion a year. Insurance fraud, cable-TV theft, and software piracy are regularly done by "decent, law-abiding citizens." And last weekend the career of one of the most visible evangelical pastors in the world came crashing down when he admitted he was "a deceiver and a liar."

The last item above pinpoints a painful reality: statistics show that Christians—whose conversion and baptism were supposed to have transformed them—are often unchanged from the rest of the world. There's no time for hand-wringing. In a contrite spirit we must acknowledge that we have not taken seriously Paul's words, "count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God." Grace means living free from the bondage of sin, not enmeshed in it. Baptism means it's time to get serious about our faith. G. Crowe

## Down the Mountain

One of the greatest feelings in the world is that moment when you believe Christ is the Son of God for the first time. Knowing that he died to forgive you from your sins is the greatest feeling in the world. I will never forget the day I truly felt forgiven. I was on a mountain top with God.

Since then I have been on many mountain tops with the Father, each one transforming and defining in its own way. I have come back from a retreat convicted and on fire for God. I have seen the healing power of Christ by watching the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ come together after 100 years of separation. I have been on many mountain tops! And I would love to stay there!

However, if we want to be with the Father...if we want to follow him, we have to walk down the mountain. That's where he is going. He is moving down the mountain, engaging His people, getting His hands dirty, and changing lives.

As an extension of God's arm in this world, I encourage you this week to get your hands dirty. Use the mountain top experiences you have had with God to fuel you and give you the strength you need to walk down the mountain and engage a world that is hurting. I pray that Elmwood will reach new peaks together in the coming months, but then, we will all choose to walk down the mountain... ~Dan

# Shults-Lewis Milk Money Contribution



One of the ways Elmwood members have of showing their gratitude for God's bounty all year is through our willingness to provide milk for the children of Shults-Lewis Home in Valparaiso, Indiana. **That collection will be this Sunday, November 12.** As you are planning your gift for this year, recall that Shults-Lewis provides a safe, loving environment to children who otherwise would have no home or anyone to care for their needs. Our continued support is necessary for Shults-Lewis to become more responsive in reaching out to those in need.

## "Til We Meet Again"

Come for dessert to visit and bid farewell to **Dr. Tom Anderson** this Friday, **November 10, from 7:00 until 9:00 PM**, at the home of Chris & Greg Sutherlin, 2805 Union St., Lafayette. Tom's parents will be in town and he is anxious for them to meet his "Elmwood family!"

## Men's Breakfast



The next Men's Breakfast will be this Saturday morning, **November 11, at 7:43 AM in A-2**. The breakfast concludes at 8:59 AM. A sign-up sheet for the breakfast is located in the Farris Foyer. Men of all ages are encouraged to attend. If you haven't been before, you're missing out on some great fellowship with some of the best men God created. If you don't believe it, check it out November 11th.

## Thanksgiving Dinner, Nov. 21



Elmwood's annual **Thanksgiving Dinner and devotional** will be Tuesday, November 21, at 6:00 PM. Don Vice needs volunteers to cook the meal (5 cooks), serve the meal (6 servers), help in the kitchen (4 kitchen help), and 6-8 people to help with clean-up. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Farris foyer.

## 2006 Children's Christmas Musical, "A King Is Coming to Town"

There will be a **Parents' Information Meeting at 4:15 PM, this Sunday, November 12**. The 1st through 8th grade practice begins **this Wednesday, November 8** (all Wednesday practices for this age group will be **6:30-8:00 PM**). The 4-year-olds through kindergarten practice begins next Wednesday, November 15. This group will practice singing Christmas carols on Wednesdays from 7:00 until 7:15. Practice this **Sunday, November 12, will be 3:00 until 4:15 PM**, and all following Sunday rehearsals will be determined at the parents' meeting.



We want to give a warm welcome to **Lori Kuchta**, who wishes to be identified with the Elmwood family. Lori is a CPA. She and her husband live at 1417 Columbia St. #1, Lafayette 47901. Phone: 429-8061. Welcome, Lori!

*Thank & You!*

Dear Elmwood brothers & sisters,  
Your calls, cards, the food you sent, the beautiful flowers, and your presence at the visitation were such a comfort to all of us.  
-Teri Richardson & family



**Donald Leer**, Ed Tilley's step-father, died last Wednesday in Greencastle, Indiana. His funeral was Saturday morning. Our sincere sympathies to Ed, his mother, and the rest of the family.

**November 5, 2006**  
Class: 228 Worship: 310  
Contribution: \$10,231  
Budget: \$8,550

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## Change is in the Air!

There are signs of change all around. The leaves are changing...and dropping. The temps are getting cooler, especially at night. People are not wearing shorts as much. People are already getting flu type symptoms. But that is not really what I am talking about. I am talking about changes in attitude and focus. It may be happening on a much larger scale, but I see some really good changes happening at Elmwood. I am beginning to see more of us become outward focused. Much of what we do is inward focused and while I do believe it is important for us to take care of each other, I am also deeply aware there are many around us who are dying without Jesus. I have begun to see more of our members becoming aware of our guests and many are going out of their way to meet them and make them feel welcome...that may be why more guests seem to be coming lately. Members are bringing their friends and neighbors to special events, LIFE Groups and church services. Our teens are bringing their friends and are anxious to learn how to better share their faith with people who don't know. I pray the passion to save lost people will continue to grow and to spread. Make sure to invite your friends to join you at all church activities. Be friendly to everyone...if you don't know someone, introduce yourself. If they are long-time members, it's okay... you ought to meet them, too. The Lord is sending people our way; let's not let them just wander on out the back door!

## Treasure Hunter

The Washington Church of Christ Youth Rally - *Treasure Hunter*- is just a couple weeks away, November 17-19. If you plan to go, we really need to know soon so we can make final reservations, etc. This year the church is not housing students in their homes...arrangements have been made at the Holiday Inn Express. Total cost for the trip will be \$20 registration (includes T-shirt, snacks, breakfast and lunch on Saturday), gas money, hotel money and a couple meals. Our group has always had a great time at this rally...this year's speaker is Gary Spear. We do plan to return in time for LIFE Group at the Simmerman home.

## Ink Cartridges

Please continue to bring your empty inkjet cartridges and place them in the box outside my office door. If it is more convenient, there are also "baggies" in the tray outside my door - you just put the cartridges in the baggie and drop them in the mail. The baggies are postage paid and marked so our group will get credit. We use the money collected from the cartridges to help with our mission trip. Thanks!

- Lee



Pray that the body of Christ would soon reflect the ethnic diversity described in the New Testament where "there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all" (Colossians 3:11).

**Don Burrell** is in serious condition with pneumonia. He is in room 2313 at Home Hospital...**Jim Willison** had surgery for a broken ankle on Tuesday. This is the same leg as his broken kneecap.... **Minnie Scott** is in Home Hospital, room 4140....After a short hospital stay, **Hattie Coffel** has been transferred to Rosewalk Village....**Paul Verett** is at home recuperating.... **Willard Farmer** begins chemo treatments for lung cancer on Thursday He will have radiation after 3 chemo treatments (3 weeks apart)....Continue praying for **Ginger Spenard, Valley Stockton, Annie Crowder, Ella McBride, Linda Smith, Pat Turner, Pat Dwyer, Steven Rutledge, Marcia Swails, Gail Monnet, Mark Eddy, Amy Weismiller, Lynn Robinson, Kaden Koebecke, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Carrie High (Regency Place), Irene Fox (George Davis Manor Nursing Home),** and in *Rosewalk Village*: **Ruth Marks, & Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in Iraq: **Jon Kiefner** and **Loren Sniffen.**  
Serving in South Korea: **Amanda Martin.** **Jeremy Crable** will soon be deployed to Afghanistan.

## "Good \$ense" Budgeting Class starts Nov. 15



Beginning **Wednesday, November 15**, and running for 7 weeks, the Good \$ense Budget Class, taught by Janet Boston, will meet at 7:00 PM. The class is limited to 24 people. You may sign up in the Farris foyer. All questions can be directed to Janet at 477-7668.



**Nov. 8, 7 PM**....Bible classes for all  
**Nov. 10, 7-9 PM**....Open House for Tom Anderson  
**Nov. 11, 7:43 AM**....Men's Breakfast at Elmwood  
**Nov. 12**....Shults-Lewis Milk Money Contribution during the AM worship services  
**Nov. 21, 6 PM**....Thanksgiving meal & devotional

*Read:*  
Micah 1-7; Isaiah 50-56

# 2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 47: November 19-25

## LOOKING WITH GOD'S EYES

To God's people in the eighth century B.C. came these words:

*Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds!*

*At morning's light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it.*

*They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them.*

*They defraud a man of his home, a fellowman of his inheritance.*

Evil, covetous people! Landowners who obviously had no thought for the people who were dependent on them. We cannot imagine such an intolerant, greedy attitude!

Uh, but wait. How many people do you know who wake up in the morning and think, "Today I'm going to plot evil, I'm going see how many people I can defraud before lunch?" Probably not too many. I doubt the people to whom God was speaking had any idea what they were doing. What they thought they were doing was being good businessmen. They were just taking care of #1. They were just doing what's "right" by evicting those no good bums who were living on their land, in their houses, and weren't even paying their rent on time. After all, if they didn't teach them a lesson, who would?

It's hard to look with God's eyes. The no good bum in our eyes may be the righteous poor in God's eyes. Our job: to keep our motives pure and our consciences tender.

Gayle Crowe