



Synagogue → Church → Faithful

The Old Testament closes with the temple in Jerusalem as the center of Jewish worship. It's not that the Jewish people always treated their temple right, or that they always bothered to offer the right kind of worship when they went there, or sometimes that they even paid that much attention to it. But when the topic of worship came up, or when they were driven to draw closer to God, it was to the temple that they returned.

Walk out of the Old Testament, walk into the New Testament, and step into a different Jewish world. The temple is still there, and it's important if one happens to be in Jerusalem. But elsewhere suddenly there are structures called synagogues. Search the Old Testament diligently, line upon line, and one will never find even a trace of the word synagogue. Not there. Didn't exist. Yet Jesus was entirely comfortable with the synagogue.

That's interesting on at least two levels. For one, it shoots holes in the "Restorationist" view of Biblical interpretation. Jesus never said or even intimated that he came to restore Old Testament worship. He came to do his Father's will, and it apparently concerned him not in the least that (during what we call the "inter-testamental period" . . . the years between the close of Malachi and the opening of Matthew) his ancestors had "added" an entire institution within the framework of Jewish religion and piety.

Jesus' attention to the synagogue is interesting on a second level. He gave great allegiance to the synagogue. He never missed an opportunity to be there. He did much of his teaching in and near synagogues. He assumed his followers would frequent their local synagogues. Fast-forward to the year 2006. Brian Simmons, in his book, *Falling Away*, says one of the ways to ensure that our children will remain faithful to Jesus throughout their lives is, in effect, to provide opportunities for them to hang around their local synagogue (read "church"). Go there often for worship and classes, socialize with people who are also a part of that church, become involved in the ministries of the church—and those children's chances of remaining faithful unto death increase exponentially. Jesus put a high value on participation in the synagogue. We can do no less for the church. G. Crowe

What Do We Do at Retreats?

This weekend we had a great retreat! 25 people joined together in worship and fun at the FFA Retreat Center in Trafalgar, Indiana. The theme for the weekend was "Mission." We talked about how none of us are clean before God on our own. We even had a *Romans 3 Battle* to illustrate how unclean we all are. We then talked about how God loved us and saved us anyway. We discussed our response to that and how we are to be a people in the world but not of the world. We discussed how our lives are not driven by simply what is right and wrong; but rather by our undying gratitude toward God and by our desire to bring Him glory.

We spent time in worship. We spent time in Bible study. We spent time in solitude, each person going their own way to reflect on God before breakfast. We also spent time playing cards, football, soccer, ultimate Frisbee. We had communion Sunday morning together and celebrated Christ as well as a student who rededicated his life to the Lord. All in all, the retreat was great because God worked on all of us. Thank you for your prayers. They worked!
~Dan

Show & Tell Showcase!

Be part of the program at the Women's Fellowship Carry-In Dinner October 21, 5:30 PM in A-2. We want to share the talents and interests of women at Elmwood. Do you quilt? Sew or needlepoint? Paint, make jewelry, scrapbook? Consult on make-up or own your own business? Bring some samples of your work or your business cards. Let Betty Brown (423-2996) or Barbara Tilley (538-3270) know so table space will be available.

Thanks for your generosity!



Ted and Martha Ogle, veteran missionaries to Kenya, have been in the U.S. the past few weeks so that Ted could have an operation on one eye. The operation was successful, after some weeks he has been given a good report by the surgeon, and within another week the Ogles hope to return to Kenya. Elmwood members graciously contributed \$2,134 to their airfare expenses.

Thank you for all your kind assistance in raising funds for our round trip air fare. When all the pledges arrive we will have received sufficient amount to pay off the credit card! Praise the Lord! Our thanks to all. Recovery of retina surgery is progressing satisfactorily. The enforced idleness, no reading, and sleeping in a recliner since August 21, is a very hard battle! Keep us in your prayers. We send much love in the Lord, Ted & Martha

Sunday Night Agenda

This Sunday night at 6:00 the youth will lead our worship hour with a report of their work at Camp C.U.M.O. (mission work in Cincinnati). Following their presentation will be our monthly Finger Foods and Fellowship. During this fellowship time, Todd Westbrook, with Trinity Missions, has asked us to assist them in a mailing project (we have done this before). This time there is no "stuffing of envelopes," but putting stamps on 23,000 pieces of mail! We hope you will be here to support our youth group and their work, as well as a time for fellowship and helping those in our community.

In-depth study of the Prophets

Wanita White will begin an in-depth study of the "prophets" in 3-4 weeks on Tuesday mornings at 9:30. The class meets at the church building. If you're interested, call Wanita at 449-0497.

Partners in Prayer

Thank you for choosing a student for whom to pray! Please remember to send a card to let them know that you are their partner and will be praying for them.

-Christi Branstetter



After just returning on Wednesday from Texas to see her sister, **Janet Nelson** got word on Friday that her sister, **Kathleen Lloyd**, had died. Though she had a severe stroke two years ago and had been in a nursing home since then, she was alert and happy to see Janet and Earl. Her funeral was Tuesday in Cleburne, Texas. Our sincere sympathies to the Nelsons.

Noah's Ark Night



There will be a Noah's Ark Night planning meeting at 5:00 this Sunday, Oct. 8. Anyone interested in helping, please come or call Lynae Stafford for more details.



The food pantry is in need of **canned fruit, pasta, and personal items such as: toothpaste & tooth brushes, shampoo, soap, & deodorant.**

-John Stafford

October 1, 2006

Class: 203 Worship: 268

Contribution: \$9,532

Budget: \$8,550



Cincinnati Urban Mission Outreach Camp CUMO

This Sunday night at 6:00, several of our Camp CUMO workers will be giving a report of this summer's efforts. I thought you would like to have a little more information in advance. – Lee

Camp C.U.M.O. is targeted to serve families and children who cannot afford such opportunities. Camp funding is primarily obtained through the generosity of individuals and Churches of Christ.

The camp serves 50 kids between the ages of 9 and 11 years old. The campers are from families who earn below average income or receive government financial assistance and are fully funded through scholarships.

Biblical Focus: each year a theme is chosen to give structure to the classes and devotional times. This year the theme was "The AmazinGrace." Special events occur most evenings. These have included karate demonstrations, Juggler for Jesus, magician, county fair, Appalachian stories by Nora Stanger, Theatron, firefighters and policemen, summer zoo, etc.

The camp is primarily run by high school students from Churches of Christ. They serve as counselors in the tents, devotional leaders, mentors, game and activity coordinators, crafts, etc.

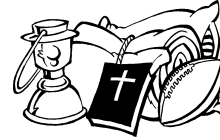
Summer Vision and Goals

VISION: 1) To provide a fun, safe, Christian environment for inner city kids that focuses on encouraging faith in God. 2) To encourage the staff to work as one body for the good of the children and the Lord.

GOALS:

- Maintain high standards for camp policies and procedures
- Establish a spiritual environment within each tent
- Effectively deal with discipline issues that arise with campers or staff.
- Support staff focusing on meeting the needs of the campers
- Maintain CLEAN camp facilities, including tents and bath house.
- To provide classes and devotionals encouraging growth in relationships to God and others.
- Maintain staff unity through openness, acceptance, and inclusion.
- Encourage the staff to develop close relationships with the kids and encourage follow-up after camp is over.
- To help the inner city work to gain contacts assisting them in the work they are doing.
- Bring glory to God in all that is done.

Men's Retreat 2006



This year's Men's Retreat is quickly approaching. It is **October 13-15 (Friday night through Sunday morning)** at the beautiful Camp Tecumseh YMCA Outdoor Center. Our speaker this year is **Patrick Mead** from Rochester, Michigan. The theme of this year's retreat is "**Spiritual Warfare.**" Haven't you heard there's a war going on? "*Our struggle is against the rulers, against the powers, against the spiritual forces of wickedness...*" It's a battle for a man's heart and soul. The schedule includes time for hiking, archery, fishing, rock climbing, and playing sports or just enjoying nature. Since we need to make final plans and commitments, we need to know if you will be able to join us. In this regard, please add your name to the list located in the Farris Foyer this week.

Prayer Concerns...

Pray that God would show each of us open doors to communicate our faith.

Don Burrell has been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. He is in Home Hospital, room 4336....

Elizabeth Tinkle had a heart attack on Friday. She is now at home....Continue praying for **Jim Willison**, **Jesus** (*mowing accident*), **Henrietta Frampton** (*now home*), **Marcia Swails**, **Don Cadwallader** (*now home*), **Steven Rutledge**, **Mark Eddy**, **Amy Weismiller**, **Lynn Robinson**, **Linda Smith**, **Kaden Koebecke**, **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** and **Loren Sniffen**.
Serving in South Korea: **Amanda Martin**. **Jeremy Crable** will soon be deployed to Afghanistan.



October 4, 7 PM....Bible classes for all
October 8, 6 PM....Camp C.U.M.O. report from the youth group; finger foods & fellowship
October 13-15....Men's retreat, YMCA, Brookston
October 15....**Patrick Mead** preaches at Elmwood
October 21, 5:30 PM....Women's Fellowship Carry-in Dinner in A-2

Read:
Ezekiel 1-10; Isaiah 15-21;
I Peter 1-5

2006 Spiritual Adventure

Week 42: October 15-21

Thrice denying any knowledge of his Savior. Following is the “rest of the story” - found in Peterson’s introduction to I & II Peter in *“The Message”* - that gives insight to Peter’s response to Jesus’ forgiveness.

Peter’s concise confession – “You are the Messiah, the Christ” – focused the faith of the disciples on Jesus as God among us, in person, carrying out the eternal work of salvation. Peter seems to have been a natural leader, commanding the respect of his peers by sheer force of personality. In every listing of Jesus’ disciples, Peter’s name is invariably first. In the early church, his influence was enormous and acknowledged by all. By virtue of his position, he was easily the most powerful figure in the Christian community. And his energetic preaching, ardent prayer, bold healing, and wise direction confirmed the trust placed in him.

The way Peter handled himself in that position of power is even more impressive than the power itself. He stayed out of the center, didn’t “wield” power, and maintained a scrupulous subordination to Jesus. Given his charismatic personality and well-deserved position at the head, he easily could have taken over, using the prominence of his association with Jesus to promote himself. That he didn’t do it, given the frequency with which spiritual leaders do exactly that, is impressive. Peter is a breath of fresh air.

The two letters Peter wrote exhibit the qualities of Jesus that the Holy Spirit shaped in him: a readiness to embrace suffering rather than prestige, a wisdom developed from experience and not imposed from a book, a humility that lacked nothing in vigor or imagination. From what we know of the early stories of Peter, he had in him all the makings of a bully (and religious bullies are the worst kind). Rather, the boldly confident and humbly self-effacing servant of Jesus Christ that we discern in these letters is a compelling witness to what he himself describes as “a brand-new life, with everything to live for.”

–Betty Brown

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions
Sunday	Bill Bell 463-1139	Kevin Chambers
Worship 8:00 a.m.	Joe Matthews 474-8369	World Christian Broadcasting
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.	Rick Swensen 463-6822	Anchor Point, Alaska 99556
Worship 10:45 a.m.	Don Vice 471-8653	Loren and Penny Hollingsworth
Life Groups 6:00 p.m.		Phuket, Thailand 83000
Wednesday	 Staff	City of Children
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	<i>Ministers</i>	Ensenada, Mexico
Elmwood Nursery School & Pre-K	Gayle Crowe 447-6940	Bren and Cheryl White
Preschool: Tues-Thurs 9-11:30 am	Lee Porter 463-6993	P.O. Box 245
Pre-K: Mon-Thurs 9-11:30 am	Dan Cooke 543-7469	New Market, MD 21774
Director, Susan McClain 447-2874	<i>Office Manager</i>	
	Sherry Marks 447-2874	

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